

April 6, 2018

## San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group Quarterly Newsletter

You are receiving this newsletter as a member of the San Diego Regional Irrigated Lands Group (SDRILG). As a reminder, SDRILG is a non-profit organization governed by seven farmers who volunteer their time as members of the board of directors. Joining SDRILG is a benefit exclusively for Farm Bureau members.

### **Your membership**

In order to meet state regulations governing agricultural runoff, the San Diego Water Board adopted an order (Ag Order) in 2016 requiring all commercial agricultural operations within its jurisdiction to either join a Third-Party Group or comply as an individual. Your membership in SDRILG as your Third-Party Group keeps you in compliance with state and federal clean water regulations when you meet your responsibilities. This will keep the San Diego Water Board from contacting you directly with possible legal directives or fines, which has already occurred with some non-compliant growers.

### **Your responsibilities**

With assistance from SDRILG to keep you on schedule and in compliance with the Ag Order, you have regular responsibilities. It is important to keep in mind that merely belonging to SDRILG does not constitute compliance with the Ag Order. When prompted by SDRILG it is your responsibility to complete forms and make self-inspections in a timely manner. SDRILG is bound by law to report on your progress with these tasks.

### **Your tasks so far**

Here are the tasks you are required to have met by this time:

- Implement and follow Best Practices to prevent pollution in runoff
- Completion of your Notice of Intent
- First quarterly self-inspection

### **Your tasks ahead**

You will receive future notification on the following tasks for this year:

- Second quarterly self-inspection (coming soon)
- Third quarterly self-inspection

- Annual education requirement
- Fourth quarterly self-inspection
- Annual self-assessment report

## **Monitoring**

In addition to keeping you informed and assisting with forms and compliance, SDRILG will be operating 20 monitoring stations throughout the region as required by the Ag Order. At those monitoring stations stream samples will be taken at least twice a year (wet season and dry season). The samples will be sent to laboratories to test for constituents and stream health. This monitoring program is perhaps the greatest benefit of SDRILG membership because it relieves farmers from having to conduct the twice-yearly tests individually.

## **Financing**

Everything mentioned above comes at a cost. But operating as a non-profit and with more than 30,000 acres in SDRILG to spread the costs, the board of directors is able to keep costs as low as possible. Compliance as an individual would be many times more expensive. Each SDRILG member has already paid a one-time enrollment fee. In order to cover the annual administration and monitoring expenses a fee schedule has been set for 2018. In the next few weeks you will be receiving an invoice for your share of expenses for the next 12 months. The invoice will be composed of three parts:

- Administration fee of \$60.00 (flat fee for all members)
- Acreage fee of \$4.50 per acre (proportional fee)
- State fee of \$.87 per acre (state requires fee collection on their behalf)

As always, if you have any questions about SDRILG or your compliance responsibilities, please feel free to call 760-745-2215 or email [info@sdirrigatedlandsgroup.org](mailto:info@sdirrigatedlandsgroup.org)