



Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Water Board Enforcement Notifies Hundreds of Growers for Failure to Enroll and Update the Notice of Intent

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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As part of existing Water Board requirements, growers that irrigate cropland for commercial production must enroll in the 2004 Agricultural Order by submitting a Notice of Intent to the Water Board. Growers are also required to keep the information in the Notice of Intent up to date. On September 14, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board issued approximately 800 enforcement letters to growers who failed to submit their electronic Notice of Intent for the existing Agricultural Order. Growers who do not submit their electronic Notice of Intent by October 3, 2011, will face monetary fines of up to \$1,000 per day for every day of violation occurring after the original due date of January 31, 2011. In addition, the Water Board may terminate enrollment for individual growers who do not submit their electronic Notice of Intent, which may subject the operation to more significant enforcement actions and penalties.

On September 19, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board also issued approximately 1500 letters to growers who have already complied with the initial requirement to submit an electronic Notice of Intent. These growers must review and update the information in their electronic Notice of Intent by October 15, 2011. This is also a requirement of the existing 2004 Agricultural Order.

Groundwater and surface water pollution in many agricultural areas on the Central Coast is severe and widespread. In addition to enrolling in the 2004 Agricultural Order, growers must implement a Farm Water Quality Management Plan, implement management practices to protect water quality, and complete farm water quality education. Growers must also conduct surface water quality monitoring, either individually or through participation in a cooperative monitoring program.

For information on how to enroll in the Agricultural Order, growers can visit the Water Board's web page below or call 805/549-3147.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/noi_submittal.shtml

The Central Coast Water Board is responsible for protecting and restoring water quality in the 300-mile-long coastal region from southern San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties to the northern part of Ventura County.