CALIFORNIA Water Boards

EDMUND G. BROWN JR. GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

21 February 2014

Tracking #: KINGS-4432

KURNOSOFF, JIM & VERA TR
17617 W NIELSEN AVE
KERMAN, CA 93630

New Water Quality Regulations Require You to Act Now

Nuevas Regulaciones de Calidad de Aqua Requieren que usted Responde Immediamente

(Para obtener más información en español (formularios u otra información), por favor contáctenos al telefono (559) 488-4396 o vía email a: ilrpinfo@waterboards.ca.gov.)

You are receiving this letter because based on information available to us, you own the following parcels with irrigated cropland subject to the new regulations:

Parcel numbers:			
020-100-33S			
020-150-11S			
020-150-12S			

On 19 September 2013, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board or board), approved the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order (Order R5-2013-0120 or General Order) for Growers within the Tulare Lake Basin Area that are Members of a Third-Party Group. All commercial irrigated lands within the Tulare Lake Basin Area are now required to get regulatory coverage through one of the options described below. The General Order addresses the discharge of waste from irrigated lands to groundwater and surface water. Wastes discharged from irrigated lands include pesticides, fertilizers, pathogens, and sediment.

Based on information available to us, you own one or more parcels with irrigated cropland within the Tulare Lake Basin Area. The parcel number(s) for your property that prompted this letter are included above as a reference. Pursuant to California Water Code section 13260, you must obtain regulatory coverage for any irrigated cropland you own. Failure to obtain the regulatory coverage outlined above may result in penalties of up to $1,000 per day pursuant to Water Code section 13261. If you own irrigated cropland within the Tulare Lake Basin Area that is not identified on the above table of parcel numbers, it will also require regulatory coverage.

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What Do Landowners or their Tenant Farmers Need to Do?

If you are the owner of commercial irrigated lands and you are **NOT** currently a member of a Third Party representing growers in the Tulare Lake Basin Area, you have three options.

1. **Join a Third-party Group (Coalition) by 19 May 2014.** The Central Valley Water Board worked closely with agricultural and other interests to develop a cost effective program for complying with the State's water quality law. Under the General Order, the landowner, or your tenant, may enroll your irrigated agricultural parcel(s) directly with a Coalition (see next page). To take advantage of this option, you must enroll your parcel(s) with a Coalition by 19 May 2014. After that date, landowners must apply to the Central Valley Water Board to join a Coalition. Additional fees will apply to applications after 19 May 2014 and the board has the discretion to reject the application and regulate the landowner directly. If you own irrigated cropland within multiple Coalition areas you will need to enroll your lands with each appropriate Coalition. This letter relates to parcels that are located within the Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority coverage area.

2. **Obtain Coverage Under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Individual Growers.** The Central Valley Water Board has adopted general Waste Discharge Requirements for landowners who chose not to join a Coalition group (adoption in May 2013). Board staff anticipates that costs and requirements will be similar to Option 3 below. However, the process for getting regulatory coverage is simplified with the submission of a Notice of Intent, rather than a report of waste discharge.

3. **Obtain an Individual Permit[1].** You can apply to have your own individual Waste Discharge Requirements (permit). Depending on the specific site conditions, growers with their own individual WDRs are often required to monitor runoff from their property, install monitoring wells, and submit technical reports regarding their actions to comply with their Waste Discharge Requirements. Costs would include State administrative fees (for example, annual fees for farm sizes from 11-100 acres are currently $1,084 + $6.70/acre); cost to prepare a report of waste discharge; and monitoring and reporting costs.

You do NOT need regulatory coverage under this Order if:

- Your commercial irrigated lands are covered by the Reissued General Order for Existing Milk Cow Dairies (R5-2013-0122) or NPDES Dairy General Permit CAG015001 (Dairy General Orders). Please notify board staff of your parcels that have Dairy General Order coverage so you do not receive further inquiries from the board regarding regulatory coverage of those parcels (see next page).

- **If your agricultural-zoned property is not used for commercial irrigated agriculture**, please notify board staff so you do not receive further inquiries from the board regarding regulatory coverage under this Order.

[1]The form for completing the Application (referred to as a Form 200 - Report of Waste Discharge) can be found online at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/publications_forms/forms/docs/form200.pdf. You may be requested by the Executive Officer to submit additional information to supplement the data provided in Form 200.

Who Do I Contact to Join a Coalition or Get More Information?

Contact a Coalition - To join the Kings River Watershed Coalition Authority (Kings River Water Quality Coalition) in the Tulare Lake Basin Area, complete and submit the attached Kings River Water Quality Coalition New Membership Application to the address at the bottom of the first page of the application. To get more information about this new requirement, contact the Kings River Water Quality Coalition at the phone number or e-mail address on the attached application. **This application is with the Kings River Water Quality Coalition, not the Central Valley Water Board.**

Contact the Central Valley Water Board - To learn more about the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, you can visit our website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/. If you have questions regarding the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, you can call our Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program phone line at (559) 488-4396, or e-mail board staff at ilrpinfo@waterboards.ca.gov.

CLAY L. RODGERS
Assistant Executive Officer

CALIFORNIA Water Boards

EDMUND G. BROWN JR. GOVERNOR

MATTHEW RODRIQUEZ SECRETARY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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