

**MANDATORY FARM
EVALUATION AS REQUIRED
BY IRRIGATED LANDS
REGULATORY PROGRAM
(Order No. R5-2012-0116)
**MUST BE RETURNED
BY 03/01/2014****

Name

Enclosed is the Farm Evaluation Survey developed under a new requirement mandated in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP Order No. R5-2012-0116-R1), adopted on December 7, 2012. To remain a member in good standing, members must complete a Farm Evaluation Survey for each enrolled parcel(s) and return it to the Coalition in the enclosed envelope. The deadline for submittal is March 1, 2014.

This Farm Evaluation Survey is intended to be a “census” of farm management practices being used on irrigated cropland in the Central Valley to protect surface and groundwater. The Farm Evaluation Survey is based on a template approved by the Regional Water Board and members of all water quality coalitions in the Central Valley will be required to complete a survey. Results are compiled from all members into a summary report.

There are four, one-page “parts” to the Farm Evaluation Survey to complete:

- Part A: Whole Farm Evaluation; complete only once (1 page).
- Part B: Field Specific Evaluation; complete one page for each field or management unit.
- Part C: Irrigation Well information; complete one page for each membership or farm.
- Part D: Sediment and Erosion Control Practices; complete one page for each field or management unit.

Parcel numbers and Field ID numbers have been pre-populated in the surveys based on your membership information and County Agricultural Commissioner’s records. Please check the box next to the APN/field(s) that the answers pertain to. Answer questions based on practices used in 2013.

You may need to make copies of Parts B, C and D of the survey and complete separate surveys for each of your fields that are managed differently or have different crops. See detailed instructions on the following pages.

Please contact us if you have questions about completing this Farm Evaluation Survey. ESJWQC will be holding workshops in February to assist members in completing the surveys. You can also get assistance by going to the County Farm Bureau offices in Stanislaus, Merced and Madera counties during specific time periods. Call to make an appointment before going in (see enclosure for times and contact information).

Thank you,



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Executive Director
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(209) 846-6112

Farm Evaluation Survey

Overall Instructions

This Farm Evaluation Survey is prepopulated with member information you provide to the Coalition. If any information is incorrect, please indicate the correct information on the surveys.

Included with this Farm Evaluation is one or more maps of your parcels (APNs) enrolled with us, depending on the number and location of parcels. Each map will have the parcel(s) outlined and include:

- APN Parcel Number;
- Field ID used for your county Pesticide Use Reporting;
- If no Field ID is indicated, add to the space next to each APN listed (each APN can have one or more field ID numbers).

The practices recorded on the survey should correspond to the APN parcels and Field IDs shown on the map. You may subdivide a parcel into fields, assigning each field a name or number (if one is not already assigned).

For example, you might have two fields of different crops in one APN so they could be identified as APN# 111-00-222; field A; APN# 111-00-222, field B, etc or any other designation used by the County Agricultural Commissioner or your own records.

If all parcels/fields listed have the same practices, fill out one (1) survey for all enrolled parcels and return. Check the corresponding box(es) on the far left column to indicate the field(s) covered by the answers.

If parcels/fields have different practices, make copies of the survey and fill out one (1) survey for each parcel/field with different practices.

When copies are made, check the box next to the parcel(s) and Field ID(s) that the survey responses apply to.

For example, if a member has 3 parcels enrolled with one crop grown (Parcel A, B and C) and he manages Parcel A and B the same, he can fill out one survey for Parcels A and B. Another survey needs to be filled out for Parcel C to record the crops or practices that differ from A and B.

Step by Step Instructions

The Farm Evaluation has 5 components:

Part A: Whole Farm Evaluation

Part B: Specific Field Evaluation

Part C: Irrigation Well Information

Part D: Sediment & Erosion Control Practices

Farm Map(s)

Step 1: Part A: answer Questions 1 – 3 for all enrolled parcels.

Step 2: Part B, question 1: check the parcels that the survey applies to by putting a check in the left hand box. Use the attached farm map(s) to help identify parcel numbers including Field IDs. This information corresponds to the map(s) in Part E. Fill in any missing information. Remember to fill out a survey for each of your enrolled parcels.

Step 3: Part B: Answer questions 2 – 4 for parcels that **you identified** at the top of the page by checking the box next to the parcel. *If parcels or fields differ in their practices, you must make a copy of the page to answer questions for parcels/fields differently.*

Step 4: Part C: Answer Questions 1 and 2 pertaining to irrigation well information. Give each well a unique identifier (Well ID) and list that in column 1. Use the Well ID to link the well management practices to the wells identified on the map. Also identify the location of both active and abandoned wells on the map. Transfer that identifier to the Farm Map and keep the map in your files (do not return to the Coalition). The map with well identifiers must be produced if you ever have a Regional Water Board compliance inspection.

Step 5: Part D: Answer questions as you did in Part B in reference to parcels that **you identify** at the top of the page by checking the box next to the parcel. *If parcels or fields differ in their practices you must make a copy of the page to answer questions for parcels/fields differently. Make sure you check off which parcels your answers apply to.*

Step 6: Review the Farm Map of your enrolled parcels (those that were checked in **Step 2**) and make any necessary changes to the boundaries. For example, a parcel may be enrolled and assigned to a member; however the acreage enrolled is only part of the entire parcel. If you need to update the parcel boundaries, return a copy of the updated map to the Coalition with your Farm Evaluation so the information is linked to the correct piece of land.

Step 8: Sign the bottom of Part A to certify that all of the information provided is current and accurate. Return to the Coalition the signed Farm Evaluation (Part A – Part D) and map(s) (Part E, if updated with parcel / field ID information).

Part B – Field Specific Evaluation

Member Name: _____ Coalition Member ID#: _____

1. Identify the Parcels and Fields that this survey applies to by checking the box in the first column below. ***Fill out a separate survey for parcels/fields with different practices.***

- SW High Vulnerability is when a parcel is within an area covered by a Surface Water Management Plan.
 - GW High Vulnerability is areas having potential for groundwater contamination.
- See enclosed material for more information on vulnerability.

	High Vulnerability		Parcel (APN)	Field ID	Acres	Crop
	SW	GW				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Irrigation Practices (*A secondary system could be used for crop germination, frost protection, crop cooling, etc.*)

Primary (check one)

- Drip
- Micro Sprinkler
- Furrow
- Sprinkler
- Border Strip
- Flood

Secondary (if applicable, check one)

- Drip
- Micro Sprinkler
- Furrow
- Sprinkler
- Border Strip
- Flood

3. Irrigation Efficiency Practices (check all that apply)

- Laser Leveling
- Use of E_T in scheduling irrigations
- Water application scheduled to need
- Use of moisture probe (e.g. irrometer or tensiometer)
- Soil Moisture Neutron Probe
- Pressure Bomb
- Other _____
- Other _____

4. Nitrogen Management Methods to Minimize Leaching Past the Root Zone (check all that apply)

- Cover Crops
- Split Fertilizer Applications
- Soil Testing
- Tissue/Petiole Testing
- Variable Rate Applications using GPS
- Foliar N Application
- Irrigation Water N Testing
- Fertigation
- Other _____
- Other _____

Part D – Sediment & Erosion Control Practices

Member Name: _____

Coalition Member ID#: _____

1. Identify the Parcels and Fields that this survey applies to by checking the box in the first column below. Fill out a separate survey for parcels/fields with different practices.

	High Vulnerability		Parcel (APN)	Field ID	Acres	Crop
	SW	GW				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Irrigation Practices for Managing Sediment and Erosion

- In-furrow dams are used to increase infiltration and settling out of sediment prior to entering the tail ditch.
- The time between pesticide applications and the next irrigation is lengthened as much as possible to mitigate runoff of pesticide residue.
- Shorter irrigation runs are used with checks to manage and capture flows.
- PAM (polyacrylamide) used in furrow and flood irrigated fields to help bind sediment and increase infiltration.
- Use drip or micro-irrigation to eliminate irrigation drainage.
- Use of flow dissipaters to minimize erosion at discharge point.
- Tailwater Return System.
- Catchment Basin.
- No irrigation drainage due to field or soil conditions.

3. Cultural Practices for Managing Sediment and Erosion

- Storm water is captured using field borders.
- Vegetated ditches are used to remove sediment as well as water soluble pesticides, phosphate fertilizers and some forms of nitrogen.
- Vegetative filter strips and buffers are used to capture flows.
- Sediment basins / holding ponds are used to settle out sediment and hydrophobic pesticides such as pyrethroids from irrigation and storm runoff.
- Cover crops or native vegetation are used to reduce erosion.
- Hedgerows or trees are used to help stabilize soils and trap sediment movement.
- Soil water penetration has been increased through the use of amendments, deep ripping and/or aeration.
- Crop rows are graded, directed and at a length that will optimize the use of rain and irrigation water.
- Creek banks and stream banks have been stabilized.
- Subsurface pipelines are used to channel runoff water.
- Berms are constructed at low ends of fields to capture runoff and trap sediment.
- Minimum tillage incorporated to minimize erosion.
- Field is lower than surrounding terrain.
- No storm drainage due to field or soil conditions.