

---

## Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

21 May 2015

### LEGAL REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT FARM EVALUATION

You are receiving this letter because your Farm Evaluation was not received by the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) by the submittal deadline of 1 March 2015.

In becoming a Member of the Coalition, you made a commitment to meet the legal requirements described in the "Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers within the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed that are Members of a Third-Party Group" (Order R5-2012-0116-R3 or "Order"). According to the Coalition's records, you have failed to meet your obligation to submit a Farm Evaluation. Failure to submit your Farm Evaluation by the required 1 March 2015 due date may subject you to fines as high as \$1,000 per day for every day after 1 March 2015 and result in the Central Valley Water Board directly regulating your farming operation. As of the date of this letter, the maximum fine for failure to submit the Farm Evaluation is **eighty-one thousand dollars (\$81,000)**.

The Order, and your membership in the Coalition, provides you with a cost effective method to comply with the State of California's water quality law. If you fail to comply with the Order, you may be directly regulated by the Central Valley Water Board, rather than working through the Coalition. Your costs to comply would likely go up significantly. For example, the current State fee for a 50-acre, independently-regulated farm is approximately \$1,400 (or about \$28/acre) and the associated monitoring and reporting costs could be as high as \$50 per acre - for a total cost for fees, monitoring, and reporting of over \$75 per acre. This cost is about 20 times greater than the fees charged by the Coalition, which include State fees (currently \$0.75/acre for Coalition Members), as well as costs for the Coalition to conduct monitoring and provide reports to the Central Valley Water Board.

The Board appreciates your willingness to join and support your local Coalition. By doing so, you have shown a commitment to improving water quality in the Central Valley. Accompanying that commitment is the need to demonstrate that growers have implemented practices that protect groundwater and surface water.

The Order requires the Coalition to identify those Members who have not submitted a Farm Evaluation. The Central Valley Water Board intends to take immediate action against those Members who have failed to submit their Farm Evaluation to the Coalition. To avoid fines and the potential imposition of more stringent and costly regulatory requirements, you should immediately submit your Farm Evaluation to the Coalition.

Sincerely,



Andrew Altevogt, Assistant Executive Officer