**Summary of Member Requirements**

**Waste Discharge Requirements General Order**

**For Growers in the Tulare Lake Basin Area, R5-2013-0120**

The intent of the Central Valley Regional Board’s (**Water Board**) Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (**ILRP**) is for growers to implement management practices to protect water quality. The new program applies to discharges to both surface water and groundwater. The groundwater component addresses waste (e.g. salt, nitrate, pesticides, etc.) percolating past the root zone into groundwater.

The following are some of the key components of the General Order. For the complete listing of Member requirements see the General Order, Section VII.

1. Landowners or operators who are current WWQC members are required to confirm their intent to remain covered under the new General Order by the Coalition.
2. Any landowners or operators electing not to be covered by the Coalition will be required to seek individual coverage directly with Water Board. Individual coverage will be considerably more expensive than joining the WWQC.
3. Members will be required to submit a Farm Evaluation to the Coalition specifying measures the farm is taking to protect water quality.
4. Members within high-vulnerability areas for nitrate contamination of groundwater must prepare, implement, and report on a Nitrogen Management Plan (**NMP**) summarizing the amount of nitrogen applied to land and the amount of nitrogen used by the crop. Plans must be reviewed and signed by a Certified Crop Advisor (**CCA**) or as stated in the General Order. Members in low-vulnerability areas must complete a non-certified NMP to remain on the farm. It must be available for Water Board inspection.
5. Members will be required to attend annual Coalition sponsored (or co-sponsored) education/outreach events.
6. Members with potential to discharge sediment to surface water during irrigation events or storm events must prepare and implement a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan.
7. Farming operations of less than 60 acres in low-vulnerability areas will be given additional time to comply with some of the General Order requirements. See the table below.
8. Members are required to maintain a hard or electronic copy of the General Order at the farming headquarters and shall be familiar with the General Order requirements.
9. Members shall provide the Coalition with information requested for compliance with the General Order.
10. The Water Board is likely to continue to increase enforcement actions against landowners and operators that do not obtain regulatory coverage either through the Coalition or the Individual Order.
11. The Water Board is likely to continue to increase enforcement actions against landowners and operators that do not effectively implement management practices to protect the quality of both surface water and groundwater.

**The following table summarizes documents and respective deadlines to be completed by Members complying with the General Order. Small farming operations have less than 60 total acres of irrigated land. Members with high-vulnerability land will be identified by the WWQC in the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR).**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Report** | **Vulnerability** | **Farm Size** | **First Due Date** | **Renewal Frequency** |
| Farm Evaluation | High | All | March 1, 2015 | Annually |
| Low | Large (≥ 60 ac) | March 1, 2016 | Five Years |
| Small (< 60ac) | March 1, 2018 | Five Years |
| Sediment and Erosion Control Plans | All locations identified in the Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report (SDEAR) | Large (≥ 60 ac) | 180 days from  approval for  SDEAR | As conditions change |
| Small (< 60ac) | 1 year from  approval of  SDEAR | As conditions change |
| Nitrogen Management Plan | High | Large (≥ 60 ac) | March 1, 2015 | Annually |
| Small (< 60ac) | March 1, 2017 | Annually |
| Low | All | March 1, 2017 | Annually |