

Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.

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Statement Enclosed: Enclosed find the current statement for participation in the Cooperative Monitoring Program from CCWQP. 86% of participating growers have paid the invoice for 2013, which was mailed in December, and their statement will reflect that payment. If your operation has not paid in full please pay now.

Enforcement: CCWQP manages the CMP and provides information to area farmers on surface monitoring results and practices that will improve water quality. CCWQP does *NOT* enforce the Ag Order. Failure to pay means that your farm is not participating in the CMP. The RWQCB may seek to impose fines, and/or compel you to either obtain a discharge permit or conduct individual monitoring. (see below)

RWQCB Board Enforcement Report for their meeting on May 30, 2013 explains a new enforcement program:

“Ag Program Enforcement: Failure to Pay State Permit Fees and Fees to Participate in Cooperative Monitoring Program

Growers enrolled in the Agricultural Order have the option of complying with surface receiving water quality monitoring conditions either individually or through a cooperative monitoring program. Nearly all enrolled growers have elected to participate in the Cooperative Monitoring Program (CMP) implemented by Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. (CCWQP). CCWQP conducts monitoring and also pays the required State permit fees on behalf of participating growers, and growers who participate in the CMP receive a reduced rate on the State permit fee. At previous Board Meetings, Board members and staff have discussed ongoing issues related to enrolled growers that selected the cooperative monitoring option but failed to pay fees for participation in the cooperative monitoring program. Problems with CMP fee payment have continued, resulting in a significant workload for Water Board staff as well as loss of State permit fees that continue to go unpaid.

Staff is coordinating with the State Board and CCWQP to improve methods to follow-up with growers who fail to pay the State permit fee and fees to participate in the CMP. In July 2012, State Board informed the Central Coast Water Board and CCWQP that growers who did not pay necessary fees to CCWQP by April 1, 2012, will be invoiced by the State Water Board at the higher individual State permit fee rate. This change will remain in effect for the remainder of the fiscal year and will remain until the enrolled grower pays the required State permit fee and is accepted back in to the CMP by CCWQP. Enrolled growers who do not pay the required State permit fee to the State Water Board will be referred to a collections agency. ... State Board plans to issue individual invoices for State permit fees to these (delinquent) growers before the end of the fiscal year. Growers who do not provide payment in a timely manner will be referred to collections.”

What the RWQCB intends to do: They will tell the State Water Board who has not paid and the State Board will invoice directly individual growers for higher State Fees shown below. Those growers cannot return to the CMP until all past fees, including CCWQP’s bills and the State Fees are paid. Each grower will pay less when participating in the CMP through CCWQP so keeping the account current is important.

Farm Size	Cooperative Monitoring Program - All Fees	State Fees for Individual Monitoring (not including cost of monitoring, QAPP or dealing with RWQCB)
5 Acres	\$ 71	\$ 350
40 Acres	\$ 174	\$ 950
400 Acres	\$ 1,623	\$ 3,000
1000 Acres	\$ 3,605	\$ 6,000

Fees for 2013 and 2014: These fees are 13% higher than 2012 due to additional monitoring required in 2013 and 2014. The volunteer Ag Committee set these fees last summer and they will remain the same for 2014. However the State Fees may change.

Procedure for correcting NOI and Ranch information with the RWQCB:

All irrigated farmers are required to enroll online with the RWQCB and to keep their farm information current. This is your obligation. Should you have any questions regarding the requirement to file a new eNOI, the on-line re-enrollment form, or the accuracy of the data used by CCWQP to produce your annual bill for participation in the CMP *you must contact* the RWQCB: **Water Board staff at (805) 549-3875 or AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov**

Ag Order – Future Deadlines:

June 1, 2013

Tier 2 & 3 growers, submit photo monitoring*

October 1, 2013 – Update eNOI

Report individual groundwater monitoring

Tier 2 & 3 – submit Annual Compliance Form

Record and report total nitrogen applied*

Tier 3 – Conduct individual discharge monitoring

Report elements of Irrigation and Nutrient Plan*

Submit Buffer Plan*

**only some growers, see MRP for requirements*