

### CMP Annual Participation Fee Invoice:

Enclosed is the 2014 CMP Participation Invoice from Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc., for participation in the Cooperative Monitoring Program for surface water. The participation fee schedule for 2014 increased only due to higher State Fees (from 56¢ to 75¢). Otherwise fees are the same as 2013.

Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. (CCWQP) has been designated by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) as the non-profit entity formed to conduct the Cooperative Monitoring Program (CMP) for surface water in accordance with Order No. R3-2012-0011, the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharger Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands, and the Monitoring and Reporting Program (collectively the Ag Order). When your farm, or company, electronically filed the Notice of Intent in compliance with the Ag Order you elected to participate in the CMP.

#### THE ENCLOSED BILL IS FOR CMP PARTICIPATION

#### CCWQP Web Site

Preservation, Inc. (CCWQP) has a new web site. Check it out at [www.ccwqp.org](http://www.ccwqp.org). This hopefully will answer many questions farmers may have about the CMP and the RWQCB Ag Order, including:

- Details about the CMP and how fees impact growers
- Links to RWQCB forms and regulations

**Not Groundwater Monitoring:** CCWQP does not monitor groundwater and participation in the CMP does not satisfy the requirement for groundwater monitoring.

**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.

The CCWQP Board members are (county){term expires}:

**President** Kevin Merrill (SB) {2016}  
**Board** Bob Martin (M) {2015}, Sig Christierson (M) {2016}, Dennis Sites (M){2016}, Richard Smith (M) {2014}, Alan Teixeira (SLO){2014}, Craig Reade (SB) {2015}, Don Hordeness (SCLara){2015}, Tom AmRhein (SCruz){2016}, Paul Hain (SBenito){2015}, Tim Frahm (SM){2014},  
**Ex Officio** Dirk Giannini & George Adam, Ag Committee Co-Chairs  
**Staff:** Executive Director, Kirk Schmidt ([kschmidt@ccwqp.org](mailto:kschmidt@ccwqp.org)); Technical Program Manager, Sarah Lopez ([sarah@ccwqp.org](mailto:sarah@ccwqp.org)) and Bookkeeper, Leila Salas, (831) 761-8644, or fax (831) 761-8695

### Invoice is due upon receipt and delinquent after January 20, 2014

*Retain a copy for your records*

#### 2014 FEE STRUCTURE

**Fees are the sum of the following plus 13% (sum x 1.13)**

#### Monitoring Fee

Type 1 Irrigated Acres Total  
 \$2.00 per acre (as shown in eNOI)  
 Type 2 Off Property Tailwater Acres an additional  
 \$2.00 per acre (as shown in eNOI)

#### Annual Administrative Fee per operator

Number of Acres per eNOI  
 50 acres or less \$50.00  
 51 acres to 499 acres \$1.00/acre  
 500 or more acres \$500.00 plus \$.20/acre over 500 acres

#### State Board Fee 78¢ per irrigated acre as follows:

75¢ per acre of irrigated land per eNOI.  
 This is a straight pass through to the State Board, plus 3¢ per acre to CCWQP for administrative costs

#### Individual Monitoring vs. Cooperative Monitoring

**CMP:** The Ag Order requires every enrolled grower to conduct surface water quality monitoring. You have the option of either conducting your own individual monitoring or participating in the Cooperative Monitoring Program (CMP) managed by CCWQP. CCWQP monitors 50 surface water sites throughout the Central Coast Region. CCWQP deals with the regulators on CMP issues on behalf of the participating growers. CMP data are reported to RWQCB and available on the CCAMP website. You are signed up to participate in the CMP, which is why you received the enclosed bill, which includes mandated State Fees.

**Individual:** If a grower elects to do their own surface water monitoring, or *fails to pay for the CMP*, they have to deal directly with the regulators, obtain approval for a monitoring plan for each ranch, conduct and pay for monthly monitoring and lab testing, file the results with RWQCB electronically every 90 days, most likely hire a consultant and your farm monitoring results are public records. **In addition, individual monitors are not part of the CMP and must also pay State Fees directly to the State Water Board of between \$300 and \$10,000+ each year.**

Farm Size	CMP - All Fees	State Fees Tier 3 only
5 acres	\$ 72.21	\$ 421.50
400 acres	\$ 1,708.56	\$ 4,393.00
1000 acres	\$ 3,819.40	\$ 9,433.00

**Farm and Acreage Accuracy**

The information used by CCWQP to prepare your invoice for participation in the Cooperative Monitoring Program is maintained by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). CCWQP uses the contact, acreage and tailwater acreage data from the RWQCB eNOI database. If there are errors in your operation information, or if your operation has changed since the last eNOI database update, you need to contact the RWQCB directly.

**Procedure for correcting CCWQP billings:** If there is an error in the bill which CCWQP has sent to you please:

1. Correct the invoice by showing the correct address, contact information, acreage and/or tailwater acreage
2. Include your name and phone number
3. Sign the changes
4. Fax the corrected invoice to CCWQP at:  
(831) 761-8695

CCWQP will prepare a corrected bill for you to pay. **Changes made by CCWQP to your bill will NOT change the data maintained by the RWQCB.** You must also contact RWQCB.

**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](mailto:AgNOI@waterboards.ca.gov)

**Groundwater Monitoring**

CCWQP does not conduct groundwater monitoring for farmers. The Ag Order provides growers with a choice of individual well water monitoring or participating cooperative program managed by the Central Coast Groundwater Coalition. However, enrollment in the Groundwater Coalition has closed. Information on the Groundwater Coalition may be found at: <http://www.centralcoastgc.org/join-ccgc/>. If you have any questions contact any of the RWQCB staff at: [http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/water\\_issues/programs/ag\\_waivers/docs/ag\\_contacts\\_8\\_22\\_12.pdf](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/docs/ag_contacts_8_22_12.pdf).

**Annual Compliance Form  
Deadline: January 15, 2014**

All growers with Tier 2 and Tier 3 farms must submit the Annual Compliance Form (ACF) to RWQCB by January 15, 2014. This form includes calculation of Nitrate Loading Risk, using one of two formulas. It also has several pages of questions on practices. It can only be submitted online. More information may be found at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water\\_issues/programs/ag\\_waivers/index.shtml#resources](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ag_waivers/index.shtml#resources)

**Something to Sing About**

In last year's December newsletter we reported that some signs of water quality change were starting to appear in the form of nitrogen "load reductions" due to reduced streamflows resulting, at least in part, from grower efforts to reduce tailwater discharges from farms. We also discussed how these changes didn't necessarily look the way most folks thought they would, as there weren't necessarily corresponding reductions in nitrate concentration, and furthermore the changes seemed to occur in more of a "before/after" pattern than the anticipated uniform, gradual decline.

Last December we also reported seeing our first "not toxic" result in laboratory tests exposing sensitive invertebrates to the sediments of Quail Creek, which drains an entirely agricultural watershed. This month, we're taking a look at the results of recent laboratory *water* toxicity tests compared to results from our first year of monitoring in 2005.

The table below shows average survival rates for the Water Flea (*Ceriodaphnia dubia*), exposed to water from eight different sites in the Salinas area with predominantly agricultural land use around them. The low survival rates in 2005 indicate aquatic toxicity; higher survival rates in more recent years indicate reduced toxicity.

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Salinas Rec Canal (above Salinas)	0%	81%	100%
Alisal Slough	46%	>100%	100%
Espinosa Slough	23%	48%	>100%
Gabilan Creek	0%	<i>no water to sample</i>	
Merrit Ditch	54%	94%	>100%
Natividad Creek	30%	>100%	95%
Quail Creek	31%	94%	100%
Tembladero Slough	0%	69%	>100%

Results above 100% indicate that organisms exposed to the sample water actually outperformed organisms in laboratory control samples, but can generally be interpreted the same as a "100%" survival rate, i.e. "not toxic." Statistically, numbers above 80% typically indicate a "not toxic" result.

Increased survival rates indicate reduced toxicity to aquatic organisms. Because these watersheds are dominated by agricultural activity, improvements are most likely due to reduced pesticide discharges from surrounding farms.

After nine years of monitoring water quality for change, improvements of this magnitude are truly something to sing about. Glad Tidings indeed!