



RMWD Monitoring Group for Conditional Waiver No. 4

January 2010

Conditional Waiver #4 was established by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board—not RMWD. Our decision to form a Monitoring Group is strictly based on a desire to provide benefit to our customers. Joining Rainbow’s Monitoring Group is voluntary. Participation is limited to parcels within our service area with water service provided by RMWD. There is no cost to join, however there will be ongoing costs to pay for the mandatory water testing once that criteria is established by the Regional Board. We anticipate those costs will be approximately \$10 per acre per year. *Members of the RMWD Monitoring Group are expected to comply with the requirements outlined in Conditional Waiver No. 4, or may face expulsion from the group.*

Please fill out a separate application for each meter

Date: ____/____/____

Name of RMWD Customer: _____ RMWD Account Number: _____

Name of Farm or Nursery: _____

Responsible Person: _____

(The individual running the agricultural operation who will receive information from RMWD)

Contact Information for Responsible Person:

Mailing Address: _____

Farm /Nursery Address: _____
 (if different from mailing address) _____

Farm/Nursery

Assessor Parcel Number (APN)

Email Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Emergency Telephone: _____

Parcel Size: _____ Number of Acres Irrigated: _____ Type(s) of crop(s): _____

Bring your completed form to our office, or mail it to us at 3707, Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA, 92028

Once your application is received and processed RMWD will send you a form asking you to provide a detailed description of irrigation, storm water runoff, nutrient, pesticide, erosion control, composting, and other site-specific management measures and best management practices (MM/BMP's) that you have already implemented. Your deadline to enroll in a monitoring group is December 31, 2010; however, in order to allow us adequate time to process applications **we must receive your application no later than September 30, 2010**, for you to be included in RMWD’s monitoring group.

Conditional waiver #4 Frequently Asked Questions

What is Conditional Waiver #4?

Conditional Waiver #4, was established by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board to *“Regulate discharges from agricultural and nursery operations, which contain pollutants that can percolate to groundwater or runoff to surface waters. Discharges from agricultural and nursery operations include discharges resulting from growing operations, irrigation return flows, and storm water runoff which can transport pollutants from agricultural and nursery operations to surface waters and groundwater.”*

Who is covered?

Farmers and nurserymen who irrigate their crops and who gross at least \$1,000 per year **or can anticipate** grossing \$1,000 per year (during the waiver) based on the expected future value of a crop have to enroll.

What is a monitoring group?

The function of the monitoring group is to perform the required water quality monitoring and report the results to the San Diego Water Board. Monitoring groups will be allowed to divide the costs associated with the water quality monitoring and reporting requirements among its members. Farmers or nurserymen may do the work on their own if they choose, but the costs to comply should be much higher.

How much does it cost to join?

There is no cost to join RMWD's group, but there will be costs associated with sampling and analyzing the runoff from the monitoring area. We don't know what those costs will be until the Regional Board approves the sampling plans, but we anticipate ongoing annual costs of about \$10 per acre.

If I join, what do I have to do?

- Implement management measures (MMs) and/or best management practices (BMPs) to minimize or eliminate the discharge of pollutants
- Perform a self assessment to identify the pollutants present on the site and assess the potential for runoff and/or infiltration
- Complete at least 2 hours of water quality management related training annually
- Maintain records pertaining to the water quality management efforts

If I don't join, what do I have to do?

The same things, but you will also be required to perform all of the water quality monitoring and reporting requirements on your own, which would be quite expensive.

When is the deadline to join a monitoring group?

The waiver requires you form or join a monitoring group by December 31, 2010, however; in order to allow us to process the applications and prepare our reports and meet our submittal date of January 1, 2011, you must join our monitoring group no later than September 30, 2010, if you want to be included in our initial group submittal to the Regional Board.

Where can I get more information on Conditional Waiver #4?

At the Regional Board's web site located at http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/board_decisions/waivers/docs/Conditional_Waiver_4_Final.pdf