• The Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA) is a joint powers authority, established to serve as the coordinator and coalition (third-party) group under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) in the Kern River watershed portion of Kern County.
Joint Powers Authority

Joint Powers Authority between:

- Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
- Henry Miller Water District
- Kern Delta Water District
- Kern-Tulare Water District
- North Kern Water Storage District
- Olcese Water District
- Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District
- Semitropic Water Storage District
- Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District
- Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utilities District
- Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District

Coalition Boundaries

KRWCA Statistics:
- ~645,000 irrigated acres
- ~900 growers registered with Ag Commissioner
# Enrollment Notification

- **KRWCA** mailed an informational letter, membership application & corresponding instructions to all Members in the Conditional Waiver Program (GO Requirement)

- KRWCA participating **Water Districts and other Ag Organizations** are providing information to their respective members

---

# Enrollment Notification, Con’t.

- Regional Water Quality Control Board (**RWQCB**) will send a letter to all landowners that were not enrolled in the Conditional Waiver Program (GO Requirement)

- **Landowners may receive multiple letters**
General Order Overview

- Tulare Lake Basin General Order was adopted by the RWQCB on September 19, 2013
- Newest General Order applies to both groundwater and surface water
- Regional Board considers all irrigators as potential dischargers to groundwater

General Order Overview, Con’t.

- Primary objective is to determine effectiveness of ag management practices in protecting surface and groundwater quality
- Requires all irrigators who are producing crops for commercial purposes to comply either as a Coalition Member or under an Individual Order
Role of KRWCA

What is the role of the Third-Party/Coalition? The Third-Party (Coalition/KRWCA) will work directly with member growers to assist them in complying with Central Valley Water Board requirements.

Role of KRWCA, Con’t.

We will:

- **Conduct education and outreach** activities to inform growers of requirements and practices to protect water quality
- **Prepare and implement regional water quality management plans** and **water quality monitoring plans**
- **Report to the Regional Board** on the results of the monitoring efforts and the effectiveness of the plans
- **Assess fees to cover our costs and State Water Board fees**
# Benefits of KRWCA

## Benefit of a Coalition:
- Provides the ability for growers to **work together as a group** and to **share resources** to minimize redundant efforts and reduce costs
- Eliminates member (landowner/operator) from working directly with the Regional Board
- Eliminates member having to file reports directly to the Regional Board

## Benefits of KRWCA, Con’t.
- Protects growers from having their personal farming operation information available to the public
- **Cost effective** and **efficient** approach
## Coalition Actions

**KRWCA is working for our members:**

- **Facilitate regulatory compliance** for the General Order for Coalition Members
- **Continued advocacy for growers** on water quality issues in various forums
- **Develop and implement** economical and scientifically valid water quality monitoring programs for surface and groundwater in the region

## Coalition Actions, Con’t.

**KRWCA has already:**

- **Formed an organization** with a Board of Directors and Executive Committee
- **Performed required surface water monitoring and reporting** under the previous Conditional Waiver within the Kern River, Poso Creek, White River, Chanac Creek, and El Paso Creek watersheds
- **Participated in the General Order development** process, preparing technical work illustrating the temporal and spatial disconnect between surface activities and groundwater quality
### Coalition Actions, Con’t.

- Proposed the Nitrogen Hazard Index (NHI) as an alternate approach to designate vulnerability areas and to assess priority for monitoring.
- Analyzed General Order compliance cost and submitted a detailed report/testimony to the RWQCB.
- On behalf of growers, have challenged the General Order through applicable administrative and judicial processes.
- Coalition (through the water districts) has spent Millions in the development of technical studies and legal action.

### Coalition Actions, Con’t.

- Filed an “Application to Serve” to the Regional Board on October 18, 2013.
## Coalition Objectives

- **Conduct membership enrollment** activities
- **Prepare grower templates:**
  - Nitrogen Management Plan
  - Farm Evaluation Plan
  - Sediment & Erosion Control Plan
- **Prepare and submit annual reports to RWQCB**

## Coalition Objectives, Con’t.

- **Prepare Groundwater Quality Assessment Report** (GAR)
  - Identify **high vulnerability** areas
    - Determine grower reporting obligations
      (i.e. growers in high vulnerable areas will have to submit a Nitrogen Management Plan)
- **Conduct Monitoring**
  - Monthly
  - Quarterly
  - Yearly
### Who Must Comply?

- The Tulare Lake Basin General Order requires that any **irrigated land having the potential to discharge** to surface or groundwater **must comply** with the requirements set forth by the Regional Board
  - Regional Board considers all irrigators as potential dischargers to groundwater

### Who Must Comply?, Con’t.

- **Requires all irrigators** who are producing crops for commercial purposes to comply
- **Land irrigated to produce crops or pasture** used for commercial purposes
  - Includes lands **planted to commercial crops** that are **not yet marketable** (i.e. vineyards and tree crops)
  - Includes nurseries, and **privately and publicly-managed wetlands**
### Parcels Not Required to Comply

- Doesn’t apply to non-irrigated rangelands or other non-irrigated lands
- Does not apply to lands covered by other Waste Discharge Requirements or General Order, such as existing dairies or food processors

### Who Can Join a Coalition?

- **Any** irrigated lands owner or operator within the boundaries of the coalition can join and enroll parcels for coverage under the General Order.
  - Important that **all irrigated acres be covered**
  - **Either** the landowner or the operator must enroll the irrigated parcels, but **not both**.
Who Can Join a Coalition?, Con’t.

- The enrolling person will be designated as the “Member” and be the contact person for compliance with the General Order.
- The other associated entities (landowners and/or operators) will also be responsible for compliance with the General Order, but will not be the contact person.

Member Responsibilities

- Complete a Membership Application and pay fees.
- Maintain a copy of General Order at place of business (digital copy saved on computer is acceptable).
- Provide written notice to all responsible non-member parties of the GO requirements, Certification is required (NOC template).
Member Responsibilities, Con’t.

• Assist in the development of management plans
• **Cooperate** in requested assistance for surface and groundwater quality monitoring (testing from ag wells)
• **Implement best management practices** that are protective of surface and groundwater quality
• Participate in grower outreach events
• **Summary of Member Requirements Letter/Chart**

Landowner/Operator Reports

**Grower reports** that will be submitted to the Coalition will include:

• **Farm Evaluation Plan** (2015)
• **Sediment and Erosion Control Plan** (2015)
• **Nitrogen Management Plan** (2015)
Landowner/Operator Reports, Con’t.

- **Nitrogen Management Plan (2015)**
  - If in a **high vulnerability area**, must be certified by Professional Soil Scientist, Professional Agronomist, Crop Advisor certified by the American Society of Agronomy or Technical Service Provider certified in nutrient management by the NRCS, or self-certified by attending CDFA-approved training program for nitrogen plan certification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report</th>
<th>Vulnerability</th>
<th>Farm Size</th>
<th>First Due Date</th>
<th>Renewal Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm Evaluation</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>March 1, 2015</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Large (≥ 60 ac)</td>
<td>March 1, 2016</td>
<td>Five Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small (&lt; 60 ac)</td>
<td>March 1, 2018</td>
<td>Five Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sediment and Erosion Control Plans</td>
<td>All locations identified in the Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report (SDEAR)</td>
<td>Large (≥ 60 ac)</td>
<td>180 days from approval of SDEAR</td>
<td>As conditions change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small (&lt; 60 ac)</td>
<td>1 year from approval of SDEAR</td>
<td>As conditions change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen Management Plans</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Large (≥ 60 ac)</td>
<td>March 1, 2015</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small (&lt; 60 ac)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>March 1, 2017</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Enforcement Action by RWQCB

• Likely to increase enforcement actions against landowners and operators that do not:
  – Obtain regulatory coverage, either through the Coalition or an Individual Order
  – Effectively implement management practices to protect the quality of both surface water and groundwater

• Enforcement action for non-compliance related to an enrolled irrigated lands parcel may be taken against both the owner and operator

Enforcement Action by RWQCB

• Failure to participate in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, either as a member of a Coalition or under the Individual Order can subject the landowner to administrative penalties by the Regional Board of up to $1,000 per day pursuant to California Water Code section 13267
Next Steps

Growers will need to enroll irrigated lands in the KRWCA for coverage under the General Order by August 4, 2014 (180 days from NOA)

•The following will be required for membership:
  – Complete Membership Application, to include:
    • Member contact information
    • Irrigated acres, APN, and landowner contact information for all APNs to be enrolled
  – A membership fee and acreage fee
  – Certification that NOC has been provided to non-members responsible parties

Next Steps, Con’t.

If the August 4, 2014 (After 180 days from NOA) deadline is missed, additional fees and forms are required by the Regional Water Board to enroll parcels for regulatory coverage.

  – Note: The Regional Water Board may require an applicant to obtain an Individual Order rather than participate as a member of a Coalition.

~All Growers MUST take action~
Membership Application

KRWCA Membership Application and corresponding instructions are downloadable on the KRWCA website at:

http://krwca.org/join.aspx
Application Instructions

**PAGE 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Member Name:</th>
<th>Enter the Member's name, business name, email address, phone number, mailing address, and physical address. The physical address listed should be the location of the main operation for reporting purposes.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business Name:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City:</td>
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<td>Zip:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Address:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) Check the applicable box if the Member will download a copy of the General Order or if the Member wants the General Order to be mailed.

(3) Check the box certifying that the Member has provided written notice to all non-member affiliated parties (an informational and notice letter template is provided on the KRWCA website).

(4) Sign and date the bottom of Page 1.
Application Instructions

PAGE 2

(5) Enter the Member Name

(6) For each respective owner of parcels to be enrolled in the membership enter:
• Contact name;
• Business name;
• Contact email;
• Contact phone number; and,
• Contact mailing address.

If the Member is enrolling more than 8 respective owners, use additional sheets

PAGE 3

(7) Enter the Member Name

(8.a) Enter the irrigated acreage for each respective parcel, under In Participating District, or Out of Participating District

(8.b) Enter the APN for the parcel

(8.c) Enter the Owner Number for the respective parcel, the Owner Number corresponds to the Owners listed on Page 2

(8.d) Enter the crops to be planted on the respective parcel during the membership year (July 2014 – June 2015)

If necessary, use additional sheets to list APNs for enrollment
**Application Instructions**

**List of Participating KRWCA Water Districts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List of Participating Water Districts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Arvin-Edison Water Storage District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Henry Miller Water District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Kern Delta Water District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Kern-Tulare Water District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 North Kern Water Storage District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Olcese Water District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Semitropic Water Storage District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utilities District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Enter the Member Name
2. Enter the sum of all Participating District and Out of Participating District irrigated acres in the applicable column.
3. Enter the sum of All Participating and Out of Participating District irrigated acres.
4. Multiply the Participating District irrigated acres with $5.50/acre ($6.50 after May 31).
5. Multiply the Out of Participating District irrigated acres with $6.50/acre ($7.50 after May 31).
6. Enter the sum of Participating and Out of Participating District plus Out of Participating District irrigated acres.
7. Enter the sum of Total Acreage Fees.

---

**Parcels for KRWCA Membership ~ Acreage Worksheet (continued)**

- **Member Name:**
- **Parcel Number:**
- **In Participating District:**
  - **Irrigated Acres:**
  - **Cost:** $5.50/acre
- **Out of Participating District:**
  - **Irrigated Acres:**
  - **Cost:** $6.50/acre (after May 31)
- **Total Irrigated Acres:**
- **Total Acreage Fees:**
  - **In Participating District:**
    - **Irrigated Acres:**
    - **Cost:** $5.50/acre
  - **Out of Participating District:**
    - **Irrigated Acres:**
    - **Cost:** $6.50/acre (after May 31)
  - **Total:**

---

**PAGE 4**

- Enter the Member Name.
- Enter the sum of all Participating District and Out of Participating District irrigated acres in the applicable column.
- Enter the sum of All Participating and Out of Participating District irrigated acres.
- Multiply the Participating District irrigated acres with $5.50/acre ($6.50 after May 31).
- Multiply the Out of Participating District irrigated acres with $6.50/acre ($7.50 after May 31).
- Enter the sum of Total Acreage Fees.
Cost to Join

### 2014 Coalition Member Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Within Existing Participating Districts</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members who sign up by May 31, 2014, per acre</td>
<td>$5.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members who sign up after May 31 and by August 4, 2014, per acre</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members who sign up after August 4, 2014, per acre</td>
<td>$10.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Fee, annual</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outside of Existing Participating Districts</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members who sign up by May 31, 2014, per acre</td>
<td>$6.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members who sign up after May 31 and by August 4, 2014, per acre</td>
<td>$7.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members who sign up after August 4, 2014, per acre</td>
<td>$11.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Fee, annual</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Application Instructions

12. Enter the Sum of Irrigated Acres, Step 10

13. Enter the Total Acreage Fee, Step 11

14. Enter $25 for publishing and mailing costs if you want a copy of the General Order mailed to the Member, Step 10

15. Enter the sum of Total Acreage Fee, plus General Order Mailing Fee, plus Annual Membership Dues

Please make check payable to KRWCA and mail with completed membership form to:
Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority, P.O. Box 151, Bakersfield, CA 93302
Steps for Application Approval

Once an application with payment is received, KRWCA will:

- Verify application is complete
- Verify the APN(s), acreage and payment
- Issue a Notice of Approval Letter to the member.

Questions?

Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority
P.O. Box 151
Bakersfield, CA 93302

Tel: (661) 616-6500
Fax: (661) 616-6550
E-mail: admin@krwca.org
Website: www.krwca.org