

## What Is the Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program?

The Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program regulates runoff from agricultural operations through waste discharge requirements (WDRs). San Diego Water Board Order No. R9-2016-0004, *General WDRs for Commercial Agricultural Operations for Dischargers that are Members of a Third-Party Group*, is for agricultural operations who have joined a Third-Party Group grower coalition.

This Order requires the implementation of management measures to prevent or minimize the pollutants that may adversely impact water quality. Growers in a Third-Party Group will enjoy reduced annual permit fees and share the costs of sampling and reporting.

Growers may sign up as individuals but will not have compliance assistance from a Third-Party Group and will be responsible for all sampling and reporting to the San Diego Water Board.

## How Do I Join a Third-Party Group?

The San Diego Water Board strongly encourages growers to contact a Third-Party Group to assist with enrollment, document upload, and overall compliance.

There are four Third-Party Groups serving the San Diego Region:

- [De Luz Ag Group \(De Luz area only\)](#)  
(951) 366-0664
- [Frog Environmental Group](#)  
(310) 241-0866
- [San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group](#)  
(760) 745-3023
- [Upper Santa Margarita Irrigated Lands Group](#)  
(909) 208-7847

### Is there an Application Fee?

Yes. There is a \$50 application fee to enroll. The fee increases to \$200 if growers receive a written directive to enroll from the San Diego Water Board. This is in addition to membership fees associated with Third-Party Groups.



## How Do I Enroll?

Each grower must provide information on an application including parcel number(s), contact info, description of crop(s) and description of measures used to prevent or minimize environmental impacts. You will need computer and internet access to complete the process.

**All of the Third-Party Groups are available to assist with the enrollment process and application fee.**

## For Additional Information

Visit the [Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program](#) website

Or

Call the San Diego Water Board:  
(619) 516-1990

Or

Email your questions to:  
[rb9\\_questions@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:rb9_questions@waterboards.ca.gov)



## Why is the Program Necessary?

Runoff from commercial agricultural operations is known to contain suspended sediments, salts, nutrients, and pesticides. These pollutants impair water quality.

The Program protects downstream water quality from adverse impacts and assists agricultural operations in complying with existing regulations.

## Do I need to Enroll?

Enrollment in the Program is **mandatory** for all commercial agricultural operations in the San Diego Water Board's jurisdiction. This includes **farms, nurseries, orchards, and vineyards** that produce crops or ornamentals with the intent to make a profit.

Growers must enroll if at least one is true:

- The grower files IRS Form 1040 Schedule F with their federal taxes;
- The grower receives an agricultural water use rate or variance;
- The grower has a pesticide use permit or identification number.

**Failure to enroll is a violation of California Water Code Section 13260 and could result in issuance of a fine of up to \$1,000 per day.**

## San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board



San Pasqual Valley



### Our Mission...

*To preserve, enhance, and restore the quality of California's water resources and drinking water for the protection of the environment, public health, and all beneficial uses, and to ensure proper water resource allocation and efficient use, for the benefit of present and future generations.*

## Protecting Water Quality

### What you need to know about the *Commercial Agriculture Regulatory Program*



**Commercial Growers Must Seek Regulatory Coverage or Risk \$1,000 (Maximum) Fine Per Day**

[www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego)

