



Dues Remain at \$4 Per Acre Despite State Fee Increase

Membership dues remain unchanged for 2018 at \$4 per acre despite an increase in fees charged by the State Water Board. The State fee, which pays for Regional Water Board staff and other program expenses, was increased by 12 cents per acre bringing the total to 87 cents per acre. The coalition pays the acreage fee on

behalf of its members as do all water quality coalitions statewide. As for the ESJWQC 2018 budget, operating costs are expected to rise slightly but are offset by new memberships and late fees charged to members who dropped out in years past and rejoined after being contacted by the Regional Water Board.

Crop Specific Workshops Continue In 2018

ESJWQC plans to continue organizing crop specific workshops starting in February 2018 and continuing into the Spring. Workshops will be set up for the major acreage crops grown in the coalition region including almonds, walnuts, wine grapes, silage corn and tomatoes. Each meeting will focus on agronomy and irrigation as it relates to protecting groundwater from nitrogen

fertilization impacts. Specialists in the featured crops will speak at each session along with coalition staff providing updates on Regional Water Board issues. The meetings will count toward the one meeting per year requirement for each member. Announcements on dates and locations will be mailed out prior to the meetings or will be posted on the coalition website and portal.

Web Portal Provides Online Access to Member Info

Use of the secure ESJWQC member portal is a convenient way for members to access membership information or make updates and changes. A feature recently added to the password-protected portal is the option of naming a secondary contact such as a farm manager or crop advisor who is then allowed access to the Farm Evaluations and Nitrogen Summary Reports. Also added is the option to have all coalition materials sent via email. The portal is accessible using any computer, laptop, tablet or phone with internet capabilities and a web browser. If you are interested in using the portal, the first step is emailing ESJWQC staff at contactesj@esjcoalition.org and requesting a passcode. You can also request a passcode by calling 209-846-6112. Then you can log in at www.esjmemberlogin.com. All your existing member information will be prepopulated. Select from a menu to view the current invoice (including any unpaid balance),

enrolled parcels and associated acreages and a page to request adding new parcels. Members can also print a summary of acres enrolled, review status of member requirements such as whether or not required surveys have been returned, which surveys are required for the member, and a designation by parcel of surface and groundwater vulnerability. Other features include a calendar of events, parcel maps, and data entry forms for the Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report and Farm Evaluation Survey. Members with large acreage and numerous parcels find the portal especially useful. In 2018 the portal will be expanded to allow a member to designate a "delegate" to submit their Farm Evaluation and NMP Summary Report information. Another feature to come is a document repository that enables members to retrieve and print records from previous years. Users will be notified via email when the new features are online.

Member Packets Combine All Documents Needed

Response has been overwhelmingly positive to the member packets sent last year and being distributed again this year. The 2018 member packet is intended to be filed next to the 2017 packet so all your forms, surveys and other information are readily accessible in

case of an inspection by the Regional Water Board. If you need to meet with a coalition representative about a question or need assistance completing forms, bring along your entire packet.



UPDATE NEWSLETTER

October 2017

www.esjcoalition.org

Nitrogen Management Plan Certification Sessions Continue to be Scheduled

Growers who farm parcels in areas designated “high vulnerability” to groundwater contamination are required to have their Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) Worksheet certified by a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) who received a nitrogen management certification or other qualified professional such as a soil scientist or agronomist. Another alternative is for a grower to attend a course that enables them to self-certify their own NMP Worksheet. The courses, developed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and managed by the Coalition for Urban Rural Environmental Stewardship

(CURES), are in their third year and are expected to be scheduled between December 2017 and April 2018. A grower may attend any session in the Central Valley to obtain the certification. Course dates are posted at <http://www.curesworks.org/grower-Training>

Once a member completes a course, they are required to attend continuing education (CE) courses that total three hours within three years of completing the self-certification course. Courses where the CE hours are offered are listed on the website address above.

Self-Certification Courses Offered for Sediment and Erosion Control Plans

Training courses are again being planned for members who intend to certify their own Sediment and Erosion Control Plans (SECP). A recent expansion of the requirement to properties adjacent to waterways is likely to prompt more interest in attending the ESJWQC-sponsored, half-day courses. A SECP is required for irrigated land with the potential to discharge sediment either in storm water or irrigation drainage into waters of the State. The existing requirement is that a professional such as an engineer must develop and approve these farm specific plans. The self-certification courses enable

growers to participate in the training, take a test then sign-off on their own SECP.

To more accurately gauge interest in attending the courses, a sign-up page has been set up on the coalition website where members can request to be contacted when the next workshop is scheduled: <https://www.esjcoalition.org/secpTraining.asp>

Members can also be added to the contact list by calling the coalition office. Once twenty or more members respond, one or more sessions will be scheduled.

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Mike Niemi, Turlock Irrigation District
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