



August 7, 2013

An organization has been formed to relieve you from the requirement to sample wells supplying drinking water on your property. A plan developed by the Central Coast Groundwater Cooperative (CCGC) was recently approved by the Regional Water Board to represent its members in a regional groundwater monitoring program (*see enclosed information sheet*).

The CCGC is seeking your membership in this new organization. Member dues will support the sampling of drinking water wells throughout Monterey, Santa Clara, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties on farm property owned or leased by members. Sampling will begin in September and be completed in August 2014 with follow-up nitrate source identification continuing into 2016-17. Dues will also support preparing required reports and the administrative activities of the organization.

The benefits of participating in the CCGC:

- CCGC combines member resources to achieve economies of scale to comply with the regulatory requirements of the Central Coast Regional Water Board.

Already the results of our efforts have been substantial. We were so successful in illustrating to the Regional Water Board that a one mile square blurring of well locations is protective and important that staff is recommending that the Board amend the Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MRP) and the Order to make the rule for all growers, regardless of whether they're in CCGC or monitoring individually. Because we came together in this effort, we were able to accomplish what individual growers/landowners could not do alone.

- This program provides long term security of individual well monitoring information, fulfilling the needs for accurate information. This information will be used as a basis for the next Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). Negotiations are expected to begin in 2014.
- CCGC is using experts in groundwater to create an accurate characterization of the aquifers covered by the plan, using science-based, aggregated reporting.

We are asking for your commitment to participate in this program over a 4-year period, the time it will take to complete all the requirements in the approved plan. This commitment will ensure we have the financial stability and certainty to perform the required work on schedule.

At current estimated membership levels, your dues for this 4-year period are \$12 per acre. We are asking members to pay \$6 an acre with their initial membership application, with the remaining \$6 per acre due in 2015. This dues payment schedule is necessary because the most intensive work must be performed in the first 18 months of the program. The second dues amount will be reduced if membership exceeds current estimates.

To become a CCGC member:

- Review the backgrounder carefully;
- Complete the enclosed form and include your initial dues payment: **Deadline: August 28;**
- Provide a list of the Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs) you currently own or lease;
- CCGC will submit member information to the Regional Water Board on September 1, indicating your compliance with this component of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

If you have questions, contact either of us via email or phone. Follow us at [www.centralcoastgco.org](http://www.centralcoastgco.org).

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