San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region is responsible for making certain that state water runoff regulations for irrigated agriculture are implemented locally. For commercial agriculture this is done through the General Waste Discharge Requirement for Agriculture (Ag Order), adopted in 2016.

The San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board gives operators the option of compliance through a third-party monitoring group or as an individual. The San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group (SDRILG) formed so Farm Bureau members would have an easy cost-effective path to compliance.

The San Diego County Farm Bureau carefully studied the regulations and decided to provide members in San Diego, Orange, and Southern Riverside Counties with the option of joining SDRILG.

Meeting any one of the items below requires compliance

Intent to make a profit (commercial sale of ag products).	Owner or operator files an IRS Form 1040 Schedule F Profit or Loss from farming.	Owner or operator is required to have an Operator Identification Number for pesticide use reporting.	Operator receives agricultural water pricing (residential/ ag meters may be exempt if there is no commercial production).

Please note: the source of irrigation water is not a factor. Any type of irrigation, regardless of water source, triggers compliance.

What are my responsibilities as a member of SDRILG?

Upon Entry

- Use SDRILG's easy online platform (software) to complete a Notice of Intent (NOI) which includes a Water Quality Protection Plan and details of the farming operation.

Documents can be completed via telephone interview for those without internet access.

Quarterly

- Complete simple quarterly self-inspections provided by SDRILG.

Annually

- Participate in 2 hours water runoff education provided by SDRILG.
- Submit Annual Report provided by SDRILG.

San Diego Region Irrigated Lands Group is a 501(c) 5 non-profit administered by the San Diego County Farm Bureau, created to benefit the Farm Bureau members of Region 9.

Fees

One time enrollment fee calculated based upon the number of irrigated acres

1 acre -	$325
2 acres -	$650
3 acres -	$975
4 acres -	$1,300
5 acres -	$1,600
>5-10 acres -	$1,700
>10-25 acres -	$1,800
25+ acres -	$1,900

One time state fee

$50 fee collected on behalf of the state.

If you receive a Directive Letter from the Water Board, the fee increases to $200.

2025 Annual Acreage Fee

Current fee schedule:

- $75 admin fee
- $11 per irrigated acre
- $1.50 state fee per irrigated acre

Annual fee covers SDRILG's operating costs, bio-assessment analysis performed by environmental engineers, laboratory costs, and required state fees.

Due after NOI submission and billed annually in the spring.

Annual Fees subject to change yearly.

Avoid Expensive Fines

The San Diego Water Board has GIS maps of the region that show which agricultural properties are in compliance. An effort has been launched by the San Diego Water Board to send Directive Letters to farmers stating that compliance is required and failure to act can lead to substantial daily fines.