

# ORGANIC AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP AN OVERVIEW OF WATER QUALITY REGULATIONS

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# 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.

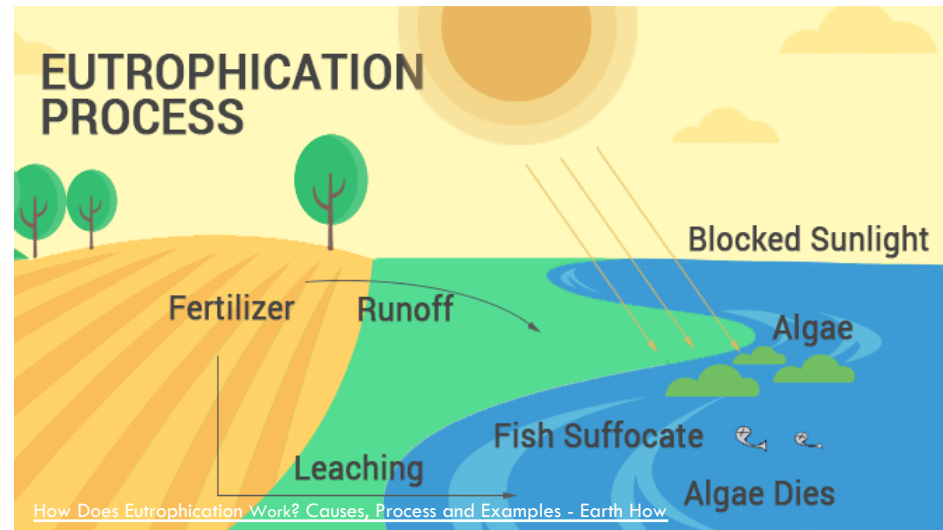
# EFFECTS OF NITROGEN AND PHOSPHOROUS IN WATER BODIES

- **Eutrophication**

- Occurs when the environment becomes enriched with nutrients, increasing the amount of plant and algae growth in water bodies

- **Blue baby syndrome (Methemoglobinemia)**

- Condition that causes a baby's skin to turn blue as a result of low oxygen levels in blood



# SEDIMENT POLLUTION

Any soil that is not protected by rainfall or runoff may be vulnerable to erosion and become a source of sediment pollution in surface water bodies.



The Facts of Sediment - City of Auburn

## **Water quality impacts of sediment pollution:**

- Clogs fish gills and disrupts aquatic ecosystems
- Prevents natural vegetation from growing in water
- Clogs storm drains and catch basins
- Sediment increases the cost of treating drinking water and can result in odor and taste problems

# GENERAL AGRICULTURAL ORDERS

Order No. R9-2016-0004, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations for Dischargers that are Members of a Third-Party Group in the San Diego Region*  
**(Third-Party General Order)**

Order No. R9-2016-0005, *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Commercial Agricultural Operations for Dischargers Not Participating in a Third-Party Group in the San Diego Region*  
**(Individual General Order)**

# TRIGGERS TO ENROLL

Must meet at least one of the following triggers:

- File IRS Schedule F form 1040 on federal taxes
- Receive agriculture water rate from water purveyor
- Pesticide handling certificate number

# ORDER REQUIREMENTS

- Complete a Notice of Intent and Water Quality Protection Plan
- Conduct Quarterly Self-Inspections and one Annual Self-Assessment of your operation
- Attend 2 hours of water quality training per year
- Fees
  - \$50.00 initial application fee or \$200.00 if directed to enroll by the SDRWQCB
    - Annual SDRWQCB fee for the Third-Party General Order: \$1.35/irrigated acre
      - Third-Party Groups have additional fees
    - Annual SDRWQCB fee for the Individual General Order: \$33.51/irrigated acre
- Monitoring requirements



Outreach



Farm evaluation



Sediment and  
Erosion Control Plan



Irrigation Nitrogen  
Management Plan



Monitoring on-site  
drinking water wells



Nitrogen  
applied/nitrogen  
removed ratio

# EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN AGRICULTURAL ORDER PRECEDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS



# HOW YOU CAN PROTECT WATER QUALITY

## Erosion Control

- Leaves and vegetation on slopes
- Wood/straw mulch on bare soil
- Irrigate loose soil

## Sediment Control

- Tarps covering stockpiles during rain events
- Silt fences/fiber rolls
- Gravel/sandbag barriers

## Storing organic amendments (i.e., manure & compost)

- Avoid storing stockpiles near water bodies, in flood-prone areas, or on steep slopes



How to store and manage fertilizer - Bagtech - FR (bagtechint.com)



Silt Fence | Erosion Defense



FCLC revises cover crop forage harvest restrictions on prevent plant acres | Morning Ag Clips

# SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD AGRICULTURE PROGRAM STAFF CONTACTS

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# REFERENCES



Third-Party General Order:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/2016/R9-2016-0004.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2016/R9-2016-0004.pdf)

Individual General Order:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/2016/R9-2016-0005.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/board_decisions/adopted_orders/2016/R9-2016-0005.pdf)



San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Boards Agriculture Website:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water\\_issues/programs/commercial\\_agriculture/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/commercial_agriculture/)



Eastern San Joaquin Agricultural Order Precedential Requirements:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board\\_info/agendas/2019/march/item03/item3\\_att03.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2019/march/item03/item3_att03.pdf)