

For Immediate Release
I.V. Press Farm Page – 8/16/2007

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The deadline to submit Farm Water Quality Management Plans for TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) compliance is very quickly approaching. There are only a few days until **SEPTEMBER 1, 2007** which is the absolute last day to submit your forms to the Imperial County Farm Bureau Voluntary TMDL Program.

To submit and/or update your existing Farm Plan, you can visit our website – www.ivtmdl.com. From there you will need your user name and password to access your plan. For those of you that have forgotten this required information, or if you have absolutely no access to a computer, you can give me a call at the Farm Bureau office for assistance. Please keep in mind that as much as I'd love to be able to help everyone complete these updates, unfortunately, there are just too many farmers enrolled in this program and not enough hours in the day for me to work on everyone's plans.

A form must be completed for every field that has a delivery gate, even if it does not drain or is fallowed. Regardless if there have been no change since last year, you still must make note of this on your plan. If there are no changes, on the bottom of each field's page, there is a "No Change" box. You must click this box to update that specific field. By doing this, it will record the date which you made the update.

This data must be input into the website so that the Regional Water Board will have access to it after the September 1st deadline. And let me remind you that if your Farm Plans are not filed, you will be subject to a hefty fine of up to \$1,000 per drain, per day from the Regional Water Board. This penalty is easily avoided by taking only a few minutes to complete your updates.

It is important for all landowners to know that if your tenant is not in compliance with TMDL regulations, the ultimate responsibility will fall in your lap. To protect yourself, I suggest requesting a copy of your tenant's farm plan for your records. This is an easy document for your tenants to obtain and will allow you the peace of mind that your property will not be subject to fines.

Since August is one of the busiest months for the TMDL Program, if you require assistance with your plans or any other issue, please call the Farm Bureau office at 352-3831 to schedule an appointment before making the trip to the office.

By Linsey Dale