

# FAQ's from IVILC Grower Meetings

## October 2022

### Programmatic

**Q:** Why was the program changed from TMDL to Imperial Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition?

**A:** In 2021, the Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted General Waste Discharge Requirements for Irrigated Lands in Imperial Valley. This action added additional reporting requirements to total maximum daily load (TMDL) reporting that was previously done. The Coalition's role has not changed.

**Q:** If I have any questions regarding Imperial Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition who do I contact?

**A:** Please contact the Imperial County Farm Bureau office at 760-352-3831 or [ivilc@icfb.net](mailto:ivilc@icfb.net).

**Q:** Who is the Imperial Valley Irrigated Lands Coalition?

**A:** The Coalition consists of a partnership between Imperial County Farm Bureau and the Imperial Irrigation District. ICFB administers all member compliance and Coalition reporting as well as serves as an intermediary between growers and the Regional Board. IID manages water quality monitoring and reporting requirements as well as billing and collection of the state fee.

### Member Portal – IVILC Website

**Q:** What is the best way to view the IVILC Member Portal?

**A:** The resources and survey entry forms available on the IVILC Member Portal are designed to be used on devices with screen sizes of a tablet or larger. Desktop/laptop computers will give the best experience. Google Chrome, Firefox, and Edge will work the best with the entry form software.

**Q:** What is the new Coalition website and how do I get a login?

**A:** The new website is [www.ivilcportal.com](http://www.ivilcportal.com) and if you were a previous member of the TMDL program you should have received a temporary login code and your new membership ID number via email in November 2022. If you are not a member and need to become one, please contact the Imperial County Farm Bureau for assistance with creating an account.

**Q:** What if I forgot my login username or password? Or my membership ID number?

**A:** You can reset your password on your own on the [ivilcportal.com](http://ivilcportal.com) website. If you have forgotten your ID number, please contact ICFB at 760-352-3831 or [ivilc@icfb.net](mailto:ivilc@icfb.net).

**Q:** If I was not a member of the previous TMDL program but need to be now, how do I sign up?

**A:** Please contact ICFB at 760-352-3831 or [ivilc@icfb.net](mailto:ivilc@icfb.net).

**Q:** Do we have to input all of our fields into the new system?

**A:** We transferred over all information from the TMDL database to the new portal to help save some time for members. Please note, this is based on your last reporting cycle which would have been in 2021 so it is likely you will have to make some changes. However, you will not have to start over and input every single field.

**Q:** Why can I no longer add multiple businesses under one account?

**A:** In order for the Coalition to track membership and report data in the format required by the General Order, we must keep accounts independent and relative to their individual members. We are working on implementing a “Delegate” feature for the next reporting deadline that will allow members to assign a delegate to their account and that delegate will have a separate set of login credentials that will allow him/her to manage multiple entities under that account.

**Q:** How do I update my membership records?

**A:** Member contact information, canal/gates, and secondary contacts can be edited within the Member Portal under the Member and Parcel Information page. Any update here will be saved to your record.

**Q:** What is a Secondary Contact?

**A:** A secondary contact is a term that covers any operator or grower involved in managing the land besides the member. This could be a lessee, farm manager, or additional landowner. We need to keep track of who is participating in farming decisions on the land enrolled in the IVILC.

## Billing

**Q:** If I have questions about billing who do I contact?

**A:** Please contact the Imperial Irrigation District for any questions regarding billing at 760-339-9322.

**Q:** What is the fee to be in the IVILC?

**A:** There is not a fee associated with being a part of the Coalition, however you must be an Imperial County Farm Bureau member. You must also pay the state mandated fee which is billed by IID in November/December annually.

**Q:** How much is the state mandated fee?

**A:** If you are a part of the Coalition your fee will be \$1.35/acre (subject to change annually). If you choose to not be a part of the Coalition, your fee would be \$33.51/acre.

## Membership

**Q:** Do I have to be a Farm Bureau member?

**A:** It is a requirement that you are a Farm Bureau member to be in the Coalition. Please contact Alicyn at 760-352-3831 or [alicyn@icfb.net](mailto:alicyn@icfb.net) regarding all membership questions.

**Q:** Who is required to be a Farm Bureau member? Landowners or tenant farmers?

**A:** We encourage both to sign up. We recognize that the tenant farmer will more than likely be the one reporting but ultimately it is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure everything is being reported. We encourage the landowner to be a member so they are aware of what is happening in case their tenant farmer fails to comply.

**Q:** I own ground in the Imperial Valley but the ground is not farmed, do I still need to be a part of the Coalition?

**A:** Unlike the previous program, you are only required to be part of the Coalition if your ground is commercially farmed.

## Requirements

**Q:** Why are they making us test the groundwater when we do not use our groundwater for ag use?

**A:** The Coalition tried very hard to make this argument to the Regional Board that we do not use our groundwater but they insisted and based their decision on the fact that this is a precedential requirement set forth by the State Water Board. They are attempting to obtain a baseline of groundwater quality and see trends to ensure there is not further degradation taking place.

**Q:** With the reporting of the nitrogen usage on the fields, does the State Water Board have the authority to limit nitrogen use?

**A:** They are not limiting nitrogen use and don't claim for that to be their goal as of now.

**Q:** Since the Coalition is required to monitor water quality, will there be sampling done where the New and Alamo Rivers enter the US from Mexico?

**A:** IID does not currently do sampling at those sites; sampling begins at the All-American Canal before it reaches any agriculture as well as upstream sites on the New and Alamo Rivers. The Regional Board conducts sampling at the New and Alamo River sites where they begin to flow into the US so that data is publicly available.

**Q:** If our crop is split into two years, what year do we report on?

**A:** The crop should be reported based on year of harvest. If your crop was planted in fall 2022 and harvested in spring 2023, the year that you would be reporting on would be 2023.

**Q:** What and when will the reports be due?

**A:** Your Farm Plan Survey will be due on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> annually.

**Q:** What is a Farm Plan?

**A:** Your Farm Plan is unique to you and the fields you grow crops on. It entails details such as: crops grown, crop age, irrigation practices, nitrogen practices, spray management, water run-off information and more.

**Q:** Will there be more things that we have to report next year?

**A:** The next report that will be due is the Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) Summary Report and that will be due December 21, 2023. After that, you will continue to submit your Farm Plan Surveys and INMP Summary Report annually. So, after 2023, there will not be new reporting requirements.

**Q:** How can I ensure information I report remains anonymous.

**A:** The Coalition does not report on a field level or individual grower basis. Data provided to the Coalition are stored on a secure private server and are considered proprietary information. Data are reported to Regional Board in a summary format excluding identification of parcels or individuals.