

# Central Valley Dairy Representative Monitoring Program

*For the benefit of dairy producers and water quality across our valley*

October 25, 2010

Dear fellow Central Valley dairy owner/operator:

**Hello! My name is Tom Barcellos and I am a dairy owner and operator in Tulare County. I have been asked to serve as chairman of a coalition of dairy farmers to help save you money on water quality compliance costs.**

In 2007, the State of California adopted comprehensive new water quality regulations for all Central Valley dairies. These new regulations require all existing dairies to install wells exclusively for monitoring first-encountered groundwater. Needless to say, the cost of installing these wells could be quite high – we estimate more than \$40,000 per dairy plus ongoing sampling and reporting costs.

**We think we have found a better way.** Your fellow dairymen have organized an alternative program that pools resources and conducts a group effort that benefits all of its members. **In short, our plan calls for fewer wells and a strategic approach to meeting the requirements.** Dairy owners will oversee the program to make sure funds are used efficiently. And we will work closely with water quality regulators to ensure that the program remains acceptable to them as an alternative to more costly approaches.

If you decide to join us, simply sign the enclosed **Participation Agreement, Letter of Intent** and **Consent to Milk Check Deduction and Assignment** and return them to us in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. **Read the agreement carefully before you sign.** You will not be charged until the program receives final approval and you are accepted as a member. If for any reason you are not accepted, your money will be fully refunded. Participation is entirely voluntary and you may withdraw from this program at any time – however, keep in mind that withdrawing from the program will also mean that you will be required to install monitoring wells on your dairy on your own.

**Finally, we must emphasize that time is limited.** The success of this effort, the Central Valley Dairy Representative Monitoring Program, depends on participation by a majority of dairy owners/operators. Therefore, we ask anyone who wishes to become a member of this program to return the enclosed agreement and payment form **no later than December 27, 2010.**\* Doing so will ensure you a spot in the program and avoid substantial penalties for late membership applications.

We look forward to hearing from you soon and appreciate your careful consideration of this matter!

Sincerely,



Tom Barcellos, Chairman

\*Applications postmarked after the deadline will be subject to a minimum late penalty of \$1,000 and may not be accepted. Late applicants may also need to receive permission directly from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to allow membership in the program as a substitute for the current regulatory requirement to install wells.

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