

NEWS

REPRESENTING A GROWING INDUSTRY

Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association

July 2016

We are pleased to announce the ability for growers to use VAPAM/METAM SODIUM in Imperial County. While never an official ban on the product, the product needed clearance from IID to use in and near the gates. IID had precluded that clearance in August 2013.

IVVGA has worked with the IID Water Department and IID Regulatory & Environmental Compliance, as well as the Imperial County AG Commissioner, and with significant support from several local growers, local chemical distributors and applicators, Nova Source and AmVAC, for the product to be available for use again in Imperial County. A fumigant management plan (FMP) will be required as before, with its submission to the Ag Commissioner's office at least a week prior to a planned application. The Ag Commissioner's office will verify with IID that a sufficient buffer is available to ensure IID staff will have access to the delivery gate.

Notice to neighbors is still required, just as before.

All growers who plan to use the product in 2016 or 2017 should plan to attend the training session, Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at Stockmen's. The **two hour Spanish class will be at 8:00am** with refreshments available. The **English class will be at 11:00 am** with lunch available. This class is approved by DPR and training credits will be provided for those completing the class.

We extend a special thanks to Connie Valenzuela, Ag Commissioner; Mike Pacheco, IID Water Manager; Mike Kemp, IID Regulatory and Environmental Compliance; Bernard Oslen, Nova Source, Bryan McClerry & Cindy Baker Smith, AmVAC and the numerous growers who participated in the meetings while we stewarded this project to completion.

