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2016 Metam Sodium/Potassium Use in Imperial County

July 8, 2016

Dear Growers, Agents, and PCAs:

We have been working with the Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers Association, Imperial County Farm Bureau, metam sodium/potassium (Vapam, Sectagon) vendors, and Imperial Irrigation District on ways that we can allow use of metam sodium/potassium (hereinafter "metam") in Imperial County this year. The local Permit Conditions for use of metam have been updated and are attached for your information.

One important requirement is to ensure that any irrigation delivery and check gates that need to be accessed by the IID from the start of the application until 48 hours after the application is completed are not inside the buffer zone required by metam labels. To show how this could be done, diagrams are attached that show some possible ways to ensure the buffer zone does not include the head gate. Other gates that fall within the buffer zone don't automatically disqualify the application; it depends on whether access during the buffer zone period is needed.

For flood irrigation applications using 40 gal/acre "broadcast equivalent" on a 70 to 80 acre treatment site, the buffer zone would be 930 – 1,009 ft. This is well within ¼ mile, which is 1,320 ft. Treatment of smaller areas or using a lower rate would reduce the size of the buffer zone. The treatment site and metam tank cannot be next to the delivery gate. The metam tank will need a level space for placement adjacent to the head of the treatment area in order to not increase the size of the buffer zone.

Because of these and other complex treatment site requirements, we suggest that you notify our office as soon as possible so we can assist you in evaluating potential treatment sites. Please provide a list of sites you think would work using the criteria above and in the attachments, and if possible, provide a map of each site per the Permit Condition requirements (# 8). Don't work on a fumigant management plan (FMP) or on contacting neighboring landowners/growers for permission letters yet until we work with you on evaluating potential sites. We would like to help you avoid wasting time producing an NOI and FMP for sites that will not qualify for metam applications. Once we have completed an initial review of potential sites, we will also work with IID to get their input and agreement on those sites.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding metam applications, please contact Margo Sanchez or me at (442) 265-1500 or at the following email addresses for further information:

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Sincerely,

Connie Valenzuela
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