![USDA logo] **United States Department of Agriculture**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA Accepting Applications for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program
Eligible producers are encouraged to apply

Imperial, Calif., June 27, 2017 –Farm and ranch operators interested in applying for conservation program financial assistance, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting applications for the 2017 Salton Sea Water Quality, Air Quality and Agricultural Wetlands Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Applications are accepted on a continuous basis, however, NRCS establishes "cutoff" dates to evaluate applications for funding selection. The RCPP cutoff date is July 28, 2017.

Applications from eligible producers with farmland located within targeted drainage areas of the New River, Alamo River or drainage areas along the Salton Sea (HUC 12 watersheds) identified in the green polygons on the map below, will be accepted. Eligible producers can contact NRCS to find out if their properties fall within the targeted drainage areas. NRCS staff are available to help producers create conservation plans on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The NRCS RCPP program aims to improve surface and subsurface drainage water quality flowing from croplands into the Salton Sea by reducing nutrients and sediments. Producers interested in improving or replacing their existing irrigation systems, with drip or sprinkler irrigation or improving surface irrigation distribution uniformity to reduce irrigation runoff and deep leaching of crop nutrients and adopting advanced irrigation water management and nutrient management practices. On farm air quality improvements could be addressed by practices such as reduced tillage, cover crops, stabilize farm roads, and windbreaks. Contact NRCS at 2407 Marshall Avenue, Suite E, in Imperial, CA, or call (760) 355-2208, ext. 3. Ask for Cydean Gillespie, Jose Luis Herrera, or Kevin Carpenter. Servicio en Español

More information on NRCS programs can be found at www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov.
.