District Managers: Please share this email with your board members.

SWCD Directors and Managers,

Attached is a survey on eligibility criteria for SWCD Directors. As many of you are aware, existing eligibility criteria were the subject of legislation in 2019 in which there would have been significant changes to the criteria to manage land. The legislation was pulled back to allow the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) to form a work group to discuss and evaluate issues and options. The matter has not yet come to conclusion, and it is very important to get a solid understanding of SWCD opinions on the subject. It is expected that the SWCC will continue to address the issue later in 2020 and 2021.

SWCDs are requested to complete the attached survey and return it to Jan Lee by August 20, 2020.

The survey has a brief background section and instructions followed by the survey itself. It is recommended that the survey be placed on SWCD Board agendas to bring out some good discussion and cross pollination of ideas. Then each individual Board member should fill out the survey. It is expected that filling out the survey itself should take less than 5 minutes, although Board deliberations will take additional time. Afterwards, one person should be designated to compile the survey results of the district and send it back to OACD.

Once all of the results of the survey are turned in, they will be compiled and summarized and made available to the SWCC and SWCDs.

Also attached is White Paper prepared by the SWCC Work Group. This paper does not have recommendations for any changes in eligibility criteria, but it provides a good summary of the topics that were discussed by the work group.

It is very important to get a complete representation of SWCD views from the survey as this will be used to determine how OACD and the SWCC will address any future legislation on the matter.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Jan.

Stan Dean: stan.dean@jswcd.org (530) 902-7415
Jan Lee: jan.lee@oacd.org (503) 545-9420
Stan chairs OACD’s Advocacy Committee, sits on the SWCC, and primarily developed the survey. OACD appreciates his work on this issue. Jan