



SAC-VALLEY NEWS

SVWQC actions, accomplishments, and updates

1.1+ MILLION IRRIGATED ACRES

7300+ PARTICIPANTS

11 SUBWATERSHEDS



Happy Holidays!

This holiday season, people across the world will be sitting down to enjoy the food and drink that you have worked hard to produce throughout the year.

At the same moment, only after stepping out of your homes to look after your land, to check on your crops and tend to your animals, will you return to the warmth of your own families.

The Coalition would like to use this season to recognize ranchers and farmers for their work this year.

We wish you and your families a happy and prosperous new year.



The latest in this issue:

COALITION 2023 PARTICIPANT LIST

REGIONAL BOARD TOURS

UNDERSTANDING CV-SALTS

GROUNDWATER QUALITY PROTECTION TARGETS

MEMBER INFORMATION

EXTREME CAUTION NEEDED WITH PYRETHROIDS!!!

SECP Self-Certification Portal OPEN for the Month of February ONLY

The Sediment and Erosion Control Plan (SECP) Grower Self-Certification Training will be available from **February 1, 2024 to February 29, 2024.**

The Training Portal is designed for growers who are required to prepare a certified SECP as part of their membership in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. If you are required to prepare an SECP, becoming self-certified is one option. Your Subwatershed will let you know if this requirement applies to you.

A link to the training can be found at <https://www.svwqc.org/outreach-and-education/>

Understanding Nitrogen Grower Feedback Reports and What it Means to be an “Outlier”

To demonstrate that growers' use of nitrogen is protective of groundwater quality the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's (Regional Board) Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) permit requires growers to complete an Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) Summary Report each year. Growers in Amador, Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Solano, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Shasta, Tehama, and Yolo Counties provide this information through the Subwatershed online data management tool (DMT). Then the Nitrogen Use Efficiency results are compared by crop type at both the Township and Coalition scale to determine outlier status. Those with applied nitrogen higher than those growing the same crop are marked “outliers”.

Each grower in the above counties should find their 2022 Crop Year Grower Feedback Reports on their online dashboard. It should be mentioned that these reports are still a “work in progress” and may have incorrect information. The goal is to obtain a three-year average of the nitrogen used. To calculate the average, the same crop must be farmed on the same field for all three years. As of now, three-year averages for permanent crops are fairly easy to calculate, while the calculations for rotated crops are still being refined. Rotation crop reports use information for a single year. Multi-year outliers are members with any fields that were single-year outliers for the 2021 crop year and either the 2020 or 2019 crop years. Once again, the 2022 feedback reports may have errors due to mistakes in reporting the amount of nitrogen used and/or crop yields. **The important message to remember is that outlier status simply shows the use of nitrogen is higher than those growing the same crop - it isn't necessarily a negative category and, because it is a statistical outlier, it does not necessarily mean you are overapplying.**

Eventually, the Coalition will be required to contact all “outliers” to review the nitrogen used and see if excess nitrogen was actually applied. The Coalition will then be required to provide additional education on Nitrogen Use Efficiency. For now, you should simply review the reports. The 2023 crop year Grower Feedback Reports will likely be released in Jan 2024 - they will be uploaded to the online DMT for the aforementioned counties and emailed/mailed to the remaining Subwatersheds (El Dorado, Napa, and NECWA).

For more information on these efforts, please contact Bruce Houdesheldt (bruceh@norcalwater.org, (916) 442-8333).

Testing for Nitrates for Domestic Wells on Enrolled Parcels in the ILRP

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) sent postcard reminders as part of the Drinking Water Well Sampling requirement under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory (ILRP) requirement mandated by the State Water Quality Control Board's 2018 Order. Under the program, domestic well sampling is required for any well on an enrolled parcel that is actively used for drinking or cooking. An ELAP-certified lab must be used for the sample analysis. A list of ELAP-certified lands can be found [here](#) (1).

Coalition members/landowners whose first-year nitrate + nitrogen domestic well sample result was **equal to or less than 10 mg/L** were sent reminder postcards that they are required to collect and sample their drinking water well for another year.

If your first-year sample was greater than 10 mg/L, you are required to notify all domestic well users using the Regional Board's Notification Template. After notifying users, you can stop further sampling. If you are the only user of the well, you simply check Box 1J on the [Member Information Form](#) (2) (image below) to let the Regional Board know that you are the only user. The Regional Board does require this information so that they can update their files. If you did not inform them, they have sent a postcard requesting this information.

If you **do not have an active drinking water well** on an enrolled parcel, you should notify the Regional Board via phone or email so that they can update their files and remove you from future mailing lists.

To respond to the postcards or notify the Regional Board that you do not have a drinking water well on an enrolled parcel, please refer to your Regional Board staff member for your county:

Gurbinder Dhaliwal (BYS, SAWQA, PNSSNS):

- Gurbinder.Dhaliwal@Waterboards.ca.gov
- 916-464-4601

Dennis Costache (Dixon/Solano, CGSP, Yolo):

- Dennis.Costache@Waterboards.ca.gov
- 916-464-4850

Jessa Rego (Lake, Napa, STWEC, NECWA, El Dorado):

- Jessa.Rego@Waterboards.ca.gov
- 916-464-4610

The Coalition does have a supply of water sampling bottles in the office. If you need a large number, please call in advance so that we can be sure to have enough for you. For more information about this requirement, please visit the Regional Board's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (3) document.

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM
DRINKING WATER WELL MEMBER INFORMATION

Complete entire form if you have a drinking water well on an enrolled Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) and submit it with your well samples to an Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program laboratory for required data entry into the State's GeoTracker database.

1. Coalition Member Information
(Personal information will not be available to the public, only APN and well sample data will be available to view through the GeoTracker database) – *Note: fields 1a through 1d, 1f and 1e are required to be filled out.

1a. Coalition Name*: _____ 1e. Farm Name: _____
1b. Coalition Member ID #: _____ 1f. Member's Phone*: _____
1c. Member's Name*: _____ 1g. Member's Email*: _____
1d. Member's Mailing Address*: _____ 1h. Property Address (if different from mailing address): _____

1i. Is the coalition member also the landowner: YES (if Yes, skip boxes 2a-2d) NO
1j. Is the coalition member (including family) the only consumer of the drinking water? YES NO (if no, notification to all consumers and the Central Valley Water Board is required if nitrate exceedance is identified)

2. Landowner Information
(Fill out if coalition member is not the landowner)

2a. Landowner's Name: _____ 2c. Landowner's Phone: _____
2b. Landowner's Mailing Address: _____ 2d. Landowner's Email: _____

LINKS:

- (1) https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/labs/
- (2) https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/drinking_water/dw_member_info.pdf
- (3) https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/drinking_water/dw_faq.pdf



Coalition Member Information Hub



PYRETHROIDS ARE STILL BEING DETECTED IN SURFACE WATER MONITORING

Due to the frequency with which pyrethroid pesticides are being detected in certain waterbodies, another article must be dedicated to reminding Members to exercise **EXTREME CAUTION** when applying pyrethroid pesticides. **The detection level for pyrethroids is very low**, so they are more frequently detected. The pyrethroid pesticides that are monitored for and have trigger limits are:

- Cypermethrin (Mustang)
- Lambda-Cyhalothrin (Warrior, Lambda-Cy)
- Bifenthrin (Brigade, Bifenture, Capture, Fanfare)
- Esfenvalerate (Du Pont Asana)
- Permethrin (Permastar)
- Cyfluthrin (Tombstone)

Although Management Plans are in place, the 2023 Monitoring Year, which took place from October 1, 2022, to September 30, 2023, resulted in multiple additional exceedances. These additional exceedances have extended the earliest completion date of the Management Plan by three years. As a reminder, a Management Plan is triggered when two or more exceedances of the same constituent occur at the same site within a three-year period. They can only be completed through a combination of monitoring results and management practice documentation through the Surface Water Management Practice Completion Report (SWMPIR). SWMPIRs must be completed each year. The Management Plan will only be deemed complete after a minimum of three years have passed without any additional exceedances and adequate documentation is collected. **As you can imagine, Management Plans are costly to implement due to both the additional monitoring and additional reporting requirements.**

Pyrethroid pesticides are highly toxic at low concentrations to invertebrates eaten by waterfowl and fish. They may move off-farm by binding tightly to organic matter and soil particles. Therefore, **proper application, limiting drift, and sediment erosion practices** are critical for limiting pyrethroid runoff. Stewardship and implementing Best Management Practices cannot be emphasized enough

Below are several resources for pyrethroid management:

- [Pyrethroids Insecticides for Row Crops](#) – Coalition for Urban and Development
- [Pyrethroid Insecticides for Orchard Crops](#) - Coalition for Urban and Development
- [Orchard Sprayer Calibration](#) - Coalition for Urban and Development
- [Pyrethroid Focused Outreach Meeting Video](#) – Background, Effective Orchard Spraying by Franz

Past Editions

www.svwqc.org/outreach-education

General

Questions

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DIRECTORY

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Central Valley Regional
Quality Control Board,
ILRP Division
Phone: 916-464-4611
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/