

**PILOT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PROGRAM  
2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT**

Prepared by the  
**El Dorado County Agricultural Water Quality Management  
Corporation**

Representing the  
**El Dorado Subwatershed,**  
A Member of the  
Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition

As Required by the  
  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region

Monitoring and Reporting Program  
Order No. R5-2009-0875, Attachment D

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1 PROGRAM METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
1.1 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES .....	5
1.1.1 Pesticide Management .....	5
1.1.2 Irrigation Water Management .....	5
1.1.3 Erosion and Sediment Control Management .....	5
1.1.4 Nutrient Management .....	6
1.2 MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.....	6
1.2.1 Pesticide Management Practices.....	6
1.2.2 Irrigation Water Management Practices .....	8
1.2.3 Erosion and Sediment Control Management Practices.....	8
1.2.4 Nutrient Management Practices.....	9
<b>2 PROGRAM MILESTONES .....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 MANAGEMENT PRACTICE MEMBER SURVEYS.....	10
2.2 SURVEY COMPILATION .....	10
2.3 MEMBER VERIFICATION.....	10
<b>3 SURVEY RESULTS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1 PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS .....	11
3.2 IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS.....	13
3.3 EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL MANAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS .....	14
3.4 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT SURVEY RESULTS .....	16
<b>4 MEMBER SURVEY VERIFICATION.....</b>	<b>18</b>
4.1 MEMBER SELECTION CRITERIA.....	18
4.2 VERIFIER CRITERIA .....	19
4.3 VERIFICATION PROCESS.....	19
4.4 VERIFICATION RESULTS .....	19
4.4.1 Pesticide Management Verification Results .....	19
4.4.2 Irrigation Water Management Verification Results.....	21
4.4.3 Sediment and Erosion Control Verification Results .....	22
4.4.4 Nutrient Management Verification Results .....	23
<b>5 MEMBER EDUCATION AND OUTREACH .....</b>	<b>24</b>
5.1 COMMODITY ORGANIZATION MEETINGS .....	24
5.2 GOVERNMENT AGENCY INVOLVEMENT .....	24
5.3 NEWSLETTERS.....	25
5.4 INTERNET WEBSITE.....	25
<b>6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>25</b>
6.1 MEMBER SURVEY CHANGES .....	25
6.2 MEMBER SURVEY UPDATES.....	26
<b>APPENDIX A .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>APPENDIX B.....</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>APPENDIX C.....</b>	<b>35</b>

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 3-1 Pesticide Management Survey Results.....	11
Table 3-2 Irrigation Water Management Survey Results .....	13
Table 3-3 Erosion and Sediment Control Management Practices Results .....	15
Table 3-4 Nutrient Management Practices Results.....	17

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 3-1 Pesticide Management Survey Results .....	12
Figure 3-2 Number of Pesticide Management Practices Implemented by Acres .....	12
Figure 3-3 Irrigation Water Management Survey Results .....	13
Figure 3-4 Number of Irrigation Management Practices Implemented by Acres .....	14
Figure 3-5 Erosion and Sediment Control Management Survey Results .....	15
Figure 3-6 Number of Erosion and Sediment Control Practices Implemented by Acres .	16
Figure 3-7 Nutrient Management Survey Results .....	17
Figure 3-8 Number of Nutrient Management Practices Implemented by Acres .....	18
Figure 4-1 Pesticide Practices Used Now Verification Results.....	20
Figure 4-2 Pesticide Practices Not Used Verification Results.....	20
Figure 4-3 Irrigation Management Practices Used Now Verification Results .....	21
Figure 4-4 Irrigation Management Practices Not Used Verification Results .....	21
Figure 4-5 Sediment and Erosion Control Practices Used Now Verification Results.....	22
Figure 4-6 Sediment and Erosion Control Practices Not Used Verification Results .....	22
Figure 4-7 Nutrient Management Practices Used Now Verification Results .....	23
Figure 4-8 Nutrient Management Practices Not Used Verification Results.....	23

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The El Dorado County Agricultural Water Quality Management Corporation (EDCAWQMC), in cooperation with the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SCWQC), developed a Pilot Watershed Management Practices Program Plan to meet the requirements of Part II.B and Attachment D of Order No. R5-2009-0875.

The Program Plan was approved by the Executive Officer on 22 April 2010. We have successfully met all program milestones on or ahead of schedule.

The Pilot Program was originally approved for a 2-year period scheduled to end 30 June 2012. However on 23 April 2012, the Executive Officer, Pamela Creedon, approved the extension of this program until it is superseded by requirements approved by her or by the adoption by the Regional Board of a new MRP for the Sacramento River Watershed.

As a part of the extension, the Coalition must continue to meet the requirements of the approved Pilot Plan, including submittal of the Annual Reports and management practice implementation and verification.

This third Annual Report is submitted to demonstrate that our members are complying with the requirements of the Program thereby continuing to protect the proven excellent quality of surface waters of the State within the subwatershed.

As of the date of this report, EDCAWQMC had enrolled 306 members who farm 3,101 acres of irrigated agriculture. 289 members (94% of the total) who operate 3,003 acres (97% of the total) have completed and submitted management practice surveys. As required by the Program Plan, we have verified 342 acres (11.0% of the total) during this reporting year. The results of the verification process are provided in this report.

A detailed subwatershed description including: climate, topography, soils, hydrology, agricultural operations, agricultural commodities, and agricultural resources which was included in the 2010-11 Annual Report dated June 20, 2011, pages 6 through 19, is incorporated herein by reference.

This report includes the following:

1. The methodology of the Program Plan as it relates to achieving the goals and objectives of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP);
2. A description of the events and milestones achieved to date;

3. Summaries of results of the Management Plan Surveys showing the Management Practices that have been adopted by our members;
4. A summary of the independent verification findings;
5. Education and outreach efforts accomplished and planned for the future; and
6. Conclusions and recommendations.

## **1 Program Methodology**

The Management Practices Program is based on: 1) Determining the Management Objectives for minimizing impacts to waters of the State; 2) Identifying the Management Practices that are appropriate for meeting the Objectives; 3) Surveying the members to determine the Management Practices that have been implemented and/or are planned to be implemented; 4) Compiling, summarizing and analyzing the results of the Surveys to determine the scope of Management Practice implementation; 5) Verifying 10% of the membership's enrolled acres each year against completed surveys; and 6) Conducting Education and Outreach efforts to ensure members are aware of Program requirements as well as all Management Practices available for implementation.

### **1.1 Management Objectives**

In El Dorado County the management objectives for minimizing impacts to waters of the State are the same for all operations. This was determined as a result of a number of similarity factors: 1) climate; 2) topography; 3) permanent nature of the majority of crops; and 4) agricultural practices, e.g. irrigation methods and pesticide and nutrient application methods. The EDCAWQMC has identified four specific management objectives that will ensure that the goals of the ILRP are met.

#### **1.1.1 Pesticide Management**

Manage pesticides and pesticide use so that applications are targeted to an identified pest and conducted so as to minimize the potential for off site movement. This will eliminate, reduce, or slow the direct discharge of pesticide(s) to adjacent watercourses.

#### **1.1.2 Irrigation Water Management**

Manage irrigation systems and events so as to eliminate, reduce, or slow the direct discharge of runoff to adjacent watercourses.

#### **1.1.3 Erosion and Sediment Control Management**

Manage erosion so as to eliminate, reduce, or slow the direct discharge of sediment to adjacent watercourses.

#### **1.1.4 Nutrient Management**

Manage soil amendment(s) and crop nutrient(s) to prevent excess applications and minimize the potential for off site movement.

### **1.2 Management Practices**

The EDCAWQMC identified those practices currently being used or that are appropriate for use by our growers that meet the four objectives listed above. The members may use various combinations of these practices depending on the topographical characteristics, the soils and the microclimate on their property, as well as the commodities being grown. The continued and, where appropriate, expanded use of these practices will ensure that the excellent quality of water in El Dorado County is maintained. Growers, vineyard and orchard managers and registered PCAs developed the practices with the assistance of personnel from the UCCE, RCDs, NRCS and the El Dorado County Agricultural Commissioner's staff.

#### **1.2.1 Pesticide Management Practices**

These practices are designed to manage pesticide(s) and pesticide application so as to eliminate, reduce, or slow the direct discharge of pesticide(s) to adjacent watercourse(s). Due to the topography and small production areas all pesticides are applied with ground-based equipment. This equipment ranges from 4-gallon backpack sprayers to 400-gallon air-blast sprayers.

##### **1.2.1.1 P1. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program**

An IPM program uses a wide range of technology and techniques to control target pest(s). The program is specific to the commodity, growing region and target pest(s) of concern. Growers, not using a formal IPM program, may use these principles without formal documentation.

##### **1.2.1.2 P2. Pest Control Advisor (PCA)**

Use a PCA to identify pests and determine appropriate action. Specific pests and areas will be targeted to minimize the use of broad-spectrum pesticides.

##### **1.2.1.3 P3. Scientific Application Decisions**

Base application decisions on environmental conditions (wind, rain, temperature, etc.), scouting data, pest thresholds and/or risk assessment models. Growers may use pest traps or County Agriculture Department monitored traps to determine if there is a need to apply pesticide(s). This will eliminate unnecessary pesticide applications that are based on calendar scheduling.

##### **1.2.1.4 P4. Pesticide Selection**

Select pesticides with lower risk of runoff or leaching based on pesticide chemistry and site conditions, i.e. soil type and slope conditions. This will help to prevent any materials from entering adjacent watercourses via runoff and/or soil movement.

**1.2.1.5 P5. Minimize Seasonal Use**

Manage overall seasonal use to minimize the amount of pesticide(s) needed to be effective. Regularly scheduled applications of pesticides will be reduced or eliminated, thereby eliminating the possibility of pesticide(s) entering waterways.

**1.2.1.6 P6. Equipment Calibration**

Regularly, at least once annually, check and calibrate application equipment and/or injectors. This will eliminate the possibility of excessive chemical application, overspray, and/or drift that could adversely affect adjacent waterways.

**1.2.1.7 P7. Biological Controls**

Use biological controls where possible to reduce or eliminate the need for applying pesticide(s).

**1.2.1.8 P8. Beneficial Insects**

Introduce populations of beneficial insects when appropriate to eliminate the need for applying pesticide(s).

**1.2.1.9 P9. Follow Labels**

Store, handle and apply pesticides according to labels as required by law. The safe handling will eliminate the possibility of materials leaking to unwanted areas.

**1.2.1.10 P10. Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)**

Comply with DPR Pesticide Application Permit requirements. El Dorado County requires each of its growers who use pesticides to take a certifying test every three years and to obtain a permit every year. The grower is required to obtain the permit in person from the County Agriculture Department. This ensures that our growers are cognizant of any new laws or changes to existing conditions prior to obtaining the permit.

**1.2.1.11 P11. Pest Control Operator (PCO)**

Use a PCO for pesticide applications. PCOs are trained to apply pesticides in the most environmentally friendly methods in accordance with current DPR rules.

**1.2.1.12 P12. Organic Alternatives**

Use organic materials when and where conditions allow. An example would be to mulch around crops to reduce water and herbicide needs.

**1.2.1.13 P13. Cultural Practices**

Cultural practices are applied when and where appropriate to reduce pesticide use. An example would be to mow instead of applying herbicides.

#### **1.2.1.14 P14. UCCE Farm Advisor(s)**

Consult with a UCCE Farm Advisor to identify any unknown causes of crop damage in order to determine the correct pesticide(s) to be applied.

### **1.2.2 Irrigation Water Management Practices**

These practices are designed to manage irrigation water so as to eliminate, reduce, or slow the direct discharge of irrigation water to adjacent watercourses.

#### **1.2.2.1 I1. Irrigation Management System (IMS)**

Participate in an IMS program provided by a local water purveyor or the EDCWA to schedule irrigation events to accurately provide water based on the plants' needs and soil moisture status.

#### **1.2.2.2 I2. Evapotranspiration (ETo) Data**

Use ETo data to schedule irrigation events to accurately provide water based on environmental conditions.

#### **1.2.2.3 I3. Irrigation System Maintenance**

Maintain and monitor irrigation system(s) on a regular basis to ensure designed performance and uniformity of coverage. Timing will depend on the frequency of irrigation application and the system being used.

#### **1.2.2.4 I4. Low-flow Irrigation Systems**

Use drip or micro-sprinkler irrigation systems to maximize water application efficiency.

#### **1.2.2.5 I5. Soil Water Holding Capacity**

Know the water holding capacity of the agricultural operation soil so as not to over irrigate, which might result in irrigation water runoff.

#### **1.2.2.6 I6. Soil Infiltration Rate**

Know the soil infiltration rate so that irrigation systems are designed and operated so as not to exceed the water absorption rate of the soil.

### **1.2.3 Erosion and Sediment Control Management Practices**

These practices are designed to manage erosion so as to eliminate, reduce, or slow the direct discharge of sediment to adjacent watercourses.

#### **1.2.3.1 S1. Cover crops**

Use cover crops between rows to stabilize soil in the area.

#### **1.2.3.2 S2. Vegetative Buffers**

Use vegetative buffers down slope of the irrigated lands to stabilize soil in the area and help filter sediment out of storm water.

### **1.2.3.3 S3. Water Bars and Diversion Ditches**

Use water bars and diversion ditches on service roads within and adjacent to the irrigated agricultural operation to prevent erosion in these traffic areas.

### **1.2.3.4 S4. Service Road Cover**

Apply gravel, vegetative material and/or establish a cover crop on service roads within and adjacent to the irrigated agricultural operation to prevent erosion in these traffic areas.

### **1.2.3.5 S5. Terracing**

If terracing is necessary comply with county grading requirements<sup>15</sup> to ensure that a proper grade is maintained on terraced sites so that soil cannot leave the area.

### **1.2.3.6 S6. Ditch and Channel Bank Protection**

Use grassed waterways, lined channels and/or diversions in ditches and channel banks to stabilize and hold soil in place.

### **1.2.3.7 S7. Sediment Control Basins**

Use sediment control basins where practical and necessary to allow sediment to settle from irrigation and/or storm water runoff.

### **1.2.3.8 S8. Visual Monitoring**

Visually monitor runoff during excessive storm events to identify previously unknown problem areas to allow repairs to take place before additional soil movement can occur.

### **1.2.3.9 S9. Field Soil Surface Management**

Apply and/or manage plant residues or other materials on the field soil surface to ensure there is successful reseeding and continued viability. Plant residue can be mulched on top to prevent erosion and reduce soil moisture evaporation.

## **1.2.4 Nutrient Management Practices**

These practices are designed to manage soil amendment(s) and crop nutrient(s) to prevent excess applications and to minimize the potential for offsite movement.

### **1.2.4.1 N1. Nutrient Budgets**

Determine crop nutrient requirements and establish nutrient budget(s) so as to apply only what is needed.

### **1.2.4.2 N2. Plant Tissue Analysis**

Use plant tissue analysis to assist in fertilizer application decisions so as to apply correct amount(s) of the specific nutrient(s) needed.

#### **1.2.4.3 N3. Backflow Prevention Devices**

Incorporate a backflow prevention device into a fertigation system so that injected materials cannot enter the water source.

#### **1.2.4.4 N4. Equipment Maintenance and Calibration**

Regularly, at least once annually, maintain and calibrate fertilizer application equipment to ensure accurate application.

#### **1.2.4.5 N5. Mixing and Loading Operations**

Mix and load fertilizer on low runoff hazard sites away from surface water and wellheads to minimize any chance of soil movement into the well or surface water.

## **2 Program Milestones**

### **2.1 Management Practice Member Surveys**

In February 2010 when the Program Plan was submitted, the EDCAWQMC membership was comprised of 319 owners with approximately 3,200 irrigated acres. The Regional Board approved the Plan on 22 April 2010 and Management Practice Surveys were mailed to all members with instructions for them to complete and return the surveys. Appendix A is a copy of the survey. During the past three years new members have completed surveys as they have been approved into the coalition while some of the original members have dropped out of the coalition. Current survey results are provided in Section 3 below.

### **2.2 Survey Compilation**

Our administrative contractor, the El Dorado County Farm Bureau, has entered the survey results into an Access database. As soon as members representing 75% of the total enrolled acres had completed and returned their surveys, the data was summarized and submitted to the Regional Board for approval and authorization to suspend regular surface water monitoring. Approval was granted by the Executive Officer on 1 July 2010 and surface water sampling was suspended for the duration of the Pilot Program.

On 16 May 2011 EDCAWQMC submitted a letter to SVQWC that was transmitted on 17 June 2011 to the Executive Officer providing summaries of management practice implementation and certifying that members representing over 95% of the current total enrolled acres had returned surveys demonstrating compliance with the Pilot Program Plan.

### **2.3 Member Verification**

Results of the first year verification process were included in the 2010-2011 Annual Report that was submitted on 20 June 2011 and subsequently approved by the Executive Officer on 14 November 2011. Results of the second year

verification process were included in the 2011-2012 Annual Report that was submitted on 28 June 2012 and approved by the Executive Officer on 7 September 2012.

### 3 Survey Results

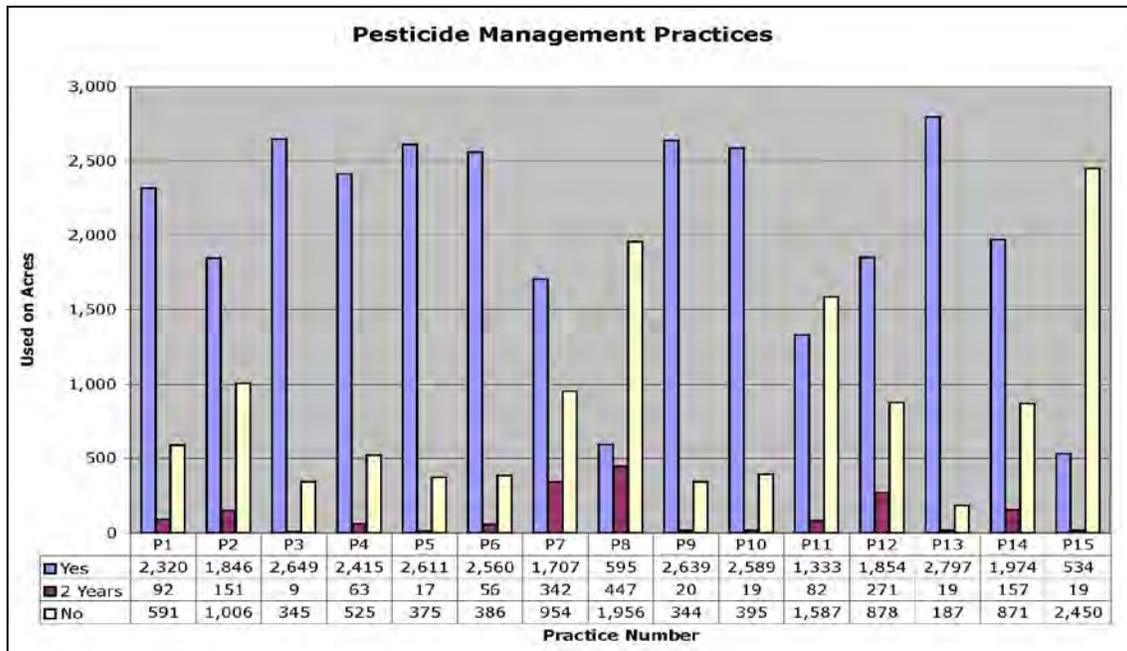
As of 30 March 2013, 289 members operating a total of 3,003 acres had returned their surveys. This represents 94% of the current 306 members and 97% of the 3,101 enrolled irrigated acres. Responding members who operate 2,972 acres or 99% of the 3,003 acres reported having implemented at least one management practice in the survey. Four members who operate a total of 30.25 acres reported having no management practices implemented. These four are irrigated pasture operators who apply minimal water and no pesticides or nutrients.

#### 3.1 Pesticide Management Survey Results

Table 3-1 and Figure 3-1 summarize the results of the pesticide management practices surveys returned as of 30 March 2013. Members operating a total of 3,003 acres returned their surveys. Responding members who operate 2,929 acres or 98% of the 3,003 acres reported having implemented at least one of the pesticide management practices. Members planned to implement new practices on 7 of the 74 acres reported to have no pesticide management practices currently implemented. While this may appear to raise questions it must be remembered that it is an appropriate response for some commodities, e.g. irrigated pasture, where pesticides may not be applied.

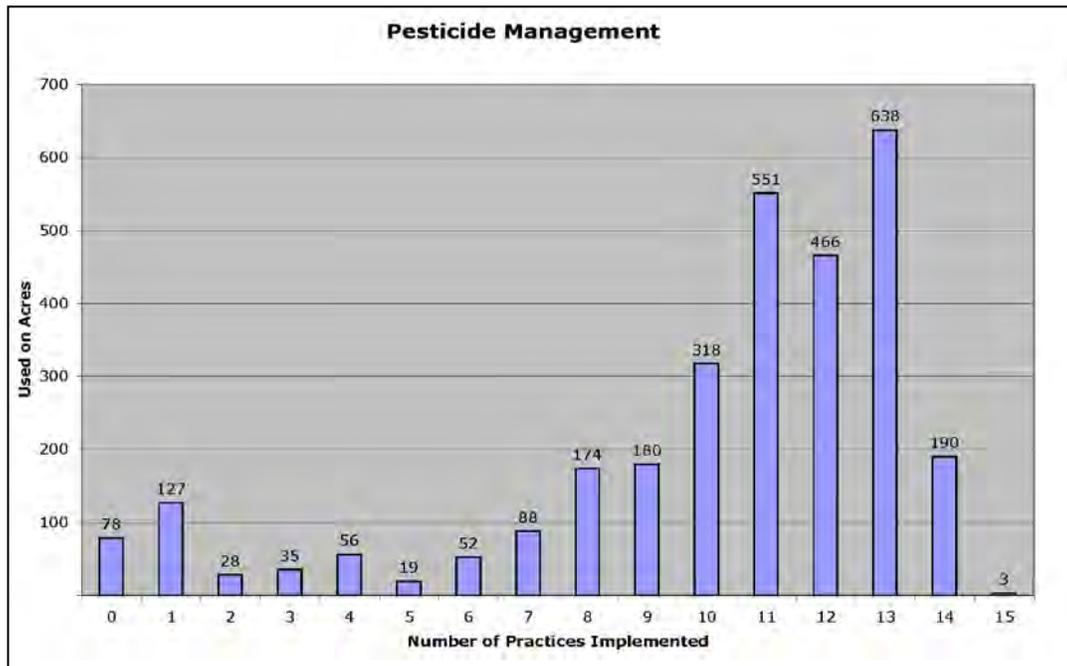
		Use Now	Within 2 Years	Not Used
P1	Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program	2,320	92	591
P2	Pest Control Advisor (PCA)	1,846	151	1,006
P3	Scientific Application Decisions	2,649	9	345
P4	Pesticide Selection	2,415	63	525
P5	Minimize Seasonal Use	2,611	17	375
P6	Equipment Calibration	2,560	56	386
P7	Biological Controls	1,707	342	954
P8	Beneficial Insects	595	447	1,956
P9	Follow Labels	2,639	20	344
P10	Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)	2,589	19	395
P11	Pest Control Operator (PCO)	1,333	82	1,587
P12	Organic Alternatives	1,854	271	878
P13	Cultural Practices	2,796	19	187
P14	UCCE Farm Advisor(s)	1,974	157	871
P15	Other	534	19	2,450

**Table 3-1 Pesticide Management Survey Results**



**Figure 3-1 Pesticide Management Survey Results**

Figure 3-2 summarizes the number of pesticide management practices implemented by the number of acres covered. For example, 2 different practices have been implemented on 28 acres while 13 practices have been implemented on 638 acres.



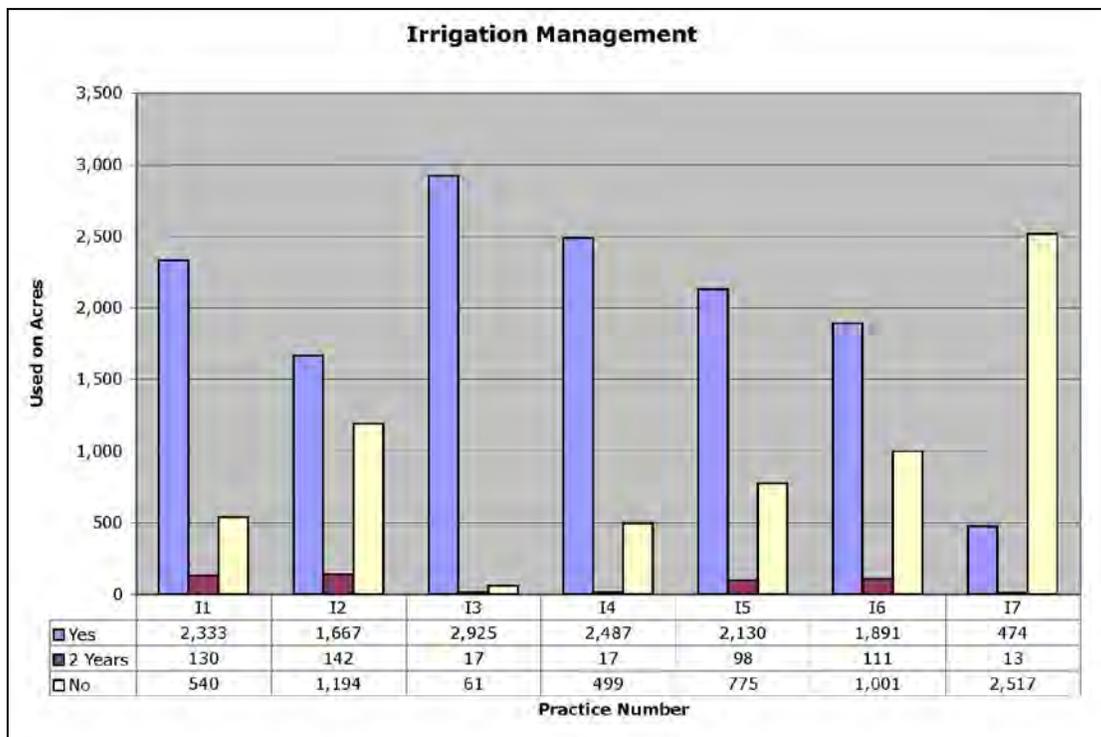
**Figure 3-2 Number of Pesticide Management Practices Implemented by Acres**

### 3.2 Irrigation Water Management Survey Results

Table 3-2 and Figure 3-3 depict the results of the irrigation management practices surveys returned as of 30 March 2013. Members operating a total of 3,003 acres returned their surveys. Responding members who operate 2,942 acres or 98% of the 3,003 acres reported having implemented at least one of the irrigation management practices. Members planned to implement new practices on 17 of the 61 acres reported to have no irrigation water management practices currently implemented.

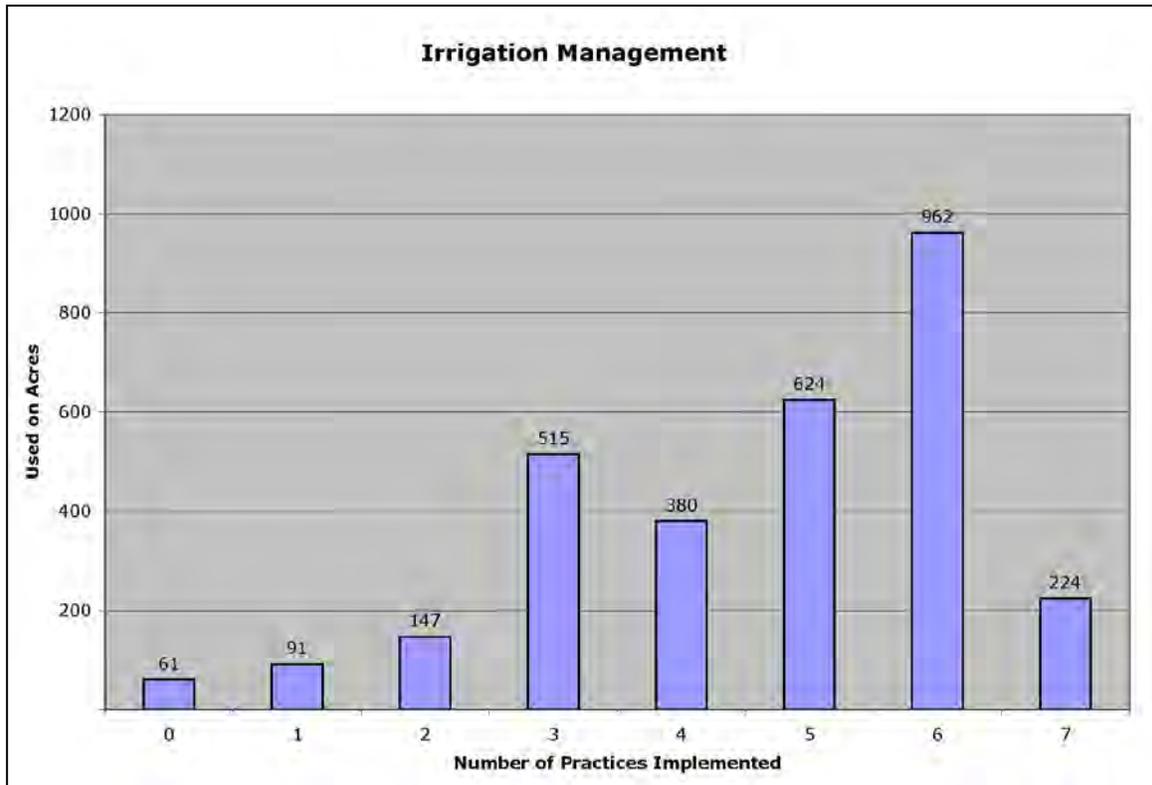
		Within 2		
		Use Now	Years	Not Used
I1	Irrigation Management System (IMS)	2,333	130	540
I2	Evapotranspiration Data	1,667	142	1,194
I3	Irrigation System Maintenance	2,925	17	61
I4	Low-flow Irrigation Systems	2,487	17	499
I5	Soil Water Holding Capacity	2,130	98	775
I6	Soil Infiltration Rate	1,891	111	1,001
I7	Other	474	13	2,517

**Table 3-2 Irrigation Water Management Survey Results**



**Figure 3-3 Irrigation Water Management Survey Results**

Figure 3-4 summarizes the number of irrigation management practices implemented by the number of acres covered. For example, 2 different practices have been implemented on 91 acres while 6 practices have been implemented on 962 acres.



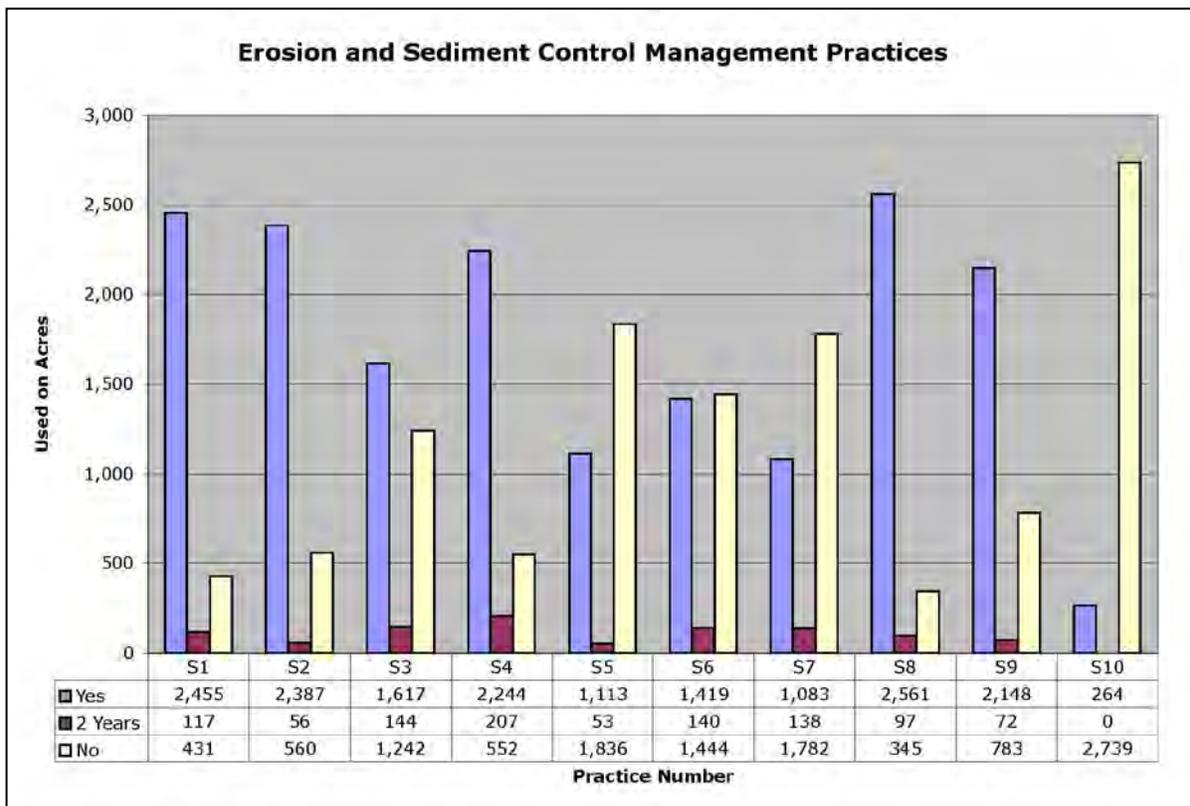
**Figure 3-4 Number of Irrigation Management Practices Implemented by Acres**

### **3.3 Erosion and Sediment Control Management Survey Results**

Table 3-3 and Figure 3-5 depict the results of the erosion and sediment control management practices surveys returned as of 30 March 2013. Members operating a total of 3,003 acres returned their surveys. Responding members who operate 2,898 acres or 97% of the 3,003 acres reported having implemented at least one of the erosion and sediment control management practices. Members planned to implement new practices on 9 of the 105 acres reported to have no erosion and sediment control management practices currently implemented.

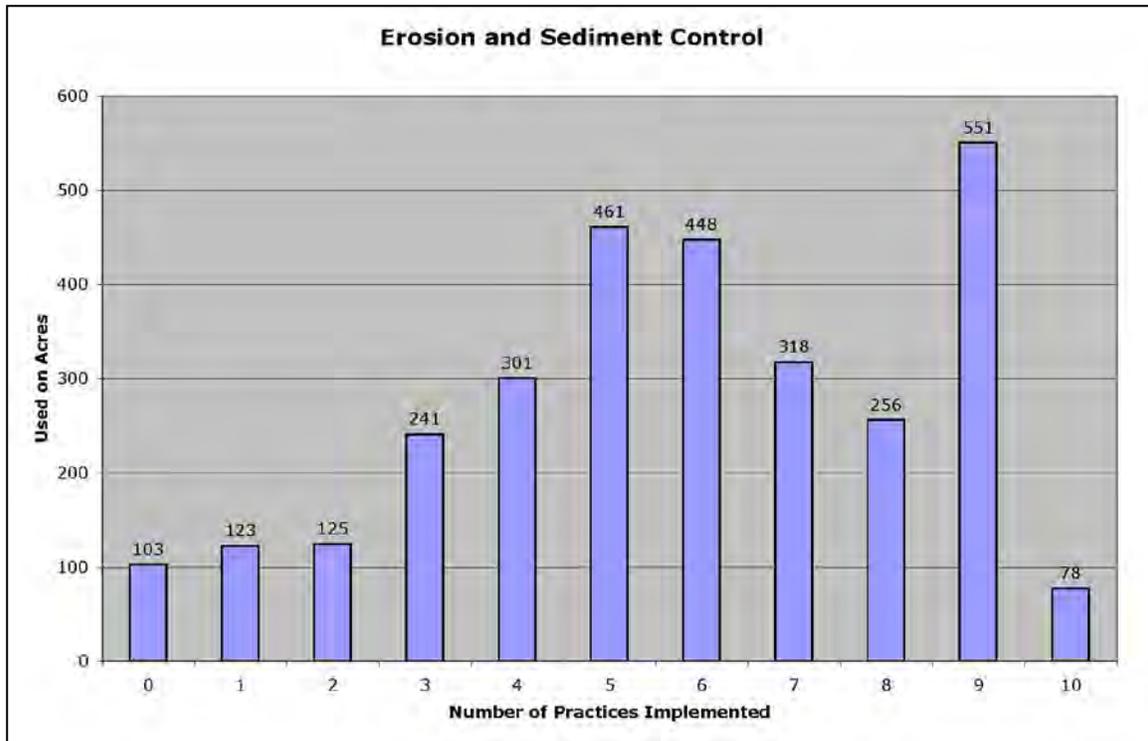
		Use Now	Within 2 Years	Not Used
S1	Cover crops	2,455	117	431
S2	Vegetative Buffers	2,387	56	560
S3	Water Bars and Diversion Ditches	1,617	144	1,242
S4	Service Road Cover	2,244	207	552
S5	Terracing	1,113	53	1,836
S6	Ditch and Channel Bank Protection	1,419	140	1,444
S7	Sediment Control Basins	1,083	138	1,782
S8	Visual Monitoring	2,561	97	345
S9	Field Soil Surface Management	2,148	72	783
S10	Other	264	0.0	2,739

**Table 3-3 Erosion and Sediment Control Management Practices Results**



**Figure 3-5 Erosion and Sediment Control Management Survey Results**

Figure 3-6 summarizes the number of erosion and sediment control management practices implemented by the number of acres covered. For example, 3 different practices have been implemented on 241 acres while 9 practices have been implemented on 551 acres.



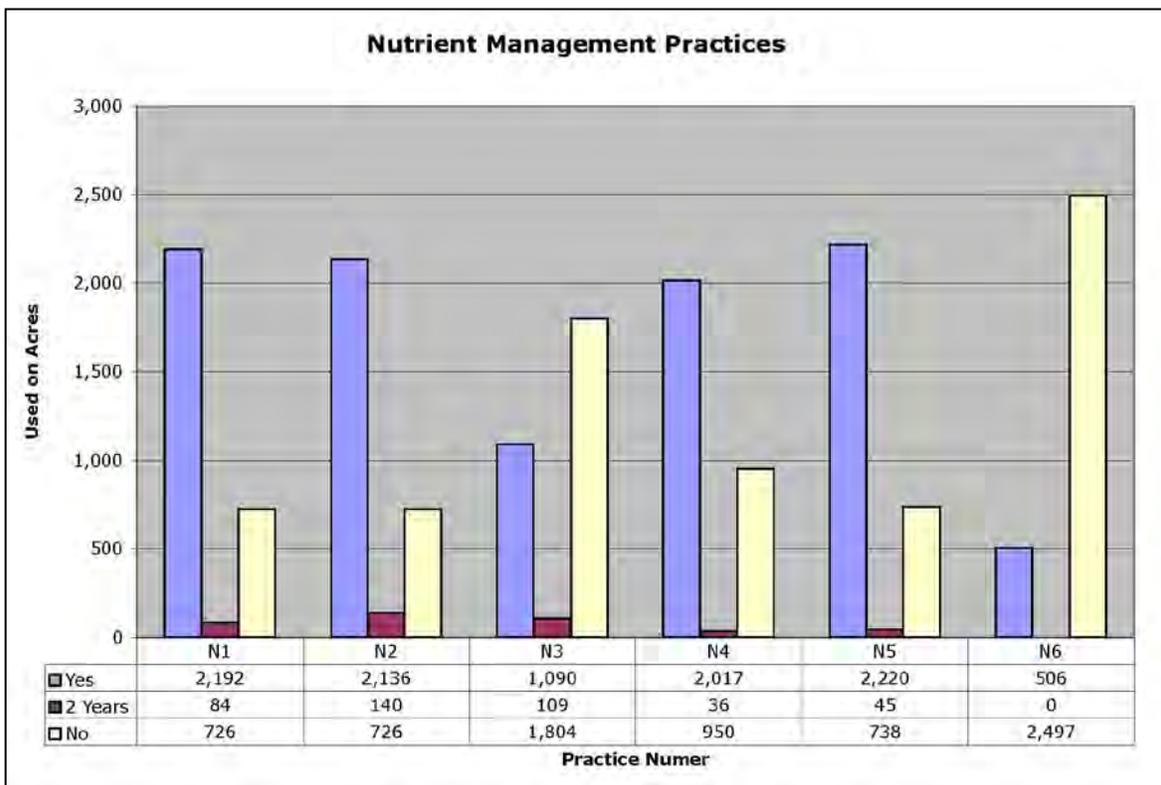
**Figure 3-6 Number of Erosion and Sediment Control Practices Implemented by Acres**

### 3.4 Nutrient Management Survey Results

Table 3-4 and Figure 3-7 depict the results of the nutrient management practices surveys returned as of 30 March 2013. Members operating a total of 3,003 acres returned their surveys. Responding members who operate 2,738 acres or 91% of the 3,003 acres reported having implemented at least one of the nutrient management practices. Members planned to implement new practices on 7 of the 265 acres reported to have no erosion and sediment control management practices currently implemented.

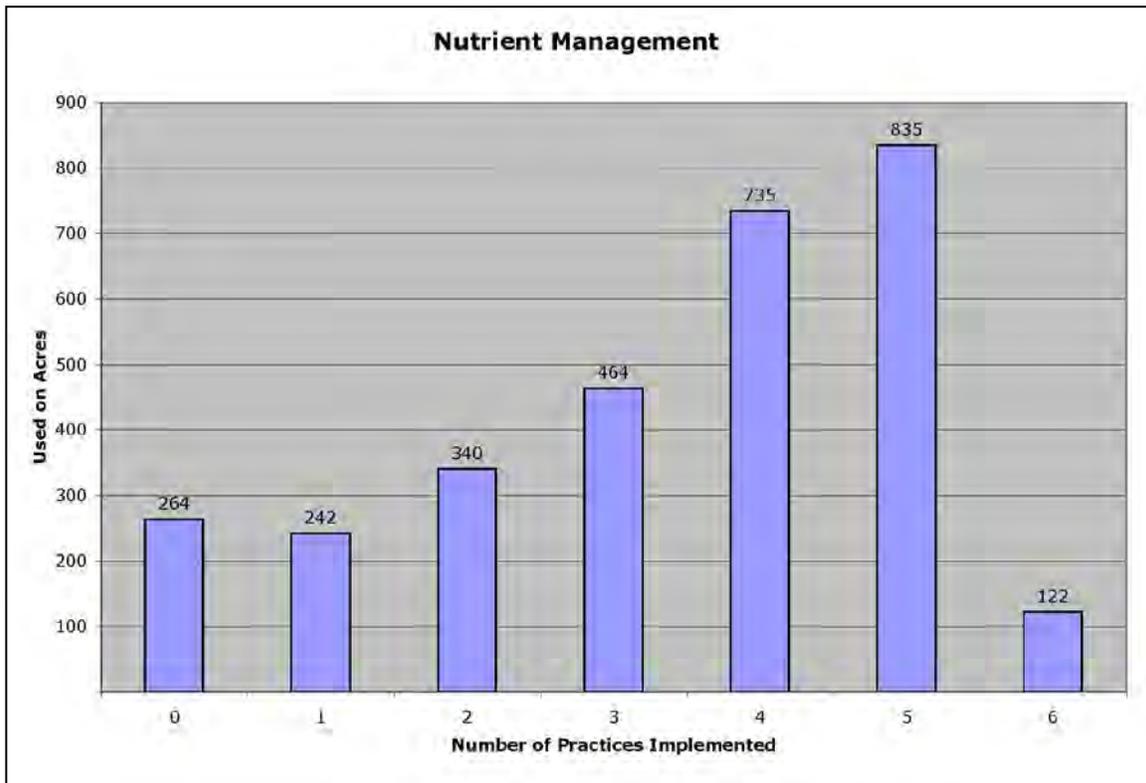
		Use Now	Within 2 Years	Not Used
N1	Nutrient Budgets	2,192	84	726
N2	Plant Tissue Analysis	2,136	140	726
N3	Backflow Prevention Devices	1,090	1009	1,804
N4	Equipment Maintenance and Calibration	2,017	36	950
N5	Mixing and Loading Operations	2,220	45	738
N6	Other	506	0.0	2,497

**Table 3-4 Nutrient Management Practices Results**



**Figure 3-7 Nutrient Management Survey Results**

Figure 3-8 summarizes the number of nutrient management practices implemented by the number of acres covered. For example, 2 different practices have been implemented on 340 acres while 5 practices have been implemented on 835 acres.



**Figure 3-8 Number of Nutrient Management Practices Implemented by Acres**

## 4 Member Survey Verification

EDCAWQMC representatives conducted on-site visits to members' parcels to visually verify observable management practice implementation. This year individuals qualified to verify observable management practice implementation visited members owning more than 10% of the enrolled subwatershed irrigated acres. These individuals included local, private parties, e.g. farm managers or pest control advisors.

### 4.1 Member Selection Criteria

Using ID numbers, the membership roll was divided into five categories: 0 – 4.9 acres; 5 – 9.9 acres; 10 – 19.9 acres; 20 – 29.9 acres; and over 30 acres. A random number generator was then used to select 10% of the members in each category. The result was 31 members operating 341.7 acres representative of the various operation sizes and regionally distributed.

## **4.2 Verifier Criteria**

The same five regional agricultural experts who conducted the first two years' verification processes were selected to conduct the verifications this year. The five included two vineyard managers, one PCA, one Soils Engineer and one Agricultural Biologist PhD. All are familiar with the ILRP and have working experience with the management practices appropriate for the foothills.

## **4.3 Verification Process**

The individuals conducting verification were given copies of the member-completed survey to be annotated to show which practices were verified. The responses for the final practice ("Other") in each objective category were not verified due to the number of responses that indicated confusion with the survey. An analysis of the "Other" responses will be completed with the results incorporated into any future updates of the survey.

## **4.4 Verification Results**

The five (5) verifiers successfully verified 31 members who operate 341.7 enrolled acres representing 11.02% of the responding acres. Verifiers confirmed through observations and discussions the survey results for "Use Now" and "Not Used". What again became obvious to the verifiers was the need for a "N/A" or not applicable response. A number of the responders stated they felt "Not Used" was not an acceptable answer for "not applicable". The verifiers worked with the responders to identify those practices on the surveys that really were not applicable or not appropriate for individual operations due to commodity grown or topography or any other factor. The graphs in the following sections reflect the attempt by the verifiers to identify when "N/A" was an appropriate response.

No attempt was made to verify the "Use In 2 Years" category of responses. What was revealed was that some responders had already implemented their planned practices and that is reflected by the increase in certain practice acreages.

The primary reasons for differences between operator reported and verified implementation were twofold: 1) operators had implemented practices after the surveys were returned; and 2) operators did not fully understand the survey questions.

### **4.4.1 Pesticide Management Verification Results**

Figure 4-1 and Figure 4-2 depict the verification results for the pesticide management practices. For the "Use Now" category the verifiers reported a 93% accuracy rate compared to what was reported on surveys.

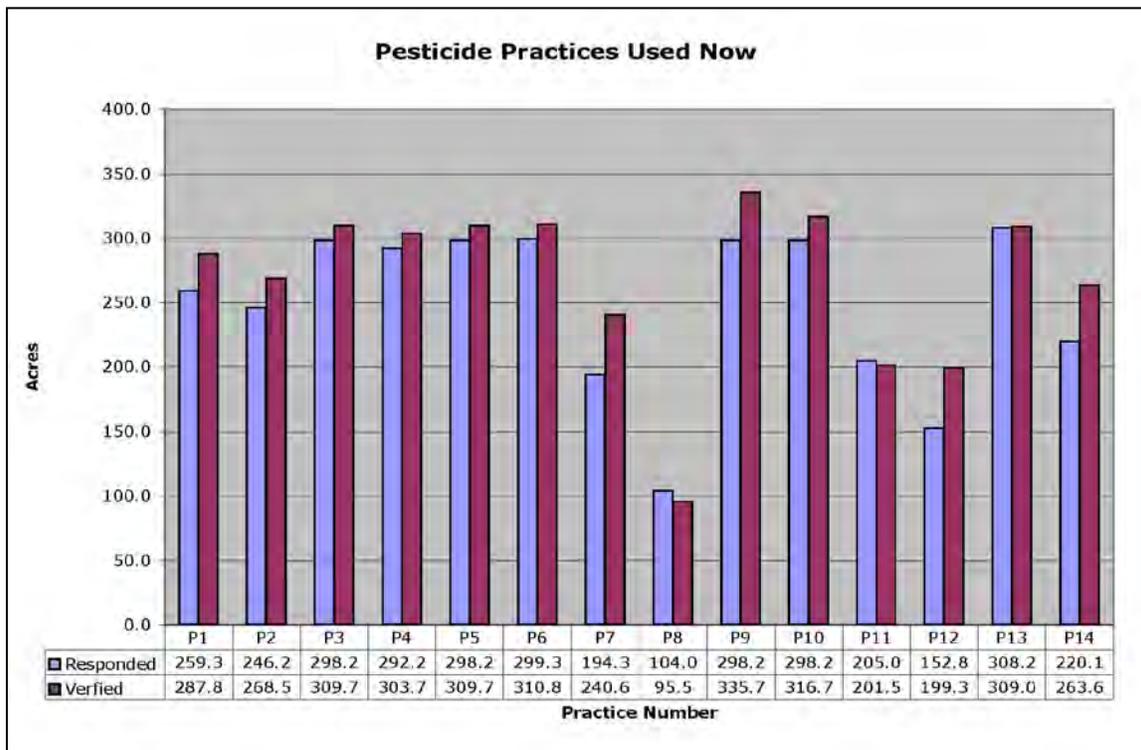


Figure 4-1 Pesticide Practices Used Now Verification Results

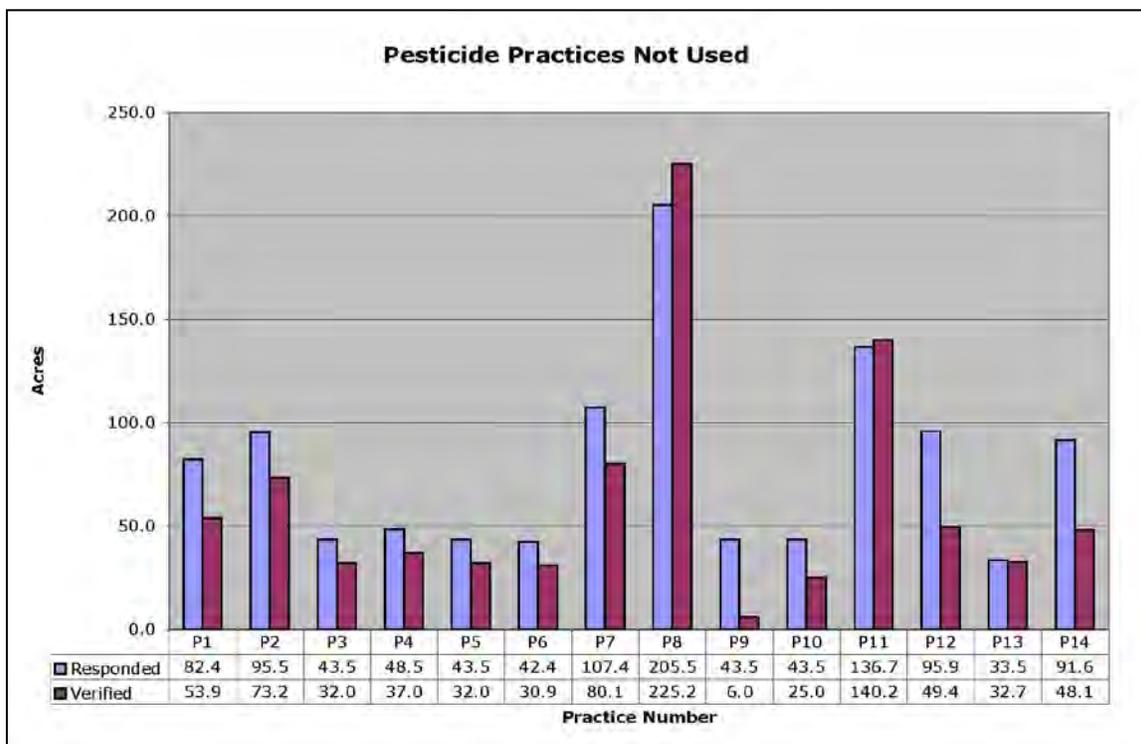


Figure 4-2 Pesticide Practices Not Used Verification Results

#### 4.4.2 Irrigation Water Management Verification Results

Figure 4-3 and Figure 4-4 depict the verification results for the irrigation water management practices. For the “Use Now” category the verifiers reported a 99% accuracy rate compared to what was reported on surveys.

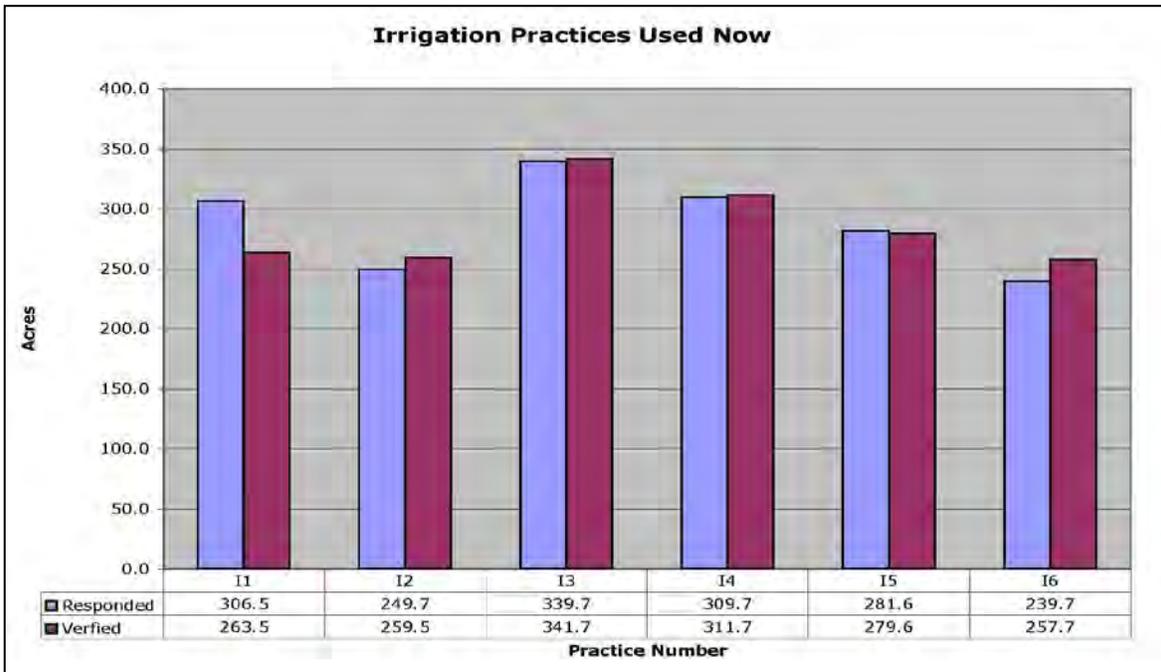


Figure 4-3 Irrigation Management Practices Used Now Verification Results

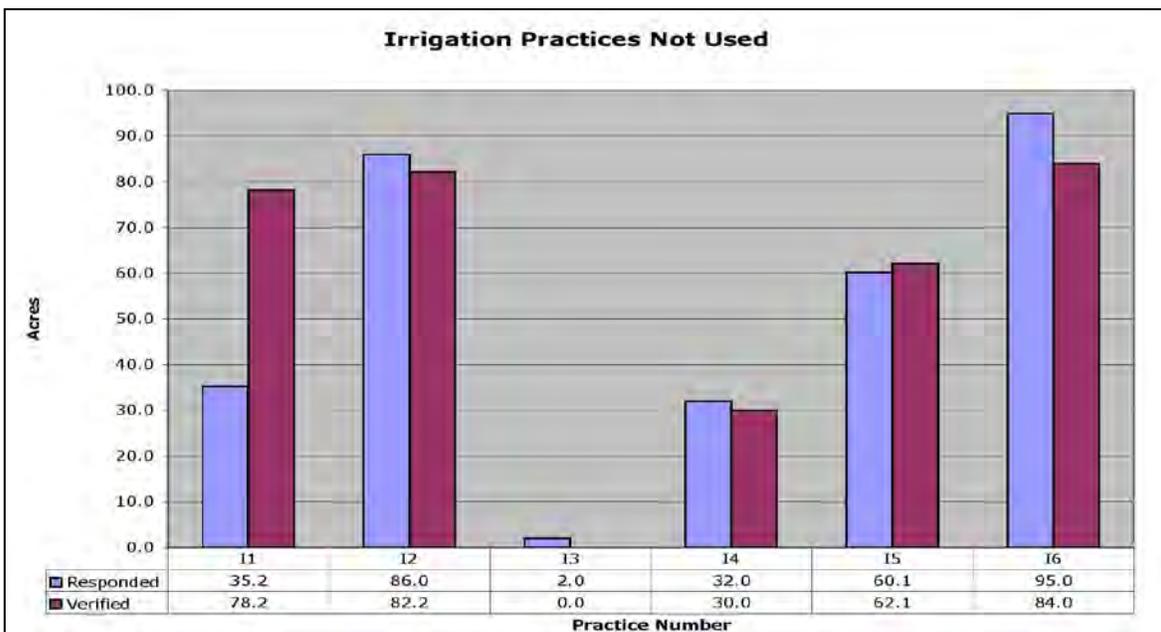


Figure 4-4 Irrigation Management Practices Not Used Verification Results

### 4.4.3 Sediment and Erosion Control Verification Results

Figure 4-5 and Figure 4-6 depict the verification results for the sediment and erosion control management practices. For the “Use Now” category the verifiers reported a 92% accuracy rate compared to what was reported on surveys.

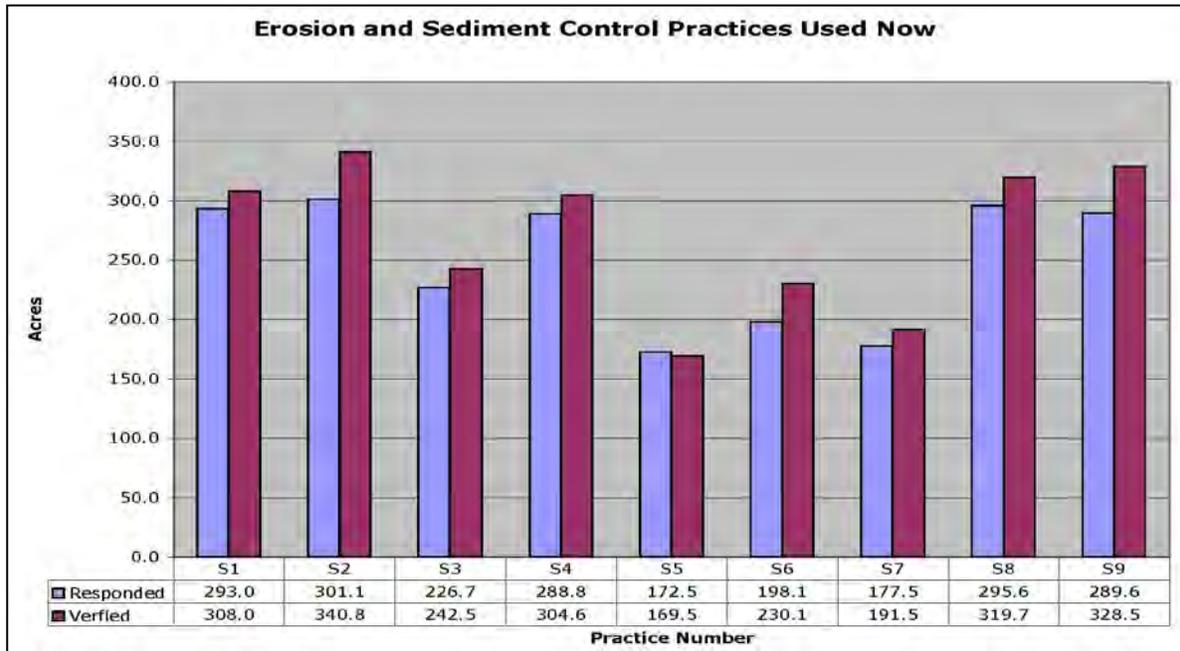


Figure 4-5 Sediment and Erosion Control Practices Used Now Verification Results

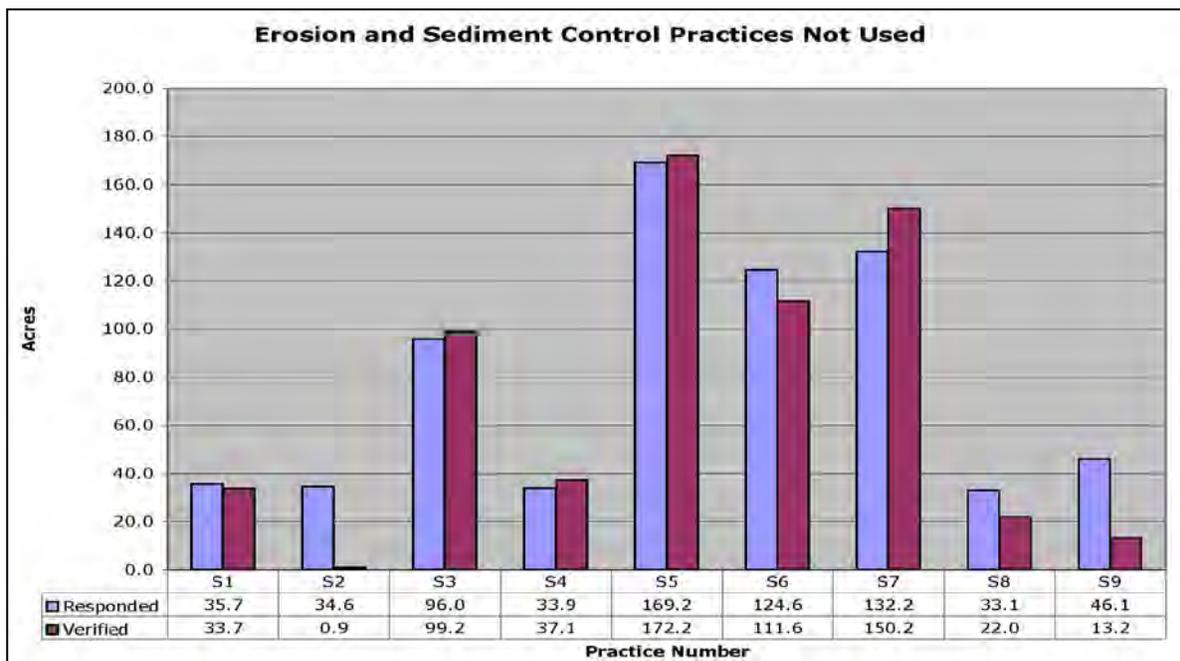


Figure 4-6 Sediment and Erosion Control Practices Not Used Verification Results

#### 4.4.4 Nutrient Management Verification Results

Figure 4-7 and Figure 4-8 depict the verification results for the sediment and erosion control management practices. For the “Use Now” category the verifiers reported a 97% accuracy rate compared to what was reported on surveys.

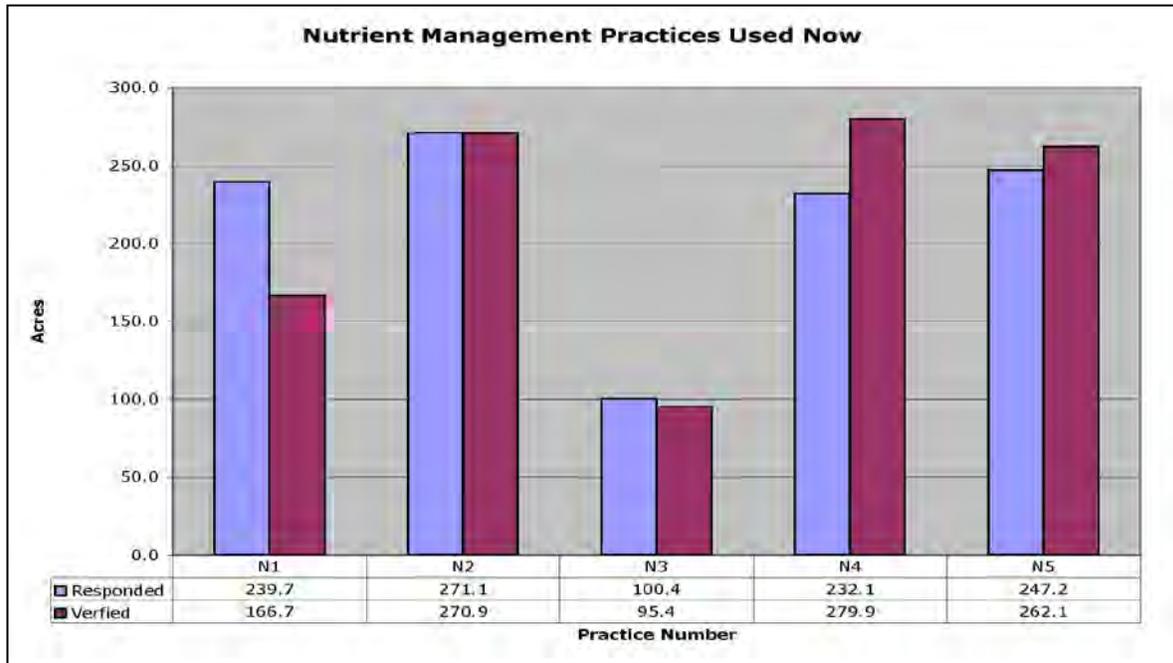


Figure 4-7 Nutrient Management Practices Used Now Verification Results

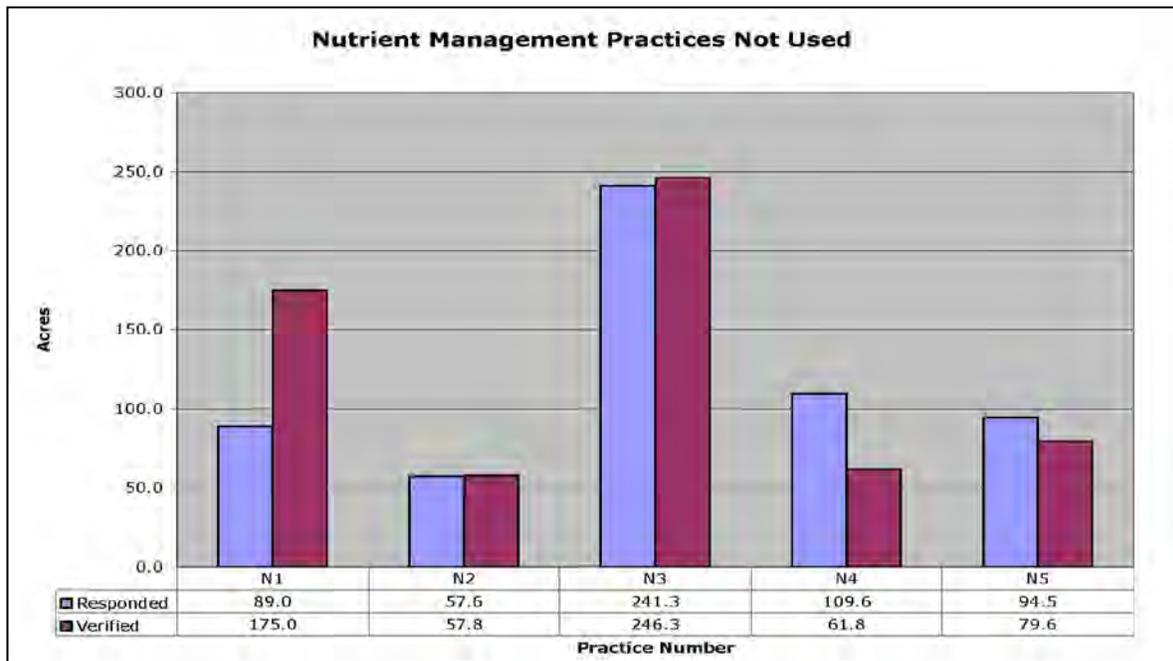


Figure 4-8 Nutrient Management Practices Not Used Verification Results

## **5 Member Education and Outreach**

Our education and outreach strategy is two-fold: 1) Inform the members of the requirements of the Pilot Program; and 2) Provide members with any information they need to improve existing, or implement new management practices. The initial outreach to members was a briefing at the Annual Meeting of Members in January 2010. A newsletter followed this to all members describing the program and the responsibilities of the members. A presentation of the first year verification results was presented at the Annual Meeting of Members in January 2012. Presentations were provided to the El Dorado County Water Agency and the El Dorado County Ag Roundtable sharing the success of the on-site verification process and the results achieved by this management practices based program. A presentation of the second year verification results was presented at the Annual Meeting of Members in March 2013. Continuing education and outreach will be accomplished through workshops, classes and field demonstrations of management practice implementation. Whenever possible, EDCAWQMC will continue to partner with government and non-government organizations to accomplish the education and outreach portion of the program.

### **5.1 Commodity Organization Meetings**

The EDCAWQMC Board of Directors consists of 9 members who represent the 5 major commodity organizations within the county (El Dorado Wine Grape Growers, Apple Hill Growers, Farm Trails, Christmas Tree Growers, and Organic Farmers) as well as irrigated pastures (not a formal organization) and an at-large position. Each of these Board members continued to report the status of the ILRP at their commodity organization meetings and where available through publications. For example the status was briefed at 9 Wine Grape Grower meetings during the year with an average attendance of 25 members and meeting minutes going to 80 members. Briefings were also provided at the El Dorado County Farm Bureau Board of Directions meetings (9 meetings averaging 15 individuals) and the El Dorado Ag Council (4 meetings averaging 20 people).

### **5.2 Government Agency Involvement**

EDCAWQMC has a solid history of partnering with the County Agriculture Department, UCCE, NRCS and RCDs to inform growers of the ILRP and deliver programs that address growers' needs related to water quality issues. We will continue to work with these organizations to develop and conduct workshops to further educate members on the various management practices that are available. Programs conducted since 2010 included cover crop and erosion control field days, irrigation management meetings, pest management meetings and a sprayer calibration field day.

### **5.3 Newsletters**

Newsletters were sent to members in January 2013. A copy of the newsletter is included in Appendix B of this Annual Report.

### **5.4 Internet Website**

The El Dorado Agricultural Water Education Corporation (EDAWEC), a closely held 501(C)3 nonprofit, charitable organization, received a grant from the El Dorado County Water Agency to develop an internet website for the EDCAWQMC. Website development was completed and the website was launched in June 2012. The website will be maintained and updated on a regular basis to provide our members and the general public with the status of the program and to promote workshops as they are developed. The website can be accessed at [www.eldoradoagwater.org](http://www.eldoradoagwater.org) and the home page screen is shown in Appendix C.

## **6 Conclusions and Recommendations**

EDCAWQMC considers the pilot program to be successful in meeting the requirements of the Regional Board Order. We have met all program milestones on or ahead of schedule: 1) Program plan delivered on time; 2) Operators of 75% of the enrolled acres surveys completed, summarized and reported; 3) Operators of 95% of the enrolled acres surveys completed, summarized and reported ahead of schedule; 4) Verification of more than 10% of the enrolled acres completed in each of the first three years; and 5) this annual report submitted on time.

Additionally, the verification process has provided insights into areas of interest from our members where additional education, information, and training would be appropriate. This fact allows the program to use adaptive management to continue to improve the program to meet the needs of the members and to ensure the continued protection of the excellent surface water and groundwater quality of the county.

However, there are improvements and suggestions that have been identified that we recommend should be implemented if this program continues beyond the current Pilot Program period.

### **6.1 Member Survey Changes**

The current choices for members to respond are "Use Now" "Plan to Use within 2 Years" and "Not Used". Some of our members commented that "Not Applicable" should be added as a possible response because not all practices are appropriate in all situations. For example, an operator with irrigated pasture may not apply any pesticides thereby making all pesticide management practices "Not Applicable" versus "Not Used". This would allow an operator to identify those practices that may be appropriate but not chosen to be implemented for whatever reason.

Some responders expressed confusion regarding the wording of several of the 34 practices included on the survey. Our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with the help of the verifiers will review all survey questions in order to eliminate future confusion

Responders identified potential additional practices in each of the four management objective categories. Our TAC will also review these and recommend additions as appropriate.

## **6.2 Member Survey Updates**

EDCAWQMC recommends that if this program is adopted in the LTILRP WDR for the Sacramento River Watershed, member surveys should be revised to incorporate the above recommendations. Additionally, the existing practices should be evaluated for their impact on groundwater quality as well as adding any additional practices specifically addressing groundwater quality protection. The revised survey should be updated by the members every five years. As a result of the verification process we also recommend verifying only 5% of the acres in the future as that will provide a representative sample of our operations.

## Appendix A

### El Dorado County Agriculture Water Quality Management Corporation Membership Survey of Management Practices

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*Insert coalition member information label here*

The purpose of this survey is to document the Management Practices that you currently employ or plan to implement within the next 2 years. There are four Management Objectives that have been identified that when satisfied will minimize the impact of waste discharged from irrigated lands into the waters of the State thereby achieving the goals of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). Each objective has a set of Management Practices that will help achieve the Objectives. Not all practices will apply to your irrigated agricultural operation. Please review each of the Practices listed under each of the four Objectives and make a check mark by those you already employ or plan to employ within the next 2 years. The data collected through this survey will be summarized for submission to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Individual grower data will not be released to anyone outside of our local coalition.

You will be contacted to verify observable practices. An individual acceptable to both you and the coalition will accomplish the visual verification by comparing your operation with your completed survey. Verification that you have implemented a practice will not be judgmental as to how well or poorly you have implemented that practice. As a member of the coalition you agree to allow coordinated access to your operation as well as the completion of surveys from time to time. You will be contacted to verbally verify non-observable practice, e.g. Use of an IPM – Do you use a formal IPM including monitoring and detailed record keeping?

Your cooperation in completing this survey will allow us to reduce the costly water monitoring that we have undertaken over the last 5 years and still ensure that the quality of water within El Dorado County remains excellent.

El Dorado County Agriculture Water Quality Management Corporation  
**Membership Survey of Management Practices**

**Pesticide Management Practices.** These practices are designed to manage pesticide(s) and pesticide application so as to eliminate, reduce, or slow the direct discharge of pesticide(s) to adjacent watercourse(s).

Use    2-Year  
Now   Plan

- |                          |                          |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P1. Use a formal or informal Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to control target pest(s).  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P2. Use Pest Control Advisor (PCA) to identify pests and determine appropriate action.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P3. Base application decisions on environmental conditions (wind, rain, temperature, etc.), scouting data, pest thresholds and/or risk assessment models. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P4. Select pesticides with lower risk of runoff or leaching based on pesticide chemistry and site conditions, i.e. soil type and slope conditions.        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P5. Manage overall seasonal use to minimize the amount of pesticide(s) needed to be effective.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P6. Regularly, at least annually, check and calibrate application equipment and/or injectors.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P7. Use biological controls where possible to eliminate the need for applying pesticide(s).   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P8. Introduce populations of beneficial insects when appropriate to eliminate the need for applying pesticide(s).   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P9. Store, handle and apply pesticides according to labels as required by law.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P10. Comply with DPR Pesticide Application Permit requirements.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P11. Use a Pest Control Operator (PCO) for pesticide applications.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P12. Use organic materials when and where conditions allow.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P13. Use cultural practices, e.g. mowing instead of applying herbicides, when and where appropriate.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P14. Consult with a UCCE Farm Advisor to identify any unknown causes of crop damage in order to determine the correct pesticide(s) to be applied.         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | P15. Other (Please describe) _____<br>_____   |

**El Dorado County Agriculture Water Quality Management Corporation  
Membership Survey of Management Practices**

**Irrigation Water Management Practices.** These practices are designed to manage irrigation water so as to eliminate, reduce, or slow the direct discharge of irrigation water to adjacent watercourses.

Use    2-Year  
Now   Plan

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I1. Participate in an IMS program provided by a local water purveyor or the El Dorado County Water Agency. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I2. Use evapotranspiration (ET) data to schedule irrigation events.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I3. Maintain and monitor irrigation system(s) on a regular basis.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I4. Use drip or micro-sprinkler irrigation systems.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I5. Know the water holding capacity of the agricultural operation soil.                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I6. Know the water infiltration rate of the agricultural operation soil.                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | I7. Other (Please describe) _____  |

**Erosion and Sediment Control Management Practices.** These practices are designed to manage erosion so as to eliminate, reduce, or slow the direct discharge of sediment to adjacent watercourses.

Use    2-Year  
Now   Plan

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | S1. Use cover crops between rows.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | S2. Use vegetative buffers down slope of the irrigated lands.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | S3. Use water bars and diversion ditches on service roads within and adjacent to the irrigated agricultural operation.                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | S4. Apply gravel, vegetative material and/or establish a cover crop on service roads within and adjacent to the irrigated agricultural operation.    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | S5. If terracing is necessary comply with county grading requirements.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | S6. Use grassed waterways, lined channels and/or diversions in ditches and channel banks.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | S7. Use sediment control basins where practical and necessary.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | S8. Visually monitor runoff during excessive storm events to identify previously unknown problem areas.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | S9. Apply and/or manage plant residues or other materials on the field soil surface to ensure there is successful reseeding and continued viability. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | S10. Other (Please describe) _____   |

El Dorado County Agriculture Water Quality Management Corporation  
**Membership Survey of Management Practices**

**Nutrient Management Practices.** These practices are designed to manage soil amendment(s) and crop nutrient(s) to prevent excess applications and to minimize the potential for offsite movement.

- N1. Determine crop nutrient requirements and establish nutrient budgets.
- N2. Use plant tissue analysis to assist in fertilizer application decisions.
- N3. Incorporate a backflow prevention device into a fertigation system.
- N4. Regularly maintain and calibrate fertilizer application equipment.
- N5. Mix and load fertilizer on low runoff hazard sites away from surface water and wellheads.
- N6. Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the information contained herein is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

*For Office Use Only*

Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Posted: \_\_\_\_\_

Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B

 <p><b>EL DORADO AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT CORP</b> <i>PROTECTING OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCE</i></p>		<p><b>JANUARY 2013</b></p> <p>P. O. Box 286 Placerville, CA 95667 (530) 622-7773 Fax (530) 622-7839 info@edcfb.com</p>
<h1 style="font-family: cursive;">Watershed Connection</h1> <p><i>A publication for members of the El Dorado Subwatershed Coalition</i> A member of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition</p>		
<p><b><u>Officers:</u></b></p> <p><b>Carolyn Mansfield</b> <i>President</i> Goldbud Farms</p> <p><b>John Zentner</b> <i>Vice President</i> Zentner Vineyard</p> <p><b>Maryann Argyres</b> <i>Secretary</i> Argyres Orchard</p> <p><b>Dedrian Kobervig</b> <i>Treasurer</i> Crystal Creek Farm</p> <p><b><u>Directors:</u></b></p> <p><b>Randy Hansen</b> Hansen Farms</p> <p><b>Tom Heflin</b> Rainbow Orchards</p> <p><b>Norm Krizl</b> Krizl Vineyard</p> <p><b>Linnea Marengo</b> Penobscot Ranch</p> <p><b>Kirk Taylor</b> Smokey Ridge Ranch</p> <p><b><u>Administrative Support:</u></b> El Dorado County Farm Bureau</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Annual Meeting of Members Planned for February 19</b></p> <p>The Annual Meeting of Members will be held this year on <b>Tuesday, January 19, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.</b> at the Board of Supervisors' chambers (330 Fair Lane, Placerville).</p> <p>At the meeting you will learn about the past year's accomplishments and this year's challenges. We will review the proposed annual budget and vote on the membership dues needed to maintain the operations of the coalition in the coming year.</p> <p>The President and Treasurer will report on our year's activities and the financial health of the organization. You will hear what occurred with the Pilot Program, verification results and efforts to minimize the impact of this regulation on your operation when the new long term program is adopted in 2013.</p> <p><b>Have it your way—new time!</b> At last year's Annual Meeting it was suggested that more members might attend if the meeting was moved to the end of the work day. So note the new time is <b>5:30 p.m.</b> Hope to see you there!</p> <p><b>Report of the Nominating Committee.</b> The Ag Water Quality board is comprised of nine volunteer directors who represent the various commodities in the county. Directors serve a three</p>	
	<p>year term and each of the seats is "staggered" which means that a few seats become vacant each year.</p> <p>The three director seats that expire at the end of this year are: Norman Krizl (<i>Vineyard</i>), Carolyn Mansfield (<i>Orchard</i>), and Kirk Taylor (<i>Specialty Crop</i>). The nominating committee found all incumbents were interested in returning to the board. No other qualified members were found by the committee that are interested in serving. The incumbent directors were nominated to begin their new term of service in 2013.</p> <p>The Board of Directors accepted the report of the nominating committee at its Dec 17 meeting. Since the number of nominees equals the number of seats available no election is required and the directors will be impaneled without further action at the Annual Meeting.</p> <p>Following the Annual Meeting of Members, the Board of Directors will convene its organizational meeting to elect officers, adopt the 2013 budget and establish a work plan for the coming year.</p> <p><b>Be an Active Member!</b> According to the bylaws, a quorum of 10% of the membership is required to take action on business items at a meeting of members. Please plan to attend!</p>	

## Ag Water Quality Management Corporation Update

### Long Term Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (LT-ILRP) Status

*By John Zentner*

The LT-ILRP will replace the current Conditional Waivers of Waste Discharge with general Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR), and will expand from surface water only coverage to include groundwater. The primary difference between a Conditional Waiver and a general WDR is that the Conditional Waiver must be brought before the regional water quality control boards every five years for review whereas the WDR need only be reviewed "as required". The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) has decided to generate six area-specific, coalition WDRs, one commodity specific WDR (Rice) and one WDR for individuals who choose to not join a coalition.

The Regional Board continues to slowly implement the LT-ILRP in stages. In December the Regional Board formally adopted the East San Joaquin (ESJ) WDR after a number of briefings and workshops held with both staff and Board members and the public. The Tulare Lake Basin Area WDR and the Individual Growers WDR are currently released for public review. The Rice Commission and the Grasslands Bypass are next in line followed by the Sacramento River of which we are a sub-coalition. The exact schedule for review and adoption of the remaining WDRs has not been updated. It appears that the Sac River WDR should be released for public comments after the middle of this year.

The Regional Board has indicated that the various area-specific WDRs will be unique and tailored for the area covered. However, with the adoption of the ESJ WDR there are certain reporting requirements that are anticipated to be universal: 1) Farm Evaluations by all participants; 2) Annual Nitrogen Budgets by all participants; and, 3) Sediment and Erosion Control Plans by all participants with the potential to discharge surface water offsite. The exact format and content of these reports is to be determined.

The specific impacts of the Sacramento River WDR implementation that can be expected for El Dorado growers is still to be determined. The Regional Board has been pleased with our Pilot Program and has extended it until the new WDR is adopted. The result is that surface water monitoring has been suspended for at least another year. The biggest unknown impact is the groundwater monitoring requirements that may be levied on us. Over the next year we will work with the Sac Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) representatives in negotiating requirements appropriate to our minimal threat level to water quality.

The next SVWQC meeting will be on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and we should have more to report at the Annual Meeting of the members. We hope to see a bigger turnout at the Annual Meeting so we can answer questions and get feedback from you.

### Pilot Program Update

*By John Zentner*

After two years the Pilot Management Practices Program can be deemed a success thanks to the efforts of over 95% of our members. Through our verification efforts, we have more than satisfactorily proven to the Regional Board that our members have implemented many management practices that protect the surface waters of the State by eliminating or minimizing the possibility of waste discharges.

As stated in the article above, the Regional Board has extended the Pilot Program at least until the LT-ILRP WDR is adopted. The result is we will have at least one more year of verification efforts with no surface water monitoring requirements. Financially, this results in a guaranteed savings of at least \$15,000 per year in monitoring costs to our coalition. It also eliminates the possibility of having to prove that irrigated agriculture is not the cause of any detected water quality exceedances.

## Ag Water Quality Management Corporation Update

### Ag Water Website Launched!

*By Dee Kobervig*

Thanks to a generous grant from the El Dorado County Water Agency, the Agricultural Water Education Corporation (AWEC) has developed an educational and informative website and a logo. The official launch of the website was in June 2012, and it can be viewed at [www.eldoradoagwater.org](http://www.eldoradoagwater.org).

The initiation of our website has helped to satisfy the educational and outreach requirements of the Irrigated Lands Regulation. The website is an integral part of our Pilot Program and a part of our long-term goals to supply our members with current information regarding water quality and management practices. Your participation in surveys and management inspections, along with the website, have been an integral part in obtaining, maintaining and continuing our Pilot Program. The Pilot Program has and will save our organization thousands of dollars annually from water quality monitoring reductions.

Included on the website are all past *Watershed Connection* newsletters. Background information is provided about the Agricultural Water Quality Management Corp.'s (AWQMC) Subwatershed coalition, frequently asked questions about the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP), Best Management Practices and how to reach board members with any questions or concerns. The Pilot Program's annual reports are included as well as a photo gallery showing management practices in use by our members.

The website will continue to be expanded to meet our needs and to link our members with related organizations, workshops, and news reports that we hope will be beneficial to our members.

The website is a project that would not exist without the numerous volunteer hours of current and past board members. We are always looking for articles, news reports, photos, and ideas to communicate to our members. If you would like to become a part of the website team please contact any of our board members or the El Dorado County Farm Bureau.

### Board of Directors News

*By Valerie Zentner*

**2013 Meeting Schedules.** The Board adopted its 2013 meeting schedule. Board meetings, open to members, are scheduled five times per year and are usually held in the Ag Building at 3:30 p.m.:

February 19*	May 20	June 17
October 21	December 16	

The Executive Committee will meet on March 18, August 19 and November 18 to conduct business between regular Board meetings. Special meetings can be called if needed.

*\*scheduled in BOS Meeting Room @ 6:30 pm.*

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).** TAC meetings are called by the Vice President when there are technical matters to be discussed. The TAC provides technical guidance on issues related to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Volunteers and agency partners with technical knowledge about our agricultural practices and water quality standards meet to review data and program requirements when needed.

Contact the office if you want to be placed on the list for receiving TAC meeting announcements.

**We need your email address. We have your wallet in mind!** In order to keep reducing our expenses, we want to shift away from paper and do more electronic communication with our members. To do this we need your email addresses! Please include your email address on the payment stub of the annual membership dues invoice! *We promise to keep your information confidential.* Together we can get it done!

**Volunteers, we thank you!** Thanks to our volunteers who have spent countless hours at meetings, researching volumes of proposed regulations, writing comment letters, working on the website, and writing technical reports to ensure that your interests and needs are addressed. We couldn't do this important work without you!

If you are interested in participating in any of these activities, please contact the office at 622-7773 or [info@edcfb.com](mailto:info@edcfb.com) and let us know!



**EL DORADO AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY  
MANAGEMENT CORP**

*PROTECTING OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCE*

P. O. Box 286, Placerville, CA 95667-0286

Non-Profit Organization  
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Permit No. 292

**El Dorado County Agricultural Water Quality  
Management Corporation's  
Annual Meeting of Members**

**Please join us!**

**You are Invited . . .**

**Tuesday, February 19, 2013  
5:30 p.m.**

**Location:**

**Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room  
330 Fair Lane, Placerville 95667  
(Building A)**

## Appendix C

