



STANISLAUS
COUNTY
FARM
BUREAU

CARLOS ESTACIO III
PRESIDENT

WAYNE ZIPSER
EXECUTIVE MANAGER

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89
YEARS
OF
EXCELLENCE
1914-2003

Ced

October 30, 2003

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
3443 Routier Road, Suite A
Sacramento, California 95827-3098

Attention: Mr. Thomas R. Pinkos, Executive Officer

Re: Notice of Intent, Resolution No. R5-2003-0105, Conditional Waiver
of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands

Dear Mr. Pinkos:

Resolution No. R5-2003-0105, adopted by your Board on July 11, 2003 (July Waiver), requires a coalition group, on behalf of individual discharges to submit a completed Notice of Intent on or before November 1, 2003. The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) submits the attached in response to that requirement.

The Coalition has prepared this Notice of Intent to the best of our ability. The Coalition would like to make it very clear that our members are committed to working with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to address water quality issues in this region. The Coalition is meeting on a regular basis to prepare this and the April 2004 deliverable as per the existing Conditional Waiver. Management and Technical committees have been formed to deal with specific issues. Meetings of these committees are and will be held monthly. The Coalition's cooperating entities have committed extensive staff time and resources to developing a workable solution to this issue.

We look forward to working with you to address any concerns you may have regarding this response. Feel free to contact us at the numbers on the NOI for additional information.

Sincerely,

Parry Klassen *Wayne D. Zipser*

Parry Klassen
Coalition for Urban/Rural
Environmental Stewardship

Wayne Zipser
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

RECEIVED
SACRAMENTO
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East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

**NOTICE ON INTENT
TO COMPLY WITH
RESOLUTION NO. R5-2003-0105
CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF
WASTE DISCHARGE REGUIRMENTS FOR
DISCHARGES FROM IRRIGATED LANDS
FOR COALITION GROUPS
November 1, 2003**

1. COALITION GROUP INFORMATION

WATERSHED

The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) represents owners and operators of farmlands encompassed by the lower Stanislaus, Tuolumne and Merced River sub-watersheds (primary eastside tributaries to the San Joaquin River) and that fall into Stanislaus and Merced counties (see attached map). These watershed Coalition boundaries have been established to encompass primarily the irrigated farmlands that lie south of Stanislaus River, east of the San Joaquin River, north of Chowchilla River up to and including irrigated farmland at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east. It should be noted that the boundaries shown on the attached map may be modified as additional participants are identified, monitoring plans are developed and coordination occurs with other potential participants.

COALITION GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

Parry Klassen, Executive Director, Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship
1801 I Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95814
559-325-9855
parryk@comcast.net

Wayne Zipser, Director, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 3070, Modesto, CA 95353-3070
209-522-7278
waynezipser@stanfarmbureau.org

2. REASON FOR FILING

X New Discharge or Coalition Group

X Changes in ownership/operator or addition of discharger(s) to Coalition Group

3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. A Watershed map depicting the irrigated farmlands represented by the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition is attached.

2. Clarification of our response:

The East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition submitted a report on June 30, 2003 as required by the December 2002 Waiver under the direction of the San Joaquin River Group Authority.

This November 1, 2003 report is being submitted on behalf of the organizations and entities listed below who are now organized under the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition name. The San Joaquin River Group Authority is no longer the lead entity for the Coalition.

The Coalition would like to make it very clear that our members are committed to working with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to address water quality issues in this region.

The Coalition is currently comprised of but not limited to representatives of the following cooperating entities:

Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship
Ducks Unlimited
East Merced Resource Conservation District
East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District
Merced County Agricultural Commissioner
Merced County Farm Bureau
Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner
Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

Watershed Area

In the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, the drainage basin of the individual rivers and their tributaries are referred to as sub-watersheds. The Coalition is comprised of at least three sub-watersheds which are distinct by the three rivers

which comprise the Coalition region. They include the Stanislaus River sub-watershed; Tuolumne River sub-watershed; and Merced River sub-watershed.

The sub-watersheds are similar in many ways, but also differ in many respects. Each sub-watershed has its own unique set of circumstances and conditions, and its own history. Each sub-watershed is in the process of independently organizing and coordinating in conjunction with the Coalition, a program that includes water quality monitoring and identification of management practices to improve water quality and carry out the Waiver responsibilities.

The Coalition commits to serve as the overall Coordinator for the watershed. The Coalition understands that the Conditional Waiver applies to agricultural discharges of water from irrigated lands to surface waters of the United States which are not subject to regulation under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) set for in the Clean Water Act. The scope of the July 11, 2003 Conditional Waiver includes irrigation return discharges (tailwater), subsurface drainage systems installed to lower the water table below irrigated lands, and storm water runoff from irrigated lands.

The entities listed above will coordinate activities in the sub-watersheds detailed above and will in turn coordinate the Waiver implementation in each of their respective sub-watersheds.

The Coalition shall oversee the activities within the watershed, and shall coordinate the compilation of information collected by each sub-watershed in order to meet the reporting and submittal requirements of the Waiver in a timely and organized manner.

The Coalition has been and will continue to form alliances with appropriate agricultural, water, conservation and resource groups and agencies that are functioning within the Basin. The Coalition and the sub-watersheds have been and will continue to coordinate with regulators, experts, farm groups, agricultural chemical companies, pest control representatives, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Cooperative Extension Service, university representatives, city and county representatives, agricultural commodity groups, wildlife groups, among others. These groups will be active cooperators participating with the Coalition and the Sub-watersheds in the implementation of the Waiver.

Funding Mechanisms

Costs of implementing the Conditional Waiver will consist of Regional Board administration, funded by fees established by the California Legislature through the passage of SB923. The Coalition has and will continue to seek state and federal grants to support the local activities.

Activities to develop and submit this NOI were supported by contributions of time and resources from the lead agencies and cooperating entities. Activities to develop the submission for the April 1, 2004 deliverable will be supported by similar

contributions. Funding mechanisms for future monitoring and other activities will be developed once a monitoring plan has been written and a budget to implement the plan has been developed.

4. Certification

We certify under perjury of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under our direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on our inquiry of the persons or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of our knowledge and belief, true, accurate, complete. We are aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations.

Print Name: Parry Klassen

Title: Executive Director, CURES

Signature

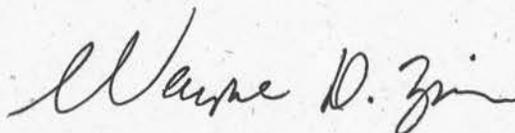


Date 10-30-03

Print Name: Wayne Zipser

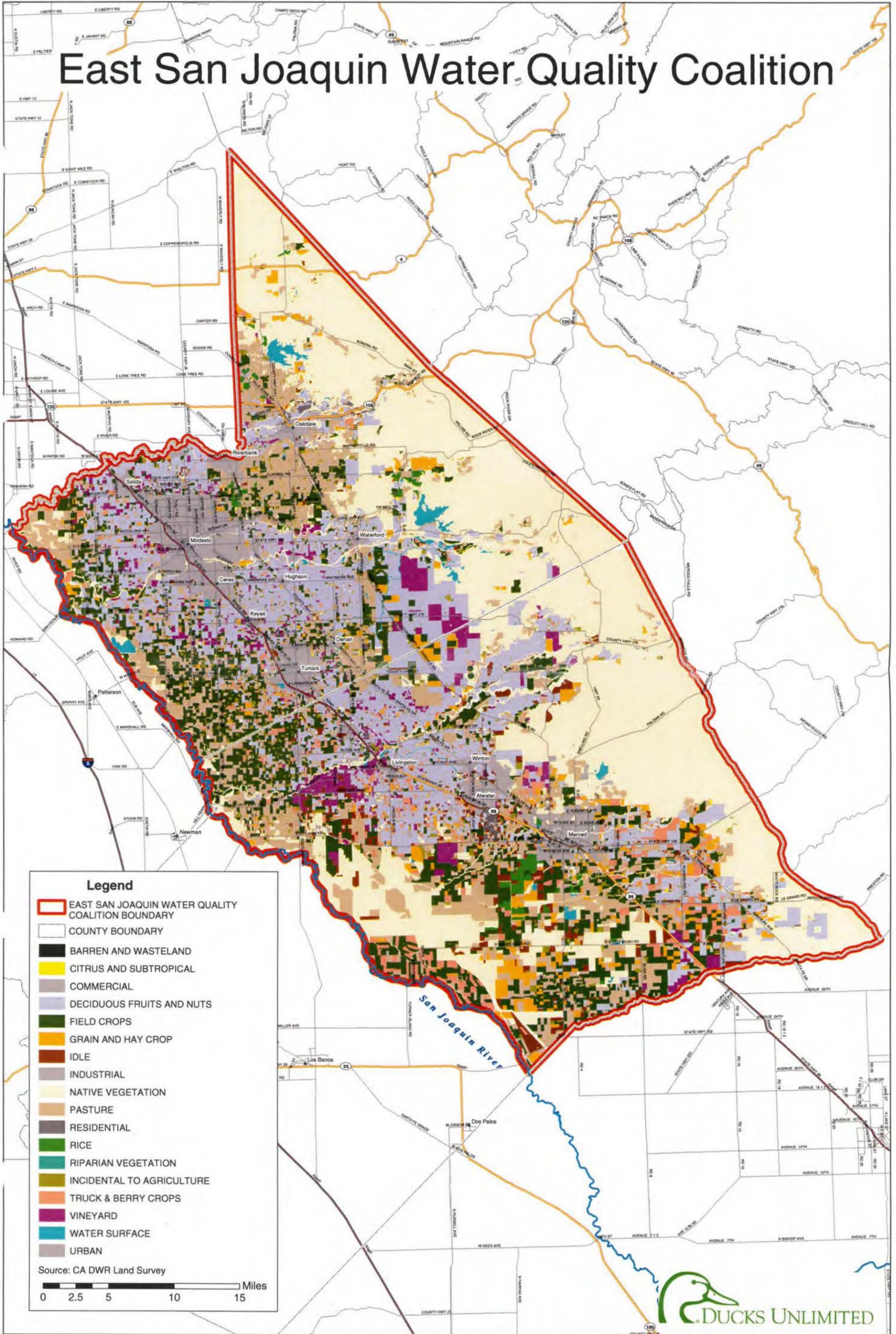
Title: Director, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

Signature



Date 10-30-03

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition



October 31, 2003

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
3443 Routier Road, Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95827-3003

Re: Notice Of Intent: East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed is a facsimile copy of the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition's Notice of Intent. The original was sent via Federal Express overnight to Ducks Unlimited who was to attach the Coalition Map and deliver it to the Regional Board Office. Unfortunately, Federal Express routed the original signed copy to another destination and Ducks Unlimited was unable to retrieve it in time to include it with the delivery package.

The original signed copy will be delivered Monday, November 3, to the Ducks Unlimited Office and will be couriered to the Regional Board Office that same day.

RECEIVED
SACRAMENTO
CYR WQCB
03 OCT 31 PM 3:44



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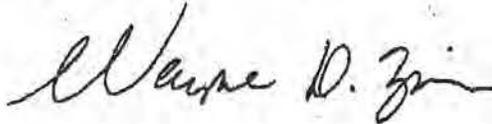


Date 10-30-03

Print Name: Wayne Zipser

Title: Director, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

Signature



Date 10-30-03