APPENDIX VII

MEETING AGENDAS AND HANDOUTS

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JANUARY 24, 2012: INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT MAILING (4TH PRIORITY SUBWATERSHEDS)

COVER LETTER

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
1201 L Street Modesto, CA 95354
www.esjcoalition.org

January 24, 2012

ESJ ID# «IDNo»
«FULLNAME»
«CONAME»
«ADDR1»
«CITY», «ST» «ZIP10»

Dear Member,

As you may know, you have a parcel that is included in the Management Plan for the «Subwatershed» watershed. The Regional Water Board requires these management plans be developed when a waterway sampled by the Coalition shows two or more exceedances of water quality standards.

One of the commitments we made to the Regional Board as part of our plan for «Subwatershed» watershed is to meet individually with 100% of members with parcels adjacent to or near «Subwatershed». I'd like to set up a time when myself and/or Wayne Zipser (Vice Chairman of ESJWQC and also Director of Stanislaus County Farm Bureau), can come and talk to you about our plan requirements and what you can do as a landowner and member to help us solve future problems.

The meeting will take about 30-60 minutes and preferably can be held at your home, farm office or your field near «Subwatershed». Please let me know a good time in the next 2 weeks when we can set up a meeting. You can email me at pklassen@unwiredbb.com or call the numbers below.

We appreciate your support and cooperation with the ESJWQC as we work to keep our members in compliance with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Thank you,

Parry Klassen
Executive Director
(559) 288-8125

Wayne Zipser
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
(209) 522-7278

JANUARY 24, 2012: FOLLOW UP CONTACT MAILING (3RD PRIORITY SUBWATERSHEDS)

COVER LETTER

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
1201 L Street Modesto, CA 95354
Phone (209) 522-7278 Fax: (209) 521-9938

PLEASE RETURN THE ENCLOSED FORM

April 16, 2012

«Attendees»
«CONAME»
«ADDR1»
«CITY», «ST» «ZIP10»

Dear «Attendees»,

We are required to contact you to complete the follow-up to our on-farm visit. A 100% response rate is mandated by the Water Board. Please respond by returning this mailer to us. It is a review of information gathered during our visit to determine whether any changes were made. Recommended practices are highlighted. If any recommended practices have not been implemented please note the reason in the space provided.

Call us at either number below if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Parry Klassen
Executive Director
(559) 288-8125

Wayne Zipser
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
(209) 522-7278

ESJ Member ID #

Required Follow-Up to Visit

Date of Visit:
Attendees:

This survey refers to the parcels listed below near

Irrigated Acres	APN	County	Crop Type

Did you have irrigation drainage last year? _____

Have there been changes in your crop type (for example, have you switched from row crops to orchards?) _____

Have you implemented a different irrigation system since our visit? No Change ☐ Change ☐ _____

Have you reduced the amount of water used in surface irrigation since our visit? Yes ☐ No ☐ _____

_____

No Change ☐ Implemented ☐

Reason (Mandatory if Not Implemented) _____

_____

_____

Did you implement practices based on information obtained from original contact with Coalition Representatives? Yes ☐ No ☐

Did you implement any other new practices? Yes ☐ No ☐ _____

If you wish to receive quarterly water monitoring results please select method: Mail ☐ eMail ☐

Would you like additional information regarding funding for management practice implementation? Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you interested in having an orchard sprayer calibration instrument/spray pattern analyzer come to your farm? Yes ☐ No ☐

EXCEEDANCE REPORT

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

Water Quality Monitoring Results*

October-December 2011

Data shown below represent exceedances of water quality standards and water discharge measurements.

Monitoring Location	Constituent / Water Quality Goal / Sample Date	DO+	pH+	SC+	TDS+	Nitrate + Nitrite+	E. coli +	Copper+	Algae+ Toxicity	Fathead Minnow+ Toxicity	Discharge+ Cubic Feet Per Second
	Water Quality Goal	7 mg/L	6.5-8.5	700 µmhos/cm	450 mg/L	10 mg/L	235 MPN /100 ml	µg/L (variable)	Based on growth	Based on survival	
Berenda Slough along Ave 18 1/2	10/11/11	5.69					1600	4.2 (1.03)			NM
	11/8/11							3.1 (2.46)			NM
	12/6/11							3.7 (3.38)			NM
Cottonwood Creek @ Rd 20	10/11/11						>2400	4.1 (3.56)			0.21
	11/8/11										Dry
	12/6/11										Dry
Deadman Creek @ Hwy 59	10/11/11										3.71
	11/8/11										1.84
	12/6/11										1.81
Dry Creek @ Wellsford Rd	10/11/11										29.50
	11/8/11										0.34
	12/6/11	6.70					330				0.37
Duck Slough @ Gurr Rd	10/11/11									Toxic	79.08
	11/8/11										5.81
	12/6/11										Dry
Highline Canal @ Hwy 99	10/11/11										NM
	11/8/11		8.77								0.57
	12/6/11										Dry
Highline Canal @ Lombardy Ave	10/11/11										NM
	11/8/11										0.32
	12/6/11										Dry
Howard Lateral	10/11/11							1.1 (1.03)			11.14
McCoy Lateral @ Hwy 140	10/11/11		8.65					1.1 (1.03)			7.96
	11/8/11										0**
	12/6/11										Dry
Merced River @ Santa Fe	10/11/11										1000.00
	11/8/11										347.00
	12/6/11										2.58
Prairie Flower Drain @ Crows Landing Rd	10/11/11	6.59		2447	1600	28	290		Toxic		0.47
	11/8/11			2206	1500	33	520				0.27
	12/6/11			2095	1400	41	460		Toxic		0.13
Rodden Creek @ Rodden Rd	10/11/11						290				0.85
	11/8/11						1400				0.60
	12/6/11						250				1.51
Lateral 3 along East Taylor Rd (misnamed as Yosi Grove Drain)	10/11/11										23.80
	11/8/11		8.95								2.44
	12/6/11										Dry

*All data are preliminary and will undergo additional review prior to being finalized.
**No measurable flow.
+See reverse side for definitions
NM-No measurement: Too deep to measure flow.

www.esjcoalition.org

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (209) 522-7278

List of units

mg/L	milligrams per liter
MPN/100 mL	Most Probable Number per 100 milliliters (measure of bacteria)
µg/L	micrograms per liter (same as parts per billion or ppb)
µS/cm	microsiemens per centimeter (measure of conductivity)

Monitoring Constituents Definitions

Dissolved Oxygen (DO): DO criterion is protective of aquatic life: (min. of 7 mg/L). DO levels are affected by water temperature, photosynthesis & respiration. Added nutrients can stimulate algae production which dies and breaks down by microbial activity. The activity requires oxygen, depleting DO and resulting in an inability to support aquatic communities.

pH: Power of Hydrogen (pH) measures acidic or basic levels in a solution. Acceptable range = 6.5-8.5. Water temperature, photosynthesis & respiration can affect levels. Fertilizers & pesticides can affect pH of water/ soil.

Specific Conductance (SC): Specific conductance (SC) is a measure of salt and is measured in µS/cm. SC is an indirect measure of the presence of ions such as chloride, nitrate, sulfate, phosphate, sodium, magnesium, calcium and iron. The SC standard (700 µS/cm) is protective of sensitive agricultural crops such as beans.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS): TDS describes all solids (usually mineral salts) dissolved in water and is measured in mg/L. TDS is frequently associated with SC exceedances. Potential sources are minerals leached from soils by upstream surface water, groundwater, or drain water from irrigated agriculture (Ag). Ag sources include fertilizers & native soils.

Nitrate + Nitrite: Potential sources include runoff of fertilizers or organic matter from irrigated pasture, leaking septic systems, waste water treatment plant effluent and animal waste. Nitrate and nitrite are very soluble and can enter surface or groundwater with irrigation and/or storm water. Animal waste can be converted to nitrate by nitrifying bacteria. Sources of animal waste include dairies, poultry, pasture and/or wildlife.

E. coli: A common bacterium that inhabits intestinal tracts and is voided in fecal material. E. coli in water (measured as MPN/100mL where MPN is the Most Probable Number) is compared to the water quality standard protective of recreational activities (235 MPN/100mL). E. coli may persist in presence of oxygen for periods of time after being voided. Any species of vertebrate that voids feces can contribute E. coli to surface waters. Potential sources: leaky septic systems or sewer lines, discharge from waste water treatment plants, application of biosolids to agricultural land, defecation in or near water bodies, dairies, manure or poultry operations.

Copper: Can occur in surface water dissolved or bound to sediment. Measurement of dissolved copper=dissolved form only measurement of total copper= both dissolved & bound. Dissolved copper is adjusted for the hardness ($CaCO_3$) in water to determine concentrations that would be toxic to aquatic species. Total copper is also evaluated based on the criteria protective of the drinking water beneficial use.

Algae toxicity: algae (aquatic plants) are sensitive to herbicides and fungicides. Algae toxicity is measured as percent growth in the sample water compared to the growth in a control treatment.

Fathead minnow toxicity: fathead minnows (fish) are sensitive to ammonia toxicity. At high concentrations pesticides and metals can also cause fish mortality. Fathead minnow toxicity is measured as percent survival within the sample water compared to survival in a control treatment.

Discharge: Measure of water flow-cubic feet per second (cfs) at sample site.

FEBRUARY 1, 2012: ANNUAL REPORT MAILING

Refer to 2012 AMR, submitted March 1, 2012.

FEBRUARY 12, 2012: RESULTS FROM INDIVIDUAL CONTACT MEETING CONFIRMATION MAILING (3RD PRIORITY SUBWATERSHEDS)

SURVEY RECAP TEMPLATE

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

Date of Meeting
Attendees

Management Practices Survey Results Summary

ESJ Member ID
Member

Following is a summary of your management practice information collected during our visit on the date above on your property near (Parcel numbers listed on back of survey).

Please review all responses for accuracy. If an answer is not accurate, please correct the information and return this survey to us. We will then send you a revised survey for your records.

The ESJWQC is required to contact you at a future date to verify if progress has been made on new management practices discussed during the meeting (see items checked *recommended).

The information in this survey is being used to evaluate water quality monitoring results and to assess trends/associations between water quality and improved management practices and will remain confidential between the Coalition and the member.

Please keep a copy of this survey on file for future reference

Section 1: Irrigation Water Management

Field Type

Field/Row

Do you have irrigation drainage

No

Irrigation System

* Surface
Sprinkler
Microirrigation
None
Other _____

Irrigation management practices:

	N/A	Prior To 2005	2005 or Later	Recommended
Laser leveled fields	☐	☒	☐	☐
Use drainage basins (sediment ponds) to capture and retain runoff	☒	☐	☐	☐
Recirculation - Tailwater return system	☒	☐	☐	☐
Use of Polyacrylamide (PAM) to increase water infiltration and reduce furrow erosion	☒	☐	☐	☐

Which do you base your irrigation schedule on:

* Irrigation District Deliveries
Actual Moisture Levels in soil/crop needs

Section 2: Storm Drainage

When do you have storm water draining from your field

- No Storm Drainage

  Only in heavy (100 year) storms

  After soil is saturated-late winter

  On most rain events

How are you able to manage storm drainage

	N/A	Prior To 2005	2005 or Later	Recommended
No Storm Drainage	☐	☒	☐	☐
Recirculation - Tailwater return system	☒	☐	☐	☐
Settling Pond	☒	☐	☐	☐
Pump/Drain into waterway & able to control timing	☒	☐	☐	☐
Pump/Drain into waterway & unable to control timing	☒	☐	☐	☐
Berms Between Field & Waterway (Install and/or Improve)	☐	☒	☐	☐

Section 3: Erosion & Sediment Management

Sediment management practices:

	N/A	Prior To 2005	2005 or Later	Recommended
Vegetation is planted along or allowed to grow along ditches	☐	☒	☐	☐
Maintain vegetated filter strips around field perimeter at least 10' wide	☐	☒	☐	☐
Constructed wetlands	☒	☐	☐	☐
Grass Row Centers (Orchards,Vineyards)	☒	☐	☐	☐

Do you apply herbicides during winter months

- Do not apply

  Diuron (Karmex)

  Simazine (Princep)

  Paraquat (Gramaxone)

  Glyphosate (Round-Up)

  Goal

  Other _____

If waterway crosses or borders pasture, how is livestock managed

N/A - Not Pasture

Section 4: Pest Management

Spray management practices:

	N/A	Prior To 2005	2005 or Later	Recommended
Adjust spray nozzles to match crop canopy profile	☒	☐	☐	☐
Outside nozzles shut off when spraying outer rows next to sensitive sites	☐	☒	☐	☐
Uses of nozzles that provide largest effective droplet size to minimize drift	☐	☒	☐	☐
Spray areas close to waterbodies when the wind is blowing away from them	☐	☒	☐	☐
Use electronic controlled sprayer nozzles	☒	☐	☐	☐
Use air blast applications when wind is between 3-10 mph and upwind of a sensitive site	☒	☐	☐	☐

How often is spray equipment calibrated

- Never
- • Prior to each application
- Once per month
- Once per year

Have you considered alternative strategies to using diazinon or chlorpyrifos either during the dormant or growing season

- Yes

Section 5: Dormant Spray Management

How many acres are sprayed with dormant pesticides

- No Dormant Sprays

Section 6: Information

INFORMATION REQUEST: Would you like additional information about

- BMPs to protect water quality ☐
- Potential funding to install BMPs ☐
- Other _____ ☐

This survey refers to the parcels listed below. This may not include all of your parcels in the Coalition.

Irrigated Acres	APN	County	County
0		Merced	Field/Row
0		Merced	Field/Row
85		Merced	Field/Row
75		Merced	Field/Row
20		Merced	Field/Row
48		Merced	Field/Row
70		Merced	Field/Row

Member ID Number
Company Name
Membership Contact(s) Member
Mailing Address

FEBRUARY 21, 2012: REMINDER FOLLOW UP CONTACT MAILING (3RD PRIORITY SUBWATERSHEDS)

Refer to January 24, 2012: Follow Up Contact Mailing (3rd Priority Subwatersheds) / Cover Letter and Follow Up Survey.

APRIL 16, 2012: FOLLOW UP CONTACT MAILING (3RD PRIORITY SUBWATERSHEDS)

Refer to January 24, 2012: Follow Up Contact Mailing / Cover Letter and Survey.

EXCEEDANCE REPORT

East San Joaquin WATER QUALITY COALITION

Water Quality Monitoring Results*

January-March 2012

Data below represent water discharge measurements and exceedances of water quality standards.

Monitoring Location	Sample Date	pH*	DO*	SC*	TDS*	Ammonia[1]	Nitrate + Nitrite-	E. coli**	Copper*	Algae[2]	Sediment[3]	Discharge- Cubic Feet Per Second
Longitudinal Water Quality Goal		6.5-8.5	7 mg/L	700 µmhos/cm	450 mg/L	1.5 mg/L	10 mg/L	235 MPN /100 ml	µg/L (variable)	Toxicity	Toxicity	
Bear Creek @ Kibby Rd	1/10/12											NM
	2/7/12	8.59										1.40
Berenda Slough along Ave 18 1/2	1/10/12											NM
	2/7/12											Dry
	3/6/12	9.10										NM
Cottonwood Creek @ Rd 20	1/10/12											Dry
	2/7/12											Dry
	3/6/12											Dry
Deadman Creek @ Gurr Rd	1/10/12	8.68										NM
	2/7/12											1.18
	3/6/12											1.06
Deadman Creek @ Hwy 59	1/10/12	8.66										NM
	2/7/12	8.59										1.26
	3/6/12											0.34
Dry Creek @ Rd 18	1/10/12											NM
	2/7/12	8.58										NM
	3/6/12											NM
Dry Creek @ Wellsford Rd	1/10/12		6.07									NM
	2/7/12											0.41
	3/6/12	8.63										NM
Duck Slough @ Gurr Rd	1/10/12											Dry
	2/7/12											0.26
	3/6/12	8.75						260				5.37
Duck Slough	2/7/12											NM
Hilmar Drain @ Central Ave	2/7/12			983								NM
	3/6/12			1105								NM
Highline Canal @ Hwy 99	1/10/12								4.5 (2.65)			NM
	2/7/12	9.51							3.8 (2.07)			NM
	3/6/12											Dry
Highline Canal @ Lombardy Ave	1/10/12											NM
	2/7/12	8.85							2.0 (1.46)			NM
	3/6/12								14 (7.40)			NM
Lateral 3 along East Taylor Rd	1/10/12		4.50	768	550		20			Toxic		3.93
	2/7/12											1.42
Levee Drain @ Carpenter Rd	1/10/12			1851	1200		25	310				0.23
	2/7/12			1905	1300		23	2400				0.45
	3/6/12			1811	1200		24				Toxic	0.15
Livingston Drain @ Robin Ave	1/10/12											NM
	2/7/12								12 (2.46)			0.83
McCoy Lateral @ Hwy 140	1/10/12											Dry
	2/7/12											Dry
	3/6/12											NM
Merced River @ Santa Fe	1/10/12											201.00
	2/7/12											170.00
	3/6/12											187.00
Prairie Flower Drain @ Crows Landing Rd	1/10/12			1669	1200	5	30	>2400				0.29
	2/7/12			2231	1500		33	820				NM
	3/6/12			2185	1600		36					NM
Rodden Creek @ Rodden Rd	1/10/12											0.61
	2/7/12							240				0.47
	3/6/12							550				0.05

*All data are preliminary and will undergo additional review prior to being finalized.

**No measurable flow.

*See reverse side for definitions

NM-No measurement: Too deep to measure flow.

NM-Sed-No measurement: Discharge not measured due to sediment monitoring only.

www.esjcoalition.org

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (209) 522-7278

MAY 18, 2012: APRIL 2012 NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER

East San Joaquin WATER QUALITY COALITION

UPDATE

April 2012

www.esjcoalition.org

Draft Groundwater Order Released

The Regional Water Board released on April 13 the first draft of the ESJWQC General Order, the new regulation that will mandate how ground and surface water will be regulated in coming years. The "Administrative Draft" is the first of two drafts that will be available for public comment before a vote by the Regional Water Board. Barring delays, that vote is expected on October 4, 2012.

ESJWQC representatives met with Regional Board staff numerous times since February to provide comments on preliminary versions of the documents, some of which were reflected in the Administrative Draft. The Coalition expects to resubmit comments focusing on sections where our changes were not incorporated. Members are welcome to review the documents or submit comments to us for inclusion and can do so at www.esjcoalition.org/GeneralOrder.asp. The deadline for comments is May 21, 2012.

Fertilizer Past Roots Considered Waste To Groundwater

Most significant change in the General Order is the inclusion of broad groundwater protection requirements. Unlike the current program that covers only potential discharges of farm waste to surface water from irrigation or storm drainage, potential discharges to groundwater are now included. Discharges to groundwater include nutrient movement past the root zone, back flow through irrigation wells of pesticides or fertilizers, and/or farm waste draining into abandoned wells.

Included with the General Order is a map of the ESJWQC region indicating areas where groundwater nitrate levels exceed drinking water limits set by the Department of Public Health. Irrigated cropland within and up gradient of those areas are considered highly vulnerable; other lands are classified as low vulnerability areas. Members who farm in the high vulnerability areas will be required to complete annual nitrogen budget plans that are signed off by a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA). Many Pest Control Advisors (PCAs) working in the San Joaquin Valley hold CCA certification.

Non-Members Can Join Coalition or File Individually

The Regional Water Board says that with the inclusion of groundwater in the program, all owners or operators of irrigated lands will now need coverage though either an individual General Order or by joining a watershed coalition. Called "third-party entities" in the draft document, watershed coalitions such as ESJWQC will again represent landowners to maintain compliance with the regulations; rules for being a coalition are detailed in the draft document. Existing ESJWQC members will be grandfathered into the new program but will need to sign a document acknowledging that they are accepting coverage provided by the coalition. Members will be notified about any documentation needed after the General Order is adopted in October.

Growers in the region not participating in the existing program will again have the option of filing for an individual permit with the Regional Water Board or joining the ESJWQC. Coalition membership will be opened for a 90 day period after the new order is adopted. Currently, growers must apply to the Regional Water Board and pay a $50 application fee before being allowed to join a coalition. Suspended during the 90 day period, that practice will be reinstituted in January 2013.

Adding Parcels to Existing Membership

Many current members have acreage not currently enrolled in the coalition because it has no potential for irrigation or storm drainage or spray drift into regional waterways. With the addition of groundwater to the program, those members will be able to add this acreage with no back dues penalty. The ESJWQC Board of Directors is discussing whether back dues payments will be required if a parcel with drainage potential is added to the coalition roles, whether it be an existing member or a new member. A Coalition board vote on that issue will occur before October.

2012 Membership Dues Remain Unchanged: 2013 Uncertain

Membership dues in 2012 remain at $50 per landowner plus $2.00 an acre for all irrigated lands. Member dues pay for managing the coalition and performing the monitoring and reporting required by the Regional Water Board. The dues also cover the 49 cent per acre fee assessed on irrigated acreage by the State Water Resources Control Board. This is an increase from 12 cents per acre in 2011 and has added substantially to the Coalition's operating expenses. With the groundwater program expected to add considerably to program expenses, the ESJWQC Board is struggling to keep the dues at $2 an acre. Some estimates place potential new member acreage in the ESJWQC region as high as 500,000 acres. The question remains whether potential new members will voluntarily chose to participate with an individual permit, through the coalition option, or wait for Regional Water Board enforcement to catch up with them and force participation through threats of fines.

East San Joaquin WATER QUALITY COALITION **UPDATE**

April 2012 www.esjcoalition.org

2011 Annual Report Mailed in January

The Coalition Annual Member Report was mailed out to members in late January. The annual report includes water and sediment monitoring results from 2011 plus information on the sites monitored since the Coalition began sampling in 2005 or when the site was added to the list. Extra copies can be ordered by contacting us at www.esjcoalition.org. Electronic versions of the current and past reports can be read or downloaded from the Members Only section of the website. The password is ESJwater.

Coalition Board Adds New Members in 2012

The Coalition Board of Directors added new members in 2012: Al Rossini, Rossini Ag and Anja Raudabaugh who replaced Julia Berry at the Madera County Farm Bureau. Also joining the Coalition are the major irrigation districts in the region: Modesto ID, Turlock ID, Merced ID and Oakdale ID. Mike Niemi of Turlock ID sits on the board representing the districts. Currently, the Board Chairman and Executive Director is Perry Klassen, a fruit grower and also Executive Director of the Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES).

The current Board includes:

- Amanda Corvajal, Merced Co. Farm Bureau
- John Eisenhut, Hilltop Ranch, almonds
- Brian Franzia, West Coast Grape Farming, Inc.
- Richard Gemperle, Gemperle Enterprises, almonds
- Bill McKinney, almond grower
- Mike Niemi, Turlock Irrigation District
- Anja Raudabaugh, Madera County Farm Bureau
- Alan Reynolds, Gallo Vineyards, Inc.
- Al Rossini, Rossini Ag LLC, grape grower
- Jim Wagner, Wilbur-Ellis Co.
- Wayne Zipser, Stanislaus Co. Farm Bureau

Non-Voting members

- Gary Caseri, Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner
- David Robinson, Merced County Agricultural Commissioner
- Bob Rolon, Madera County Agricultural Commissioner
- Diana Waller, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Modesto
- Dennis Westcot, San Joaquin River Group Authority

Coalition Membership Responsibility

The individual members of the Coalition are ultimately responsible for the success of the ESJWQC. Failure of the Coalition to meet regulatory deadlines, implement the proper monitoring programs or work to correct water quality problems would mean that individual farm owners would be responsible for fulfilling those requirements. While Stanislaus County Farm Bureau and CURES representatives signed the notice of intent for the Coalition, it is the Coalition participants who are ultimately responsible for participating in Coalition activities, paying their fair share of all costs to carry out the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and participating in efforts to solve problems identified through water monitoring.

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition contacts:

Perry Klassen: 559-288-8125

Wayne Zipser, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau: 209-522-7278

East San Joaquin WATER QUALITY COALITION

ESJ Water Quality Coalition
1201 I Street
Modesto, CA 95354

www.esjcoalition.org

JUNE 4, 2012: REMINDER FOLLOW UP CONTACT MAILING (3RD PRIORITY SUBWATERSHEDS)

Refer to January 24, 2012: Follow Up Contact Mailing (3rd Priority Subwatersheds) / Cover Letter and Follow Up Survey.

JUNE 21, 2012: PROPOSED ESJWQC WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS MEETING – MADERA COUNTY

MEETING ANNOUCEMENT TO COALITION MEMBERS

Save The Date: East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition Meetings

Each meeting will include:

- **Presentation by Water Board staff on new Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) program**
- Review new reporting requirements: farm evaluations and nitrogen budgets
- Working lunch (available for those who RSVP)

MADERA	MERCED	MODESTO
Thursday-June 21, 2012	**Tuesday-June 26, 2012**	**Thursday-June 28, 2012**
11:30 am – 1:00 pm Working Lunch	11:30 am – 1:00 pm Working Lunch	11:30 am – 1:00 pm Working Lunch
Madera County Farm Bureau	Merced County Ag Commissioners Office	Stanislaus County Ag Center
1102 S Pine St., Madera	2139 Wardrobe Ave., Merced	3800 Cornucopia Way, Suite B, Modesto
RSVP to (559) 674-8871	**RSVP to (209) 522-7278**	**RSVP to (209) 522-7278**

Lunch available only if you RSVP!

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

For More Information Contact:

Parry Klassen
(559) 288-8125

Wayne Zipser
(209) 522-7278

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
1201 L Street Modesto, CA 95354

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ESJWQC Meeting Announcement

MADERA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

AGRICULTURE TODAY
June 2012 Vol. 2, No. 8

Pictured above are L to R: Ross Blackburn and Frank Roque, owners of Panoche Creek Packing, Inc.

Business Member Profile: Panoche Creek Packing, Inc.
Page 6

MCFB Hosts Groundwater Regulation Meeting
June 21st @ 11:30am
Please RSVP!

CALENDAR

June

12 Executive Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m., MCFB Conference Room, 1102 South Pine Street, Madera (559) 674-8871, info @ www.maderafb.com

July

3 Executive Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m., MCFB Conference Room, 1102 South Pine Street, Madera (559) 674-8871, info @ www.maderafb.com

10 MCFB Board of Directors Meeting, 12:00 p.m., MCFB Ben Hayes Hall, 1102 South Pine Street, Madera (559) 674-8871, info @ www.maderafb.com

August

7 Executive Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m., MCFB Conference Room, 1102 South Pine Street, Madera (559) 674-8871, info @ www.maderafb.com

Voters have turned against California bullet train, poll shows

A strong majority of voters have turned against the project just as Gov. Jerry Brown is pressuring the Legislature to green-light the start of construction in the Central Valley later this year, a major step in the plan to connect Los Angeles and San Francisco with high-speed rail service by about 2028.

In a state renowned for betting big on mega-infrastructure projects, including the world's most famous freeways and canals that move oceans of water across hundreds of miles, the fast-approaching decision on the bullet train project marks a historic Golden State moment.

Whether eroding public support will sway the Legislature is unclear. Brown, the Obama administration, labor unions and Democratic leaders, including Rep. Nancy Pelosi of San Francisco, are ramping up pressure on key state senators to cast aside doubts and commit funding this summer for an initial 130-mile section of track.

But the new poll numbers show that proceeding could put lawmakers on the wrong side of public opinion. Across the state, 55% of the voters want the bond issue that was approved in 2008 placed back on the ballot, and 59% say they now would vote against it.

Since voters approved that $9-billion borrowing plan, the state and national economic outlook has dimmed and some of the promises about the bullet train have been compromised. Its projected cost has roughly doubled, and it will now share track with slower commuter and freight trains in some areas. Powerful agriculture groups and freight railroads have asserted that proposed routes would damage their interests and compromise safety. Churches, schools, businesses and homeowners are fighting the project.

Brown and a coalition of bullet train backers have argued that the project requires a long-term optimistic view of California's future. Proponents say that highways and airports will reach their capacity someday and that the state must be prepared.

Said Dan Richard, chairman of the California High-Speed Rail Authority, citing improvements to the plan: "This is a large, complex project, and we believe that once Californians learn more about the positive turnaround at the authority, they will embrace the improved direction."

Some lawmakers agree on the need for the rail service but are concerned that the existing plan is flawed and could set the state up for a big disappointment, if not financial disaster. The decline in public enthusiasm for the proposal appears to reflect more than a short-term fluctuation in sentiment, which might be expected and even discounted by officials trying to execute a decades-long project deemed crucial to the state's economic future.

An artist's rendering shows the planned California high-speed rail station in Fresno. (California High-Speed Rail Authority)

"You have a situation where general financial pressure and cynicism toward the government has narrowed the support," said Drew Lieberman of Greenberg Quinlan Rosner, a Democratic polling firm that conducted the survey jointly with American Viewpoint, a Republican-affiliated firm.

Indeed, the poll shows that concerns about the project extend broadly across regions, ethnic groups, income brackets and even political affiliations. In Southern California, 67% of voters said they would reject issuing bullet train bonds if they could vote again.

Although organized labor has been among the biggest proponents of the project, 56% of union households now would reject the state funding plan, the poll found. Even among Democrats, the strongest backers of the project, only 43% would support the bond in a new vote, while 47% would oppose it. And 76% of Republicans would vote it down.

"Voters are having some buyer's remorse over this," said David Kinevsky of American Viewpoint.

The poll reflected clashing viewpoints expressed at recent public hearings held by the rail authority. While critics say that the project is seriously flawed, supporters argue that people desperately need jobs.

"It costs too much and we need the money in other places," said poll respondent Robert Coplin, a 49-year-old unemployed bus boy

See High Speed Rail; Page 6

Meeting Agenda

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

Briefing on Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)

Thursday, June 21, 2012
Madera County Farm Bureau, Madera
11:30 am to 1:00 pm; working lunch

11:30 am Welcome and introductions	Anja Raudabaugh Madera Co. Farm Bureau
11:35 – 11:40 Meeting overview	Parry Klassen Board Chairman, ESJWQC
11:40 – 12:20 Overview of new Irrigated Lands Program Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for coalition, members	Joe Karkoski Regional Water Board
12:20 – 12:50 Proposed nitrogen budgets, reporting approaches	Parry Klassen
12:50- 1:00 Questions	

Sponsored by

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
Madera County Farm Bureau

ANNUAL NITROGEN BUDGET

Member ID# 1234 APN: 111-00-222

Owner/mgr Parry Klassen Field # A, B, C

CROP NITROGEN DEMAND Crop Nitrogen Needs / Uptake	**NITROGEN SUPPLY** Credits and Applications	
Crop	**Nutrients:** Total N applied to field	
Almonds	***Nitrogen fertilizers***	
Expected yield (Lbs of production/ acre)	(conventional and organic)	
	Spring	100
3000 lbs / ac	Summer	75
Nitrogen Crop Needs to meet expected yield (lbs of Nitrogen per acre)	Fall	100
	Foliar fertilizers	5
	Other fertilizers	0
250		
	Manure	0
	Compost	0
	Bacterial extracts/Compost teas	0
	Other nutritional products	0
	TOTAL N APPLIED	280
	Soil Nitrogen Credits Soil N ppm [3]	Lbs N/acre
	Nitrogen from previous legume crop	0
	Residual from long-term manure applications	5
	Soil organic matter mineralization	5
	Current soil test levels [4]	5
	Irrigation water nitrogen credits (annualized)	50
	TOTAL N CREDITS	65
	Total N Credits and Applications:	345
	Crop N needs:	250
	Balance	**95**
	Ratio	**1.380**

JUNE 26, 2012: PROPOSED ESJWQC WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS MEETING – MERCED COUNTY

Refer to June 21, 2012: Proposed ESJWQC Waste Discharge Requirements Meeting – Madera / Meeting Announcement and Nutrient Management Plan Template.

AGENDA

Meeting Agenda

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

Briefing on Proposed
Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)

Tuesday, June 26, 2012
Merced Co. Farm Bureau office, Merced
11:30 am to 1:30 pm; working lunch

11:30 am Welcome and Introductions	Wayne Zipser Stanislaus Co. Farm Bureau
11:35 – 11:40 Meeting overview	Parry Klassen Board Chairman, ESJWQC
11:40 – 12:20 Overview of new Irrigated Lands Program Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for coalition, members	Joe Karkoski Regional Water Board
12:20 – 12:50 Proposed nitrogen budgets, reporting approaches	Parry Klassen
12:50- 1:30 Questions	

Sponsored by

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
Merced County Farm Bureau

JUNE 28, 2012: PROPOSED ESJWQC WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS MEETING – STANISLAUS COUNTY

Refer to June 21, 2012: Proposed ESJWQC Waste Discharge Requirements Meeting – Madera / Meeting Announcement and Nutrient Management Plan Template.

AGENDA

Meeting Agenda

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

Briefing on Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR)

Thursday, June 28, 2012
Stanislaus Ag Center, Modesto
11:30 am to 1:30 pm; working lunch

11:30 am Welcome and introductions	Wayne Zipser Stanislaus Co. Farm Bureau
11:35 – 11:40 Meeting overview	Parry Klassen Board Chairman, ESJWQC
11:40 – 12:20 Overview of new Irrigated Lands Program Proposed Waste Discharge Requirements for coalition, members	Joe Karkoski Regional Water Board
12:20 – 12:50 Proposed nitrogen budgets, reporting approaches	Parry Klassen
12:50- 1:30 Questions	

Sponsored by

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

JULY 17, 2012: PROPOSED ESJWQC WASTE DISCHRAGE REQUIREMENTS MEETING FOLLOW UP EMAIL

EMAIL

From: East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition [mailto:esj_Admin@esjcoalition.org]
Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2012 8:31 PM
Subject: Growers Hear About New Groundwater Regulations

A near record turnout of farmers heard the Regional Water Board explain new groundwater regulations being developed for the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition. Meetings held in Madera, Merced and Modesto attracted more than 300 farmers in late June, even some non-coalition members, who heard about a 120 day membership holiday where they could join the coalition without first applying to the Regional Board as is now required.

The membership holiday is expected to begin after the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) are adopted at the Regional Water Board meeting on October 4-5. Most significant in the expanded regulations are reporting requirements for nitrogen fertilizer applications, with growers in groundwater-vulnerable regions required to have their nitrogen budgets signed off by a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA).

The latest draft of the new WDR was released on July 3, opening the final 30 day comment period on a regulation that covers both surface and groundwater. The slide shows from the June ESJWQC meetings are posted at www.esjcoalition.org/generalorder.asp. Also posted is the new public review draft of the WDR.

Parry Klassen
Executive Director
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

pklassen@unwiredbb.com
559-646-2224 office
559-288-8125 cell

www.esjcoalition.org

JULY 19, 2012: MERCED SUN-STAR NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

TRANSCRIPT

Proposal would regulate nitrogen in Central Valley ag

Farmers could be asked for reports

By JOSHUA EMERSON SMITH - jsmith@mercedsunstar.com

Drinking-water contamination has long plagued many rural communities in the Central Valley.

People living in areas with a limited number of wells and no water treatment facility often drink groundwater contaminated with nitrates, chemicals linked to cancer and the potentially fatal baby-blue syndrome.

While the cause of this contamination has been hotly debated, state regulators recently proposed a plan to address the issue by requiring farmers to document and limit their use of nitrogen-based fertilizer, which, if over-applied, can seep into the groundwater and become nitrate.

Officials with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board say the proposed regulations, currently submitted for public review, will, over time, significantly reduce the Valley's groundwater nitrate contamination.

"We know we have a lot of nitrate problems in the Central Valley and that agriculture is contributing to them," said Joe Karkoski, program manager with the regional water board. "What is out (for review) is our first set of rules dealing with nitrates in groundwater."

The program would require farmers to keep "nitrogen budgets" documenting the amount of nitrogen-based fertilizer applied to a particular crop. Farmers will be required to test well water and document the nitrogen content of water used for irrigation.

If farmers are over-applying nitrogen to their crops, it's likely because they're unaware the water they're using to spread fertilizer already has nitrogen in it, said Parry Klassen, executive director with the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, which represents Stanislaus, Merced and Madera counties.

"There's no motivation to over-apply fertilizer," he said. "They're getting free fertilizer in the water but some farmers are not aware of that. Really the first year or two is going to be information gathering."

Farmers in high vulnerability areas for nitrate contamination -- which includes more than half of the irrigated land in the Valley -- would be required to submit their budgets for review by the regional water board. Farmers in areas of low vulnerability would be expected to produce nitrogen budgets on request.

However, because the water quality coalitions will be responsible for gathering the budgets and submitting aggregated data to the water board, water quality advocates have raised concerns that bad actors will be shielded from scrutiny.

AUGUST 8, 2012: QUARTERLY MONITORING REPORT MAILING

EXCEEDANCE REPORT

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

Water Quality Monitoring Results*

April-June 2012

Data below represent water discharge measurements and exceedances of water quality standards.

Monitoring Location	Constituent / Sample Date	pH†	DO†	SC†	TDS†	Ammonia†	Nitrate + Nitrite†	*E. coli*†	Arsenic†	Copper†	Flow† Cubic Feet Per Second
	Water Quality Goal	6.5-8.5	7 mg/L	700 µmhos/cm	450 mg/L	1.5 mg/L	10 mg/L	235 MPN /100 ml	10 µg/L	µg/L (variable)	
Bear Creek @ Kibby Rd	5/9/12	9.00									NM
Berenda Slough along Ave 18 1/2	4/12/12										Dry
	5/9/12										Dry
	6/12/12									5.70 (3.02)	**
Deadman Creek @ Hwy 59	4/12/12							410	12		1.68
	5/9/12										Dry
	6/12/12		6.61								**
Highline Canal @ Lombardy Ave	4/12/12										NM
	5/9/12										NM
	6/12/12										NM
Levee Drain @ Carpenter Rd	4/12/12			1672	1100		17	920			0.20
	5/9/12			1942	1300	2.6	31				0.72
	6/12/12		5.65	905	570		13				2.76
McCoy Lateral @ Hwy 140	4/12/12	8.87						1100			3.37
	5/9/12										4.54
	6/12/12									2.70 (2.07)	16.44
Rodden Creek @ Rodden Rd	4/12/12										2.04
	5/9/12										2.75
	6/12/12		6.97								3.46

*All data are preliminary and will undergo additional review prior to being finalized.

**No measurable flow.

†See reverse side for definitions

NM-No measurement: Too deep to measure flow.

www.esjcoalition.org

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (209) 522-7278

List of units

mg/L milligrams per liter

MPN/100 mL Most Probable Number per 100 milliliters (measure of bacteria)

µg/L micrograms per liter (same as parts per billion or ppb)

µS/cm microsiemens per centimeter (measure of conductivity)

Monitoring Constituents Definitions

Dissolved Oxygen (DO): DO criterion is protective of aquatic life: (min. of 7 mg/L). DO levels are affected by water temperature, photosynthesis & respiration. Added nutrients can stimulate algae production which dies and breaks down by microbial activity. The activity requires oxygen, depleting DO and resulting in an inability to support aquatic communities.

pH: Power of Hydrogen (pH) measures acidic or basic levels in a solution. Acceptable range = 6.5-8.5. Water temperature, photosynthesis & respiration can affect levels. Fertilizers & pesticides can affect pH of water/ soil.

Specific Conductance (SC): Specific conductance (SC) is a measure of salt and is measured in µS/cm. SC is an indirect measure of the presence of ions such as chloride, nitrate, sulfate, phosphate, sodium, magnesium, calcium and iron. The SC standard (700 µS/cm) is protective of sensitive agricultural crops such as beans.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS): TDS describes all solids (usually mineral salts) dissolved in water and is measured in mg/L. TDS is frequently associated with SC exceedances. Potential sources are minerals leached from soils by upstream surface water, groundwater, or drain water from irrigated agriculture (Ag). Ag sources include fertilizers & native soils.

Ammonia: Total ammonia consists of the unionized (NH3) form plus the ionized (NH4+) form also called ammonium. Ammonium can enter a water body through direct discharge from agricultural fertilizers or animal waste, discharges from waste water treatment plants, or from the breakdown of organic matter in the stream. In soils, ammonium from fertilizers is typically converted to nitrite and then to nitrate over a short period of time. Exceedances of the ammonia standard are based on water temperature and pH which affect the level at which ammonia is toxic to aquatic life. Regardless of the water temperature or pH, all ammonia concentrations above 1.5 mg/L are exceedances of the drinking water standard.

Nitrate + Nitrite: Potential sources include runoff of fertilizers or organic matter from irrigated pasture, leaking septic systems, waste water treatment plant effluent and animal waste. Nitrate and nitrite are very soluble and can enter surface or groundwater with irrigation and/or storm water. Animal waste can be converted to nitrate by nitrifying bacteria. Sources of animal waste include dairies, poultry, pasture and/or wildlife.

E. coli: A common bacterium that inhabits intestinal tracts and is voided in fecal material. E. coli in water (measured as MPN/100mL where MPN is the Most Probable Number) is compared to the water quality standard protective of recreational activities (235 MPN/100mL). E. coli may persist in presence of oxygen for periods of time after being voided. Any species of vertebrate that voids feces can contribute E. coli to surface waters. Potential sources: leaky septic systems or sewer lines, discharge from waste water treatment plants, application of biosolids to agricultural land, defecation in or near water bodies, dairies, manure or poultry operations.

Copper: Can occur in surface water dissolved or bound to sediment. Measurement of dissolved copper=dissolved form only measurement of total copper= both dissolved & bound. Dissolved copper is adjusted for the hardness (CaCO3) in water to determine concentrations that would be toxic to aquatic species. Total copper is also evaluated based on the criteria protective of the drinking water beneficial use.

Arsenic: Arsenic is found in sodium cacodylate which is applied by agriculture for broadleaf weed control and as a cotton defoliant. California Department of Pesticide Regulation records indicate no agricultural use of sodium cacodylate across the Coalition region between 1998 and 2010. Exceedances of the Arsenic WQTL can be attributed to legacy pesticide use.

Flow: Measure of water flow-cubic feet per second (cfs) at sample site.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2012: REMINDER FOLLOW UP CONTACT MAILING (3RD PRIORITY SUBWATERSHED)

Refer to January 24, 2012: Follow Up Contact Mailing / Cover Letter and Survey.

NEWSLETTER

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition UPDATE

September 2012

www.esjcoalition.org

General Order Vote Postponed Until December

The scheduled October 2012 vote for the new ESJWQC General Order has been delayed until December. The announcement came in late August presumably as a result of severe criticism the Regional Water Board received from farmers in Tulare at an August 21 workshop on the draft General Order or Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the South San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition. Much of the angst at the Tulare workshop was in response to estimated costs of $120 per acre for farmers to implement the new program, a number cited in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) adopted by the Regional Board in June. Although Regional Water Board said at the workshop that potential costs were closer to $21 dollars per acre, the audience of more than 400 was not satisfied. Testimony by farmers and ag representatives, often heated and critical of the Regional Board, continued until 7 pm (The Regional Board later stated that the figure was an estimated cost for implementation, not a new fee).

Even though the vote date is delayed until December, Regional Water Board staff said the public comment period will not be re-opened for the ESJWQC draft WDR. August 6 was the deadline for public comments. The coalitions, commodity and ag groups and the public are given the chance to suggest changes or criticize the draft order during the public comment period. The public comment period for the South San Joaquin Coalition draft WDR was originally scheduled for October 2012; it too may now be delayed.

ESJWQC staff was told in late August that some of its demands for changes outlined in our public comment letter, in particular the requirement for a licensed engineer to sign off on sediment and erosion control plans, would be removed from the draft WDR. Also reportedly removed was the potential addition of chronic toxicity testing for surface waters, a requirement that would have increased coalition costs by hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. The ESJWQC comment letter is posted at http://www.esjcoalition.org/GeneralOrder.asp

Membership Dues Set To Increase to $4/acre

Anticipated cost increases for implementing the new groundwater regulations prompted the ESJWQC Board of Directors in August to approve a membership dues increase from $2 per acre to $4 per acre. Another factor was the dramatic increase in acreage fees paid by the coalition for its members to the State Water Resources Control Board. In 2012, those fees increased from 12 cents per acre to 56 cents per acre. The fees are used to pay for Regional Water Board staff to implement the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Also contributing to the need for a dues increase was the loss of more than 100,000 acres to the dairy program. Before the passage of the dairy order in 2007, dairymen in the Central Valley enrolled their irrigated acreage in coalitions for coverage of potential surface water discharges. Since dairy permits cover both facilities and irrigated acreage, there is no longer the need for coalition membership. Reserves built up from the early years of coalition operation were depleted over the last three years, leaving ESJWQC board members with little option but to raise dues to cover the lost acreage and increased operational costs. The dues increase will go into effect for the 2013 membership period.

While the exact cost for implementing the new WDR won't be known until the final language is adopted, one requirement is sure to remain intact: the groundwater assessment report. Each Central Valley coalition will be required to complete this report as part of their WDR. It is a compilation of all existing groundwater data from multiple sources, an assessment of the data to identify low and high vulnerable areas and a proposal for a network of wells to use as part of the groundwater trend monitoring. Estimates provided to the board put the cost of preparing the assessment report in the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

New-Member "Holiday" Expected January 2013

Delay of the Regional Water Board vote on the ESJWQC General Order pushes back to January 2013 the date for opening the coalition rolls to new members. During the first 6 months of 2013, new members won't have to apply to the Regional Water Board and pay a $50 application fee before joining a coalition, as is now the case. If the timelines being proposed in the WDR are adopted, the fee requirement will be reinstated to new memberships in July 2013. Existing ESJWQC members will be grandfathered into the new program.

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition **UPDATE**

September 2012 www.esjcoalition.org

Voting for Board Members Begins in 2013

Voting for Board members will soon be part of Coalition activities beginning in 2013. Since its inception in 2004, ESJWQC has relied on volunteers to fill the organization's board of director positions. New requirements in the draft General Order for third party entities mandate that a coalition provide members accountability for their actions. Making board seats an openly elected position gives coalition members the opportunity to replace board members who a majority believe are not performing their duties. Changes being made to ESJQWC's bylaws spell out how the board will be structured after 2013: 11 members total, five appointed by the current board and six voted on by coalition members. Terms are three years with no term limits. The first ballot to be voted on in December 2013 will contain the existing board members with the possibility of vacant positions on the board. Due to changes in State laws governing non-profit organizations, Parry Klassen will resign from the board and his position as Board chairman and retain the title of Executive Director, a paid position with the coalition. Board members can no longer work as paid agents of a non-profit in California. ESJWQC operates as a 501c-5 non-profit entity.

2012 ESJWQC Membership

2,227 members; 535,790 acres. 18 new members in 2012; 4,857 new acres.

2012 Coalition Board of Directors

- Parry Klassen, Executive Director
- Amanda Carvajal, Merced Co. Farm Bureau
- John Eisenhut, Hilltop Ranch, almonds
- Brian Franzia, West Coast Grape Farming, Inc.
- Richard Gemperle, Gemperle Enterprises, almonds
- Bill McKinney, almond grower
- Mike Nemi, Turlock Irrigation District
- Anja Raudabaugh, Madera County Farm Bureau
- Alan Reynolds, Gallo Vineyards, Inc.
- Al Rossini, Rossini Vineyards, grape grower
- Jim Wagner, Wilbur-Ellis Co.
- Wayne Zipser, Stanislaus Co. Farm Bureau

Non-Voting members

- Gary Caseri, Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner
- David Robinson, Merced County Agricultural Commissioner
- Bob Rolan, Madera County Agricultural Commissioner
- Diana Waller, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Modesto
- Dennis Westcot, San Joaquin River Group Authority

Coalition Membership Responsibility

The individual members of the Coalition are ultimately responsible for the success of ESJWQC. Failure of the Coalition to meet deadlines, implement the proper monitoring programs or work to correct water quality problems would mean that individual land owners would be responsible for fulfilling those requirements. While Stanislaus County Farm Bureau and CURES representatives signed the notice of intent for the Coalition, it is the Coalition participants who are ultimately responsible for participating in Coalition activities, paying their fair share of all costs to carry out the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and participating in efforts to solve problems identified through water monitoring.

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition contacts:

Parry Klassen: 559-288-8125
pklassen@unwiredbb.com

Wayne Zipser, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau:
209-522-7278
waynez@stanfarmbureau.org

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

ESJ Water Quality Coalition
1201 L Street
Modesto, CA 95354

OCTOBER 9, 2012: OCTOBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition **UPDATE**

October 2012 www.esjcoalition.org

Why Are Dues Going Up to $4 an acre?

As expected, we are hearing from members who are not pleased with the dues increase from $2 to $4 an acre. As an organization made up of growers and managed by growers, we fully understand the frustration with the increasing costs of complying with regulations from any program, not just the Water Board programs. The ESJWQC Board of Directors is charged with keeping the coalition economically viable and operating the most cost-effective organization possible. For three years preceding the vote in August to increase dues, the Board has wrestled with how to deal with rapidly depleting budget reserves and increasing program costs. After the loss of 100,000 acres of dairy farmland in 2008, program expenditures have exceeded income from membership dues for each subsequent year.

Cost increases over the last five years have been driven by three major factors:

- Multiple pesticide exceedance in 24 coalition waterways prompted development of management plans for each of those watersheds;
- Management plans increase costs through additional requirements for water monitoring, member outreach and reporting to the Water Board;
- The Water Board mandated that more waterways be monitored beginning in 2008 since data gathered from 2005 showed pesticide problems to be widespread in the limited number of sites initially studied in the coalition region.

The State Water Board fee increase from 12 cents per acre to 56 cents per acre in 2012 added significantly to those increasing program costs over the last four years. Reserves built up from the early years of coalition operation were depleted in the last three years, leaving ESJWQC board members with little option but to raise dues to cover the lost acreage and increased operational costs.

Still unknown is the cost for implementing the new groundwater regulations expected to be in place in 2013. We do know an initial major expense will be preparing the groundwater assessment report. This report will easily cost $100,000 and could be higher. The report is a compilation of all existing groundwater data in our region from multiple sources, an assessment of the data to identify low and high vulnerable farming areas and a plan for a network of wells to use for groundwater trend monitoring.

Even without the new program, the Board needed to raise dues to at least $3 an acre to operate in the black. With the new groundwater program certain to add to operating costs in 2013 and beyond, the Board had no choice but to increase dues to $4 an acre. If inadequate funds are collected from members, the coalition cannot fulfill its legal mandates and members would be out of compliance with State regulations. If that were to happen, the Water Board would likely drop the coalition as the organization representing the growers, and growers would have to form a new organization or obtain individual permits.

Water Board Grants One Year Reprieve

It was clear in February that revenue from the annual member dues was not adequate to cover budget costs for 2012. The ESJWQC board of directors decided then to write a letter to the Water Board explaining our financial reality: we either needed a break in monitoring and reporting requirements or face potential shut down of the organization by November 2012. The Water Board accepted our appeal and granted us a reduction in surface water monitoring requirements for the balance of 2012. Those requirements will be reinstated in January 2013.

If You Drop Out

Some members have already stated they will not pay the higher dues and instead will drop out of the coalition. If the coalition is notified of that desire (or dues are not paid by the 2013 deadline), the coalition has no choice but to remove their names from the membership list submitted to the Water Board each July. In past years, the Water Board has contacted entities that dropped out and requested information on how they plan to comply with the State Water Code as an individual.

Will the Water Board eventually catch up with members who drop out? Based on experience, it is only a matter of time before each individual is contacted. The difference with the new program is that the Water Board considers anyone who irrigates as having the potential to discharge farm inputs to either groundwater or surface water. Based on that premise, the Water Board has stated that the grower bears the burden for proving those discharges do not occur and that there is no need for regulatory coverage. To date,

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition UPDATE
October 2012 www.esjcoalition.org

we are not aware of any individual or group who has made the effort to prove that case.

Participation in the coalition has always been completely voluntary. Growers have always had, and will continue to have, the option of filing for an individual permit. But by being in a coalition, a member relies on staff to perform water monitoring and prepare reports mandated by the Regional Water Board with costs shared across its many members. With an individual permit, the landowner assumes solely the responsibility for monitoring and reporting their activities to the Regional Water Board.

Costs for an Individual Permit

A coalition offers growers regulatory coverage with what is considered a "group permit." So what would it cost to fulfill the Water Board requirements under an "individual permit"? Here is a potential scenario for a 100-acre farm that uses three different pesticides and applies fertilizers every year. If there is only a single location where surface water can leave the property (even if it is only periodic stormwater discharge), the annual costs could be as high as $15,000 to $20,000. These costs (based on estimates from consultants in this field) include water monitoring, lab analysis of samples and reporting the results to the Water Board. Additional first year start-up costs could range from $5,000 to $10,000 to pay for developing sampling and analysis plans, quality assurance plans and setting up a monitoring program. These costs do not cover drilling groundwater sampling wells around the property if the Water Board determines that the groundwater under your property is not adequately monitored (existing irrigation wells generally do not suffice for this requirement). This annual estimate does not include the potential cost for conducting studies to determine the effectiveness of your management practices in limiting discharges to groundwater. Such studies are mandated by the Water Board for the coalition in the new program and it is unclear if growers with individual permits will also be mandated to perform these studies.

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
ESJ Water Quality Coalition
1201 L Street
Modesto, CA 95354

Update on EIR Costs for Implementation

The Regional Water Board released on September 29 a clarification of cost estimates for implementing the new Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. One chart included in the update is seen below. The Q&A style document can be reviewed and downloaded from the ESJWQC website: http://www.esjcoalition.org/generalOrder.asp

	Proposed WDRs	Current program	Change
Third-party Costs			
Administration	0.80	0.80	–
Monitoring/reporting/tracking	3.20	3.20	7.50
Direct Grower Costs			
Farm plans	0.70	–	0.70
Management practices	115	113	2
Total	$120.20	$115	$5.20

Estimated annual average per acre cost for the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed – comparison of the proposed waste discharge requirements to continue the current program.

2012 Coalition Board of Directors

- Parry Klassen, Executive Director
- Amanda Carvajal, Merced Co. Farm Bureau
- John Eisenhut, Hilltop Ranch, almonds
- Brian Franzia, West Coast Grape Farming, Inc.
- Richard Gemperle, Gemperle Enterprises, almonds
- Bill McKinney, almond grower
- Mike Niemi, Turlock Irrigation District
- Anja Raudabaugh, Madera County Farm Bureau
- Alan Reynolds, Gallo Vineyards, Inc.
- Al Rossini, Rossini Vineyards, grape grower
- Jim Wagner, Wilbur-Ellis Co.
- Wayne Zipser, Stanislaus Co. Farm Bureau

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition contacts:

Parry Klassen: 559-288-8125
pklassen@unwiredbb.com

Wayne Zipser, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau:
209-522-7278
waynez@stanfarmbureau.org

OCTOBER 11, 2012: VIOLATION OF MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT MAILING (3RD PRIORITY SUBWATERSHEDS)

COVER LETTER

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

1201 L Street Modesto, CA 95354
www.esjcoalition.org

October 11, 2012

ESJ ID# *[XXXX]*
[Name]
[Address Line 1]
[Address Line 2]
[City, State Zip]

Dear *[Name]*,

You have received letters from us in both June and September to gather information as follow-up to our visit with *[Name]* on your property near Dry Creek. We have also attempted to call you and have not been able to get in contact with you.

If you do not contact us or mail back the attached questionnaire by October 26, 2012 you will be in violation of your membership agreement. The enclosed letter from the Regional Water Board details the expectations and consequences for both yourself and the ESJWQC if we fail to meet our obligations for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

We appreciate your support and cooperation with the ESJWQC as we work to keep our members in compliance with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Thank you,

Parry Klassen
Executive Director
(559) 288-8125

Wayne Zipser
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
(209) 522-7278

California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region
Karl E. Longley, ScD,P.E., Chair

Linda S. Adams
Secretary for Environmental Protection

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114
Phone (916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

3 June 2009

Coalition Groups

RESPONSIBILITIES OF GROWERS IN COALITIONS AND POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COOPERATION

A number of coalitions have asked the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (Central Valley Water Board) to describe the expectations of growers participating in coalitions and the consequences if growers do not cooperate with the coalition. This letter outlines what actions the Central Valley Water Board anticipates taking should a grower fail to respond to information requests from a coalition group or should a grower's membership in a coalition group be revoked.

The Coalition Group Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands (Coalition Conditional Waiver; R5-2006-0053) requires that growers in a coalition group implement management practices to improve and protect water quality. To inform the Central Valley Water Board of whether the necessary management practices are being implemented, the coalition needs to gather information from growers on their practices. This information is especially critical when the coalition is working with their member growers to address identified water quality problems. Information on the implementation of management practices helps the Central Valley Water Board determine whether a good faith effort is being made to solve identified water quality problems. In addition, an assessment of data on management practice implementation and changes in water quality will help us determine whether practices thought to be protective of water quality are effective.

We expect the coalitions to make reasonable efforts to obtain complete and accurate information from their participating growers. Should growers fail to provide the necessary management practice information to the coalition, we will consider those growers to be in violation of the Coalition Conditional Waiver. We anticipate taking the following steps with those non-compliant growers:

1) issuing an order under section 13267(b) of the California Water Code (13267 Order) requiring the grower to submit the management plan information to the Central Valley Water Board; and
2) working with the coalition to rescind the non-cooperative grower's regulatory coverage under the Coalition Conditional Waiver.

California Environmental Protection Agency

Recycled Paper

Once coverage under the Coalition Conditional Waiver is rescinded, the grower would be required to obtain regulatory coverage in one of the following ways:

1. Submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under the Individual Discharger Conditional Waiver[1] for discharges from irrigated lands. The annual fee for Individual Conditional Waiver coverage is based on acreage as established in the Fee Regulations. For example, the annual fee for a 50 acre farm is $1,000 and for a 250 acre farm is $2,625. Coverage under the Individual Conditional Waiver would require the grower to develop and implement a site-specific monitoring and reporting plan, for which growers would incur approximately $10,000 to $15,000 in additional costs beyond the annual fee.

2. Submit a Report of Waste Discharge (RWD) for coverage under individual Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) in accordance with Water Code sections 13260 and 13263. Under current law, growers have the option of foregoing coverage under the irrigated lands waivers and obtaining coverage under WDRs. The cost of coverage under this option is based on the potential threat to water quality and complexity of waste discharges from irrigated lands. According to the fee schedule for WDRs, the annual fee would likely be $6,006. Like the Individual Conditional Waiver option, a grower under WDRs would be required to develop and implement a site-specific monitoring and reporting plan incurring additional costs of approximately $10,000 to $15,000.

Should a grower not obtain coverage under one of the options described above or fail to respond to a 13267 Order, then the Central Valley Water Board plans to pursue enforcement action against the grower. Enforcement action could include fines of thousands of dollars depending on the nature and extent of the grower's non-compliance.

Aside from potential actions described above, the Coalition Groups and their members should keep in mind that the Coalition Group Waiver is being evaluated as one alternative for the Long-term Irrigated Lands Program. If the coalitions are deemed ineffective at implementing Management Plans and addressing persistent water quality problems, the Central Valley Water Board may be compelled to replace the coalitions with General Orders or Waste Discharge Requirements for individual growers. If growers value the coalitions and the monitoring cost sharing and other advantages associated with them, it is in their interest to cooperate with the coalitions to the fullest to implement Management Plans.

If your growers have any questions regarding this letter, they can leave a message on our Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program phone line at (916) 464-4611 or IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov and staff will contact them within 2 business days.

Joe Karkoski
Acting Assistant Executive Officer

[1] Individual Discharger Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands, Order No. R5-2006-0054

OCTOBER 15, 2012: VIOLATION OF MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT MAILING (4TH PRIORITY SUBWATERSHEDS)

Refer to October 11, 2012: Violation of Membership Agreement Mailing / Regional Board Letter.

COVER LETTER

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
1201 L Street Modesto, CA 95354
www.esjcoalition.org

October 15, 2012

ESJ ID# «IDNo»
«FULLNAME»
«CONAME»
«ADDR1»
«CITY», «ST» «ZIP10»

Dear Member,

You should have received a letter from us in January requesting that you contact us to set up a meeting regarding property listed under your coalition membership and located in the «Subwatershed» watershed. We have attempted to contact you multiple times and have not received a response. The property is included in a Management Plan for «Subwatershed». The Regional Water Board requires these management plans be developed when a waterway sampled by the Coalition shows two or more exceedances of water quality standards.

The deadline is approaching quickly. The meeting must be scheduled as soon as possible and occur before Friday, October 19st.

If you do not contact us before to schedule a meeting you will be in violation of your membership agreement. The enclosed letter from the Regional Water Board details the expectations and consequences for both yourself and the ESJWQC if we fail to meet our obligations for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Please call the numbers below or email me at pklassen@unwiredbb.com so we can schedule your meeting. The discussion typically takes 30-60 minutes and preferably can be held at your farm office or field near «Subwatershed».

We appreciate your support and cooperation with the ESJWQC as we work to keep our members in compliance with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Thank you,

Parry Klassen
Executive Director
(559) 288-8125

Wayne Zipser
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
(209) 522-7278

OCTOBER 23, 2012: RESULTS FROM INDIVIDUAL CONTACT MEETING CONFIRMATION MAILING (4TH PRIORITY SUBWATERSHEDS)

Refer to February 12, 2012: Results from Individual Contact Meeting Confirmation Mailing (3rd Priority Subwatersheds) /Survey Recap Template.

EXCEEDANCE REPORT

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

Water Quality Monitoring Results*

July-September 2012

Data below represent water discharge measurements and exceedances of water quality standards.

Monitoring Location	Constituent / Water Quality Goal / Sample Date	DO†	pH†	SC†	TDS†	Ammonia†	Nitrate + Nitrite†	Copper†	Algae†
	Water Quality Goal	7 mg/L	6.5-8.5	700 µmhos/cm	450 mg/L	1.5 mg/L	10 mg/L	µg/L (variable)	Toxicity
Bear Creek @ Kibby Rd	7/10/12								
	8/14/12								
Berenda Slough along Ave 18 1/2	7/10/12							4.80 (3.02)	
	8/14/12	3.72							
	9/11/12								
Deadman Creek @ Hwy 59	7/10/12								
	8/14/12								
	9/11/12	4.92							
Highline Canal @ Lombardy Ave	7/10/12								
	8/14/12		9.30						
	9/11/12								Toxic
Levee Drain @ Carpenter Rd	7/10/12			1582	1000		13		
	8/14/12	1.60		1051	670	3.8			
	9/11/12	4.60		1864	1100		17		
McCoy Lateral @ Hwy 140	7/10/12								
	8/14/12								
	9/11/12		8.74						
Rodden Creek @ Rodden Rd	7/10/12								
	8/14/12								
	9/11/12								

*All data are preliminary and will undergo additional review prior to being finalized.

**No measurable flow.

†See http://www.esjcoalition.org/MonitorDef.pdf for definitions

NM-No measurement: Too deep to measure flow.

www.esjcoalition.org

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (209) 522-7278

NOVEMBER 2, 2012: INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT MAILING (5TH PRIORITY SUBWATERSHEDS)

COVER LETTER

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition
1201 L Street Modesto, CA 95354
www.esjcoalition.org

November 2, 2012

ESJ ID# «IDNo»
«FULLNAME»
«CONAME»
«ADDR1»
«CITY», «ST» «ZIP10»

Dear Member,

As you may know, you have a parcel that is included in the Management Plan for the «Subwatershed» watershed. The Regional Water Board requires these management plans be developed when a waterway sampled by the Coalition shows two or more exceedances of water quality standards.

One of the commitments we made to the Regional Board as part of our plan for «Subwatershed» watershed is to meet individually with 100% of members with parcels adjacent to or near «Subwatershed». I'd like to set up a time to come and talk to you about our plan requirements and what you can do as a landowner and member to help us solve future problems.

The meeting will take about 30-60 minutes and preferably can be held at your home, farm office or your field near «Subwatershed». Please let me know a good time in the next 2 weeks when we can set up a meeting. You can send an email to esj_admin@esjcoalition.org or call one of the numbers below.

We appreciate your support and cooperation with the ESJWQC as we work to keep our members in compliance with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

Thank you,

Wayne Zipser
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
(209) 522-7278

Parry Klassen
Executive Director
(559)288-8125

NOVEMBER 27, 2012: ANNUAL GROWER MEETING - STANISLAUS COUNTY

MEETING ANNOUCEMENT

Save The Date: Annual Meetings of the
East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

Each meeting will cover:

- Water Board staff presentation on soon to be adopted groundwater waste discharge requirements (WDR)
- How the WDR will impact nitrogen fertilization and crop production in the region
- Forum on coalition dues increase

MODESTO	MERCED	MADERA
Tuesday, November 27, 2012	**Wednesday, November 28, 2012**	**Thursday, November 29, 2012**
10 am-12:30 pm plus lunch	**10 am-12:30 pm plus lunch**	**10 am-12:30 pm plus lunch**
SOS Club 819 Sunset Ave., Modesto	Merced County Fair San Joaquin Hall Bldg. 900 MLK Jr. Way, Merced	Madera District Fairgrounds Women's World Pavilion 1850 W. Cleveland Ave., Madera
RSVP to (209) 522-7278	**RSVP to (209) 522-7278**	**RSVP to (559) 674-8871**

Lunch Served: Door prizes at each event

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

For More Information Contact:

Parry Klassen
(559) 288-8125

Wayne Zipser
(209) 522-7278

Meeting Agenda

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

Annual Meetings

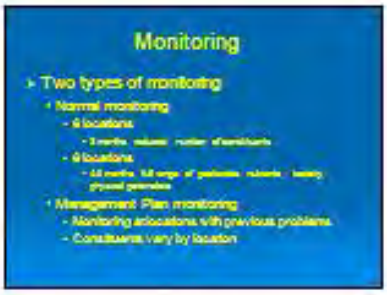
November 27, 28, 29, 2012
10:00 am to 12:30 pm; lunch following

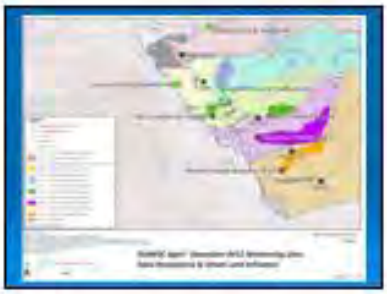
10:00 am Welcome and introductions	
10:05 – 10:45 Overview of new Irrigated Lands Program Waste Discharge Requirements and Groundwater	Joe Karkoski Regional Water Board
10:45 – 11:20 Coalition approach to groundwater program Nitrogen fertilization BMPs for water quality protection	Parry Klassen Executive Director, ESJWQC
11:20 – 11:40 California Legislature: potential 2013 groundwater legislation	Gail Delihant Western Growers
Break	Door prize drawings
11:50 – 12:20 Pesticides in creeks and rivers 2012 in review: how are we doing?	Mike Johnson Technical Consultant MLJ, LLC
12:20 – 12:30 Membership dues increase forum	Parry Klassen Wayne Zipser ESJ Board members
12:30 Lunch	

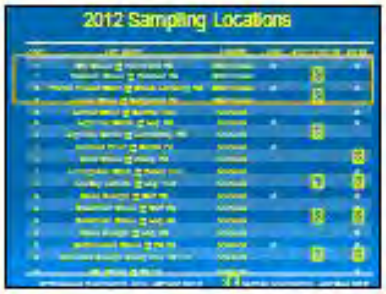
Sponsored by

East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

East San Joaquin
2012 Monitoring Results
Michael Johnson


Monitoring
Two types of monitoring
Normal monitoring
Management Plan monitoring
Monitoring at locations with previous problems
Constituents vary by location




2012 Sampling Locations

2012 Exceedances
Stanislaus County

1

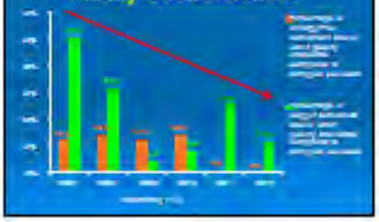
Management Plan Strategy

- Two exceedances within 2 years trigger Management Plan
  - Prioritize exceedances for outreach
  - Surveys and individual visits
- Additional monitoring
  - At least two years of monitoring in months of prior exceedances

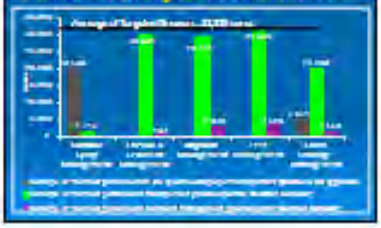
1st, 2nd and 3rd Priority Subwatersheds

- Completed individual contacts-documented current practices
- Completed follow up contacts-documented newly implemented practices
- Monitoring indicated two consecutive years with no exceedances
  - Petition to remove constituents from Management Plan

Exceedances in 1st, 2nd and 3rd Priority Subwatersheds

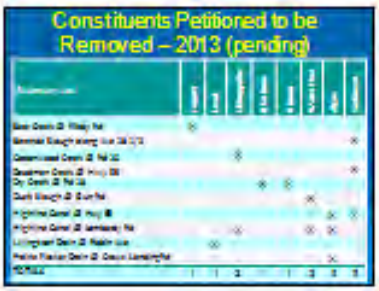


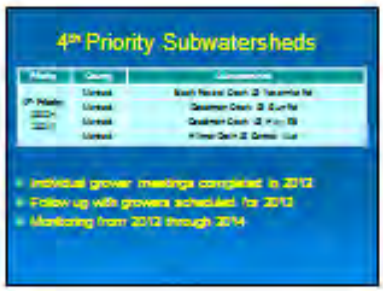
Management Practices in 1st, 2nd and 3rd Priority Subwatersheds



1st, 2nd and 3rd Priority Subwatersheds: MP Constituents Removed

| | | |

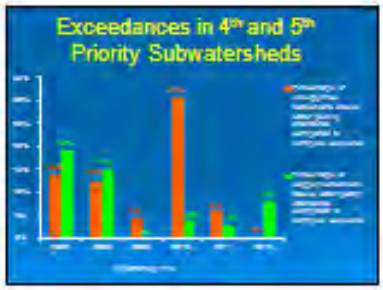

Constituents Petitioned to be Removed – 2013 (pending)


4th Priority Subwatersheds
Individual grower meetings completed in 2012
Follow up with growers scheduled for 2013
Monitoring from 2012 through 2014

4th Priority Subwatersheds: Constituents of Highest Concern

5th Priority Subwatersheds
Compiled list of growers
Parcels adjacent to waterway
Pesticide of constituents of concern (e.g. chlorpyrifos)
Individual grower meetings scheduled for early 2013
Monitoring from 2012 through 2015

5th Priority Subwatersheds: Constituents of Highest Concern


Exceedances in 4th and 5th Priority Subwatersheds

Summary

- Continued reduction in the number of exceedances of high priority constituents
- Reduced monitoring requirements
- Result is reduction in costs to Coalition
- Groundwater will be a part of the program
  - Will increase costs

NOVEMBER 28, 2012: ANNUAL GROWER MEETING - MERCED COUNTY

Refer to November 27, 2012: Annual Grower Meeting – Stanislaus County / Meeting Announcement, Meeting Agenda and Presentation Slides.

NOVEMBER 29, 2012: ANNUAL GROWER MEETING - MADERA COUNTY

Refer to November 27, 2012: Annual Grower Meeting – Stanislaus County / Meeting Announcement, Meeting Agenda and Presentation Slides.

DECEMBER 13, 2012: FOLLOW UP CONTACT MAILING (4TH PRIORITY SUBWATERSHEDS)

SURVEY

REQUIRED Follow-Up To On-Farm Visit

[Member Name],

This survey is in follow-up to our meeting [Date of Meeting] for the following [Subwatershed] property:

Attendee(s): [Grower Rep.]
[ESJ Rep.]

[Parcel Listing] [Acres]

Did you have Irrigation drainage last year?_____

Any crop changes?_____

Did you do anything since the meeting that might affect water quality?_____

Check any box that refers to something you have changed since our meeting. Please check only changes not practices in place prior to meeting.

Irrigation Management Practices:

- ☐ Laser leveled fields
- ☐ Recirculation - Tailwater return system
- ☐ Use drainage basins (sediment ponds) to capture and retain runoff
- ☐ Use of Polyacrylamide (PAM) to increase water infiltration and reduce furrow erosion

Storm Drainage Management:

- ☐ Settling Pond
- ☐ Recirculation - Tailwater return system
- ☐ Pump/Drain into waterway & able to control timing
- ☐ Berms Between Field & Waterway (Install and/or Improve)

Sediment Management Practices:

- ☐ Vegetation is planted along or allowed to grow along ditches
- ☐ Maintain vegetated filter strips around field perimeter at least 10' wide
- ☐ Constructed wetlands
- ☐ Grass Row Centers (Orchards,Vineyards)

Spray Management Practics:

- ☐ Spray areas close to waterbodies when the wind is blowing away from them
- ☐ Uses of nozzles that provide largest effective droplet size to minimize drift
- ☐ Outside nozzles shut off when spraying outer rows next to sensitive sites
- ☐ Adjust spray nozzles to match crop canopy profile
- ☐ Use air blast applications when wind is between 3-10 mph and upwind of a sensitive site
- ☐ Use electronic controlled sprayer nozzles

We have recommended these practices:

Did you implement the recommended practices? (If Any)_____

If not, why not? _____

If planning, when?_____

DECEMBER 19, 2012: NEW WDR ORDER FOR IRRIGATED LANDS ADOPTED BY CVRWQCB ANNOUNCEMENT

EMAIL TRANSCRIPT

Subject: Central Valley Water Board Adopts Waste Discharge Requirements for Irrigated Lands

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/

For Immediate Release
Contact: Ken Landau
Phone: 916-464-4726.

Central Valley Water Board Adopts Waste Discharge Requirements for Irrigated Lands

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has adopted new waste discharge requirements to protect ground and surface water from irrigated agricultural discharges.

The requirements apply to farmers in the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed who join an approved third-party group or coalition. Growers who do not join a coalition will be directly regulated by the Central Valley Water Board, and will be subject to higher costs. The Eastern San Joaquin River watershed has approximately 1 million acres of irrigated land.

The waste discharge requirements are the first in a series of such conditions which will address irrigated agricultural discharges throughout the Central Valley.

Farmers will be required to report their water quality protection practices to their respective coalition. And, growers who have not already implemented practices that protect water quality will be required to improve their practices. Because nitrates in groundwater are a serious concern in the Central Valley, all growers will be required to prepare nitrogen management plans. Farmers whose land lies above the most vulnerable groundwater aquifers will be required to submit information to the coalition on their nitrogen use efficiency. The coalition will prepare technical reports, conduct required studies and monitoring, and submit reports to the Central Valley Water Board on behalf of the growers.

The waste discharge requirements are the product of four years of dialogue among a variety of interested parties, as well as public input received at numerous Central Valley Water Board meetings.

"The Central Valley Water Board took an important step towards ensuring that our precious water resources are protected for current and future generations," said Pamela Creedon, Executive Officer of the Central Valley Water Board. "We are committed to continuing to partner with the agricultural community, our sister agencies, and the environmental and environmental justice community to make this work."

Creedon emphasized that protecting water quality and sustaining the agricultural economy are compatible goals.

"We need a clean and sustainable water source for all users of Central Valley waters including our drinking water supply, our industries, our fisheries, and agriculture. Equally important is our need for a vibrant agricultural sector that provides an economic engine for our Central Valley and feeds the citizens of our State, country, and the world," she said.

The Central Valley Water Board is a California state agency responsible for the preservation and enhancement of quality in water resources.

For more information visit: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/