

SAC-VALLEY NEWS

SVWQC actions, accomplishments, and updates

1.1+ MILLION IRRIGATED ACRES

7300+ PARTICIPANTS

11 SUBWATERSHEDS

2023 Participant List Submitted to the Regional Board on July 31, 2023

In July of each year, the Coalition prepares and submits an annual Participant List to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). The Participant List is a comprehensive list of all enrolled members, irrigated acres, and dropped members for the entire Coalition (11 Subwatersheds). This is an annual requirement for all Agricultural Water Quality Coalition Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), except the California Rice Commission. According to what was reported in the Coalition's 2023 Participant List, the Coalition comprises of **6,987 landowners** encompassing **3,353 APNs** and **1,141,381 irrigated acres**. As with past years, the 2023 Participant List demonstrated high overall required reporting rates for the Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) and continued engagement in outreach by members in all Subwatersheds.

Based on the information submitted in the Participant list, the Regional Board performs the following actions:

- Issue Reminder Letters and Notice of Violations (NOVs) to enrolled members who failed to submit reporting requirements as mandated.
- Issue Notices to Obtain Coverage to members who were dropped from the enrollment list for non-payment or non-responsiveness.
- Identify irrigated agricultural landowners that are not enrolled in a Coalition and/or do not have an individual permit and issue 13260 Directives to obtain regulatory coverage.
- The number of irrigated acres reported on the Participant List is used to generate the State Water Quality oversight fee invoice.

Generating the Coalition-wide list is a major undertaking each year. The Subwatershed staff's thorough work helps build an effective relationship with the Regional Board, allowing us to advance streamlining and other regulatory proposals to reduce Regional Board oversight.

For more information regarding the 2023 participant list, contact Chelsie Bryden (svwqccordinator@gmail.com, (916) 778-0993).



The latest in this issue:

COALITION 2023 PARTICIPANT LIST

REGIONAL BOARD TOURS

UNDERSTANDING CV-SALTS

IRRIGATED PASTURE UPDATE

GROUNDWATER QUALITY PROTECTION TARGETS

MEMBER

INFORMATION

EXTREME CAUTION NEEDED WITH PYRETHROIDS!!!

Regional Board Staff Tour the Colusa-Glenn and Butte-Yuba-Sutter Subwatersheds

On August 8, 2023 and August 15, 2023, Regional Board Staff toured the Colusa Glenn Subwatershed Program (CGSP) and Butte-Yuba-Sutter Subwatershed (BYS). Central Valley Regional Board Staff that attended the tours included Sue McConnell (Section Chief), Victor Bautista (Liaison to the Coalition), Petra Lee (Unit Chief), Bob Ditto (the head of outreach and compliance) and his staff (Gurbinder Dhaliwal, Jessa Rego and Dennis Costache). The Regional Board Staff expressed deep appreciation for hearing from CGSP and BYS Board Members, Ag Commissioners, Farm Bureau staff, and Subwatershed Staff about the outreach and education performed at the local level.

During the tour, the group visited CGSP's and BYS' representative surface monitoring sites, Walker Creek and Freshwater Creek for CGSP; and Lower Honcut, Pine Creek, and Lower Snake River for BYS. They especially appreciated seeing the monitoring sites in person, versus on a map. Sue mentioned that the Regional Board had predominantly featured CGSP's monitoring site Walker Creek as a Success Story for Chlorpyrifos on the Regional Board Irrigated Land's Webpage (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/success_stories/walker_creek_chlorpyrifos.pdf).

On August 9, the Coalition met with the Regional Board during a Quarterly Management Meeting and immediately saw benefits from the August 8 Tour with a productive discussion regarding streamlining some of the Coalition's annual surface water reports. All in all, the Tours were a shining success. The Coalition plans to schedule more tours in the Spring of 2024. The goal is to visit all 11 Subwatersheds to highlight the diversity and dedication of Sacramento Valley farmers and ranchers to protecting water quality.



CGSP President Larry Domenighini speaking to the CGSP Tour attendees at Walker Creek.



CGSP Tour attendees at Freshwater Creek.



BYS Board Member, Walt Stiles, speaking to BYS Tour attendees at Pine Creek.



BYS Tour attendees at Pine Creek.

Understanding CV-SALTS

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Central Valley Salinity Coalition have produced a video overview of the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) which can be found at this link: <https://norcalwater.us13.list-manage.com/track/click?u=35225c1378b7258a93ffb495e&id=54abde2964&e=4d56fdcd9a>. The video explains the history, focus on nitrate and salinity, and achievements of CV-SALTS. As a representative of dischargers, the Coalition has been participating in discussions and programs related to CV-SALTS for many years now while simultaneously working to independently characterize salts and nitrates in the Sacramento Valley to inform the CV-SALTS process.

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

Irrigated Pasture Update

Work continues to assess whether irrigated pasture in the NECWA Subwatershed (North Shasta, Lassen, and Modoc Counties) should be exempted from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, based on its low threat to water quality. Such a determination requires justification based on documentation of management practices, pesticide application, and nitrogen use. The research is being conducted by Ken Tate, Tina Saitone, Pam Giacomini, Tami Humphrey, and Regional Board staff. The Regional Board exempted the Goose Lake area in 2021 and the upper Feather River area in 2023. The Coalition is hopeful that a similar exemption will apply to the NECWA area in the coming year.

Regional Board Approves Proposed Groundwater Quality Protection Targets

On June 30, 2023 the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board conditionally approved the 13 Central Valley Agricultural Water Quality Coalition's (excludes the Rice Commission) proposed Groundwater Quality Protection Targets (GWPT). Targets are generated for Townships with High Vulnerability Areas (HVAs) for nitrates potentially impacting groundwater. based on the [Groundwater Quality Protection Values](#) submitted in July 2021 to the Regional Board. They are non-regulatory in nature but intended to ensure the protection of groundwater which is a source of drinking water. The proposed GWPTs build upon previous efforts of the 13 Central Valley Agricultural Water Quality Coalitions to quantify current township-scale nitrogen loading at the root zone based on grower-reported Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary data.

The framework used to develop the GWP Targets considers hydrologic and geologic conditions that govern recharge and groundwater flow, non-ILRP sources of nitrogen, and post-root zone attenuation. Coalitions are required to revise the GWPT, where necessary, every five years.

The GWPTs will be incorporated into individual Coalition's Groundwater Quality Management Plans with the condition that a workplan be developed to evaluate model uncertainties and describe future validation efforts. The results of this effort are expected to inform potential refinements to the next iteration of the GWP Targets, due 30 June 2028.

As with previous groundwater elements of the Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR), the various Environmental Justice organizations representing communities dependent on groundwater as their drinking water source commented extensively on the Targets.

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



Coalition Member Information Hub



PYRETHROIDS CONTINUE TO BE DETECTED IN SURFACE WATER MONITORING ON THE VALLEY FLOOR

Pyrethroid insecticides continue to be detected in the Coalition’s surface water quality monitoring, with some leading to exceedances of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program trigger limits for these insecticides. Because pyrethroids are extremely toxic to aquatic invertebrates, they have **VERY LOW TRIGGER LIMITS**. The Coalition is required to test both the water column and the sediment for potential toxicity and exceedances have been observed in both. In some cases, Management Plans have been triggered such as the BYS Subwatershed (Butte, Yuba, and Sutter Counties). Because of these Management Plans, growers in the BYS Subwatershed are subject to additional reporting, outreach, and costs. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS DURING APPLICATIONS TO AVOID MORE EXCEEDANCES AND ADDITIONAL MANAGEMENT PLANS.**

Below is a table showing 2023 Monitoring Year Pyrethroid Results through August 2023. In all events, pyrethroids were detected, with many detections resulting in exceedances. Additional pyrethroid and toxicity will be performed at the Pine Creek site only in September 2023.

2023 Monitoring Year Pyrethroid Results (through August 2023)

Event	Sample Date	Monitoring Site	Pyrethroids Detected	Pyrethroids Exceedance	Toxicity Observed
197	9/27/2022	Lower Snake River	Yes	No	No testing
	9/27/2022	Pine Creek	Yes	Chronic Exc	No testing
	9/28/2022	Grand Island Drain	Yes	No	No testing
201	1/18/2023	Lower Snake River	Yes	No	Toxicity <u>Not Observed</u>
205	5/16/2023	Lower Snake River	Yes	Chronic and Acute Exc	Water Column <i>Hyalella</i> Toxicity
	5/17/2023	Colusa Basin Drain	Yes	No	Toxicity <u>Not Observed</u>
206	6/20/2023	Pine Creek	Yes	Chronic Exc	No testing
207	7/19/23	Pine Creek	Yes	Chronic Exc	Toxicity <u>Not Observed</u>
		Lower Honcut Creek	No	No	Toxicity <u>Not Observed</u>
		Lower Snake River	Yes	No	Toxicity <u>Not Observed</u>
208	8/16/23	Lower Snake River	Yes	Chronic Exc	Toxicity <u>Not Observed</u>
		Pine Creek	Yes	Chronic Exc	Toxicity <u>Not Observed</u>

The 2023 Monitoring Year is a Core (Non-Assessment) monitoring year with reduced requirements to monitor for pyrethroid pesticides.

The six pyrethroids that are sampled for and examples of the products they can be found in are listed below:

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

General

Questions

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