

LATE SUMMER 2022



## Quarterly Newsletter



### Membership Overview:

**Enrolled Members - 748**  
**Enrolled Acres - 87,890**

### General Questions

[stwec.org](http://stwec.org)  
[info@stwec.org](mailto:info@stwec.org)  
530-527-4208



### **INMP Grower Self-Certification Training NOW 100% ONLINE!**

**The Coalition is excited to announce that as of September 2022, the Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Self-Certification Training and Exam are available to be completed 100% online.** After successfully completing the training and passing the exam, growers will be eligible to self-certify their INMP Worksheets. As a reminder, the certification requirement of the worksheet applies to members with parcels in high vulnerability areas (HVAs) for nitrogen. If desired, any member can take the **FREE** training at [www.svwqc.org](http://www.svwqc.org) under Outreach and Education.

# STWEC Summer 2022 Newsletter

## STWEC Drought Response

Please be assured that the STWEC Board and staff have carefully reviewed the preliminary 2023 budget. We are working on cost efficiency measures and reviewing the current refund policy. We are giving serious and careful thought to the continuing impact of the drought on members and the options that will work for both the members and the coalition.



## 2022 Participant List

*Submitted to the Regional Board on August 1, 2022*

In July of each year, the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition prepares and submits an annual participant list to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), which is an accounting of all active members, irrigated acres and dropped members for the entire Sacramento Valley Coalition consisting of 12 Subwatersheds (of which STWEC is one). This is a Regional Board requirement for all Agricultural Water Quality Coalition Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR).

### *The Importance of the Participant List*

Among other things, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) uses the Participant list to generate the Coalition's bill for the State Oversight Fee, which is paid directly to State Board. The information is also used to inform Regional Board enforcement actions to ensure 100% compliance with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. This includes enforcement for late or missing annual reports and/or members dropped for non-payment, non-responsiveness or other unknown reasons. **Perhaps most importantly, the participant list demonstrates that statewide a large majority of landowners in the Sacramento Valley are in compliance with state regulations and seek to be responsible and responsive to the best of their ability.**

### *2022 Enrollment Summary*

According to the 2022 Participant List, STWEC is comprised of 750 members encompassing 2,629 APNs and 87,890 irrigated acres. While the number of members has noticeably dropped, enrolled acreage in the Coalition remains fairly even when compared to 2021, despite the many hardships growers faced in the past year including economic uncertainty and drought. Small family farms continue to make up a majority of the Coalition's membership, with just under 48% of enrolled memberships **at less** than 25 irrigated acres, this percentage continues to go down. Our members with **greater than** 100 irrigated acres now account for 22% of enrolled memberships and this percentage continues to rise.

## President's Message

My fellow farmers and ranchers,

Once again, I thank you for your membership in Shasta-Tehama and for proving that with responsible agricultural operations we are not a threat to the environment. It's been a long and arduous journey since 2004 when the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) began. Around 2010 the State Water Resources Control Board added another word to the program. That word is "Regulatory", and it has become the focus of the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) for over the past decade. We all have felt the impact of added regulations in meeting required documentation, reporting and of course the increased cost to stay in compliance with the program...Fifty dollars as a member and twelve cents an acre has increased to a hundred eighty dollars and nearly three dollars an acre and the cost will likely increase. The newest regulation is well water testing for domestic wells on a program enrolled parcel. We are told that sample testing only cost around eighty dollars per year, such an insignificant cost, so they say...

I for one am extremely frustrated with the ILRP and the failure of the Regional Water Board's efforts to enforce non-members to join and support the costs of our third-party coalition. I have heard you loudly at our meetings and voiced our concerns with the Enforcement Arm of the Regional Board many times. There has been little or NO noticeable enforcement action in our area for over four years! I know you all have neighbors who are not enrolled in the coalition, and it is a burr under your saddle as it is mine.

As a STWEC Board member for over 12 years and your STWEC Board President for the past 5 years. I cannot say it's been a pleasurable fight, but I am truly humbled and honored to have had your trust in our fight for reasonable regulations. With the recent election of the STWEC Board of Directors I have passed the position of president to your newly appointed President, Sam Mudd and trust he will continue the efforts of your Board to provide the absolute minimal cost for each of you to maintain compliance with the ILRP. I will leave your Board in May 2023 at the end of my elected term.

I also wish to thank our staff at the Resource Conservation District of Tehama County for their hard work in helping our Board get through some very difficult decisions that affect all of us. Each and every one of them has contributed to that effort.

I sincerely hope the fruits of your efforts are bountiful and you all stay healthy in this world of uncertainty.

Thank you all for letting me serve you,

Ron Keown



# STWEC Summer 2022 Newsletter

## On-Farm Drinking Water Well Requirement

Annual monitoring of on-farm drinking water wells for Nitrate + Nitrite as Nitrogen on **ENROLLED** parcels is required of all Coalition members by December 31, 2022. A drinking water well is defined as a well used for drinking or cooking. More information can be found at the Central Valley Water Board's Drinking Water Well Monitoring website at [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/irrigated\\_lands/drinking\\_water/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/drinking_water/). The website contains an overview of the requirements, a list of ELAP-certified labs and FAQs. If you have specific questions pertaining to your operation, you may reach out to the STWEC team or contact the Regional Board.

Our Regional Board contact is:

### **Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program**

Email: [IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov)

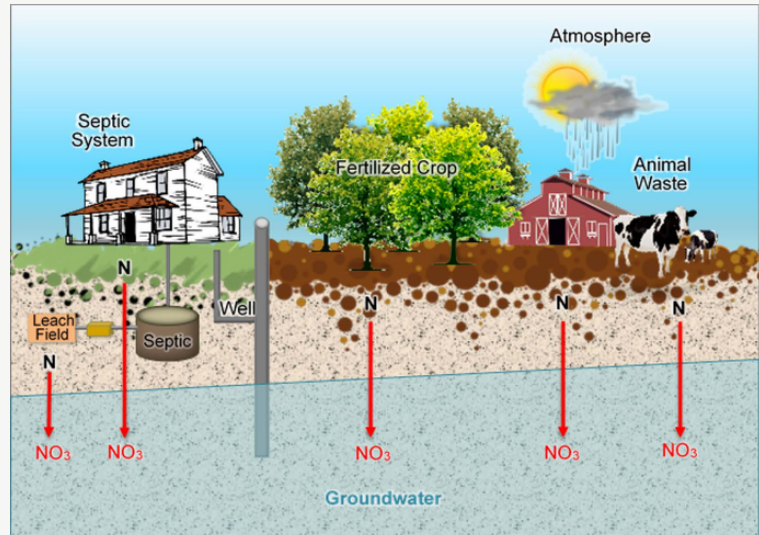
General Line: 916-464-4611

### **Shasta and Tehama Counties**

Gurbinder Dhaliwal

Email: [Gurbinder.Dhaliwal@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Gurbinder.Dhaliwal@waterboards.ca.gov)

Direct Line: 916-502-5501



PO Box 933  
Red Bluff, CA 96080  
530-527-4208  
[info@stwec.org](mailto:info@stwec.org)

**Our next Board Meeting will be held:**  
**November 9, 2022 // 8 am // 2 Sutter St. Conference Room**  
**Red Bluff, CA 96080**