



1.2+ MILLION IRRIGATED ACRES

8,700+ PARTICIPANTS

13 SUBWATERSHEDS

Regional Board Approves ILRP Exemption for Irrigated Pasture in Goose Lake

On August 13, 2021, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board unanimously approved an exemption for the Goose Lake Area of the Sacramento Valley Coalition from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). The exemption was based on recommendations from Dr. Ken Tate (UCCE), Tina Saitone (UCCE), and Pam Giacomini, whose work demonstrated that irrigated pasture in the area poses a low threat to water quality based on the following: 1) no external sources of nitrogen are applied, 2) no pesticides are applied. The economic impacts of the ILRP on irrigated pasture were also considered. This exemption marks a huge victory for growers in the Goose Lake Area and for the Coalition, who have tirelessly advocated that program requirements should match the risk to water quality. Years of tours, field visits, and testimony by Herb Jasper, Pam Giacomini, Tami Humphry, Ed Sills, Carol Dobbas, RCD partners, UC Cooperative Extension, and countless ranchers, coupled with water quality results, gave the Regional Board staff the full understanding required to make the recommendation. Similar work to document and justify exemptions is underway in the Upper Feather River, Pit River, Western Shasta, and the foothills.



The latest in this month's issue:

IRRIGATED PASTURE EXEMPTION FOR THE GOOSE LAKE SUBWATERSHED

2021 PARTICIPANT LIST

REGIONAL BOARD UPDATE

- ENGAGEMENT
- STRATEGIC PLANNING

THE STATE WATER QUALITY FEE AND COST OF COMPLIANCE

WETLANDS AND DUCK CLUB EXEMPTION

MEMBER INFORMATION

- MANAGEMENT PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATION REPORT (MPIR)
- MEMBER REPORTING
- PYRETHROID MONITORING

2021 Participant List Submitted on August 2, 2021

The Coalition submitted the annual 2021 Participant List to the Regional Board on August 2, 2021. The Participant List is a comprehensive list of all enrolled members, enrolled parcels, and irrigated acres. Based on the information submitted, the Regional Board performs the following:

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

Coalition Leadership Meets with Regional Board Members to Showcase the Sacramento Valley

The Coalition continually strives to develop strong working relationships with not only Regional Board staff but also with Regional Board Members themselves. Over the years, Coalition Leadership has met and toured with Regional Board Members to share the Coalition's vision for the program, raise concerns and questions regarding policies, and foster an understanding and respect between the regulator and regulated.

To this end, on June 10 and 11 Coalition leadership, growers, and consultants met with newly appointed Regional Board Members Nick Avdis and Sean Yang, and current Regional Board Member Mark Bradford. All three Board Members have a personal connection to agriculture. Board Member Avdis runs a 27-acre livestock operation in the PNSSNS subwatershed, Board Member Yang can trace his agricultural heritage to his Hmong family who settled in the Central Valley, and Board member Bradford's inlaws farm a rice operation near the Woodland bypass.

The June 10 meeting with Board Members Avdis and Bradford took place at Pleasant Grove Farms, a 3000-acre diversified farm run by Ed Sills. Ed is a third-generation farmer and the President of the PNSSNS Subwatershed. Pleasant Grove Farms grows rice, organic popcorn, beans, wheat, and triticale.

The June 11 meeting with Board Member Yang took place at McConnell Estates, where Mike Wackman's family has farmed north of the Cosumnes River since the 1870s.

The tours established stronger connections with the Regional Board Members and showcased Sacramento Valley farming's history of protecting water quality (both surface and groundwater). A farming history that has resulted in the reduction of surface water quality management plans and only 0.3% of over 70,000 pesticide analyses exceeding water quality objectives.

These relationships will be an important part of the Coalition's success moving forward. Especially in light of the fact that earlier this year, the Regional Board embarked on a [Strategic Planning Process](#) focused on the following:

- Adaptive Prioritization - Tailoring permits, enforcement, and planning based on threat to water quality
- Strategic engagement with underserved and underrepresented
- Development of a climate change dashboard/portal
- Internal process improvements to achieve greater efficiency and higher employee engagement
- Increasing stakeholder satisfaction with Board processes

The Regional Board will consider adopting these Strategic Objects on October 14 and 15, 2021 in Redding, CA.

Coalition Signs on to Joint Letter Requesting Delay in State Water Quality Fee Increase

The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition joined other Central Valley Agricultural Water Quality Coalitions in sending the State Water Resources Control Board a letter requesting no State Water Quality fee increase in 2021. Additionally, NCWA on behalf of the Coalition sent a letter to the Co-chairs of the California Budget Committees, requesting a General Fund Allocation of \$10 million to offset the millions of dollars in costs Coalition members spend annually to benefit drinking water and ecosystem health. The State Water Board staff proposed an increase of 9%, resulting in a fee of \$0.98 per acre for irrigated pasture and \$1.16 per acre for all other crops. These fees are only the State oversight fees which are paid directly to the State and do not include Coalition or local costs. With some growers in the San Joaquin and Tulare Lake Region paying close to \$7 an acre to the ILRP

there is a renewed effort to look at the cost of compliance both at the State Water Board and California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Being the largest water quality coalition in the State, the Coalition is not only engaged in these conversations but driving them and hopes to relay positive news and signals soon.

Possible Exemptions Coming Soon for Wetlands and Duck Clubs

The Central Valley Regional Board is considering removing managed wetlands and duck clubs from coverage under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, once again based on a low threat to water quality. The Coalition has approximately 30,000 acres of enrolled wetlands across its 13 Subwatersheds. The item will be discussed at the October Regional Board meeting in Redding, CA. Should the item be approved, the Coalition will celebrate yet another victory for the reduction of regulations where no threat to water quality is observed.



Coalition Member Information Hub



NEW! Management Practice Implementation Report (MPIR)

The MPIR is a new report that is required by the Coalition's ILRP General Order. There are two categories:

1. Members in areas determined to be at high risk for groundwater quality impairment will be required to complete a groundwater MPIR
2. Members in areas with a surface water quality management plan will be required to complete a surface water MPIR ***

The MPIR requirement is in addition to already existing reporting requirements.

Your local Subwatershd will notify you if your property falls into either of these categories and provide you with the information and assistance needed to meet this requirement.

***The most effective way to avoid triggering the need for a surface water MPIR is to employ best management practices to avoid exceedances and management plans.

IMPORTANT!

BE CAUTIOUS DURING APPLICATION SEASON

The Coalition is entering the first of two years of assessment monitoring (monitoring season runs from October-September), during which a broader range of constituents will be monitored. Among these are pyrethroids, which have a very low exceedance threshold. **During the application season, be sure to exercise caution and follow all laws and guidelines to avoid exceedances and triggering additional regulatory requirements!**

Examples of Pyrethroids

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

Preparation for 2021- 2022 Reporting Season

The next reporting season will be upon us before we know it. While the Farm Evaluation Plan will not need to be completed this year, the following reports are required for **ALL MEMBERS**:

- Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Worksheet (INMP Worksheet) - Keep on-farm, do not turn in to the Coalition
- Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report (INMPSR) - Turn in to the Coalition
- Confirmation of participant in an outreach event
- Timely payment of membership invoice

Your local Subwatershed will provide you with more details regarding deadlines and how to complete the requirements.

Remember, we are here to make participation in the ILRP as easy as possible and we appreciate your cooperation!

General Questions

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https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/