



## Member Updates

### Regional Water Quality Control Board Enforcement

**Failure to Submit Required Reports:** The Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) recently issued fine notification letters to fifty-five (55) STWEC members who failed to submit 2014 and 2015 Farm Evaluations as mandated. After STWEC staff followed-up with those who received letters, nearly 75% of these individuals now comply. Fines for those that do not comply are subject to the Regional Board's \$1,000 per day penalty.

**Compliance Inspections:** The Regional Board conducted ten site inspections on the enrolled parcels of STWEC members in April and May 2017. During this time members of the Colusa-Glenn Watershed Coalition (CGWC) underwent inspections as well. The CGWC recently received notification from the Regional Board that a second round of inspections will take place on five different member parcels in Glenn County this August. STWEC anticipates a second round of inspections as well before the close of the calendar year. Note, STWEC staff will notify members in advance if selected for the Regional Board's site inspections.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Be prepared! The member is the farm operation expert; be apprised of on-farm practices and note any changes.
- Create a STWEC Irrigated lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) file and keep on-farm. It should include the required reporting documents; all Farm Evaluations, a Farm map with wells indicated, Nitrogen Management Plan Worksheet and NMP Certification (if applicable), Nitrogen Management Summary (if applicable), Sediment and Erosion Control Plan Worksheet and Certification (if applicable). You will be asked to present these documents in the event of a site inspection.

### Sediment & Erosion Control Plan (SECP)

**Self-Certification Training:** The next SECP Self-Certification Training will be held Thursday, October 26, 2017 at the Red Bluff Community Center, 1500 S. Jackson St., Red Bluff. Registration and breakfast will be from 8:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. The training will start promptly at 9 a.m. followed by the exam. Members must pass the test to certify their own SECP. Space is limited, please reserve your seat by October 16th with STWEC at (530) 527-4208.

The previous SECP Self-Certification Training and exam was held the morning of June 7th at the Rolling Hills Casino conference room. Presently a majority of STWEC member parcels have been identified as requiring a SECP. Approximately 13% of these STWEC members identified as requiring a SECP attended the Workshop. All 100 members that took the exam following the training passed allowing them to certify their own SECP.

**Exemption Update:** The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) has challenged the Regional Board's refusal to qualify irrigated lands with permanent pasture and cover crops as being exempt from the SECP requirement. A formal exemption request with justification has been developed and submitted to the Regional Board. There are other additional conditions being disputed of which may also affect the present SECP requirement. The SVWQC will keep STWEC and fellow subwatersheds posted on the outcome. SECP forms and more information are available on the Member Requirements tab at [www.STWEC.org](http://www.STWEC.org). Please contact staff to answer any questions you may have at (530) 527-4208.

### Member Database Upgrade

The Regional Board's Waste Discharge Order requirements exceeds the capabilities of STWEC's current database software. Fortunately, the STWEC board was aware of the requirement's complexities and need for suitable data management software and therefore budgeted for a software upgrade to meet future data management expansion. The board is considering a new web-based tool that will better serve members and staff as well as ease reporting at both levels. A committee has been formed to further examine specifications and benefit- cost ratio of the proposed software purchase.

## Message from the President

**CORRECTION:** The county of directors R. Keown and H. Crain were incorrectly stated in the Spring 2017 newsletter. The current STWEC board follows as corrected:

Paul Bertagna Shasta Co.	President
Ron Keown Shasta Co.	Vice President
Larry Solberg Shasta Co.	Treasurer
Sam Mudd Tehama Co.	Secretary
Hal Crain Tehama Co.	Board Member

I commend the Sacramento Valley's Water Quality Coalition's ongoing effort to work with the Regional Board in understanding the disconnect in basing the Sediment and Erosion Control Plan (SECP) requirements on the RUSLE equation. In addition they continue to work with the Regional Board in gaining SECP exemption for permanent pasture and cover crop. We are hopeful that the SVWQC will be successful in convincing the Regional Board to honor the exemption request.

As always, members are welcome to join the bi-monthly board meetings and we would appreciate any comments you may have.



Paul J. Bertagna  
President STWEC Board of Directors



Shasta Tehama Watershed Education Coalition

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«Fname» «Lname»  
«ADDR1»  
«CITY», «ST» «ZIP10»

### **Next SECP Self-Certification Training:**

Thursday, October 26, 2017 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Red Bluff | Space is limited, reserve your seat by Oct 16<sup>th</sup> at (530) 527-4208

### **Next Board Meeting:**

Wednesday, September 13, 2017 8 a.m. | USDA Conference Room | 2 Sutter Street | Red Bluff, CA 96080