

May 2007

Dear Members and Friends of the Subwatershed Group:

As a subwatershed in the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC), 74% of your membership fees goes towards water quality testing in the rural areas of Placer, Nevada, South Sutter, and North Sacramento counties. Our subwatershed tests its waters during three different time periods. The first measures a “storm event” and is usually conducted in February after or during heavy rains. The second is an “irrigation sample” and is taken sometime in May through July after irrigation has begun. The third test is completed at the “end of irrigation” in September.

In July of 2006, two samples from Coon Creek at Striplin Road revealed an exceedance of E. Coli. On February 10, 2007 DNA fingerprint tests were completed for human, bovine, and chicken E. Coli. Tests showed no bovine or chicken E. Coli. However 50% of the E. Coli is from humans.

It appears that E. Coli in Coon Creek may be an ongoing problem as it continues to show up in test results. Potential human DNA sources include leaky sanitary sewer lines, leaky rural septic systems, illegal dumping of human waste, water treatment plant discharges or direct deposition of fecal material in the water from a human.

Sometime in August, the analytical laboratory will produce a final report. This will be presented to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board). They will involve the county or state government to pursue septic or waste water agencies upstream of the Striplin Road test site.

We will be publishing a Subwatershed Group newsletter detailing information from the SVWQC, the Regional Water Board, as well as Best Management Practices(BMPs) to avoid putting further pollutants into our waters. We will also keep our website www.cleanwaters.info updated.

Please call 916-645-1774 or email cleanwaters@netscape.com with any questions or concerns.