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**Our mission** is to pay for water testing, educate members on better management practices to keep our waters clean, inform our members of troubled waters, and work with environmental and government organizations to maintain clean waters.

The PNSSNS Subwatershed Group is one of ten subwatersheds in the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition authorized to provide a discharge waiver as required by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Our diverse membership represents both large and small farmers, organic farmers, rural property owners, nature and hunting preserves, animal rescue groups, country clubs, water districts and some who simply support self-monitoring to keep our waters clean.

Published by:  
PNSSNS Subwatershed Group  
[www.cleanwaters.info](http://www.cleanwaters.info)

With Support from:  
The United Auburn  
Indian Community



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## Who Should Belong to this Subwatershed?

If you are filing a schedule 1040F form on your federal income tax returns and use irrigation water, surface water, or well water, and have water discharge from your property, including storm season runoff, then you are required to obtain a discharge waiver. Under the umbrella of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC), in 2003 the PNSSNS Subwatershed Group was formed as a non-profit 501C3 organization and acquired Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) authorization to provide discharge waivers via membership in the Subwatershed Group.

Any new member must first obtain Regional Water Board approval to join the Subwatershed Group. Two forms (ILP-5.1 and ILP-5.0) must be filled out and submitted to the Regional Water Board. Go to [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/programs/irrigated\\_land\\_s/index.html](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/programs/irrigated_land_s/index.html) to download forms. You may also send an email request to

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## First Annual Meetings Held

In February 2007, Board President Kirk Scilacci conducted the first annual membership meetings which targeted both large and small farmers and landowners. Several guest speakers including Parry Klassen, Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES); Tamara Taliaferro, CURES; Cindy Fake, Placer/Nevada UC Small Farms Advisor; Roger Ingram, Nevada County UC Farm Advisor; Jodi Pontureri and Petra Lee, Regional Water Board presented information regarding the Irrigated Lands Program and Best Management Practices. This article and future newsletters will address members' questions.

Who appointed you God? How did you get to be on the Board of Directors? Kirk and current Director Bonnie Ferreira began attending Regional Water Board meetings in 2003. They became concerned that an "agriculture unfriendly" group could run this program. In such case, the cost to farmers could be as prohibitive as getting an individual discharge waiver from the Regional Water Board. Kirk and Bonnie convinced Tom Aguilar, Mike Daddow, Alan Lauppe, and Frank Correira to serve on the Board of Directors and ante-up start up costs to form a 501C3 non-profit

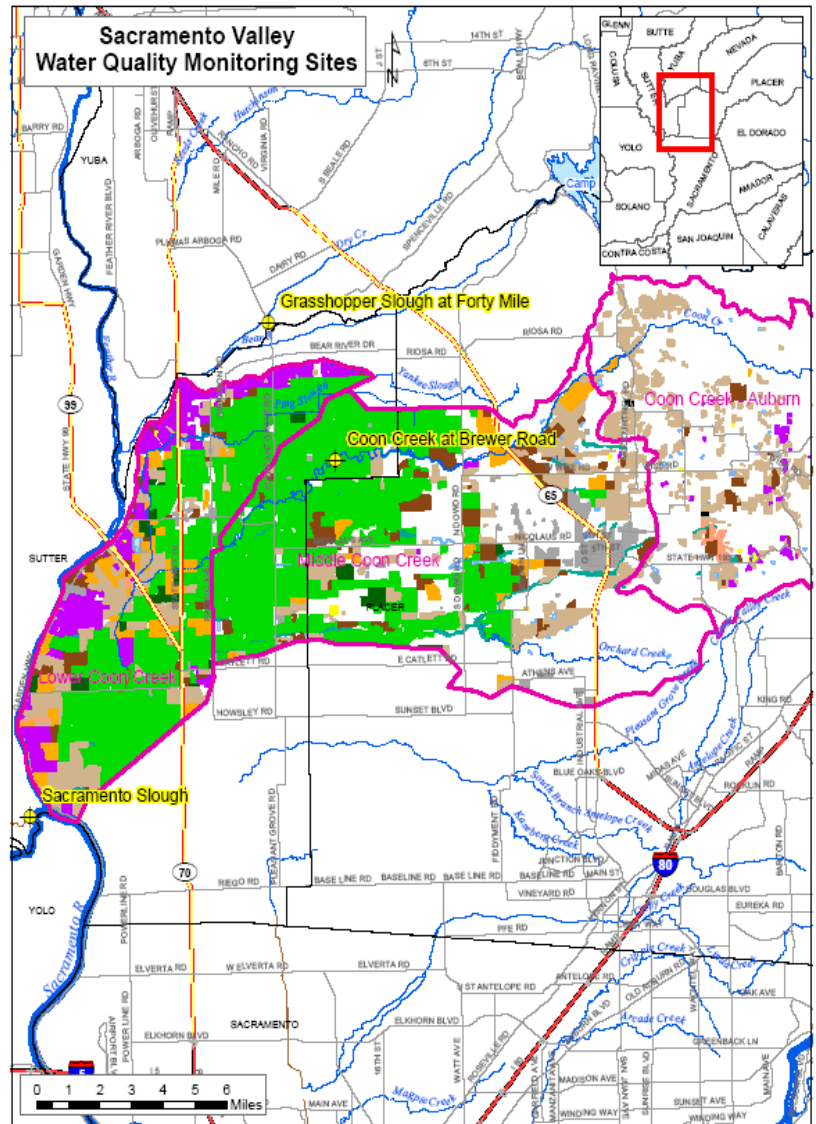
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## Water Sampling Sites

The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) has identified seven drainage sites within the PNSSNS Subwatershed to be monitored for agricultural pollutants. These sites represent the largest amount of agricultural discharge. Each year any one of these locations may be chosen for testing. The sites are listed in priority order below.

	Total Drainage Acres	Irrigated Acres
<i>Lower Coon Creek</i>	35,609	18,827
<i>Natomas</i>	53,164	16,414
<i>Middle Coon Creek</i>	64,968	11,669
<i>Pleasant Grove Cr.</i>	50,492	8,285
<i>Coon Creek/Auburn</i>	68,474	8,887
<i>Dry Creek Sacto</i>	132,045	5,942
<i>Secret Ravine</i>	37,409	3,658

For the past two years water samples were tested from Coon Creek at Striplin and (new 2007 site) Brewer Roads. The water was tested for several pollutants including physical parameters such as dissolved oxygen, pesticides, trace elements such as copper and arsenic, nutrients and E. Coli bacteria. ≈



**2007 – 2008  
Fee Schedule**  
Due before Nov. 15, 2007

Annual Dues = \$55.00  
Irrigated Acreage Fees

1 – 10 acres = \$10.00  
11 – 20 acres = \$15.00  
21 – 40 acres = \$20.00  
41 – 80 acres = \$40.00

More than 80 acres =  
50¢ per acre

**\$55 + Acreage Fee =  
Total Membership Dues**

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[cleanwaters@netscape.com](mailto:cleanwaters@netscape.com) or call 916-645-1774 and staff at the Subwatershed Group will send appropriate forms to you. The Regional Water Board will notify both you and the Subwatershed Group when your application has been approved. At that time a discharge waiver, which is also the Subwatershed Group’s membership card, will be processed immediately. If you are already a member, you will receive renewal information during our annual membership drive held October to December.

Many members report that they know individuals who are required to hold a discharge waiver but who are ignoring this issue in hopes it will go away. We suspect a few hundred individuals have not joined yet. Please tell your neighbors and friends to join. The more who sign up, the more water monitoring expenses can be distributed, keeping our fees low. ≈

## Deadline Increases Subwatershed Acreage

A rush of coalition sign-ups ahead of the December 31, 2006 deadline boosted acreage covered under the Irrigated Lands Program discharge waiver. This deadline, set last August by the Regional Water Board, was intended to convince those who were indecisive to either sign-up with a coalition or file for individual permits. The PNSSNS Subwatershed irrigated acres increased from 20,830 to 37,697 acres. This boost in acreage can be credited, at least in part, to the “ding” letters sent to many landowners. Known as a “California Water Code 13267 Letter,” the registered letters asked landowners to file a “Technical Report” within 30 days so the Regional Water Board could determine if the landowner is a discharger under the water code. Several options for responding to the technical report included: provide proof of membership in an approved watershed coalition (PNSSNS Subwatershed Group); reporting that they had filed for “Individual Discharger Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements”; or reporting that they had filed a “Report of Waste Discharge” with the Regional Water Board.

Although acreage increased as more large landowners joined, actual individual memberships remained just under 2004-05 totals at approximately 800 members. It is estimated that there are a few hundred landowners who have not yet obtained a discharge waiver but are required to do so. The PNSSNS Board of Directors expects to coordinate with the County Supervisors, Agriculture Commissioners, and Water Distributors to communicate with landowners who may need a discharge waiver. ≈

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organization authorized by the Regional Water Board to issue discharge waivers.

Kirk adhered to the KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid) motto. Too many board members would slow down the process and it would cost too much money to send ballots to vote in new board members, thus the board has remained closed for three years. However, now that the organization is up and running, the board is changing the bylaws to reflect a fair turnover policy that will continue the representation of both large and small farmers from each county. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please call 916-645-1774 or email [cleanwaters@netscape.com](mailto:cleanwaters@netscape.com)

Does this program really concern me with 2 lousy acres of organic kiwi? Yes. Certainly a lone organic farmer is considered a very low threat to our waters. However, multiplied by the hundreds of small farmers and rural property owners “doing their own thing” the possibility of negative impact on our waters becomes greater. The water is tested for both chemical and organic compounds including water temperature, turbidity, dissolved oxygen, dissolved solids and organic carbon. A discharge waiver is required for anyone who uses irrigation water, surface water, or well water and/or has storm season runoff.

Why are “they” picking on agriculture? Agriculture has been exempt (with the exception of rice farmers) from monitoring its discharged waters. Every other industry and municipality has been required to test its waters and clean it up when problems arise. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated that all states must maintain clean waters. About five years ago, California’s Regional Water Board started requiring discharge waivers to make agriculture accountable for pollutants being discharged into the water. Agriculture is just the last industry to begin monitoring its waters. ≈



*UC Davis Farm Advisor, Roger Ingram makes a point at a member meeting as Tom Aguilar looks on.*

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*Our Motto...*

**KISS**

*(Keep It Simple Stupid)*

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## Contact Information

### Board of Directors

**President - *Kirk Scilacci***  
Placer County, rice and wheat grower

**Vice President - *Alan Lauppe***  
Sacramento County, diversified farmer

**Treasurer - *Tom Aguilar***  
Placer County, mandarin grower

**Secretary - *Mike Daddow***  
Sutter County, diversified farmer

**Director - *Frank Correia***  
Placer County, cattle rancher

**Director - *Bonnie Ferreira***  
Placer County, diversified/cattle rancher

**Director - *Gerald Bushore***  
Nevada County, rancher

Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition  
Tina Lunt [tlunt@norcalwater.org](mailto:tlunt@norcalwater.org)  
[www.svwqc.org](http://www.svwqc.org)

Northern California Water Association  
916-442-8333 [www.norcalwater.org](http://www.norcalwater.org)

Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental  
Stewardship (CURES)  
Parry Klassen 559-646-2224  
[pklassen@unwiredbb.com](mailto:pklassen@unwiredbb.com)

### Agricultural Commissioners

**Placer County -**  
*Christine Turner* [cturner@placer.ca.gov](mailto:cturner@placer.ca.gov)

**Nevada County -**  
*Jeff Pylman* [agdept@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:agdept@co.nevada.ca.us)

**Sutter County -**  
*Mark Quisenberry* [mquis@co.sutter.ca.us](mailto:mquis@co.sutter.ca.us)

**Sacramento County -**  
*Frank Carl* [carlf@sacounty.net](mailto:carlf@sacounty.net)

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control  
Board  
Irrigated Lands Program 916-464-4611



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