



PNSSNS

SUBWATERSHED GROUP

PLACER | NEVADA | SOUTH SUTTER | NORTH SACRAMENTO

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PNSSNS MEMBER UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2016

It is Membership time again! Invoices have been included in this packet and are due October 1st and late by November 13th. A \$50 late fee per parcel will be assessed if not received by November 13th.

Updates from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program:

1. We thank so many of you for your letters and responses sent to the State Water Board and Central Valley Regional Water Board. As you may remember, the **State Water Board has proposed a revised Waste Discharge Order** to the East San Joaquin water quality coalition that is precedential" with the expectations this would apply to all of us. The State Water Board is expected to publish a revised draft proposed Order sometime this Fall. They are really focused on the use of nitrogen and the possibility of it leaching into groundwater/ drinking water.
2. PNSSNS has yet to hear back from the Central Valley Regional Water Board about our **Reduced Monitoring Plan**. They are focusing on the pesticide and nitrogen use among growers of orchards and vegetable row crops. These discussions are continuing and we will report the final response when we get one. It seems the regional board staff so far, are not questioning that Nevada County and much of Placer County should be low vulnerability for Surface Water Quality impacts.
3. **Farm Evaluation Plans (FEPs)** for those that get approved by the regional waterboard as low vulnerability may only have to complete one every five years. For those in **south Sutter** and **north Sacramento** areas of PNSSNS will most likely be required to **complete one annually beginning this year**. Irrigated pasture in these areas do not have to complete one. Forms are on www.cleanwaters.info and **please date and sign and RETURN to PNSSNS**.
4. **Nitrogen Management Plans** are required for **everyone to complete annually** and retain on site. If you do not use nitrogen, check the box and keep a copy. If you apply Nitrogen, you must report what you apply and then report your **crop yields** not Nitrogen Removed. There is a panel of experts trying to develop formulas per crop and an acceptable ratio of nitrogen use. The purpose is so that growers only apply an amount of nitrogen that can used efficiently by the crop at the optimum time to avoid any excess nitrogen leaching into groundwater. **Nitrogen Management forms** can be found on the website and we will update this as we get more information. Somehow, PNSSNS will be required to report the Summary Nitrogen Use. Stay tuned...