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Message from Ed Sills
PNSSNS President and Organic Farmer in Sutter County

Our mission is to support our agricultural growers and producers, assisting them with compliance in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program through information, education and resources for technical assistance to ensure good water quality throughout the watershed.

The PNSSNS Subwatershed Group is one of thirteen subwatersheds in the northern Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition under the Waste Discharge Order as required by the State and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Boards. Our diverse membership represents both large and small farmers and ranchers including organic growers and managed wetlands. The crops represented include pastures/ livestock, wine grapes, orchards, row crops, vines and managed wetlands. Our members continue to work diligently to protect our clean waters and keep our lands healthy.

On behalf of the PNSSNS Board of Directors, I want to thank all of you for the good work you do on your farms and ranches. Your investments in conservation practices that protect soil and water are a necessary part of any successful agricultural operation. We're proud to represent you in this program.

The PNSSNS Directors have again approved to keep your annual dues at a reduced rate over the past several years. Invoices are due October 1st and you have until November 20th to get them paid. An organization funded by farmers and ranchers should not be building its resources up when many of its members are struggling. This has definitely been a challenging year with the Covid-19 virus, a drought year along with fires this summer consuming farmland and rangeland and tough financial times for many.

The upcoming new year, which begins October 1st, will be the 2nd consecutive "non-assessment" monitoring and sampling year. Unfortunately, the waterboard has tasked us with increased sampling for pyrethroids. These are very costly tests and thus far there have been no exceedances from agriculture in our area. Please continue to be diligent when spraying or applying any pesticides or fertilizer especially near a water body.

Keep up the good conservation work and utilizing best management practices, as well as have a good Fall harvest season!

PNSSNS
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 Sutter County, Organic Diversified Grower

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Lesa Osterholm, Grass Valley

Website for info and forms
www.cleanwaters.info

Contact PNSSNS

916-645-1774
 or

pnssnssubwatershed@gmail.com

2020-21 Regulatory Requirements and New Online Reporting

PNSSNS recently purchased the new **Data Management Tool** from Land IQ consultants and our members will begin using it this fall, approximately November 1st. When it becomes available to members, PNSSNS will provide each member with a username and password to enter your information and fill out any needed reports. This new, online data tool will make reporting much easier than the past, as it will have your parcel information entered in the reports for you and show you the previous year's information. **You should always make copies for your records.**

*****PNSSNS will also be available to help anyone without internet service, computers or those that need assistance filling out the forms and using the online data management tool.

ALL members need to fill out the following reports this year:

All reports are to be completed by 12-31-20 online !!!

1. After November 1st, carefully **review your Member information online especially your parcel numbers**. They **MUST** be in the exact format from your county property tax information. Please update your address, email and phone numbers so we may contact you if needed.
2. **All members** must report on a new online form **Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP)**. The online database will prompt you to fill it out. This is where you will report your **nitrogen only use**, not total fertilizer amounts. If you have **irrigated pasture** and do not add any external nitrogen, you just put 0 nitrogen use (same with alfalfa). **The information for nitrogen use is from the 2020 crop year.**

If you have a parcel in a **High Vulnerability Area (HVA)**, the online data tool will prompt you that you need to either self-certify your report or have someone certified to sign on your behalf. HVA areas for nitrogen use is concerned with the potential of nitrogen to leach past the root zone and possibly get into ground water. Use the proper amount and at the correct times for the plants to utilize it.

3. **Farm Evaluation Reports** are also due and again, can be filled out online. This report is due every five years and asks some questions about your **irrigation well**.
4. **Sediment and Erosion Control Plans** should have been completed by ALL members previously, but you can use the new online data tool to complete one or update your plan, remember to keep copies for your own records on site. This is a requirement of the waterboard for all members.

IRRIGATED PASTURE "EXEMPTION" UPDATE

PNSSNS Executive Director Lesa Osterholm and Board members have been very involved in **requesting that ALL irrigated pasture be exempted** in the Sacramento Valley Coalition. While the Regional waterboard has heard this several times, they have instructed waterboard staff to bring a recommendation back to the waterboard this fall. UCCE staff have recently completed a pilot study in the Goose Lake area for irrigated pasture, hay and alfalfa for a possible exemption. There have been no recommendations from waterboard staff to the waterboard at this time. Therefore, **ALL members with irrigated pasture MUST pay your annual dues again this year.** Please stay tuned and we will continue to advocate for an exemption or waiver due to the positive benefits derived from irrigated pasture that should dismiss you from this regulatory program IF you continue to practice best management practices. Stay tuned....
