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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 Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Our diverse membership represents both large and small farmers and ranchers including organic growers. The crops represented include pastures/ livestock, orchards, row crops, vines and managed wetlands. Our members continue to work diligently to protect our clean waters and keep our lands healthy.

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Our **Annual Membership Meeting is Wednesday, February 21st** at the Western Placer Waste Management Authority (the Dump)
 3033 Fiddymnt Rd, Roseville, CA 95747.

The **meeting starts at 10am** with good presentations, information and time for questions and answers. We hope to see you all there!

2017 WATER QUALITY MONITORING RESULTS

The 2017 Monitoring Year under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) was a reduced monitoring year called Non-Assessment. PNSSNS sampled four times for field and in-stream parameters only. Walter Clevenger, PNSSNS' biologist/soil scientist completed the sampling for pH, dissolved oxygen, electrical conductivity, temperature of water and ambient air temp and measured the water flows. Monitoring was conducted in April, May, July and September during the typical irrigation months. All results were good.

A full Assessment monitoring year is ongoing now for 2018 with ten monitoring and sampling events throughout the year testing for soil and water samples checking for any pesticide, chemical or metal residue or toxicity. There have not been any exceedances in many years- keep up the good work and the safe use of any pesticide, if applied.



President's Message From Ed Sills. Pleasant Grove Farms

The PNSSNS Board of Directors wants to thank all of you for the good work you have done and the efforts put forth to be compliant with this Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. We understand there continues to be increased costs, increased reporting requirements and much of your private information now has the possibility of being made public by the waterboards. We invest time to support you, support good water quality in our region and advocate to minimize any unnecessary requirements. I want to summarize the actions the PNSSNS Board of Directors took on your behalf:

- 🐞 Discussed concerns with the levels of reporting a member must pay for and how the local information is diluted or can be lost when it finally gets compiled with all other subwatersheds for final reporting to the regional waterboard. Member → PNSSNS (which holds all member information) → Sacramento Valley Coalition (SVWQC) via various consultants → final reports to Central Valley Regional Waterboard
- 🐞 In the 2014 Waste Discharge Order by the waterboard, it allows the process for a subwatershed or other entity to become its own Third Party (as SVWQC is now) by submitting a Notice of Applicability (NOA). Our board has heard from so many of you over the years with your concerns and they have not gone unheard.
- 🐞 On October 27, 2017, the PNSSNS Board reviewed the once again increased costs of compliance and reporting by both the SVWQC and the waterboards and this weighed heavily on the PNSSNS Board. The Board unanimously approved to apply for the NOA with the waterboard to become our own Third Party and the appropriate notices were sent out. There was an urgency as in November, the Memorandum of Understanding with SVWQC would automatically renew.
- 🐞 Myself and our Executive Director, Lesa Osterholm met with the waterboard executive staff to discuss moving forward. Although, PNSSNS complied with the Waste Discharge Order requirements, the waterboard felt that in this NOA process, it could be deemed that the PNSSNS members were out of compliance. The waterboard also said the application could take a long time although PNSSNS had completely complied to date with all requirements and reporting through the SVWQC.
- 🐞 PNSSNS hired legal counsel and continued dialogue with both the waterboard and SVWQC which was very helpful. PNSSNS Director and Sutter County Board of Supervisor Matt Conant, along with myself and PNSSNS legal counsel, made a presentation to the Central Valley Waterboard Board of Directors in December 2017. Shortly, thereafter the waterboard's counsel agreed with PNSSNS that we had already submitted all required reporting and were in compliance.
- 🐞 In addition, SVWQC agreed to continue working with PNSSNS under an Interim MOU while the PNSSNS Notice of Applicability for Third Party was reviewed and approved. The MOU provides for reductions in some levels of the scope of work for our own sampling as we normally do amongst some other site specific costs. The PNSSNS Board is appreciative of the efforts made by SVWQC to continue to work together with PNSSNS. A letter was then issued by the waterboard to PNSSNS and no fines would be threatened to our members.

This update will also be discussed at the upcoming Annual Meeting On February 21st if anyone has any questions, comments or concerns. Hope to see you there!

PESTICIDE USE INFORMATION

By Ed King, Deputy Agriculture Commission, Placer County

Pesticide laws, regulations, label directions, and permit conditions are in place to mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts and to protect applicators, field workers, and the public, as well as to aid growers in effective crop production. Therefore, it is important for stewards of agricultural lands to use pesticides judiciously and maintain up-to-date knowledge of current requirements.

Periodically pesticide rules change or are updated in response to new information from field monitoring and product re-evaluation studies. Case in point, chlorpyrifos, a widely used broad-spectrum insecticide used in the production of many crops, was designated as a restricted material in 2015. This change went into effect partly because of its tendency to drift or move off-site in runoff water and potentially contaminate rivers and streams in agricultural areas.

New regulations effective January 1, 2018, prohibits many pesticide applications within a quarter mile of public K-12 schools and licensed child day-care facilities during school hours, Monday through Friday between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. This includes all applications by aircraft, sprinklers, air-blast sprayers, and all fumigant applications. In addition, most dust and powder pesticide applications, such as sulfur, will also be prohibited during this time. It also requires California growers to provide annual notification to public K-12 schools and licensed day-care facilities, as well as county agricultural commissioners, of the pesticides expected to be used within a quarter mile of these schools and facilities in the upcoming year.

SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF NITROGEN FERTILIZERS

By Cindy Fake, UCCE Farm Advisor

Nitrogen is an essential nutrient for crops, but it also can be a pollutant in surface water and ground water. Most fertilizers contain soluble nitrogen which can readily move throughout soil and can be easily lost to run off. Best management practices to apply nitrogen effectively and prevent run-off include the following:

- Do not apply nitrogen in the rainy season. Apply nitrogen when plants are actively growing and can take up the nitrogen; spring, summer and fall for most
- Plan your nitrogen use to meet the needs of your plant, but not exceed it, or the nitrogen will be lost
- Consider nitrogen from all sources including crop residue, cover crops, mulch or compost, manures and nitrogen in the irrigation water
- Apply irrigation water to meet the needs of your pasture or crop. Over-watering increases nitrogen loss and other key plant nutrients
- Maintain soil organic matter through cover crops, mulch, compost or composted manure amendments. Organic matter holds water and serves as a storehouse for nitrogen and other key plant nutrients such as phosphorus and sulfur
- Vegetative cover reduces the impact of raindrops and the speed of run off, reducing soil and nitrogen losses

All PNSSNS members are required to complete an annual Nitrogen Management Form and keep on site IF you apply nitrogen including organic amendments. If you are in what the waterboard considers a High Vulnerability Area (HVA) for the potential of leaching to groundwater. You will be notified by PNSSNS staff if you are considered HVA and must provide your nitrogen use summary report which is due at this time.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PROVIDE PNSSNS WITH AN EMAIL ADDRESS SO YOU CAN CONTINUE TO RECEIVE UPDATES AND INFORMATION. PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION SO YOU CAN RECEIVE INFORMATION IN A TIMELY MANNER

THANK YOU!

**PNSSNS
Board of Directors**

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Director - Laura Barhydt

Nevada County, Cattle and Pumpkins

Executive Director- Lesa Osterholm

WHO IS REQUIRED TO JOIN PNSSNS?

If you irrigate your land, or land you lease or manage, and sell your crop or livestock commercially, then you are required to meet all the requirements yourself or join PNSSNS and comply as a group.

PNSSNS advocates on your behalf and manages the information you provide. PNSSNS coordinates information, education and outreach to assist you with the latest technological advances and recommended best management practices.

Your cooperation is appreciated and for more information, go to www.cleanwaters.info or call us at 916-645-1774



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