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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 twelve subwatershed groups in the northern Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, required under the Waste Discharge Order 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. The crops represented include pastures/livestock, wine grapes, orchards, row crops, vines and hay. Our members continue to work diligently to protect our clean waters and keep our lands healthy and productive.

PNSSNS' new year Membership Invoices are in the mail and due no later than November 23, 2022 Or penalties will be assessed per parcel.

Irrigated Pasture Exemption Challenge and Regulatory Update

Here we are, and another year has gone by with NO advancement of an irrigated pasture exemption from the Central Valley Regional Water Board nor support from the NCWA/ Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) for the PNSSNS area. PNSSNS has been advocating for this exemption since this program's inception (2003), supporting the research, making public commentary at the waterboard meetings and sending several letters. The Nevada County and Shasta County Board of Supervisors supported the irrigated pasture exemption and provided letters to the waterboard two years ago.

PNSSNS and all irrigated pasture members should continue the advocacy for this exemption to your county Board of Supervisors, SVWQC and the waterboard if you desire this. The waterboard should NOT continue to ignore this nor require each COUNTY to do further research and advocate for its irrigated pasture members separately which as I have stated before, would take ten years or more at that pace to get a consideration for PNSSNS. All irrigated pasture should be exempted due to the findings demonstrated with the UC Davis Rangeland research, the little to no fertilizer applied and low economic returns for the growers. Pasture supports seasonal forage for livestock which provides food for humans and economic returns for rural families. Irrigated pasture also provides habitat for a multitude of wildlife species along with acting as critical "greenbelts" of irrigated lands in the midst of high fire severity danger areas in rural communities.

An exemption is really needed NOW and you can help by contacting your County Board of Supervisors asking for a support letter of an exemption directed to the Central Valley waterboard, local legislators and Sac Valley WQC (Bruce Houdesheldt). Request their support in order to get this exemption approved. If nothing happens, most likely these rural areas will be replaced by housing development and a loss of agriculture forever. Take a moment for action; it will make a difference! Please make a copy for PNSSNS and call us for any questions.

A few years back, California required Sustainable Groundwater Management Areas (SGMA) be established so agencies, government entities and private groups could work together to evaluate the groundwater availability and quality along with associated uses. The CA Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was enacted in order to halt overdraft and bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. SGMA requires local agencies adopt sustainability plans for high- and medium-priority groundwater basins. The state's groundwater storage capacity is more than 10 times that of all its surface reservoirs, although not all that water is accessible or of acceptable quality.

Most of the PNSSNS area is in the North American Sub-basin groundwater area which encompasses parts of Placer, Sutter and Sacramento counties. Part of your membership fees pay consultants to work on groundwater studies and reporting as required by the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The largest users of groundwater in California is by urban water use (cities) although you are paying for this via your irrigated lands regulatory membership. Stay tuned...

What's Due this Coming Year from the Regulatory Program?

(New membership year: October 1st, 2022 through September 30th, 2023)

1. Sept/Oct/Nov- Renew PNSSNS Membership, pay dues and send/email PNSSNS any changes of the following:

- ❖ Verify your correct parcel numbers **including all zeros** and irrigated acreage amounts per parcel for the coming year
- ❖ Update your crop types per parcel
- ❖ Update your email addresses and contact information if needed
- ❖ Enclose payment with **your membership number on the check (found on your invoice)**
- ❖ Include your annual nitrogen report and yield per acre for 2022 crop year

LATE FEES will apply to all PARCELS if payment and nitrogen reporting isn't received on time.

Membership enrollment and payments are due no later than November 23, 2022

Nitrogen management reporting is due no later than December 15th, directly to PNSSNS.

2. December 15th- Annual Nitrogen Reports due to PNSSNS or penalties will apply

This coming year, PNSSNS will have you email or mail your nitrogen report directly to PNSSNS.

***** PNSSNS is no longer using the online reporting database. **The Nitrogen report form will be mailed with your membership invoice packet.**

Even if you do NOT use nitrogen fertilizer, you MUST complete the form and enter 0 for nitrogen applied AND enter the yield/ acre for your crop. If your crop is pasture used for grazing, write grazing for the yield. If you cut hay, and then irrigated for grazing, please note that on your form under "comments". If you need another Nitrogen form, go to the PNSSNS website, under Membership Forms, click on the 2022 Crop Nitrogen form for reporting directly to PNSSNS. This report is required of all members annually. Submit directly to PNSSNS, email or mail, by December 15th or penalties will apply.

There is a **Nitrogen Use Worksheet** available to you for your nitrogen use planning for the 2023 crop year; **this form is NOT required to be turned in, only to assist you in planning the year ahead.** This form is available to you on the PNSSNS website: www.cleanwaters.info under membership forms.

3. ALL new Members- Complete Sediment Plans SECP (most of you have already completed these) and keep these on site. PNSSNS **does not** need a copy of these. The form is also on the PNSSNS website.

****Nevada County members** do not have to take the course/ test to "self-certify" the **Sediment and Erosion Control Plan (SECP)** if you are following the County Ordinance to prevent erosion. You can fill out the SECP and check the box on the last page that says you self-certify by "following the County Ordinance". Placer County is working on approving a similar Ordinance for their agricultural growers.

4. All members are required to keep copies of all reporting forms each year so make sure you keep copies of your invoices paid, annual Nitrogen reporting, Sediment and Erosion Control (SECP) Plan (complete just once).

Keep up the terrific job you all do to grow and provide food in a healthy environment!

Call or email PNSSNS if you have any questions or changes to your membership.

Thank you!

Upcoming Workshops to Attend

RCD/NRCS Workshop:

Wednesday, September 28th at 6-8pm, Auburn

Your County Resource Conservation Districts partner with USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service offices and are hosting workshops for agricultural growers to provide input into what type of cost-share practices that might assist you. Some practices are upgrade irrigation for efficiency, install greater efficiencies into your farming practices and/or to support wildlife, to name a few. These workshops need your input so the monies made available from the US Farm Bill can focus on what is needed locally. For these cost-share programs, you must apply directly with these offices in each county. The next upcoming meeting for **Placer County growers, ranchers and farmers will be Wed, September 28th at 6pm.** 299 Nevada Street, Auburn, CA, 95603 **inside the Nevada Train Station building.** Call the PCRCD with any questions 530-390-6680.

******* PNSSNS Nitrogen Management Workshop**

Wednesday, December 7th 10am- Noon, Auburn

Co-hosted by PNSSNS, Placer Co RCD and UCCE Farm Advisor. This workshop will help all PNSSNS members understand the use of fertilizers including organics, timing of use and the correct amounts. PNSSNS will help growers know how to report the use of nitrogen on the annual reports. This is an important workshop to attend, please **RSVP to PNSSNS at pnsnssubwatershed@gmail.com with your name, number attending, email or phone number AND crop type. This is important so the trainers can help you best if we know your crop type in advance.** Workshop held at the Placer County Main Office Building, Planning Commission Room, 3901 County Center Dr, Auburn. Call 916-645-1774 to RSVP

****New Online Course for Nitrogen Certification**

Enroll for Self-certification and/or continuing education requirements. Please take this course in order to certify your Annual Nitrogen Report only required of High Vulnerability parcels which are typically on the valley floor, not the foothill areas, for potential for nitrogen leaching into groundwater. **Use this link for the online nitrogen course: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/frep/training.html>**



**Alfalfa Fields
El Rio Farms, Lauppe Family**

**Sutter County Grower Trainings
Yuba City
530-822-7500**

- November 10th - time TBA**
- November 15th - time TBA**
- December 8th - time TBA**
- December 15th - time TBA**

Contact PNSSNS with any changes to your membership, crop type and /or parcels. pnsnssubwatershed@gmail.com or 916-645-1774

**PNSSNS
Board of Directors**

President - Ed Sills
Sutter County
Organic Diversified Grower

Vice President - Alan Lauppe
N. Sacramento/ Sutter Counties
Diversified Grower

Treasurer - Ellen Fickewirth
Placer County, Walnuts/Pasture

Director- vacancy
Nevada County

Director - Tom Aguilar
Placer County, Mandarins

Director - Gaynell Gleason
Placer County, Cattle/Pasture

Director - vacancy

**Executive Director-
Lesa Osterholm**

CERTIFYING NITROGEN PLANS

PNSSNS members in which one or more parcels are designated a **High Vulnerability Area (HVA) for potential nitrogen leaching into groundwater**, must either self-certify the HVA parcel(s) through you passing the coursework and test online or having a certified individual sign your annual nitrogen use report on your behalf. Many times this is a Certified Crop Advisor. You or the person certifying these plans must enter the certification name, number and date in the INMP report.

Please submit the Nitrogen Report information to PNSSNS for the 2022 crop year on the excel document PNSSNS mails with your invoices in September. Nitrogen reporting is due to PNSSNS NO LATER than Dec 15th, 2022 or late penalties will be assessed.

In addition, there are 3 hours of continuing education requirements that must be completed within every three years for those members that are "self-certifying" their nitrogen reports for the HVA parcels. **Check here for available courses :**

www.cdafa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/frep/continuing_education.html

For more crop guidelines on fertilizer use, go to www.cdafa.ca.gov/go/FREPguide or call 916-900-5022

For Nitrogen Mgmt. Report forms or a list of High Vulnerability parcels required to be certified, visit the PNSSNS website at www.cleanwaters.info under FORMS. Members are required to report the amount of nitrogen applied and the crop yield along with the type of irrigation system.

PNSSNS' Annual Meeting in February 2023

is intended for any member to attend, to get pesticide application updates from County Agricultural Commissioners, UCCE education and information for crops, irrigation and timing, in addition to regulatory membership and compliance updates from PNSSNS.

The Annual Member meeting is held in February each year and we hope many of you can attend and participate. We'll send you the date and location in the January 2023 PNSSNS Newsletter.

The PNSSNS Board of Directors has two vacancies for a board member.

If anyone is interested in becoming a PNSSNS Board member, please contact PNSSNS at 916-645-1774 or a Board member to inquire.

The Board will vote to approve a candidate for the position. PNSSNS Board Members participate in approximately nine meetings per year and for a three year term. The PNSSNS Board consists of a seven member board representing each of the four areas in the PNSSNS jurisdiction and representing diverse crop types in order to represent all members of PNSSNS. We hope you'll consider working with PNSSNS where you will have a voice and together we hope we can make a difference on behalf of all the members.