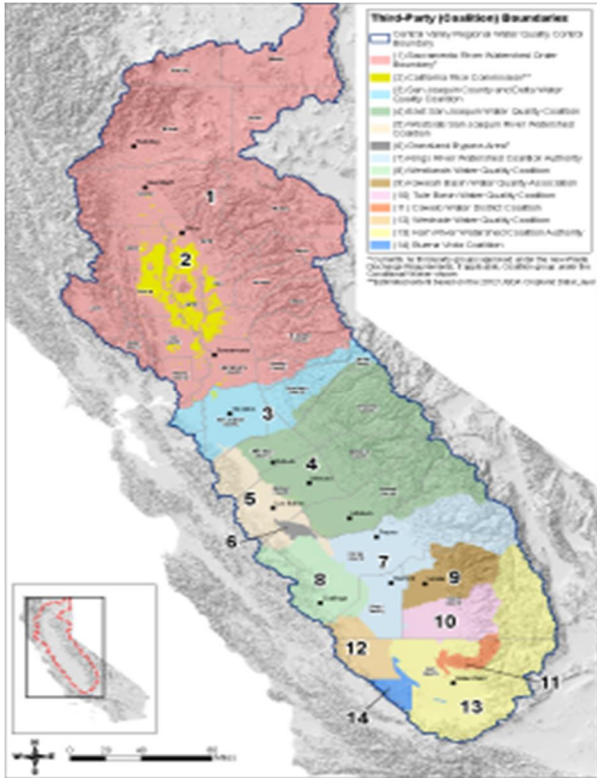


What is A Water Quality Coalition?



The Central Valley Water Board allows growers to combine resources by forming water quality coalitions (also referred to as a third-party). The coalition groups (see map to left) work directly with their member growers to assist in complying with Central Valley Water Board requirements by conducting surface water monitoring and preparing regional plans to address water quality problems. Under the [Sacramento Valley Waste Discharge Requirements for owners and operators of Irrigated Lands](#) (current program), the Regional Board requires agricultural operations to protect both surface water and groundwater quality.

All commercial irrigated lands, including nurseries and managed wetlands (private and public), are required to obtain regulatory coverage. Regulatory coverage is not required if a property is not used for commercial purposes, or if commercial irrigated lands are in rice production or covered under the Dairy Program. Options for regulatory coverage include joining a coalition group, obtaining coverage as an individual grower under general WDRs, or obtaining an Individual Permit. The coalition groups work directly with their member growers to assist in complying with requirements by conducting monitoring and preparing regional plans to address water quality problems.

Growers are required to comply with the Water Code, but are **not** required to join a coalition. Growers may comply with the Water Code by filing for coverage under Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges from Irrigated Lands for Individual Growers. If growers do not obtain regulatory coverage for their waste discharges, they must file a Report of Waste Discharge ([Form 200](#)) and pay a filing fee to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain a grower-specific permit, or cease to discharge wastes that may affect the quality of state waters. For additional information, please [contact ILRP](#).

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How does the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition Work?

The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) is a non-profit organization formed to assist owners and operators (Members) of irrigated lands comply with the Central Valley Regional Water Board regulation of discharges of water or pesticides from their property. Since 2004, nearly 8500 members with approximately 1.2 million acres of irrigated lands have enrolled in the Coalition.

The Coalition provides a cost effective method of complying with the Central Valley Regional Water Board requirements. Surface water monitoring sites representative of irrigated agriculture in each of the 13 Subwatershed Groups (see map to right) of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, are sampled on a monthly basis. These representative sites replace the need for edge of field or grower specific water quality sampling.

The Coalition working with the leadership of each Subwatershed Group, keep owners and operators of irrigated lands aware of [Member Requirements](#) of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Each [Subwatershed Group Coordinator](#) conducts outreach and educational activities for Members. The Coalition, led by the Northern California Water Association (NCWA), provides program management for the Subwatershed Groups through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) executed by all parties.

As the ILRP expands to include groundwater quality the Coalition and its Management Advisory Committee will continue to provide cost effective means for compliance.

What Does It Cost to be a Member of the Coalition?

The annual cost for an owner and/or operator of irrigated lands to be a member of the Coalition is based on where your property is located. The Coalition monitoring, lab analysis and reporting costs are equitably distributed so that only the members of each Subwatershed Group pay the costs for their monitoring sites. In 2014, current members pay between \$2-4 an irrigated acre, depending on the monitoring requirements of Subwatershed Group where their land is located.

For specific information about what it costs to join a Subwatershed Group of the Coalition contact the [Subwatershed Group Coordinator](#) where your land is located.

