

SAC-VALLEY NEWS

SVWQC actions, accomplishments, and updates

1.1+ MILLION IRRIGATED ACRES

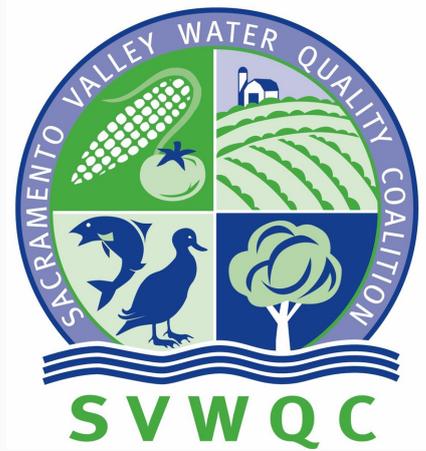
8,700+ PARTICIPANTS

12 SUBWATERSHEDS

Dr. Karl Longley Recognized for Service with Crystal Clear Award

At the Northern California Water Association (NCWA) Annual meeting on March 11, Dr. Karl Longley was recognized for his nearly thirty years of leadership of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board), an agency that has grown to be relevant in the lives of farmers and ranchers in the past twenty years. As Pam Giacomini, Graduate fellow of California Ag Leadership Class 21, former California Farm Bureau Federation director of natural resources and commodities, and fourth-generation Shasta County rancher who raises cattle and stewards the Hat Creek and Fall River watersheds, who presented the Award to Dr. Longley stated, his work is as important as protecting our water rights, which NCWA works to do each day. Rarely does one step forward to lend his professional expertise to serve on a Board. It was not just Dr. Longley's 60 years of experience as a water resource engineer directly supervising or conducting studies of water quality, environmental assessment, and policy development, it was his commitment to physically walk the irrigated lands and understand the complexities of all whom he regulated that made his knowledge and leadership so valuable to developing practical solutions that advance clean water policy and solutions for the Central Valley Region.

The Regional Water Board professional staff and many of the colleagues he served with will recognize him at the April Board meeting in Fresno, CA.



The latest in this issue:

NCWA HONORS DR. KARL LONGLEY FOR DECADES OF SERVICE

GOOD NEWS ON SURFACE WATER MONITORING CYCLE

IRRIGATED PASTURE UPDATE

PYRETHROIDS DETECTED IN SURFACE WATER SAMPLING

PROGRESSIVE ENFORCEMENT FOR LATE ANNUAL REPORTS

2021 REVIEW AND 2022 INITIATIVES

MEMBER INFORMATION

- INMP SELF-CERTIFICATION RENEWAL DEADLINES
- MEMBER REPORTING DEADLINES

GOOD NEWS!

Elimination of Second Surface Water Assessment Year Approved

In February, the Regional Water Board approved NCWA's request to change the Coalition's current surface water monitoring schedule from a 4-year cycle of Assessment-Assessment-Core-Core to a 3-year cycle of Assessment-Core-Core. The revised schedule will begin in 2022, an assessment year, with Core monitoring following in 2023 and 2024. The revision is expected to result in at least \$200,000 in monitoring and programmatic costs reduction during the 2023 Budget Year. Advancing a refined Surface Water Quality Monitoring proposal with Regional Board staff based on the 15-year history of improving surface water quality was one of the 2021 Coalition Goals and Priorities, which helps to achieve NCWA's and the Coalition's overall goal of cost containment.

Irrigated Pasture Update

On August 12, 2021, the Regional Board exempted the Goose Lake Area of the Coalition from the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program based on the determinization that irrigated pasture in the area poses a low threat to water quality. Work to document and justify similar exemptions based on a low threat to water quality – no external sources of nitrogen applied, or pesticides applied – are underway in the Upper Feather River, Pit River, Western Shasta, and the foothills. Work is being conducted by Ken Tate, Tina Saitone, and Pam Giacomini. Discussions between Pam Giacomini, Carol Dobbas, and Regional Board staff on February 15 resulted in a renewed focus on this effort

Extreme Caution Needed When Applying Pyrethroids

Pyrethroid insecticides continue to be detected in the Coalitions surface water quality monitoring. Pyrethroids are extremely toxic to aquatic invertebrates and as a result, have very low trigger limits. The Coalition is required by the Central Valley Water Board to test both the water column and the sediment for potential toxicity using the bioindicator species, *Hyaella azteca*. Exceedances have been observed in both water column and sediment samples and, in some cases, management plans have been triggered. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BE EXTRA CAUTIOUS DURING APPLICATION SEASON TO AVOID MORE EXCEEDANCES AND ADDITIONAL MANAGEMENT PLANS.** Management Plans equate to extra costs and time for members in the form of increased surface water monitoring for a minimum of three years, mandatory meetings, and additional reporting by members. Avoiding mandated Management Plans is a critical component of cost containment so let's work together to avoid them! *For more information about pyrethroid exceedances in your specific area, please reach out to your local Subwatershed.*

The Year in Review and What's Ahead in 2022

By Bruce Houdesheldt, NCWA Director of Water Quality

The past year (2021) was a year of progress on big initiatives for the Coalition. In addition to advancing the recently approved reduction in surface water monitoring, the Coalition leadership built stronger relationships with Regional Board members. In June Coalition leadership met with Regional Board members Nick Avdis and Mark Bradford at Ed Sills' Pleasant Grove Farms to provide the Sacramento Valley's perspective on the Regional Board's Strategic Planning process, specifically the Board's adaptive prioritization will be to continuously assess, streamline, and improve processes across all programs, thereby enabling the Board to focus resources on those activities that are most impactful. Several Coalition Members provided comments on the Strategic Plan at the Regional Board's October meeting.

Streamlining the program resulted in the Regional Board exempting the Goose Lake portion of the Coalition in August and exclusively managed wetlands in October, based on the documented low threat to water quality impairment from these types of operations.

As part of required compliance for Salt Control Management, NCWA has prepared an *Accelerated Regional Salinity Management Strategy to Protect Beneficial Uses in the Sacramento River Basin* as a roadmap of how the Sacramento Valley's local actions will be to the benefit of the larger salinity management effort in the Central Valley, that it submitted with a comprehensive technical characterization and assessment of salinity conditions in surface and groundwater prepared by MLJ Environmental.

The fourth year of Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring was completed and Sacramento Valley Groundwater Quality Protection Values, required by the State Water Board's 2018 Precedential Order on the Eastern San Joaquin Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs), were prepared and submitted in July.

In 2022, the Coalition will continue work on many of the groundwater quality elements of the WDR, including submitting Groundwater Quality Protection Targets in July, organizing and preparing in Yolo County to respond to the Regional Board's Notice to Comply on Nitrate in groundwater, a part of the CV-SALTS Basin Plan Amendment, and continuing work on the outlier methodology to be applied for Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP), A/R (Applied/Removed) acceptable ranges and refinements to Nitrogen Co-efficient Studies.



Coalition Member Information Hub



ATTENTION! Your INMP Self-Certification Eligibility May Be Expiring

Coalition members who took and passed the exam for the INMP Grower Self-Certification Training must obtain three (3) hours of continuing education units (CEUs) to maintain their self-certification status. If you do NOT obtain the 3 CEUs, your eligibility to self-certify your INMP Worksheet will expire and you will need to retake the 4-hour training to become eligible again. The table below displays the deadline to obtain the 3 CEUs based on self-certification date. CEU courses can be found at https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/frep/continuing_education.html. You can also email Nicole Nunes at Nicole.Nunes@cdfa.ca.gov if you have questions.

| Training and Exam Date | Eligibility Expiration Date/ Deadline for INMP Credits |
|--------------------------------|---|
| January 2020-December 2020 | December 31, 2022 |
| January 1, 2021-June 30, 2021 | July 1, 2024 |
| July 1, 2021-December 31, 2021 | December 31, 2024 |
| January 1, 2022-June 30, 2022 | July 1, 2025 |
| July 1, 2022-December 31, 2022 | December 31, 2025 |

General Questions

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https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/

COMPLETE YOUR REQUIRED MEMBER REPORTS TO REMAIN IN GOOD-STANDING

The end of the reporting season is almost here and a majority of the deadlines to complete member reports have passed. If you have not already completed your member reports, please contact your Subwatershed **ASAP**. Completing member reports is an important component to remain a member-in-good-standing. **Members who fail to complete their reporting will have their name reported to the Regional Board and face potential fines of up to \$1000 per day.** Avoiding the fine is simple, contact your Subwatershed and submit the required reports!