

SAC-VALLEY NEWS

SVWQC actions, accomplishments, and updates

1.1+ MILLION IRRIGATED ACRES

7300+ PARTICIPANTS

11 SUBWATERSHEDS

IN MEMORY OF DR. KEN TATE

It is with a heavy heart we share the news that Dr. Ken Tate - professor, UCCE specialist, and husband - has passed. The impact he had on farming and ranching is impossible to state. His expertise and the trust he held from famers and ranchers, the Water Boards, and environmental groups alike were a driving force behind the exemptions



of Goose Lake, Upper Feather River, and hopefully the Pit River in the coming months. Our hearts go out to his wife, Tina Saitone, a UC Davis professor and UCCE specialist in livestock and rangeland economics.

An online tribute page has been created for those who wish to share memories and photographs in honor of Dr. Tate's life and work: <https://www.online-tribute.com/KennethWTate>.

Ken was special - right person at right place at right time. His contributions benefitted many. His kind manner was special. He will be missed. - Chet Vogt

"What a loss to our industry and those of us that were fortunate enough to call Ken a friend...He was a pioneer—truly ahead of his time in his field—and his contributions have left a lasting impact." - Pete Craig

It's impossible to overstate the impact Ken has had on ranching. He was the right man at the right time. He will be missed. - Mike Williams

Ken was a gem--he had a profound impact on our watersheds in Northern California through his work to enhance our precious natural resources and sustain productive agricultural enterprises and working lands. Both his applied research and his cooperative extension work were highly regarded across all disciplines surrounding our rangeland ecosystems and he had such a calm, credible, and caring way to share his wisdom with everyone he graced. The landscape and watersheds in Northern California are better because of Ken and his passion and care for these special places. - David Guy



The latest in this issue:

IN MEMORY OF KEN TATE

PNSSNS SUBWATERSHED TOUR

REGIONAL BOARD ENFORCEMENT

COALITION LIAISON RECIEVES AWARD

MEMBER INFORMATION

INMP SELF-CERTIFICATION EXPIRATION

CROP NUTRIENT MINUTE FOR CITRUS

Regional Board Tours the PNSSNS Subwatershed

On the drizzly first day of April, the PNSSNS Subwatershed welcomed Regional Board staff (RB) to Mandarin Hill Orchards in Placer County. Tom Aguilar, farmer and PNSSNS Board Member, took the RB on a tour of the orchard, showing them his trees, some of which date back to the 1880s. Tom shared the practices, innovations, and struggles of the multi-generational orchard, especially in light of the increasing financial and reporting requirements of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). After touring Tom's operation, the RB stopped next at Fowler Nurseries, which has been producing fruit trees in Placer County since 1912. PNSSNS member, Phillip Johnson, took the tour group on a walk of the grounds showing the RB just how differently a nursery operates when compared to traditional agricultural operations. From Fowler Nurseries, the group headed to the PNSSNS representative surface water monitoring site and discussed PNSSNS' stellar surface water monitoring history until Mother Nature signaled it was time to wrap things up with a large thunder clap.

The RB expressed appreciation to the PNSSNS Board and Members as well as Coalition leadership, staff, and consultants, especially for the opportunity to see the monitoring site in person versus on a map. PNSSNS marks third Subwatershed tour in 2025 and there are plans to tour El Dorado and Sacramento/Amador counties in the coming months. The goal is to visit all 11 Subwatersheds to highlight the diversity and dedication of Sacramento Valley farmers and ranchers to protecting water quality.



REGIONAL BOARD CONTINUES OUTREACH FOR ILRP ENROLLMENT AND ENFORCEMENT

(EXCERPTS TAKEN FROM THE JUNE 2025 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT)

OUTREACH PACKAGES FOR ENROLLMENT. Water Board staff sent outreach packages to owners of potential commercial irrigated lands to provide them with information on the ILRP and steps for enrolling in the program. Staff then follow up with Directives as needed.

13260 DIRECTIVES FOR FAILURE TO RESPOND TO ENROLLMENT OUTREACH PACKET. Water Board staff sent Directive letters to owners who failed to respond to previously mailed outreach packets for enrollment. The directives require recipients to obtain permit coverage within 15 days of receipt.

REMINDER LETTERS FOR MEMBER REPORTS. Water Board staff sent reminder letters to members who have failed to submit their member report(s) by the Board-approved due dates. Staff will follow up with Notice of Violations as needed.

ILRP Compliance Efforts for the Period March 1-April 30, 2025

Outreach Packages for Enrollment sent	839
13260 Directives for Enrollment sent	63
Reminder Letters for Member Reports sent	449

ON-FARM INSPECTIONS FOR GENERAL ORDER COMPLIANCE. The purpose of on-farm inspections is for Board staff to visit Coalition-enrolled farms and discuss water quality-related issues with growers. These inspections include staff review of the Farm Evaluations, Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plans and Sediment and Erosion Control Plans. Board staff inspects the site conditions, including potential discharge points to surface waters, pollution management practices, chemical storage and handling areas, and wellhead protection practices. Regional Board staff plans to conduct on-farm inspections throughout the Coalition this Summer, including BYS, Dixon-Solano, CGSP, SAWQA, and Yolo County.

Respond IMMEDIATELY to any letters from the Water Board to avoid future enforcement and potential fines.

COALITION LIAISON, OLIVIA MATTHEWS, RECEIVES SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENT AWARD

At the June 20th Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting, Olivia Mathews, the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition's liaison, received the Superior Accomplishment Award for her work on the Pit River Exemption.

Olivia has played a crucial role in the Pit River Exemption and since joining the Water Board in May 2024, has participated in on-site farm inspections and outreach meetings with growers; reviewed complex technical data; and worked collaboratively with the U.C. Davis Cooperative Extension to demonstrate the subwatershed's low threat to water quality from agricultural operations. In February 2025, Olivia presented an informational item on the findings to the Central Valley Water Board and is currently preparing a subsequent Board meeting presentation for the Board to consider exemption of the subwatershed from the program requirements. Her positive attitude and aptitude have been a great asset to the Coalition and we greatly appreciate her expertise and contributions.



Coalition Member Information Hub



Upcoming Self-Certification Expiration July 1 2025

Participants who completed the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Program (CDFA INMP) self-certification training **between the dates of July 1 - December 31, 2022, have an expiration date of January 1, 2026.**

To renew your eligibility to self-certify INMP Worksheets, you must complete three hours of CDFA INMP Credits prior to your expiration date.

If you are unsure of your expiration date, you can request a copy of your letter of eligibility or check your eligibility status and continuing education hours by emailing frep@cdfa.ca.gov.

Continuing Education Resources

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/frep/continuing_education.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

CROP NUTRIENT MINUTE VIDEO FOR CITRUS

As part of its Crop Nutrient Minute video series, the Coalition for Urban Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES) recently released a video in English and Spanish for Nitrogen Management in Citrus featuring UCCE Kings County Area Farm Advisor Dr. Douglas Amaral. The video is available at the CDFA Fertilizer Research and Education Program (FREP) https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/frep/continuing_education.html

In the video, Amaral explains current Best Management Practices for efficient nitrogen management in citrus by following the 4Rs: Right Rate, Right Time, Right Place and Right Source. The content of the series was created by farm advisors, extension specialists and CURES staff. Each 30-minute video covers information on soil health, nitrogen processes in soil, crop nutrient tracking, efficient irrigation practices, practical techniques to assess crop nitrogen demand and field-based tips from farm advisors working with each crop.

You can find the Crop Nutrient Minute videos, as well as other videos and podcasts that meet Continuing Education Unit (CEU) requirements, on FREP's Self-Study Course Lists > https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/is/ffldrs/frep/continuing_education.html#collapseTwo. Simply watch the video and pass the short post-video quiz to obtain 0.5 CEU for each video.

General

Questions

sacvalleyinfo@gmail.com
www.svwqc.org

DIRECTORY

Bruce Houdesheldt,
Director of Water Quality
Email: bruceh@norcalwater.org
Phone: 916-442-8333

Chelsie Bryden,
Program Coordinator
Email: svwqccordinator@gmail.com
Phone: 916-778-0993

Central Valley Regional
Quality Control Board,
ILRP Division
Phone: 916-464-4611
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/