

# SAC-VALLEY NEWS

SVWQC actions, accomplishments, and updates

1.1+ MILLION IRRIGATED ACRES

7300+ PARTICIPANTS

10 SUBWATERSHEDS

## Four Months Left in the 2026 Monitoring Year

2026 Monitoring Year (MY) = October 2025 through September 2026

The next four months of surface water monitoring (June, July, August, and September) are important months during which several high priority constituents will be sampled for. With the risk of surface water impacts increasing during irrigation season, **it is especially important that all Coalition Members exercise EXTREME CAUTION when applying any pesticides or herbicides.**

Most Subwatersheds with active Management Plans have monitoring related to the Management Plan in the coming months. If an exceedance is observed during these monitoring events, the Management Plan will be extended another three years minimum.

### Subwatersheds with Management Plan Monitoring in 2026MY

Subwatershed	Monitoring Site	Management Plan	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
BYS	Lower Honcut Creek	Pyrethroids		x		x
BYS	Lower Honcut Creek	Ceriodaphnia Toxicity		x		x
BYS	Pine Creek	Pyrethroids	x	x	x	x
BYS	Lower Snake River	Pyrethroids		x	x	x
Colusa Glenn	Freshwater Creek	Pyrethroids		x		
Colusa Glenn	Freshwater Creek	Ceriodaphnia Toxicity	X	x		
Shasta Tehama	Anderson Creek	Ceriodaphnia Toxicity	X		x	

The 2027 Monitoring Year will begin on October 1, 2026 and run through September 30, 2027. The Monitoring Plan for the 2027 MY is due to the Central Valley Regional Board for approval on August 1, 2026. The Plan will outline which monitoring sites will be monitored when and what for. 2027MY will be a Core Year, meaning fewer constituents will be monitored for. However, Subwatersheds with active Management Plans can still expect an increased frequency of monitoring events due to the Management Plan.

If you have questions about the surface water monitoring program, please contact Bruce Houdesheldt (916-442-8333, [bruceh@norcalwater.org](mailto:bruceh@norcalwater.org)).



### The latest in this issue:

2026MY COMES TO A CLOSE

NITROGEN BMPS FOR ALMOND ORCHARDS

NEW CEO FOR CA RICE COMMISSION

THE 2ND AG EXPERT PANEL

TAKEAWAYS FROM THE 2025 MONITORING YEAR

### MEMBER INFORMATION

2026 PARTICIPANT LIST

REGIONAL BOARD ENFORCEMENT

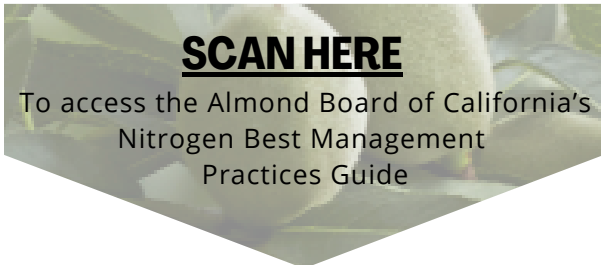
# Nitrogen Best Management Practices for Almond Orchards

Credit:   

Nitrogen management has major impacts on the productivity of almond orchards, the profitability of growers statewide and the effect of nitrogen on the environment. With the implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP), every grower is required to implement a plan that allows for the efficient use of nitrogen fertilizer and reduces nitrogen leaching into groundwater.

Efficient, environmentally sound and profitable nitrogen fertilization can be achieved when growers abide by the 4 Rs of Nutrient Management, which state that nitrogen must be applied at the Right Rate, at the Right Time and in the Right Place, using the Right Source of nutrients. The ultimate goal of nitrogen management is to apply adequate, but not excessive, amounts of nitrogen so that productivity is optimized and loss to the environment (and waste of the input) is minimized.

**The Almond Board of California's Nitrogen Best Management Practices provide almond growers with an understanding of nitrogen's role in almond production and guidance on how to achieve efficient, profitable nitrogen management. These best management practices should serve as a guide to growers — individual management plans should be devised in conjunction with PCAs and other field experts to adequately meet individual orchard's needs.**



## California Rice Commission Board Elects Eric Holst as Next CEO

Capping a nearly two-year search, the California Rice Commission's Board has unanimously approved Eric Holst as the CRC's next CEO. The decision comes following extensive work by the industry-led Search Committee, Executive Committee, and Consultant Group.

Holst's career spans several decades working for conservation and environmental nonprofits, building entrepreneurial partnerships across longstanding working lands and flagship environmental organizations. His most recent role was Associate Vice President of Forestry and Working Lands for the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), an organization that has worked closely with the rice industry the past several decades on environmental projects.

"Eric has three decades of experience cultivating partnerships, specifically between agricultural producers, landowners, conservation organizations, and government agencies – all with the aim of increasing wildlife conservation and environmental outcomes on working lands," said CRC Board Chair Josh Sheppard. "I actually met Eric in 2008, when he was with the Environmental Defense Fund. He was working with the CRC as part of a pilot project at our farm. He was hands-on for the practice now known as the Advancing Markets for Producers initiative, one that we plan on applying to this year. It's really a full circle moment, seeing him take this position."

Holst graduated from Duke University with a master's degree in natural resource ecology and a bachelor's in botany from UC Davis. He lives in Sacramento with his wife, where they raised their children and three dogs.

Holst will begin his new role after Labor Day, working closely through the end of the calendar year with current CEO Tim Johnson.

## The Second Ag Expert Panel Begins to Come to a Close

The 2nd Agricultural Expert Panel is complete. Its recommendations are likely to shape the next generation of groundwater protection requirements under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). The 8-member Agricultural Expert Panel released their draft report on March 30, 2026. Meetings were held in April and May to consider stakeholder feedback and refine the recommendations. The Panel met for the last time on June 5, 2026 and presented its findings to the California State Water Resources Board on June 16, 2026, with an public workshop scheduled for later this summer before final action.

The final version of the report is dated June 12, 2026, and can be accessed through the [panel FTP site](#) using the following log-in.

**Username:** agpaneldocs-ftp  
**Password:** AgriculturalExpertPanel2!

# Coalition Submits Required Surface Water Reports on May 1, 2026

The Coalition’s Waste Discharge Requirements requires the Coalition to submit several surface water reports annually on May 1.

- Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)
- Management Plan Progress Report (MPPR)

The 2025 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and Management Plan Progress Report (MPPR) put a wrap on the 2025 surface water monitoring year (2025 MY). The 2025 MY, which ran from October 2024 through September 2025, was an Assessment Year meaning a broad range of constituents were sampled for.

The AMR provides a detailed description of the Coalition’s monitoring results during the monitoring year as part of ongoing efforts to characterize water quality impacts from irrigated agriculture in the Sacramento River Basin. 16 sites were monitored and more constituents were analyzed than during a Core year. Microbial, physical, nutrient, pesticide, and toxicity (both water column and sediment) constituents were sampled for. Results continue to indicate that, with few exceptions, there are no major water quality problems as a result of discharges from agriculture lands in the Basin.

The MPPR provides an update on the status of ongoing surface water quality Management Plans, including summaries of the progress made toward completion. The Coalition currently has 10 Management Plans.

**Management Plan** = Two or more exceedances of the same constituent at the same site within a 3-year period.

Only completed through a combination of monitoring results and management practice documentation.

A minimum of 3-years without any additional exceedances.

Subwatershed	Site	Analyte
Solano	Ulatis Creek at Brown Rd.	<i>Hyalella</i> Toxicity/Pyrethroids
Solano	Ulatis Creek at Brown Rd.	Pyrethroids (water column)
BYS	Lower Snake River at Nuestro Rd.	Pyrethroids
BYS	Pine Creek at Hwy 32	Pyrethroids
BYS	Lower Honcut Creek at Hwy 70	Pyrethroids
BYS	Lower Honcut Creek at Hwy 70	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i> Toxicity
Sac-Amador	Grand Island Drain at Leary Rd.	Nitrate + Nitrite as Nitrogen
Colusa Glenn	Freshwater Creek at Gibson Rd.	Pyrethroids
Colusa Glenn	Freshwater Creek at Gibson Rd.	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i> Toxicity
Shasta Tehama	Anderson Creek	<i>Ceriodaphnia</i> Toxicity

## Major takeaways from the 2025 MY:

- Pyrethroid pesticides remain the class of pesticide causing the most exceedances
- Overall pesticide exceedance rate remains at less than 3% (in other words, over 97% of pesticide samples are non-exceedances).
- 11 unknown toxicity exceedances observed (most ever recorded in a single year)
- Four Management Plans triggered:
  - Unknown Toxicity at Freshwater Creek in CGSP
  - Unknown Toxicity at Lower Honcut Creek in BYS
  - Unknown Toxicity at Anderson Creek in Shasta Tehama
  - Water Column Pyrethroid Pesticide at Ulatis Creek in Dixon/Solano

## Regional Board Adopts Modesto Management Zone

After five hours of presentations at the [June 3 2026 meeting](#) the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board unanimously (6-0) adopted the [Modesto Management Zone Implementation Plan & Amend Waste Discharge Requirements Orders to Incorporate the Nitrate Control Program](#). This is the roadmap for the Nitrate Control Program in the Priority One basins in the San Joaquin and Tulare Lake Region. It provides a 35-year timeline for dischargers – waste water treatment operations, wineries, irrigated lands, dairies, etc. – to ensure groundwater meets drinking water requirements.

Yolo County is a Priority 2 Basin, which is currently being developed. Given it has significantly fewer dischargers than the Priority 1 Management Zones, it should be scaled differently. The Regional Board’s action yesterday is the culmination of Basin Plan work for Nitrates and Salinity that was initiated by State Water Board in 2006. There is a 30-day period in which any parties can petition the Regional Board’s action to the State Water Board.



# Coalition Member Information Hub



## Subwatersheds Prepare to Drop Members For Non-Payment

The Coalition will be submitting the annual Participant List to the Central Valley Regional Board on July 31, 2026. The Participant List provides an account of which members are in "good standing" and which members are not. To be in "good standing" members must:

1. Pay their membership fees AND
2. Complete their required reporting

Members who fail to pay their membership fees will be dropped. Members who have not completed their required reporting will have their names indicated on the Participant List. These members are then subject to follow-up directly from the Regional Board and possible fines.

**If you have not paid your fees or completed your reports, please do so IMMEDIATELY to avoid having your name submitted to the Regional Board.**

### On-Farm Drinking Water Well Sampling

Annual monitoring of on-farm drinking water wells for Nitrate + Nitrite as Nitrogen on ENROLLED parcels for the 2026 calendar year is required to be completed by January 1, 2027. A drinking water well is defined as a well used for drinking or cooking.

More information can be found at the Central Valley Water Board's Drinking Water Well Monitoring website at [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/central\\_valley/water\\_issues/irrigated\\_lands/drinking\\_water/](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/central_valley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/drinking_water/). The website contains an overview of the requirements, a list of ELAP-certified labs, and FAQs. If you have specific questions pertaining to your operation, you may reach out to your Subwatershed or contact the Regional Board.

#### Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

Email: [IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov)  
General Line: 916-464-4611

#### BYS, El Dorado, PNSSNS, Sac-Amador, Lake, Napa, Shasta Tehama

Gurbinder Dhaliwal  
Email: [Gurbinder.Dhaliwal@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Gurbinder.Dhaliwal@waterboards.ca.gov)  
Phone: 916-502-5501

#### CGSP, Dixon-Solano, Yolo

Dennis Costache  
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Phone: 916-464-4850

### Reminder to Nursery Operators

The Regional Board recognizes that nursery operators have had trouble completing the INMP Summary Report due to confusion related to the large number of plant varieties grown. In response to the feedback on the difficulty of completing the report, Regional Board Staff has issued guidance to help nursery members complete the INMP Forms. They can be found at: <https://www.svwqc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Regional-Water-Board-INMP-Reporting-Guidance-for-Nurseries.pdf>

### General Questions

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