

SAC-VALLEY NEWS

SVWQC actions, accomplishments, and updates

1.1+ MILLION IRRIGATED ACRES

8,700+ PARTICIPANTS

12 SUBWATERSHEDS

You are invited to a Coalition Meeting on June 20, 2022, to hear important updates from Coalition staff, partners, and the Regional Board. The Meeting will begin at 9 AM at the Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau - 475 N Palora Avenue, Yuba City, CA 95991.

The Central Valley Regional Board Welcomes a New Board Member

On March 29, 2022, Governor Newsom appointed Elena Lee Reeder of Sacramento to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. She has been a Trustee of Reclamation District 1000 since 2019 and Vice President since 2020. She was appointed as an Alternate to the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency in 2019 and has been a Sitting Member since 2022. She was a Partner at Leeder Strategies LLC from 2017 to 2020, Press Secretary for the Office of State Assemblymember David Chiu from 2016 to 2017, and Press Secretary and Legislative Aide in the Office of State Assemblymember Cristina Garcia from 2013 to 2016. Lee Reeder was Scheduler and Legislative Aide for the Office of State Senator Leland Yee from 2010 to 2013. She has lived in the Sacramento Region for more than 13 years and is a University of California, Davis graduate. Coalition leadership looks forward to building a strong working relationship with Elena Lee Reeder and sharing with her the incredible legacy of growers in the Sacramento Valley.



The latest in this issue:

INVITATION TO JUNE 20, 2022 COALITION MEETING

NEW CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL BOARD MEMBER

RETIREMENT AND NEW HIRES AT THE REGIONAL BOARD

IRRIGATED PASTURE UPDATE

2021 MONITORING YEAR

WHAT IS CV-SALTS?

MEMBER INFORMATION

- ON-FARM DRINKING WATER WELL REQUIREMENT
- PREPARATION FOR 2022 PARTICIPANT LIST

Susan Fregien, Unit Chief for Monitoring and Implementation, to Retire

Susan Fregien, Unit Chief for Monitoring and Implementation at the Regional Board, will be retiring at the end of the month after serving 16 years as a Senior Environmental Scientist. Susan began her Regional Board career as the staff liaison to the Goose Lake Coalition, before becoming the SVWQC liaison in 2008. In 2010, Susan showed her immense commitment to understanding the Sacramento Valley landscape by touring most, if not all, of the then 10 Subwatersheds. We wish her the best as she begins this next chapter.

Meet the New Regional Board Liaison to Sacramento Valley

In May, Victor Bautista was hired by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board as the liaison to the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition. Victor is from Madeline in Modoc County, where he worked seasonally at Alturas Ranches, an alfalfa and wild rice operation. He graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in Earth Sciences. After graduation, he worked at UC Santa Cruz as a Hydrogeology Research Technician, where he conducted and presented research at sites being used or tested for managed aquifer recharge.

Coalition's Annual Monitoring Report Submitted to the Regional Board on May 1, 2022

The 2021 Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), submitted May 1 to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, put a wrap on the 2021 surface water monitoring year (a "non-assessment year" which ran from October 1, 2020, to September 30, 2021). 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. Results continue to indicate that, with few exceptions, there are no major water quality problems as a result of discharges from agricultural lands in the Basin.

The majority of exceedances consisted of specific conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, and *E. coli*; all of which can be greatly affected by natural processes and sources not controllable by agricultural management practices. Non-pyrethroid pesticides were infrequently detected during the 2021 monitoring year (~7.0% of all pesticide results) and when detected, rarely exceeded applicable objectives. This is aligned with historical results in which over 98.1% of all pesticide analyses performed to date for the Coalition have been below detection. **However, pyrethroid pesticides should continue to be applied with extreme care and caution as they are still frequently being detected and at times, triggering exceedances.**

Ensuring Safe Drinking Water Though CV-SALTS

In 2006, the Central Valley Water Board initiated the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS) as a cooperative effort among regulators, permittees (including agricultural water quality coalitions such as the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition), environmental interests, and other parties interested in Central Valley water quality.

Through a **collaborative approach**, CV-SALTS works to establish a shared understanding of water quality challenges based on scientific studies and develop flexible, practical solutions that can be implemented collectively and cost-effectively to ensure safe drinking water is available to all communities.

While the State Water Board and the Central Valley Water Board are the state agencies overseeing the effort, the Central Valley Salinity Coalition, a group of urban, agricultural (dairy, wineries, and irrigated lands), wastewater, and other dischargers, guides research and planning and makes recommendations to the two state agencies. As a member of the Central Valley Salinity Coalition, NCWA and the California Rice Commission, represent Sacramento Valley agricultural interest in the Salinity Coalition.

There are two primary **program areas** CV-SALTS is focused on: long-term **salinity management** and **nitrate management**, which focuses on providing safe drinking water and improving nitrate management in high-priority areas including the Yolo Basin in 2022.

The CV-SALTS **planning process** utilizes elements of the Central Valley Water Board Basin Planning process to complete technical studies and make policy recommendations to the Central Valley Water Board and State Water Board. The agencies then consider the studies and recommendations for adoption into the two Basin Plans that govern water quality in the Central Valley, the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers Basin Plan and the Tulare Lake Basin Plan. More information on Basin Planning is available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/#basinplans

Bruce Houdesheldt, Director of Water Quality for NCWA can answer questions about CV-SALTS. He can be reached at bruceh@norcalwater.org or (916) 952-1287.



Coalition Member Information Hub



On-Farm Drinking Water Well Requirement

Annual monitoring of on-farm drinking water wells for Nitrate + Nitrite as Nitrogen on **ENROLLED** parcels is required of all Coalition members by December 31, 2022. 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/centralvalley/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

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BYS, El Dorado, PNSSNS, Sac-Amador

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Lake, Napa, Shasta Tehama, Upper Feather River, NECWA

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Preparation Begins for the 2022 Participant List

The Coalition will be submitting its annual Participant List to the Regional Board on July 31, 2022. 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 pay their membership fees **AND** complete their required reporting. Members who fail to complete **BOTH** of these requirements will be dropped from or indicated on the Participant List and subject to follow-up from the Regional Board and possible fines.

General Questions

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