

<b>Dixon/Solano Coalition</b>	
<b>July 2013 - June 2014 Finances</b>	
<b>Total Income 07/13—06/14</b>	<b>\$ 284,230</b>
Membership fees	\$ 283,621
Interest	\$ 609
<b>Total Expenses 07/13—06/14</b>	<b>\$ 302,978</b>
RCD Staff	\$ 80,937
RCD Direct Costs	\$ 9,337
Monitoring Costs	\$ 103,511
SVWQC Fees	\$ 23,175
State Board Fees	\$ 86,018
<b>Fund Balance 07/14</b>	<b>\$ 43,960.*</b>

<b>Dixon/Solano Coalition</b>	
<b>Projected July 2014 - June 2015 Finances</b>	
<b>Budgeted Income 07/14—06/15</b>	<b>\$ 387,975</b>
Membership fees	\$ 274,625
Member Initiation Fees	\$ 112,500
Interest	\$ 850
<b>Budgeted Expenses 07/14—06/15</b>	<b>\$ 390,625</b>
RCD Staff	\$ 143,504
RCD Direct Costs	\$ 11,400
Monitoring Costs	\$ 104,379
SVWQC Fees	\$ 37,705
State Board Fees	\$ 93,638
<b>06/15 Fund Balance (projected)</b>	<b>\$ 41,310*</b>

\*The Coalition policy is to maintain a minimum fund balance of \$50,000 to cover any additional required monitoring as well as to maintain a positive cash flow throughout the membership year. Our objective remains to keep program costs as low as possible, while still providing members the tools necessary to maintain compliance with water quality regulations. Since November 2003, Coalition Members have paid a total of \$17.30/acre in membership fees, for an average of \$1.49/acre/year. Fees have remained at \$2.50/acre this year, despite the significant increase in program costs of new requirements that began in March 2014. This has been achieved with enrollment fees from new parcels that have been enrolled over the last several months. As the new program requirements take effect, we anticipate member fees may increase again. We will continue to look for ways to join with other Coalition efforts to share costs.

Beginning in July 2014, the Regional Board sent out letters to owners of parcels covering roughly 24,000 acres in eastern Solano County that they believed were out of compliance (not enrolled under a Coalition and no individual permits). To date, between 12,000 and 14,000 of those acres have been either enrolled in Dixon/Solano or Yolo's Coalition or have been determined to not be irrigated agriculture. The remaining roughly 10,000 acres that have not responded to the Regional Board's correspondence will receive additional communications from the Regional Board that follows a progressive enforcement strategy. If the landowners are unresponsive, this will ultimately lead to civil penalties if the parcels are determined to be out of compliance. In the Eastern San Joaquin Coalition this process is ongoing and the fines have ranged from \$2,000 to \$10,000. Landowners must still join and pay the Coalition fees.

**Dixon/Solano Resource Conservation District  
Agricultural Water Quality Coalition**

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Dixon Resource Conservation District

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Visit Our Websites [www.dixonrcd.org](http://www.dixonrcd.org) & [www.solanorcd.org](http://www.solanorcd.org)

# Dixon / Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition UPDATE

Volume 9 Issue 1

November 2014



RCD BOARDS OF DIRECTORS

**DIXON RCD**

- Mark Holdener
- Rick Martinez
- Dave Viguie
- Vacant
- Sam Beukelman
- Jim Campbell, Associate

**SOLANO RCD**

- Joe Martinez
- Paul Lum
- Kurt Balasek
- Darrell Hill
- John Knowles
- Randi Thompson
- Glenda Riddle
- Terry Riddle, Associate
- Kathi Stutz, Associate

**COALITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- Bruce Brazelton
- Joe Martinez
- Cork McIsaac
- Paul Lum
- Guy Garcia
- Rick Martinez
- Spencer Bei
- Dave Viguie
- Roy Gill

**READY OR NOT, HERE THEY COME! - Farm Level Reporting**

January through March 2015 will be a challenging time as we help our members through our first year of farm level reporting requirements (see Page 7). We recognize that there will be some frustrations and confusion. WE ASK FOR EVERYONE'S PATIENCE! During this first year our main concern is that we receive SOMETHING back for each enrolled parcel. If you do not have a perfect answer for something, please use the best answer available. As we move into subsequent years of reporting the process will no doubt be refined and adjusted based on our experiences during this first year. As members, you can help by completing your reports thoroughly and returning them quickly. IMPORTANT NOTE: Dixon/Solano RCD will be holding workshops and office hours to help members understand HOW to complete the reporting requirements, HOWEVER we do not have the staff capacity to walk everyone through each of their individual farm evaluations. For both farm evaluations and nitrogen management plans there will be the ability to group your reporting by fields/parcels with similar practices to reduce paperwork. The Coalition will provide farm maps by membership (owner) to assist. It will be up to whoever completes the reports to make copies and to decide the most appropriate grouping of fields and/or parcels. We will keep a running record of FAQs on our website [www.dixonrcd.org](http://www.dixonrcd.org).

**PROGRAM UPDATES**

**SURFACE WATER**—We have spent the last ten years learning together about the interaction between irrigated agriculture in eastern Solano County and surface water quality. We have dispelled some assumptions and have become aware of some unanticipated issues. In every case where we have observed a re-occurring problem related to agricultural activities, our members have been able to make significant improvements, if not eliminate the issue all together. This has built confidence that the group permitting option (Coalitions) are an effective means of addressing non-point source water quality issues related to irrigated agriculture. We have been able to report with certainty, and with data to back it up, that overall there are not numerous, re-occurring high priority issues related to irrigated agriculture in our local surface waters and more importantly when we have had issues, our members have taken the steps necessary to address them.

**GROUNDWATER**—We are starting at a similar place with groundwater knowledge to where we were with surface water ten years ago. There are a lot of assumptions and unknowns when it comes to understanding irrigated agriculture's relationship to groundwater quality. We anticipate spending much of the next ten years getting a better understanding of the current status and trends in our local groundwater qual-

ity, the susceptibility and vulnerability of our local physical features and how specific irrigated agricultural practices interact with these to affect groundwater quality. In 2016 we (Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition-SVWQC) will be required to develop a groundwater trend monitoring workplan as well as a Management Practices Evaluation Program, designed to determine the effects, if any, irrigated agricultural practices have on groundwater under different conditions (irrigation & nutrient management practices, crops, soil types, etc.). SVWQC is considering joining efforts with other Central Valley Coalitions to fulfill this requirement.

**DIXON/SOLANO RCD Coalition  
~ RECOGNITION AWARD ~**

We would like to extend our gratitude to Rachael Long, University of California Cooperative Extension Farm Advisor. Rachael has helped our members in numerous ways over the last several years including:

- \* Providing information to better understand-specific pathways for pesticides movement.
- \* Helping us research effectiveness of specific management practices to address pesticide movement as well as effectiveness of potential alternative products.

THANK YOU RACHAEL!

**~INFORMATIONAL MEETING~**

Dixon/Solano Coalition

ALL MEMBERS are invited

**Thursday December 18th**

6pm City of Dixon

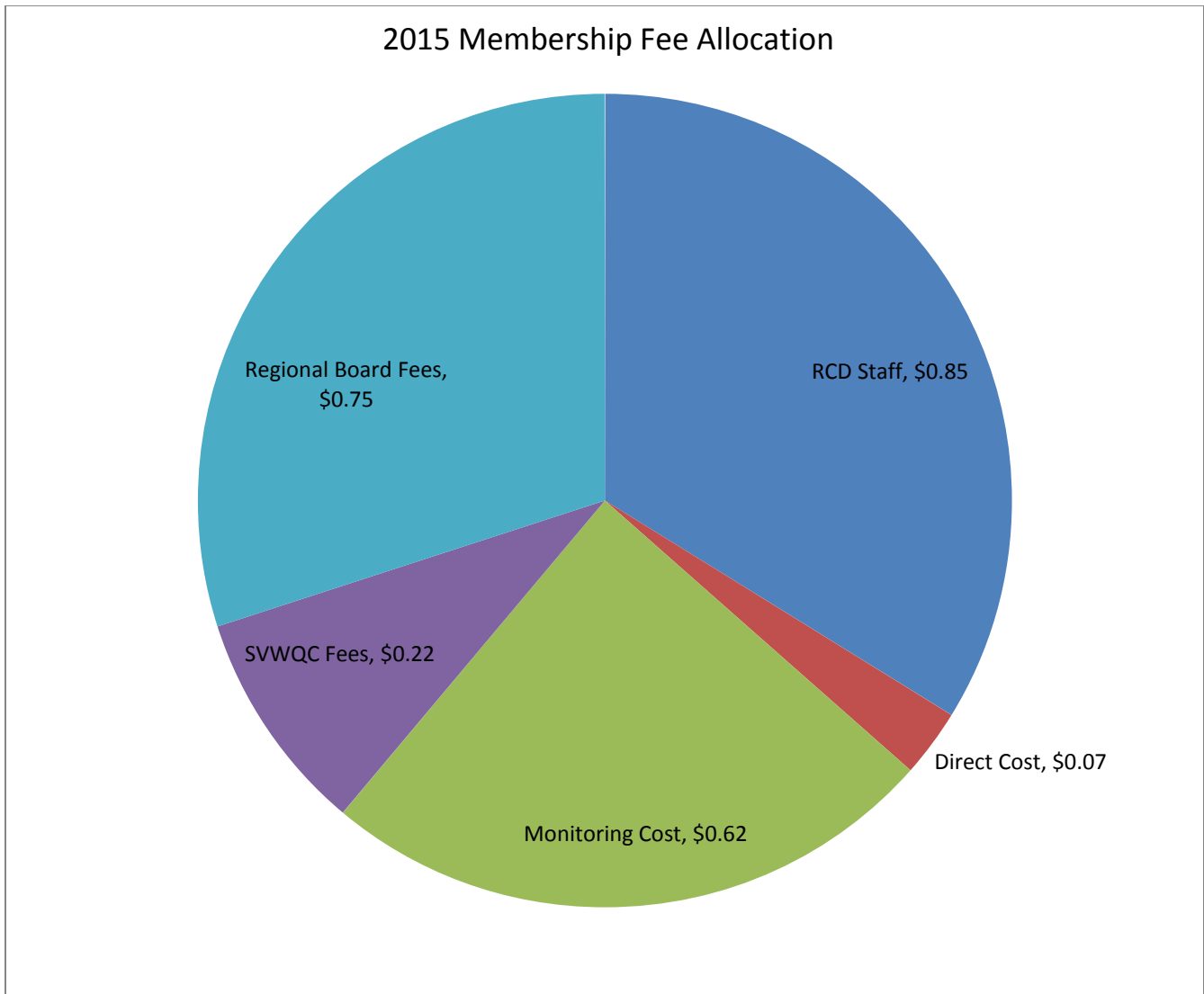
Senior Multiuse Center

**DATES FOR NEW REQUIREMENTS for COALITION MEMBERS**

ALL MEMBERS Complete and <b>Return</b> Farm Evaluations	March 1, 2015 & Annually
ALL MEMBERS Complete & <b>Keep Onsite</b> 2015 Nitrogen Plan	March 1, 2015
MEMBERS in HIGH VULNERABILITY AREAS Complete and <b>Keep Onsite</b> Sediment / Erosion Control Plans	January / February 2016
MEMBERS in HIGH VULNERABILITY AREAS Complete and <b>Return</b> Nitrogen Summary Reports for 2015 Crop Season and <b>Keep Onsite</b> Certified Nitrogen Plans for 2016 Crop Season	March 1, 2016

**The Dixon / Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition Budget Explanation**  
**Fiscal Year 2015 – (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015)**

**What does your \$2.50 per acre fee pay for?** The following pie chart allocates the \$2.50 per acre membership fee to the major expenses categories.



The Dixon / Solano Coalition Financial Report (Page 8) provides a summary of the income and expenses for last year and this year's budget by the categories shown in the chart above.

The following discussion is provided to explain how the significant costs in complying with the State's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) are allocated.

**RCD Staff (\$143,504):** The Dixon and Solano RCDs have allocated staff time to meet the needs of Irrigated Lands Program for this fiscal year. Overall 2584 hours (a 35% increase) are allocated from 6 different staff persons. The RCD staff each has specific duties, but also assist in all roles to meet the program needs. The increase in hours has been necessary to implement the new components of the ILRP. The Dixon / Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition is one of the thirteen subwatersheds of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, which are responsible to support the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition.

## **The Dixon / Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition Budget Explanation Fiscal Year 2015 – (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015)**

### Dixon/ Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition Staff Responsibilities

- Enrolling, organizing, and informing local landowners and producers in subwatershed.
- Tracking and reporting on-farm practices (in the form of survey summaries).
- Reviewing, editing, and commenting on the Regional Coalition draft reports.
- Assisting in selecting appropriate monitoring sites.
- Funding and coordinating the local monitoring of representative sites with our area.
- Serving on the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition’s Management Advisory Committee

**RCD Direct Cost (\$11,400):** The direct costs include mailings, database programming, publications, website, accounting, audits, documents, and landowner/grower meetings.

The following expense categories represent our (Dixon / Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition’s) share of the larger Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition Budget (SVWQC), which totals \$1,386,897 (excluding State Board Oversight Fees). Partnering with the SVWQC has provided an economy of scale that has allowed us to reduce the overall cost of many program elements. This year in particular, if each subwatershed was developing our own reports described below in the section titled “SVWQC – New Waste Discharge Requirements”, the overall cost would be dramatically higher.

**Water Quality Monitoring Cost (\$104,379):** This expense category has four individual components that are representative of the services provided by Larry Walker & Associates (LWA):

- **Monitoring Site Costs – LWA (\$52,696):** Represents the actual cost to collect and analyze the samples from the 3 sites for our Subwatershed, per our Monitoring and Reporting Plan. The Sites are 1) Ulatis Creek: representative site with full monitoring; 2) Z-drain: limited monitoring; 3) Shag Slough: Integrator site with full monitoring. Dixon / Solano RCD shares the monitoring costs of the Shag Slough site with the Yolo subwatershed and therefore only pays for 33%.
- **Site Specific Program Management Cost (\$22,068):** Represents the data analysis, data management, management plan development and reporting to address specific issues.
- **General Program Management Costs (\$25,733):** These costs are apportioned across the entire Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition based on each Subwatershed’s enrolled acres (our Subwatershed percentage based on the July 31, 2014 enrolled acres is 9.2%). The services include the compilation and preparation of reports to the Regional Board, participation in technical and coalition meetings.
- **Follow-up Toxicity Monitoring Costs – LWA (\$3,882):** These costs are estimated based on prior experience in the event that there are toxicity exceedances in the water quality sample that must be further analyzed. These costs are site-specific and may not occur every year.

**Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (SVWQC) Fees (\$37,705):** The two major components are presented in the pie chart below:

- **SVWQC – Regional Plan Program Management (\$26,080):** This cost is apportioned based on each Subwatershed’s enrolled acres (our Subwatershed’s percentage based on the July 31, 2014 enrolled acres is 9.2%). There are five major cost components to this category.

**The Dixon / Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition Budget Explanation**  
**Fiscal Year 2015 – (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015)**

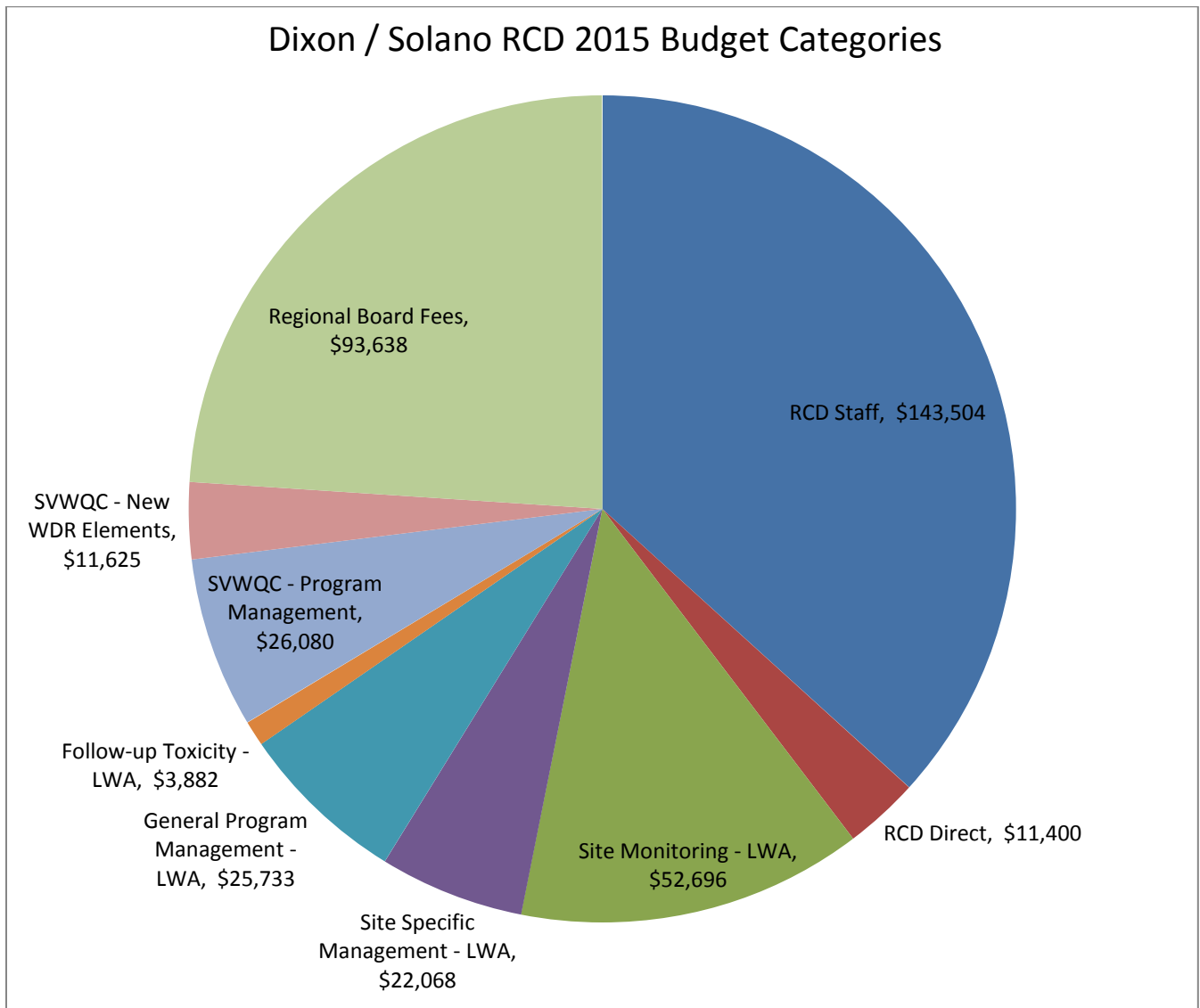
- Northern California Water Association (NCWA) staff and interns (\$15,905): NCWA provides the staff to support and lead the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition. Principal duties include serving as lead contact with the Regional Board, overall coordination of the 13 subwatersheds, primary contact for and preliminary review of water quality monitoring and reporting obligations.
- Direct Costs (\$1,788): These direct costs are specific to the overall SVWQC management and included mailings, database programming, publications, website, accounting, audits, documents, and landowner/grower meetings.
- Legal/Litigation (\$4,033): The coalition annually budgets for legal representation; over the past two years, we have had our legal counsel representing us in the negotiations with the Regional Board regarding the new Order. The current order has been challenged by several groups and there will be several hearings this year.
- Groundwater & Basin Amendment Plan Support (\$3,667): This budget category provides funds to have technical support to address the issues that will affect future regulations on irrigated lands from the Regional Board processes through the Anitdegradation Policy, Central Valley Salinity Alternative for Long-term Solutions (CV SALTS), and Basin Plan Amendments.
- GIS and CURES Services (\$687): This budget category provides access to GIS mapping from Ducks Unlimited and assistance with outreach and education from the Coalition for Urban and Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES). These two organizations bring a statewide perspective and support to our effort.
- **SVWQC – New Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) Elements (\$11,625):** These costs are apportioned based on a flat fee of \$2,275 per Subwatershed and 8.5 cents per enrolled acre based on the July 31, 2014 enrolled acres. There are seven major cost components to this category as a result of the ILRP’s new requirement. These costs are one-time development costs.
  - Membership Database (\$2,236): The new database will house all member information, billings, and payments; and will compile the results for the farm evaluations and nitrogen summaries.
  - Sediment and Erosion Control Assessment Report (\$2,236): This report will determine what areas in each Subwatershed are susceptible to erosion and sediment loss.
  - Groundwater Assessment Report (GAR) (\$2,236): Last year SVWQC and NCWA received a grant to fund the majority of the GAR work which saved our Subwatershed \$36,400. A few details were not finalized before the grant deadline so this budget item will be used to complete the report and submit it to the Regional Board for approval.
  - Comprehensive Groundwater Quality Management Plan (\$894): Once the GAR is approved by the Regional Board, we will prepare a plan demonstrating how we will continue to monitor groundwater and work with landowners/growers to address groundwater issues.
  - Management Practices Evaluation Plan (MPEP) (\$1,788): The MPEP plan will describe how the coalition in partnership with other coalitions, universities, and industry representatives will

**The Dixon / Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition Budget Explanation  
Fiscal Year 2015 – (July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015)**

develop and disseminate information to landowners/growers regarding the specific nitrogen fertilization practices.

- Sediment and Erosion Control Plan (SECP) (\$1,341): The SECP will describe how the coalition will work with landowners/growers to address any sediment and erosion issues that were identified in the Sediment and Erosion Control Assessment Report.
- Nitrogen Management Template (\$894): The nitrogen management template and summary report will be used by landowners/growers to plan and report their nitrogen uses.

**State Board Oversight Fees (\$93,638):** Each year the Coalitions are required to pay the Regional Board a fee based on the number of irrigated acres enrolled as of July 31. This year we anticipate that the fees will be adjusted to reflect the additional enrolled acres that were reported in November. Currently this State Board Oversight fee is \$0.75 per enrolled acre.





## MONITORING & ASSESSMENT RESULTS

### SURFACE WATER

The surface water monitoring results have continued to improve over the last two years. We have not had an algae toxicity exceedance in Ulatis Creek or related Diuron exceedance for the last two storm seasons. We did not have a Chlorpyrifos exceedance at Ulatis Creek in the 2014 irrigation season. In 2013-2014 the only pesticide exceedances were related to pyrethroids products that caused SEDIMENT TOXICITY at two sites (Ulatis Creek & Z-Drain) in April 2014. However in August 2014 there was no significant sediment toxicity at either site. We continued to observe regular exceedances at the Ulatis Creek and Shag Slough sites for electrical conductivity (salts) and Ecoli (pathogens).

### GROUNDWATER

A DRAFT Groundwater Assessment Report (GAR) was completed in July 2014 for the Sacramento Valley Region to fulfill new requirements in the Order. The GAR reviews the existing data regarding groundwater quality and combines that with information on local soils, crops, irrigation practices and hydrogeology to establish "high", "medium" and "low" vulnerability designations by each section of land (640 acres or one square mile). SVWQC funded the \$300,000+ report through a grant instead of distributing the costs among the Coalition members. The full report can be viewed at the SVWQC website [www.svwqc.org](http://www.svwqc.org). Preliminary results indicate that the Dixon/Solano subwatershed has roughly 1/3 of its acres designated as high vulnerability, mostly concentrated around and northeast of the City of Dixon. Dixon/Solano Coalition staff will be working with the consultants that drafted the GAR to clarify some of the details that were used in the designations which may slightly change the vulnerabilities.

#### RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR SURFACE WATER PROTECTION

- SLOW/REDUCE/ELIMINATE or DELAY RELEASE of Tailwater runoff.
- Install vegetative filter areas that allow tailwater to slow down and drop sediment.
- Carefully follow label DRIFT PRECAUTIONS and pesticide application practices that reduce the chance for products to move into non-target areas, especially ditches.
- Apply polyacrylamide (PAM) soil flocculants in furrow irrigated crops to reduce offsite movement of sediment.
- Utilize integrated pest management strategies to reduce the need for pesticide applications.

#### RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR GROUNDWATER PROTECTION

- Test irrigation water and soils for nitrates and adjust fertilizer applications accordingly. For a list of local labs visit Dixon RCD website at [www.dixonrcd.org](http://www.dixonrcd.org).
- Protect areas around well heads and drain tailwater away from them.
- Install backflow prevention on wells.
- Become familiar with the nitrogen needs of your specific crops and the calculated amount of nitrogen that is removed in a crop. Adjust your nitrogen application accordingly.

## 2015 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), NO DEADLINES This Year

~ Wendy Rash, USDA NRCS Dixon Service Center ~

NRCS is available to help with technical and financial assistance on projects ranging from irrigation systems, to cover crops, to fencing and watering facilities on rangelands, to tailwater ponds and wildlife habitat. Participation is voluntary and projects are chosen based on the benefit to local natural resources and on available funds. In past years, the deadline for applications has been set on a single date in the fall- but not this year. Does that mean there's no program this year? No... the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is simply implementing what we hope will be a more responsive and quicker program delivery system. We will be accepting applications continuously with 2-3 "batching periods" throughout the year to fund applications, rather than one big batch per year with a single deadline. What this means for participants: Less waiting. If you miss a "batching period" you won't have to wait another year to apply. The time between applying and receiving a decision on funding should be shorter, so you can start your project sooner. You can put in your application 3-6 months before you want to start your project, rather than a year or more. What it means for us: Better planning. We develop a plan for your project with you on a reasonable timeline, without having to rush to get it ready in time for a single deadline date. Less rushing means better plans and better projects- with benefits accruing to participants and to the environment. As with any project, the sooner you start the better- so please come in or call to start the planning process with us as soon as you have the idea in mind. **For more information or to apply, please contact the Dixon NRCS Field Office at 1170 North Lincoln Street, Suite 110, or call 707-678-1655 extension 3. For more information on NRCS programs, visit [www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov).**

## FARM EVALUATIONS

In early January Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition will send out forms to complete Farm Evaluations. In order to maintain compliance, each Coalition enrolled parcel will need to be reported on. A separate reporting packet will be sent out for each membership (landowner). Either the landowner or the tenant (whoever was designated as the reporting party on the recently completed Notices of Confirmation) will receive the packet. **Whoever receives the reporting packet will be responsible for ensuring the report is completed and returned to Dixon/Solano RCD no later than March 1, 2015.**

### WHAT INFORMATION WILL YOU NEED TO COMPLETE FARM EVALUATION?

- For each enrolled parcel, the acreages by field, crops by field, field identifiers or names (designated by operator), as well as which fields have the same irrigation, nutrient management and erosion control practices. If they are under one membership, fields with the same practices can be grouped into one report
- In use and abandoned agricultural well locations and decommissioning status and dates
- Locations where runoff leaves property

## NITROGEN MANAGEMENT PLANS

Nitrogen management plans for the 2015 Crop Year are required to be completed by March 1, 2015 throughout the Central Valley. Although the nitrogen plans are required to be completed by March, **NOTHING IS DUE TO THE COALITION UNTIL MARCH 2016!** In March 2016 parcels that are in designated "high vulnerability" regions will submit Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Reports for the 2015 Crop Year as well as have their Nitrogen Management Plans for the 2016 Crop Year completed by a certified crop advisor or other approved party (there will be the opportunity for operators to be certified if they would like complete their own). The reports will summarize information from the Management Plan including a ratio of the amount of nitrogen supplied over the amount of nitrogen the crop needs (input/need). The designations for "high vulnerability" regions have not yet been finalized for the Sacramento Valley Region (see Groundwater discussion on page 2).

WHAT INFORMATION WILL I NEED\* TO COMPLETE MY NITROGEN PLAN? (\*If you are not currently collecting data, you will not be penalized. There will be options to express that you are not currently collecting it and this is helpful information for the Coalition).

- Field identification numbers (designated by operator)
- Crop type / age / acres / irrigation method
- Expected yield (Estimated. Documented as pounds of production per acre)
- Actual yield (Measured. Documented as pounds of production per acre)
- Nitrogen needed by crop
- Nitrogen removed (during harvest or materials removal)
- Total nitrogen applied (including nitrogen in irrigation water and residual nitrogen in the soil)

FARM LEVEL REPORTING 2015 WORKSHOPS—details at <a href="http://WWW.DIXONRCD.ORG">WWW.DIXONRCD.ORG</a>			
Thursday January 8 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 - 9:00 AM	FARM EVALUATION WORKSHOP	American Legions Hall DIXON
Tuesday January 20 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 - 8:00 PM	FARM EVALUATION WORKSHOP	Olde Vets Hall, DIXON
Wednesday February 4 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 - 8:00 PM	NITROGEN PLAN WORKSHOP	Dixon Senior Multiuse Center
Tuesday February 10 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	NITROGEN PLAN WORKSHOP	American Legions Hall DIXON
Thursday February 19 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 - 8:00 PM	NITROGEN PLAN WORKSHOP	Olde Vets Hall, DIXON
Wednesday February 25 <sup>th</sup>	8:00 - 10:00 AM	NITROGEN PLAN WORKSHOP	American Legions Hall DIXON

## SEDIMENT & EROSION CONTROL PLANS

A Sediment Discharge and Erosion Assessment Report will be developed for the entire Sacramento Valley Coalition Area by June 2015. This report will designate high and low vulnerability areas for sediment and erosion control. Parcels that are in designated high vulnerability areas will be required to have certified erosion control plans developed and kept on site. The estimated date that these will be required to be completed is January/February 2016. Dixon/Solano Coalition will notify members that manage parcels in designated high vulnerability areas of their obligation to complete the certified plans in the August/September 2015 time-frame and will likely conduct workshops and office hours much like what is planned for the nitrogen plans and farm evaluations this year.