



WATER QUALITY UPDATE

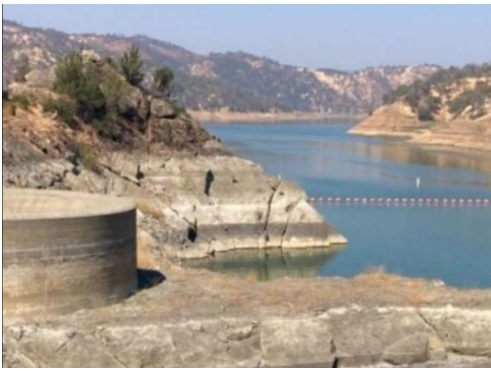
DIXON/SOLANO RCD WATER QUALITY COALITION - OCTOBER 2023

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What a difference a year makes!

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 - Solano RCD Board of Directors
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What a difference a year makes!



The pictures are of Lake Berryessa in August 2023 (left) and the same time last year in August 2022 (right). What a difference a year makes.

Although we are not out of the woods in regards to the drought, having one of the wettest winters we have seen in quite a while is a relief to many of our livelihoods like agriculture, industry, and recreation at Lake Berryessa. As I am sure, you know, Lake Berryessa is the water source for much of Solano County. It is nice to be able to celebrate with the visual cues seeing the much fuller lake and one of our most precious commodities, water.

[Learn More](#)

Surface Water Report - Ulatis Creek Sediment Toxicity Management Plan

Here is a picture of the Ulatis Creek at Brown Road monitoring site for water quality. We have had zero exceedance for pesticides in 2023. Thank you growers for being conscious of using BMP when applying pesticide products.

In 2022, we had a pesticide exceedance for sediment toxicity at this site which extended our management plan for an additional three years, through 2025.

For BMP-best management practices, [click here](#).

Also, if you haven't already, I urge you to read the article, "*Protecting Sacramento Valley Waterways from Pyrethroid Exceedances*" by a group of experts from the University of California Cooperative Extension *David Haviland, Katherine Jarvis-Shean, Rachael Long, and Franz Niederholzer*. [Click here](#) to read the article.

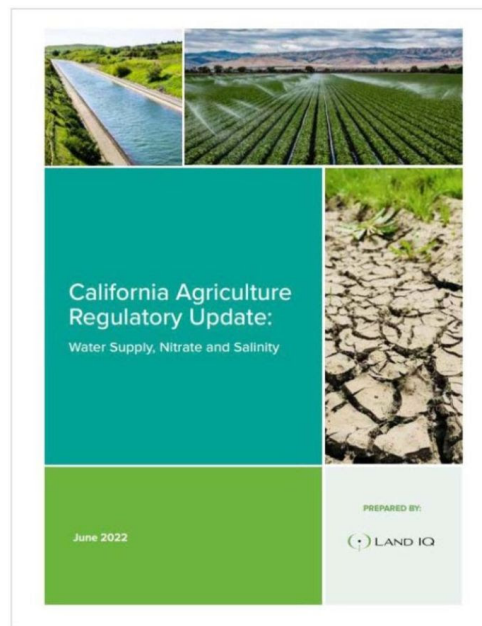
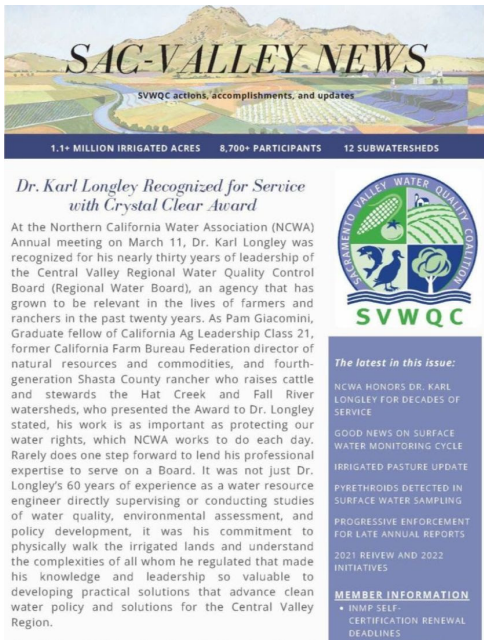


Groundwater Update

It is truly difficult to give a groundwater update in just a couple of paragraphs because there is so much going on in California pertaining to this subject. I don't think I can do a better job or add anything more to the articles on page 3 of the Sac-Valley News-September 2023-Issue 9 and the California Agriculture Regulatory Update-August 2023 edition. I encourage you to read them and attend the Groundwater Workshop on January 23, 2024. Links below.

Stay Informed!

If you haven't read these publications before, start reading them. They will keep you informed about California Agriculture Regulatory Programs (Prepared by Land IQ) and highlights of the Sac-Valley Water Quality Coalition (Written by Staff at the SVWQC). They are both quarterly publications. The newsletters can be found on our website at: <https://www.dixonrcd.org/irrigated-lands> or you can click on the images below to take directly to the web pages.



Upcoming Outreach Events

Hosted by: Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition

All Member's Annual Hybrid Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023

6 pm to 7 pm

Location: RCD Conference Room [1170 N. Lincoln Street, Suite 109 Dixon, CA 95620](#)

Agenda:

- Membership, Coalition, and Program Updates
- Soil Health
- Irrigation and Nitrogen Management

Guest Speakers will be:

Annie Burkholder, Dellavalle Labs-Soil Health

Amy King, Solano RCD-Irrigation and Nitrogen Management

Register [here](#) to attend, in-person or online

or call Martha at 707-678-1655x103

The Zoom link will be available as we get closer to the event. Coffee and cookies will be served.

Applying for INMP CEUs for this event.



Groundwater Workshop

Date: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

9 am to 12 Noon

Location: American Legion Hall [1305 N. 1st. Street Dixon, CA 95620](#)

This is an in-person event only.

Learn about the latest information on groundwater in our area and around California from expert speakers at Solano Resource Conservation District, Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers, UC Davis, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services, and Solano County Water Agency.

Registration information and a detailed agenda coming soon.

Applying for INMP CEUs for this event.

**These events fulfill member outreach requirements. To read the member requirements in the "Order, " [click here.](#)

FARM REPORTING - CROP YEAR 2023



Farm reporting is due February 15, 2024.

Late fees apply after that date.

Farm reporting emails/letters will be sent in late November/early December with the details on reporting. The DMT-data management tool will be ready to accept 2023 crop year farm reporting at that time. It looks like the reporting will be the same as the 2022 crop year with no new requirements.

Please contact Martha McKeen at 707-678-1655 x103 or martha-mckeen@dixonrcd.org if you need assistance completing your reporting or need your DMT login credentials.

Para obtener ayuda en español, comuníquese con Joanna Yac a 707-678-1655 x100 o joanna-yac@dixonrcd.org

Click on the green button to access the login portal of the DMT. It will be ready for the new reporting season after the revisions are made and once you receive your email/letter later this year.



Update Your Contact Info

There are three different ways you can update your contact information:

- Make the changes on the bottom portions of your invoice and then send it in with your payment.
- Log in to the DMT, go to 'My Info' in the upper right-hand corner of the screen to make your updates, and press SAVE.
- Contact Martha McKeen at 707-678-1655 x103 or martha-mckeen@dixonrcd.org and she will be happy to make the changes for you.

Having the correct contact information uses less staff time thus it helps keep member costs down. Thank you for your help on this matter!

Financial Snapshot for FY 22-23 and FY 23-24

For more complete details of expenses and revenues about the Water Quality Coalition Budget, please contact Martha McKeen at 707-678-1655 x103.

Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition Projected July 2022 - June 2023 Finances		Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition Preliminary July 2023 - June 2024 Finances	
Total Income	\$ 444,666	Total Budgeted Income	\$ 452,165
Membership Fees (\$3.75/acre)	\$ 442,815	Membership Fees (\$3.75/acre)	\$ 450,665
Interest	\$ 1,185	Interest	\$ 1,500
Total Expenses	\$ 448,155	Total Budgeted Expenses	\$ 507,592
RCD Staff	\$ 126,031	RCD Staff	\$ 137,994
RCD Direct Cost	\$ 3,613	RCD Direct Cost	\$ 14,130
Surface Water Monitoring	\$ 48,903	Surface Water Monitoring	\$ 54,661
Groundwater/Reporting Requirements	\$ 87,569	Groundwater/Reporting Requirements	\$ 93,016
SVWQC Fees	\$ 25,526	SVWQC Fees	\$ 33,051
State Board Fees (\$1.35/acre)	\$ 156,514	State Board Fees (\$1.47/acre)	\$ 173,841
Fund Balance 06/2023 (projected)	\$ 188,704	Fund Balance 06/2024 (preliminary)	\$ 133,276

Now Accepting Online & Phone Payments



Online and phone payments are now available to pay your annual water quality membership fees. There is a 2.25% service charge to use your debit or credit card. Scan the QR code, call 1-888-604-7888, or come to the office to swipe your card! For questions, please contact Martha McKeen at 707-678-1655 x103.

And yes, you can still mail in a check to pay your invoice!

What's up with our Solano Partnerships?



Solano RCD Education Update

Our education programs at Solano Resource Conservation District anticipate educating over 8,500 students in the 2023-24 school year. Our watershed education programs reach students throughout the county through classroom lessons and field trip experiences. By participating in hands-on science activities, students learn the importance of our county's water resources, how they can help prevent stormwater pollution, and how we can all conserve water. Dixon students will enjoy a variety of outdoor experiences, ranging from science stations in the Suisun Marsh at Rush Ranch Open Space, planting grass plugs at Valley Glen Pond, and exploring Dunnell Nature Center in Fairfield.

Solano County teachers and students are invited to participate in the following education programs:

- Watershed Explorers Program (3rd grade)
- Suisun Marsh Watershed Program (6th grade)
- Solano County Biomonitoring Program (9-12th grade)
- Benicia Water Program (4-5th grade)
- School Water Education Program (K-12th grade)
- Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District Education Program (7th grade)

For teachers interested in joining the Solano Water Institute for Teachers, the training will take place July 31-August 2. This field-trip-based workshop highlights the preservation of Solano County open spaces and the region's complex water resources, while providing first-hand experiential learning that teachers can share with their students. Visit www.solanorcd.org/events for more information and to register.

To learn more about Solano RCD's education programs, please email



Last Call Delta Landowners!

Solano RCD is looking for landowners in the primary Delta area interested in conservation work on their property. We can brainstorm ideas with you for implementing BMPs such as cover crops, vegetated waterways, irrigation audits and efficiency testing, windbreaks, hedgerows, pollinator habitat, and many more. After creating a Conservation Plan for your property that details the practices you are interested in, we can help you identify and apply for funding to put them in place.

Please contact Amy King at: amy.king@solanorcd.org or or 530-848-3551 to chat about the possibilities for your property or operation.



Pesticide Disposal Program Grant is Almost Closed

The Solano RCD, in partnership with the County of Solano, Dixon RCD and CalRecycle, are working to identify a sustainable model for our agricultural

community to safely manage and dispose of hazardous materials. A pilot program was created to assist producers with the disposal cost of pesticides that have expired or are no longer legal to apply. This pesticide disposal program is nearing the end of the grant funds and the program deadline of December 31, 2023.

If you have pesticides or other unidentified hazardous materials in need of disposal, please contact Kevin Young-Lai at: (707) 678-1655 x 123 or email kevin.young-lai@solanorcd.org

Native Plant Sale

Oct 28, 12-5pm

**Ruhstaller Farms
6686 Sievers Rd**

Native Plants • Monarch Kits • Workshop

**FREE Pollinator
Workshop
at 1pm & 3pm**

More info at solanorcd.org/events,
click the link below.

*Please BYOB (Bring Your Own Box)
We have a limited supply of plant trays
and every little bit helps!



solanorcd.org/events

California Groundwater Awareness Week in 2023

Written by: Wendy Rash, State Water Quality Specialist, USDA-NRCS

Edited by: Teri Knight, District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS

For the original full article, [click here](https://dixonrcd.org/irrigated-lands)
dixonrcd.org/irrigated-lands

Scroll down to the **Groundwater Awareness** button

March was the beginning of Groundwater Awareness Week. Now, I know you all are aware of groundwater; how could you *not* be aware, working in agriculture in California? Groundwater does present its own special challenges compared with surface water, for reasons that are evident (it's underground and harder to see) and because humans manage it differently. The Department of Water Resources says:

Groundwater and surface water are essentially one resource, physically connected by the hydrologic cycle in which water evaporates, forms clouds, and falls to the ground as rain or snow. Some of this precipitation seeps into the ground and moves slowly into an underground aquifer, eventually becoming groundwater. Water law and water policy often consider groundwater and surface water as separate resources, though they are functionally inter-dependent.

NRCS can share groundwater information by bringing you resources and information about specific and intimate entanglements between groundwater and agriculture in California from a conservation viewpoint. Topics include:

- SGMA, GSAs, and GSPs
- Where to find data about groundwater
- Drinking (ground)water, source (ground)water protection, and (ground)water quality
- Farm-based groundwater recharge
- Conservation Planning for Groundwater Resource Concerns

If you're really intrigued by all this, you can watch the California Department of Water Resources' [Groundwater Awareness Week Kick-off and Interactive Workshop](#) on YouTube. Explore more [Water Basics on Groundwater here!](#)

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Joanna Yac, DRCD Office Manager

Kelly Huff, DRCD District Manager

Chris Rose, SRCD Executive Director

Want to be more involved?

For vacancy information, contact:

Caitlyn Morrissey 707-678-1655 x101 for
the **Solano RCD Board**.

Martha McKeen 707-678-1655 x103 for
the **Coalition Advisory Committee**.
