



DIXON/SOLANO RCD WATER QUALITY COALITION

Annual Newsletter - October 2025

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The entire email may not display. Please click on "View entire message" at the end of the email to reveal the complete newsletter.

Featured Articles

Your Annual Farm Reporting is Helping with Local Groundwater Sustainability Efforts

By: Kelly Huff, Dixon RCD District Manager

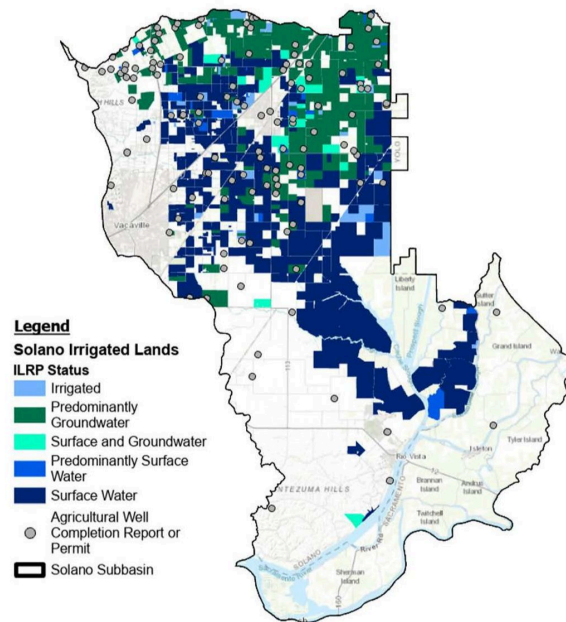
Between our 98% enrollment of eligible acres and 100% farm reporting completion rates, Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition data is a reliable and up to date source of field level data. By answering a few additional questions on irrigation water source during your crop year reporting, you are improving the accuracy of groundwater use information in the Solano Groundwater Subbasin. Thank you!

Providing this information to the local groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) means they are working with the best and most current information available. It will also allow them to evaluate options for different GSA fee structures in the future, which was one of the primary concerns of landowners in Solano County.

The data is being used by the GSA technical team to ground truth their modeled results for groundwater use. Importantly, this was done without creating another reporting structure or database with additional costs to landowners or growers.

The Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition Advisory Committee, made up of local coalition members, has continued to support this and any options that maximize cost effectiveness and minimize duplicate reporting for growers.

Please let Martha know if you are interested in participating in the advisory committee meetings.



Map created by: Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers

[Click to see map detail](#)

Farm Tour 2025

Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition hosted a farm tour on February 4, 2025 for the staff of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board). Typically when the coalition hosts a tour for the Regional Board, we visit two or three local farms selected to highlight their farm practices that have a positive effect on water quality. February 3rd was a very rainy day so we had to improvise. We rented a van and toured a few sites that would not take us off road to talk about the positive things happening in the area and to discuss some of the program's challenges.

Some of the drive-by tour spots:

- Vegetated ditch in Casey Road
- Misc. Orchards with drip irrigation
- Ulatis Creek at Brown Road Monitoring Site
- Fields covered by vegetation, reducing run-off
- Drainage ditches and ponds

Then we stopped at Rick and Connie Martinez' place where they hosted a presentation luncheon with the Regional Board staff, Dixon RCD, Solano RCD and Sac-Valley Water Quality Coalition staff along with a few growers that shared some best management practices on their farms.



The tour group at the Martinez' barn to hear D/S RCD Water Quality Coalition's presentation about local grower success stories and pilot projects.



Tommy Bottoms discussing a pilot program on his farm.



Our gracious hosts, Rick and Connie Martinez'.



Cork McIsaac, Dixon/Solano's Representative to Sac-Valley Coalition, Chris Rose, Solano RCD Executive Director and Petra Lee, Unit Manager of Monitoring and Implementation for the Regional Board.

Water Quality

Surface Water Report: Sediment Toxicity (*Hyaella*) Management Plan at Ulatis Creek

Sediment Toxicity:

On April 16, 2025, a sediment sample from Ulatis Creek at Brown Road (UCBRD) was found to be toxic to *Hyaella* with greater than a 20% effect on organism survival as compared to the control. The test showed that there were only low levels of pyrethroids present (bifenthrin and permethrin) in UCBRD sediment. Because the results were not sufficient to quantify, the cause of the observed toxicity will be described as “unknown”. Unfortunately, this still means we have a pyrethroid exceedance that will continue the current Management Plan (MP) for Sediment Toxicity to *Hyaella* at UCBRD for an additional three years.

This site had sediment toxicity exceedances in April 2018 & April 2019 related to pyrethroid pesticides in the sediment sampling which triggered the original MP. The two detected pyrethroids were Lambda-cyhalothrin and Bifenthrin.

As it reads in the management plan, “Outreach is focused on the potential cause(s) of sediment toxicity to Hyalella and the continued implementation of best management practices (BMPs) that prevent the movement of pyrethroids into Sacramento Valley surface waters. In the event that a future exceedance of the ILRP toxicity trigger limit is observed, and pyrethroids are determined to be a potential cause, Coalition staff will use CDPR PUR (California Department of Pesticide Regulation Pesticide Users Report) data to identify possible sources of the observed exceedance and initiate follow-up actions, as necessary.”

Monitoring Stats for Sediment Toxicity:

- 2020 and 2021 - Zero sediment toxicity exceedances
- April 2022 - A sediment toxicity exceedance. In the past, there was enough information to determine the likely cause of the sediment toxicity exceedances from pyrethroid pesticides. This time, it is more difficult to pinpoint the cause of the exceedance. Although this exceedance had pyrethroids detected at DNQ-detected not quantified levels, the exceedance extended the current management plan for an additional three years.
- 2023 and 2024 - Zero sediment toxicity exceedances
- April 2025 - A sediment toxicity exceedance. This exceedance extends the MP another three years!

Water Column:

On December 17, 2024, four types of pyrethroids were detected at the Ulatis Creek/Brown Road (UCBRD) monitoring site. Collectively, these detected pyrethroids resulted in an exceedance of the Basin Plan Objective for pyrethroids in the water column. The last water column exceedance at UCBRD monitoring site prior to this one was on June 23, 2021.

The pyrethroid pesticides detected in the water column in this exceedance (along with common agricultural product trade names) are:

- Bifenthrin (Brigade, Bifenture, Capture, Fanfare)
- Cyfluthrin (Tombstone)
- Esfenvalerate (Du Pont Asana)
- Lambda-Cyhalothrin (Warrior, Lambda-Cy)

Once again in April and May of 2025, water column exceedances for pyrethroids occurred at Ulatis Creek which triggered a management plan. Rather than having a separate plan for water column, we are providing an addendum to the current toxicity management plan since the additional requirements for outreach and possible restrictions will be the same.

What does this mean for growers?

Additional outreach and reporting:

We will be required to collect additional data from pyrethroid users. The report will be included in the DMT. A grower meeting occurred August 2025. All pyrethroid pesticide users were required to attend. The growers that were unable to make the meeting date were asked to review the meeting materials and submit confirmation by October 1, 2025. To review the grower meeting material, [click here](#).

Potential for additional restrictions:

Monitoring dates:

We have increased monitoring requirements for the life of the management plan which could lead to increased costs for coalition members.

Bottom line:

We have been in the current management plan since 2019. These exceedances start the clock over for the management plan and we must have zero exceedances over the next three years before we can complete the plan. Pyrethroid pesticides are highly toxic at low concentrations to invertebrates eaten by waterfowl and fish. They can move off-farm by binding tightly to organic matter and soil particles. In this exceedance, the pyrethroids were found in the water column. Proper application, weather monitoring, limiting drift, and sediment erosion practices are critical for limiting pyrethroid runoff into waterways. If you see someone applying pesticides incorrectly, get involved and help them do it the right way! Stewardship and implementing best management practices cannot be emphasized enough.

BMP-best management practices for pesticides. [Click here.](#)

Prospect Slough Monitoring Site

The Shag Slough/Liberty Island Bridge (SSLIB) integrated monitoring site has moved. Monitoring is now Prospect Slough. The new integrated monitoring site was approved by the Regional Board for water quality sampling that integrates multiple water sources with inputs from Yolo and Solano counties.

[Water quality monitoring sites map](#)

Groundwater Protection (GWP) Formula, Values, and Targets

The development of Groundwater Protection (GWP) Formula, Values and Targets for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) is to establish township-level nitrogen loading **targets** or **performance goals** – not yet **limits** or **compliance levels**. The proposed GWP Targets build upon previous Central Valley-wide Coalition efforts to quantify current township-scale nitrogen loading at the root zone based on grower-reported Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary data.

An expert panel was recently established and is reviewing water quality issues that deal with nitrogen leaching. To read more about the expert panel, click the link below.

[Water Quality Panel Focuses on Nitrogen Use in Agriculture](#)

Groundwater Recharge & Stormwater Management in Eastern Solano County

Did you know that since 1952 Dixon RCD's primary service has been the maintenance of 70 miles of agricultural drains? This gives us additional incentive to find opportunities to sink excess stormwater where it will benefit groundwater supply. We are working closely with local agricultural water districts, the City of Dixon, Solano County Water Agency and others to support stormwater detention in upper watersheds. With support from a California Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant and in partnership with Solano RCD, the Solano Subbasin GSA and others we are working with several landowners and operators that have stepped forward to have their properties and/or practices instrumented, modified and/or enhanced to maximize stormwater infiltration. The pilot areas of focus have been the upper watersheds of drainages that regularly suffer from downstream flooding including McCune & Sweeney Creeks and Dixon RCD's Tremont 1 and Tremont 3 systems. Pilot projects and ideas include:

- Evaluation of City and private urban detention/retention ponds for increased infiltration
- Re-use and increased infiltration of former tailwater return ponds for stormwater
- Deep rooted native vegetation plantings in upland swales
- Incentives from GSA(s) for winter cover on cropland

Stay tuned for updates from the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Sign up for emails @ solanogsp.com or contact Kelly or Martha for more info!

If you are a landowner interested in opportunities for multi-benefit projects and practices on your property and want to know if your land is a good fit for groundwater recharge, [sign up here.](#)

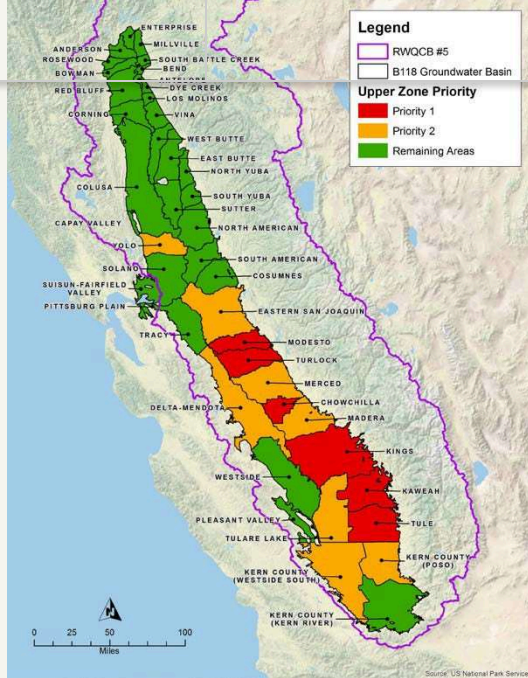
Delta Regional Monitoring Program

The Delta Regional Monitoring Program (Delta RMP) was initiated under the encouragement of the Central Valley Regional Board with the primary goal of tracking and documenting the effectiveness of beneficial use protection and restoration efforts through comprehensive monitoring of water quality constituents and their effects in the Delta. The Delta RMP is currently implemented by an independent non-profit corporation, also called the Delta Regional Monitoring Program (DRMP). The main focus areas of the Delta RMP includes mercury, nutrients, constituents of emerging concern and pesticides/toxicity. To learn more, [click here.](#)

CV Salts Program Update

CV Salts - Nitrate Control Program

The Central Valley Regional Board and the State Water Board approved the CV Salts program in 2018.



Nitrate Control Program Goals:

- 1) Ensure safe drinking water supplies
- 2) Reduce nitrate loading to groundwater so that ongoing discharges neither threaten to degrade high quality waters absent appropriate findings by the Regional Board nor cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality objectives.
- 3) Implement long-term, managed restoration of impaired water bodies.

Priority 1 and Priority 2 basins were identified.

Priority 1 Area (Red) Notice to Comply - May 29, 2020-Management Zone (MZ) Plan Proposal submitted and approved

- [Kaweah](#)
- [Chowchilla](#)
- [Modesto](#)
- [Turlock](#)
- [Tule](#)
- [Kings](#)

Priority 2 Area (Gold) Notice to Comply - December 29, 2023 -Management Zone (MZ) Plan submitted and with conditional approval

- [Delta-Mendota](#)
- [Eastern San Joaquin](#)
- [Kern County \(Poso\)](#)
- [Kern County \(West-side South\)](#)
- [Madera, Merced](#)
- [Tulare Lake](#)
- [Yolo](#) (Areas between Cache Creek and Putah Creek are identified as Priority 2 areas in the Yolo Basin.)

Not Prioritized Remaining Areas (Green) Implementation to be phased in on a case-by-case basis, as needed. Solano County is part of the remaining areas that are not prioritized.

For each prioritized area, parcels with domestic wells were identified. The residents are offered a free nitrate well testing and if the test results are 7.5 or above, they can receive free drinking water.

FEES: Landowners that are part of the ILRP and enrolled in Yolo County will pay additional fees on the annual invoices which will be approximately \$1.00 more per/acre. When possible, reports from the Irrigated Lands Program will be used so there is not a duplication of work.

For those who are interested in more information you can visit www.CVsality.org

Upcoming Outreach Events

Fall Native Plant Sale 2025

Saturday, November 8, 2025, from 12 pm to 4 pm

[Solano Brewing Co](#)

5500 Weber Rd Vacaville, CA

Please bring your own box! We have a limited supply of plant trays available.

Free parking and admission. Forms of payment accepted for the plant sale include card, cash or check.

Food and adult beverages may be available to purchase separately.

For more info, contact us at (707) 678-1655 or email info@solanorcd.org

[Click here for flyer](#)

FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE

Saturday November 8th, 2025

12pm-4pm

Solano Brewing Co

5500 Weber Rd, Vacaville



Join Solano RCD, Morningsun Herb Farm, and CNPS Jepson Chapter for our Fall Plant Sale!

Free workshops at 1pm and 3pm

More info at SolanoRCD.org/Events

*Please bring your own box for your plants! we have a limited supply of plant trays available.



FARM PROGRAMS 101 & EMERGING COMMODITIES

Hosted by Dixon and Solano Resource Conservation Districts

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2025 from 9:00 am to 11:30 am
American Legion Hall | 1305 N. 1st Street | Dixon, CA 95620

Learn about the free and low-cost programs available to local farmers, ranchers, and landowners. Also, there will be presentations on emerging agricultural commodities, such as Dorper sheep and agave.

Register today!



Agenda

- 9:00 am – Introduction to Farm Programs 101 and Emerging Commodities, Martha McKeen, Dixon RCD and Monica Quezada, Solano RCD
- 9:04 am – Assistance, Programs and Funding, Diane Varley, CDFA
- 9:12 am – Benefits of Membership, Miranda Jechens and Jill Hendrix, Solano County Farm Bureau
- 9:20 am – Technical Assistance, Kevin Young-Lai and Monica Quezada, Solano RCD
- 9:28 am – Groundwater Recharge, Rogell Rogers, Sustainable Conservation
- 9:36 am – Small Farm Advising, Relief and Incentive Grants, Phillip Thomas Fujiyoshi, UCCE
- 9:44 am – Agricultural Clean Air Grant, Eden Winniford, Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District
- 9:52 am – Funding and Loan Programs, USDA FSA
- 10:00 am – NRCS Programs, USDA NRCS
- 10:08 am to 10:20 am – Q & A and break
- 10:20 am – Raising Dorsers, Catherine Diaz-Khansefid, DK Dorsers
- 10:40 am – Growing Agave, Delaney Sondag
- 11:00 am -11:30 am – Q & A and one-on-ones talks with agency representatives

Dornuts, fruit, coffee and water will be provided.

Presentations will be in English & Spanish

Register at:

<https://www.dixonrcd.org/farm-programs-101>

or scan QR code above

For questions: Martha McKeen 707-678-1655 x103 or martha-mckeen@dixonrcd.org



Farm Programs 101 & Emerging Commodities

Thursday, November 13, 2025

9 am - Noon

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

Presentations in English and Spanish

[Click here to register](#)

or scan the QR code



For questions: Martha McKeen
martha-mckeen@dixonrcd.org

[Click here for the detailed agenda](#)

[Haga clic aquí para ver la agenda detallada](#)

**Solano County Continuing
Education (CE)
Pesticide Law and Reg.
Review**

(2 hours law, 1 hour other)

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

9 am - Noon

Fairfield, CA

For questions: Martha McKeen

martha-mckeen@dixonrcd.org



**Irrigation and Nutrient
Workshop**

Date: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

9 am to Noon

Location:

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

[CA 95620](#)

More information coming soon.

This will be an in-person only event.

Applying for Grower INMP and CCA CEUs for
this event.

All Members Annual Meeting

There is not an *All Members Annual Meeting* scheduled at this time. All annual coalition and membership updates are in this newsletter.

For questions, please contact Martha McKeen at 707-678-1655 x103.

Membership

Farm Reporting will take longer this year! - Crop Year 2025

Farm reporting is due February 15, 2026. An email/letter will be sent in early December with the details on this year's reporting requirements. The DMT-data management tool will be ready to accept 2025 crop year farm reporting at that time. Farm reporting will be more robust for crop year 2025 and will take

longer to complete.

The additional reporting for crop year 2025 are:

- Farm Evaluation Survey- This is the whole farm survey required every 5 years. The 2020 crop year was the last time this was completed.
- SW MPIR-Surface Water Management Practice Implementation Report- This report is a requirement for all subwatersheds that are under a current management plan. The soonest we can complete the management plan (MP) for sediment and water toxicity will be in August 2028. This report will be required each year until the MP is completed.

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

Late fees will apply for farm reporting received after February 15, 2026.

[DMT Portal](#)

Grower Feedback Reports

The grower feedback reports will be uploaded into the DMT mid-December. They may look a little different from previous reports. Once we have all of the information to pass onto the growers about the new GWPT - Groundwater Protection Targets, we will explain the new targets and thresholds. If you have any questions, please contact Martha McKeen 707-678-1655 x103

Crop Year 2024 Recap

- We ended with 100% of the members reporting for crop year 2024
 - Nearly all or 98% of members paid the annual membership with the exception for two members whose memberships were revoked
 - State fees for fiscal year 2025-2026 remain the same
 - The coalition membership per irrigated acre fees remain the same at \$3.75.
-

Annual Education Requirement

All coalition members or their representatives are required to complete annual education. Qualifying education can be an in-person meeting, online meeting or webinar or even reviewing water quality presentations or reading materials.

[Sac-Valley Water Quality Coalition Newsletters](#)

[Sac-Valley Water Quality Coalition Outreach Videos](#)

[Click here](#) to read an excerpt from the WDR - Waste Discharge Requirements or the "Order" about required education for members.

Stay Informed

Be sure to check out our website periodically for events and updated water quality information.

[Dixon RCD/Irrigated Lands Page](#)

Keep Us Informed

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

- Make the changes on the bottom portion 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 to make the changes for you. 707-678-1655 x103 or martha-mckeen@dixonrcd.org

Financial

Water Quality Budget Snapshot

[FY 2024-2025 Water Quality Budget- preliminary](#)

[FY 2025-2026 Water Quality Budget - projected](#)

[Multi-year Comparison](#)

Please contact Martha McKeen at 707-678-1655 x103 or martha-mckeen@dixonrcd.org if you have any questions about the WQC budget.

Membership Dues and Online Payments



The annual membership invoices for FY 2026 were sent on October 1, 2025, with a due date of December 1 2025. The fees are the same as last year at \$3.75 per irrigated acre. In addition to paying with a check (or cash), you can pay online or by phone.

NOTE: 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.

Solano RCD Partners in Action

Outdoor Education Programs Work Toward Lifelong Stewardship

By Stephanie Stock, Solano RCD Education Program Manager

As our team visits classrooms throughout Solano County to teach lessons about local water and outdoor resources, we certainly notice how frequently the average student is interacting with technology. Whether accessed through their own personal devices such as phones or via school-issued tablets or laptops, the internet has become the first resource for most of the young people to find out about the world and interact with our education programs.

With nature-related words being dropped from the children's dictionary in favor of new terminology about technology we feel a special drive to keep our youth connected with the wider world as we teach these lessons and bring them outside to local parks and open spaces. The Children and Nature Network has compiled over 40 years of research demonstrating that meaningful experiences in nature are associated with adult conservation behaviors.

Our goal for education programming is for students to be **engaged, successful, and environmentally literate**. The team of seasonal educators and full-time staff are working in classrooms and on field trips to facilitate moments of wonder and connection to the natural world for students who may be going on a hike or thinking about where their water comes from for the first time. We employ the research-supported BEETLES strategies to build skills in direct observation and academic discussion, providing opportunities for students to learn about the world around them firsthand. We seek to nurture a learning community where all students are welcomed and supported, working toward confidence in the natural world as they interact. Our hope is that students gain skills and experiences which ultimately lead to a lasting sense of connection with their surroundings and a lifelong orientation toward stewardship.

This school year, we expect to reach over 10,000 students in Solano County, and we are always looking for partners to help us expand opportunities for youth to experience nature!

If you want to know more, please reach out to Solano RCD, Deputy Director Marianne Butler at Marianne.butler@solanorcd.org or visit our website at solanorcd.org.



Student excited about the nature field trip.



Students look through a microscope.

Board of Directors, Committee and Staff

DIXON RCD BOARD

David Viguie
Spencer Bei
Daniel Jones
Eric Schene
Alexis Harvey
Jim Campbell, Associate
Leo Soukeris, Associate

SOLANO RCD BOARD

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Chris Calvert
Paul Lum
Kathie Stutz
Randi Thompson
Glenda Riddle
Chris Garcia

COALITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Kurt Balasek - SRCD Board Member
Sam Beukelman - Farmer/Landowner
Bruce Brazelton - Farmer/Landowner
David Eldridge - Farmer/Landowner
Paul Lum - SRCD Board Member
Cork McIsaac - Farmer/Landowner
Eric Schene - DRCD Board Member
David Viguie - DRCD Board Member
Herb Wimmer - Farmer/Landowner

D/S RCD WATER QUALITY COALITION STAFF

Martha McKeen, DRCD Program Coordinator
Joanna Yac, DRCD Office Manager
Kelly Huff, DRCD District Manager
Chris Rose, SRCD Executive Director

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707-678-1655 x100

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707-678-1655 x113

Water Quality Coalition and Advisory Committee Contact:

Martha McKeen
martha-mckeen@dixonrcd.org
707-678-1655 x103

Want to get involved? Contact us about possible vacancies on the boards and committees.