Introduction

The Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA or Coalition) is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), established to serve as the coordinator and coalition (third-party) group under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) for a majority of Kern County. On February 4, 2014, the State of California’s Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) to the KRWCA, approving the KRWCA to represent member owners/growers of irrigated agricultural lands within the KRWCA boundary area under the ILRP.

The Tulare Lake Basin General Order (Order R5-2013-0120) (General Order) requires that any commercially-irrigated land must comply with the requirements set forth by the Regional Board. The intent of the Regional Board’s ILRP is for growers to implement practices to protect water quality, where necessary. The program applies to discharges to both surface water and groundwater. The groundwater component addresses discharges of salt, nitrate, pesticides, etc. transported by irrigation water and potentially percolating past the root zone into groundwater.

2017 Membership Enrollment Summary

A summary of the 2016-2017 Membership Year, based on the official July 31, 2017 Participant List submitted to the Regional Board, is provided in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Members</td>
<td>762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Large Farm Members (≥ 60 ac)</td>
<td>573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Small Farm Members (&lt; 60 ac)</td>
<td>189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Parcels Enrolled</td>
<td>7,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigated Acres Enrolled</td>
<td>528,686</td>
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Notice of Intent Enrollment Process

The deadline to apply directly to the KRWCA to obtain membership was August 4, 2014. Beginning August 5, 2014, growers in the KRWCA boundary must also apply directly to the Regional Board for coverage under a third-party through the Notice of Intent (NOI) process, which has multiple steps. Growers must pay an administrative fee to the Regional Board as well as pay increased acreage fees to the Coalition. The NOI process and instructions can be found at www.krwca.org. Please contact the coalition directly for assistance and to obtain the appropriate application.

- If you know of growers within the KRWCA boundary who have not signed up, please direct them to our website at www.krwca.org or provide them with our KRWCA contact information.
- If you (as an existing member) have additional parcels that need to be enrolled, please contact the KRWCA as soon as possible.

Membership Coverage Year Changed to a Calendar Year for 2018:

2018 Membership Assessment was Billed October 1; Payment was Due November 15, 2017

At the September 2017 KRWCA Board of Directors’ Meeting, the 2018 (January 1 – December 31) membership assessment was approved as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Membership Fees</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular Fee</td>
<td>$2.00/irrigated acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Fee (after May 15, 2017)</td>
<td>$10.50/irrigated acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Membership Fee</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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</table>

Membership fees are developed each year from a budget based on a detailed cost analysis of the General Order requirements. There are significant costs for the preparation of the required...
technical reports, water quality monitoring, and reporting. All funds remaining at the end of the year are carried over into the next fiscal year to either reduce assessment fees or provide for further coalition activities. 2018 Membership Invoices were mailed by October 1, 2017 with payment due by November 15, 2017. Late fees apply if received after November 15, 2017. It is the Member’s responsibility to know that payment is due by November 15th each year and to timely pay Membership Assessments.

We understand that membership fees for regulatory compliance are a concern amongst KRWCA members. Our main purpose is to provide you with cost-effective compliance with the Tulare Lake Basin ILRP General Order requirements. We will continue to work diligently to represent the members of the KRWCA, and will do our best to keep the fees as minimal as possible as the program moves forward with the implementation of these new water quality requirements.

**Farm Evaluation – Management Practices to Protect Water Quality**

The Farm Evaluation describes management practices implemented to protect surface water and groundwater quality. The purpose of the Farm Evaluation is to collect consistent information across irrigated agricultural areas and commodities, while minimizing costs for growers to provide the information. Overall, the evaluation includes five parts: a whole farm evaluation, field-specific evaluation, irrigation well information, sediment and erosion control practices, and a farm map identifying the location of wells.

- **Completed Farm Evaluations for the 2017 crop year MUST be submitted to the KRWCA through the ILRP Farm online reporting tool by March 1, 2018 for all farms with parcels designated in a high vulnerability area (HVA).** In addition, small farms in low vulnerability areas must also file a Farm Evaluation by the March 1, 2018 deadline. Members are required to keep an on-farm copy to be made available to the Regional Board upon their request in the event of an inspection.

### Member Required Reports

The following table summarizes documents and respective deadlines to be completed by members complying with the General Order. Small farming operations have less than 60 total acres of irrigated land. Land that is designated as being in a High Vulnerability Area (HVA) was identified by the KRWCA and expanded by the Regional Board in the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR) Approved HVA Map. Members may review parcel HVA status through the ILRP Farm on-line member reporting tool.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report</th>
<th>Vulnerability</th>
<th>Farm Size</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Renewal Frequency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm Evaluation</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>March 1, 2018</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Large (≥ 60 ac)</td>
<td>March 1, 2021</td>
<td>Five years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small (&lt; 60 ac)</td>
<td>March 1, 2018</td>
<td>Five years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sediment &amp; Erosion Control Plans</td>
<td>All locations identified in the Sediment Discharge &amp; Erosion Assessment Report (SDEAR)</td>
<td>Large (≥ 60 ac)</td>
<td>April 4, 2016</td>
<td>As conditions change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small (&lt; 60 ac)</td>
<td>October 7, 2016</td>
<td>As conditions change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) Worksheet</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Large (≥ 60 ac)</td>
<td>March 1, 2018 (certified)</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small (&lt; 60 ac)</td>
<td>March 1, 2018 (certified)</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>March 1, 2018</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Large Farm</td>
<td>March 1, 2018</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small Farm</td>
<td>March 1, 2018</td>
<td>Annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Does not apply</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Large farm = 60 acres or greater; Small farm = less than 60 acres

**Note:** There will be no extension of the March 1, 2018 deadline. Members will be locked out of ILRP Farm on March 2, 2018.
Sediment and Erosion Control Plans

Parcels identified in the Sediment Discharge and Assessment Report (SDEAR) or by the member through the Farm Evaluation Survey as having the potential for erosion and sediment discharge that may degrade surface waters will need to prepare a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan (SECP). The SECP will inventory the protective practices that are currently being implemented and provide recommendations for additional actions to strengthen or improve sediment and erosion control practices, as necessary.

- SECPs for large farms identified in the SDEAR were due by April 4, 2016 and for small farms by October 7, 2016.
- SECPs must be developed by specifically licensed and/or certified individuals who have experience with erosion issues on irrigated agricultural lands. Section 4 of the SECP form lists the individuals who are considered qualified to develop the SECPs, and includes professionals such as civil engineers, geologists, soil scientists, and self-certified coalition members. (See the SECP form available at www.krwca.org.)
- ILRP coalitions worked with the Regional Board to develop a SECP grower self-certification training program for members. SECP self-certification classes will be scheduled once we have approval of the proximity workplan related to the SDEAR.

Nitrogen Management Plans (NMP)

Nitrogen Management Plan Worksheet (NMP Worksheet)

Members with designated high vulnerability parcels (both small and large farms) MUST have a certified 2018 Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) Worksheet on farm by March 1, 2018. The NMP Worksheet template and instructions can be found at www.krwca.org. By March 1, 2018, all farms in low vulnerability areas must prepare a NMP Worksheet but do not need to certify the plans or provide summary reports to the KRWCA. NMP Worksheets remain on the farm and are NOT submitted to the Coalition.

Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) Summary Report

Beginning March 1, 2017, all large farms (≥ 60 acres) with parcels designated in high vulnerability areas (HVA) are required to submit to the KRWCA an annual Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report summarizing information from the previous year’s NMP Worksheet, such as site location information, crop types, acreage, nitrogen applied, the applied nitrogen over crop yield (known as the A/Y ratio), and the crop production units. Beginning in 2018, all small farms (< 60 acres) with parcels designated in high vulnerability areas are also required to submit to the KRWCA an annual NMP Summary Report summarizing information from the previous year’s NMP Worksheet. The 2017 NMP Summary Report is due on or before March 1, 2018 and MUST be submitted through the ILRP Farm online reporting tool. Growers will need to update their NMP Worksheets and NMP Summary Reports annually. The KRWCA will provide additional information on these topics at Grower Outreach Meetings scheduled in January.

Nitrogen Management Plans (NMP)
Self-Certification Training

KRWCA held a NMP Self-Certification Training in January 2016 for all members who were interested. We plan to schedule a meeting in 2018 to allow growers who are interested to become self-certified and to provide the required Continuing Education Units (CEU) for members who have already completed certification. If you are interested in attending a four-hour training session, which requires taking and passing a test (test not required if already self-certified), to become qualified to certify your own NMP Worksheet, or need three (3) hours of CEUs to maintain your self-certification status, please email admin@krwca.org to let us know you are interested.

Email Address Required of ALL Members

All KRWCA members MUST have an email address on file with the Coalition. This will ensure that our members receive up-to-date information in a timely fashion, as well as keep outreach and notification costs down. KRWCA will provide information regarding compliance with the ILRP and member requirements through email. It is ultimately the member’s responsibility to be aware of member requirements and to meet reporting deadlines as a condition of membership within a coalition. If you have not received an email from the KRWCA, you do not have an email on file and MUST contact KRWCA to provide an email address. If you do not currently have an email account, accounts can be arranged for free through various service providers. Please provide us with an email address for your membership. You do not want to miss important information that may affect your membership and ultimately leave you out of compliance with the ILRP General Order requirements.
Southern San Joaquin Valley Management Practices Evaluation Program Summary

The Southern San Joaquin Valley (SSJV) Management Practices Evaluation Program (MPEP) is an important part of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP). The MPEP and Groundwater Quality Management Plans (GQMPs) are the main tools of the ILRP to protect groundwater quality by focusing on grower management practices. The MPEP goes beyond simple metrics that might indicate issues to address factors that growers control, such as irrigation and nutrient management. Please visit www.krwca.org and follow the MPEP link to learn more about the SSJV MPEP.

In 2016, the SSJV MPEP was awarded $2 million through the USDA NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) program. This grant provides part of the funding necessary for successful implementation of the MPEP, and significantly reduces grower costs related to the MPEP. A revised MPEP workplan that describes the details of the proposed MPEP was submitted to the Regional Board in September 2017. The workplan is posted on www.krwca.org on the “News & Updates” page.

There are three priority practices that are the immediate focus of the MPEP:

1. Wellhead protection practices
2. Well abandonment and destruction practices
3. Accounting for nitrogen in irrigation water in NMPs

The KRWCA receives information from growers on the implementation of these practices through the Farm Evaluations. The Regional Board and the coalitions are working with growers to achieve 100-percent implementation of these three practices. Be sure to pay close attention to these practices when completing your Farm Evaluation each year.

The MPEP website contains information and guidance on these three practices, among many others. The website includes the following:

- General information on wellhead practices
- Nitrogen in irrigation water calculator
- Yield-to-nitrogen removal (Y-to-R) calculator
- Outreach events calendar
- A wealth of reference information on grower management practices

More items will be added to the MPEP website in 2018. Please visit the website to explore the resources that are available. The KRWCA will notify members of MPEP-focused outreach meetings that may occur in 2018.

Meeting Attendance Required Annually

As stated in the General Order, each Coalition member shall participate in third-party (Coalition) outreach events, at least annually, if any of the member’s parcels are in a designated “high vulnerability areas” (HVA) or governed by a Surface Water Quality Management Plan (SQMP) or Groundwater Quality Management Plan (GQMP). The member or designee shall review outreach materials to become informed of any water quality problems and the management practices that are available to address those issues. The member shall provide annual confirmation to the Coalition that the member has attended an outreach event during the previous year and reviewed the applicable outreach materials. This certification can be provided through the Farm Evaluation on ILRP Farm or through the invoice process.

Contact the KRWCA

For questions, concerns, or additional information, please feel free to contact the KRWCA at (661) 616-6500, email admin@krwca.org, or visit our website at www.krwca.org.
Second Draft Proposed Revisions to the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP): Potential Impacts to Your Farming Operation

On October 10, 2017, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or SWB) issued a second staff-proposed draft order for the Eastern San Joaquin River Watershed Agricultural Order (ESJ Order), SWRCB/OCC Files A-2239(a)-(c) (Draft Order). The State Water Board and SWB staff heard public comment on the Draft Order at three public workshops held on November 27th in Clovis, November 30th in Redding, and December 6th in Sacramento. The first two workshops provided the opportunity for SWB staff to make a presentation on the proposed revisions and to allow interested parties to ask clarifying questions regarding the proposed draft order. The December 6th workshop held in Sacramento was considered the Public Workshop where all comments/testimony will be part of the official record of the proceedings. Following review of the record and written comments, the State Water Board is scheduled to consider adoption of the second staff-proposed order on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 in Sacramento.

The second draft attempts to minimize the reporting burden associated with ILRP and privacy concerns made in comments provided in 2016, but there are many requirements which remain or have been modified which still pose concern. There are proposed changes with respect to member reporting requirements, monitoring requirements, and Regional Board oversight. Changes include: all growers must now participate in outreach events, complete Farm Evaluations, certify Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plans (INMP), and monitor domestic well quality on farm and report water quality exceedances for multiple constituents (potentially having to provide replacement drinking water). Coalitions must submit field level data, complete additional Nitrogen Applied/Nitrogen (N) Removed (A/R Ratio) and Nitrogen Applied minus Nitrogen Removed (A-R Ratio) report analysis, develop N Removed coefficients for all crops alongside the Management Practices Evaluation Program (MPEP), and develop new member submittal templates. Member field-level data provided to the Regional Board will be identified by “Anonymous Member ID” and “Anonymous Parcel ID” with grower-specific information and assessor parcel numbers (APN) subject to request by the Regional Board if it determines a compelling reason exists.

Most of the changes proposed by the Draft Order appear to still be precedential and will apply throughout California. Therefore, the proposed changes are once again of interest to the KRWCA. Additional information regarding the second proposed, precedent setting revisions can be found on our website at www.krwca.org on the “Advocacy” page.

KRWCA Board of Directors

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<tr>
<th>Board of Directors</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eric Averett</td>
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<td>Jason Gianquinto</td>
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<td>Robert Kunde</td>
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<td>David A Nixon</td>
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<td>Westside Water Quality Coalition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cawelo Water District Coalition</td>
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<tr>
<td>KRWCA Manager: Nicole Bell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SALT & NITRATES

Threat to Water Quality and the Economy

The Central Valley (Valley) is the epicenter of California’s economy—encompassing 40% of the state and providing water for people and businesses from San Francisco to San Diego, as well as food for California, the nation, and the world. Over the last 150 years, increased agricultural, industrial, and municipal activities, coupled with population growth, have resulted in dramatic increases in salts and nitrates in groundwater, soils, and surface waters. In some communities, the nitrate concentrations have caused unsafe drinking water. Salt accumulations have resulted in 250,000 acres being taken out of production and 1.5 million acres have been declared salinity impaired. If not addressed, the economic impacts of salts and nitrates on the Valley are estimated to exceed $3-billion per year.

COMPLIANCE

With Regulation is a Challenge

Salt and nitrate discharges by agriculture, municipal, and industrial activities are regulated by the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board). New and improved management practices have already been implemented to reduce salt and nitrate discharges into surface and ground waters, but compliance with current regulations is difficult and, in some areas of the Valley, even impossible. New, updated, flexible regulations are needed that address the Valley’s natural diversities (e.g. climatic, hydrologic, geologic) while protecting water quality and maintaining a strong economy.

COLLABORATION

To Develop Solutions

In 2006, a coalition of stakeholders, including federal, state and local agencies, permitted dischargers (growers, ranchers, municipalities, food processors, etc.), and environmental justice groups, started discussing how to balance maintaining a strong economy while ensuring safe drinking water. This initiative is called the Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS). To help fund the technical and scientific studies necessary to support the development of alternative regulatory approaches, the Central Valley Salinity Coalition (CVSC) was established in 2008.

NEW PLAN

Underway to Manage Salts & Nitrates

The Central Valley Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP) was released in January 2017. The SNMP is built on a strong regulatory, technical, and policy foundation. The SNMP recommends that the existing Basin Plans be amended (see page 4) to include the new and revised regulations that would allow more flexibility to manage salts and nitrates locally while providing safe drinking water supplies.

GOALS

The SNMP establishes three primary management goals to guide implementation.

1. PROVIDE SAFE DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES
   - Short & long term solutions

2. REDUCE SALT & NITRATE IMPACTS
   - Timeframe & costs vary

3. RESTORE GROUND WATER QUALITY
   - Where reasonable & feasible
A CLOSER LOOK
Salt Management Plan

NEW APPROACH TO SALT MANAGEMENT
A Long-Term Focus

The current high level of salt in portions of the Valley is a result of a combination of agricultural, industrial, municipal, and water supply activities. Dams and imported water supplies have reduced the natural flushing of salt and increased the amount of salt brought into the Valley. Salt concentrations in the groundwater are naturally high in some areas and increasing in most. For example, in the San Joaquin Valley, 6 million tons of salt accumulate every year. The recent drought increased the use of groundwater with higher concentrations of salt.

Technical studies conclude that a long-term strategy for managing salinity is necessary. Current management activities only address about 15% of the annual salt load; long-term solutions are needed to address the remaining 85%. While this strategy is developed, a permitting approach is recommended to facilitate immediate solutions.

SHORT-TERM SOLUTION:
Interim Salinity Permitting

During the development of the long-term plan for salt management, an Interim Permitting Approach will be used. This approach may include actions such as:

- Continued implementation of existing pollution prevention, watershed, and salt reduction plans.
- Continued maintenance of current salinity discharge levels.
- Enforced compliance with Interim Permit Limits.
- Implementation of new salinity management practices and source control activities.
- Monitoring of salinity discharge activities where required.
- Participating in Prioritization and Optimization Study.

LONG-TERM SALT MANAGEMENT
A Phased Approach

1. Development
   Perform a Prioritization and Optimization Study to:
   - Define potential regional and subregional projects (e.g., de-salters, regulated brine line) and practices (e.g., new treatment controls, development of new water supplies).
   - Identify funding sources.
   - Establish governance structures to implement large-scale projects.

2. Funding
   Obtain funding and complete environmental permitting and engineering/design for projects identified in Phase One.

3. Construct Projects
   Construct salt management projects developed in Phases One and Two.
A NEW APPROACH
How Nitrate Management Affects You

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?
Most of the nitrates accumulating in the groundwater come from sources such as manure, fertilizer, and failing septic systems. In the Valley, 90% of residents rely on groundwater wells for drinking water, and some of this supply is now unsafe. Currently, dischargers (growers, ranchers, municipalities, food processors, etc.) are regulated for nitrate discharge, but in many cases the regulations are difficult or even impossible to achieve. The SNMP is recommending new regulations that encourage dischargers to participate in projects that provide safe drinking water. Those providing safe drinking water may be given an option of having more time to achieve nitrate compliance.

To streamline resources while addressing nitrate management issues, the Valley has been separated into three areas of priority for nitrate management. The highest priority areas have the greatest number of affected drinking water supplies and will be addressed first. The high priority areas are located in these Basins or Subbasins: Kaweah, Turlock, Chowchilla, Tule, Modesto, and Kings.

What is Different?
A Notice to Comply would be issued to all dischargers located in high-priority areas (see above). Dischargers would have two pathways to choose from:

A. Maintain traditional permitting, OR
B. Follow the new management zone permitting option.

Both options prioritize ensuring safe drinking water.

Traditional Permitting
A discharger may opt to comply under the traditional permit requirements established in the SNMP either as an individual (e.g. a food processing plant) or as a third party (e.g. growers and farmers represented by a third party such as an irrigated lands coalition).

New Groundwater Management Zone Permitting
Dischargers that choose to work as part of a collective with other dischargers would form a local management zone. The zone then serves as a discrete regulatory compliance unit for nitrate compliance.

Dischargers would continue implementing best practices and nitrogen management plans while working to provide safe drinking water within the zone. In turn, dischargers may be allowed more time to achieve nitrogen balance and restore affected water bodies.

Here’s a possible scenario, once the SNMP regulations go into effect:
A municipal wastewater treatment plant or food processing plant receives a Notice to Comply. They have two choices: (A) comply as an individual permittee under traditional permitting or (B) join a management zone with other dischargers who then work together to assure zone residents have safe drinking water. In exchange, the zone participants are allowed more time and flexibility to achieve nitrate compliance. The Central Valley Water Board provides guidance, oversight, and necessary approvals for management zone creation, planning, and implementation.
BASIN PLAN AMENDMENTS IN THE WORKS

The Central Valley Water Board oversees the regulation of agricultural, municipal, and industrial waste discharges of nitrates and salts within the Valley. The Central Valley Water Board uses two Basin Plans as the basis for regulating water quality: the Sacramento River-San Joaquin Basin Plan and the Tulare Lake Basin Plan. Those providing safe drinking water may be given an option of having more time to achieve nitrate compliance. Once amended, the Central Valley Water Board will be able to implement regulations that offer greater flexibility for discharger compliance while ensuring safe drinking water in affected areas and long-term progress toward improved surface and ground water quality.

LEARN MORE

Visit any of these online resources to learn more about the CV-SALTS effort:

- [www.cvsalinity.org](http://www.cvsalinity.org)
- [www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley)

CV SALTS

Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-term Sustainability

GET INVOLVED & LEARN MORE!

Do you use water in the Valley?
Join CV-SALTS to help bring safe drinking water to the entire Central Valley.
Visit CVSalinity.org to learn how you can help and to receive CV-SALTS updates.
New Water Quality Regulations
Provide Options for Flexibility
San Joaquin Valley and Delta Agriculture

Protecting Water Quality is Critical
Ensuring a safe, reliable drinking water supply is the highest priority for managing nitrates and salts throughout the Central Valley. Depending on local conditions, discharges from irrigated farmlands can contain salts, nitrates, sediments, pesticides, heavy metals, and pathogens. These pollutants can impact water quality via irrigation drainage or storm season runoff or by leaching into groundwater. At high enough concentrations, they can harm aquatic life in surface water or make groundwater unusable for drinking water or agricultural uses.

Ag Regulation: How it Works Now
The California Legislature in 1999 eliminated the waiver for agricultural waste discharges. This led to adoption in 2003 of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) by the Central Valley Water Board (Water Board). The ILRP was developed to control and prevent waste discharges coming from irrigated lands from polluting surface waters. In 2012, groundwater regulations were added. The ILRP seeks to protect surface and groundwater resources and drinking water supplies, while maintaining a healthy, sustainable irrigated agricultural economy. Farmers may join an ILRP Coalition that assists them in complying with Waste Discharge Requirements or they may choose to comply under individual Waste Discharge Requirements.

Current Regulations Limit Options
For the high-priority areas in the Central Valley with known groundwater contamination from nitrates (red areas on map), the existing ILRP regulatory options do not address the urgent need for safe drinking water. The ILRP does not offer an extensive enough range of options for a farmer to be able to meet established water quality standards for nitrates and salts.

Irrigated agriculture is faced with implementing expensive treatment requirements at the source of the pollution that result in limited benefit for drinking water users. Without the new regulatory options needed for the Water Board to allow local flexibility for compliance, the prohibition of discharges would be required.

New Regulations Provide More Flexible Solutions to Comply
The importance of protecting surface and groundwater quality, whether for aquatic life, drinking water, or agricultural supply, has become a significant public policy issue. Because the Water Board has few options to best regulate the protection of water quality, additional tools are needed.

When implemented, starting in late 2018, the “toolbox” of new regulatory options in the CV-SALTS Salt and Nitrate Management Plan (SNMP) will offer greater local flexibility for compliance by all dischargers, while ensuring safe drinking water. The new options will first be implemented in areas identified as high-priority in the Kaweah, Turlock,
New Water Quality Regulations Provide Options for Flexibility
San Joaquin Valley and Delta Agriculture

Chowchilla, Tule, Modesto, and Kings sub-basins and basins (red areas on map).

Local Collaboration is Key
Under the new regulatory options, all dischargers, including agriculture, will be asked to collaborate locally to implement necessary solutions to meet water quality standards. Similarly, the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) provides a framework for water quantity, through sustainable, local groundwater management. While SGMA focuses on water quantity and the SNMP is focused on water quality, there will be close coordination between the two.

Key Benefits of New Regulatory Options
The “toolbox” of new regulatory options will be available to all dischargers whether they choose to comply under a traditional permit or participate in a local management zone.

Local Management Zone. The formation of local or regional management zones will save time, money, and resources. Farmers or landowners who decide to join a management zone can work collectively as part of a regulatory compliance unit. Members pool resources to implement water quality protection measures that ensure safe drinking water supplies. While working to provide safe drinking water, members may be authorized for nitrate and salt discharges and given more time to comply with current Waste Discharge Requirements.

Exceptions Policy. When prohibiting a discharge does more harm than good, and allowing the discharge to continue is determined to be better for the public good, an “Exception” can be authorized that provides farmers or landowners more time to implement a workable and effective regulatory solution that is site-specific to a local management zone.

Assimilative Capacity. Assimilative capacity is the ability of a natural body of water (e.g., lake, river, or groundwater aquifer) to receive discharged waste without harmful effects. Within a management zone or a groundwater basin/sub-basin, using assimilative capacity along with localized management measures will be considered as a factor towards compliance.

Protection of Agricultural Beneficial Use. The current salinity requirements that protect agricultural beneficial water uses vary widely. With the new regulations, protecting the agricultural beneficial use of water will be tailored to reflect local and regional differences in water use by agriculture.

Coordinating New Regulations and ILRP. It is too soon to know how the CV-SALT SNMP-based regulations and the ILRP will be coordinated. With a common goal of controlling and protecting surface and ground waters from impairment by nitrates and salts, there will certainly be collaboration in meeting water quality objectives.

Compliance Cost. The costs associated with implementing the new regulatory options have yet to be determined. The approach of local management flexibility and collaborative action to address the highest priority needs first is expected to increase compliance efficiency. Growers are encouraged to be at the table now to help shape the future of the drinking water projects and alternative compliance projects in their area.

Get Involved, Shape Your Future
Without more flexible management options for nitrates and salts, regulators will likely continue to develop control measures that may make compliance more difficult, and even prohibit discharges. Irrigated agriculture’s voice is critical now to help shape the future of regulation. The “toolbox” of regulatory options agreed upon by diverse interests through CV-SALTS, and presented in the SNMP, will increase the potential for success and sustainability for farms, industries, and communities.

If you work in any aspect of irrigated agriculture, you are encouraged to participate and get involved now. Visit www.cvsalinity.org to learn more.

San Joaquin Valley and Delta Agriculture, October 12, 2017, Final
Education/Outreach Events Will Be Held in January 2018

Four grower education/outreach meetings will be held in January 2018 to provide members with instructions on completing the required 2018 Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) Worksheet, the 2017 Farm Evaluation, and the 2017 NMP Summary Report. KRWCA members are required to submit the Farm Evaluation and NMP Summary Report through the web-based ILRP Farm member reporting tool. Please plan on attending one of the four meetings listed below in order to fulfill the annual outreach participation requirement. Bring the meeting registration postcard that you received in early December to assist with the registration process. All of the meetings will begin at 3 p.m. and should conclude by 5 p.m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>Location/Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 9, 2018</td>
<td>Kern Ag Pavilion, 3300 East Belle Terrace, Bakersfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 11, 2018</td>
<td>Wasco Elk’s Lodge, 16694 Wasco Avenue, Wasco</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 16, 2018</td>
<td>Buttonwillow Recreation Center, 556 Milo Avenue, Buttonwillow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 17, 2018</td>
<td>Kern Ag Pavilion, 3300 East Belle Terrace, Bakersfield</td>
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</tbody>
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Please bring your postcard(s) you received in the mail to the meeting you attend and submit at the check-in table for expedited registration.