

SAC-VALLEY NEWS

SVWQC actions, accomplishments, and updates

1.1+ MILLION IRRIGATED ACRES

7300+ PARTICIPANTS

11 SUBWATERSHEDS

Sac-Valley's New Central Valley Regional Water Board Liaison

The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition would like to welcome Olivia Mathews, who is stepping into the liaison role which was previously held by Victor Bautista. Olivia started in the Redding Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board office as an Environmental Scientist on May 13, 2024. As a liaison, Olivia will be responsible for reviewing Coalition reports such as the annual surface water reports and management plan proposals.

Olivia graduated from California State University, Chico with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science. She worked as an Environmental Scientist for an environmental consultancy for 3.5 years where she worked on various environmental monitoring and remediation projects. Olivia enjoys being outdoors hiking or swimming. Coalition leadership and staff have already met with Olivia to share the unique nature of the Sacramento Valley and look forward to developing a productive relationship with her.

Coalition Submits Required May 1 Annual Reports

The annual surface water reports for the Coalition, as required by the Coalition's Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) were submitted on May 1, 2024. The annual surface water reports include the 2023 Annual Monitoring Report and the 2023 Management Plan Progress Report. These reports detail the Coalition's surface water monitoring results and progress on existing and new management plans for the 2023 Water Year, which ran from October 2022 to September 2023. *If you have any questions about the reports, please email Bruce Houdesheldt at bruceh@norcalwater.org.*



The latest in this issue:

NEW CV REGIONAL
WATER BOARD LIAISON

COALITION SUBMITS
ANNUAL SURFACE WATER
REPORTS

SURFACE WATER
MONITORING UPDATE

MEMBER

INFORMATION

CROP YEAR 2023
REPORTING DUE
IMMEDIATELY!

Surface Water Monitoring Update

By Mike Troughon, Larry Walker Associates

The Coalition's 2024 Monitoring Year (Oct. 1, 2023–Sep. 30, 2024) is again a Core monitoring year that focuses on a small number of general water quality constituents (field measurements, E. coli, and nutrients, as necessary), single exceedance follow ups from the 2023 Monitoring Year, and Management Plan monitoring. Much of the single exceedance follow up monitoring conducted in the 2024 Monitoring Year is due to the sediment toxicity to *Hyalella azteca* that was observed in April 2022 at seven Coalition sites following atmospheric river storms in October and December 2021 that scoured Sacramento Valley surface water bodies and relocated sediments within drainages. Sampling crews will visit some Coalition monitoring sites monthly. Although not all individual sites will be sampled monthly. The water quality constituents analyzed are those required by the Coalition's Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for a Core monitoring year. **As a reminder, two or more exceedances of an ILRP trigger limit (i.e., a water quality objective) at an individual monitoring site within a 3-year period triggers a Management Plan**, which then needs to be drafted and approved by the Central Valley Water Board's Executive Officer.

Currently, the Coalition has three active Management Plans for pyrethroid pesticides in the Butte-Yuba-Sutter (BYS) Subwatershed. BYS Subwatershed staff are working with growers in the drainages where the three Management Plans apply to implement BMPs to prevent future exceedances. During the past three years, the two pyrethroid pesticides responsible for causing the most exceedances of the Basin Plan trigger limit for pyrethroids are bifenthrin and lambda-cyhalothrin.

Through the diligent application of pesticides by growers and the outreach and education provided by Subwatershed Leads in the past two years, Management Plans for chlorpyrifos and diazinon were completed in the BYS Subwatershed and a Management Plan for *Selenastrum capricornutum* toxicity due to herbicides was completed in the Solano Subwatershed. On average, Coalition members have been able to successfully complete Management Plans in 4 years 9 months once they are triggered. The WDRs require that a Management Plan be completed within 10 years from the approval date of the Management Plan by the Executive Officer. It's important that Members in a drainage covered by a Management Plan submit their Surface Water Management Practice Implementation Report (SW MPIR) in a timely manner because the information contained in the report is required to be reported to the Central Valley Water Board annually as part of the Coalition's Management Plan Progress Report (MPPR) and the data are used to support the eventual completion of a Management Plan.

The Central Valley Water Board held a Workshop on March 12, 2024, to discuss the Board's progress toward meeting the requirements of the 2017 Pyrethroid Control Program as presented in its Draft Pyrethroid Research Plan released in July 2023. The Regional Board is committed to a formal re-evaluation of the Pyrethroid Control Program after 15 years (i.e., in 2033) to determine if enough new information has been generated through research to support the development of pyrethroid water quality objectives in the Central Valley. The Workshop was held after Regional Board staff received public comments on the Draft Pyrethroid Research Plan that were submitted in September 2023. The most common concerns raised by the regulated community (agriculture, wastewater, and stormwater) in

Surface Water Monitoring Update Continued...

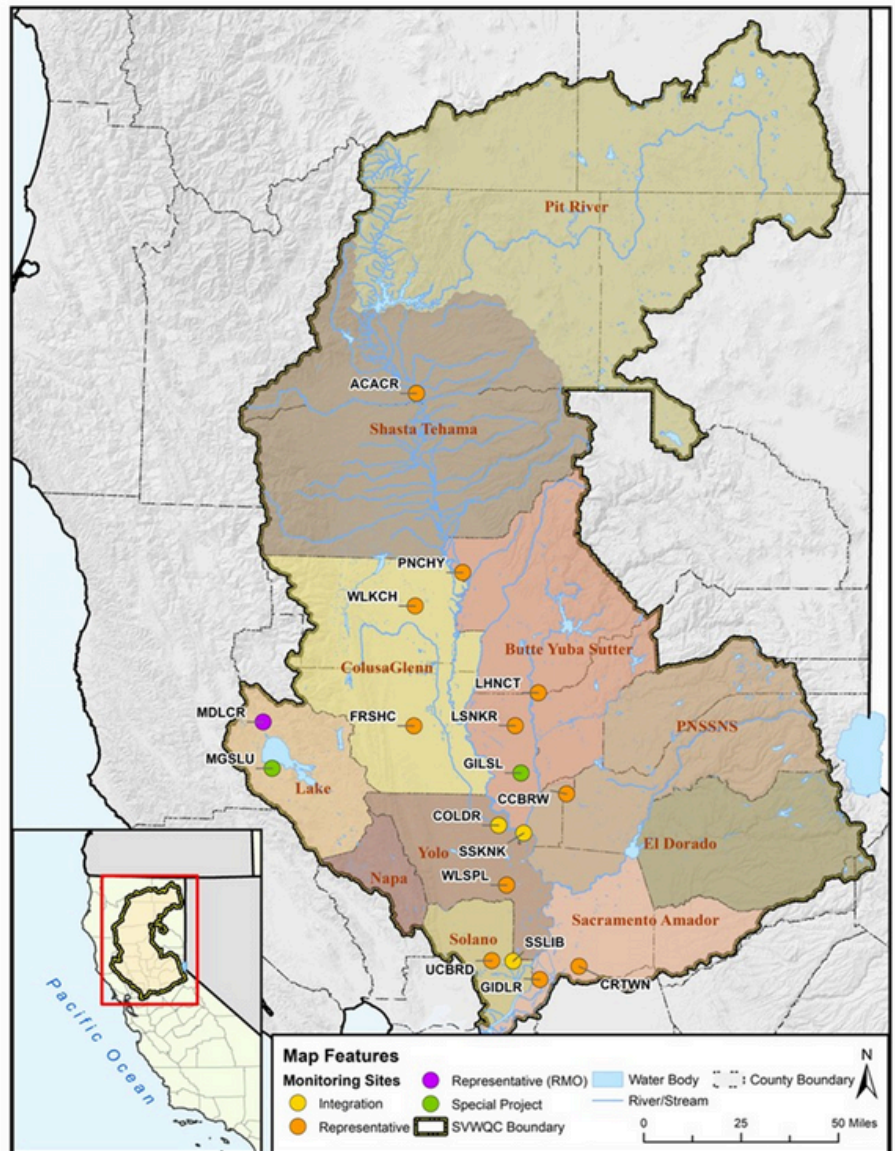
response to the July 2023 Draft Pyrethroid Research Plan were (1) scope of Plan and management questions, (2) relationship between knowledge gaps and management questions, and (3) prioritization of research efforts. The feedback provided by the regulated community during the March 12 Workshop was that the Regional Board has not made sufficient progress in addressing the three primary concerns listed above, and to that end, Regional Board staff agreed to an additional future meeting (date to be determined) between staff and the regulated community to further discuss future revisions to the Draft Pyrethroid Research Plan.

The 2025 Monitoring Year (Oct. 1, 2024–Sep. 30, 2025) will mark the return of Assessment monitoring and the beginning of another Assessment-Core-Core monitoring cycle.

Map of Coalition Monitoring Sites

The Coalition uses a “representative monitoring” approach to meet the monitoring requirements laid out in the Waste Discharge Requirements.

Representative monitoring is conducted at sites in drainages representative of larger regions based on shared agricultural and geographic characteristics.





Coalition Member Information Hub



DUE IMMEDIATELY: **CROP YEAR 2023 REPORTING**

According to the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for Growers within the Sacramento River Watershed that are Members of a Third-Party Group (R5-2014-0030-11, most recently amended by Order No. R5-2021-053) (WDR), all Coalition Members are required to complete their member reports by at least March 1 annually. **If you have not yet completed your reporting, do so immediately to avoid potential fines and/or future enforcement action from the Regional Board.** Your reporting data are **EXTREMELY** valuable and are used to inform many other program elements and as justification for reducing the footprint and/or frequency of member requirements.

2023 Crop Year reporting includes at a minimum:

- 1) Submittal of the Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Summary Report (INMP Summary Report). *The only exemption for the INMP Summary Report is if you own irrigated pasture with no external nitrogen inputs. If this exemption applies to you, please call or email your Subwatershed to inform them so that your membership is not accidentally reported to the Regional Board for non-reporting.*
- 2) Where applicable, submittal of your Groundwater Management Practice Implementation Report (GW MPIR).
- 3) If in an area subject to a Management Plan, submittal of your Surface Water Management Practice Implementation Report (SW MPIR).

Members who fail to report will have their names sent to the Regional Board. Since the original deadline was months ago on March 1, some Subwatersheds have already submitted a list and enforcement letters have been mailed. **FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THESE LETTERS MAY RESULT IN FINES OF UP TO \$1000 PER DAY**, enforced by the Regional Board.

Keep in mind, avoiding enforcement from the Regional Board for non-reporting is simple! Report ON TIME!

Preparation of the Coalition's Annual Participant List is underway. The Participant List is a requirement of the WDR and will be submitted to the Regional Water Board on July 31, 2024. Coalition Members who failed to pay member dues and have been dropped as well as those who failed to complete their member reports will be indicated on the Participant List and face potential enforcement from the Regional Board.

General Questions

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