



EL DORADO AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT CORP

PROTECTING OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCE

JANUARY 2017

P. O. Box 286
Placerville, CA 95667
Phone/Fax: (530) 622-7850
Email: info@eldoradoagwater.org
Website: www.eldoradoagwater.org

Watershed Connection

A publication for members of the El Dorado Subwatershed Coalition

A member of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition

<u>Officers:</u>	Good-Bye and Thank You, Maryann!! <i>By Carolyn Mansfield</i>
<p>Dedrian Kobervig <i>President</i> Crystal Creek Farm</p> <p>Norm Krizl <i>Vice President</i> Krizl Vineyard</p> <p>Maryann Argyres <i>Secretary</i> Argyres Orchard</p> <p>Bob Witters <i>Treasurer</i> Crystal Springs Vineyard</p> <p><u>Directors:</u></p> <p>Tom Heflin Rainbow Orchards</p> <p>Linnea Marengo Penobscot Ranch</p> <p>Kirk Taylor Smokey Ridge Ranch</p> <p>Carolyn Mansfield Goldbug Farms</p> <p>Ann Johnson Walker Vineyard</p>	<p>The Ag Water Quality Board is at once sad and grateful to say goodbye to Secretary Maryann Argyres. Maryann will resign as board secretary effective at the 2017 Annual Meeting. Those of us who know Maryann are aware of her tireless efforts on behalf of the agricultural community spanning the past 40 years. Maryann is perhaps most famous for her 35 plus years as secretary of the Apple Hill Growers Association Board. She was also the first woman president of the AHG when she served a six year term as such.</p> <p>In the late 80's Maryann helped found the El Dorado County Farm Trails Association and ended up serving on the board at different times as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Maryann was active in the community on the Snowline Hospice Board for nine years, having served as president on this board as well. She was a member of the County's Economic Advisory Committee for eight years having chaired it for six.</p> <p>Currently, Maryann is secretary of the El Dorado County Farm Bureau, secretary of the Agriculture, Business and Community (ABC), and secretary of the Camino Community Action Committee. Maryann was very active with the development of our EDAWQMC, also known as Ag Water Quality, from its inception. In fact, she has been the only secretary this board has known. Maryann's vast knowledge of the history of agriculture in El Dorado County has been crucial to the development of many non-profits promoting agriculture and their survival. She will be sorely missed!!</p> <p>Last year Maryann had both of her knees replaced, one in August and one in November. She is planning to do a little traveling as well as getting back to doing the things she used to enjoy. We salute you Maryann, and wish you well!!!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">With Maryann's departure, we will have a board position open, and invite anyone interested to contact our board president, Dee Kobervig at (530) 644-7014. We are all in this together and we would appreciate some new voices!!!</p>

President's Notes*By Dee Kobervig*

In 2016 there was good news and bad news:

The Good News -

- ◆ The Regional Board has designated all of El Dorado County low vulnerability for water monitoring as well as Sediment and Erosion Control, ***A huge plus for us!***
- ◆ The monitoring done this year in March and October found no toxicity for pyrethroids or chlorpyrifos in our water samples.
- ◆ At the 2016 annual meeting, Earl Stephens from Applied Engineering Geology explained the new Sediment and Erosion Control reports that the Regional Board would likely require all members to complete. Since our topography is steep and many farms are close to waterways, some members would have been required to hire a third party to verify their management practices and plan. But, because of the county's strict grading ordinances and erosion control measures, we have dodged the bullet for Sediment and Erosion Control Plans. We will all be required to fill out a form verifying self-certification, but at this time we will not have to hire a third party verifier which saves us thousands of dollars!! **More information on this at the 2017 Annual Meeting.**
- ◆ State water board fees will remain at .75/acre.

The Not So Good News -

- ◆ We are still unsure of the State Water Board plans.
- ◆ Groundwater and well water monitoring is still in the discussion and planning phases.
- ◆ The Regional Board has begun enforcement with fines for those farmers who are not members of a coalition. At this time they are concentrating on the central valley farmers. They are also inspecting farms to verify practices. If you are selected for verification by the Regional Board they must contact our coalition before contacting you.
- ◆ Annual education is going to be mandatory for all coalition members. Sac. Valley is developing an online program, so hopefully it will not involve travel. At the February 23, 2017 annual meeting we will be discussing the Sediment and Erosion Control Program. Hopefully, this will qualify as continuing education - so please plan to attend the meeting!!
- ◆ We have known that we have been operating at a deficit for the last 4 years. Our annual loss in 2015 was \$6,332 and our annual loss in 2014 was \$ 4,650. We would like to keep a healthy reserve for emergencies, so the Board will be asking for a dues increase for 2017.

Reminders -

- ◆ Remember to complete your nitrogen management forms for 2016. You need to record your applied Nitrogen amounts and your crop harvest tonnage. The report stays on your farm.
- ◆ We have begun our Farms Evaluation Verifications for 2016/2017. To maintain our low vulnerability status for monitoring we are required to verify reported practices on 5% of our enrolled acreage. If you have been randomly selected you will receive a letter of notification. Please cooperate fully with the Verifier. Your information is confidential and no individual names will be included in the final report.
- ◆ We are trying to collect as many emails as possible in case we need to send out important information with short notice. Emails save us money in postage. Please email me your current email address if we do not have it. Be sure to include your name and/or coalition member number.
- ◆ If you need to contact us, please call me at 530-644-7014. Our office is not staffed regularly at this time.

Ag. Water Quality Member Update

Treasurer's Report.....

By Bob Witters

The 2016 year closed with revenues of \$32,207. Expenses were \$36,857 resulting in a negative of \$4,650. The cash flow was sufficient to cover us through December, but we will dip into our savings for \$7,000 to cover January and February 2017. Dues income for 2017 should be available by April. Below is a table comparing 2016 actual vs. 2017 proposed budget.

2016 Actual			2017 Proposed		
	Expenses	Revenue		Expenses	Revenue
Membership Dues		\$32,207	Membership Dues		\$33,700
SVWQC	\$8,975		SVWQC	\$10,000	
Contract Services	\$18,950		Contract Services	\$21,000	
Insurance	\$2,016		Insurance	\$2,100	
Office Lease	\$3,577		Office Lease	\$3,700	
Operations	\$3,339		Operations	\$3,796	
			Farm Evaluations	\$3,000	
Totals	\$36,857	\$32,207		\$43,596	\$33,700
Shortage	-\$4,650			-\$9,896	

Board Member Vacancies.....

The Ag Water Quality board is comprised of volunteer directors who represent the various commodities in the county. Directors serve a three year term and each of the seats is "staggered" to make sure that a few seats become vacant each year, providing for an orderly transition of directors serving on and retiring from the board. The three director seats that expire at the 2017 Annual Meeting are:

Bob Witters (Vineyards); Ann Walker Johnson (Vineyards); and Linnea Marengo (Irrigated Pastures). Maryann Argyres (Orchards) has announced her resignation from the board.

The nominating committee, chaired by Carolyn Mansfield, interviewed the directors and found that three, Bob Witters, Ann Walker Johnson and Linnea Marengo, were interested in returning to the board. One position on the board is vacant - we need an individual to represent orchards. The committee hasn't found any other members who are interested in serving as a director.

If you are interested in serving a three year term or finishing Maryann Argyres one year term, please contact Carolyn Mansfield at goldbud53@gmail.com or Dee Kobervig at dkobervig@gmail.com before February's Annual membership meeting.

**We will be discussing the Sediment & Erosion Control Requirements
at the 2017 Annual Meeting of Members.**

Please plan to attend!!!



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P. O. Box 286, Placerville, CA 95667-0286

2017 AUNNAL MEETING
Thursday, February 23, 2017
5:30 pm
Planning Commission Conference Room
2850 Fairlane Ct., Bldg. C
Placerville, CA 95667