



EL DORADO AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT CORP

PROTECTING OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCE

AUGUST 2019

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Watershed Connection

A publication for members of the El Dorado Subwatershed Coalition

A member of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition

Presidents Message

By Dedrian Kobervig

Officers:

Dedrian Kobervig
President
Crystal Creek Farm
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Norm Krizl
Vice President
Krizl Vineyard

Sid Davis
Secretary
Vinehill

Bob Witters
Secretary/Treasurer
Crystal Springs
Vineyard

Directors:

Kirk Taylor
Smokey Ridge Ranch

Carolyn Mansfield
Goldbud Farms

Ann Johnson
Walker Vineyard

Merv de Haas
Irrigated Pasture

Jana Rapetti
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In April we held a Nitrogen Management Workshop in conjunction with the Resource Conservation District. While the presentation was informative and well attended, it was not what many growers were expecting. The consensus is that a workshop is needed to assist with filling out the Nitrogen Management reports. All growers applying nitrogen, in any form, will have to complete Nitrogen Management reports in 2020. In addition, the El Dorado County Agriculture Water Management Corp. will submit a 2020 Summary Nitrogen Management report in 2021. The completion of these reports is mandatory in order to remain in the coalition as a member in good standing.

To support this effort, the coalition is setting up additional Nitrogen Management Workshops with the Resource Conservation District, (currently scheduled for mid-January and mid-March) to focus specifically on filling out the forms.

In the meantime, we are also still working with Bruce Houdesheldt, Director of Water Quality at the Northern California Water Association, to try and convince the Central Valley Water Board that we pose a low threat to surface and ground water nitrogen contamination. Our feeling is, the required Summary Nitrogen Management Report is an unnecessary burden to the coalition requiring excessive time and added costs to growers.

Here are our supporting points of argument and logical reasoning:

- We currently have ten years of surface water monitoring with no nitrate exceedances.
- Five years of well water monitoring data (Kyburtz to Latrobe) with no exceedances attributed to agriculture.
- The nitrogen requirements of the major crop types grown here.
- Local irrigation practices.
- Specific local geophysical conditions that limit percolation to ground water

We are the first coalition to ask for this exemption which is provided for in the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order R5-2014-0030-06 31 Growers within the Sacramento River Watershed

Exceptions to Nitrogen Management and Reporting Requirements a) *Any category of Members (such as growers of a particular crop or growers in a particular area) seeking to be exempted from the nitrogen management requirements in this section shall make a demonstration, for approval by the Regional Board, that nitrogen applied to the fields does not percolate below the root zone in an amount that could impact groundwater and does not migrate to surface water through discharges, including drainage, runoff, or sediment erosion.*

We feel we have demonstrated through the data we have supplied that nitrogen applied in El Dorado County does not impact ground or surface water. The staff at the Central Valley Water Board disagrees with our findings and the conversation is ongoing.

Dee Kobervig

President

Ag. Water Quality Member Update

A Year of Monitoring

El Dorado County, along with all the counties in Northern California, are required to test surface waters for various exceedances every year and, every five years, a major surface water monitoring program is initiated. In El Dorado County and several other counties in Northern California, 2020 is the year for this additional monitoring. Monitoring will occur every month starting October 22, 2019, and will be completed September 17, 2020. During this time, surface waters will be tested for specific registered herbicides and pesticides used in the county based on 2019 records. Pesticides usage information is gathered from the pesticide use permits recorded with the county. Physical and general chemistry is also monitored and tested. Testing in El Dorado County will be done at two sites: North Canyon Creek (drainage from the upper Larsen Road area), and Coon Hollow Creek (drainage from Carson Road and upper North Canyon intersection).

Historically, we have had excellent water monitoring results and hopefully the current results will again provide evidence that growers in El Dorado County are good stewards of their lands.

Treasurer's Report

By Bob Witters

May, June & July, 2019	
Income:	
Membership Dues	\$5,220.00
Ag in the Classroom	\$478.29
Total	\$5,698.29
Expenses:	
SVWQC	\$0.00
Contract Services	\$1,700.00
Insurance	\$0.00
Office Lease	\$874.53
New Computer	\$574.41
Cell phone	\$148.20
Utilities	\$119.88
Office Supplies	\$22.28
Total	\$3,439.30
Revenue Short/Over	\$2,258.99
Budget Notes:	
Current Checkbook Balance	\$29,360.82
Current Savings Balance	\$52,246.47
Total Assets	\$81,607.29
2019 Membership Due to Date	\$38,507.07

Ag. Water Quality Member Update

UC Davis conducted a study of the General Nutrient Properties of Compost. Their finding were:

Dry Weight Bases	
Poultry Manure	2-4%
Feedlot Manure	2-3%
Dairy Manure	1-2%
Urban Yard Waste	1-1.5%
Crop Residue	1.5-2.5%
Common Crops and Nitrogen Removal	
Wine Grapes	3.60lbs/ton of grapes
Apples	1.08 lbs/ton of fruit
Cherries	4.42 lbs/ton of fruit
Walnuts	31.9 lbs/ton with shell
Pumpkins	7.36 lbs/ton fresh weight
Peaches	2.26 lbs/ton of fruit
Pears	1.29 lbs/ton of fruit
Olives	6.28 lbs/ton of Olives
Alfalfa	62.3 lbs/ton at 12% moisture

Board Officers

President

Dedrian (Dee) Kobervig (2021)
 Christmas Trees
 622-7850
dkobervig@gmail.com

Vice President

Norm Krizl (2018)
 Vineyards

Secretary

Sid Davis (2021)
 Vineyards

Treasurer

Robert (Bob) Witters (2020)
 Vineyards

Board Members

Merv de Haas (2021)
 Pasture

Carolyn Mansfield (2019)
 Orchards

Jana Rapetti (2020)
 Christmas Trees

Kirk Taylor (2019)
 Specialty Crops

Ann Johnson (2021)
 Vineyards



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Central Valley Water Board Steps Up its Enforcement of the Irrigated
Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP)

26 potentially unenrolled parcels/growers in El Dorado County received letters
earlier this year from the Central Valley Water Board. They were directed to con-
tact the El Dorado County Coalition for possible enrollment, develop an individual
plan for the ILRP or face possible fines concerning their non-compliance.

We received responses from ten letter recipients asking for more information and
applications to join the El Dorado Coalition. We as an organization, do not pursue
non-complying farmers but welcome the Central Valley Water Boards efforts to
educate and direct potential members toward our organization.