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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:

President
Christmas Trees
530-622-7850

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Bob Witters Treasurer Vineyards

Merv de Haas Secretary Irrigated Pasture

Directors:

Sid Davis
Vineyards

Kirk Taylor Orchard

Carolyn Mansfield
Orchards

Cody Curtis
Organic Specialty
Crops

Jana Rapetti At Large The El Dorado County Water Quality management board of directors' hope that this newsletter finds you all safe and healthy. As 2020 comes to an end, many of us will never forget this turbulent and stressful year and are looking forward to putting it behind us. Let's hope that 2021 will bring us back to some normalcy.

Zoom is our new friend. Thanks to Robin Cleveland and UC Extension, all of our board meetings have been held over Zoom since March of this year. We plan to have our Annual meeting in February at the Board of Supervisors meeting room if we are able but, if things don't improve by then, it too, may also be a Zoom meeting. Zoom does have its advantages. We have not had to travel to Susanville, Orville or Yuba city to attend Sacramento Valley Water Coalition meetings; we attended the meetings from the comfort of our homes.

We have two new forms we <u>all</u> need to fill out this year, the Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan Worksheet (INMPW) and the Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report (INMP summary report). Both of these forms were mailed out to you at the beginning of the year with your 2020 dues request. **The INMP summary report needs to be returned to the coalition no later than January 31,2021. Even if you do not apply nitrogen this form needs to be returned.** It is a requirement to remain a coalition member. The Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan Worksheet remains on your farm. Both forms can be found on our website at www.eldoradoagwater.org under forms. We have had three in-person trainings on filling out these forms and two Zoom meetings. Please make sure we have a current email address so we can notify you of any future training classes.

2021 is an assessment year for El Dorado County. What that means is that we will see an increase in water monitoring and an increase in monitoring costs. Monitoring will include all pesticides used in the county. Some of these monitoring tests are expensive, especially for pyrethroids. We have very few growers who use pyrethroid. If you are one of them and can find an alternative it would help in our next assessment year (2025) to request a waiver for monitoring that particular pesticide. The board requested a waiver for 2021 (1.1 lbs. was used in the entire county) but the Regional Board denied our request.

There are still about 30 growers who have not turned in their Farm Evaluation. Thank you to those of you who returned them promptly. If you know you have not returned your Farm Evaluation you can find the form on our website www.eldoradoagwater.org, under forms. We must submit our final data report with Farm Evaluation Data and Nitrogen Management data in Mid-March. Melissa needs time to enter all the data. Delinquent Farm Evaluations need to be to us by January 31, 2021.

Ag. Water Quality Member Update

President's message (cont.)

Because of the large amount of data being submitted to the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition the board asked for clarification on privacy issues concerning this data. Their response was:

"The Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) for the Irrigated Lands Program does require "The Third-Party shall develop Anonymous Member IDs and Anonymous APN IDs," which Land IQ has done for the Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report Information and under record keeping require "The Third Party shall propose a mechanism for backing up and storing the field-specific data submitted on the Farm Evaluations, the INMP Summary Reports, and the MPIRs in a secure offsite location managed by independent entity that specializes in the protection of data.." which Land IQ and others have accomplished through Amazon Web Services (AWS).

You will not be identified by name or parcel number when final reports are submitted to the state where all information becomes public knowledge.

Hope to see you at our annual meeting. Your board of directors will be there to help answer any of your questions.

Dedrian Kobervig, President

Introducing Melissa Neal

We have a new face at the El Dorado Agriculture Water Quality Management Corp. Sally Wolf left us in early October to move to Colorado. She wanted to be closer to her daughter and new grandson. Melissa Neal has taken over Sally's position as our new data entry person. Melissa came to use highly recommended by the RCD and Ag In the Classroom.

Melissa graduated from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico, in 2008. She has a Masters of Science in Biology with emphasis in Ecology. She has worked as a Watershed Assistant with EID, Watershed Coordinator for the El Dorado County & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts and was involved with Ag Education and Outreach for Ag in the Classroom.

Her expertise and knowledge are greatly appreciated by the board. Come meet Melissa at the annual meeting, February 8,2021.

Informative Video about the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

The Sacramento Water Quality Coalition, which we are a member of, has created a video on YouTube. It is a very informative video explaining the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. It can answer many of your questions about this program conceptions, current requirements and structure. It is a great overview.

The video covers the following:

What is the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program? Coalition member requirements.

What is the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition? Who do I contact for more information?

Do I have to be a member?

It is a sixteen-minute video that also satisfies your annual outreach requirement. You can view it at https://youtu.be/ZYtlPdiKbnE . You can also search for it on **YouTube** by putting in the key words "Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition". It is the 2020-2021 SVWQC Outreach Presentation by Chelsie Nakasone.

Annual Meeting of the El Dorado Agriculture Water Quality Management Corp.

Our 2021 Annual Meeting is set for Monday, February 8, 6-7 P.M.

Location Board of Supervisors Room

330 Fair Lane Placerville

From past board meetings attendance; the Board of Supervisors Room should accommodate those who come with social distancing practiced (masks required)

Ag. Water Quality Member Update

Treasurer's Report.....

December 10, 2020

Treasurers comments on 2020

This year financially, has been a rather uneventful one. A complete contrast to other events that have happened in 2020. Let's hope 2021 will put an end to COVID-19 19 and it's restrictions on all of us.

Membership dues income for 2020 will be close to the budgeted amount of \$31,000. Expenses will be about \$28,000 leaving us with a small surplus.

However, the SVWQC has indicated our 2021 fees will be increased by \$25,000. This is due to 2021 being a water monitoring year. This will be on the agenda for discussion at the annual meeting on February 8th.

Hope to see you there.

Bob Witters

Robert (Bob) Witter Retiring from the Board

Robert (Bob) Witter is retiring from the board. He has sold his vineyard and plans to use his time perusing other interest and spending more time with his family. His presence on the board will be missed. He has been the treasurer for the last four years helping us stay financially sound. Bob's last treasurer's report will be at our annual meeting on February 8. Come to the meeting and thank Bob for his hours of volunteer time given to this organization.

2021 Meeting Dates

El Dorado Agricultural Water Management Corporation EDC Agricultural Department 311 Fair Lane, Placerville

Annual Meeting of Members

February 8, Monday 6:00 P.M. Board of Supervisor/Zoom

Board of Directors Meetings

January 11, Monday 3:30 P.M. if needed (room reserved) February 8, Monday, 7:00 P.M. Board of Supervisor/Zoom April 19, Monday 3:30 P.M. June 21, Monday 3:30 P.M. if needed August 16, Monday 3:30 P.M. October 18, Monday 3:30 P.M. December 20, Monday 3:30 P.M.

Executive Committee Meetings

March 15, Monday 3:30 P.M. May 17, Monday 3:30 P.M. July 19, Monday 3:30 P.M. Sept 20, Monday 3:30 P.M. November 15, Monday 3:30 P.M.

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

To be called on a "as needed basis"

Adopted December 7,2020

Important Information Required Reports From Coalition Members for the 2020 Growing Season

You should now have a completed an Irrigation Nitrogen Management Plan Worksheet (mailed out to you earlier this year) kept in your files for future reference.

You should have started to fill out your Irrigation Mitrogen Management Summary Report (mailed out to you earlier this year) to turn in to the coalition by January 31, 2021. Even if you do not apply Mitrogen you must return the completed form. It is a membership requirement.

Mail completed forms to EDAWQMC Box 286 Placerville CA. 95667

Worksheets and Reports can be found on the Coalition's website under Forms

EIDorado Ag Water. org

Contact Melissa Neal for member I.D. and/or APN parcels if needed

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MANAGEMENT CORP

EL DORADO AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY

PROTECTING OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCE