Fall 2025

EL DORADO AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT CORP
PROTECTING OUR PRECIOUS RESOURCE

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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

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Presidents Message

By Norm Krizl

Greetings all!

I hope you all are having a productive growing season so far. As we head into harvest season we are once again faced with a host of challenges, both regulatory and natural. While we certainly can't do anything about the weather but we should be able to influence the regulatory side of things. While the Irrigated Lands program has been a burden to us all, I remain cautiously optimistic that we will get some relief at some point in the future.

Earlier this season our Executive Director Melissa Neal put together a field trip visiting several of our local farms. Those in attendance included several staff members from the Irrigated Lands program, the State Water Board and Bruce Houdeshelt who oversees the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition. Bruce has been a strong advocate for common sense. The group seemed receptive to the unique nature of El Dorado County agriculture. This may be our best opportunity to get recognized for long term relief from this program.

I hope you all have a successful harvest season!

Cheers!

Norm Krizl

Ag. Water Quality Member Update

Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet Ending July 1, 2025		Balance Sheet Ending July 1, 2024	
Income:		**Income:**	
Membership Dues	$17,700.79	Membership Dues	$27,109.58
Checkbook balance	$2,899.55	Checkbook balance	$1,934.89
Savings balance	$55,089.44	Savings balance	$59,323.33
Total:	$57,988.99	Total:	$61,258.22
Expenses:	$21,000.92	**Expenses:**	$40,229.93
Net Income:	$7,407.87	Net Income:	$-2,183.61

- The Board of Directors voted to keep the member fee at $3/acre for 2025, this resulted in a drop in our savings account.
- The Sac Valley Coalition fee and payroll were lower this year, which resulted in a positive net income.
- Membership dues were significantly reduced due to a drop in membership.

Surface Water Quality Monitoring—2026 is a Monitoring Year

The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) regulates discharges from irrigated agricultural lands. This is done by issuing Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs). The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition, in which we are participating members, has developed and implemented the Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan to meet the requirements of the Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Lands as part of the WDRs. WDRs address irrigated agricultural discharges to protect water quality.

Water quality monitoring has been conducted since January 2005 in El Dorado County at North Canyon Creek in order to comply with the Agriculture Waiver requirements. To date, there have been no exceedances in water quality objectives at North Canyon Creek.

El Dorado County is on a reduced monitoring plan that allows for surface water monitoring once every five years and only for constituents that are currently used by agriculture in these areas. The last monitoring year was in 2021 with Larry Walker and Associates conducting the monitoring. The cost for monitoring in 2021 was $21,115.80. Since 2026 is a monitoring year, the Board of Directors will be reviewing the budget in preparation for monitoring fees. As such, membership acreage fees might increase from the 2024 and 2025 low fee of $3 per acre. Membership fees will be discussed and voted on at our annual members meeting in February 2026.

Ag. Water Quality Member Update

Compliance Timeline

September 2025 — CVWQCB will send out Notices of Violation to dropped/non-compliant members.

December 2025 — Annual Newsletter will be sent out with details on how to access the Irrigation & Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) Reports for January Submittal.

January 2026 — Reminder emails will be sent for the upcoming reporting deadline.

January 31, 2026 — Irrigation & Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) Summary Reports Due.

February 2026 — Annual Members Meeting will be scheduled. In order to vote on the budget and the Board of Directors we need a quorum of members to attend.

March 2026 — Membership dues invoices will be sent out in early March, following approval of the budget during the Annual Members Meeting.

**If not paid by due date listed on the invoice, members will receive a late notice invoice with a $25 late fee added.

**If members still do not pay dues after this late notice they will be dropped and a $75 reinstatement fee will be required.

April 1, 2026 — We are required to submit a list of late reporters to the Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (CVWQCB). They then send out Notices of Violation to non compliant members, with the warning of potential fines up to $1,000.

July 2026 — We are required to submit a Participant list to the CVWQCB listing all current members and those who have been dropped due to delinquent reporting or non-payment.

El Dorado Subwatershed Tour

On Friday July 11th, El Dorado County Agricultural Water Quality Corp. (AWQ) Board Members welcomed staff from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) to El Dorado County for a tour of our agricultural regions. The intent of the tour was to highlight the responsible and compliant farming practices occurring in El Dorado Cunty and to emphasize the differences between us and the valley floor.

We started the tour at Camino Ridge Blueberry Farm with Christa Campbell to provide a view of South county and to provide an insight into a specialty crop, blueberries. Our next stop was at the official Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) water quality monitoring site on North Canyon Creek at Indian Rock Tree Farm. A representative from Larry Walker & Associates was there to give an overview of monitoring data from the past 20 years. We then moved on to Delfino Farm for a quick visit with Derek Delfino and a history of the farm. From there we went to Boeger Winery where Greg Boeger discussed his sustainable farming practices and talked about the history of farming in El Dorado County. Finally, we caravaned to the Gold Hill area to visit the vineyard and irrigated pasture at the Akin property.

The AWQ Board is pursuing an exemption from the ILRP for El Dorado County. We are hoping the dialog started at the tour will continue internally at the Water Board and begin the process of exemption. As with many government programs, the process will most likely take years but we will continue to work with the Water Board staff to pursue the best path forward for El Dorado County growers.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

We have open Board of Directors positions! Curious about what your tole as a Board member would be? Join us at a meeting, held monthly every third Monday from 3:30-4:30 at our office located at the Farm Bureau Ag Center 2460 Headington Rd. Placerville.

If you are interested in serving on the Board please contact Melissa Neal, Executive Director.

Please contact Melissa Neal with any questions

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