

Coalition's Proposed Water Quality Monitoring Plan to the Regional Board

Within the Shasta/Tehama subwatershed 28 drainage areas with irrigated farm lands were prioritized based upon scientifically defensible criteria.

The local volunteer group met multiple times to set the criteria and prioritize the watershed for their relative risk to water quality.

≈ These same criteria were used in the other nine sub-watersheds within the larger Coalition area so relative comparisons could be made throughout the Sacramento Valley

≈ Burch Creek located in southwest Tehama County ranked as high risk to surface water quality

≈ The Anderson Creek and Cow Creek drainages in Shasta County and Elder Creek and Salt Creek drainages in Tehama County ranked as medium risk to water quality using the same rationale

≈ Monitoring is proposed to begin on Burch and Cow Creek in 2004 and on Elder, Anderson and Salt Creek in 2005 or later

≈ The other 23 drainage areas in the Shasta/Tehama subwatershed were ranked as low risk to surface water quality

The Coalition continues to work with the Regional Board technical staff to finalize the monitoring program.

Individuals from the central Coalition in Sacramento are responding to their concerns and are working to resolve them.



Estimated Costs to Shasta/Tehama Coalition Members

Estimated initial costs (could change) for the Shasta/Tehama subwatershed portion of the Coalition is an annual cost of \$143,000. Specific costs include:

- ◆ \$33,000 to support activities of the central Coalition in Sacramento
- ◆ \$70,000 for water quality monitoring (multiple sampling, laboratory work, and reporting) for two sites in the Shasta/Tehama subwatershed
- ◆ \$40,000 for management costs for the local non-profit organization

A this early stage of formation, it is not clear how many acres of irrigated farmlands and wetlands this sign-up represents. **YOUR ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED TO CLARIFY THIS. PLEASE COMPLETE INSERT.**

There are potentially 160,000 irrigated acres in the Shasta/Tehama subwatershed. If a large fraction of the irrigated acreage is represented by the Coalition in the Shasta/Tehama subwatershed, it is possible that the cost to each Coalition member could be reduced to \$1 per irrigated acre enrolled with the Coalition.

What's Next

- ◆ Development of the 503(c)3 organizational structure.
- ◆ Election of chair and board directors
- ◆ Establishment of by-laws
- ◆ Updates of Ag Waiver status
- ◆ Educational workshops

AG DISCHARGE WAIVER SHASTA-TEHAMA SUBWATERSHED OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY WATER QUALITY COALITION MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

This update is intended for irrigators who submitted a Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition membership application to Vewa Swearingen at the Cottonwood Watershed Group Office.

The Coalition needs irrigated acreage information in order to estimate irrigated acres covered by the Conditional Waiver.



If you are receiving this information, your application has been received and you are considered a member of the Sacramento Valley Water Coalition and covered under the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Conditional Waiver.

Review



- ◆ Prior to January 1, 2003, landowners/operators were able to legally discharge irrigation/storm water under a waiver that did not require monitoring
- ◆ January 1, 2003 new water quality regulations were imposed by Legislature and Central Valley Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board)
- ◆ New regulation—"Conditional Waiver", landowners/operators can legally discharge irrigation/storm water runoff into downstream water bodies if they participate in water quality monitoring
- ◆ If monitoring reveals an undesirable water quality they need to identify the source and modify their activity
- ◆ Beginning January 22, 2004, the Regional Board adopted a specific implementation plan
- ◆ A landowner/operator must meet the water quality monitoring requirements by doing one of the following:
 - * Participate in a Coalition Group to implement a watershed program
 - * Participate as an individual under the Conditional Waiver
 - * Obtain an individual waste discharge permit directly from the Regional Board

Formation Of The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition

- ◇ The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) is recognized as a valid entity by the Regional Board and is available to Sacramento Valley landowners to comply with the new surface water quality regulation

- ◇ A watershed approach is believed to be an efficient and economical way for most landowners to protect and enhance water quality associated with agricultural and wetland activity
- ◇ Leaders in agriculture and wetlands management have been working over the past 18 months to create a framework for the Coalition to work effectively and earnestly to address this surface water quality issue

Central Organization and Leadership

Central leadership for the Coalition has formed in Sacramento. **Leaders are:**

- ♣ David Guy, Executive Director of the Northern California Water Association (NCWA)
- ♣ Mark Biddlecomb, Ducks Unlimited
- ♣ Parry Klassen, Coalition Urban Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES)

Each of these individuals and staff from their respective organizations contribute to the Coalition.

Purposes of Central Leadership

- ♣ Working with local members and supporters to coordinate consistent water quality monitoring activities across the unique subwatersheds in the Sacramento Valley
- ♣ Representing its membership at numerous meetings, public workshops, and hearings with the Regional Board in Sacramento



- ♣ Preparing and submitting plans and reports to the Regional Board on behalf of the Coalition members and their water quality management program

Local Organization and Leadership

The Coalition area has been divided into 10 different subwatersheds based upon their hydrology. The Shasta/Tehama subwatershed is one of the ten with approximately 1100 members currently enrolled. Although each subwatershed is unique, they all drain into the Sacramento River.

If you know of a landowner who is unaware of the Coalition there is still an opportunity for them to sign up by contacting Vieva Swearingen at Tel: (530) 347-6637

Since December 2003, a local volunteer group was formed to develop the Shasta/Tehama branch of the coalition and consists of 19 irrigated landowners/operators, four water district managers, and seven individuals working in agricultural related public service.

The group has recommended forming a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. It is the preferred organizational approach because it facilitates:

- Local governance by forming an elected Board of Directors from among its membership
- Locally based contact with its membership
- Local management of financial issues
- Confidentiality



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