



SHASTA TEHAMA WATERSHED EDUCATION COALITION

The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

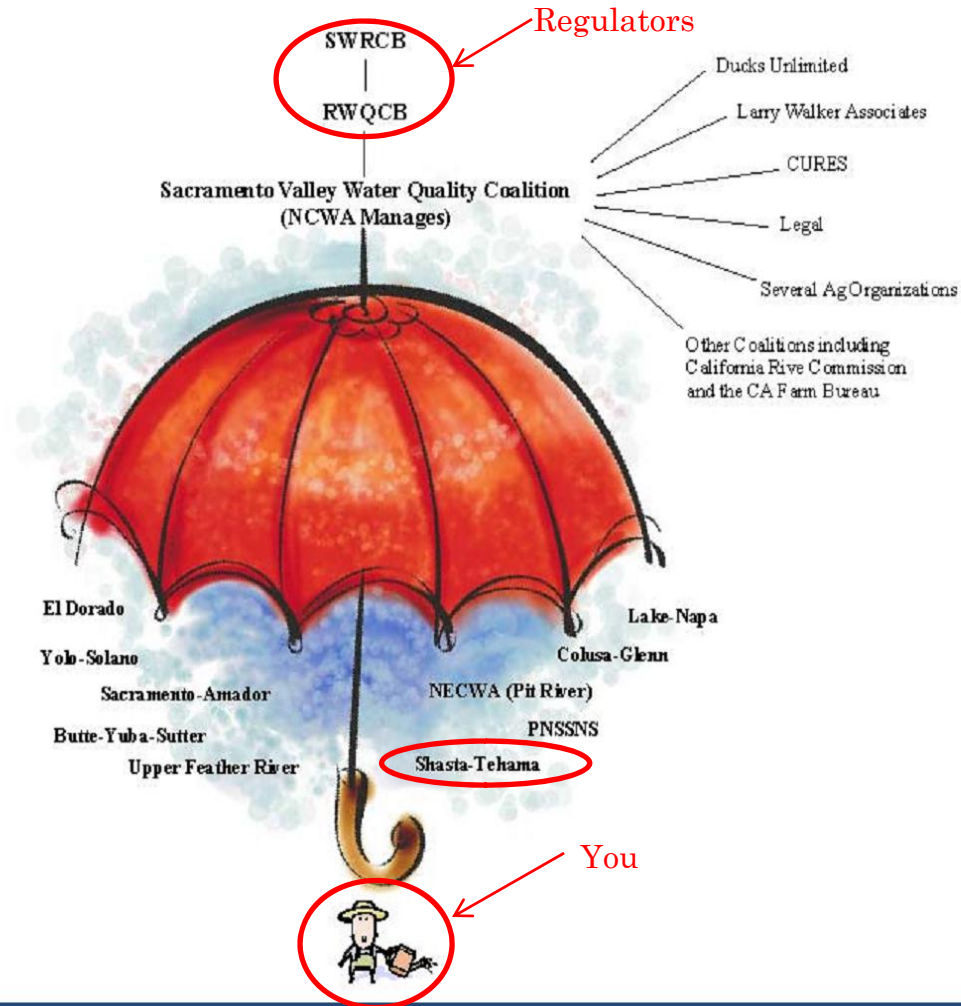
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Program Director**

TOPICS

- Who Are We?
- What Is The Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program?
- What Are Your Options?
- Questions?



WHO WE ARE





The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition

12 Subwatershed Organizations represent owners and operators

Northern California Water Association provides leadership, monitoring and reporting

So...WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM ANYWAY?

- Prior to 2002, producers who irrigated were exempt from needing water discharge permits required by the Clean Water Act.
- In 2003 the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board initiated the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, and a Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements was established.
- The 2003 Conditional Waiver expired in 2006.
- A revised Conditional Waiver was adopted and extended by court order.
- Now Waste Discharge Requirements have been adopted that include surface and groundwater.



SO...WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM ANYWAY?

- New Orders were approved 12 March 2014
 - New members have until 15 August 2014 to join (but you can join now!)
 - Existing members have until June 2015 to confirm membership

- Surface water and groundwater will be addressed
 - This means NO ONE is exempt

- Requirements include:
 - Farm Evaluation Plans
 - Must be completed by 1 March 2015
 - Nitrogen Management Plans
 - Must be completed by early 2015
 - Nitrogen Summary Reports



AND...WHO NEEDS TO BE A MEMBER?

- **All** *commercial irrigated lands, including nurseries and managed wetlands
- Regulatory coverage is not required if a property is not used for commercial purposes, or if commercial irrigated lands are covered under the Dairy Program
 - *Landowner/operator has an Operator ID #/Permit # for pesticide use reporting
 - *Crop is sold to a third party (including but not limited to: industry coop, harvest crew/company, direct marketing location)
 - *Landowner/operator files taxes using a Form 1040, Schedule F



YOUR OPTIONS

- Obtain coverage as an individual grower under general Waste Discharge Requirements:
 - Includes working directly with the Regional Board
 - And conducting your own surface and groundwater monitoring
- Join the Coalition:
 - Less expensive, less time consuming option
 - Potential for no direct contact with the regional board
 - Shared monitoring costs
 - Cost: \$83/year plus \$2.00/acre (for 2014)
- No one likes it, but no one is exempt
- As a farmer, I am a paying member of the coalition



QUESTIONS?



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