Linking Almond Board to Central Valley Watershed Coalitions

Project No.: **07-Envir2-Klassen**

Project Leader: **Parry Klassen**
Coaltion for Urban Rural Environmental Stewardship
531-D North Alta Ave
Dinuba, Ca 93618-3203

Objectives:

This five phase project (initiated in 2003) has been developed to provide a link between almond growers and the new watershed coalitions formed throughout the Central Valley. In Phase 5, CURES will produce three issues of *Watershed Coalition News*, a newsletter on watershed coalitions, irrigation waiver updates and BMP information. (Winter 2007, Summer 2008 and a Special BMP Issue in late Summer 2008). Phase 5 continues support to maintain and update the CURES' website pages including electronic access to *Watershed Coalition News* and information on almond water quality BMPs and related BMP research and developments in the Central Valley.

Interpretive Summary:

Watershed Coalition News is targeted to almond growers, farmers of other crops as well as crop advisors. In 2007-08, each printed edition of 10,000 will be distributed to ABC, County Agricultural Commissioners in the Central Valley, watershed coalitions, farm groups, and state regulators. Another 500 copies of the newsletter are circulated through various email lists (as a PDF file). For each issue, a North Valley and South Valley edition is produced (page 2 has articles relevant to those regions). 8000 copies of WCN south edition are also inserted into the Merced, Stanislaus and Madera County Farm Bureau newspaper (printing and insertion costs paid for by the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition).

ABC also provided support to maintain and update website pages at www.curesworks.org containing information on almond Best Management Practices (BMPs) for protecting surface water. ABC's website is linked to those pages. An almond "BMP Compilation" is constructed as a matrix that provides a menu of BMPs that can be used by almond growers in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys.