
Linking Almond Board to Central Valley Coalitions

Project No.: 08-WATER2-Klassen
(Continuation of Project 07-ENVIR2-Klassen)

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Objectives:

This six 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 6, the Coalition for Urban Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES) will produce three issues of *Watershed Coalition News* (WCN), a newsletter on watershed coalitions, updates on the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program and BMP information (Winter/Spring 2009, Summer 2009 and a Special BMP Issue in late Summer 2009). Phase 6 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 2008 - 2009, each printed edition of 10,000 will be distributed to the Almond Board of California (ABC), County Agricultural Commissioners in the Central Valley, watershed coalitions, farm groups, and state regulators. Another 500 copies of the newsletter will be 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). 8,000 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 will also continue to provide 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.