

CURES - Watershed Coalition News: Linking the Almond Board of California and the Central Valley Water Quality Coalitions

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PROJECT SUMMARY

This project funds the production and distribution of *Watershed Coalition News*, a newsletter covering activities and regulatory programs being implemented by agricultural water quality coalitions in the Central Valley.

Objectives:

- Continue to produce and distribute *Watershed Coalition News*, a newsletter that focuses on providing information on Best Management Practices (BMPs) and updates on the Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Agriculture to growers and crop advisors associated with five Irrigated Lands Coalitions in the Central Valley.
- Continue to serve as an information clearinghouse and communication hub between the Almond Board of California (ABC) and the water-quality coalitions.
- Continue to maintain and upgrade the CURES website (www.curesworks.org) and its two-way link to the ABC website (www.almondboard.com).

Background and Discussion:

For nine years, with Almond Board support, the Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES) has been publishing *Watershed Coalition News* to help growers and others in the Central Valley to understand and cope with the requirements and effects of the

Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for Irrigated Agriculture and the latest on BMPs.

Membership in local water-quality coalitions enables growers to stay in compliance with the WDR. Those organizations monitor water quality in waterways primarily surrounded by agriculture and both report any detected problems to the growers and encourage them to implement BMP solutions.

With expansion of the WDR to ground water, growers in the Central Valley face a new and complicated set of regulatory requirements as well as BMPs to ensure they are protective of ground water.

The CURES newsletter is produced one to three times a year in both North Valley and South Valley editions and widely distributed by both CURES and other organizations such as county ag commissioner offices. The CURES website is updated on an ongoing basis.

Together, the newsletter and website serve as a broad-based interactive communication tool. They emphasize the need to manage the environmental impact of runoff and spray drift from irrigated agricultural lands. Drawing on ABC-supported research along with other's support, the newsletter and website provide readers with information on BMPs relating to almonds and other crops. They stress the advantages of having all stakeholders contribute to improving the quality of the state's waterways.

Project Cooperators and Personnel: Central Valley Water Quality Coalitions

For More Details, Visit

- Copies of newsletters were inserted into your conference tote bags.
- Visit CURES website: curesworks.org/home.asp