

COALITION
• 2009 •
REPORTS SUCCESS

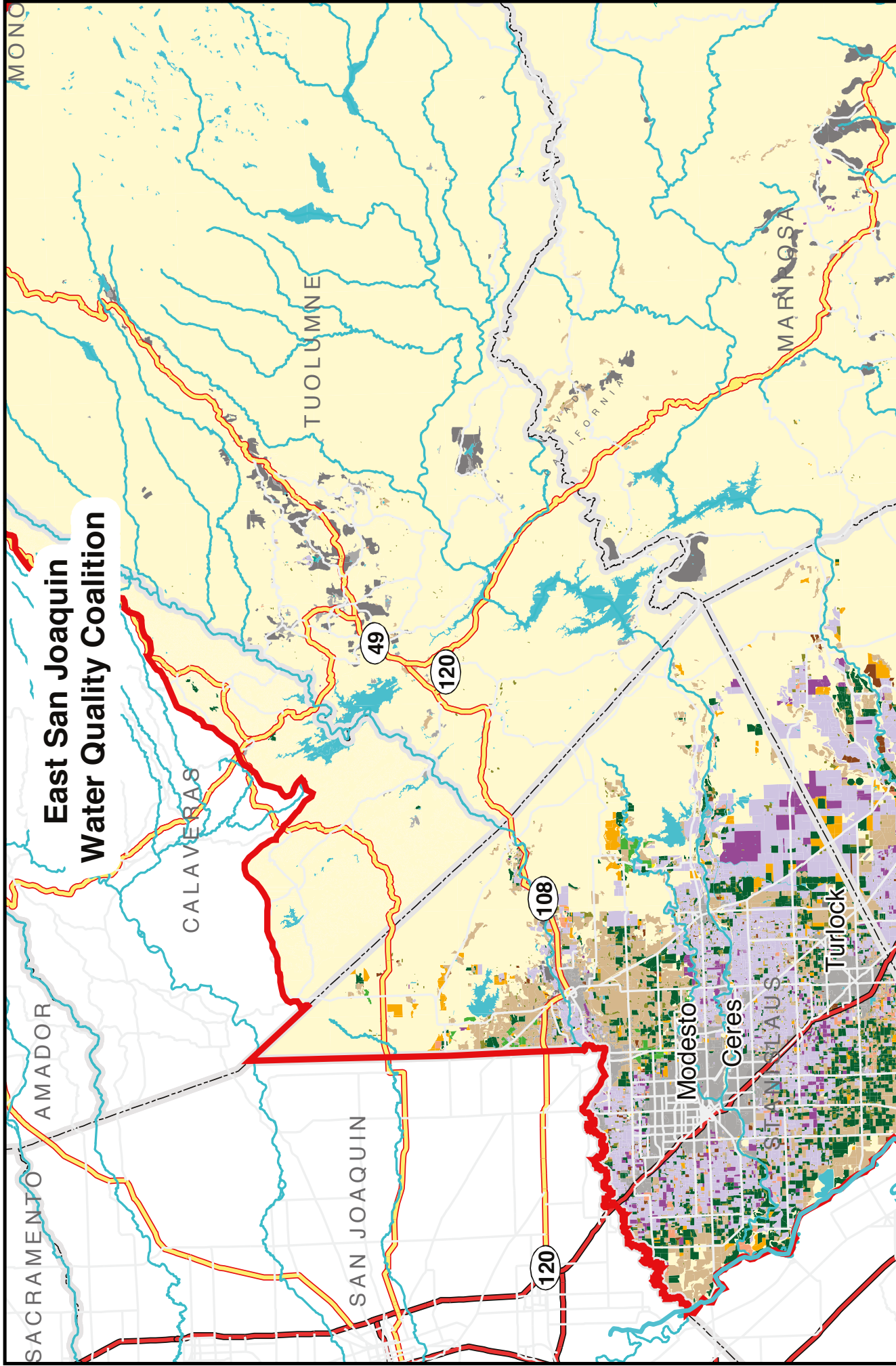




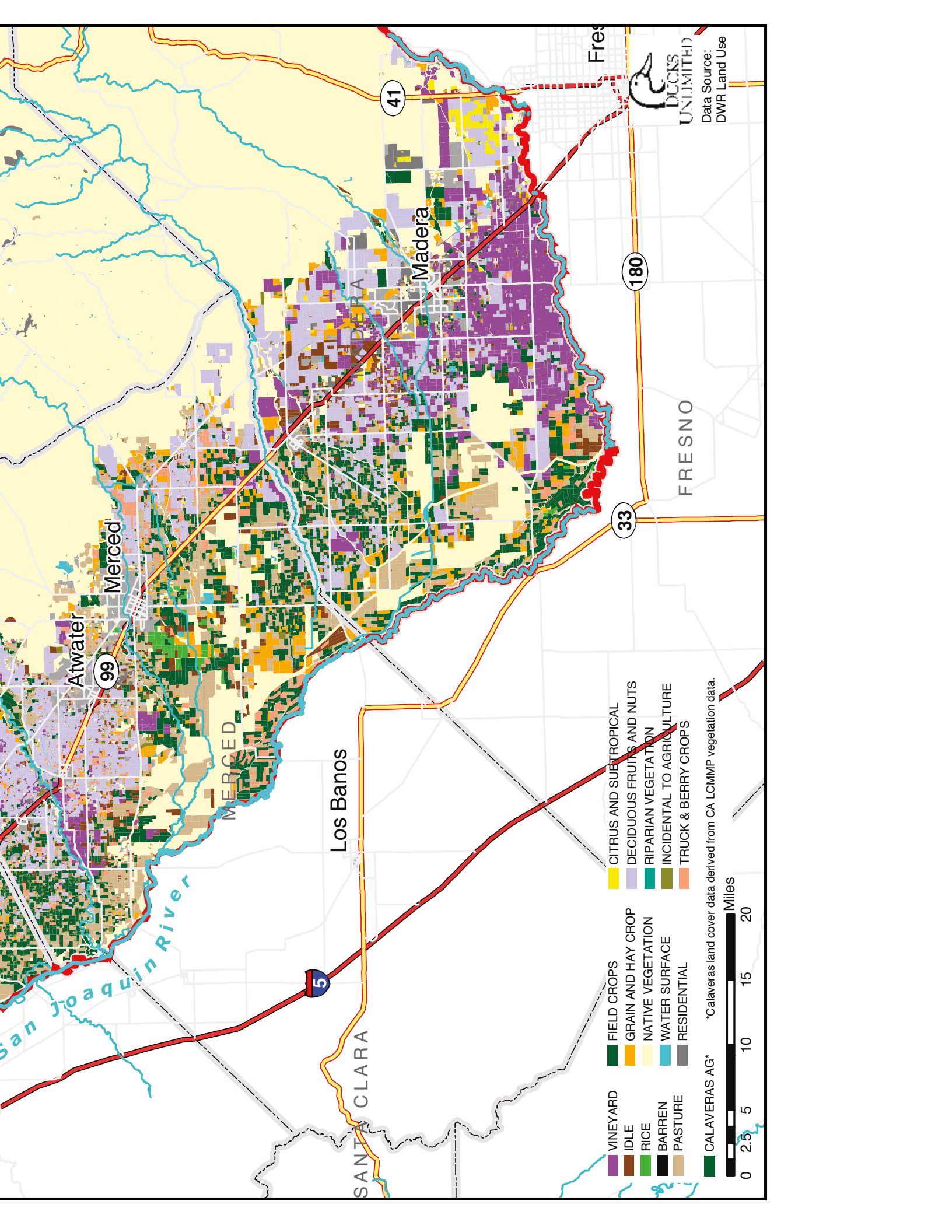
This report is available at

**East San Joaquin Water Coalition
1201 L Street
Modesto, CA 95354
(209)522-7278**

**www.ESJCoalition.org
Members Only Password: ESJWATER**



**East San Joaquin
Water Quality Coalition**



Atwater

99

Merced

MERCED

Los Banos

SANTA CLARA

5

41

Madera

33

180

FRESNO

Fres

- VINEYARD
- IDLE
- RICE
- BARREN
- PASTURE
- FIELD CROPS
- GRAIN AND HAY CROP
- NATIVE VEGETATION
- WATER SURFACE
- RESIDENTIAL
- CITRUS AND SUBTROPICAL
- DECIDUOUS FRUITS AND NUTS
- RIPARIAN VEGETATION
- INCIDENTAL TO AGRICULTURE
- TRUCK & BERRY CROPS

CALAVERAS AG* *Calaveras land cover data derived from CA LCMMP vegetation data.



Data Source:
DWR Land Use

Coalition Region

Map



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SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT
2009

Including Water Monitoring Data from 2004-2008

This report is available at

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2009 SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT
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MAKING PROGRESS

Three Priority Waterways Show Only 1 Exceedance in Spring/Summer 2009

When the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program was adopted in 2003, many activists were skeptical whether the watershed coalition approach could solve water quality problems caused by agriculture. Six years and many water samples later, the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition can answer that skepticism with a resounding "YES IT CAN!" And this success is in waterways with the most pesticide-related water quality impairments in the region.

Three waterways – Dry Creek (Stanislaus County), Duck Slough/Mariposa Creek (Merced County) and Prairie Flower Drain (Stanislaus County) – were selected as top priority Management Plans by the ESJWQC in 2008. These three waterways had more pesticide exceedances and toxicity to test organisms than any of the 20 waterways monitored by the Coalition.

A Management Plan is required for a waterway with two or more violations of any water quality standard for a constituent originating from farming activities. The Regional Water Board sets water quality standards for all waterways in the Central Valley. Management Plans are work plans, written by the Coalition and approved by the Regional Water Board, that describe the Coalition's strategy to address water quality impairments plus known and potential sources of water quality problems.

The first step of the ESJWQC's Management Plan was to identify all parcels owned by coalition members bordering the three priority waterways. In winter/spring 2009, coalition staff met with 100% of the member property owners/operators to discuss practices used on the fields and additional practices that could be implemented. A survey was also completed so information on current practices and recommendations could be documented on a watershed level (see results on following pages).

Sampling for pesticides from February through September 2009 showed the coalition watershed approach worked! Only one pesticide exceedance was found in Dry Creek in September and we believe it was an application by a non-coalition member participating in another Water Board program. Neither Duck Slough nor Prairie Flower Drain had a single pesticide exceedance or toxicity to test organisms during 2009!

The Coalition's work continues. Follow-up calls will be made in 2010 to landowners in the three watersheds to gather information on practices used in 2009. The ESJWQC recently started the same management plan approach on the next four priority waterways on its list of 20: Cottonwood Creek in Madera County and three waterways in Merced County: Bear Creek, Duck Slough (western stream segment) and Highline Canal. Once those visits are completed in 2010, the effort will continue in the other waterways where coalition water and sediment monitoring have resulted in Management Plans. The table on page 2 lists current management plan watersheds and their order of priority, as approved by the Regional Water Board. This list is reviewed annually.



Steps of a Management Plan

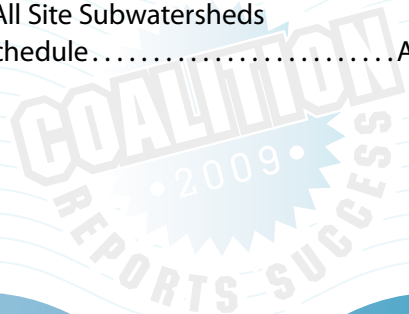
The ESJWQC Management Plans follow a consistent strategy:

1. Evaluate water quality information (monitoring results);
2. Source potential causes of water quality impairments (pesticide use reports and mapping of parcels/waterway);
3. Identify members with potential drainage or direct drainage to the waterbody who might contribute to water quality impairments;
4. Conduct individual meetings to assess current practices and recommend practices if needed;
5. Implement additional management practices if necessary; and
6. Assess water quality; associate to upstream management practices.



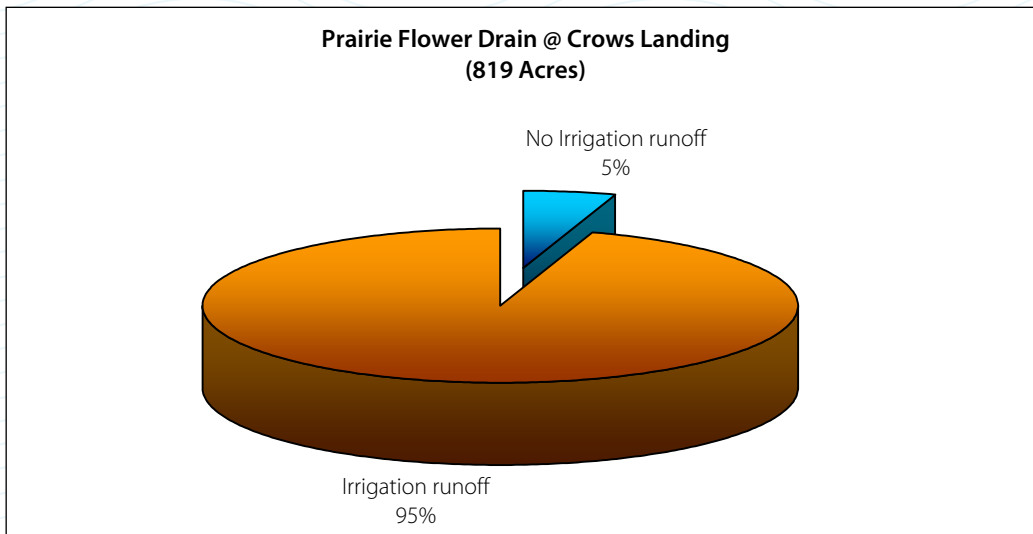
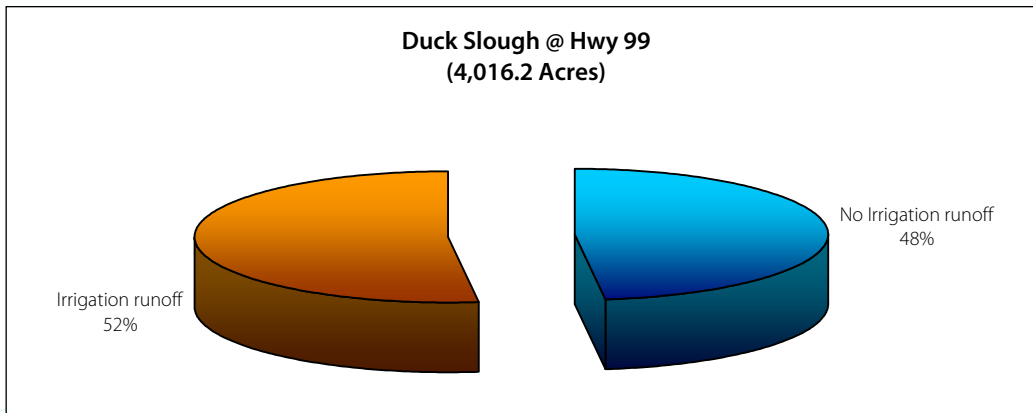
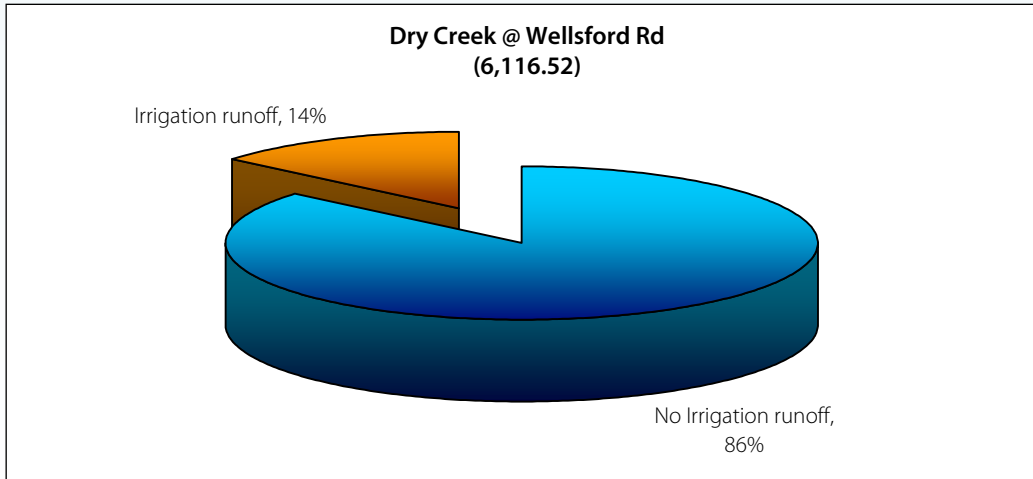
Site Subwatershed Name / Timeframe for Coalition Visits

Cottonwood Creek @ Rd 20 2010-2012	Deadman Creek (Dutchman) @ Gurr Rd 2012-2014
Duck Slough @ Gurr Rd 2010 2012	Hatch Drain @ Tuolumne Rd 2013-2015
Highline Canal @ Hwy 99 2010-2012	Highline Canal @ Lombardy Rd 2013-2015
Bear Creek @ Kibby Rd 2010-2012	Merced River @ Santa Fe 2013-2015
Ash Slough @ Ave 21 2011-2013	Miles Creek @ Reilly Rd 2013-2015
Berenda Slough along Ave 18 ½ 2011-2013	Mustang Creek @ East Ave 2014-2016
Dry Creek @ Rd 18 2011-2013	Silva Drain @ Meadow Dr 2014-2016
Livingston Drain @ Robin Ave 2011-2013	South Slough @ Quinley Rd 2014-2016
Hilmar Drain @ Central Ave 2012-2014	Westport Drain @ Vivian Rd 2014-2016
Black Rascal Creek @ Yosemite Rd 2012-2014	Re-evaluate All Site Subwatersheds
Deadman Creek @ Hwy 59 2012-2014	and Revise Schedule Annually



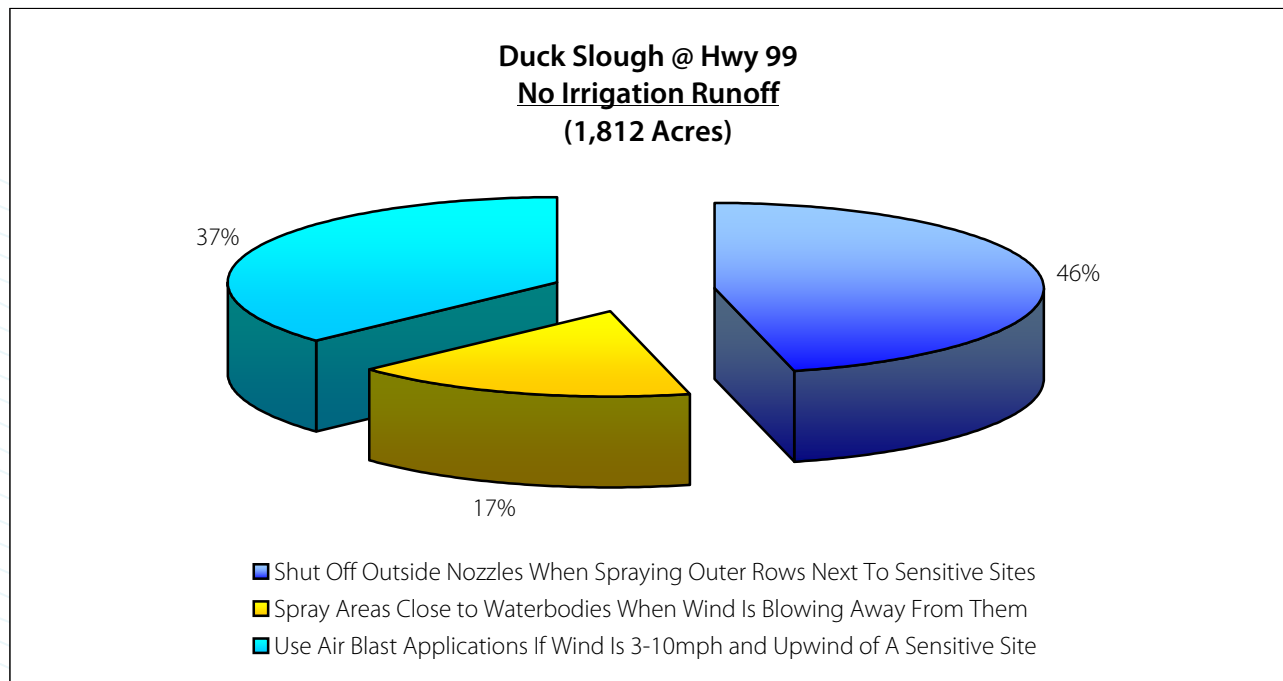
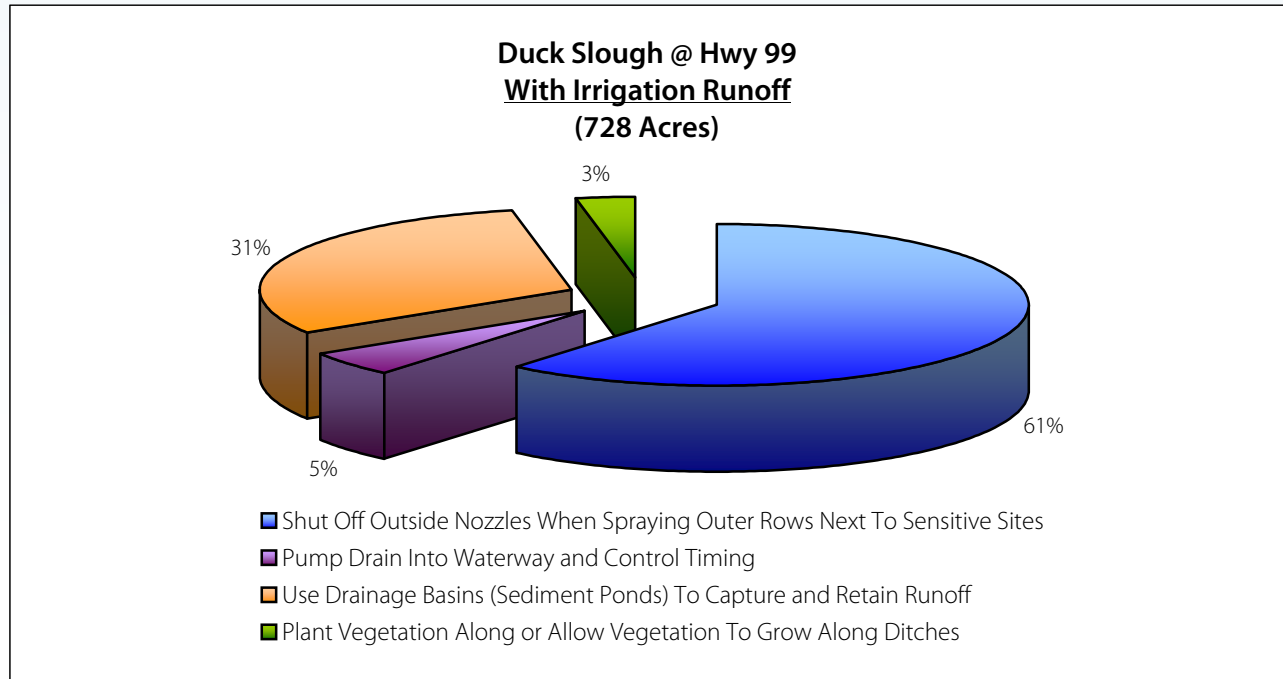
Management Plan Charts

Irrigation Runoff Acreage for Subwatershed Priority Members



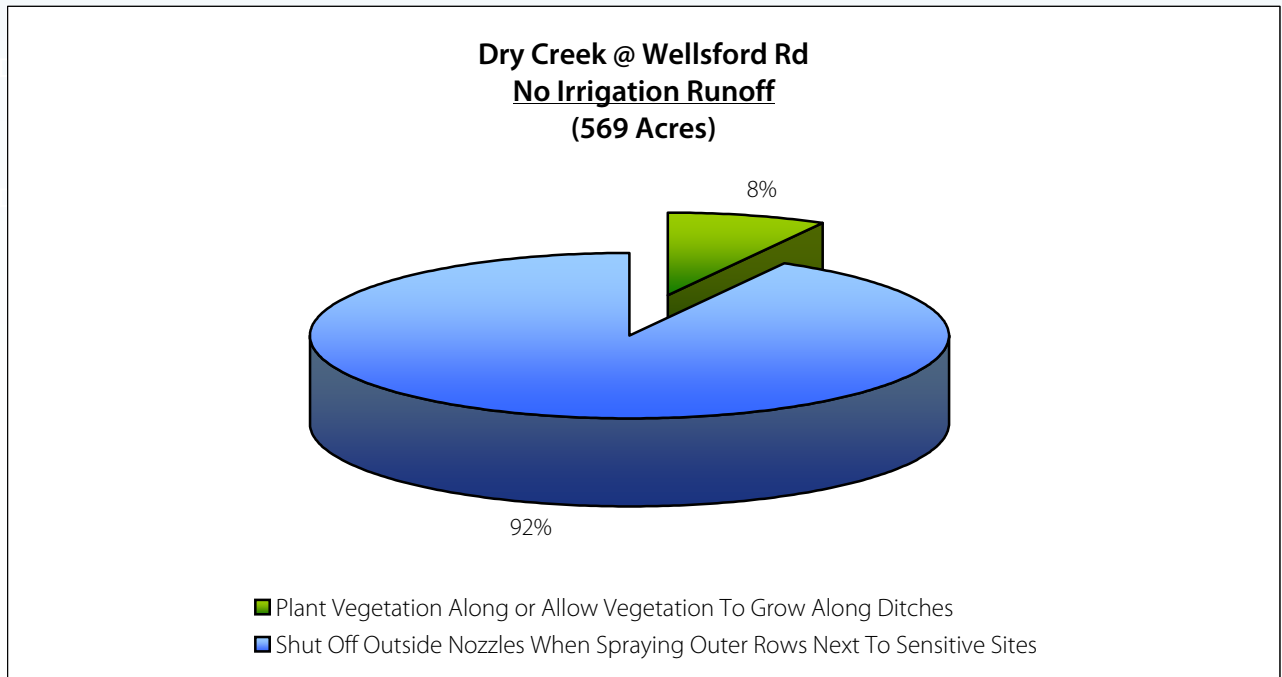
Management Plan Charts

Duck Slough Acreage with Recommended Practices

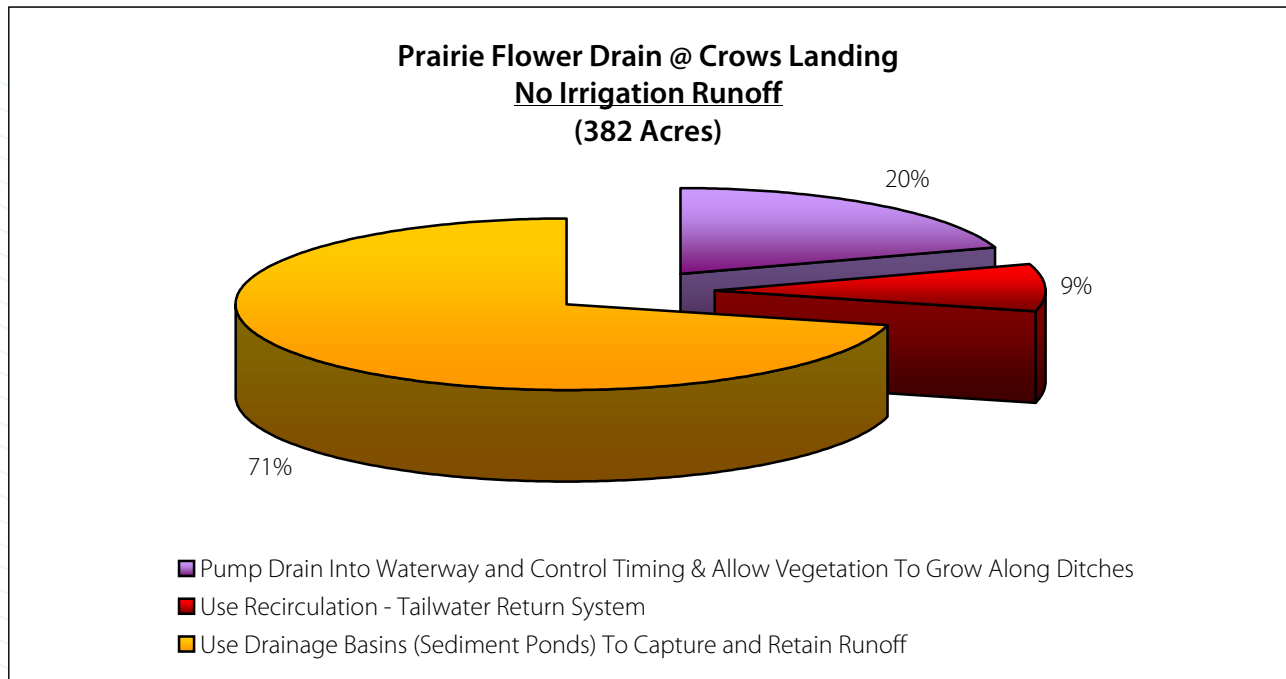


Management Plan Charts

Dry Creek Acreage with Recommended Practices



Prairie Flower Acreage with Recommended Practices



East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition

Adopted 2004

As a member of the Coalition in good standing, irrigated acres that you own or manage are now legally covered under the requirements described for watershed coalitions in the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP), Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board Resolution No. R5-2003-0105.

Member Responsibilities

As a member of the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition (Coalition), you agree to:

1. Respond to requests for information by ESJWQC that enable the Coalition to remain in compliance with requirements of the ILRP.
2. Cooperate with the ESJWQC to take corrective action should water quality problems be tracked back to your farming operation.
3. Implement management practices that minimize or eliminate fertilizer, pesticide and sediment runoff.

ESJWQC Responsibilities

1. Perform activities that enable Coalition members to be in compliance with the ILRP.
2. File required reports with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to maintain ILRP coverage for Coalition members.
3. Implement an economical and scientifically valid water monitoring program for waterways within the Coalition boundaries.
4. Spread costs equitably among Coalition members.
5. Communicate to Coalition members where water or sediment monitoring indicates problems in a watershed related to farming practices and facilitate efforts to solve those problems.

Coalition Overview

Membership

As of July 31, 2009, the Coalition membership stood at 2,371 landowner/operators and 547,912 irrigated acres.

Boundaries

The Coalition includes Madera County and portions of Stanislaus, Merced, Tuolumne, Mariposa and Calaveras counties. Coalition borders are the crest of the Sierra Nevada on the east and the San Joaquin River on the west and south, and the Stanislaus River on the north. There are four major tributaries in the watershed: Chowchilla River, Merced River, Tuolumne River and Stanislaus River. (Note: a limited number of landowners have opted to join adjacent water quality coalitions to obtain ILRP coverage)

Structure

The Coalition was formed in 2003 in compliance with the ILRP implemented by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. A volunteer Board of Directors agreed to structure the organization as a public benefit, non profit entity to perform tasks required under the ILRP. In November 2005, the Coalition was granted non-profit status as a 501 c5 organization by the Internal Revenue Service. The Coalition is managed by a Board of Directors.

Board Officers

- ✦ Parry Klassen, (**Board Chairman, Executive Director**); Executive Director of Coalition for Urban/Rural Environmental Stewardship (CURES); fruit grower
- ✦ Wayne Zipser, Stanislaus County Farm Bureau (**vice-chairman**); almond grower
- ✦ Bill McKinney, (**secretary/treasurer**), almond grower

Board Members

- ✦ Julia Berry, Madera County Farm Bureau
- ✦ Brian Franzia, West Coast Grape Farming, Ceres; grapes
- ✦ Richard Gemperle, Gemperle Enterprises, Turlock; almonds
- ✦ Alan Reynolds, Gallo Vineyards, Inc.; Livingston; grapes
- ✦ Jim Wagner, Wilbur-Ellis Company, Hughson

Ex-officio Board Members

- ✦ Gary Caseri, Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner
- ✦ Christopher G. Hartley, District Conservationist, USDA-NRCS-Modesto Field Office
- ✦ David Robinson, Merced County Agricultural Commissioner
- ✦ Bob Rolan, Madera County Agricultural Commissioner

