

**Sacramento River Watershed
Monitoring and Reporting Program Plan**

Prepared for

Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition

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More than two years ago, farmers throughout the Central Valley of California recognized the efficiencies to be gained by advancing a regional, scientific water quality management program to address discharges from irrigated lands. This regional approach is consistent with the federal Clean Water Act (CWA, 2002) and meets the challenges associated with managing nonpoint source pollution. The program provides the capacity for state regulatory authorities to work together with the regulated community to ensure implementation of management practices in an iterative fashion, not via a punitive process.

The membership of the Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition recognizes that implementation of such an iterative program is a long-term educational process that will help growers, farmers and wetland managers understand impacts to water quality and, in response, modify their cultural practices to reduce those impacts. While this shift might come at a price, the farmers understand the need to remain true to their stewardship principles by minimizing impacts on the resources vital to their continued production and economic success.

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