



Ag Order in 2026 Updates & INMP

Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.

Sarah Lopez & Suzette Santiago

www.ccwqp.org

02/19/26
UCCE Irrigation &
Nutrient Meeting
Salinas, CA

Outline

- Preservation, Inc. Contact / Help Desk Info
- Ag Order general compliance dates & updates
- Surface Water “Follow-Up” program
- Irrigation & Nutrient Management

Member Support / Help Desk



Telephone & Email
Support
in English & Spanish



Remote/Virtual
Support
via Zoom & Teams



In-Person Support
on Ranches &
in our Office

Contact Info

ENGLISH

- Phone: 831-761-8644
- Support: Support@ccwqp.org
- Invoices: Office@ccwqp.org
- Web: www.ccwqp.org

IN PERSON

- Office in Grower-Shipper building
- 512 Pajaro Street, Salinas

ESPAÑOL

- Telefono: 831-240-9533
- Email: Support@ccwqp.org
- Web: www.ccwqp.org



← haz clic para español

Ag Order Compliance Dates (annual)

Jan 9	Last day to revise acres in eNOI for State Fee billing “snapshot”
March 1	ACF (Annual Compliance Form) updates due in GeoTracker
March 1	INMP (or TNA) reports due on prior-year crops
March 1 - May 31	Well Sampling – all on-farm domestic wells + primary irrigation
<i>* Notify well users of sampling results within 3 business days of receiving results, and update eNOI</i>	

Third Party Membership**/Eligibility Criteria

All invoices paid (Participation & State Fees; Well Sampling)

All required INMP (or TNA) reports submitted

All required on-farm wells sampled

Participate in Surface Water Follow-Up / Complaint Response (if applicable)

***Preservation, Inc. is required to submit member roster to Water Board, quarterly.*

Non-members pay higher State Fees and must conduct individual surface water trend and follow-up monitoring, and conduct individual groundwater quality trend monitoring, reporting directly to the Water Board. Each requires a Work Plan; now "past-due".

Heads Up – ACF is “new and improved” and will take some time to complete...



Telephone &
Email Support
in English &
Spanish



Remote/Virtual
Support
via Zoom &
Teams



In-Person Support
on Ranches &
in our Office

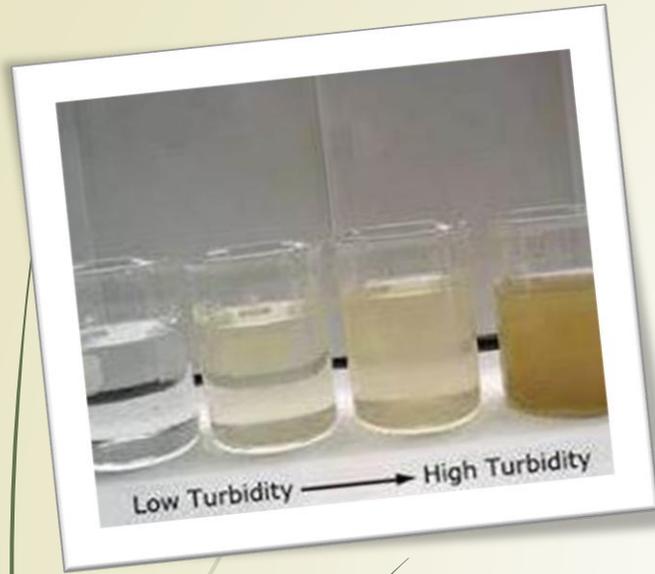


What is the ACF?

- Annual Compliance Form
- Intended to be a summary of your Farm Plan
 - This is why the ACF feels duplicative of Farm Plan...
 - Farm Water Quality Management Plans have been an Ag Order requirement since 2005
- Preservation, Inc. is working on approaches to streamline program requirements with ACF / Farm Plan, including a possible “electronic Farm Plan”

Other Ag Order Updates

- 2nd Statewide Expert Panel on Nitrogen
 - Meetings August, 2025 through March, 2026
 - Draft 9 of Panel's report is up (may be last "draft" version)
 - Ag Partners group (Farm Bureaus, trade associations, attorneys) will comment on Panel findings on behalf of Central Coast growers
 - Preservation, Inc. to comment separately, focusing on technical & 3P program issues
- Expected Process: Expert Panel Report → State Water Board Remand Order → Central Coast Ag Order updates
- Central Coast Ag Order updates also expected to include a new drinking water program (AWS, Alternative Water Supply)



Surface Water Follow-Up & Complaint Response

Which ranches have Surface Water Follow-Up (SWFU) requirements?

- High Priority watersheds (designated in Ag Order 4.0)
 - Santa Maria (8), Lower Salinas (10), Upper Pajaro (1)
- Many East Side (Salinas) ranches were also the subject of a series of stormwater sediment complaints by County & residents
 - New complaint incorporates additional East Side ranches
- Medium Priority ranches phasing in this year (2026)
 - Includes Gilroy/Hollister & Lower Pajaro Valley
- Low Priority ranches phase in later

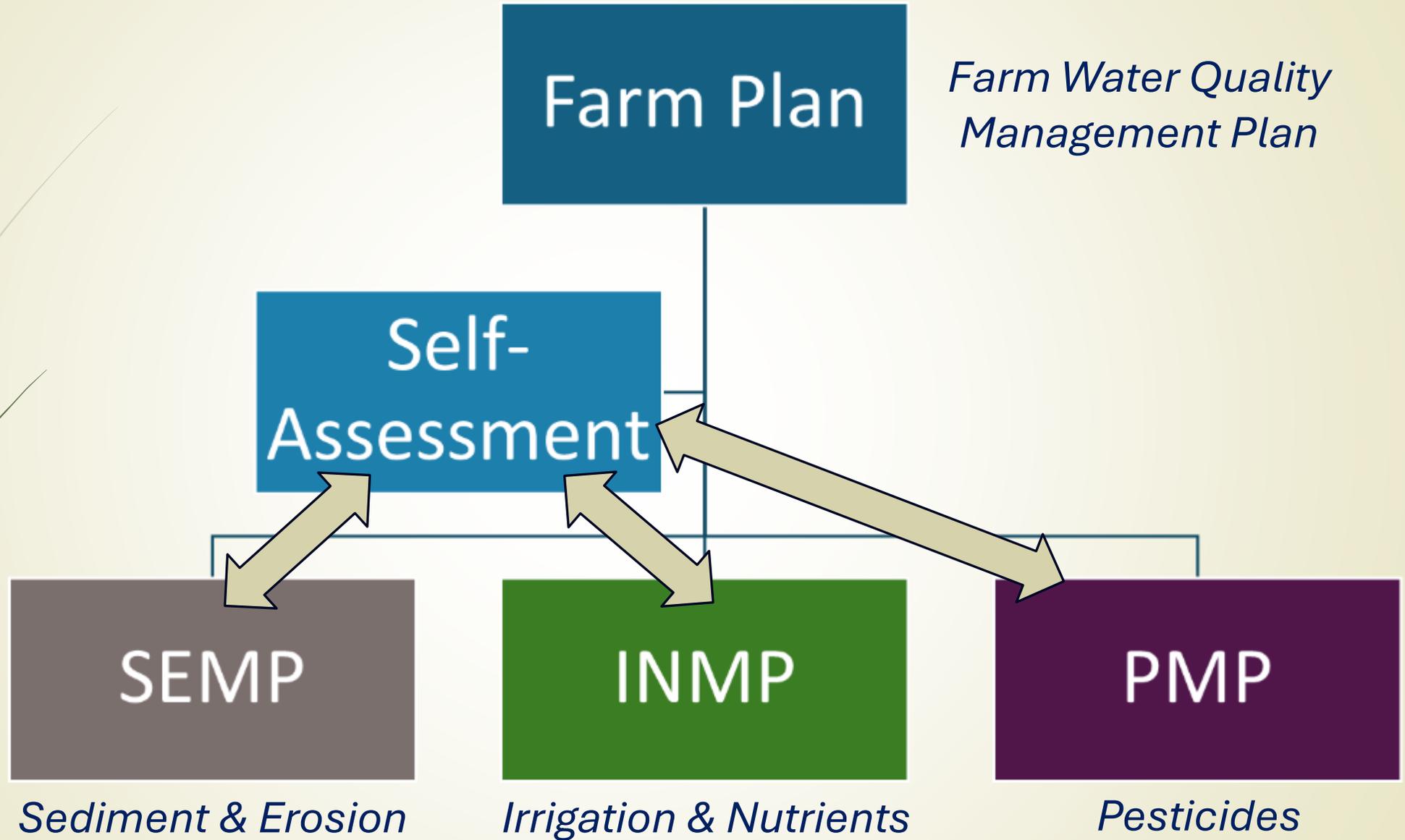
SWFU in a Nutshell

- Surface water trend monitoring shows fertilizers, pesticides, and eroded soils in local streams - High concentrations & persistent exceedances
- Ag Order 4.0 requires “follow-up” on these exceedances
 - Follow-Up can be performed individually (Work Plans and activities are now past due for individuals) or with Third Party program
- Preservation, Inc’s Third Party Follow-Up program is now active for “High Priority” ranches and “Complaint” ranches
 - SEMP (Sediment & Erosion Management Plan) should now be in place
 - Self-Assessment (including Observation Logs) for stormwater, tailwater (irrigation runoff) and tile drains should be initially complete & on-going
 - Short-term improvements may help us avoid a higher-cost program in future
 - 25% by 2026 (i.e. NOW!!!); 50% by 2028

Follow-Up Resources

www.ccwqp.org

- ▶ Main Menu: Surface Water
- ▶ Sub-Menu: Surface Water Follow-Up



*Self-Assessment informs
adjustments to management*



Self-
Assessment

Update
Management
Practices

*Management changes result in
improved self-assessment results*

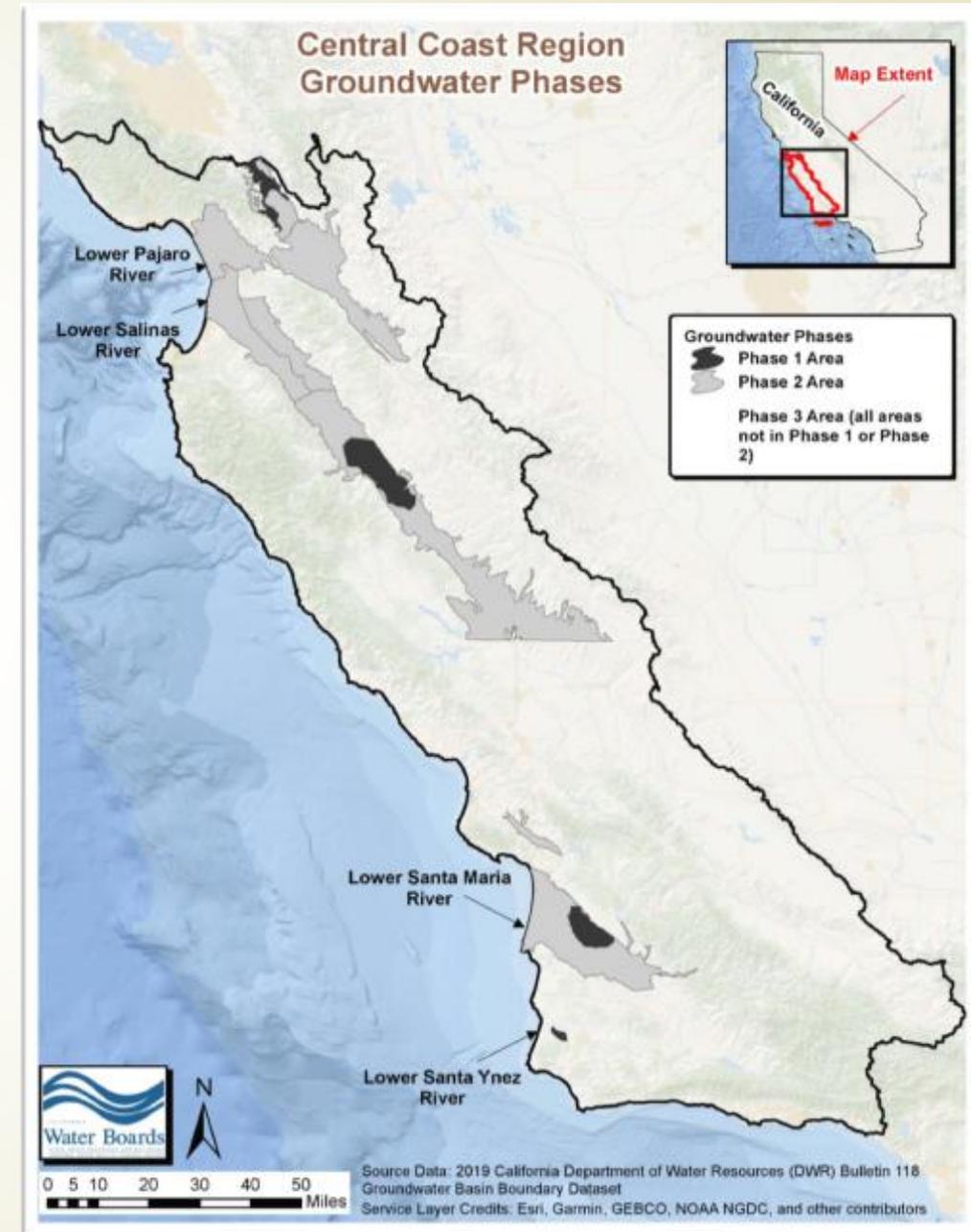




Irrigation & Nutrient Management Reporting

All "Phase Areas" - Phased Out!

- ▶ All ranches are required to submit INMP reports starting in 2027 (no more TNA)
- ▶ **Ranches need to keep records in 2026 for full INMP reporting**
 - Harvested and removed materials
 - Irrigation water applied measurements (not estimates!)



Total Nitrogen Applied (TNA) and Irrigation & Nutrient Management Plan (INMP) Reporting in 2026 ~ reports on 2025 crops ~

	<u>TNA</u>	<u>INMP</u>
Number of acres* reporting	108,535	278,758
Number of ranches reporting	1,438	2,337
Ranches with past-due reports from prior years**	118	25

* ranch-acres (not crop-acres)

** Third Party membership revoked; report required to reinstate membership

“A-R” Follow Up in 2025-2026

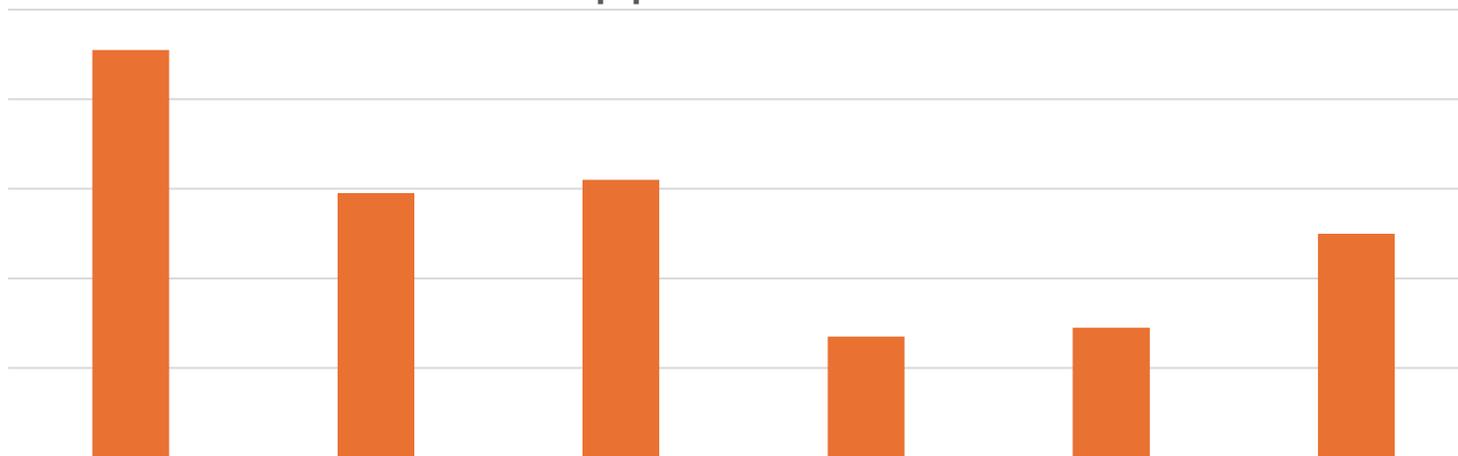
- Outreach to growers with potential calculation errors (extremely high or low A-R)
 - Example: reporting total pounds of compost instead of total pounds of N in compost
- **Grower Perspectives Project:**
 - Interviewing growers with:
 - Real exceedances (not calculation errors)
 - Very high & very low A-R
- Crucial for our program to understand grower challenges with adopting management practices that can lower "A-R"

INMP Reports on 2024 Crops (all crop types)

Net "Applied - Removed"

Number of Ranches

100
80
60
40
20
0

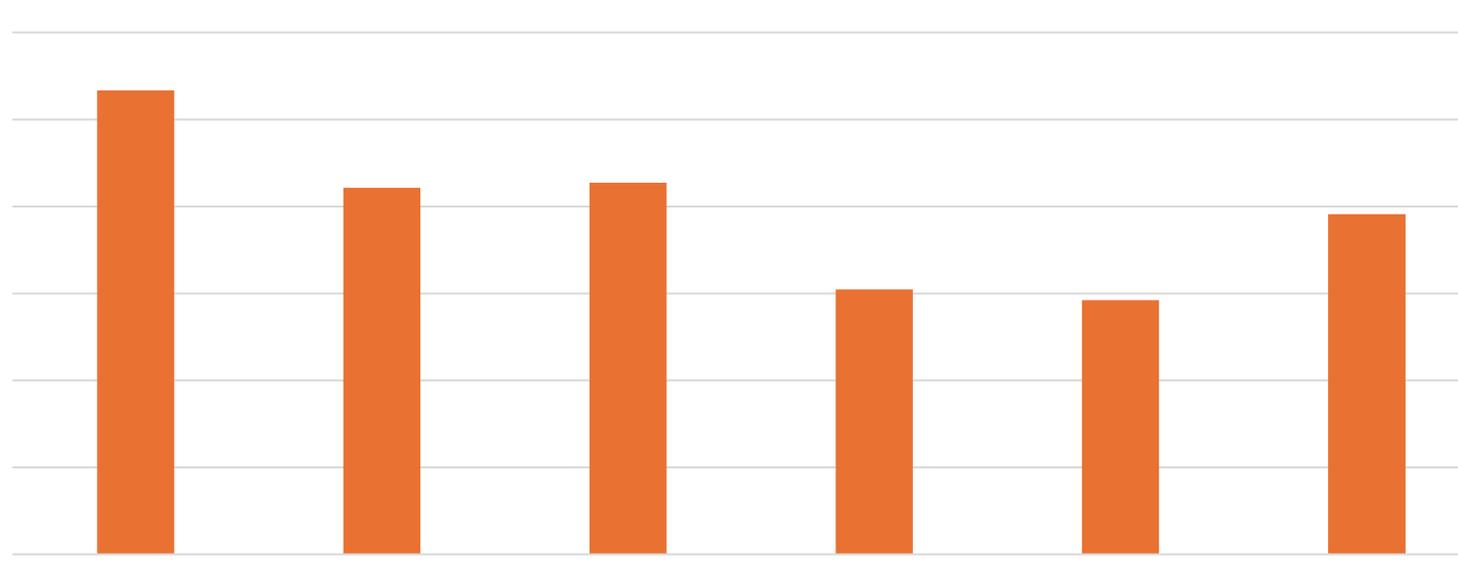


N = 319 ranches
reporting INMP

80th percentile:
454 lbs N/
ranch-acre

Ranch-Acres

12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0

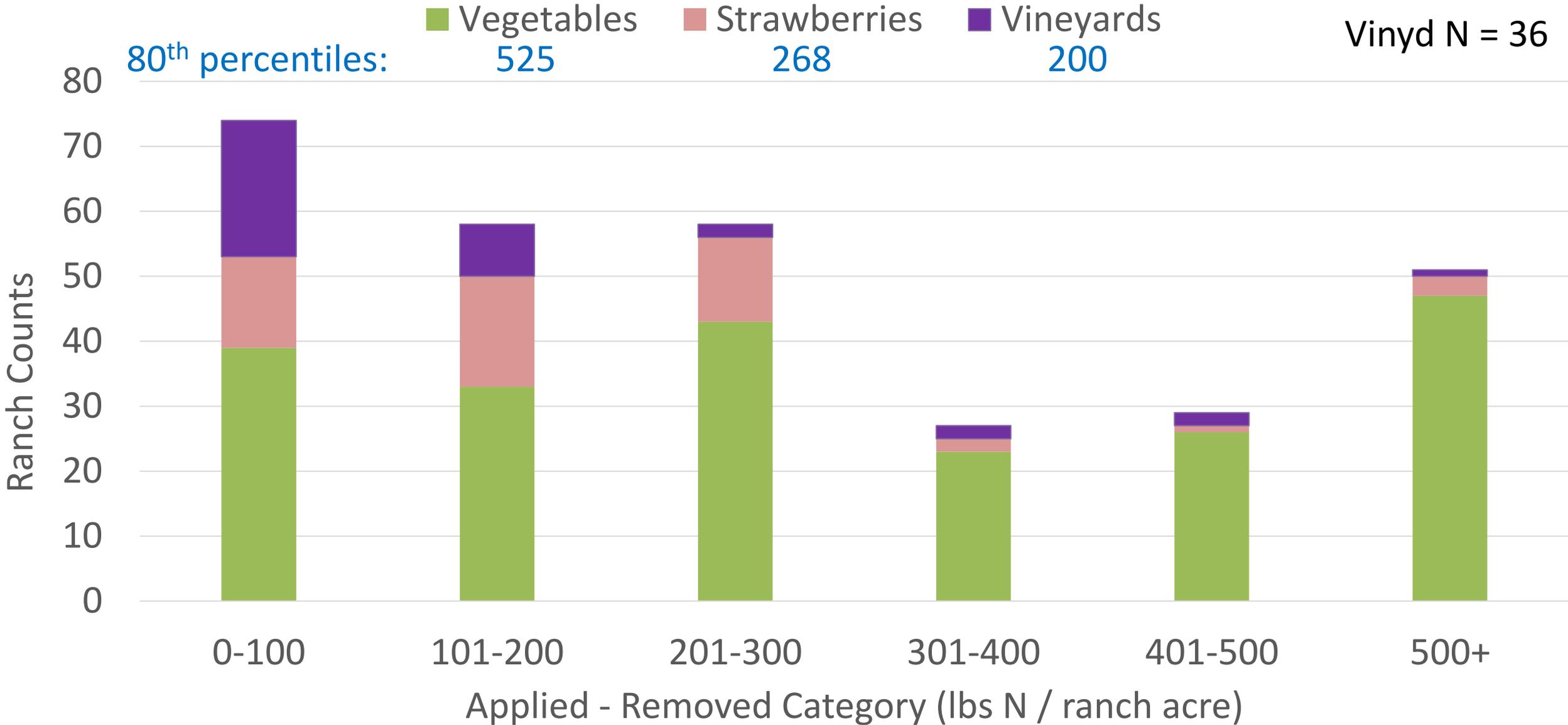


0-100 101-200 201-300 301-400 401-500 500+

Applied - Removed (pounds N/acre)

“Applied – Removed” for Three Commodities (2024 Crops)

Veg N = 211
Straw N = 50
Vinyd N = 36



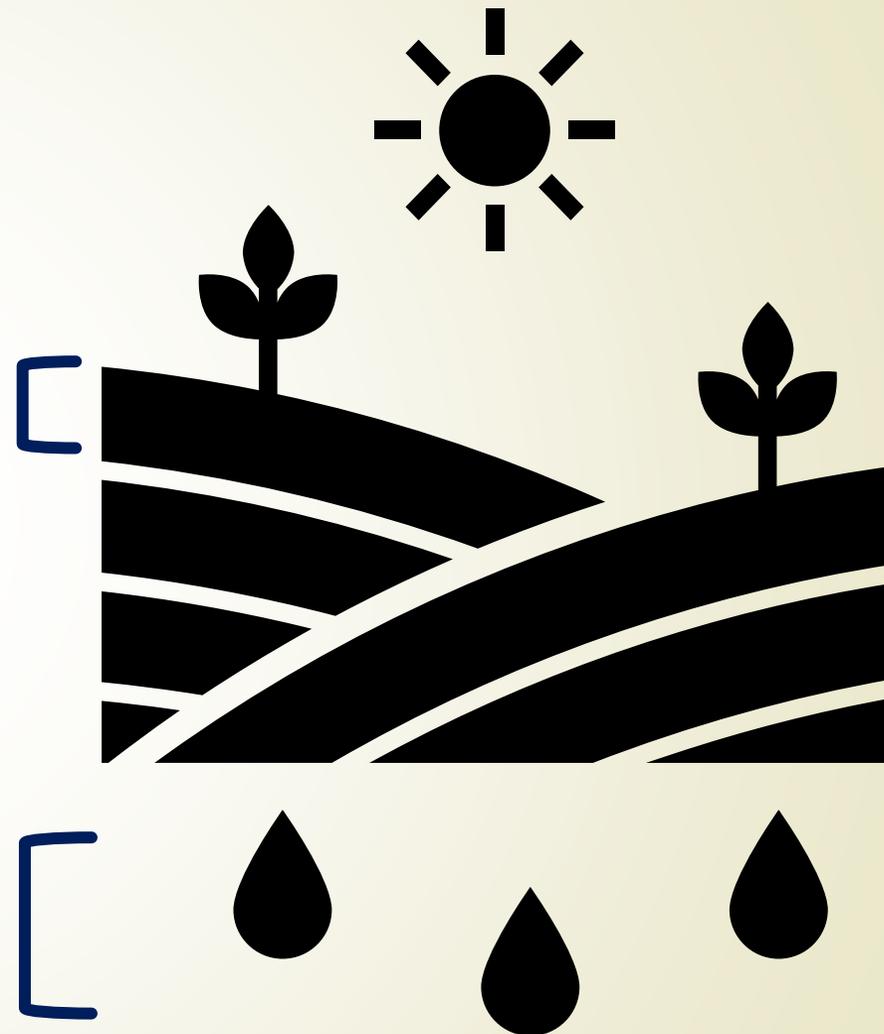
End of Season Soil N Testing and the Risk of Winter Leaching



30 mg/kg (ppm) NO₃-N
in top 6 inches

Example:
50-acre ranch

Leachable:
97 pounds N/acre
~ 4,850 pounds N



Final Target is 50 pounds N/ranch-acre

End

Finding your ranch's Phase Area in the eNOI

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
GEOTRACKER ESI

TOOLS

- Upload EDD
- Check EDD
- VVL Search Tool
- Edit Field Points
- Other Tools
- Funding Programs
- Update eNOI Forms
- Add Program
- Guides / Resources
- Contact Us
- Account Information
- Logout

CAROLINE WEBSTER TEST ACCOUNT

[EDIT OPERATION INFORMATION](#) [PRINT OPERATION FORM](#) [ADD RANCH / FARM TO THIS OPERATION](#)

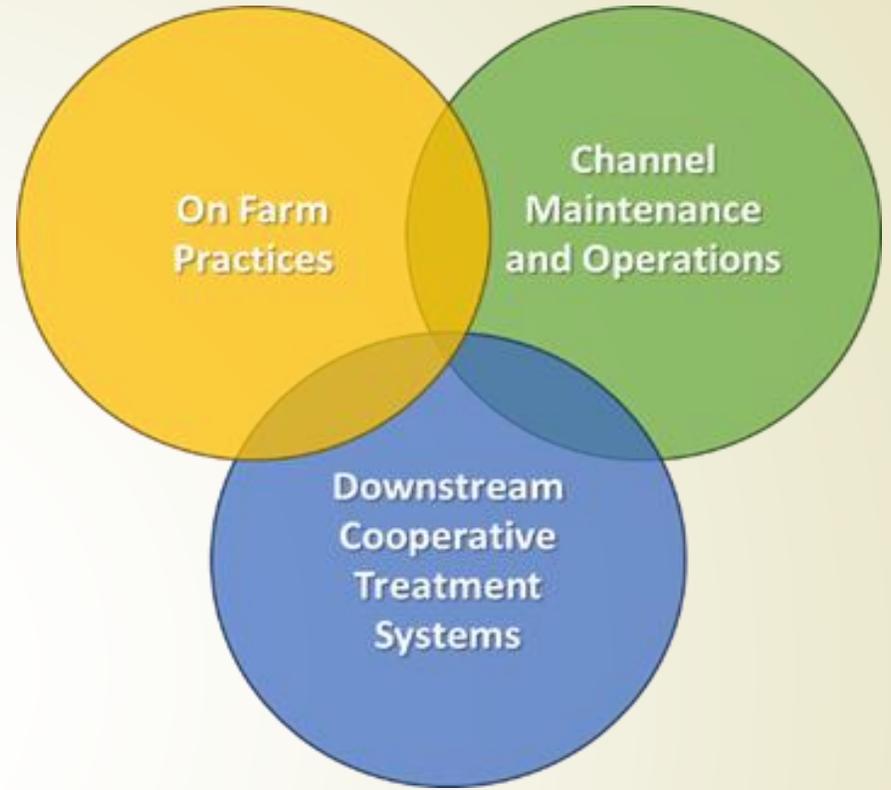
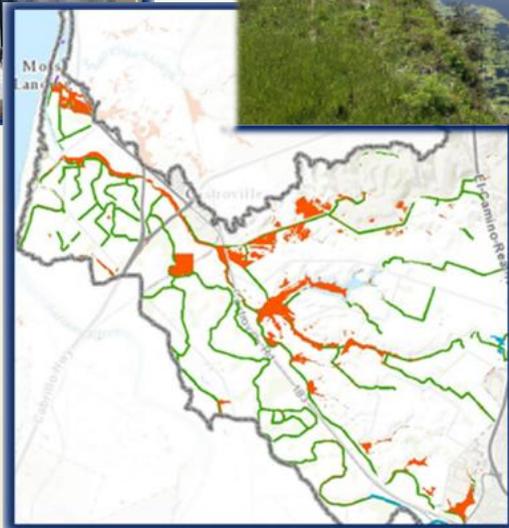
RANCH / FARM NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	IRRIGATED ACRES	TAILWATER ACRES	GW PHASE AREA	SW PRIORITY AREA
[EDIT RANCH INFO] CAROLINE'S PEACH FARM	895 AEROVISTA PLACE, SUITE 101	SAN LUIS OBISPO	0	0	3	[EDIT COMPLIANCE INFO] [SUBMIT TNA REPORT]

GW PHASE AREA
3

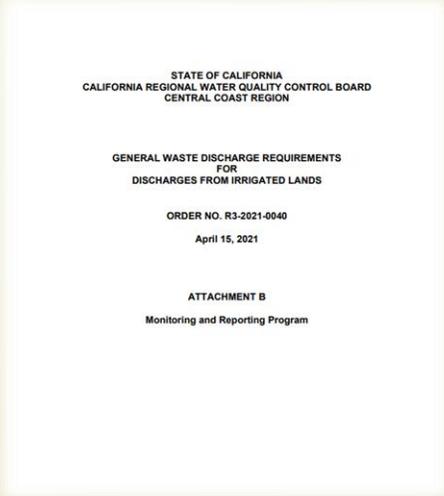
Or contact
Support@ccwqp.org or
831-761-8644 for help

Or view street maps:
www.ccwqp.org/phaseareamaps

Surface Water Follow-Up

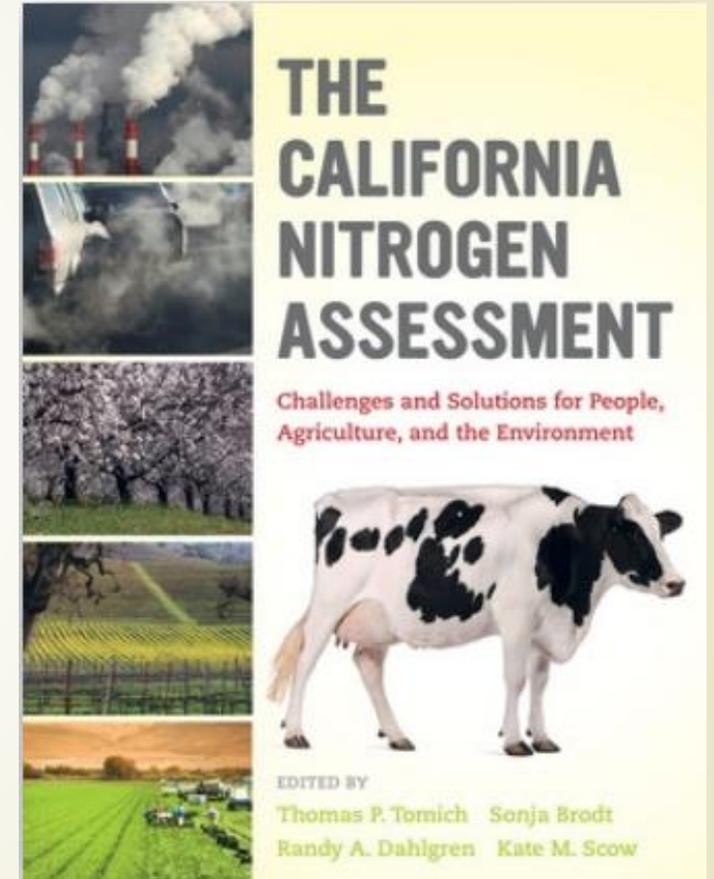


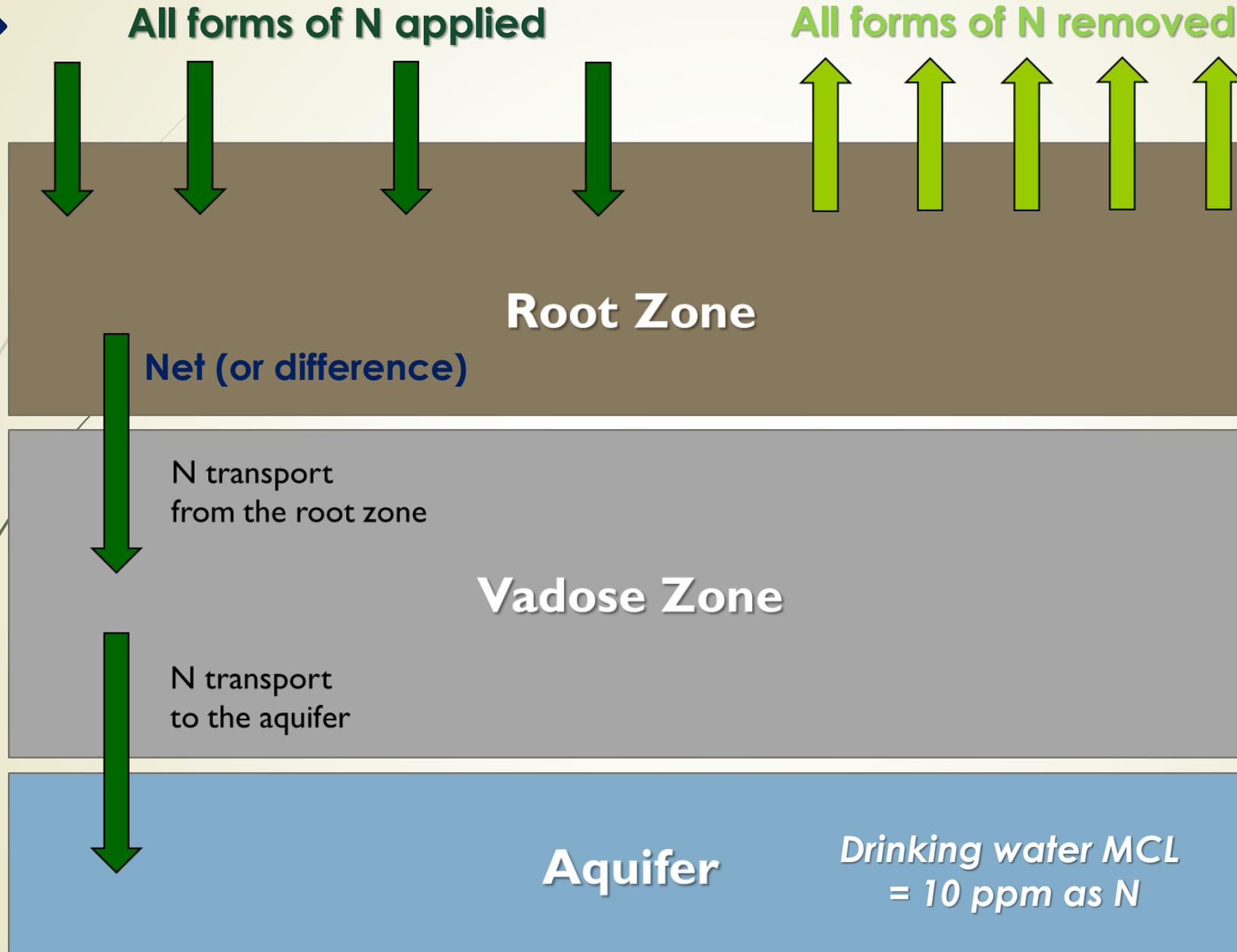
Ag Order 4.0
Attachment B
(MRP) →



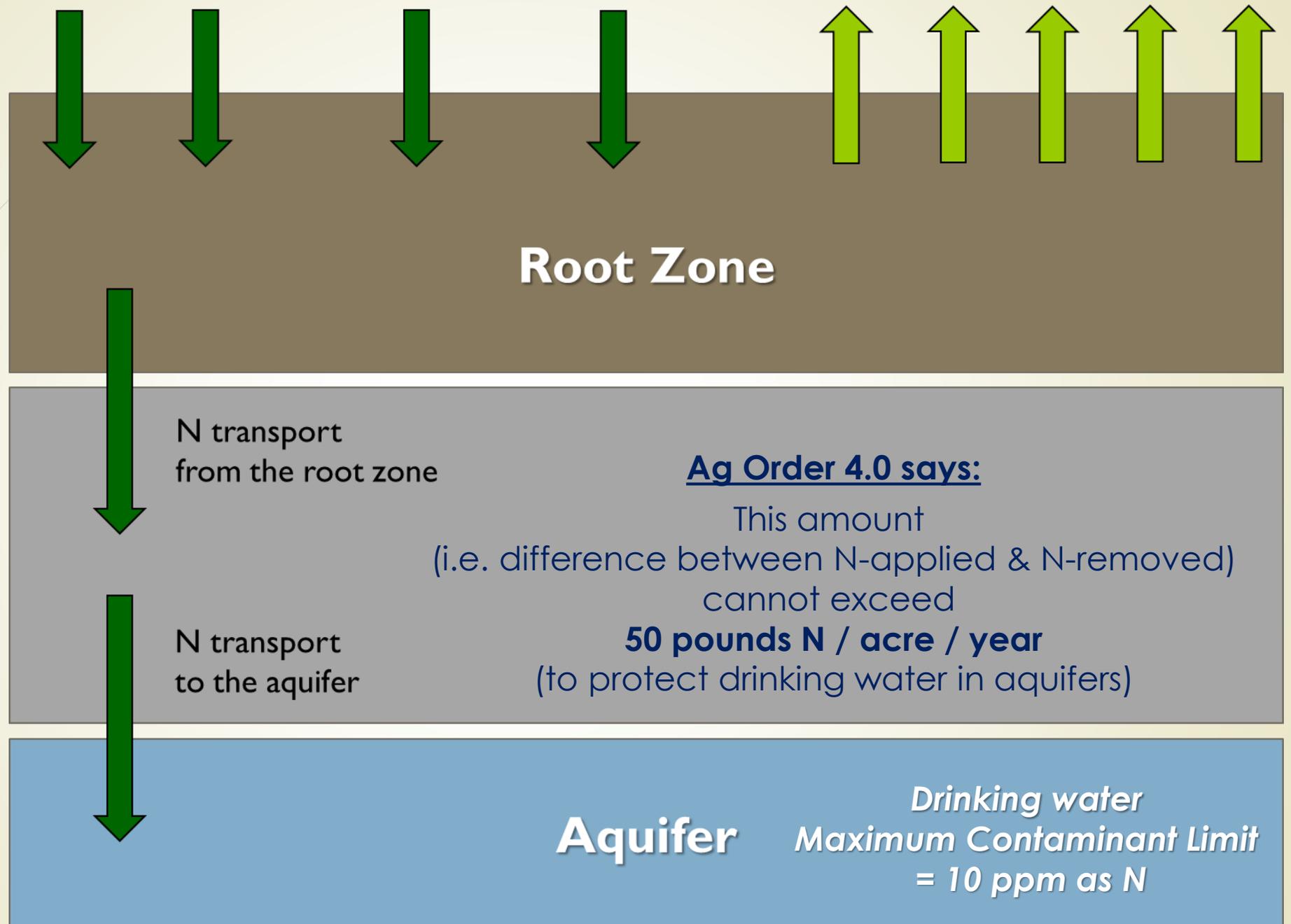
The “What” & “Why” of TNA/INMP Reporting

- ▶ TNA = Total Nitrogen Applied
- ▶ INMP = Irrigation & Nutrient Management Plan (summary report; generally, TNA info plus crop yields ... N removed at harvest)
- ▶ The difference between N-applied (A) and N-removed (R) is highly susceptible to leaching
- ▶ A statewide Expert Panel concluded: The most important management tool for this issue is to monitor, report, and manage the A/R or (A-R) balance



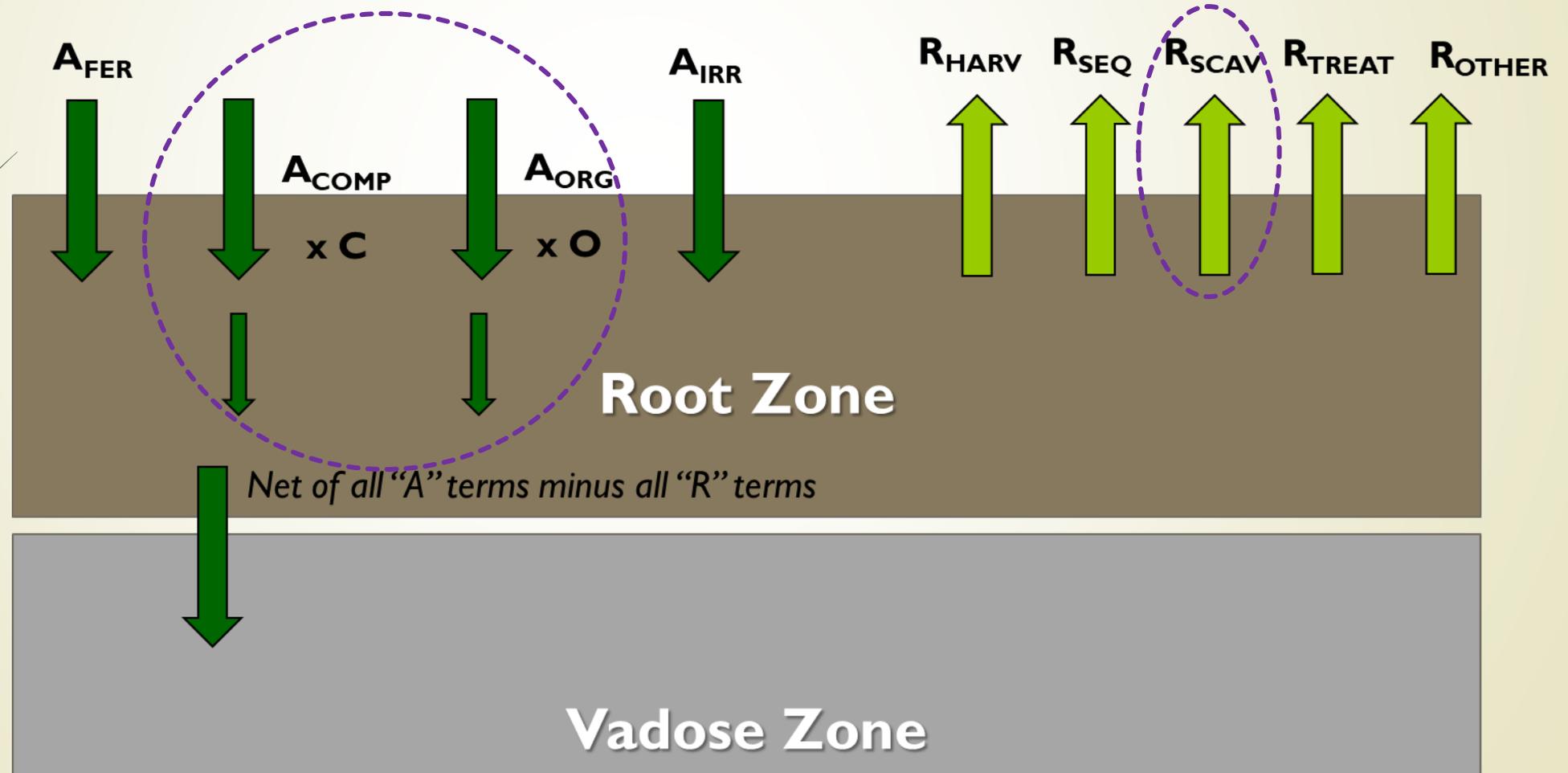


The
“A – R”
Concept



Ag Order 4.0 allows an adjustment factor for N applied in organic fertilizers (A_{ORG}) and composts (A_{COMP})

Ag Order 4.0 considers N removal in harvested plant material (R_{HARV}), non-legume cover crop uptake ($R_{SCAVENGE}$), and other pathways



TNA/INMP Reporting for SIP-Certified Wine Grape Ranches

- ▶ SIP-Certified/Preservation, Inc. collaboration passes certification data through to a TNA report
 - ▶ This process is also open to any certification program that collects the necessary ranch data
 - ▶ Applying for INMP exemption (in process)
- ▶ Entire ranch must be SIP-certified
 - ▶ Partially certified ranches must report TNA independently
- ▶ Entire ranch must be in grape production (for now?)

Who is Preservation, Inc?



*In the Central Valley,
groups like
Preservation, Inc. are
called “Coalitions”*

We are hiring!

- *INM Specialist*
- *Ag Water Quality Scientist*
- *Field Technicians*

*Indeed.com or
www.ccwqp.org/careers*

Who needs to enroll in the Ag Order?

- ▶ All commercial, irrigated farms on the Central Coast
 - ▶ If you irrigate your crop and sell it (even at a farmers market)
- ▶ All acreage within Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties
- ▶ Also the Pescadero area in San Mateo County
- ▶ Also southern Santa Clara County (Morgan Hill, San Martin, Gilroy, etc.)
- ▶ Includes nurseries and greenhouses (produce, flowers, starts, etc)
 - ▶ Cannabis growers enroll in Cannabis Order

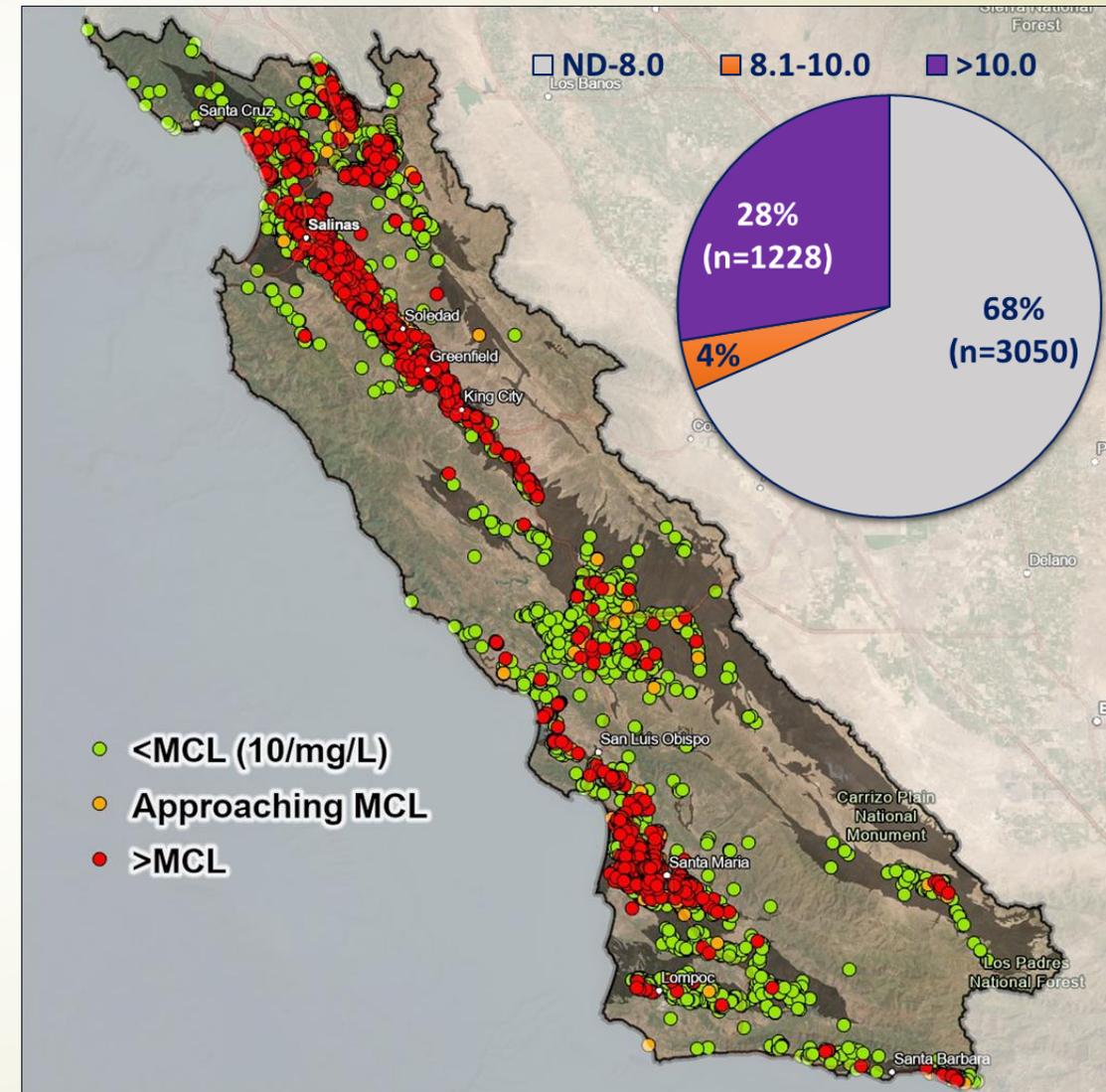
www.ccwqp.org/how-to-enroll (this week: www.ccwqp.net/how-to-enroll)

Nitrate in Central Coast Groundwater

ALL WELLS

County	Count	% > MCL	Mean	Median
Monterey	1443	38%	15.36	5.2
San Benito	282	26%	8.42	3.4
San Luis Obispo	1266	16%	6.69	1.8
San Mateo	1	0%	ND	ND
Santa Barbara	852	26%	8.90	2.37
Santa Clara	255	37%	11.68	6.8
Santa Cruz	324	26%	8.97	0.95
Ventura	16	0%	2.15	0.98
Totals	4439	28%	10.48	2.9

Nitrate as N, mg/L (ppm)



Preservation, Inc. Membership

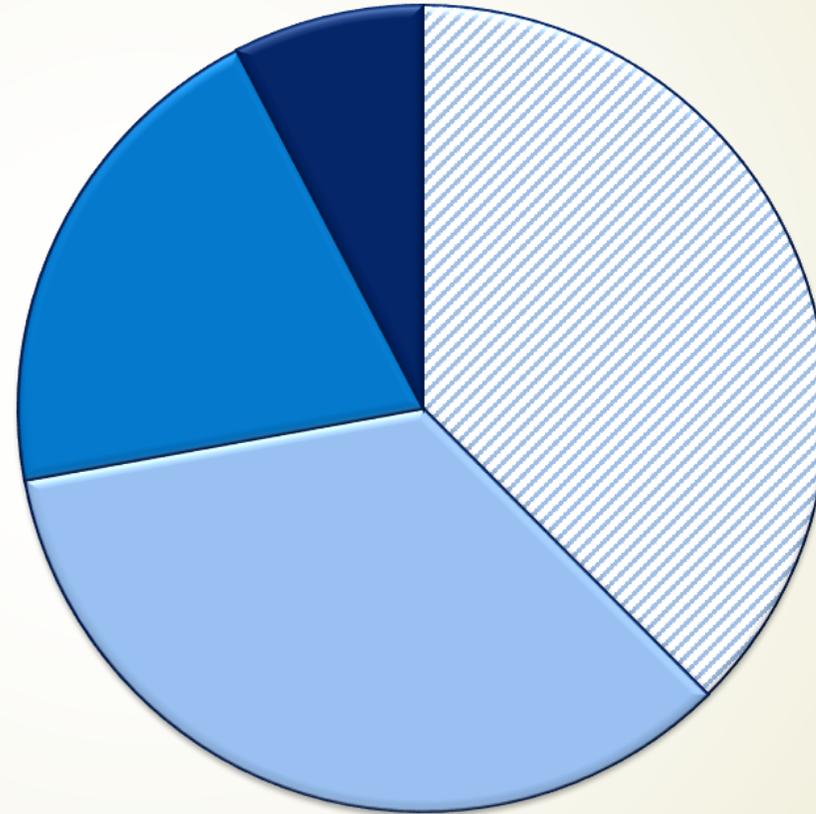
Acreage

▨ 15 or less

▨ 16 to 99

▨ 100 to 999

▨ 1000+



by
operation
size

➤ 1371 operations

➤ 3918 ranches

➤ 410,130 acres

Preservation, Inc. Membership

 Veg./Berry (66%)

 Orchard (6%)

 Vineyard (28%)

 Nursery/
Greenhouse (1%)



by
Crop
type

How can growers use this info?

1. Are my N application rates in line with plant needs?
2. Do I have N in my irrigation water, or residual N in my soil, that I can use as “free fertilizer”?
3. Is my “A minus R” balance close to 50 lbs N/acre/yr (i.e. protective of drinking water)?
 - For wine-grape growers, it likely is!
 - For Central Coast vegetable and strawberry growers, it may be 200, 300, or even 400+ lbs N/ac/yr
 - For organic farmers, it may be very high, but in a form that is not immediately at risk of leaching

How can/will the Water Board use the reported information?

- ▶ State Water Board Remand: Fertilizer and A-R “Limits” are not enforceable (for now)
 - Numeric goals are now “Targets” and don’t carry fines
- ▶ Water Board can fine you \$1000/day for failing to file a report
 - Fall 2023 fines were ~\$40,000
- ▶ If your report shows very high “A” or “A-R” balance, Preservation, Inc. will contact you to:
 - Confirm reported values are correct
 - Learn about any extenuating circumstances/challenges
 - Encourage changes and offer resources to bring levels down

Simplified Example

Registros del Fertilizante – Granulado

Total de libras de
nitrógeno
aplicado

=

total en libras de
fertilizante usado

x

porcentaje de
nitrógeno en la
etiqueta

10-5-5 NPK = 10% nitrógeno



100 libras



10 acres

=



10 libras / 10 acres

=



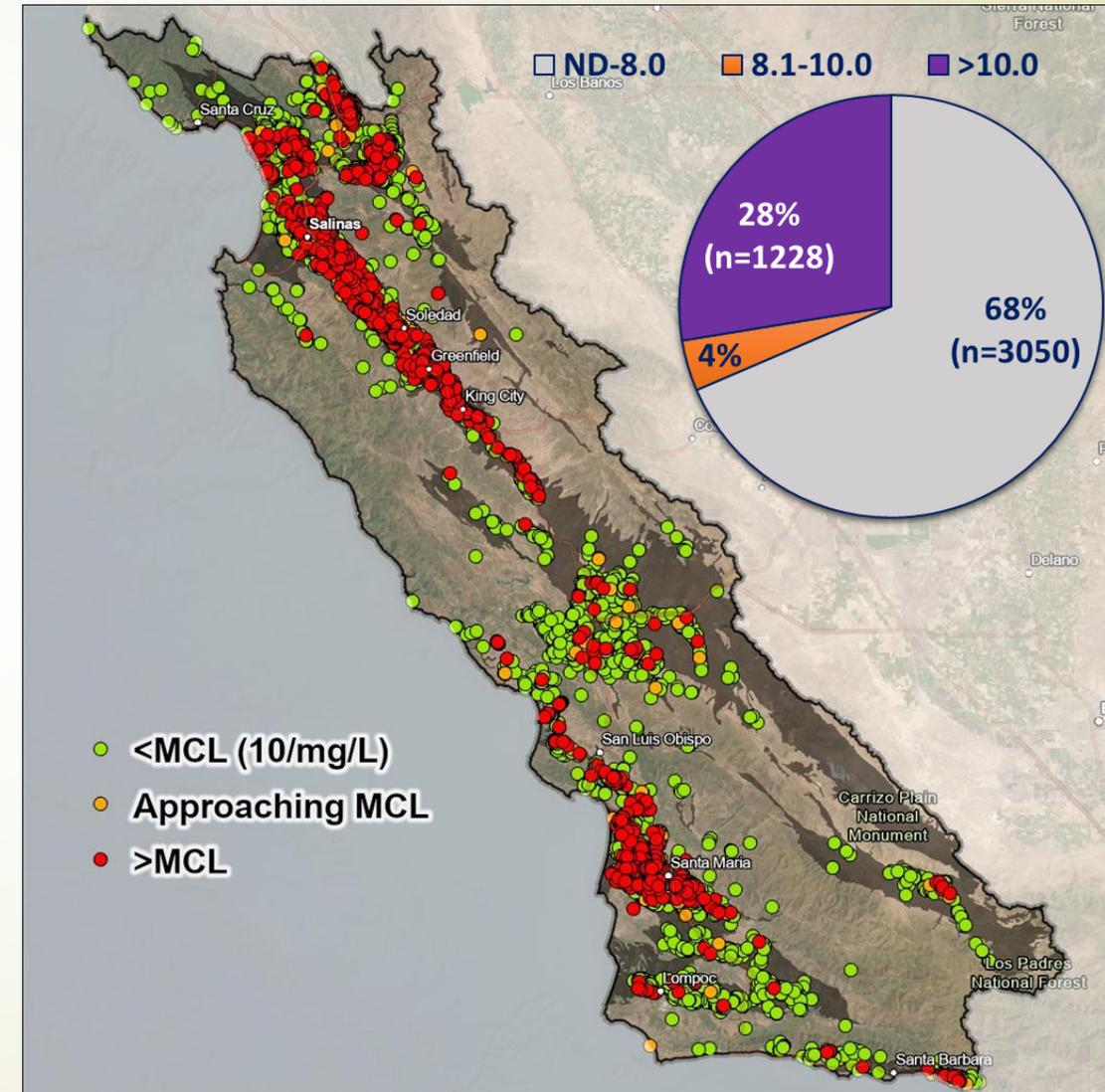
1 libra / acre

Groundwater Nitrate in Central Coast Ag Basins (2023 results)

ALL WELLS

County	Count	% > MCL	Mean	Median
Monterey	1443	38%	15.36	5.2
San Benito	282	26%	8.42	3.4
San Luis Obispo	1266	16%	6.69	1.8
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Nitrate as N, mg/L (ppm)



The “1,2,3” of TNA & INMP Reporting

- 1) Keep (or find!) the necessary records
- 2) Perform calculations
(or find someone to do it for you!)
- 3) Submit a report form

Section I – Introduction & Checklist

You will need the following information in order to complete the TNA report. You can download this checklist here: [TNA Reporting Materials Checklist](#)

Puedes descargar esta lista de verificación aquí: [TNA Checklist_SPANISH_092923](#)

- Preparer Name
- Preparer Company
- Preparer Email
- Preparer Phone Number
- Calendar year of TNA data being reported
- Ag Waiver (AW) number
- Global ID (AGL) number
- Ranch name
- Assessor Parcel Number(s) (APN's) farmed
- The total number of acres that were farmed
- Total number of acres left fallow
- Whether or not the ranch is a greenhouse, nursery, or hydroponic operation
- Primary source of irrigation water (i.e. well versus city versus recycled, etc.)
- Total volume (in gallons) of irrigation water applied to the entire reported acreage during the reporting period
- The average nitrate concentration (in mg/L or ppm) of irrigation water applied
- The average nitrate concentration unit of irrigation water applied
- Crop(s) you are reporting
- Total crop acres for selected crop*
 - Crop acres takes into account successions (i.e. if you have 10 acres and you did two successions of lettuce then you will report 20 acres)
- Amount of Nitrogen present in soil as pounds of Nitrogen per crop acres (lbs/crop-acre)
- Amount of conventional (synthetic) fertilizers and other materials pounds of Nitrogen per crop acre (lbs/crop-acre)

Required Records

www.ccwqp.org/tna

or

www.ccwqp.org/inmp

Calculations Needed

2

- 1) Irrigation water volume applied
- 2) Nitrate concentration in irrigation water → Pounds of N applied
- 3) Soil N concentration → Pounds of N in soil
- 4) Fertilizers applied → Pounds of N applied
- 5) Organic amendments applied → Pounds of N applied
- 6) Crop-Evapotranspiration (INMP only)
- 7) Quantity of crop harvested → Pounds of N removed at harvest

Fill out the report



Total Nitrogen Applied (TNA) EZ Form

Preservation, Inc.

Please populate this form as completely as possible. You can answer questions and return later with the answers populated. Once you Submit your answers, though, you must contact Preservation, Inc. to make changes.

This form allows you to enter up to 5 parcel numbers (APNs) and 5 crops, but you cannot enter compost or other materials to improve soil properties and/or as a source of nitrogen information for credit. If you want the soil amendment/other materials credit or if you have more APNs, and/or crops to report, please use the Preservation, Inc. MS Excel TNA Template available on the [CCWQP TNA page](#).

Your answer

DI Global ID number? *

AGL##### as shown in the eNOI (example AGL123456789).

ch name? *

shown in the eNOI.

farm this Ranch in the calendar year of TNA data you selected *

Clear form

What if my TNA results are “high”?

TNA Limits in Ag Order 4.0

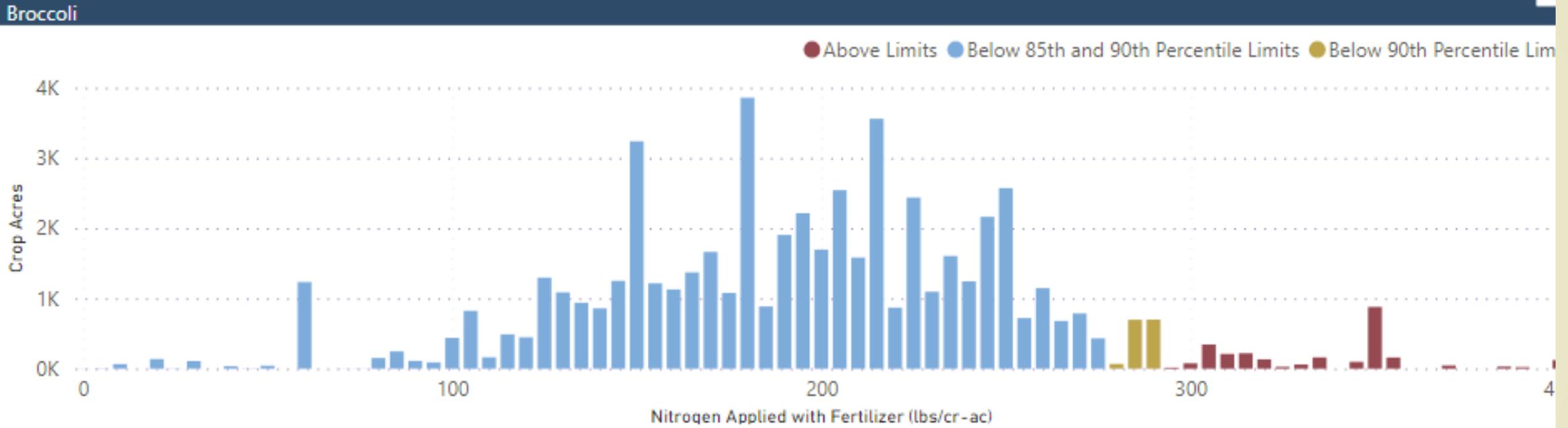
Crop	90 th Percentile AFER =	Compliance Date	85 th Percentile AFER =	Compliance Date
Broccoli	295	12/31/2023	280	12/31/2025
Cauliflower	310		285	
Celery	360		330	
Lettuce	275		255	
Spinach	245		230	
Strawberry	320		295	
All Other Crops	500		480	

If your TNA report shows very high applied-fertilizer levels, Preservation, Inc. will contact you to discuss.

Right now, the Water Board cannot fine you for exceeding these limits, but education and/or improved management could be required.

2022 TNA Results for Broccoli in Monterey Co.

Grouping of Nitrogen Applied with Conventional Fertilizer by Agricultural Order Fertilizer Application Targets



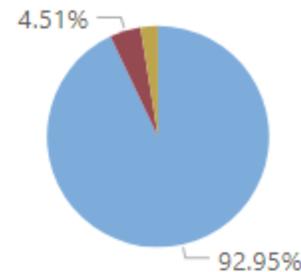
90th Percentile
Fertilizer Application
Target

295

85th Percentile
Fertilizer Application
Target

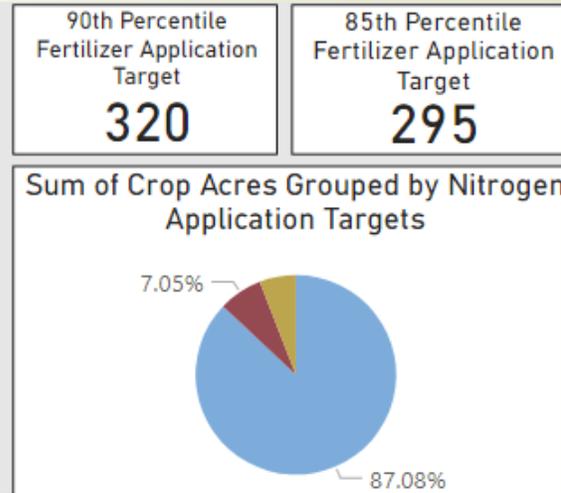
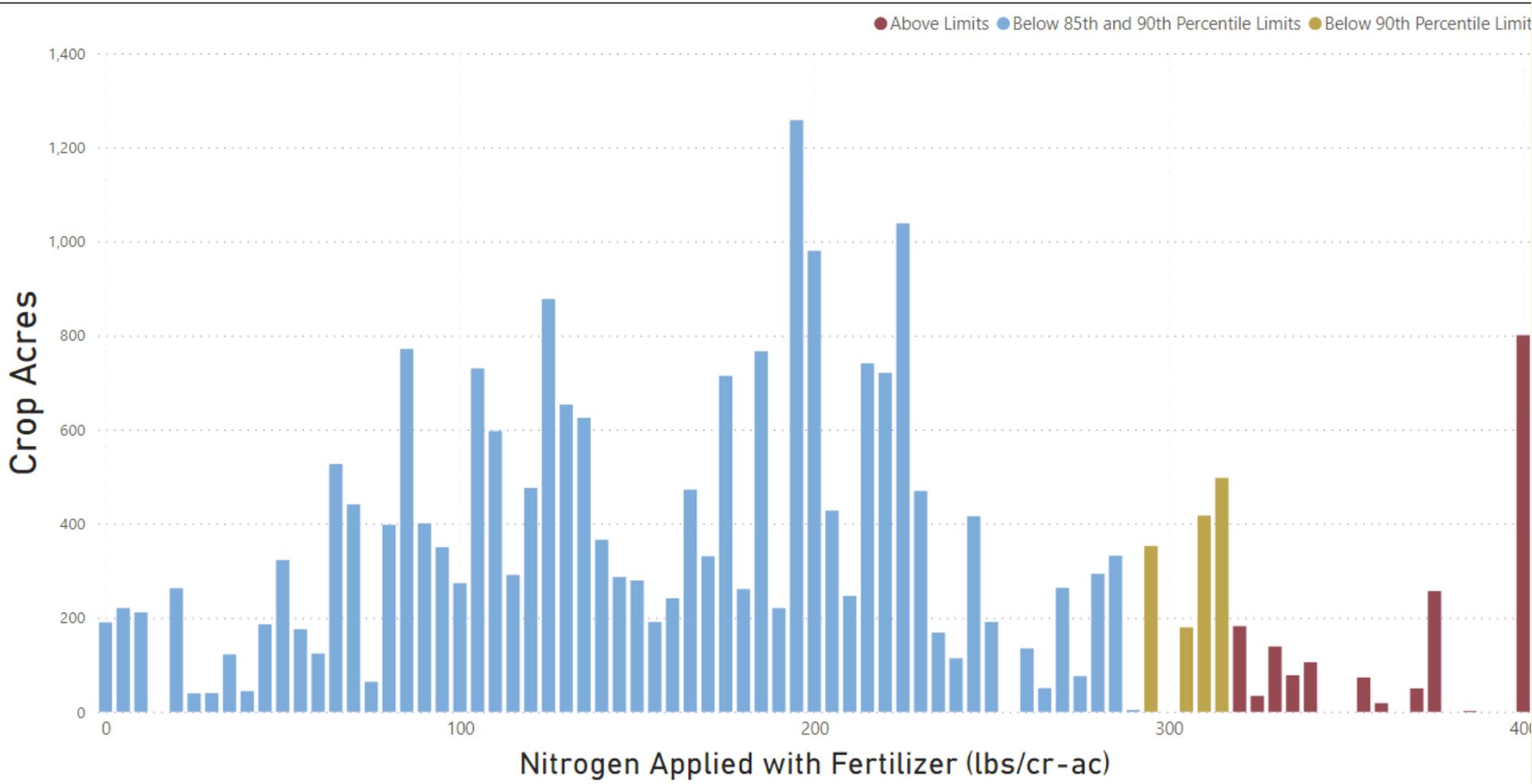
280

Sum of Crop Acres Grouped by Nitrogen Application Targets



www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ilp/dashboard.html

2022 TNA Results for Strawberries in Monterey



www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ilp/dashboard.html

What if my INMP results are “high”?

Table C.1-3. Compliance Dates for Nitrogen Discharge Targets and Limits

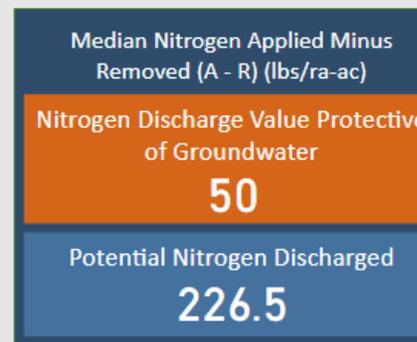
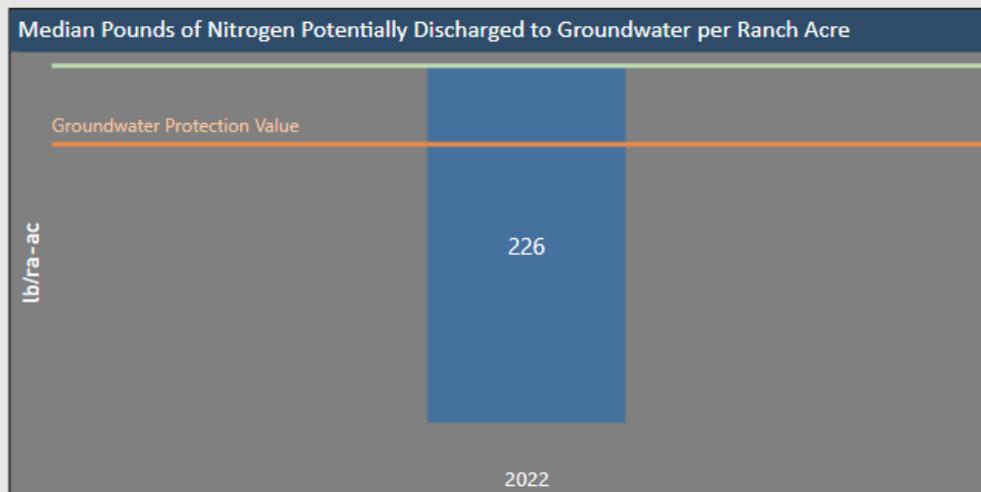
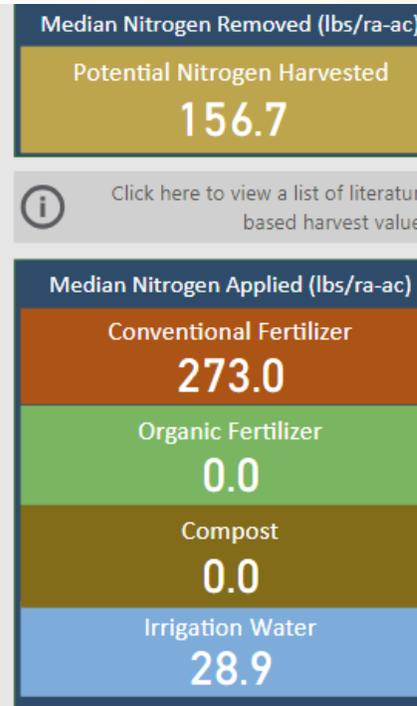
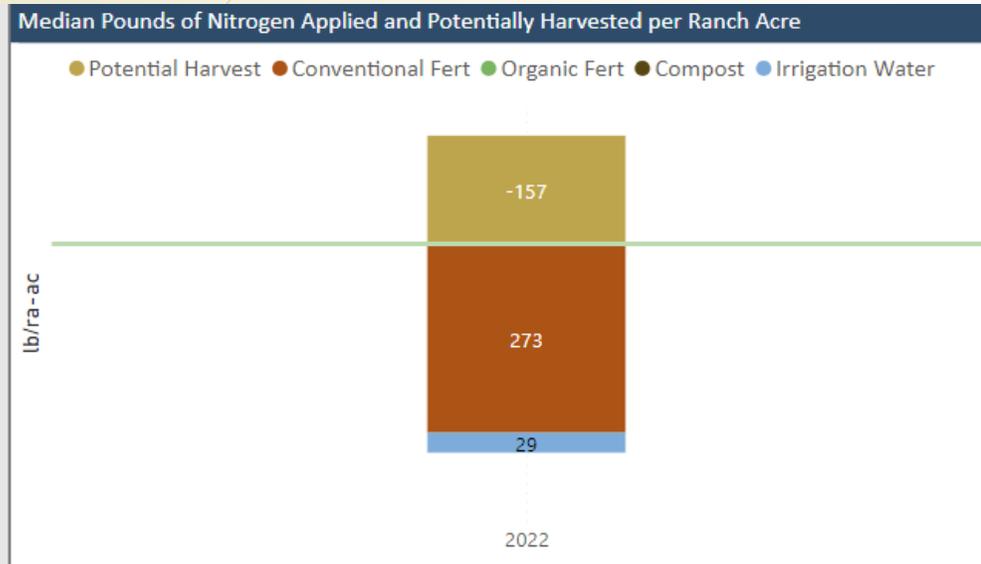
	Compliance Date	
Target	500	12/31/2023
Target	400	12/31/2025
Limit	300	12/31/2027
Limit	200	12/31/2031
Limit	150	12/31/2036
Limit	100	12/31/2041
Limit	50	12/31/2051

A - R =

If your INMP report shows very high applied-fertilizer levels, Preservation, Inc. will contact you to discuss.

Right now, the Water Board cannot fine for exceeding these limits, but education and/or improved management could be required.

INMP “A-R Balance” Projections for Monterey County (all crops, median basis)



Target (A-R net)	Compliance Date
500	12/31/2023
400	12/31/2025
300	12/31/2027

www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/ilp/dashboard.html