



#### THIRD PARTY PROGRAM UPDATE

**CENTRAL COAST AG ORDER 4.0** 

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#### **HISTORY**

Clean Water Act (CA & Federal)



State Water Board "Irrigated Lands Program"



Central Coast (Region 3) "Ag Order"



Ag Order 4.0

1970-ish

2004 / 2005

2021

Preservation, Inc & Surface Water CMP began

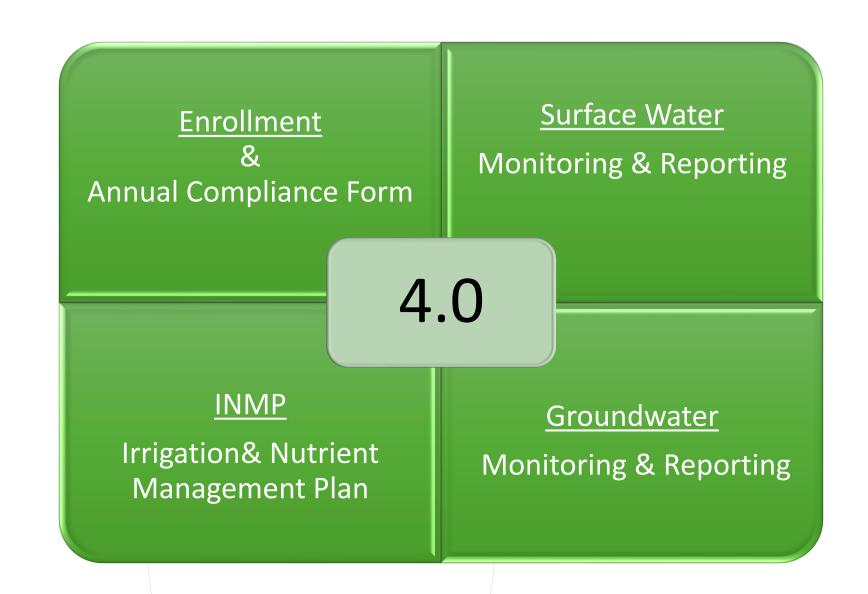


Third Party
Programs for
Groundwater &
INM added





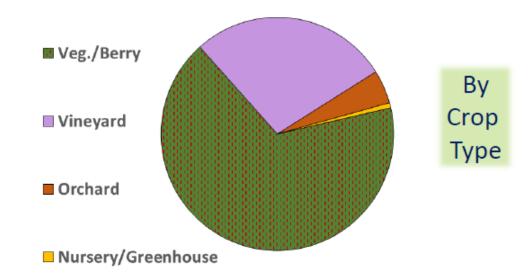
## AG ORDER & THIRD PARTY COMPONENTS

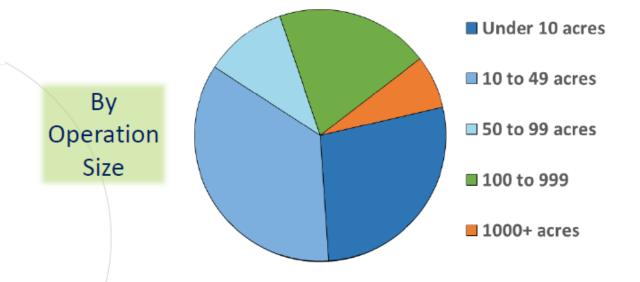




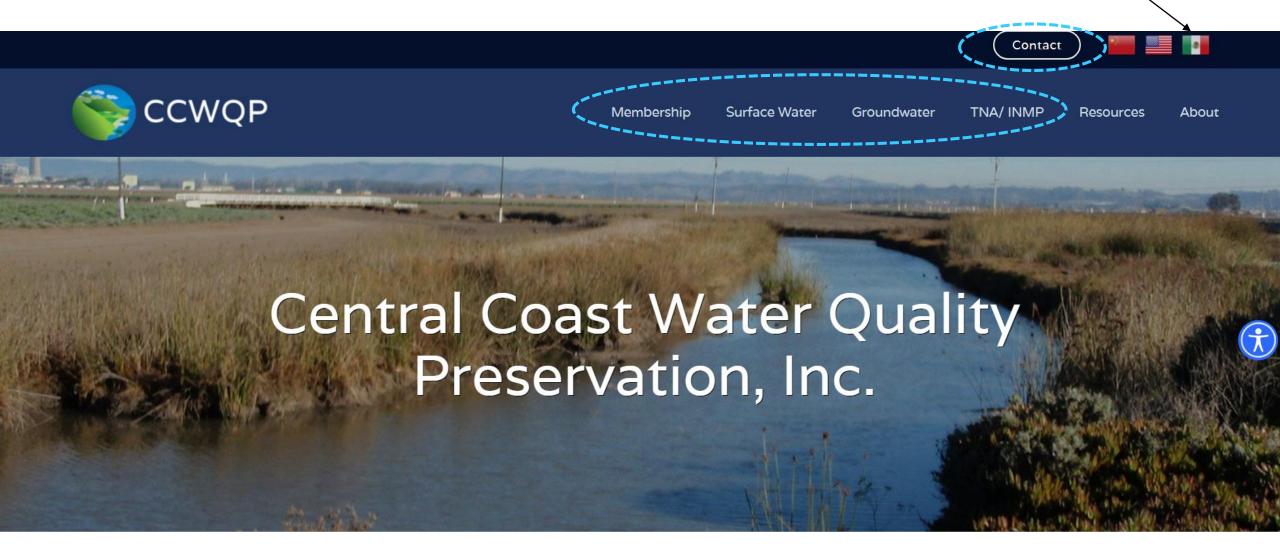
#### THIRD PARTY MEMBERSHIP

- 94% of acres enrolled in Ag Order 4.0 are Third Party Members In Good Standing
- Vast majority of operations are <100 acres</li>
- Majority under 50 acres
- Non-members pay individual State Water Board Fee of \$33.50/acre (\$668 minimum); conduct Individual Surface Water Monitoring; and comply with all other Order requirements as individuals















#### www.ccwqp.org/contact

#### Contact Us

Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc.

PO Box 2227

Watsonville, CA 95077

- 831-761-8644 (phone)
- **831-761-8695** (fax)
- office@ccwqp.org

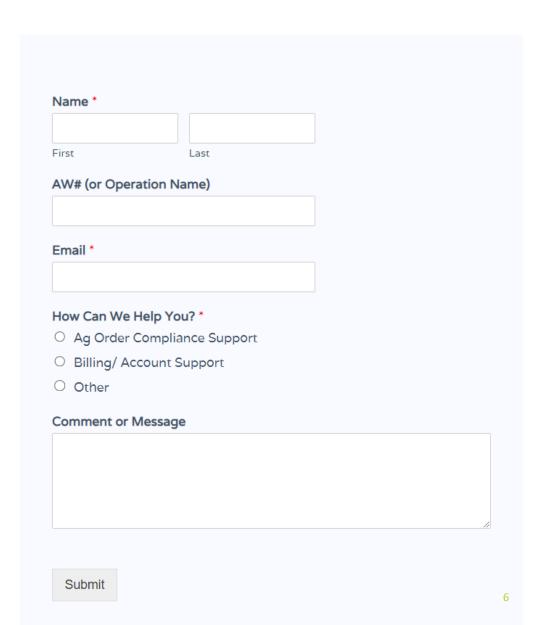
Ag Order Compliance Support

- 831-240-9533 (phone)

Billing/ Account or Other Questions

Please fill out our contact form.

asistencia en espanol





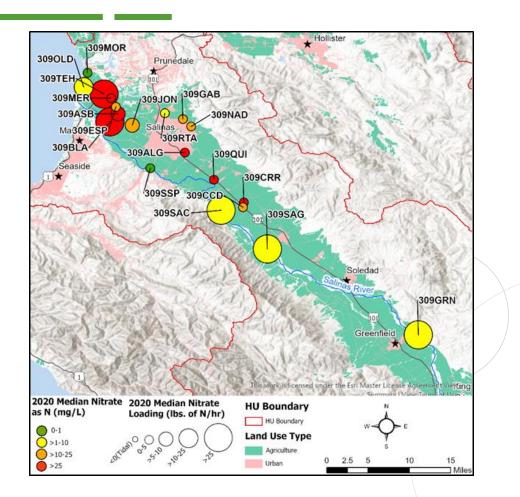
#### WHY IS THERE AN AG ORDER?

# WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE REQUIREMENTS ARE "RATCHETING UP"?

#### **Primary surface water concerns for Ag**



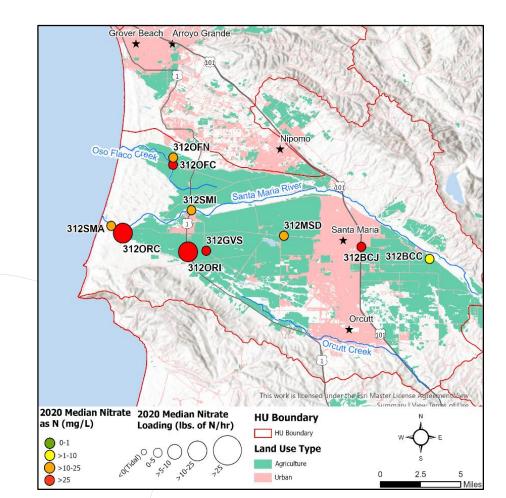
#### RECENT SURFACE WATER RESULTS SHOW SOME IMPROVEMENTS; ALSO LOTS OF CONTINUED IMPAIRMENT



#### Median Nitrate Results For Lower Salinas & Santa Maria, 2020

Orange & Red = Exceeds 10ppm Drinking Water Objective Yellow = Only Exceeds Very Low Aquatic Life Objective

**Green** = Generally complies with all Objectives on a median basis



- Most fields have one (or more) locations where tailwater collects and can be discharged. Is this location known for every field?
- Irrigators are tasked with putting on <a href="enough">enough</a> water... whose job is it to keep tabs on water leaving the ranch?
- If a lot of water is leaving, many times the following are too:
  - Soil
  - Fertilizers
  - Pest Control Products



• It's rarely possible to have "clean" tailwater. Reducing the volume of tailwater may be the most important thing you can do.





### SURFACE WATER FOLLOW-UP

- Individual Surface Water Follow-Up Work Plan due March 1st, 2023 for growers not part of Third Party
- Third Party's Surface Water Follow-Up Work Plan due March 1st, 2024 for High Priority areas (generally Salinas, Santa Maria)

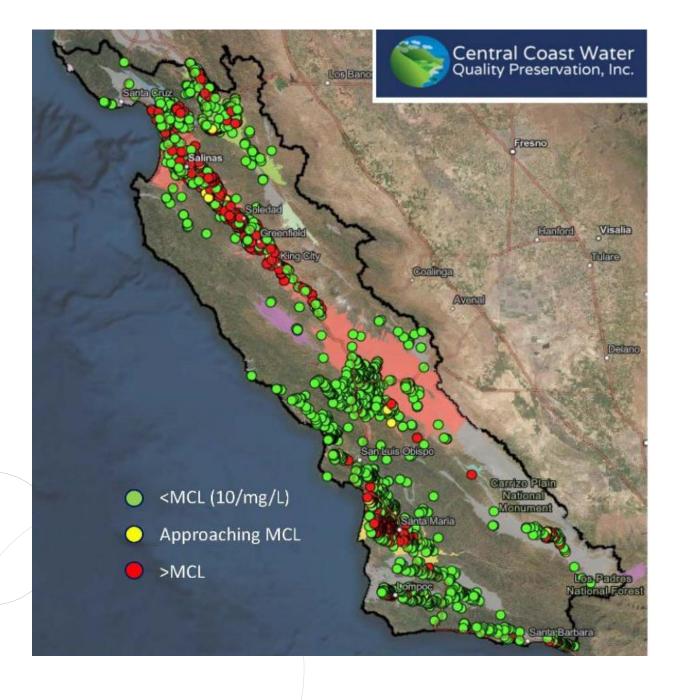
Work plans for areas with persistent exceedances of the surface water limits in the Order must identify follow-up actions to restore the degraded areas (e.g. outreach, education, management practice implementation) and additional surface receiving water monitoring locations for pollutant source identification and abatement.

- Ag Order 4.0 (MRP p.26)



#### RECENT GROUNDWATER RESULTS SHOW HIGH LEVELS OF NITRATE

- Points show 2022 well sampling results
- MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level (drinking water limit)



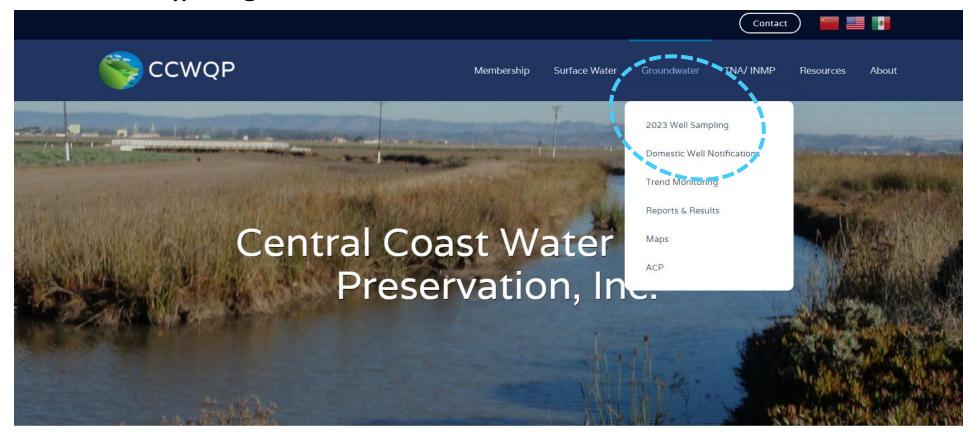




#### Well Sampling in 2023

March 1<sup>st</sup> - May 31<sup>st</sup>

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## TOTAL NITROGEN APPLIED (TNA) REPORTING & LIMITS





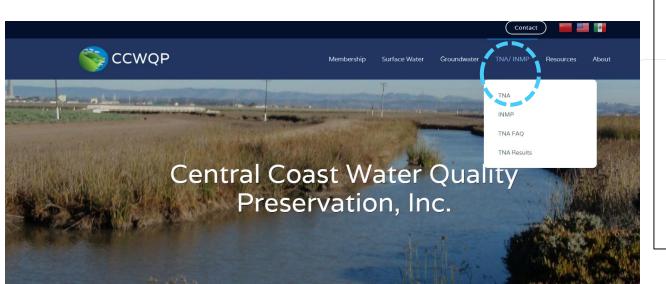
#### TIMELINE FOR TNA

- In 2022 & 2023...
  - All ranches that had a TNA reporting requirement <u>at any time under Ag Order 3.0</u> (2017-2021)
     need to report TNA by March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Report applies to the prior year's crops
- Also in 2023...
  - <u>All ranches on the Central Coast</u> must keep records on their 2023 crops, for TNA reporting by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. <u>All ranches on the Central Coast must report TNA by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024</u>.
- Also in 2023...
  - Total Nitrogen Applied LIMITS apply, per Ag Order 4.0

#### WHAT'S IN THE TNA REPORT?

#### **Reporting Options for Third Party Members**

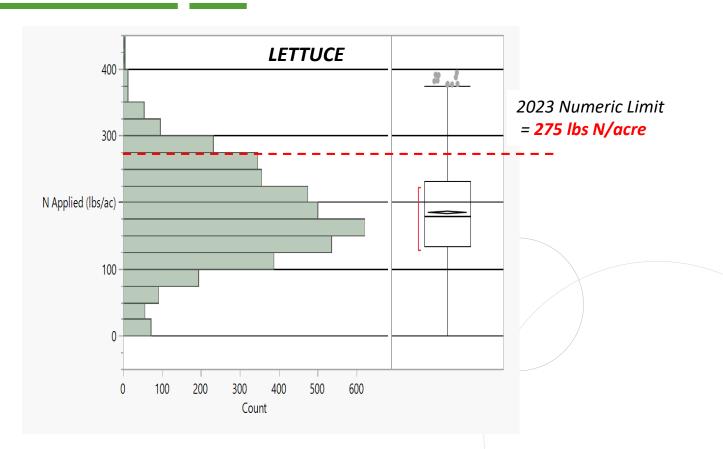
- 1) Spreadsheet Form (Excel)
- 2) TNA-EZ en espanol (Google Form)
- 3) TNA-EZ in English (Google Form)



#### TNA Data Required by Ag Order 4.0

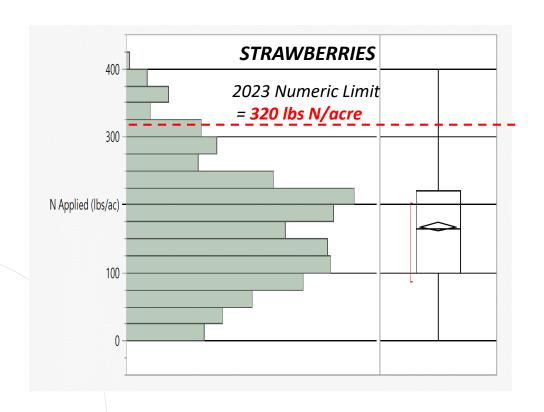
- AW/AGL/APN
- Ranch acres & Crop-acres each crop
- Fallow acres
- Irrigation water source
- Avg. Nitrate concentration in water
- Total volume of water applied w/ irrigation
- N in soil (1 test required)
- Total lbs N applied w/ compost & other materials
  - By crop or by ranch, your choice
- Total lbs N applied w/ fertilizers (each crop)
- Basis for your decision to apply total N-applied
- % N content for all fertilizers
- C:N ratio for organic fertilizers and amendments
- Comments
- Certification

### RECENT TNA RESULTS & UPCOMING LIMITS



#### TNA Limits in Ag Order 4.0

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

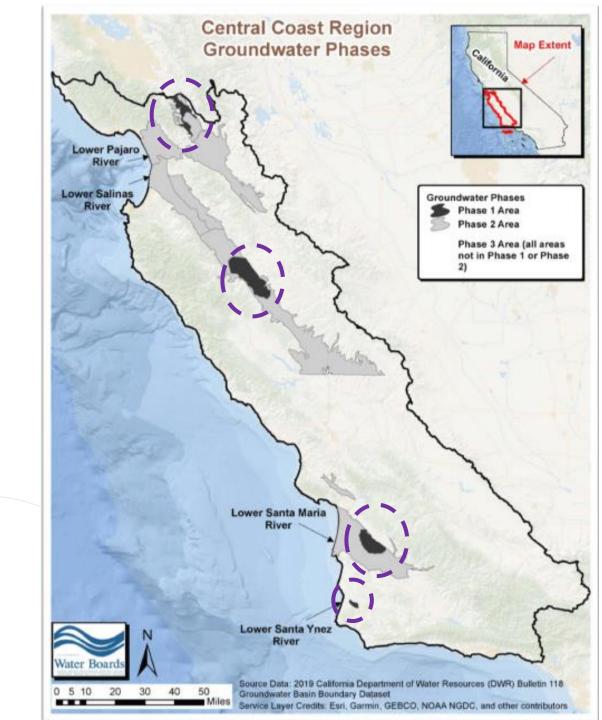


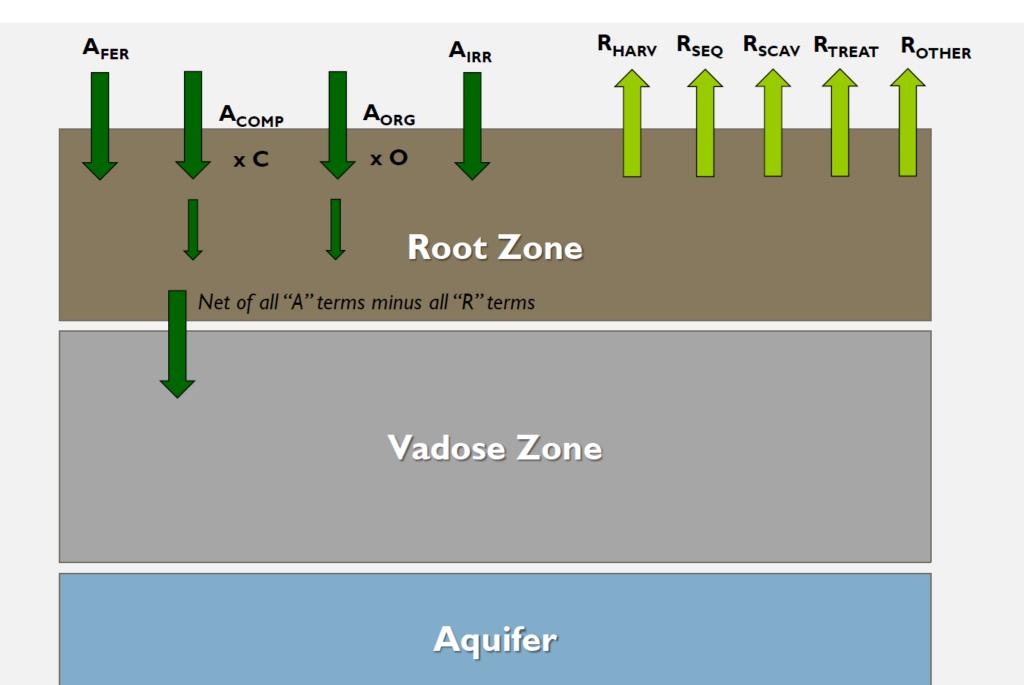


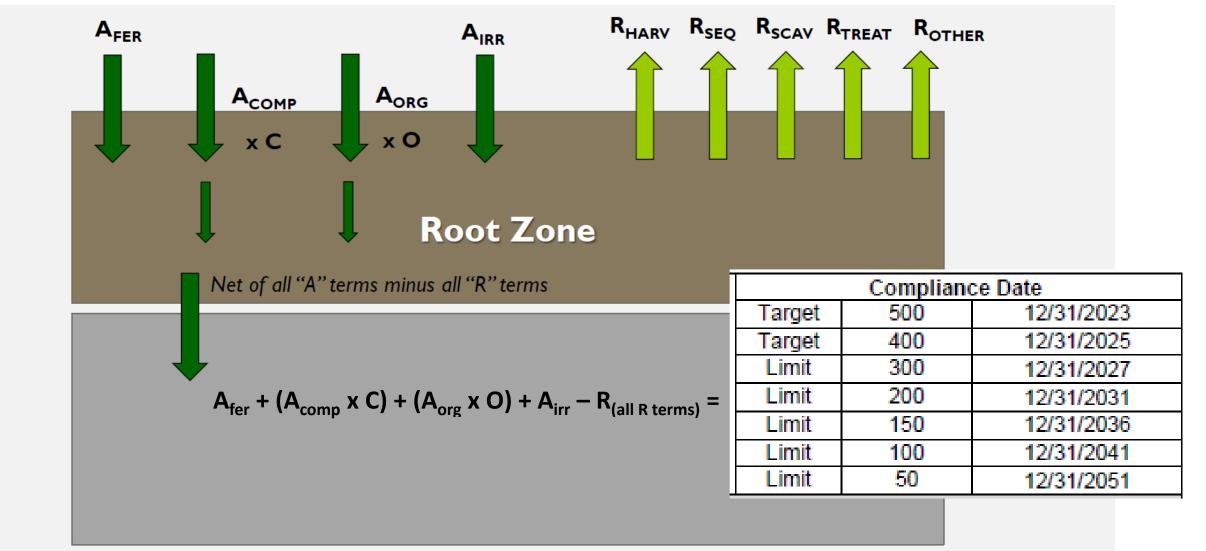
## IRRIGATION & NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT (INMP) REPORTING & LIMITS

#### **TIMELINE FOR INMP**

- In 2023...
  - Ranches in Groundwater Phase 1 Areas must keep records on their 2023 crops, for INMP reporting by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- In 2024...
  - Ranches in Groundwater Phase 1 Areas must report INMP by March 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - All other ranches report TNA
- After 2024...
  - INMP reporting phases in for other ranches



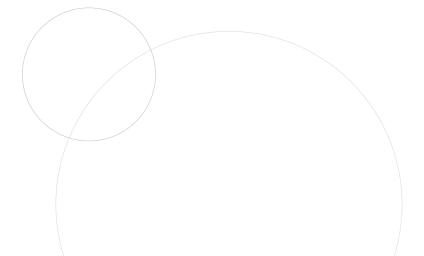




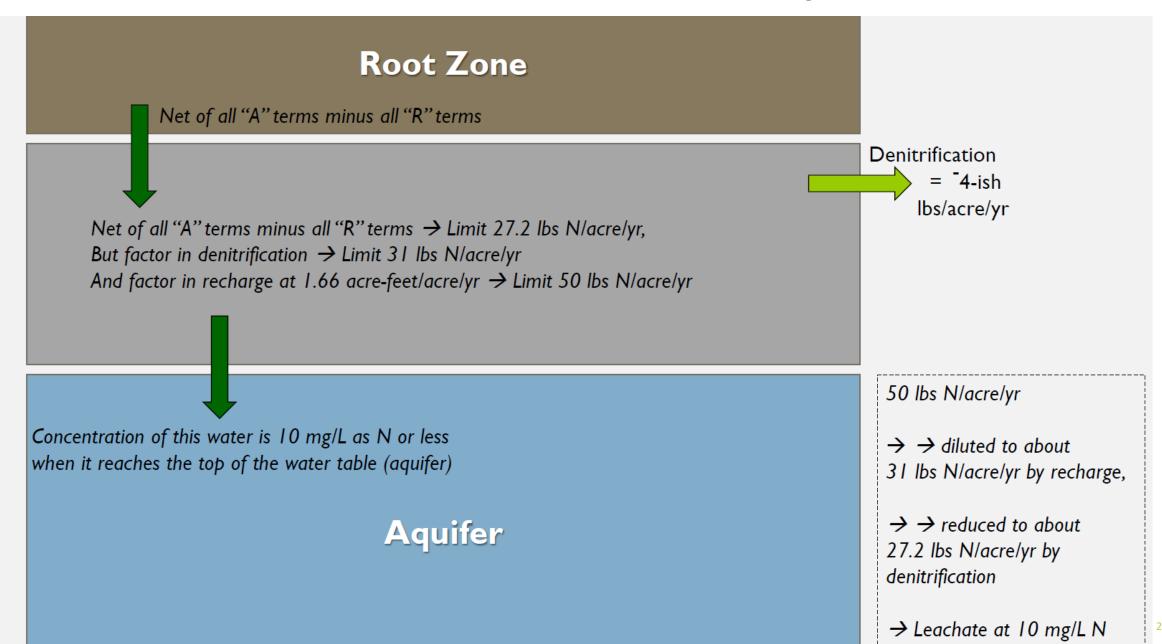
#### Aquifer



#### **END**



#### Where did the final Limit of 50 lbs N/acre/year come from?



### THREE "A-R" EQUATIONS IN AG ORDER 4.0, WITH TARGETS/LIMITS

#### $A_{FER}$ + (C x $A_{COMP}$ ) + (O x $A_{ORG}$ ) + $A_{IRR}$ - R = 50 lbs N/acre/yr

(50 is the final Limit to be achieved by 12/31/2051, with step-down schedule of interim targets/limits beginning with 500 by 12/31/23)

$$A_{FER}$$
 + (C x  $A_{COMP}$ ) + (O x  $A_{ORG}$ ) - R = -150 lbs N/acre/yr

(-150 is the final Limit to be achieved by 12/31/2051, with step-down schedule of interim targets/limits beginning with 300 by 12/31/23)

$$A_{FER} + (C \times A_{COMP}) + (O \times A_{ORG}) = R$$

(final Limit is A=R, beginning as a target of A=R by 12/31/2023)

- A<sub>FER</sub> is N applied as fertilizer, in lbs/acre
- A<sub>IRR</sub> is N applied in irrigation water based on volume required for crop-ET
- A<sub>COMP</sub> is N applied in compost
- C is a compost discount factor reflecting delayed mineralization of N
- $A_{ORG}$  is N applied in organic fertilizer
- O is an organic fertilizer discount factor reflecting delayed mineralization
- R is the amount of N removed from the field through harvest or other removal pathways

### ADDITIONAL R (REMOVAL) TERMS IN AG ORDER 4.0

In all formulas, "R" is actually the sum of 5 possible removal terms:



 R<sub>HARV</sub> is the N removed from the field through harvest or other removal of crop material, in lbs/acre



- R<sub>SEQ</sub> is the N removed from the field through sequestration in woody materials of permanent or semi-permanent crops
- R<sub>SCAVENGE</sub> is the N credited as removed from the field through nitrogenscavenging cover crops, high-carbon amendments, or high carbon mulches
- R<sub>TREAT</sub> is the amount of N removed through a quantifiable treatment method (e.g. denitrifying bioreactor)
- R<sub>OTHER</sub> is the amount of N removed through other approved methods, not previously quantified

#### WHAT'S IN THE INMP REPORT?

#### Reporting Options for Third Party Members

- 1) Spreadsheet Form (Excel)
- 2) INMP-EZ en espanol (Google Form)
- 3) INMP-EZ in English (Google Form)

#### INMP Data Required by Ag Order 4.0

- AW/AGL/APN
- Ranch acres & Crop-acres each crop
- Fallow acres
- Irrigation water source
- Nitrate concentration in water (ALL wells)
- Total volume of water applied w/ irrigation
- N in soil (1 test required)
- Total lbs N applied w/ compost & other materials
  - By crop or by ranch, your choice
- Total lbs N applied w/ fertilizers (each crop)
- Basis for your decision to apply total N-applied
- % N content for all fertilizers
- C:N ratio for organic fertilizers and amendments
- Total lbs N-removed at Harvest
- Other Removal ("R") terms
- Comments
- Certification

## OF ALL POSSIBLE "ADDITIONAL R TERMS," THE COVER CROP CREDIT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST, IF NOT <u>THE</u> LARGEST