



# NEWSLETTER

## IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATES

### Introduction

The Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA) is a joint powers authority, established to serve as the coordinator and coalition (third-party) group under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) in the Kern River Watershed portion of Kern County. On February 4, 2014 the State of California's Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB/ Regional Board) issued a Notice of Applicability (NOA) to the KRWCA, approving the KRWCA to represent member owners/ growers of irrigated agricultural lands within the KRWCA boundary area under the ILRP.

The Tulare Lake Basin General Order (Order R5-2013-0120) (General Order) requires that any commercially irrigated land must comply with the requirements set forth by the Regional Board.

The intent of the Regional Board's ILRP is for growers to implement practices to protect water quality. The new program applies to discharges to both surface water and groundwater. The groundwater component addresses waste (e.g. salt, nitrate, pesticides, etc.) transported by irrigation water, percolating past the root zone into groundwater.

### 2015 Membership Enrollment Summary

A summary of the 2015-2016 Membership Year is provided in the table below:

Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority	
Number of Members	819
Number of Large Farm Members (≥ 60 ac)	593
Number of Small Farm Members (< 60 ac)	226
Number of Parcels Enrolled	7,637
Acres Enrolled	524,246

### Notice of Intent Enrollment Process

The deadline to apply directly to the Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA) to obtain membership was August 4, 2014. Beginning August 5, 2014, growers in the KRWCA boundary must apply directly to the CVRWQCB for coverage under a third-party through the Notice of Intent (NOI) process, which has multiple steps. Growers must pay an administrative fee to the CVRWQCB as well as pay increased acreage fees to the Coalition. The NOI process and instructions can be found at [www.krwca.org](http://www.krwca.org) or you may contact the coalition directly for assistance.

- If you know of growers within the KRWCA boundary who have not signed up, please direct them to our website at [www.krwca.org](http://www.krwca.org) or provide them with our KRWCA contact information.
- If you (as an existing member) have additional parcels that need to be enrolled, please contact the KRWCA as soon as possible.

### 2016 Membership Assessment to be Billed in April

At the KRWCA Board of Director's March meeting, the 2016-2017 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017) membership assessment was approved.

2016/2017 Membership Fees	
New Members (timely filed)	\$5.25/irrigated acre
Existing Member Acreage Credit (based on 2015-2016 enrolled irrigated acreage)	\$5.25/acre - \$1.00/acre credit = \$4.25/irrigated acre <i>(Previous year budget credit)</i>
Late Fee (after May 15, 2016)	\$10.50/irrigated acre
Annual Administration Fee	\$100.00

Membership fees are developed each year from a budget based on a detailed cost analysis of the General Order requirements. There are significant costs for the preparation of the required technical reports, water quality monitoring and reporting. All funds remaining at the end of the year are carried over into the

next fiscal year to either reduce assessment fees or provide for further coalition activities. **2016 Membership Invoices will be mailed by April 1, 2016.** If you have not received your invoice contact the KRWCA right away as late fees become effective if the invoice is not paid by May 15, 2016.

We understand that membership fees for regulatory compliance are a concern amongst KRWCA members. Our main purpose is to provide you with cost-effective compliance with the Tulare Lake Basin ILRP General Order requirements. We will continue to work diligently to represent the members of the KRWCA, and will do our best to keep the fees as minimal as possible as the program moves forward with the implementation of these new water quality requirements.

## Groundwater Quality Assessment Report

The KRWCA submitted the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR), to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) on February 4, 2015. It was a significant effort to produce this technical report in a manner that is scientifically defensible, and relevant to the needs of the KRWCA members. The primary goal of the GAR was to identify areas of high and low vulnerability to potential groundwater degradation from nitrogen and pesticides within the KRWCA's boundaries. On March 30, 2015 the CVRWQCB identified an additional 140,000 acres of land they determined to be in the high vulnerability area. The final approved high and low vulnerability area map, which impacts the timelines for submittal of reports by growers, can be found at [www.krwca.org](http://www.krwca.org). The Regional Board has provided no other comments on our GAR submission.



The GAR is also the baseline document to formulate the Management Practices Evaluation Program (MPEP) and the Groundwater Quality Trend Monitoring Program. These documents ultimately will lead to groundwater quality monitoring (implementation estimated to begin in a couple of years), which the KRWCA will work to make as cost effective as possible. Members were notified of their high or low vulnerability status by letter dated November 5, 2015. Vulnerability status can also be viewed for your membership on our online reporting tool, ILRP Farm.

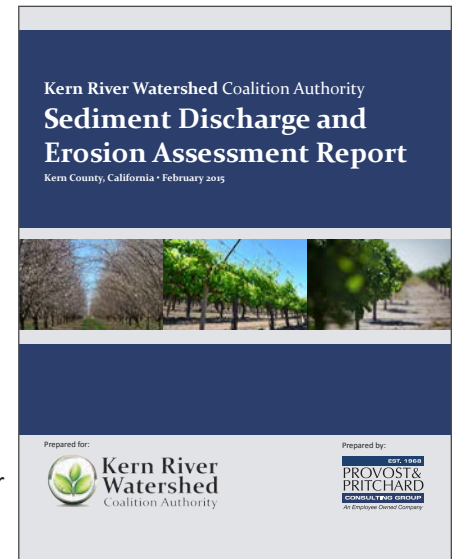
## Sediment Discharge & Erosion Assessment Report


The KRWCA submitted a Sediment Discharge & Erosion Assessment Report (SDEAR), to the Regional Board on February 4, 2015. The SDEAR identified parcels within the KRWCA that are susceptible to erosion and the discharge of sediment that could impact surface water quality.

Erosion and sediment discharge from agricultural fields to surface waters is influenced by a number of factors including: soil erodibility, rainfall, slope, vegetative cover, and the presence/absence of best management practices.

- A small portion of the KRWCA was determined to be susceptible.
- Impacted members were notified of their status and will be required to prepare a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan (SECP). Sediment discharge vulnerability status can also be viewed on ILRP Farm. Please see additional information in this newsletter regarding the SECP requirements.

On October 7, 2015 the KRWCA received a conditional approval of the SDEAR from the Regional Board. In accordance with Section VII.C of the Order, growers with parcels within areas currently identified in the conditionally approved SDEAR are required to prepare and certify a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan using a template provided by the Executive Officer. Based





on the date of this conditional approval, the deadline to complete and implement the Sediment and Erosion Control Plan is **October 7, 2016** for members with small farming operations, and **April 4, 2016** for all other members. The SECP fillable form can be found at [www.krwca.org](http://www.krwca.org).

## KRWCA Surface Water Monitoring Program Update

The KRWCA's surface water monitoring program is in place to determine water quality of surface water bodies that can be affected by irrigation and/or storm runoff. The program samples for pathogens, metals, pesticides, and toxicity along with other general water quality parameters.

The previous surface water monitoring program had been in effect for the past 10+ years under the Kern River Sub-Watershed (part of the former Southern San Joaquin Valley Water Quality Coalition). The KRWCA has been successfully monitoring surface water quality since 2012. Recent dry years have led to very little surface water in Kern creeks and streams. However, due to unusually large storm events late in Summer 2015, water was present and samples were taken at the Chanac Creek monitoring site. Results from these recent samples have shown exceedances of some of the surface water quality parameters, including: Total Dissolved Solids; Fecal Coliform and E. coli; the metals arsenic, lead, and molybdenum; and DDE. There was one instance of algae toxicity. Exceedances of a parameter at the same monitoring site more than once during a three year period trigger the need to develop a management plan. A management plan was triggered at Chanac Creek due to the exceedances experienced during sampling in late summer 2015. See further discussion below.

In early February 2015 the KRWCA submitted a revised Surface Water Monitoring Plan (SWMP) to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) staff. The Regional Board requested that the KRWCA implement more monitoring sites. The KRWCA is aiming to keep growers in compliance with the General Order while also keeping costs manageable. As the SWMP is finalized and implemented, information on new sites and other changes will be shared. To date the KRWCA has not received feedback or approval by the Regional Board on the submitted revised SWMP.

The 2015/2016 rainfall season has begun with much needed storms to help alleviate the drought; however, with these storms, sampling and monitoring efforts will be greater than

those from recent years. Important items to remember with regards to the surface water monitoring in the KRWCA are:

- Surface water monitoring will continue for the foreseeable future in order to comply with the ILRP requirements.
- Growers should implement practices which contain all irrigation waters and runoff on their property, to the extent feasible.
- Exceedances of water quality parameters can lead to management plans and improved management practices, designed to avoid future exceedances.

## Chanac Creek Surface Water Quality Management Plan

A Surface Water Quality Management Plan (SQMP) was triggered at the Chanac Creek monitoring site following unusually large storm events during the summer of 2015. This is the first SQMP triggered under the KRWCA's surface water monitoring program. The SQMP was submitted to the CVRWQCB on November 30, 2015 to address exceedances of DDE and Molybdenum. In the submitted SQMP, the KRWCA laid out a plan to perform a Source Identification Study to further evaluate the potential sources of the two constituents of concern. The KRWCA recently received approval from the CVRWQCB to begin the Source Identification Study. Irrigated agriculture may not be the source for these exceedances, but if indicated by findings from the Source Identification Study, the management plan has the potential to result in on-farm management practices being changed for members in the Chanac Creek area. The KRWCA will be working with these members throughout the process as it gets underway. An Evaluation Report for the Source Identification Study is due to the CVRWQCB by November 3, 2016. A status update will be provided in our next newsletter.



# ILRP Farm

Access the On-line Member Reporting Tool  
for the ILRP reporting process by visiting:

[www.krwca.org](http://www.krwca.org) or  
<https://krwca.ilrpfarm.com>

## KRWCA Management Plan Development and Member Notification Policy

This policy is intended to summarize the Tulare Lake Basin General Order Third-Party (Coalition) requirements for annual outreach and development of a water quality management plan, when a plan is triggered. In addition, the policy identifies steps that the Coalition will take regarding member notification, education and outreach that are not required by the General Order.

### General Order Requirements:

- A required component of the Surface Water Quality Management Plan/Groundwater Quality Management Plan (SQMP/GQMP), Management Plan Strategy requires laying out a plan to “Educate Members about the sources of the water quality exceedances in order to promote prevention, protection, and remediation efforts that can maintain and improve water quality.” And also “Identify outreach that will be used to disseminate information to participating growers. This discussion shall include: the strategy for informing growers of the water quality problems that need to be addressed, method for disseminating information on relevant management practices to be implemented, and a description of how the effectiveness of the outreach efforts will be evaluated.” [Section C, App. MRP-1 of Att. B Pg. 4-5]
- When a SQMP/GQMP is triggered, the third-party shall submit a SQMP/GQMP to the Central Valley Water Board within sixty (60) days. This 60-day period begins the first business day after the third-party’s receipt of the field or laboratory results that reported the triggering exceedance. [Section H.I.1 Paragraph 2, GO Pg. 33]
- The SQMPs/GQMPs need to meet the performance standards set forth in this Order. The SQMPs/GQMPs are also reviewed periodically to determine whether adequate progress is being made to address the degradation trend or impairment. If adequate progress is not being made, then the Executive Officer can require field monitoring studies, on-site verification of implementation of practices, or the board may revoke the coverage under this Order and regulate the discharger through an individual WDR. [Paragraph 1, GO Att. A Pg. 41]
- Details of the required components needed in SQMP/GQMPs are included in [Appendix MRP-1 of Att. B]
- The time schedule identified in SQMP/GQMP for compliance with receiving water limitations must be as short as practicable, but may not exceed 10 years from the date submitted to the Executive Officer. [Section XII, GO Pg. 37]
- The third-party may, at its discretion, implement outreach or monitoring contained in a proposed management plan before approval. [Section H.I.1 Paragraph 2, GO Pg. 33]
- Should the third-party conduct a Source Identification Study to comply with this Order, the third-party must first receive approval from the Executive Officer. Once approved, the third party may proceed with its study. [Section G, App. MRP-1 of Att. B Pg. 7]
- The Third-Party is required to develop and implement plans to track and evaluate the effectiveness of water quality management practices, pursuant to the approved SQMP/GQMP. This includes working cooperatively with the Regional Board to ensure all Members are providing required information and taking necessary steps to address exceedances or degradation identified by the third-party or board. As part of the Membership List submittal, the third-party must identify the growers known by the third-party who have: (1) failed to implement improved water quality management practices within the timeframe specified by an applicable SQMP/GQMP; (2) failed to respond to an information request from the third-party associated with any applicable SQMP/GQMP or other provisions of this Order; (3) failed to participate as requested in third-party studies for which the third-party is the lead; (4) failed to provide confirmation of participation in an outreach event (per section IV.B.4 of this Order); or (5) otherwise failed to maintain good standing of their membership in the third-party group. [Section C Points 4 & 9, GO Pg. 22-23]
- By May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the third-party must prepare a Management Plan Status Report that summarizes the progress in implementing management plans. The Management Plan Status Report must summarize the progress for the annual reporting period. [Section F, App. MRP-1 of Att. B Pg. 6]
- If the regional SQMP does not result in the necessary improvements to water quality, the burden, including costs, of requiring individuals in the impacted area to conduct monitoring, describe their plans for addressing the identified problems, and evaluate their practices as a reasonable subsequent step. [Paragraph 1, GO Att. A Pg. 13]

- Conduct education and outreach activities annually to inform Members of program requirements and water quality problems, including exceedances of water quality objectives or degradation of water quality, identified by the third-party or Central Valley Water Board. **[Section C Point 8, General Order Pg. 22]**

**KRWCA Additional Outreach:**

In the event that a Surface Water Quality Management Plan (SQMP) or Groundwater Quality Management Plan (GQMP) is triggered, KRWCA Staff will take the following steps to notify Members:

- Members in the Representative Area will be contacted by letter/email to inform them:
  - That a Management Plan has been triggered;
  - Constituents of Concern with exceedances that triggered the Management Plan;
  - Overview of the Process – 60 Day timeline; and,
  - Next steps in the process.

**KRWCA Additional Education:**

Staff will educate members on the Management Plan Development Process through Conference Call, WebEx, or Workshop, as appropriate. Curriculum will address:

- The process, which is investigative in nature;
- Explanation of required use of Management Plan Template;
- Members will be invited to provide their unique knowledge of the area through discussions or correspondence with KRWCA staff; and,
- Timelines to meet submission deadline must be followed.

Draft documents will be shared if requested and members may provide input through their KRWCA District Director or directly to the KRWCA if the member is outside of a participating water district. The KRWCA Board and staff maintain editorial rights and have final approval of the document.

## Member Required Reports

The following table summarizes documents and respective deadlines to be completed by members complying with the General Order. Small farming operations have less than 60 total acres of irrigated land. Land that is designated as being in a High Vulnerability Area (HVA) was identified by the KRWCA and expanded by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) in the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR) Approved HVA Map. Members were notified of parcel status in a letter dated November 5, 2015. Members may also review parcel HVA status through the ILRP Farm on-line member reporting tool.

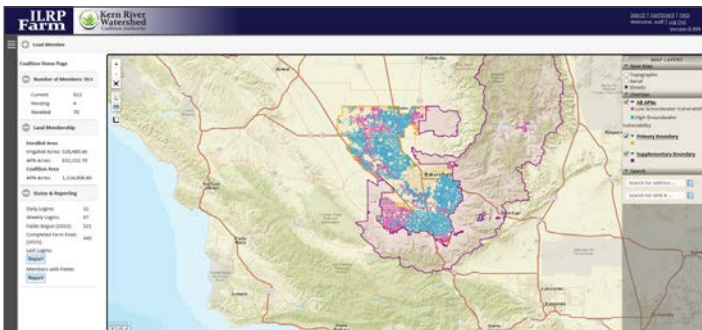
Member Required Reports Table				
Report	Vulnerability	Farm Size	Due Date	Renewal Frequency
Farm Evaluations	High	All	March 1, 2016	Annually
	Low	Large (≥ 60 ac)	March 1, 2016	Five years
		Small (< 60 ac)	March 1, 2018	Five years
Sediment & Erosion Control Plans	All locations identified in the Sediment Discharge & Erosion Assessment Report (SDEAR)	Large (≥ 60 ac)	April 4, 2016	As conditions change
		Small (< 60 ac)	October 7, 2016	As conditions change
Nitrogen Management Plans	High	Large (≥ 60 ac)	March 23, 2015 March 1, 2016 ( <i>certified</i> )	Annually
		Small (< 60 ac)	March 1, 2017 ( <i>certified</i> )	Annually
	Low	All	March 1, 2017	Annually
Nitrogen Management Plan Summary Report	High	Large Farm	March 1, 2017	Annually
		Small Farm	March 1, 2018	Annually
	Low	Does not apply		

## ILRP Farm Member Reporting Tool

The Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority (KRWCA) has developed the "ILRP Farm" on-line member reporting tool to ease the member reporting process, and streamline and reduce costs for the Irrigated Land Regulatory Program (ILRP) reporting requirements.

Key components of the on-line database:

- **Dashboard:** Upon log-in, you will be directed to your private dashboard specific to your membership where you will be able to update contact information, review membership APNs, check your high vulnerability area (HVA) status, etc.



The ILRP Farm on-line member reporting tool was developed to streamline and reduce costs for the ILRP reporting process.

- **Reports:** Through ILRP Farm, you will be able to complete the 2015 **Farm Evaluation** online and submit it directly to the KRWCA, which was due on **March 1, 2016**. In the future, additional report templates and information will be available through the ILRP Farm. **Online submission is required.**
- **Multiple Memberships:** If you have multiple memberships, you will need to log-in and complete the database information for each membership separately or request a consultant level log-in.
- **Consultant:** If you would like a consultant to access your membership in the database, you will need to contact the KRWCA for more information.

The KRWCA ILRP Farm log-in is located at [www.krwca.org](http://www.krwca.org) or <https://krwca.ilrpfarm.com/>.

## Farm Evaluations – Management Practices to Protect Water Quality

Farm Evaluations will describe management practices implemented to protect surface water and groundwater quality. The purpose of the Farm Evaluation is to collect consistent information across irrigated agricultural areas and commodities, while minimizing costs for growers to provide the information. Overall the evaluation includes five parts: a whole farm

evaluation, field specific evaluation, irrigation well information, sediment and erosion control practices, and a farm map identifying the location of wells.

- Completed Farm Evaluations for the 2015 Crop Year were to be submitted to the KRWCA by March 1, 2016, for all large farms and farms with parcels designated in a high vulnerability area (HVA). Members are required to keep an on-farm copy to be made available to the CVRWQCB upon their request in the event of an inspection.
- If you have not already completed a Farm Evaluation and you are required to do so, please log-in to the ILRP Farm Reporting program and make your submission.

## Sediment and Erosion Control Plans

Parcels identified in the SDEAR or by the member through the Farm Evaluation as having the potential for erosion and sediment discharge that may degrade surface waters will need to prepare a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan (SECP). The SECP will outline practices to be implemented to control erosion and/or sediment runoff from irrigation or storm events.

- SECPs for large farms identified in the SDEAR are due by April 4, 2016 and for small farms by October 7, 2016.
- The preparation of the SECP is limited to qualified SECP developers (e.g. a professional registered civil engineer or geologist). (See the SECP form available at [www.krwca.org](http://www.krwca.org))
- ILRP Coalitions are working with the CVRWQCB to develop an acceptable member self-certification training program.
- The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is developing a program to train local Resource Conservation District (RCD) staff to qualify as a SECP certifying professional.

## Nitrogen Management Plans (NMP Worksheet and Nitrogen Summary Report)

Growers with large farms with designated high vulnerability parcels MUST have a 2016 Certified Nitrogen Management Plan (NMP) worksheet on farm by March 1, 2016. The NMP template and instructions can be found at [www.krwca.org](http://www.krwca.org). Eventually, all members will be required to prepare and implement a Nitrogen Management Plan for planned nitrogen applications to their crops for the upcoming crop year. By March 1, 2017 all farms in low vulnerability areas must prepare a NMP but do not need to certify the plans or provide summary reports to the KRWCA. NMP worksheets remain on the farm and are NOT submitted to the Coalition.

Beginning March 1, 2017, all farms in high vulnerability areas will need to submit to the KRWCA an annual Nitrogen Management Summary Report of what was actually done the previous crop year, documenting removal of nitrogen via crop uptake and harvest and how much is likely left on the field that could potentially contribute to surface and groundwater quality.

Growers will need to update their NMP worksheets and Nitrogen Summary Reports annually.

## Meeting Attendance Required Annually

As stated in the General Order, each Coalition member shall participate in third-party (coalition) outreach events, at least annually, if any of the member's parcels are in a designated "high vulnerability areas" (HVA) or governed by a Surface Water Quality Management Plan (SQMP) or Groundwater Quality Management Plan (GQMP). The member or designee shall review outreach materials to become informed of any water quality problems to address and the management practices that are available to address those issues. The member shall provide annual confirmation to the Coalition that the member has attended an outreach event during the previous year and reviewed the applicable outreach materials. This certification can be provided through the Farm Evaluation or through the invoice process



Annual outreach events are intended to keep members informed of any water quality problems that need to be addressed and management practices that are available to address those issues, as well as provide direction on required member reports.

## Education/Outreach Events Were Held in December 2015

Four grower education/outreach meetings were held to provide members with instructions on completing the required 2016 Nitrogen Management Plan worksheets and 2015 Farm Evaluation. KRWCA Members were required to submit the Farm

Evaluation through the web based ILRP Farm member reporting tool.

KRWCA will continue to schedule outreach and education meetings for members to go over preparation for deadlines, details for completing specific reports, and any other information that will help members navigate the member reporting process/ requirements. Notifications for all educational outreach dates, times and locations will be posted at [www.krwca.org](http://www.krwca.org) and meeting notices will be distributed via email and/or mail.

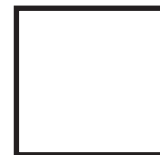
## KRWCA Board of Directors

Board of Directors	
Officers	
Eric Averett	Chairman of the Board
Jason Gianquinto	Vice-Chairman of the Board
Robert Kunde	Treasurer of the Board
Voting Members	
Dennis Johnston	Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
Joe Lutje	Henry Miller Water District
Donald Collins	Kern Delta Water District
Steve Dalke	Kern-Tulare Water District
Kimberly Brown	North Kern Water Storage District
Jeff Seimens	Olcese Water District
Eric Averett	Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District
Jason Gianquinto	Semitropic Water Storage District
Roger Riley	Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District
Michael Blaine	Wheeler Ridge Water Storage District
Alternate Voting Members	
Steve Collup	Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
Jeevan Muhar	Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
Vacant	Henry Miller Water District
Mark Mulkay	Kern Delta Water District
Pete Kaiser	Kern Delta Water District
Skye Grass	Kern-Tulare Water District
Dick Diamond	North Kern Water Storage District
James Nickel	Olcese Water District
Dan Bartel	Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District
Rick Wegis	Semitropic Water Storage District
Dana Munn	North Kern Water Storage District
Robert Kunde	Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
Associate Members (Non-Voting)	
Buena Vista Coalition	
Westside Water Quality Coalition	
Cawelo Water District Coalition	



**Kern River  
Watershed**  
Coalition Authority

Post Office Box 151 • Bakersfield, CA 93302



**ACTION  
REQUIRED!**



**IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM  
UPDATES**

[www.krwca.org](http://www.krwca.org)

**KRWCA Newsletter • Spring 2016**  
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Updates

## **Email Address Required of ALL Members**

All KRWCA members MUST have an email address on file with the Coalition. This will ensure that our members receive up-to-date information in a timely fashion as well as keep outreach and notification costs down. KRWCA will provide information regarding compliance with the ILRP and member requirements through email. It is ultimately the member's responsibility to be aware of member requirements and to meet reporting deadlines as a condition of membership within a coalition. If you have not received an email from the KRWCA, you do not have an email on file and MUST contact KRWCA to provide an email address. If you do not currently have an email account, accounts can be arranged for free through various service providers. Please provide us with an email address for your membership. You do not want to miss important information that may affect your membership and ultimately leave you out of compliance with the ILRP General Order requirements.

## **Contact the KRWCA**

For questions, concerns, or additional information, please feel free to contact the KRWCA at (661) 616-6500, email [admin@krwca.org](mailto:admin@krwca.org) or visit our website at [www.krwca.org](http://www.krwca.org).

**[www.krwca.org](http://www.krwca.org)**

Your source for:

- Grower Meeting Notices
- Membership Updates
- Reporting Templates
- Reports submitted to the Regional Board
- And more!