



6133 Freeport Blvd., 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95822-3534
(916) 391-5030 F (916) 391-5044

Board of Directors

Northern Region

Sarah Reynolds

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District

Jeff Sutton

Ridgetop Rice Dryer

Greg Johnson, CFWC President

Western Canal Water District

North Central Region

Becky Hackler Arellano

Turlock Irrigation District

Brett Lauppe

CoBank

Bill Diedrich

San Luis Water District

South Central Region

Robyn A. Black

Anderson Farms

Scott Rogers

Tulare Irrigation District

Bill Stone

Upper San Jose Water Company

Southern Region

Pat Ricchiuti

P-R Farms

Bill Wulff

Kern County Water Agency

Peter G. Nelson

Coachella Valley Water District

At-Large

Gina Dockstader, CFWC VP

Imperial Irrigation District

Derrick Lam

Solano Irrigation District

Mark McKean

Kings River Conservation District

Sheridan Nicholas

Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa W.S.D.

Dee Zinke

Metropolitan W.D. of So Cal

Johnny Amaral

Friant Service Area

Diana Westmoreland

California Women for Agriculture

Wayne Western, CFWC

Sec/Treas.

Hammonds Ranch

Executive Director

Michelle Paul

www.farmwater.org

TO: San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Board of Directors

FROM: Michelle Paul

DATE: February 27, 2026

RE: CFWC Program and Activities Update

Executive Director's Report

The California Farm Water Coalition is entering a new chapter as I transition into the role of Executive Director, effective March 1. Mike Wade, who has served as Executive Director since 1998, will conclude his tenure on February 28. Mike will continue to support me during the transition on a part-time basis until this summer, ensuring a smooth handoff and ongoing continuity for our organization.

I would like to express my appreciation for the commitment of our Farm Water Coalition team. I am eager to continue working alongside Brandon Souza, our Chief Operating Officer, whose two decades of experience with the Coalition provide invaluable institutional insight and perspective. Together, we look forward to regular engagement with our members—not only to understand and address your priorities, but also to share how the Coalition continues to serve you and your communities into the future.

The strength of our Coalition is further enhanced by the exceptional talent of our staff: Morgan Elias, our Social Media Director, skillfully communicates our mission and engages stakeholders online, while Deja Coke-Lo, Projects and Operations Associate, provides vital project management and operational support to keep our initiatives running smoothly. Together, we make a dynamic team and are well-equipped to advance our organization's goals and make a meaningful impact for California's farming communities.

Transition of SLDMWA Task Orders

For years, the Coalition has administered the SLDMWA's website, daily news updates, and public relations. Recently, we assisted in transitioning these services to a new provider. This change offers promising opportunities for SLDMWA, and we consider it a positive move for advancing the organization's outreach and communications. The Coalition will continue to support SLDMWA during this transition and looks forward to ongoing collaboration—helping spread important messages and backing efforts that promote our shared goals and benefit the wider community.

CFWC Board Elections

The Coalition recently elected three new board members, filling a prior vacancy, and replacing two directors who retired in February 2026. Derrick Lam, a board member with Solano Irrigation District in Vacaville is filling the vacancy left by Stan Lester, who retired from the board in 2024. Sarah Reynolds from Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District in Willows has replaced Don Bransford, and Pat

Ricchiuti of P-R Farms in Clovis replaced Robert Krahn who was representing the Neil Jones Food Company in Firebaugh.

Directors reelected to their existing board seats include Bill Diedrich, San Luis Water District; Scott Rogers, Tulare Irrigation District; Bill Stone, Upper San Jose Water Company; Bill Wulff, Kern County Water Agency; Brett Lauppe, CoBank; Robyn Black, Anderson Ranch; Wayne Western, Hammonds Ranch; Sheridan Nicholas, Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District; and Dee Zinke, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

All of the directors elected at the February 23 board meeting will begin their new terms at the April 27 CFWC Board Meeting.

Bar-20 Dairy - Social Media Profile

The Coalition's Cultivate California program recently ran several Instagram posts highlighting [Bar-20 Dairy](#) in Kerman as a modern, family-run San Joaquin Valley operation that blends traditional milk production with cutting-edge sustainability practices. The reels emphasize how the Shehadey family has invested in technologies such as methane digesters, fuel cells, and efficiency upgrades to reduce environmental impacts while continuing to produce food for California communities.

Blueprint Blog

The Coalition's participation in the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley helped facilitate publication of a [blog](#) on the SWRCB hearings about Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) as a balanced, science-based approach to updating the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

In the blog, the Blueprint stated that the Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program is built around a straightforward but powerful idea: pairing strategically timed river flows with targeted habitat restoration, guided by monitoring and adaptive management. Rather than relying on a single tool, HRL integrates science, on-the-ground projects, and accountability to improve conditions for Chinook salmon and other native species while safeguarding water supplies that support cities, agriculture, and rural communities. The current update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan is expected to be adopted sometime in 2026, although no specific date has been set.

Food Grows Where Water Flows