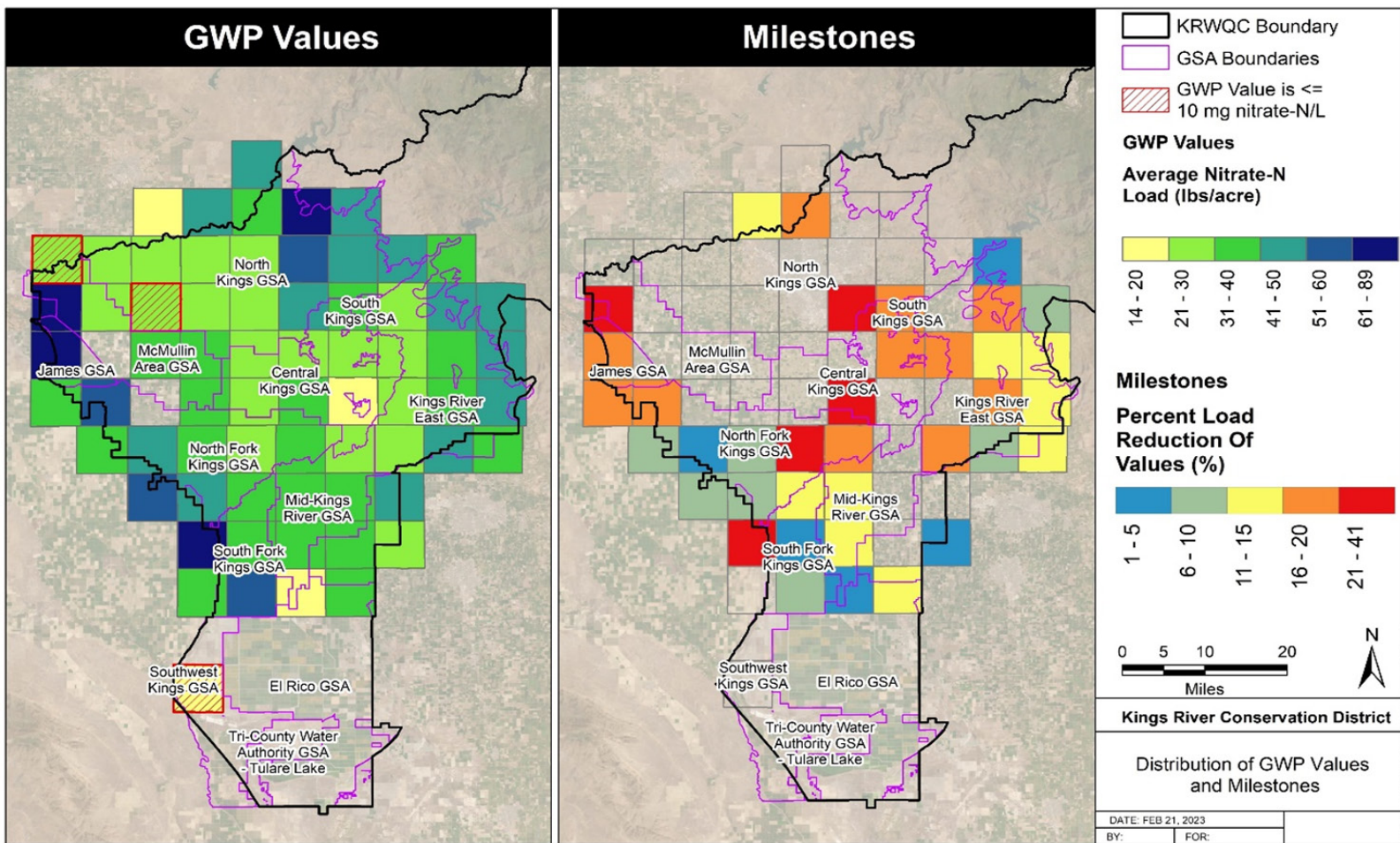




### Groundwater Protection (GWP) Targets

On December 15, 2022, thirteen irrigated agriculture coalitions, including the KRWQC, submitted Revised Groundwater Protection (GWP) Targets to the Central Valley Water Board as required by the General Order. The GWP Targets is the third step in the GWP process which also included the development and submittal of a GWP Formula (July 2020) and GWP Values (July/December 2021). The GWP Targets are loading targets (i.e., average lb N/ac at the bottom of the root zone) to comply with receiving water limitations (10 mg/L-N for nitrate) after considering other relevant post-root-zone processes. Milestones as interim performance goals were developed to ensure that agriculture is working towards reducing the amount of nitrate-N that may leach from below the root zone through successful adoption and/or refinement of management practices. Formation Environmental provided a presentation on the GWP process and additional details on the GWP Targets at the February KRWQC Board meeting which is accessible through the Member Portal. The KRWQC will be providing members with additional outreach materials as the GWP Targets are approved.



KRWQC Townships comparison of GWP Values (Average N-Load) and milestones to optimize near-term nitrate-N load reduction based on evaluation of management information.

### Reminder - INMP Summary Reports Were Due March 1

Irrigation and Nitrogen Management Plan (INMP) Summary Reports were due on March 1, 2023. Fines of up to \$1,000 per day can be assessed to members for non-compliance by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. All submittals are required to be completed through the Coalition member portal at [kingsriverwqc.org/ac-count](http://kingsriverwqc.org/ac-count). Please contact the Coalition if you need assistance with your submittal.

## Innovative Grower Highlight: Tony and Barbara Martin

Drought, floods, climate change, increased regulations, costs, and expanding urban areas are just some of the challenges facing growers today. Growers continue to strive for efficient irrigation and management practices that increase production and sustainability while reducing costs and saving resources. Our innovative grower highlight focuses on Tony and Barbara Martin with nearly 45 years in farming, first as a dairy and then transitioning strictly to irrigated agriculture (nuts and field crops) in 2008.

The Martin's have focused on grants to help fund more efficient and sustainable operation through the use of drip irrigation which uses less water with better nutrient placement compared to other irrigation types. Drip irrigation system delivers water directly to the roots of the plants, minimizing water loss through evaporation and runoff. Additionally, the Martin's operation has implemented a weather station that tracks soil moisture levels, rain, and UV among other weather conditions as well as a sand media filtration system to increase the life of the irrigation system. Finally, to power these new systems, a photovoltaic system was added to the farm to generate solar energy.

Grant funds to help implement these projects were made available through the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) through the California Department of Food and Agriculture. SWEEP provides assistance in the form of grants to implement irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases and save water on California agricultural operations. Eligible system components include (among others) soil moisture monitoring, drip systems, switching to low pressure irrigation systems, pump retrofits, variable frequency drives and installation of renewable energy to reduce on-farm water use and energy. KRWQC is currently pursuing opportunities like SWEEP and other grant funds to assist members in the future. More information on SWEEP can be found here: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oeffi/sweep/>.

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**Important Coalition member updates enclosed**

## Quality Assurance and Control of INMP Summary Report Submitted Data

Coalition staff is currently reviewing INMP Summary Report submittals for quality assurance and quality control purposes. Members with submitted data that is identified as being potentially inaccurate will receive an email or phone call from the Coalition for verification. Typical verification requests include production units, reporting of nitrogen sources, or yield per acre rather than total. Due to regulatory deadlines, immediate attention and action on these requests for verification is very much appreciated.



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