RCD's Mobile Irrigation Laboratory (MIL) & Cost-Share Program

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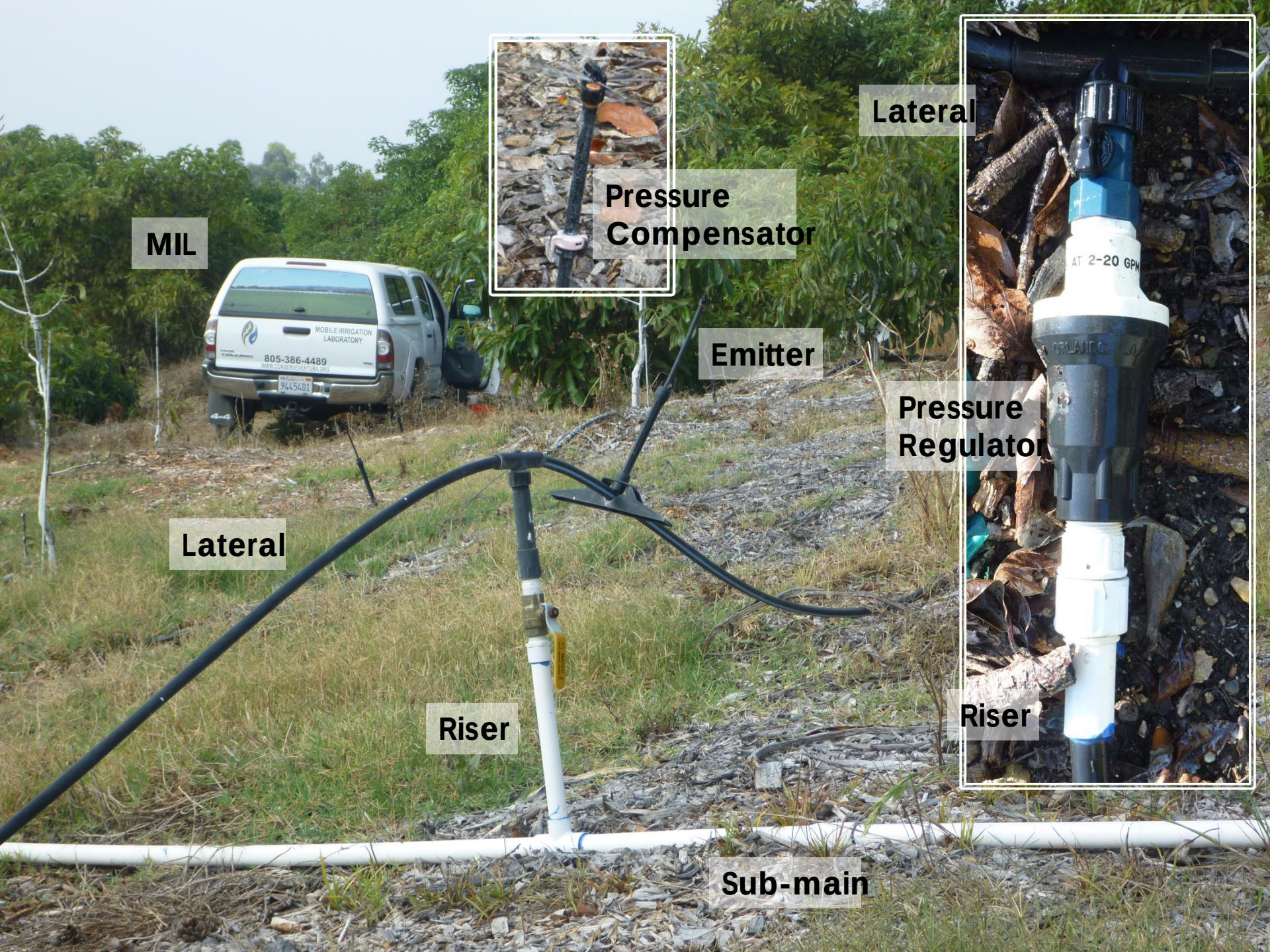
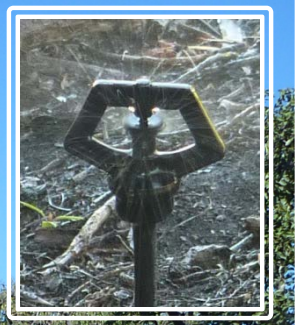
3380 Somis Road, Somis, CA 93066
805-764-5130
www.vcrcd.org

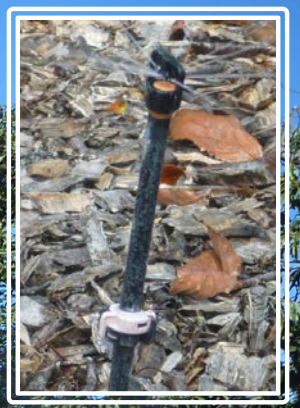
MIL Background

- Program resumed about 5 years ago
- Built up a base of clients and contacts
- Current funding from a Prop84 Ag Water Quality Grant from the Regional Board through Mar ‘14
- Future funding from DWR’s Ag Water Use Efficiency Program for areas that may use State Water Project water
- Future work on hobby orchards, etc. through Casitas Water District in Ventura River Watershed


Lateral
Pressure Compensator
MIL
Emitter
Pressure Regulator
Lateral
Riser
Riser
Sub-main
MOBILE IRRIGATION LABORATORY
805-386-4489
AT 2-20 GPM


Flow Meter
Injection Valve
Flush-out Valve
MATCO
600WOG-150SWP
Main Line





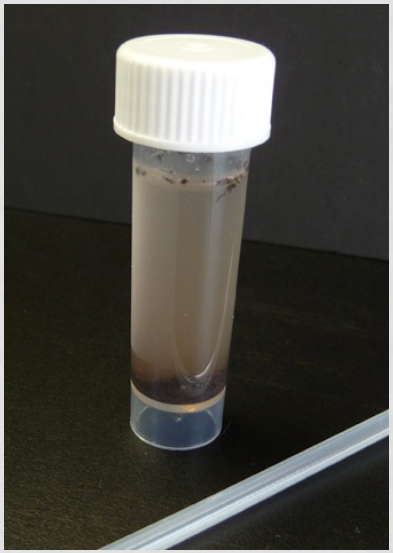
Other Information:

- Tree Health, Age, Spacing
- Lateral Length, Flushing
- Emitter Density, Plugging
- Wetted Area, Pattern

Monitoring Soil and Irrigation Water Nitrate

Nitrate (NO_3^-) is a common nitrogen source in fertilizers and is also naturally produced in soil as bacteria mineralize organic matter.

Nitrate also leaches into groundwater and may end up in your well water.



Nitrate quick tests are fast and
easy BUT only semi-quantitative; they only <u>estimate</u> nitrate levels.

MIL & Cost Share

IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY EVALUATIONS

ROW CROPS NURSERY ORCHARDS

The Ventura County RCD is offering FREE irrigation evaluations, nutrient and Best Management Practice recommendation for producers in Ventura County. This program is part of the RCD's efforts to assist landowners and producers with water efficiency, water quality, and BMP issues.

"IT'S YOUR MONEY"

CALL TODAY TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

Ventura County RCD
Irrigation Efficiency and BMP Program
Vic Akundzadeh, Irrigation Specialist
805-764-5136 Office
805-216-3641 Mobile
vic.akund@gmail.com

Program partners:

UCCE
Ventura County Farm Bureau
Ventura County Agricultural Irrigated Lands Group
NRCS
RCD
LARWQCB

Water Boards

"Funding for this program has been provided in full or in part through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board"

MOBILE IRRIGATION LABORATORY (MIL) COST SHARE PROGRAM

ASSISTING AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS WITH IRRIGATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

This Program is intended to promote Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation for irrigation and nutrient management. Eligible participants include owners and operators of nursery, row crops, and orchard operations.

As funding allows, upon review of applicants' expenditures, applicants will be reimbursed for:

- Up to 50% of eligible equipment costs for agricultural operations
- Additional 25% coverage of eligible equipment costs with an increase in irrigation efficiency
- Additional 25% coverage of eligible equipment costs with a reduction in water usage

Types of Qualifying Equipment:

- Tensiometers
- Atmometers
- Pressure compensating emitters and filters
- Soil moisture sensors
- Salinity sensors
- Drip and micro irrigation systems
- Valves
- Emitters/nozzles
- Irrigation Controllers
- Other equipment as approved by the RCD

(not to include consultant fees or leased equipment)

RESOURCE

Contact Jamie Whiteford at the RCD for a FREE irrigation evaluation and for more details on how to apply for cost share funding:

Resource Conservation District
3380 Somis Rd
Somis, CA 93066
office: 805-764-5132
mobile: 951-334-4097

Water Boards

Outreach Efforts

- Monthly TGIF Ag BBQ
- VCAILG Educational Events & follow up evaluation forms
- Farm Bureau meetings
- Annual RCD Ag Appreciation BBQ
- Annual RCD Awards Luncheon
- Targeted outreach to growers through breakfast meetings
- Ag Email Distribution List
- Watershed Council Meetings
- Posters at UCCE offices
- Posters placed at locations around the County
- Farm Bureau newsletter

Summary

- Prop84 Grant – 92 evals completed
- Average DU ~0.75, industry standard 0.85
- 11 evals done in Ventura River Watershed, 3 more on the schedule in the upcoming months

Challenges

- Quickly draining soils
- Soils dry quickly
- Different soil moisture sensors, include granular matrix
- Type, dielectric sensors, tensiometer (moisture determination)
- Looking for funding to determine appropriateness of each
- Technology in quickly draining Ojai soils