

# INNOVATIVE WATER MANAGEMENT AWARD

2019

## River Garden Farms

The 2019 recipient of the Innovative Water Management Award is **River Garden**

**Farms**. River Garden Farms manages 15,000 acres of corn, walnuts, rice, alfalfa, sunflowers, safflower

and wheat on the west side of the Sacramento River in Yolo and Colusa Counties. River Garden Farms has been family owned and operated since 1964, currently directed by second- and third- generation owners. The ownership team is dedicated to the local community and collaborative efforts with a diverse group of partners to improve the environment and promote species recovery in the Sacramento Valley. On the farm, there has been a long-standing commitment to managing resources and investments to make environmental improvements. River Garden Farms has screened their Sacramento River diversions, allowing them to divert water year-round while protecting Chinook salmon and other species of fish. In addition, the farm has a substantial fall and winter program to manage land and water to provide habitat for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds and other Pacific Flyway species.



Most recently, River Garden Farms has expanded its efforts both in scope and geography to provide environmental benefits that are realized throughout the Sacramento Valley.

In 2017, River Garden Farms was the primary funding entity and manager of an innovative project in Redding, hundreds of river miles upstream from the farm, to install shelter structures for juvenile salmon. River Garden has increased its fall and winter management operations to participate in a groundbreaking program to grow food in harvested fields for juvenile salmon. River Garden Farms has also created a non-profit entity to help fund future environmental projects and programs in the Sacramento Valley. In addition to these activities and ones planned for the future, River Garden Farms remains committed to promoting educational opportunities on the farm through tours, programs with local schools and studies and pilot programs to improve water and land management.

**THE INNOVATIVE MANAGEMENT AWARD** is given by the NCWA President to an individual (or organization) who has demonstrated innovation and creativity in advancing water management in the Sacramento Valley.

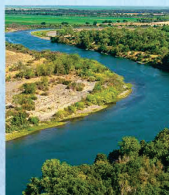
### Previous Recipients



2018  
**Grant Davids**



2017  
**Paul Bartkiewicz**



2016  
**Sacramento River Settlement Contractors**



2015  
**Max Sakato**



2014  
**Walter Cotter**



2013  
**Fran Borcalli**