

Central Modoc RCD Upper Pit Watershed



Amount Funded: \$196,330
Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$57,500

Background

The Pit River Watershed is a significant tributary to the Sacramento River. The main stem Pit River has been identified by the EPA as impaired due to nutrient loading, low dissolved oxygen, and high temperatures. Sediment is also a concern. A watershed-wide assessment is under way to collect data to support initiation of a comprehensive watershed plan.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Establishing a coalition in the Upper Pit River Watershed to meet the needs of local landowners who must comply with the Irrigated Lands Waiver Program.
- ◆ Coordinating with the Pit River Watershed Alliance to promote the Pit River Watershed Assessment, prepare grant application packages and prepare a Pit River Watershed Management Plan.
- ◆ Developed a partnership with Ducks Unlimited on two planned projects (South Fork at Likely, Phase II and Pit River Land and Cattle Company Wetland and Riparian Restoration). Coordinator is also contracting for a proposed project on the Department of Fish and Game's allotment on Fitzhugh Creek.



Blair Parrot, Watershed Coordinator, collecting water quality samples from East Creek in Upper Pit River Watershed.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Improved communications with several local community organizations including the Modoc County Farm Bureau, the UCCE Modoc County Farm Advisor, Modoc County Planning Department and the Modoc County Cattlemen's Associations.

Central Sierra RC&D

Upper Mokelumne Watershed



Amount Funded: \$311,591

Additional Funding Obtained to Date:

Background

The watershed's condition varies from pristine riparian habitats in some locations to other areas that have been significantly impacted by deforestation. Also, past practices such as gold mining have adversely affected the quality of water and continue to pose problems for wildlife and people. Residential communities are growing rapidly, exerting pressure on the environment. Recreational users, commercial entities, and agricultural operations add to the impact on the watershed. The diversity of interests requires a coordinated approach to ensure that resources remain available for future generations.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Sponsored and assisted in the formation of a local watershed education organization (Stewardship through Education or STE), which will deliver watershed science learning activities to students in the classroom and out in the field. Curriculum will present information on water quality, water conservation, erosion control, fire issues, and effective ways of building partnerships within a community. STE crafted and obtained funding for an Upper Mokelumne Watershed Authority grant to implement Watershed Youth Stewardship Project, \$46,262.
- ◆ Assisted county in developing and adopting grading ordinances to protect water quality. Coordinator and partners participated in outreach events, meetings, and rewriting local grading ordinances and Best Management Practices (BMPs). Coordinator increased cooperation and communication between residents, government agencies, and local watershed groups.
- ◆ Participated in numerous outreach activities including a watershed tours, information booth at Lumberjack Days in West Point, Alpine County Creek Days, Glencoe's Fall Harvest Festival, May Watershed Festival, and other daylong events.
- ◆ Developed, trained, and supported local volunteer water quality monitoring groups. More than 20 volunteers broken down into teams monitor five geographical areas every three months. The data will be used to identify problems and develop projects. Assisted with Upper Calaveras River Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Team training utilizing members from the Ebbets Pass Forest Watch.



STE Watershed Poster Winners participated in Watershed Tour hosted by EBMUD.

- ◆ Initiated and established public education and recreation committees focused on improving watershed education, public outreach to local schools and communities, and public access and recreational planning within the watershed.
- ◆ Assisted local agricultural producers to develop a watershed coalition and written Watershed Evaluation Reports for both Upper Mokelumne River and Upper Calaveras River watersheds to aid in compliance with the Agricultural Waiver Program and water quality protection requirements.
- ◆ Provided project leadership and assistance to the Burson Water Committee for funding of a Water Feasibility and Alternatives Analysis using DHS funds to secure potable water for the Burson community. Many private wells are contaminated and residents need alternatives.
- ◆ Worked with CalTrans to initiate erosion control and slope remediation activities on a slope failure project at the Middle Fork Mokelumne Bridge.



May Watershed Festival participants learn from watershed models.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Initiated and established public education and recreation committees, which are focused on improving watershed education, conducting outreach within the community, and providing residents with access to recreational sites within the watershed. Assisted County staff in training local contractors on grading permits and water quality protection requirements. This effort will improve water quality protection measures within Amador and Calaveras counties. Participated in many outreach events and activities. Planned and conducted watershed tours, which provided an excellent forum to educate local leaders on critical issues within the watershed. Set up an informational booth at the Lumberjack Days event in West Point, the Alpine County Creek Day event, and at the Fall Harvest Festival in Glencoe. Facilitated and participated in the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Council meetings. Attended the Calaveras County Water District Master Plan community outreach meetings for the West Point Services area. Provided input and recommendations on many issues including how best to meet the community’s long-term water needs, disposing of wastewater, and developing an effective water conservation plan. Provided liaison services between governmental agencies, private groups, and local landowners. Assisted in mediation efforts between a landowner and a housing development where runoff was impacting the landowner’s ranch.

Drinking Water Quality – Established a local Watershed Water Quality Monitoring Program. Trained more than 20 volunteers who will be collecting data at three-month intervals. Also provided support to similar projects in adjacent watersheds to ensure a regional approach and strengthen collaboration. Held four public meetings to



Water Quality Monitoring Training was provided to over 20 volunteers.

provide information and support to local irrigators for the formation of local agricultural irrigation advisory committee. Worked with CalTrans to maintain erosion sites and reduce sediment input into Middle Fork Mokelumne River from past highway construction activities.

Science – Submitted a \$1.1 million grant proposal under the CALFED Science Program. If funded, the grant would provide temperature and flow modeling for climate change predictions, improve water diversion management, water quality monitoring, and ecological protection.

Chowchilla-Red Top RCD

Upper Chowchilla-Upper Fresno / Middle San Joaquin-Lower Chowchilla Watersheds



Amount Funded: \$176,430

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$2,100

Background

Abundant wildlife, diverse topography, and cascading rivers epitomize these watersheds. Increased population densities, past practices, and an infusion of noxious weeds jeopardize their long-term health. Like many forested areas, fuel loads are growing at an alarming rate and rivers are being inundated by sedimentation. It is imperative that a coordinated, collaborative approach be taken to address these issues. The watershed coordinator will ensure that stakeholders from both watersheds work together to address the natural resource concerns of the local community.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Facilitator for the Central Sierra Watershed Committee, an organization instrumental in bringing together diverse groups and approaching issues on a regional basis. The committee recently developed a brochure for property owners that provide landowners with guidance on water conservation, fire protection, septic systems, and erosion control. Printed more than 32,000 copies for distribution.
- ◆ Wrote an article on well testing that was printed and distributed throughout the watershed.
- ◆ Conducted an aerial reconnaissance of the watershed to identify heavy concentrations of *Arundo donax*.
- ◆ Subcommittee chairperson of the Sierra-San Joaquin Noxious Weed Alliance responsible for distributing a Field Guide to Noxious Weeds throughout the community. Provided training to Sierra Telephone Company and the Ponderosa Telephone Company. Distributed more than 180 books.
- ◆ Organized the Oakhurst River Parkway Creek Stewardship Day. Attendees will clean up debris and trash along the riverbank and participate in diverse watershed activities.



Aerial photo of the Arundo in the Berenda Slough in Chowchilla.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Provided information on water conservation, noxious invasive weeds, and fuel reduction to 10 community groups including two rotary clubs, a Lions club, the Kiwanis, and several schools. Attended meetings on water storage, water conservation, water recycling, and water quality. Existing partnerships were solidified and new ones established. Distributed brochures throughout the community and provided guidance to local residents.

Ecosystem Restoration – Planned a river cleanup where local residents will remove debris and trash from the riverbank. Interest in the event has been very good.

Storage/Water Transfers – Attended many meetings regarding water storage and water transfers. In the process of arranging speakers from various groups to discuss these subjects to the community at a town hall type water conference/public workshop.

Coastal San Luis RCD

Central Coast Watershed



Amount Funded: \$165,977

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$664,302

Background

There are three active and significant areas within the Central Coast Watershed: Morro Bay, Arroyo Grande Creek, and San Luis Obispo Creek. These water bodies suffer to a greater or lesser extent from pathogens, siltation, metals, nutrients, and turbidity. A combination of agricultural practices, resource extraction, land disposal, and urban runoff contribute to these conditions.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ A \$315,000 grant was awarded to the district to complete an Erosion, Sedimentation and Flood Alternatives Study for Arroyo Grande Creek. The first technical advisory team meeting was held in March 2005, and included representatives from 15 separate federal, state and local agencies, as well as local landowners.
- ◆ Five projects were completed under the Moro Bay Partners in Restoration Program (permit coordination) during the first year. These projects will prevent over 1,600 tons of sediment per year from being transported downstream into riparian and wetland habitats.
- ◆ Coordinated permits, funding and monitoring necessary for a California Conservation Corps crew to conduct vegetation management within the Arroyo Grande Creek Flood Control Channel in December 2004. This work helped to reduce the risk of catastrophic flooding to adjacent farmland and residences, and enhance tree shading for the active stream channel.
- ◆ A website for the Arroyo Grande Creek Zone 1/1A Flood Control Advisory Committee was created and is updated on an ongoing basis to serve as an information resource about Arroyo Grande Creek flood control channel issues. This website is hosted on an NRCS server and can be found at www.coastalrhd.org/Zone1-1A.html
- ◆ A \$236,990 grant from the State Water Resources Control Board and the Coastal Conservancy is providing funding to design and implement best management practices in the Arroyo Grande and Pismo Lake watersheds.



Chorro Creek Bank Stabilization – native plants and trees were planted between the bio-logs.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts' Annual Conference was hosted by Coastal San Luis RCD in November 2004. The watershed coordinator helped plan the conference, which was attended by over 250 district directors and staff. The conference highlighted the district's innovative land conservation practices and strategies during field tours, panel discussions and breakout sessions.

The Pennington Creek Highway 1 Baffle Modification project was completed in the third quarter. This project was an interim solution to improve steelhead passage pending redesign of the highway, and involved collaboration between the RCD, Fish and Game, NOAA Fisheries, the Morro Bay National Estuary Program, Caltrans and the California Conservation Corps.

The RCD has developed a countywide Envirothon Program and secured grant funding to cover the costs of the first annual competition. This project will promote local watershed stewardship and watershed education.

The RCD is sponsoring steelhead trout barrier removal projects at Pennington and Dairy Creeks. These projects will open up over eight miles of high quality steelhead habitat in the Chorro Creek Watershed on a long-term basis.

Coordinated a television broadcast on local public television of the Arroyo Grande Watershed Forum and the Walking Tour of Arroyo Grande Creek. A result of these broadcasts was increased community participation in local watershed planning efforts.

Drinking Water Quality – Completed a bank stabilization project on Chorro Creek that reduced sedimentation. This has helped the City of Morro Bay, which occasionally relies on Chorro Valley wells for its municipal water supply.

The Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed Assessment and Flooding Alternatives Study being undertaken by the RCD will evaluate long-term sustainable flood channel maintenance, which will help protect the Arroyo Grande wastewater treatment plant from flooding.



A CCC crew installing willow stakes and bundles to stabilize the stream bank at Chorro Flats.

Colusa County RCD
Upper Cache Watershed
(Sub Watershed Bear Creek)



Amount Funded: \$127,317
Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$58,202

Background

The 24-mile Bear Creek drainage is a rare aquatic ecosystem that supports four native fishes, western pond turtles, and yellow-legged frogs. It is an important corridor for neotropical migratory birds, and biological inventories have documented 33 other special status plants and animals. The California Unified Watershed Assessment has identified several areas of concern for Bear Creek: non-functioning riparian communities, habitat degradation from non-native species, and impaired water quality.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Facilitated tamarisk control on three properties in cooperation with landowners, American Land Conservancy, and California Rangeland Trust. The work covered tamarisk control over several miles along Sulphur and Bear Creeks.
- ◆ Planned and coordinated a “pollinator corridor” to revegetate tamarisk-cleared areas. Over 40 species of plants are being used and evaluated for native plant restoration, erosion control, and habitat enhancement for birds, butterflies, and pollinators.
- ◆ Established research that is designed to test saline water irrigation from Sulphur Creek to promote two perennial native grass species (creeping wildrye and saltgrass) and suppress exotic annual grasses.
- ◆ Negotiated with Wilbur Hot Springs, American Land Conservancy, and a livestock lessee to construct a livestock exclusion fence in an area known for high levels of mercury and soil erosion.
- ◆ Solicited and obtained the assistance of many volunteers and professional consultants for weed control projects, ecological inventories, and erosion control.



Revegetation test plot on Sulphur Creek.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Developed new partnerships with the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Janis Cooke) and Pacific Watershed Alliance (John Green) to address soil erosion and mercury issues, and lay the foundation for a watershed assessment.

Developed three PowerPoint presentations on the work being done in the Sulphur and Bear Creek Watersheds and gave talks to Janis Cooke, the RCD board of directors, and a graduate class at UC Davis.

Completed a 50-page, pictorial-narrative handbook for resort visitors at Wilbur Hot Springs on watershed stewardship work that has been conducted there.

Ecosystem Restoration – Coordinator served as a member of the BLM’s technical advisory committee for the Cache Creek Natural Area Management Plan, and provided information on grazing management and how livestock could be used as a tool to manage invasive plants.

Supervised monitoring and data collection to evaluate a wick-irrigation system for establishing native shrubs, trees, and vines in Sulphur Creek. Coordinator also completed the first year of a research project to evaluate saline irrigation to increase native perennial grasses and decrease exotic annuals.

Obtained funding from the Genetic Resources Conservation Program at UC Davis to continue an invasive plant removal program on the Bear Creek Botanical Management Area. This is a key demonstration site in the watershed that supports over 100 native prairie plants.



Removing invasive plants from the Bear Creek Botanical Management Area along Highway 20.

Contra Costa Public Works Department

San Joaquin Delta Watershed



Amount Funded: \$215,959

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$35,689

Background

This is one of the fastest urbanizing watersheds in California. Consequently, ever increasing amounts of polluted run-off is entering the Delta – the water supply for over 20 million people. The watershed is also home to numerous unique special status terrestrial plant and animal species. Agriculture is an important element of the landscape, economy and cultural heritage. Recognizing the need for cooperation, Contra Costa County is implementing a new Stormwater Management Plan. However, much more needs to be done to address critical issues such as flooding, erosion, and diminishing habitat.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Worked with partners to develop strategies to reduce the sediment load in Kellogg Creek. The project has been extremely beneficial because it has brought together groups that have not collaborated on projects in the past.
- ◆ Attended the Best Management Practices for Agricultural Water Quality Field Day. Provided an opportunity to meet local growers and to learn about on-farm management practices that improve water quality and wildlife habitat.
- ◆ Coordinated meetings and field tours with irrigation district staff to gather information on local agricultural practices and irrigation infrastructure, and to publicize information on federal and state incentive programs to implement water conservation and tail water reduction programs.
- ◆ Improved water quality in the San Joaquin Delta Watershed and increased awareness of Marsh Creek Watershed by helping to organize the largest Marsh Creek clean-up event with over 350 community members who picked up over 6,000 lbs. of trash.
- ◆ Increased awareness of the Marsh Creek Watershed by writing three major articles for local and regional newspapers. Also wrote a feature article for a local magazine on salmon monitoring and restoration projects in the Marsh Creek Watershed.
- ◆ Organized or helped coordinate five volunteer monitoring events; two community programs to monitor spawning salmon, two benthic macroinvertebrate sampling days with Contra Costa County and one water quality and benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring day with over 30 Freedom High School chemistry students.



Marsh Creek Clean-up Volunteers.

- ◆ Worked to improve riparian habitat along Marsh Creek by coordinating with local government agencies and developers to incorporate BMPs and riparian restoration project into the 563-unit Pinn Brothers housing development along Marsh Creek.
- ◆ Increased awareness of the Marsh Creek Watershed by speaking to 25 high school students about working to improve the creek at Freedom High School’s First Annual Career Fair. Recruited six participants to get involved.
- ◆ Helped determine water quality in the San Joaquin Delta by working with Contra Costa County to coordinate East County volunteer Benthic Macroinvertebrate training.



High School students monitoring benthic macro invertebrates.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Helped recruit, organize and facilitate monthly Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed meetings to protect and restore the watershed, which flows directly into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Worked with community members to organize watershed events such as creek clean-ups, removal of invasive vegetation along the creek banks, and water quality and spawning Chinook salmon monitoring programs. More than 6,000 pounds of trash was removed from Marsh Creek during a clean-up event that involved more than 350 volunteers.

Ecosystem Restoration – Discussed the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) on a local landowner’s property that will complement a drainage project already planned. A discharge pump will be moved so that water leaving the landowner’s property will enter the drainage system at a different location, thereby reducing the amount of sedimentation that flows into Rock Slough, which is a source of drinking water for Contra Costa County residents. The BMPs, if implemented, will make this process more efficient by limiting runoff and redirecting the remaining runoff towards the pump’s new location. The watershed coordinator has been instrumental in reaching out to the community and educating them on the benefits of adopting BMPs. Continued efforts toward maintaining and enhancing fish populations critical to commercial, sport, and recreational fisheries by working to remove a fish barrier on Marsh Creek to allow migrating Chinook salmon and steelhead trout to access seven miles of additional spawning habitat. Worked to increase habitat for threatened species such as the California red-legged frog, rehabilitate the natural hydrology, stream channel and floodplain, and protect and restore functional riparian habitats by working with a developer, the City of Brentwood and the Contra Costa County Flood Control



Performing a Laser Land Survey to determine the feasibility of using this Best Management Practice on the property.

and Water Conservation District to restore 1,900 linear feet of riparian habitat along Marsh Creek in downtown Brentwood, one of the fastest growing cities in California.

Science – Integrating unbiased, relevant science into all water quality and benthic macroinvertebrate data collection and salmon monitoring programs in the Marsh Creek Watershed. Using this data and scientific information to guide decisions and evaluate actions to improve and protect water quality in the San Joaquin Delta and restore riparian habitat along Marsh Creek.

Contra Costa RCD Suisun Bay Watershed



Amount Funded: \$188,730

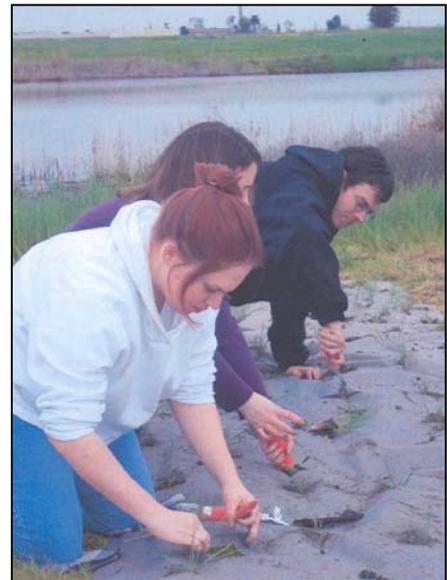
Additional Funding Obtained: \$33,004

Background

The Suisun Bay watershed includes rangeland, protected wetlands, state and regional parks, and urban areas. Invasive non-native plants are a widespread problem in the watershed, decreasing upland and riparian habitat value. Trash and illegal dumping impair creeks throughout the region, and several creeks also have serious erosion and sedimentation problems. Water quality is also a significant concern with the California Unified Watershed Assessment assigning the watershed a Category 1 priority.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Coordinator wrote, edited and distributed a regional newsletter for the Suisun Bay watersheds (250 circulation).
- ◆ In cooperation with Contra Costa County, carried out three GPS surveys of creeks in the Kirker Creek Watershed.
- ◆ Coordinated five native planting/seed collection days in the Alhambra Creek Watershed.
- ◆ Planned and coordinated monthly weed removal efforts at Strentzel Meadow.
- ◆ Partnered with local schools to provide bioassessment training to teachers and students in a Kirker Creek subwatershed.
- ◆ Coordinated and helped conduct creek clean up projects in both the Kirker and Alhambra Creek Watersheds.
- ◆ Completed a new outreach brochure for the Alhambra Creek Watershed Council.
- ◆ Worked with “Partners for the Watershed” to carry out two native planting days on Kirker Creek.
- ◆ Updated and maintained a website to provide conservation information to communities in the watershed.



Los Medanos College students plant native bunchgrass at Dow Wetlands, Kirker Creek Watershed.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Worked with school cooperators to integrate restoration activities into the local curriculum.

Wrote or helped develop four grant proposals to support community-based restoration efforts.

Attended numerous meetings of regional conservation and watershed groups.

Participated in ten community outreach events.

Assisted the Alhambra Valley Creek Coalition carry out its strategic planning process at stakeholder meetings.

Ecosystem Restoration – Collaborated with the Alhambra Creek Environmental Education Collaborative to bring students and other community volunteers together to work on the Sky Ranch restoration site.

Awarded \$10,000 in mitigation funding to enhance habitat along Kirker Creek.

Coordinated numerous restoration events in the Kirker Creek and Alhambra Creek Watersheds. These activities included invasive plant removal, planting native species in riparian and upland areas, and several creek clean-ups.

Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy

Mill-Big Chico Watershed



Amount Funded: \$192,099

Additional Funding Obtained: \$38,170

Background

Deer Creek is a pristine watershed that possesses one of California's few remaining populations of wild Spring-run Chinook salmon. In the southern portion of the watershed, farmers grow a variety of crops. Both wildlife and agriculture need water to survive and thrive. Consequently, water management is absolutely critical and requires a comprehensive, collaborative approach. Changes in land use contribute to erosion and runoff. The watershed is characterized by a diversity of natural resources and competing stakeholder interests. As the population increases, so will the challenges.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Encouraged and supported Best Management Practices (BMPs) within the Deer Creek Watershed by facilitating and successfully completing the rangeland grant.
- ◆ Identified and prioritized erosion and sedimentation worksites for Phase II of the Deer Creek Watershed Erosion and Sedimentation Project by facilitating field trips with board members and representatives from government agencies.
- ◆ Provided assistance and support for the formation of the Shasta-Tehama Water Education Coalition (STWEC), a non-profit organization dedicated to water quality education and monitoring with the goal of reducing non-point pollution.
- ◆ Coordinated annual meeting and public workshop to discuss and present information on watershed issues to local stakeholders including topics on water quality, fisheries, STWEC, and an overview of current projects.



Phase II of the Deer Creek Watershed Erosion and Sediment Control Project will reduce the adverse impact from high flows.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Coordinated board meetings and invited agency representatives to discuss and prioritize watershed needs and set management goals within the watershed. Reviewed objectives set forth in the Watershed Management Strategy and began to outline and revise priorities. Expanded the organization's mailing list to ensure local residents are informed about important issues. Member of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Tehama/Glenn Fire Management Plan and attends the Tehama

County Fire Safe Council meetings. Both organizations provide an ideal forum to address the community's concern over potentially devastating fires.

Ecosystem Restoration – Held discussions and facilitated field trips with governmental agencies to identify and prioritize erosion and sedimentation work sites for Phase II of the Deer Creek Watershed Erosion and Sedimentation Project.

Water Transfers – Submitted a grant proposal and received funding for the installation of a Denil-type fish ladder on the Cone-Kimball diversion Dam located on lower Deer Creek. Working with agencies and other partner on the permit process. Once completed, ground work will begin.

Science – Completed drafts for both the Monitoring Plan and the Modeling Plan for the Restoration and Flood Management project. Both were distributed for review. Completed detailed cross section surveys on Deer Creek.

Provided support to a project that installed tracer gravel transects and measured the tracer gravel movements from a high-flow event. Assisted with the installation and monitoring of crest-stage gauges for the Restoration and Flood Management project. Completed a draft Hydrology/Geomorphology existing conditions technical memorandum. Finished a data catalog containing existing Deer Creek references/resources.



The Cone-Kimball Diversion Dam will soon be reconstructed with a fish ladder. This will allow fish to reach the water above the dam during periods when irrigation diversions occur.

Earth Resource Foundation

Santa Ana Watershed



Amount Funded: \$178,135

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$6,500

Background

The Santa Ana is the largest river in Southern California and has a significant impact on residents throughout the region. Agriculture, industrial, and residential demands for water is intense and will only grow. Due to population growth, water usage will surge by a more than 40% over the next 50 years. In the 1980's the federal government determined that the river posed the greatest risk for flooding west of the Mississippi and initiated several major projects, including the construction of the Seven Oaks Dam. The river is managed to maximize groundwater recharge. Runoff from urban areas, agricultural operations, and industrial facilities pose health hazards for residents. Many areas are extremely urbanized with little open space. Debris and other trash flow toward the ocean, polluting beaches. Some areas along the river have little natural habitat.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Held Santiago Creek Week during March 2005. The event involved four nonprofit organizations, the County of Orange, City of Santa Ana, and the City of Orange. Activities included history walks, butterfly and bird watching, a festival, an extensive tour, and a visioning workshop for the watershed.
- ◆ Received a grant from the University of California at Santa Barbara to develop a watershed plan focusing on water conservation and efficiency.
- ◆ Implemented “Working at the Watershed Level” program at five high school science classes/clubs.
- ◆ Collaborated on three grants with the City of Santa Ana for restoration and water conservation.
- ◆ Worked with Orange County Water District, Municipal Water District of Orange County, and several nonprofit groups at monthly strategy meetings to identify sources of funding for water conservation and restoration.
- ◆ Participated in the Human Broom Cleanup which involved 125 high school students who picked up more than 300 bags of trash at the mouth of the Santa Ana River.
- ◆ Founded a watershed association for the entire Santa Ana Watershed whose primary focus is water conservation with over 265 stakeholders.



Human Broom Beach Cleanup over 125 high school students at the mouth of the Santa Ana River.

- ◆ Organized a river cleanup that involved more than 150 volunteers. More than 300 bags of trash were removed from the first four miles of the Santa Ana River.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Received a grant from the Bren School of Environmental Management for analysis of Alternative Watershed Strategies Addressing Water Conservation, Water Quality, and Land Management. Worked with partners to develop a strategy team to determine the benefits of forming a Resource Conservation District in Orange County. Created the Santa Ana River Watershed Alliance (SARWA) to ensure that stakeholder concerns were addressed and to facilitate communication among local groups. Served on committee for Inner Coastal Cleanup Day securing sponsorships and advertisements, recruiting volunteers, and distributing promotional materials throughout the area. Worked with The Wildlands Conservancy to identify watershed problems and concerns so that viable solutions can be developed that benefit the community and local residents. Coordinated with the Orange County Green Vision Project to map Orange County areas of concern within the watershed. Working with the Orange County Coastkeepers, Clean Water Team, Surfrider, and the Citizens Watershed Monitors of Orange County regarding water testing, bioassessment, and other monitoring sites.

Ecosystem Restoration – Worked with the City of Santa Ana to write three grants that focused on restoration projects throughout the watershed. Planned, organized, designed, and planted native plant garden at Pico Elementary School in Santa Ana. The event included more than 100 students and 30 volunteers. Identified five key projects for ecosystem restoration focusing on arrundo removal, ground water replenishment, lighting enclosed creeks, habitat, and wetland restoration. These projects were identified to meet the needs of the community and to address stakeholder concerns within the watershed. Also continued to reach out to local residents and expand the organization’s volunteer database.



Santiago Creek

Science – Implemented the “Working in the Watershed” level program in five high schools. Assisted with the Human Broom Beach Cleanup. More than 300 bags of trash were collected. Urban refuse was identified and categorized to better understand the problem and to develop appropriate long-term solutions. Identified 20 sites for urban refuse collection and analysis for the “Working at the Watershed” high school program along the Santa Ana River. This is a critical activity that must be completed before recruitment can begin of high schools.