

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

Santa Monica Bay Watershed



Amount Funded: \$230,892

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$14,325

Background

Ballona Creek drains a watershed of about 127 square miles and is the largest drainage tributary to Santa Monica Bay. The watershed has historically experienced, and continues to experience, a significant growth in population and related demand for housing, business development and coastal amenities. Also, decreased natural land surfaces have reduced infiltration of rainfall and the replenishment of groundwater. As a result, the use and reliance on imported water has increased dramatically.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Conduct monthly watershed walks. These walks invite residents to explore and become familiar with different conditions of the watershed, thus expanding the base of people who understand the complexities of urban and ecological issues facing Santa Monica Bay. Participation in these walks varies from five to 25 people.
- ◆ Revived the Task Force Education and Funding Committees for Ballona Creek. The Funding Committee has refocused its efforts on project implementation and the Education Committee has completed a draft marketing plan for a public outreach campaign.
- ◆ Facilitated several different stakeholder group meetings where controversial issues were discussed. These included the fresh water marsh at Playa Vista, a styrofoam ban in the City of Malibu, and revision of the Rec-1 Beneficial Uses.
- ◆ Made a presentation to the Compton Creek Watershed Task Force/Community Action Team on wetland resources and stream restoration.
- ◆ Co-lead a discussion panel on the topic of community outreach at an Urban Watersheds Conference sponsored by Heal the Bay.
- ◆ Made two separate presentations to the Dominguez Watershed Advisory Committee regarding natural resources and potential restoration opportunities in the Ballona Watershed; and on the strengths and weaknesses of watershed councils and their various structures.
- ◆ Made a presentation to the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council on community outreach and the potential for stream daylighting to re-establish habitat and community.



January's watershed walk featured Ballona Creek as it passes through mid city.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Partnered with the watershed coordinator for Malibu Creek, the non-profit organization Mid-Cities Neighborhood Council, North East Trees, UCLA’s Institute of the Environment, Heal the Bay, and the City of Los Angeles to prepare and submit nine grant proposals totaling \$23,706,720.

Working with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission to identify and recruit co-sponsors for a federal cost share agreement for the Lower Ballona Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. Estimated in-kind has been developed, sample letters of intent and a memorandum of understanding have been drafted, and meetings with the Army Corps and Culver City occurred during the reporting period.

Expanded the base of stakeholders for the Ballona Creek Watershed Task Force by 18 members.

Napa County RCD San Pablo Bay Watershed



Amount Funded: \$228,139

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$1,685,526

Background

The Napa River drains a 426 square mile watershed that discharges directly into San Pablo Bay. The Napa River and its tributaries support a diverse and almost entirely intact community of 16 native fish species, including steelhead and Chinook salmon. Recognized concerns in the river include water diversions, storm runoff, stream bank instability, lack of riparian vegetation, in filling of pools, loss of wetland, woodland and riparian area habitat, and overall habitat fragmentation and degradation.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ A cumulative total of \$1,685,526 has been obtained through various federal, state, and local programs to support the restoration, protection and enhancement of water quality, fish & wildlife habitat, natural stream processes and community relationships in the Napa River watershed.
- ◆ Completed the fourth year of well-level monitoring in Carneros Creek watershed.
- ◆ County-wide coordination and support of Watershed Awareness Month events and outreach.
- ◆ County-wide watershed maps and aerial photography delineating sub-watershed boundaries posted and available to the public on the WICC WebCenter.
- ◆ Four watershed organization administrators trained on the use and administration of group information on the WICC WebCenter.
- ◆ Initiated crafting of a creek care guide.
- ◆ Conducted photo-monitoring of restoration projects in Sulphur Creek Watershed. Also assisted a partner agency develop a method and database for measuring implementation of BMPs related to reducing non-point sources of pollution from businesses and construction sites.



Fish barrier removal project on Heath Canyon Creek – August 2004.



Culverts removed and replaced with free spanning railcar bridge – January 2005.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Watershed Management Plans completed for three Napa River sub-watersheds (Selby Creek, Sulphur Creek, and Carneros Creek). Each plan includes an assessment and implementation approach for on-the-ground watershed projects.

Created and launched the Watershed Information Center & Conservancy WebCenter (www.napawatersheds.org).

Development of a Watershed Forum to provide networking opportunities for diverse stakeholder groups throughout Napa County.

Ecosystem Restoration – Removed four fish barriers and restored two miles of stream in the Sulphur Creek Watershed for improved steelhead and aquatic species habitat.

Provided assistance and support to the Rutherford Dust Restoration Team in its continuing effort to develop detailed project plans for restoration of 4.5 miles of the Napa River.

Actively pursuing funding for a detailed restoration design along a one-mile reach of Carneros Creek, which supports threatened steelhead trout.

Science – Implemented and expanded a volunteer well-level monitoring program in and around the Carneros Creek watershed.

Collecting, hosting and providing to the public via the WICC WebCenter, scientific information related to the watersheds of Napa County, including various assessments, reports and data.

Nevada County RCD

Lower Bear and Upper Bear Watersheds



Amount Funded: \$232,434

Additional Funding Obtained: \$5,350

Background

The watershed contains over 990 miles of streams, creeks, and rivers. Water flows into the Bear River, which drains in the Sacramento Valley. Like many areas of California, the area is growing rapidly creating tremendous pressure on the environment. Bear River is listed under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act for mercury and diazinon. At one time, rivers teemed with salmon and steelhead, but because of increased pollution, high levels of sedimentation, and low water flows, fish populations have virtually disappeared. Fuel loads have grown enormously. Consequently, thousands of homes are now in danger from wild fires. It is critical that stakeholders work together to address issues on a comprehensive basis.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Worked with partners to plan and conduct 53 outreach events over the past year. Provided an ideal opportunity to reach out to stakeholders throughout the watershed. More than 1,200 people attended. Events included:
 - Forty watershed/natural resource seminars conducted at the Nevada County Fair.
 - Booth at the Gold Country Fair that focused on watershed issues.
 - Soil Erosion Workshop for contractors, city, and county officials.
 - Mercury presentation at the BRWG meeting.
 - Bear River Clean-Up Day.
 - Storm drain marking event.
- ◆ Coordinated and facilitated a large community shaded fuel break project, which reduced fuel, loads in the watershed. The project prevents soil erosion and protects water quality. The fuel break focus area is approximately 16 miles long encompassing 3,000 acres and involved almost 90 landowners.
- ◆ Worked with partners to implement a program that notifies homeowners who are downstream from a wastewater treatment plant in the event of a spill. More than a 100 residents were included in the program.
- ◆ Established two more water quality-monitoring sites on the south fork of Wolf Creek. These sites are important because old mines are being de-watered, which could adversely affect water quality.
- ◆ Planning a project to mark 800 storm drains in the City of Grass Valley with “No Dumping - Drains to Creek” vinyl markers. Two hundred residents have volunteered to come out and participate.



Bear River Watershed Group Meeting with 43 attendees.

Information was distributed to local schools and many of them have also committed to help in the project. In addition, 5,000 door hangers are planned for distribution with the theme “A fish lives on your street” tying in with the storm drain marking event.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Attended over a 100 meetings during the first year of the grant. This has provided an ideal opportunity to meet new partners, strengthen existing relationships, and coordinate on critical community issues. Involved in more than 53 educational outreach events. Coordinated a 16-mile fuel break, which will protect many landowners within the community as well as protect water quality and control soil erosion. Obtained a grant to perform bacteria water quality monitoring for some known 303(d) impacted water bodies and other suspect sites.



Water Management – Coordinated a project/event to mark 800 storm drains in the City of Grass Valley with a “No Dumping – Drains to Creek” vinyl marker. Approximately 200 volunteers will participate. Local schools have also agreed to participate. Educational activities and school assemblies will educate on recycling and water quality issues. Storm water management information was disseminated to 1150 teachers and administrators. Worked with the City of Grass Valley, Nevada County, and interested residents to improve the notification process to downstream residents of the sewage treatment plant in case of an incident. Hosted seminar on Mercury in the Watershed to create awareness and provide information for community members. Promoted information on limiting fish consumption due to mercury. Supported a levee set back on the lower Bear River to reduce flooding downstream and enhance riparian habitat

Water Use Efficiency – Provided landowners hands-on instruction for planting, reducing invasive weeds, and increasing irrigation efficiency. Hosted a seminar on pasture management. Conducted workshops for small scale growers dealing with water quality issues and the Irrigated Lands Waiver issue.

Ecosystem Restoration – Worked with partners on Dry Creek at Beale AFB on a vegetative restoration and planning project for increased fish passage. On-going work and collaboration to modify existing fish ladder to become more effective. Coordinating activities for water quality monitoring to establish baseline data for fish habitat restoration. Provided equipment and training to Beale AFB for the monitoring. So far, almost 10 acres have been restored.



Students participating in a water quality monitoring program on south fork of Wolf Creek.

Science – Students conduct monitoring activities at six sites on the south fork of Wolf Creek and Wolf Creek. Recently, two additional sites were added. The monitoring is critical since a local mine is going to be drained of water and discharged into the creek. Fifteen months of water quality data was submitted to the Technical Advisory Committee for review.

Placer County RCD North Fork American Watershed



Amount Funded: \$234,013

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$554,500

Background

The watershed, which includes both the middle and north forks of the American River, is a key watershed in the Bay-Delta System. Total watershed area is about 950 square miles, with ownership distribution being 3/5 private lands and 2/5 public lands. Threats to watershed health include the potential for catastrophic wildfire resulting from excessive fuels and damage by diseases, increasing population, and land use decisions.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Expanded the American River Watershed Group (ARWG) stakeholder network to 40 signatories of the partnership MOU. An additional 17 individuals or groups have been identified and invited to join.
- ◆ Conducted five watershed tour events with about 80 people attending. The tours visited the Auburn Dam Site and Placer County Water Agency's new pumping plant facility (under construction), Teichert's Cool Cave Quarry, and the Colfax Wastewater Treatment Facility. Attendees included local stakeholders, Sierra Club members, legislative aides, water agency representatives, RCD staff, and a local Boy Scout troop. The tours were part of watershed issue identification and education efforts.
- ◆ Secured an in-kind match and exchange agreement to open a new "Watershed Coordination Center" office in the Canyon View Community Center operated by Auburn Recreation District. The office will open in April.
- ◆ Two local high school teachers and three students participated in citizen volunteer water quality monitoring training with the coordinator. This training will be implemented next quarter at both schools and later in the year so the teachers and students can participate in the Water Education Summit Program.
- ◆ Visited neighboring watershed groups as part of the Regional Watershed Coordination Team, which resulted in several cooperative grant applications.
- ◆ Improved and expanded the ARWG website and the American River Watershed Web Portal with additional organizations, people, events and projects.
- ◆ Worked to strengthen regional GIS coordination and other watershed information and supported the use of historic GIS data in the ARWG website and the new Sediment Dynamics Study.



Stakeholders tour the Auburn Dam site.

- ◆ Facilitated the TAC for the Sediment Dynamics Study to complete a work plan, time plan, and budget for the next two years on the project.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – The coordinator has taken an active role in the CSUS American River Watershed Conference Planning Committee and has prepared abstracts for presentations on watershed coordination in the North Fork American River and on the ARWG Sediment Study. This will reinforce connectivity between the Upper and Lower American River and the Bay Delta System. Partnerships with several CSUS professors are being developed that will help with future research projects in the watershed. Similar contacts with instructors at American River College are also being cultivated.

Monitoring of water quality throughout the watershed is being identified and cataloged. The coordinator is assisting in the preparation of a grant to inventory monitoring networks existent in the watershed for water quality, surface water, ground water, precipitation, and water use. An effort is being undertaken to determine how water is withdrawn from streams in the watershed and transferred inter-basin for various consumptive and non-consumptive uses. Information gathering and reference searching is being conducted with the goal of sharing the results on the web portal.

Science – A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is overseeing the accuracy of the results of the Sediment Study. The results of this sediment study are expected to include an identification of sub watersheds where increased focus on a sediment budget may be needed.

Ecosystem Restoration – The coordinator is exploring alternatives for how Placer County, U.C. Davis, and other groups may be able to help the Bureau of Reclamation implement the restoration plan for the Auburn Dam construction site. Emphasis is on the revegetation plan and preventing non-native invasive species from inundating disturbed areas.

The tour of the Colfax Wastewater Treatment Facility helped initiate implementation and testing of stewardship strategies down stream from the treatment plant by the Friends of Bunch Creek, the Placer County Department of Public Health, and the Central Valley RWQCB. The goal is to determine the extent and severity of any remaining degradation from plant discharges of raw or partially treated sewage during storm events.



Overview of the Auburn Dam site. The Bureau of Reclamation is finalizing plans to reclaim the area.

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains

Santa Monica Bay Watershed



Amount Funded: \$171,542

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$59,495

Background

Malibu Creek is a sub-watershed of the Santa Monica Bay Watershed. Malibu Creek drains a 109 square mile area of the Santa Monica Mountains and Simi Hills, and flows into the Santa Monica Bay via Malibu Lagoon. The watershed features a wide mix of urbanized areas and wildland habitats and is a critical stopover area for migrating birds along the Pacific Flyway. There are nine pollutants of concern for the watershed on the State Water Board's 303(d) impairment list, including a high nutrient/bacteria count. Further impairments include barriers to fish migration, lagoon function, septic tank effluent, use of pesticides and fertilizers, and erosion from on-going construction, development, gardening and animal upkeep practices.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Conducted a very successful watershed tour of Malibu Creek with over 110 participants. The tour resulted in a number of articles about the watershed being published in local newspapers.
- ◆ Provided support to Las Virgenes Municipal Water District in its effort to raise funding to construct a pipeline to redirect reclaimed water draining into a local creek to a golf course for irrigation.
- ◆ Coordinated the hiring of a filmmaker (Larry Nimmer) to produce three 1-hour videos of the 2004 Malibu Creek Watershed Tour for distribution as outreach and education materials.
- ◆ Worked with Mr. Nimmer, the Education Subcommittee and the TMDL Work Group to complete the final draft of the TMDL outreach/documentary video script.
- ◆ Partnered with stakeholders to support the purchase of the 500+ acre SOKA property. This property will be set aside as an open space preserve.
- ◆ Fostered efforts to have the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Malibu Creek Restoration Feasibility Study completed. Removal of Rindge Dam and other upstream fish migration barriers may begin only after the study is finished.



Malibu Lagoon

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Recruited the support of two local communications companies to film the RWQCB's spring Water Quality Conference and have it aired on local cable networks. The program reached an estimated 100,000 households.

Developed diverse partnerships as part of a long-term plan to build an RCD-lead Santa Monica Mountains Watershed Center.

Water Use Efficiency – Partnered with West Basin Municipal Water District and the City of Malibu to promote the use of low flush toilets, water-efficient clothes washers, water brooms and other water conservation measures.

Ecosystem Restoration – Revived the years dormant Habitat and Species Subcommittee and recruited a biologist from NRCS to serve as chair. The subcommittee was subsequently awarded a grant from the City of Malibu and, through cross-agency collaboration, successfully removed a bridge on Sister Creek in Solstice Canyon.

Obtained funding from a Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission PIE grant to create native-scaping projects and promote the use of native plants.

Storage – Partnering with TreePeople to see how best to promote the use of cisterns in the Malibu Canyon Watershed.

Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency Lower American River



Amount Funded: \$ 278,036

Additional Funding Obtained to Date:

Background

The Lower American River Watershed is comprised of three principal watersheds: Lower American River (LAR), Arcade Creek, and Dry Creek. Each watershed is unique and faces its own set of problems and issues. The LAR is dominated by Folsom Dam, which supports 25% of the Central Valley's fall run Chinook salmon population. Water temperature, flow levels, water quality, and habitat conditions are critical to both wildlife and people. Over the year, chemical contaminants such as organophosphate pesticides have entered Arcade Creek and now pose significant health concerns. Not only is improving water quality critical, but so is reducing floods. The area is almost entirely urbanized and any flooding could be catastrophic. Dry Creek is also located in an urbanized area and faces explosive population growth. Invasive weeds are spreading rapidly, water quality deteriorates from polluted storm water runoff, and the risk of flood grows as more sediment enters the creek.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Established a multi-jurisdictional Technical Advisory Committee with representatives from Placer County, Sacramento County, the City of Roseville, California EPA, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), and SAFCA.
- ◆ Began analyzing Dry Creek Watershed technical data. As part of this process, GIS information was collected and is currently being reviewed.
- ◆ Attended meetings and began interacting with potential partners, stakeholders, and governmental agencies.



Volunteers receiving training on Benthic Macro Invertebrate sampling procedures.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Improved cooperation and facilitated collaboration within the watershed. As a participant on the TAC, the watershed coordinator has the opportunity to provide input and ensure that stakeholder concerns are considered.

Science – Reviewed and analyzed GIS information, focusing specifically on impermeable surfaces throughout the watershed. The data will be used to develop projects and establish priorities. Data is being entered into a database that will allow users to find and compare information rapidly and efficiently.



Tributary to Dry Creek which provides ideal habitat for Steelhead.

San Francisquito Creek JPA

Coyote Watershed



Amount Funded: \$211,815

Additional Funding Obtained: \$397,021

Background

The watershed drains into the San Francisco Bay and consists of urban, suburban, rural residential, and wild lands. Like many coastal areas, urban development has been extensive. Consequently, there has been significant loss of aquatic and riparian habitat, severe periodic flooding, and impaired water quality. Many of the creeks have been impacted by sediment and polluted by urban runoff. About every 11 years, stream banks overflow causing wide spread damage and threatening public safety. The watershed is also home to one of the few viable native populations of steelhead trout. It is critical that stakeholders work together to protect the environment, restore habitat, and minimize damage due to flooding.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Coordinated first phases of Army Corps of Engineer projects among JPA members. Facilitated interaction between governmental agencies and the public.
- ◆ Completed a watershed wide Sediment Reduction Plan.
- ◆ Worked with the Corps of Engineers to develop a plan that addresses both flooding and ecosystem restoration within the entire watershed.
- ◆ Coordinated the planning of the Salt Pond Restoration/Bay Levee project with the Corps of Engineers.
- ◆ Assisted the City of Menlo Park and Stanford University on a major construction project. Provided information to minimize the impact to the creek and on fish habitat.
- ◆ Participated in completing 50% of the designs to improve a fish passage barrier and secured funding to complete final designs, CEQA, and permitting for four fish passage improvement projects opening 6 miles of spawning habitat to migrating steelhead.
- ◆ Selected two properties – one residential and one public - to construct demonstration projects showing how to reduce, slow, and clean storm water before it becomes runoff.
- ◆ Held a workshop to educate the public, including homeowners and landscaping professionals, about best practices for planting in the riparian zone.
- ◆ Oversaw the execution of seven volunteer work days that placed 1200 native plants at nine long term revegetation sites.



Volunteers remove ivy, which is smothering the trees along the creek in East Palo Alto.

- ◆ Planned and participated in three “Family Creek Days,” educational events on watershed functions and steelhead preservation for community members in the upper and lower watershed.
- ◆ Secured participation from five local jurisdictions in policy, code, ordinance, and operations review that will assess effectiveness of jurisdictions’ development processes in protecting aquatic habitat and, where applicable, make recommendations for changes.
- ◆ Provide consultations to two landowners, two teachers, and a neighborhood group about landscaping with native riparian plants.
- ◆ Formed two new partnerships with groups in the upper watershed to facilitate storm water and fish passage projects.
- ◆ Trained 15 new citizen observers to monitor conditions of San Francisquito Creek and its tributaries.



Volunteers planting native riparian vegetation.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Program – Facilitated communication by advancing multi-jurisdictional flood management and ecosystem restoration planning efforts with two counties, five city/townships, Stanford University, and the Watershed Council. The groups are working closely together to prevent another devastating flood. In 1998, the San Francisquito Creek overflowed its banks and poured into many homes causing extensive damage. Continued to work with the City of Portola Valley to reduce sediments flowing into local creeks and rivers. Brought together diverse stakeholder groups and formed new partnerships to coordinate and work together on innovative projects throughout the watershed. Provided technical assistance to two public agencies in preparing proposals for large-scale fish passage improvement projects. Provided an ideal opportunity to leverage resources, share ideas, and build stronger partnerships. Worked with Streamkeeper and Outreach Coordinator to develop a mapping schedule for the removal and eradication of invasive weeds. Supported the San Francisquito Watershed Council by facilitating meetings, providing guidance, and assisting with projects.

Conveyance – Educated and informed residents of aging tree canopy/root systems for tree inventory.

Water Use Efficiency – Worked with numerous partners on the storm water retrofit project. It will improve water quality by altering volume, concentration, timing and location of return flows. Once completed, the project will serve as a model for homeowners showing how they can modify existing structures to reduce runoff from hardscaped surfaces.

Conveyance – Phase I of the Corps of Engineer Project has been completed. The project will improve levee integrity and flood protection.

Ecosystem Restoration - Completed a Sediment Reduction Plan to address habitat and water quality issues related to the TMDL sediment impaired listing for the watershed. Assisted homeowners and real estate agents with bank assessments. Oversaw the execution of on-the-ground work that contributed significantly to revegetation efforts. Directed staff in carrying out eight volunteer workdays where

volunteers planted 1,200 native riparian plants and removed invasive Algerian ivy from an area approximately 200 feet by 15 feet. Provided technical assistance on five planning projects. Held a “Landscaping with Native Plants” workshop. The event was well attended and provided landowners information on invasive weeds and the best way to protect their environment.



Volunteers with garbage they bagged and removed.

San Joaquin County RCD

Lower Cosumnes-Lower Mokelumne Watershed



Amount Funded: \$182,505

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$1,379,500

Background

One of the primary concerns about the lower Mokelumne River is that, as a highly controlled system, the river has lost its natural function. The lower Mokelumne River is also considered impaired for copper and zinc and is on the 303 (d) list for those two substances. More than 95% of land within the watershed is privately owned and agriculture is the predominant land use, though development pressure is converting many of these agricultural acres into home sites. Parts of the watershed also have non-native invasive species crowding out native riparian vegetation.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Continued working with students at two Lodi Unified School District high schools involved in the Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) program. Two field days were held at the Gill Creek site and one field day at the Murphy Creek site. The work of the students is helping to increase wildlife and habitat values through the projects they conduct.
- ◆ Finalized the organization of and held the first of three farm field day workshops. The workshop provided information on agricultural best management practices designed to improve water quality. About 75 farmers, farm managers and others attended the training.
- ◆ Finalized a contract with the State Board to begin work on a multi-faceted grant agreement that will provide funding for education and outreach.
- ◆ Established a partnership with the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission to create a workshop for homeowners designed to help them reduce runoff and non-point source pollution that enters runoff from urban/suburban sources.
- ◆ Continued to work with the San Joaquin Watershed Education Partnership to help teachers develop programs and sites for place-based learning activities. Also assisted them secure cultural competency training.



Lodi high school students and mentor install native grass plugs at the Murphy Creek Project.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Facilitated regular meetings of the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Committee. This helps to keep local stakeholders involved in and aware of issues in the watershed, and encourages collaboration and cooperation between them.

Established criteria and began awarding an annual watershed stewardship award to promote both watershed awareness and the benefits of good watershed stewardship. The award is jointly sponsored by the Lower Mokelumne River Partnership (consisting of East Bay Municipal Utility District, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Steering Committee.

Continued to cooperate and collaborate with other watershed coordinators on a regional and statewide basis.

**San Joaquin River Parkway
and Conservation Trust**
Middle San Joaquin-Lower
Chowchilla Watershed



Amount Funded: \$158,624

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$3,900

Background

A 1997 study for the Bureau of Reclamation determined that 60% of the historical habitat of the San Joaquin River between Friant Dam and the confluence with the Merced River had soils suitable for riparian habitat. Between 1937 and 1993, the area of riparian forest and scrub in this area decreased 28%, and the area of herbaceous riparian vegetation and marsh decreased 82%. As a result, surface and ground water levels have dwindled, and native willows and cottonwoods have been replaced by brush and weeds that do not support native wildlife. A major goal is to restore at least 185 acres of riparian habitat within the watershed.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Coordinated and helped conduct a workshop for secondary school teachers at the Teach the River Symposium. Presented a session on restoration education.
- ◆ Facilitated two community focus groups in an effort to build support for protecting the San Joaquin River within the Latino community.
- ◆ Planned and conducted several volunteer workday events at various locations along the Parkway.
- ◆ Coordinated with the East Fresno Kiwanis Club to provide protective fencing for existing restoration areas at Camp Pashayan.
- ◆ Presented a PowerPoint show on watershed education to a group of Chaffee Zoo docents.
- ◆ Coordinated with a local boy scout on his Eagle Scout project to plant valley oak trees.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Coordinating with various government agencies and local stakeholder groups through forums such as the San Joaquin River Resource Management Coalition, to restoration projects in the Parkway.

Ecosystem Restoration – Conducted numerous volunteer workdays to remove Scarlet Wisteria (an invasive weed) along the San Joaquin River, and implemented a vegetation photo-monitoring program. Also conducted several volunteer river cleanup events removing several truckloads of trash.

Santa Barbara County

Santa Barbara Coastal Watershed



Amount Funded: \$202,943

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$75,000

Background

The watershed descends steeply from the Santa Ynez Mountains, onto the coastal plain, and ultimately into the Pacific Ocean. The upper reaches are relatively undisturbed while the lower portions are heavily urbanized. Twelve of the streams have been listed as “impaired.” Contaminants include pathogens, nutrients, sediment, metals, and priority organics. Almost 75% of the potential habitat for the steelhead trout has been lost. The area is under tremendous pressure for further urbanization. Water flows continue to decline partly due to groundwater pumping and decreased percolation to the water table. Without a concerted effort involving diverse stakeholders, the problems will only grow worse.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Implemented “Our Water, Our World” less toxic pest management information program to reduce pesticides that can end up in creeks and the ocean.
- ◆ Reduced water and chemical use in greenhouse operations by training 27 greenhouse growers in efficient practices.
- ◆ Released a draft San Jose Creek Watershed Plan for public review. The plan will educate the community and contains implementation measures to reduce water and chemical use and improve watershed health. Presented the plan to four community groups.
- ◆ Implemented a restoration project on Mission Creek at a county park. This project involved removal of exotic plant species and replacement with native plants, and replacement of a portion of the parking lot with permeable paving to improve water quality.
- ◆ Trained gardeners in resource efficient landscape practices through the Green Gardener Certification Program during spring and fall classes.
- ◆ Coordinated Creek Week during the first week of October 2004. Attendees participated in a series of events to educate the community about the importance of local watersheds and ways to protect and enjoy them.
- ◆ Obtained an EPA grant to develop the pilot Riparian System Management Program to streamline implementation of Flood Control mitigation restoration projects.



Landowners attending an Erosion Control and Water Management Class in Goleta.

- ◆ Coordinated the South Coast Landscape Fair, which educated participants about landscaping techniques that protect the watershed.
- ◆ Met with local purveyors to develop strategies for promoting use of the Mobile Lab irrigation evaluations.
- ◆ Worked with student volunteers to install plants at Rocky Nook County Park restoration project.
- ◆ Increased water efficiency and decreased polluted runoff by training 30 agricultural growers at an irrigation and erosion workshop.
- ◆ Presented a summary of the San Jose Creek Watershed Plan to several community groups to raise awareness of water quality and other issues, and encourage participation.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Coordinated education and outreach for the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition by editing a bi-weekly column for the local newspaper entitled the “Watershed.” Assisted with completion of final Carpinteria Creek Watershed Plan, which outlines projects to improve habitat and water quality. Participated in the Santa Barbara Task Force of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project (SCWRP) to provide information on County watershed efforts and to learn about opportunities for collaboration and funding support. This provided an ideal opportunity to forge new partnerships and strengthen existing ones. Worked with the Rincon



Watershed Coordinator measuring the uniformity of the sprinkler irrigation system.

Creek Watershed Council to develop a list of issues/projects for the watershed. Also, held an educational meeting on steelhead for the Rincon Creek Watershed Council to develop a watershed restoration plan. Actively participated in numerous community outreach activities throughout the watershed. Supported distribution of “Creek Care Guide” through the South Coast Watershed Resource Center. Coordinated “Creek Week” where local residents had an opportunity to learn about protecting the environment and effective ways to conserve resources. Presented information on maintaining and managing an irrigation system at the “Agricultural Irrigation & Erosion Workshop.” The workshop provided information on how to reduce runoff, erosion control, and improving water quality. It was held in both English and Spanish. More than 30 growers attended. Presented information on maintaining and managing an irrigation system for landscape irrigators, in both Spanish and English. More than 25 landscapers attended.

Ecosystem Restoration – Actively involved in numerous projects throughout the area. Assisted in implementing a restoration project on Mission Creek in Rocky Nook County Park. The project included removal of exotic plant species and replacement with native plants, and replacement of a portion of the parking lot with permeable paving to improve water quality. Worked with student volunteers to install the plants at the restoration site. Completed the restoration plan for the removal of a fish passage barrier on Carpinteria Creek. Received grant extension to complete design work for bank stabilization and fish passage barrier removal project on Maria Ygnacio Creek. Completed preliminary design alternatives for

bank stabilization and restoration project at the Elks Lodge on San Jose Creek and presented it to the Elk's Board for approval.

Water Use Efficiency – Developed a curriculum for a Green Gardner Certification Program. Classes were held in the fall of 2004 and spring 2005, focusing on teaching landscape professionals about resource-efficient maintenance methods. Since 2003, approximately 100 gardeners have attended and graduated from the program. Instrumental in coordinating and planning several workshops. Sponsored a water management workshop for greenhouse growers to train them in methods to reduce water and chemical use. Coordinated an irrigation and erosion workshop that trained agricultural growers on techniques to increase water efficiency and to improve water quality, and a workshop for landscapers on managing and maintaining an efficient irrigation system. Met with local water purveyors to coordinate promotion of Mobile Lab irrigation evaluation and spring irrigation workshops. Prepared irrigation evaluation reports for growers in Carpinteria and Goleta, including information on DU, scheduling, and soils.