

**Mariposa County**  
Resource Conservation District  
Upper Merced River Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$68,400

**Match Provided:** \$24,800

**Additional Funding Obtained:** \$242,987

**Watershed Coordinators:** Nancy McConnell & Holly Warner

**Watershed Goal:** Improve and protect watershed resources and values through cooperative, comprehensive, and watershed-wide resources management by all public and private sector stakeholders.

**Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress**

**Objective 1:** Promote community and landowner involvement in the planning process for the Upper Merced River Watershed.

- Met with members of Mariposa County Planning Commission to discuss inclusion of watershed element in new County General Plan.
- Submitted 5 Star Restoration Grant for water monitoring equipment.
- Working with the Land Use/Restoration Committee in conducting two visual and one transect survey of Yellow Starthistle and Italian thistle along the Wild and Scenic portion of the Merced River.



*Learning how to measure residual dry matter on rangeland*

*Performance Measure:* Provision of two educational workshops for local ranchers and grazing land managers, including one Rangeland Water Quality short course.

- Performance measure 50% complete.

**Objective 2:** Promote watershed education through outreach to private landowners and other stakeholders.

- Planned and held Rangeland Management Toolkit Workshop which covered “Everyone Lives in the Watershed”, Government Cost Share Programs, Measuring Forage Residue (RDM), Conservation Easements. Thirty-nine landowners attended the event.

*Performance Measure:* Hold one region-wide “Day in the Watershed” event.

- Performance measure completed.

**Objective 3:** Promote historic and cultural education.

- Conducted five educational hikes which focused on the following topics:
  - Water and Snow Monitoring in Yosemite National Park
  - Bagby – North Fork Trail Hike
  - Hite’s Cove Wildflower Hike
  - Dragonflies in the Watershed
  - BLM History and Management in the Watershed



*Performance Measure:* Adoption of South Fork Trail system and signing of MOU with U.S. Forest Service.

- Performance measure completed.

*Learning about macroinvertebrates*

**Objective 4:** Promote data coordination.

- Continuing to work with numerous agencies to develop a program that collects and stores historical and current information on the watershed.

*Performance Measure:* Collection and publication of current data on Upper Merced River Watershed.

- Grantee has met this performance measure with publication of water test data collected in July.

**Objective 5:** Protect and restore the ecology of the Upper Merced River Watershed.

- Completed MOU with the US Forest Service to adopt the South Fork Trail in the Upper Merced River Watershed.

*Performance Measure:* Successful completion of two service projects in the Upper Merced River Watershed Water Monitoring Program in place.

- Grantee has completed this performance measure by hosting the Bear Creek Trash Clean-up Day in July, and the Hite Cove Trail Maintenance Day in November.

**Additional Funding Obtained:**

A Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant (\$13,750) was submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Service to develop community stewardship within the Upper Merced River area using volunteer monitors.

## Mission Resource Conservation District San Luis Rey-Escondido Watershed

**Amount Funded:** \$69,982

**Match Provided:** \$27,518

**Additional Funding obtained to date:** \$911,000

**Watershed Coordinator:** Cynthia Mallett



### Watershed Goals, Objectives, and Progress

**Goal 1:** Sustain the progress of the San Luis Rey Watershed Council by providing continuing coordination through a Watershed Coordinator and by seeking funding to implement projects to address priority issues identified in the San Luis Rey River Watershed Guidelines developed by the council.

**Objective 1:** Conduct presentations, coordinate a watershed field event, submit grant applications and provide administrative support to the Watershed Council.

- Held discussions with the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health to provide presentations to two work groups.
- Met with a representative of the Bonsall Sponsor Group to plan and organize two field trips, focusing on watershed projects and successes. Contacted applicable agency representatives and began coordinating activities.
- Developed a database of funding opportunities that would benefit the San Luis Rey Watershed and the CALFED Watershed Program.
- Coordinated three Watershed Council meetings.
- Five speakers have presented at Watershed Council meetings.

*Performance Measure:* Six watershed presentations to stakeholders, 25 stakeholders attend watershed field event, 100 copies of the Guideline supplement distributed to stakeholders, 12 guest speakers make presentations at watershed council meetings.

**Goal 2:** Develop working relationships with other agencies.

**Objective 1:** Submit grant applications in conjunction with local, state and national organizations to implement watershed related projects.

- Successfully formed the California NEMO partnership, which is a formal agreement between various collaborating agencies and other stakeholders. The goal of the program is to educate land use decision makers about the link between land use planning and water quality. The informational sheet was also completed. Drafting a grant application for submittal to the State Water Resources Control Board for full implementation of a NEMO Education Outreach Program.
- Received GIS training from NRCS, which is a necessary tool to implement a project NEMO scoping workshop.

*Performance Measure:* Three grant applications submitted for watershed improvement projects, 100 brochures distributed to stakeholders, project NEMO scoping workshop presented to ten municipal officials.

**Goal 3:** Development of water conservation and efficiency resource information.

**Objective 1:** Work with local municipalities, planning groups, building industry groups and developers to research feasibility of implementing drought tolerant landscapes and grey water systems in new development projects.

- Collaborating with partners to develop a drought tolerant/native demonstration garden in front of the Fallbrook Land Conservancy office.

*Performance Measure:* Installation of drought tolerant landscape, develop new conditions of approval with a local planning group or municipality and develop two Memorandum of Understanding documents with two development related groups (water district, building industry group, developer and/or planning group).

**Grant Funding Received/Pending:**

Pending Funding: Mission Resource Conservation District and the San Luis Rey Watershed Council were included in a proposal submitted by Rainbow Municipal Water District to Metropolitan Water District to install a drought tolerant demonstration garden at the Water District offices. Included with the garden installation was a comprehensive education outreach program to educate residents and businesses about native and drought tolerant landscaping. Mission RCD would manage the education outreach component.

# Napa County Resource Conservation District

## San Pablo Bay Watershed

**Amount Funded:** \$46,298  
**Match Provided:** \$15,535  
**Additional Funding obtained to date:** \$663,000  
**Watershed Coordinator:** Leigh Sharp



**Watershed Goal:** To improve the health of the watershed through the development of land stewardships.

### Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

#### **Objective 1:** Conduct Outreach and Education on Stewardship and Watershed Issues

- Completed a workshop on stewardship development titled “Developing Watershed Partnerships for a Better Tomorrow” (March 10) with 30 people attending. The target audience was landowners or others interested in developing watershed partnerships.
- Gave presentation regarding stewardship efforts made at a meeting of CALFED Bay Delta Advisory Committee (February 21).
- Distributed the February newsletter and educational insert to about 750 people. The target audience is people interested in conservation and restoration.
- Attended Watershed Information Center/Conservancy meeting (February 19).
- Maintained and updated mailing lists for Carneros, Sulphur, Dry, Salvador and Murphy Creek Stewardships, Watershed Newsletter and Napa Green Program on a regular basis.



Upper Sulphur Creek

*Performance Measure:* Increased interest in watershed activities through increased attendance at a minimum of 6 stewardship meetings. Increased awareness of watershed issues through evaluation and tabulation of returned surveys from a minimum of two presentations made at local, regional or state workshops. Begin compilation of centralized watershed-wide database.

#### **Objective 2:** Facilitate Stewardship Development and Coordination on Tributaries to the Napa River

- Coordinated and delivered a Stewardship workshop, “Developing Watershed Partnerships for a Better Tomorrow.”
- A second restoration project has been planned for Carneros Creek in partnership with the Carneros Creek Stewardship, Napa County Farm Bureau, RCD, Acorn Soupe, and a local elementary school.
- Field work for two watershed management plans is complete.

- Work on two watershed management plans has begun.
- Coordinated committee meetings for the Carneros Creek Stewardship group: Steering Committee Meeting Jan. 6; Stewardship Meeting January 21; Subcommittee Meeting February 10.
- Sulphur Creek Stewardship coordination: Stewardship Meeting January 13.
- Salvador Creek Stewardship coordination: Stewardship Meetings – January 13, February 10, March 10.

*Performance Measure:* Increased participation at existing stewardship meetings, development of at least 2 new stewardships with less direct assistance from the Watershed Coordinator, prioritized lists for at least 2 tributary resource management plans, gather and tabulate data from monitoring efforts from at least 5 tributaries in the watershed, evaluations from “Stewardship Development” workshop participants that show increased understanding and interest in stewardship development. Preparation of at least 2 watershed management plans.

- Assisting in the development of 2 new stewardship groups. Aside from the stewardships on Carneros and Sulphur Creeks, which are well established, stewardship groups are now established in the Salvador and Murphy Creek watersheds and along a four mile stretch of the Napa River. Interest has been expressed in starting additional stewardship groups in the Milliken, Chase and Simmons Creek watersheds.

**Objective 3:** Obtain funding to implement on-the-ground watershed studies, projects, programs and/or monitoring

- Last quarter, received full funding for implementation of the Napa Green Program from the State Water Resources Control Board Prop. 13 funds (\$500,000). This funding will support a watershed wide program for grape growers to participate in watershed restoration.
- Funding to implement a restoration project in the Sulphur Creek watershed has been sought by the RCD and approved by the CDFG.
- Researching potential funding sources.
- Developing a table of funding sources.



*Carneros Creek Revegetation  
Project Volunteers*

*Performance Measure:* Submission of at least 2 applications for funding of watershed projects that are consistent with the needs of the Napa River and San Pablo Bay watersheds, completion of at least one fundraiser.

- Performance measure is complete. A fundraiser to benefit Carneros Creek was held in August 2002 and raised over \$5,000 to support stewardship activities.
- An application for the State Water Resources Control Board Prop. 13 grant was submitted and approved for funding. The funds (\$500,000) were received in full last quarter.
- An application to the California Dept. of Fish and Game - SB 271, for a Heath Canyon Restoration Project, has been approved for funding at \$158,000.

## Placer County Resource Conservation District North Fork American River Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$78,000

**Match Provided:** \$26,180

**Watershed Coordinator:** Bonnie Bagwell

**Watershed Goal:** To develop and implement watershed projects which improve environmental health within the American River Watershed.

### **Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress**

**Objective 1:** To provide efficient communication between watershed stakeholders that results in coordinated implementation of on-the-ground projects within the American River Watershed.

- Facilitated 8 watershed group meetings.
- Attended 10 meetings with neighboring watershed groups.
- Developing master watershed project matrix and working to identify needed on-the-ground projects.

*Performance Measures:* Development of a Master Watershed Project Matrix; coordinate with neighboring watershed groups, and coordinate the completion of a minimum of 3 on-the-ground projects.

**Objective 2:** Make residents, citizens, landowners/operators aware of the issues that can affect the environmental and economic health of the American River Watershed.

- Produced a workshop titled: *Design and Implementation of Effective Policies for Sustainable Natural Resource Management in California*. Approximately 50 people attended. A survey is in the process of being completed to measure participant implementation of material presented. Web pages and literature were produced for this event.
- Co-produced an *Improving Profitable Production and Environmental Quality Workshop* with Allan Savory. Approximately 20 people attended. A survey is in the process of being completed to measure participant implementation of material presented. Web pages and literature were produced for this event.
- Coordinating a joint “Day in the District” with the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance. The event is scheduled for May 9, 2003. Representatives of and elected officials from local, state, and national arenas have been invited to attend. The event will showcase ARWG/Alliance efforts to create fire safe communities and protect watersheds from catastrophic wildfire.
- Completed a proposal to fund a watershed education program for Placer County school children in conjunction with the Placer Nature Center.
- Working with the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development District to develop a GIS workshop.
- Working with the American River Watershed Group to develop a brochure that can be sent to households within the watershed. It will be modeled after the RCD of Santa Monica Mts. brochure “Living healthy in the watershed.”

*Performance Measure:* 50% of classroom attendees will have a positive response in post-educational survey(s); 20% of landowners/property managers attending a watershed educational workshop(s) will implement a practice(s) described in the workshop.

**Objective 3:** Implement and/or initiate on-the-ground watershed projects.

- Worked to complete the *North and Middle Forks Sediment Dynamics Study* proposal. The Department of Water Resources has set aside approximately \$554,000 to fund the impending project.
- Initiated discussion with the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance to produce a joint proposal for fuel reduction projects to the Request for Concept Proposals (RFCP) Consolidation of Watershed Protection and Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants. The proposal includes fuel reduction work in and around the communities of Colfax and Foresthill. Concept proposals are due May 9, 2003.
- Set up the ARWG website and regularly updated and refined information as needed.
- Working with ARWG to approve the final product resulting from the Category III grant that was submitted to the funding agency in early January 2003.
- Soliciting signatures from four of five (Greater Colfax Area is already a signatory) Fire Safe Councils in Placer County as well as private landowners.
- Drafting a proposal for the Forest Service Community Protection Program and the Wild Land Urban Interface. Both are grant programs for fire protection.
- Writing a grant proposal to support the CDF Chipper Program throughout Placer County.



*Fire safe freeway project in Colfax – showing cleared areas off I-80*

*Performance Measure:* Submit two grants and work with project managers to implement two on-the-ground watershed projects/measures/plans.

- One proposal was submitted to the DOC Resource Conservation District Grant Program, for a Chicken Hawk Road Demonstration and Rural Residential Landowner Roads Workshop Project. The proposal would also fund the creation of a GIS workshop for watershed groups. This proposal was not selected for funding. However, the GIS workshop will be conducted with other funds.

#### **Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:**

Proposal submitted on April 18, 2003: *North and Middle Forks Sediment Dynamics Study* to Department of Water Resources. Project will produce a risk assessment for erosion and sediment in the watershed and direct future efforts. Amount requested is \$554,000.

Proposal to be submitted in May 2003: *Waterworks* in conjunction with the Placer Nature Center. This project will provide watershed education for Placer County school children. Amount to be requested - \$ 5,120.00.

**Resource Conservation District of  
the Santa Monica Mountains  
Malibu Creek Watershed**



**Amount Funded:** \$57,500

**Match Provided:** \$15,000

**Additional Funding Obtained to date:** \$1,374,543

**Watershed Coordinator:** Melissa Cole Johnson

Note: The Watershed Coordinator was on maternity leave January through April 2003. During her absence, the RCD President, Nancy Helsley, kept the Watershed Council's momentum going by coordinating the Advisory and Education Subcommittee meetings. Activity will resume as planned starting in May 2003.

**Watershed Goal:** Implement the Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council's long-range restoration plan

**Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress**

**Objective 1:** Coordinate Malibu Creek Watershed Council meetings.

- Coordinated the February 4<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> Watershed Council meetings.
- Created and distributed one "available grants list."
- Chaired one Education Subcommittee meeting.
- Chaired the Monitoring Subcommittee and Habitat and Species Subcommittee meetings.

*Performance Measure:* Development of at least 3 on-the-ground restoration projects that will have direct benefit to the watershed as a result of well organized, productive meetings.

# Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains Topanga Creek Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$66,815

**Match Provided:** \$35,650

**Additional Funding obtained to date:** \$24,888.60

**Watershed Coordinators:** Rosi Dagit and Tricia Watts

**Watershed Goal:** Develop long-term integrated and sustainable watershed function.

## Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

**Objective 1:** Continue to expand the Topanga Creek Watershed Education Program to give local residents and stakeholders the knowledge and skills to implement voluntary and pro-active restoration projects that will reduce surface water consumption, improve water recycling and groundwater recharge, as well as improve water quality in Topanga Creek.

- Attended public meetings to promote the use of drought tolerant species for landscaping and fire safety.
- Submitted an article to the Topanga Business Journal on water conservation strategies. The article was published in the spring edition of the journal.
- Conducted an Erosion Control and Slope Stabilization workshop to explain methods and strategies for using native vegetation to control erosion. 25 local residents attended. Through follow up surveys, the RCD learned that since the workshop 13 of the 25 attendees have implemented the techniques suggested at the workshop.
- Continued to provide public with education on role of thirsty non-native plants, such as *Arundo donax*.



Topanga Creek, Topanga CA

**Performance Measure:** a) Confirm that 10% of workshop participants implemented some Best Management Practices strategies. b) Twenty-five landowners will remove invasive species on their property.

- 25% of the greywater and groundwater recharge workshop participants implemented greywater strategies on their properties.
- 52% of the landowners who attended the Erosion Control and Slope Stabilization workshop implemented erosion control BMPs.
- 10 landowners have begun noxious weed eradication as a result of the watershed coordinator's outreach efforts.

**Objective 2:** Continue to support and coordinate stakeholders through the Topanga Creek Watershed Committee.

- Organized and facilitated two general meetings and two invasive species subcommittee meetings.
- Completed a watershed newsletter and distributed it to 12,000 residents.
- Submitted grants to the Toyota Tapestry program for \$7,400 to fund weather station equipment and teacher training for the elementary school science program. To the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for \$24888.60 to secure funding to continue monitoring of endangered steelhead trout in Topanga Creek. And to the Southern CA Wetland Recovery Project for \$26,195.30 to fund a Topanga *Arundo* removal project.

*Performance Measure:* a) Committee will add at least five recommendations to the Watershed Management Plan. b) Committee will develop two programs to inform stakeholders of sustainable living practices. c) Committee will revise and update the Topanga *Living Lightly in the Watershed* information. d) Provide information to 100 stakeholders to assist them in installing native plants for erosion control, humanely deal with nuisance wildlife, implement good tree care practices, and increase implementation of water conservation and water quality measures in their homes.

- Two recommendations for the Watershed management plan have been submitted and are currently under consideration.
- Two workshops have been conducted to inform stakeholders of sustainable living practices.
- The Topanga *Living Lightly in the Watershed* guide was updated in the 1st quarter.
- The Coordinator has responded to over 160 calls and 100 email from stakeholders requesting information on native plants, noxious weeds, water conservation and water quality.

**Objective 3:** Provide technical assistance and community input to the revision of the Los Angeles County Local Coastal Plan (LACLCP) and other regional planning efforts.

- Participated in workshop to develop inclusive strategy for incorporating watershed planning into mitigation efforts for flood and fire hazard reduction with LA County Office of Emergency Management.

*Performance Measure:* Local and Regional Plans will include priority recommendations from the Topanga Creek Watershed Management Plan.

**Objective 4:** Continue education and outreach efforts to local schools and the general public to encourage greater stakeholder education and participation in sustainable watershed practices.

- Developed watershed related class material and participated in the Earth Day Science Fair.
- Worked with Topanga Canyon Town Council and CA State Parks to secure a dumpster for the Creek Clean up day and to organize volunteers.

*Performance Measure:* a) 100 volunteers will remove eight tons of trash (including a car frame) from Topanga Creek. b) Train at least 30 volunteers to participate in water quality and other monitoring.

**Additional Funding Received/Pending:**

The RCD applied for a \$7,500 grant from the Toyota Tapestry Program, a \$25,195.30 grant from the Southern CA Wetlands Recovery Project, and a \$24,888.60 grant from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The RCD received the \$24,888.60 grant from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and is waiting to hear about the others.

## San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District

Lower Cosumnes & Lower Mokelumne River Watershed

**Amount Funded:** \$47,668

**Match Provided:** \$16,250

**Additional Funding obtained to date:** \$25,000

**Watershed Coordinator:** John Brodie



**Watershed Goal:** To improve water quality and biodiversity in the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed.

### Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

**Objective:** Reduce non-point source pollution through an integrated voluntary, stewardship approach using the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Plan (LMSP) Citizen’s Water Quality Improvement Program, Self-Assessment-Action Plan Program, and Riparian Restoration Program.

- Continued to coordinate the quarterly meetings of the LMSP Steering Committee. The committee met in February and March. The committee added a restoration element to the Watershed Stewardship Plan. The final draft of the restoration element was completed in April.
- Met with landowners and stakeholders in the watershed to generate interest in riparian restoration projects along the Lower Mokelumne River. These meetings have been and will continue to be conducted in conjunction with partners from the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission (LWWC) and the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD).
- Continued to meet with other stakeholders and watershed organizations including Lodi Unified School District teachers working with the Adopt-A-Watershed Program and the Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed Alliance.
- Continued to serve on the CALFED Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee Watershed Subcommittee. The coordinator is planning to host a subcommittee “Road Show” tour of the Mokelumne River Watershed in April.
- Represented the watershed at two stakeholder meetings during the third quarter. The first was a public meeting to gather input on Bay-Delta area research being conducted by the California Bay-Delta Authority and the U.S. Geological Survey. The second was a public scoping meeting for public comments on the North Delta Improvements Group’s alternatives for improving flood capacity.
- Two funding requests were submitted by the Watershed Coordinator. The first request was for about \$115,000 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Private Land



*A Mokelumne River restoration site*

Stewardship Grant Program. The second is for an estimated \$1.6 million from the California Department of Water Resources Flood Protection Corridor Program. The RCD is awaiting word on whether either of these proposals will be funded.

*Performance Measure:* Three hundred acres enrolled in Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP). Twelve individual citizens/landowners trained for monitoring. Twelve action plans developed and implemented in response to WQIP. Improvement of water quality (e.g., decreases in temperature, decreased dissolved solids, decreased concentrations of toxic chemicals, increased species diversity, etc.).



*Mokelumne River gravel  
enhancement site for salmon  
restoration*