

Sonoma Creek Watershed

Engaging the Sonoma County community in natural resource issues

Sonoma County; State Senate Districts 2 & 3, State Assembly Districts 6 & 7



SONOMA ECOLOGY CENTER



The Sonoma Ecology Center's (SEC) overarching goal was to implement a community-based watershed coordination strategy to protect environmental quality and sustain ecological functions of Sonoma Creek. Over 40 on-the-ground streamside projects were funded through the Stream Stewards program, a joint effort of the Watershed Coordinator and the SEC Restoration Program. Working with the SEC staff, over \$1.1 million in additional funding was obtained for additional on-the-ground watershed improvement projects.

The Watershed Coordinator also worked to expand the efforts of the North Bay Climate Adaptation Initiative. This partnership of natural resource scientists, managers, and researchers collaborated to identify and implement a local conservation strategy, based on down-scaled climate projections. Through the development of this Initiative, a forum was created for directly addressing climate impacts on a sub-regional level.

The Watershed Coordinator engaged the community by conducting multiple outreach events, including 14 stewardship meetings, two Water Wisdom Tours, four Water Wisdom Forums and two Water Wisdom Workshops. The Coordinator also organized a series of creek cleanups utilizing citizen volunteers and covering a total of seven miles.

For more information visit the SEC website at <http://www.SonomaEcologyCenter.org>

- Developed and delivered 14 stewardship meetings, 2 Water Wisdom Tours, 4 Water Wisdom Forums, 2 Water Wisdom Workshops
- Removed trash from 7 miles of Sonoma Creek
- Provided watershed outreach at 4 public festivals reaching over 1,000 local residents
- Obtained additional funding for 40 on-the-ground streamside projects
- Maintained and expanded the North Bay Climate Adaptation Initiative website: (<http://www.northbayclimate.org>)
- Produced over 50 press releases, several in-depth newspaper stories, and email newsletter mailings to over 1,000 residents

“The purpose of the Watershed Coordinator is to establish a single point of contact for the community capable of fostering collaboration between agency partners, building consensus among landowners and other stakeholders.”
- Caitlin Cornwall, Program Manager

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Napa County RCD • Sonoma County Water Agency • City of Sonoma • Valley of the Moon Water District North Bay Watershed Association • Bay Area Watershed Network • San Francisco Bay RWQCB • Sonoma RCD • Nuestra Voz • La Luz Center • Cittaslow Sonoma Valley, including the Pollinator Pals • Sonoma County Regional Parks • Transition Sonoma Valley Sonoma Overlook Trail Task Force • Sonoma Valley Unified School District, teachers and principals • Boys and Girls Clubs of Sonoma Valley • landowners • Stream Stewards participants and group leaders