

## **Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority**

### **Santa Monica Bay Watershed**



**Amount Funded:** \$230,892

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$335,667

### **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**

- ◆ Provided coordination for the Army Corps of Engineers Lower Ballona Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study. The Santa Monica Bay Restoration JPA is the local sponsor of the feasibility study and will be required to provide local funding for the study. The Coordinator has worked to solicit in-kind contributions to help provide local match from California Coastal Conservancy, City of Los Angeles, County of Los Angeles, and SMBRA.
- ◆ Held 13 tours of the Ballona watershed, one tour of the LA River Greenway, and seven Ballona Creek watershed walks. These tours help to broaden stakeholders understanding of watershed issues.
- ◆ Conducted eight public presentations that covered stream restoration and protection challenges, Ballona watershed issues, the pros and cons of forming a nonprofit organization or a Joint Powers Authority, and developing a stream protection ordinance.
- ◆ Provided historic stream maps to the LA River revitalization planning team, LASGRWC, and the river project.
- ◆ Began developing a new program that will provide Public Works officials with training about fluvial geomorphology and stream restoration.
- ◆ Provided technical support to the Gabrielino/Tongva Springs Foundation.



*Watershed coordinator Jessica Hall (on left) with a Stone Canyon Reservoir Tour participant.*

- ◆ Worked with Heal the Bay’s Stream Team manager and the UCLA’s Institute of the Environment SEA-LABB coordinator to plan Stone Canyon Reservoir restoration projects.
- ◆ Worked with West and Central Basin Water Districts to submit an IRWM planning grant proposal.

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Water Use Efficiency** – The coordinator participated in the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) planning process, which is a next step for the Ballona watershed. As part of the IRWMP process the coordinator developed a Lower Franklin Canyon Park proposal, which will provide funding for the creation of a treatment wetland that will creatively reuse flow for irrigation at the park.

**Watershed Management** – In support of the CALFED Watershed Program goals the coordinator met with Los Angeles City staff and Department of Fish and Game representatives regarding looming culvert installation planned for a reach of Stone Creek. The coordinator also continued Ballona Greenway committee meetings to develop an opportunities and constraints report for increasing habitat, recreation, and water conservation projects along the channel.

**Ecosystem Restoration** – The coordinator provided support to Los Angeles County in executing their Earth Day dune-planting event in April, which included over 90 children from a local school. The coordinator’s role included obtaining food donations, helping with event set-up, and speaking to children about the Ballona Creek Watershed. Planting occurred on the Ballona channel levee adjacent to the Ballona Wetlands and Del Rey Lagoon. The coordinator also prepared for a project that will create geomorphic “regional curves” for the Los Angeles region. Specifically the coordinator developed a contract and scope of work with Natural Channel Design, conducted budget review and approval, identified 15 reference streams, coordinated housing for the consultant team, and planned the logistics of their visit.

### **Performance Measures**

**Goal:** Promote water conservation; improve water quality and ecosystem quality through implementation of a comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

**Objective #1:** Facilitate implementation of the Ballona Creek Watershed Management Plan by seeking funding for priority projects identified in the Management Plan

**Performance Measure:** Total amount of funding secured for implementation of projects recommended by the Watershed Management Plan. Number and Percentage of actions initiated, in progress, or completed during the project period. The estimated amount of pollutant loading reduction and acreage of restored habitats associated with the implemented projects.

**Progress:**

- Participated in South Bay Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) development: including attendance at planning meeting, and proposal of projects in Ballona watershed, including demonstration projects in the Ballona Watershed Management Plan.
- Organized conference call with City of Los Angeles Mayor's environmental deputy & Coastal Conservancy (County Supervisor Burke's office and Los Angeles Council District 11 also invited, not participating) to discuss resources available for acquisition of federal post office land up for auction.
- Met with UCLA's Institute of the Environment to collaborate on restoration of Stone Creek. UCLA is acting as the lead, and has submitted a grant request for \$30,000.
- Met with the RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM) to collaborate on a nativescaping and Kenter Creek restoration project. The RCDSMM is acting as the lead and has submitted a request for funding for each project.
- Met with a consultant for the City of Los Angeles, Jennifer Gronberg of Camp Dresser McKee, to discuss potential projects from the Ballona Creek Watershed to include in the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan proposal for Prop 50 Chapter 8. I provided her with a CD-Rom of about 20 potential or existing projects, and submitted 5 demonstration projects for inclusion in the plan. These projects included: Mar Vista Park retrofit, Street Retrofit, Baldwin Hills Trail and BMPs, Lafayette Park Creek Daylighting, and Oxford Flood Control Basin.
- Met and communicated regularly with the Mid-Cities Neighborhood Council and North East Trees to facilitate a partnership and develop a grant proposal for the Ballona Creek Greenway. North East Trees submitted a grant request of \$1,000,000.
- Attended a Mid-Cities Neighborhood Council Meeting to present the Ballona Watershed Plan and discuss Greenway opportunities.
- Met with residents of Kenter Creek to discuss possibilities for restoring the creek with technical assistance from the RCD SMM.
- Met with Department of Water Resources staff, Susan Woolam, about creek restoration projects in the Ballona Plan.
- Contacted member of Wilshire Country Club about opportunity to seek creek restoration funding for Arroyo del Jardin de los Flores, which runs through their golf course.
- Submitted a concept proposal on behalf of Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission to the DWR/CALFED Watershed Program for a Fluvial Geomorphologist position who would serve as a technical resource for the Lower Ballona Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, develop other stream restoration projects, conduct stream mapping and inventory of resources, and develop regional design curves for restoration.
- A \$400,000 grant request submitted by North East Trees was awarded for a pollution control bio-treatment/native landscaping project along part of Ballona Creek. The coordinator helped the Mid-City Neighborhood Council and North East Trees develop a partnership and helped develop the grant proposal.
- Contacted schools in the Ballona Creek watershed to identify willing sites for a natives landscaped garden. As a result the following schools were included in the Prop 50 proposal:

10th Street Elementary School, University Elementary School, University High School, Stoner Avenue Elementary School, and Selma Avenue Elementary School.

- Revised four IRWM proposals on behalf of the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation for: a Mar Vista Recreation Center Retrofit, Lafayette Park Creek Daylighting, Baldwin to Ballona Trail & BMPs, and a Street Retrofit.
- Submitted two SEP (Supplemental Environmental Program) proposals: for a Ballona Creek Greenway Maintenance Trust Fund and Ballona Creek Watershed Education Projects.

**Objective #2:** Provide administrative support to the BCWTF. Facilitate the transition of the Task Force into a long-term self-sustainable organization for oversight and coordination of watershed restoration activities.

**Performance Measure:** Task Force meeting attendance and membership inclusiveness. Amount of long-term funding secured.

**Progress:**

The coordinator provides support for the BCWTF on an ongoing basis.

**Objective #3:** Support education and outreach to broaden the base of stakeholders and build up community support and participation in watershed restoration activities

**Performance Measurement:** Number of cities, agencies, and community organizations pledging their support for implementation of the Management Plan. Amount of media coverage.

**Progress:**

- Provided support to the County of Los Angeles in executing their Earth Day dune planting event in April, with over 90 children from a local school. The coordinator obtained donations of food, assisted in event set-up, and spoke to children about the Ballona Creek Watershed. Planting occurred on the Ballona channel levee adjacent to the Ballona Wetlands and Del Rey Lagoon.
- Conducted three Ballona Watershed presentations.
- Designed and staffed an informational Ballona Creek watershed table at the Los Angeles Valley College Earth Day event.
- Conducted watershed tours for the Army Corps of Engineers (2 tours), SMBRC staff, a UCLA Extension Landscape Architecture Student, and the Ballona Networking Group.



*Watershed coordinator conducts a presentation about the watershed at an Earth Day event.*

- Held a meeting about stream protection issues with a deputy from County Supervisor Knabe's office.
- Provided a Los Angeles River Greenway tour for the Mid-Cities Neighborhood Council, to demonstrate what a greenway along Ballona could be like.
- Gave presentations about the watershed and the management plan to: the Brookside Neighborhood Association, with a special emphasis on the tributary in their backyards; the Brentwood Community Council; the Mid-Cities Neighborhood Council; the RCD of Santa Monica Mountains; Dominguez Watershed Advisory Committee; and, the Ballona Wetlands Symposium.
- Held meetings with the consultants developing the City of Los Angeles Integrated Water Resources Management Plan.
- Presented the Stream Spirit Rising DVD, about stream day lighting, at the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, and at Flor y Canto, a community art space in the Arroyo Seco Watershed
- Gave a presentation to the community about stream restoration opportunities and challenges at the Compton Creek Action Team in the Compton Creek watershed.
- Met with staff from Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite Burke's office about the Ballona Creek Watershed Management plan. Staff expressed interest in seeing a cost-benefit analysis for the projects proposed in the plan.
- Held meetings with local and federal politicians to promote the Ballona Creek Watershed Management Plan.
- Held meetings with non-government organizations and other stakeholders to obtain support for the Management Plan.

**Objective #4:** Develop and facilitate implementation of projects/measures that optimize water resources to reduce dependence on imported water

**Performance Measurement:** Number of new projects initiated/implemented in the watershed. The estimated amount of water reclaimed/recycled and the reduced amount of water use as the result of the newly implemented projects.

**Progress:**

- Worked with the Task Force to consider including a section on the status of reservoirs and lakes filled with imported water in the Management Plan.
- Held watershed tours to promote smart growth and sustainable development measures that have the benefit of integrated water supply, water conservation, water recycling and runoff management. The tours included visits to the Silverlake and Franklin Canyon reservoirs and a discussion of water conservation issues related to ongoing maintenance as offline reservoirs.
- Conducted tours of Stone Canyon Reservoir to help participants better understand current management practices related to reservoirs and maintenance of Stone, Franklin, Hollywood, and Silverlake reservoirs as offline reservoirs.

- Strategized with an LA City College professor on campus planning issues, native landscaping, and creek day lighting.

**Objective #5:** Coordinate implementation of a community-based watershed monitoring program. Enhance the citizen/volunteer monitoring efforts in the watershed

**Performance Measurement:** Amount and quality of the monitoring data

**Progress:**

- Attended monitoring subcommittee meetings and began to create a database to house data from Ballona Creek Watershed projects.
- Began obtaining information on projects and studies from stakeholders.
- Recruited a volunteer water monitor postgraduate student from Cal State Los Angeles to test water and sediment quality in the headwater streams. The coordinator was also able to refer the student to other agencies to conduct testing in the Ballona estuary.
- Worked with the monitoring committee to establish goals and objectives, design an information storage system to compile data relevant to the Ballona Creek Watershed, and create a monitoring plan.
- Recruited new volunteer monitors through the Baykeepers Beachkeeper program.



## Napa County RCD San Pablo Bay Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$228,139

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$1,687,926

### **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**

- ◆ Cooperated with the Sonoma Ecology Center watershed coordinator to form the North Bay Watershed Network. The network promotes coordination among organizations involved in stewardship of San Pablo Bay natural resources. The network has resulted in an increase in groups sharing protocols, approaches, information, and expertise. Organizations that would not have worked together previously are partnering on projects as a direct result of the watershed network.
- ◆ The coordinator submitted a total of \$2,348,295 in grant requests to fund watershed monitoring, road improvement and sediment reduction projects, and watershed assessments.
- ◆ Provided assistance and partnered with various watershed groups and organizations to submit an additional \$2,750,000 in grant requests that would improve the health of the Napa River Watershed.
- ◆ Worked with partners on detailed restoration plans for 4.5 miles of the Napa River near Rutherford.
- ◆ Worked on restoration plans for a one mile stretch of Carneros Creek.
- ◆ Designed fish barrier removal projects on Dry Creek and on the Napa River.
- ◆ Produced and published *Caring for Creeks in Napa County: Management Tips for Streamside*



*WICC Strategic Planning Workshop*

Property Owners. The publication received broad approval from various stakeholders including regulatory agencies, agricultural groups, environmental groups, scientific organizations, property rights advocates, and others.

- ◆ Helped the North Bay Water Reuse Program survey landowners in the Carenros Creek watershed. The Water Reuse Program is attempting to expand the use of reclaimed water in the North San Francisco Bay.
- ◆ Assisted the Selby Creek Watershed Partners and BioEngineering Institute in their efforts to fund the restoration of 1.5 miles of stream and 16 acres of riparian vegetation.
- ◆ Worked with partners to coordinate and publicize the Coastal Clean-Up Day. Over 400 volunteers contributed over 1,200 hours of time to help clean-up Napa County waterways. As a result, 4,280 pounds of trash and 1,130 pounds of recyclable material were removed from local waterways. There was a 29% increase since last year in the number of volunteers participating in the event.
- ◆ Held a Stewardship and Restoration of Urban Creeks workshop.
- ◆ Trained six volunteer water quality monitors.
- ◆ Coordinated and publicized 12 “Watershed Awareness Month” activities including four hikes, two festivals, three educational workshops, two birding trips, and one water quality monitoring training. The workshops covered watershed concepts and issues, wetlands as a vital resource, and riparian buffers for fish and wildlife.
- ◆ Coordinated completion of the spring well monitoring program (100% volunteer effort) in Carneros Creek.
- ◆ Facilitated the Watershed Information Center and Conservancy (WICC) Board of Director’s Strategic Planning Workshop and draft watershed information center strategic plan development, including prioritization of watershed action items.

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** – The watershed coordinator completed several activities that supported the Watershed program goal to improve coordination, collaboration, and assistance among government agencies, other organizations, and local watershed groups.

The coordinator: 1) Worked with the Sonoma Creek watershed coordinator to facilitate the development of the North Bay Watershed Network. The network promotes cooperation and coordination among organizations involved in community-driven stewardship of natural resources in the North Bay. 2) Provided ongoing maintenance of the WICC Web Center that houses watershed data and reports, provides a calendar of watershed events, and facilitates watershed group capacity building and communication. 3) Facilitated stream restoration design with local stakeholders on Carneros Creek.

The coordinators also supported Watershed Program goal of supporting focused education and outreach efforts by: developing a creek care publication that had broad support from a diverse group of stakeholders; coordinating the May 2005 and May 2006 Watershed Awareness Month activities, and coordinated and conducted a workshop to promote watershed partnerships.



**Water Use Efficiency** – The coordinator worked with partners to support the Water Use Efficiency Program objective to facilitate implementation of Water Use Efficiency actions at the local level. Activities included: Continued participation in the Napa Berryessa Regional Water Management Group which meets to discuss a variety of water management strategies; providing assistance to the North Bay Watershed Association in planning and conducting outreach for a conference on the topic of water and regionalism; and, providing assistance to the Napa Sanitation District in gathering stakeholder input for a proposed water recycling project.

**Ecosystem Restoration** – The coordinator provide grant writing assistance to Napa County and Rutherford Dust Restoration Team in seeking funding for the final phase of restoration and habitat design and the first phase of project implementation. These projects will support the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) goal of improving water quality to support healthy aquatic ecosystems and the goal to Protect and/or restore functional habitat types in the Bay-Delta estuary.

The coordinator also coordinated the development of conceptual restoration designs for a one-mile reach of Carneros Creek to improve water quality and support steelhead. This activity also supports the ERP goal to improve water quality to support healthy aquatic ecosystems. The work also supports the ERP goal of supporting the recovery of at risk species in San Francisco Bay and the watershed above the estuary.

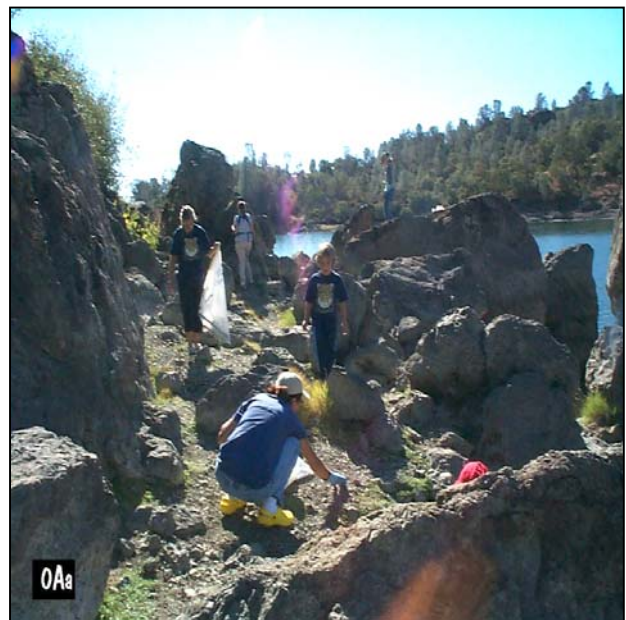
### **Performance Measures**

**Goal:** Restore, enhance, and protect water quality, plant and animal species and habitats, natural stream processes and community relationships in the watershed so that it may sustain present and future generations.

**Objective 1:** Improve water quality and restore aquatic and terrestrial habitat.

**Performance Measure:** 50 acres of land and/or 10 miles of stream restored, enhanced or otherwise protected; 10 fish barriers removed.

**Progress:** As a result of the coordinators efforts, 4 fish barriers were removed on Heath Creek and Sulphur Creek. Two miles of stream were restored in the Sulphur Creek watershed. Over 1.5 miles of Heath Creek were restored for use as steelhead spawning and rearing habitat as a result of a dam removal. A half of a mile was restored on Spring Creek. About 1.75 to 3.5 miles of stream were enhanced through clean-up efforts facilitated by the coordinator at 7 sites in the Napa River watershed. The coordinator worked with partners to develop detailed designs for 1.5 miles of Selby Creek and designs for restoration work on 4.5 miles of the Napa River near Rutherford. Conceptual designs for a



*Volunteers picking up trash during a watershed clean-up event.*

restoration project on one mile of Carneros Creek have been completed. Priority road improvement and sediment reduction projects have been identified for the Sulphur and Carneros Creek watersheds. And, a fish barrier removal project is currently being planned on Dry Creek.

This performance measure is over 50% complete.

**Objective 2:** Improve water and watershed management in the San Pablo Bay watershed.

**Performance Measure:** 10% increase in implementation of best management practices related to water conservation and non-point source pollution prevention and a 10% increase in public support for the use of recycled water for irrigation.

**Progress:** The coordinator has gathered baseline information regarding non-point source pollution prevention. Strong community support for recycled water has been developed in the Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay and Carneros regions of the watershed. The local sanitation district is actively promoting the expansion of their recycled water system.

**Objective 3:** Improve water and watershed management in the San Pablo Bay watershed.

**Performance Measure:** Ensure the long-term viability of programs that support restoration, enhancement, and protection of watershed resources.

**Progress:** The coordinator has obtained \$2,000,000 to support the goals of this work plan through various federal, state, and local programs. A cumulative total of \$6,669,561 has been requested to support restoration, enhancement, and protection of watershed resources. In addition, the watershed coordinators have actively helped other organizations apply for an additional \$2.75 million, which would also further the goals of this work plan. Finally, the Watershed Information Center and Conservancy of Napa County and the Napa County Board of Supervisors adopted a Funding Options Plan as a first step in developing a funding strategy for local watershed improvement projects and capacity building.

## **Nevada County RCD**

### **Lower Bear and Upper Bear Watersheds**



**Amount Funded:** \$232,434

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$10,350

### **Background**

The watershed contains over 990 miles of streams, creeks, and rivers. Water flows into the Bear River, which drains into 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**

- ◆ Involved many stakeholder groups in watershed improvement and educational projects.
- ◆ Coordinated a community-wide storm drain marking project and created a door hangtag. Student volunteers labeled 800 storm drains and distributed door hangtags in the City of Grass Valley to help raise watershed awareness and reduce dumping into storm drains.
- ◆ Coordinated a community wide shaded fuel break project, which involved representatives from the community, homeowner associations, private landowners, and federal agencies.
- ◆ Coordinated over fifty educational seminars. Over one thousand people attended to increase their awareness of natural resources issues and concerns within the watershed.
- ◆ Coordinated volunteer water quality monitoring and collection of data. The coordinator presented the data to the Technical Advisory Committee for approval.
- ◆ Collaborated with local agencies to identify possible point sources of pollution, including failing septic systems and infrastructure.
- ◆ Completed the SWAMP compliant Phase II Monitoring Plan with sub-watershed groups. The plan targets strategic areas where there are known or expected impacts or where the State has listed the water body as impaired.
- ◆ Coordinated an all day seminar for horse owners that taught Best Management Practices, good horse management practices, weed eradication techniques, and pasture management. The coordinator and partners created a map of each participant's land and worked one-on-one with all 52 participants to identify potential natural resource concerns and identify areas to implement BMPs. The coordinator is planning an additional seminar due to the popularity of this first seminar.

- ◆ Participated in the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) process for the upper Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba watersheds (CABY). The coordinator represented the priorities identified in the Bear River Management Plan to the workgroups.
- ◆ Hosted a public forum with the Land Stewardship Council to give stakeholders a chance to provide input about the conservation of land owned by PG&E. The coordinator presented information to the group on the Bear River watershed effort and the opportunity to collaborate on PG&E land conservation issues.
- ◆ Created and distributed informational publications on the importance of pollinators for nurseries and the public at the Nevada County RCD native plant giveaway.
- ◆ Collaborated with USGS, Stillwater Sciences, Wolf Creek Community Alliance and the Nevada County RCD to coordinate a mercury research project on Bear River.
- ◆ Supported and participated in the Great Yuba River Clean Up Day. More than 9,000 pounds of trash and recyclables were pulled from the river. The event was a tremendous success and provided an ideal opportunity to conduct outreach and recruit new volunteers.

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** – In support of the watershed management program, the watershed coordinator:

- Participated in the Integrated Regional Water Management Planning (IRWMP) process. As part of the process the coordinator provided Bear River identification priorities and concerns to the work groups and water purveyors.
- Continued to host watershed meetings and public forums to involve stakeholders in identifying issues and concerns and increase awareness of watershed issues.
- Conducted site visits to assist landowners with identifying natural resource concerns on their properties to help them understand and address the issues.

**Water Use Efficiency** – To help meet Water Use Efficiency program goals the coordinator worked with stakeholders to provide them with education on irrigation practices, irrigation conversions to improve efficiency, grazing management, and cost share practices to help implement projects to improve water use efficiency.

**Ecosystem Restoration** – In support of Ecosystem Restoration Program goals the coordinator:

- Submitted a grant proposal to fund further research and restore a stream reach to reduce methylation of mercury and decrease bio-accumulation.
- Taught landowners how to install buffer and filter strips on their land to filter nutrients and protect water quality on their land.

**Science** – In support of Science program goals the coordinator:

- Continued coordinating water quality monitoring, collecting and inputting data and presenting the data to Technical Advisory Committee for approval.
- Completed a SWAMP compliant Phase II Monitoring Plan with sub-watershed groups.

- Worked with USGS to submit a grant proposal to further mercury research in the Bear River.

### **Performance Measures**

**Goal:** To ensure a healthy, sustainable, economically viable, watershed for future generations.

**Objective # 1:** Developing long- term coordination.

**Performance measure:** Bear River CRMP completed and priorities identified, 10 MOU's signed and six outreach activities completed.

#### **Progress:**

- The Bear River Management Plan was completed. The plan prioritizes watershed projects and concerns.
- Ten MOU's have been signed. MOUs were signed with Beale Air Force Base, PG&E, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County, US Forest Service, Wolf Creek Community Alliance, High Sierra Resource Conservation & Development, Yuba County RCD, Nevada County Farm Bureau and Placer County Water Agency, and the Idaho-Maryland Mining Corp.
- Over 100 public watershed seminars have been conducted. Almost 1900 people attended the educational watershed events.
- Over 100 new volunteers have participated in implementing watershed projects to date.
- Over 120 outreach projects have occurred, including public seminars, River Clean-up Days, Public forums, Hazard Notification System planning, storm drain marking, and more.

This performance measure is complete.

**Objective #2:** Continue to expand water quality monitoring and begin improving water quality.

**Performance Measure:** Acquired baseline data from a minimum of ten locations. Three Bear River Management Plan recommendations implemented.

#### **Progress:**

- Several actions recommended in the management plan were completed. A Hazard Notification System was developed to warn downstream users in the event of a spill at the wastewater treatment plant, mercury education and warning signs were installed, educational seminars were presented, a storm drain marking project was implemented, and water quality monitoring was conducted. All of these actions were recommended in the Bear River Management Plan.
- Nevada County RCD and Wolf Creek Community Alliance collaborated to develop a Phase II Water Quality Monitoring Plan.

This performance measure is 60% complete.

**Objective #3:** Promote Best Management Practices for fire safe activities to preserve or enhance water quality and habitat.

**Performance Measure:** 90% of fire safe agencies are promoting BMP for watershed health.

**Progress:**

- The coordinator facilitated a community shaded fuel break project near the cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City.
- The coordinator began developing a “How To Manage the Vegetation on Your Property” publication sponsored by PG&E to teach landowners BMPs and encourage them to consider multiple watershed health objectives when treating their land.

**Objective #4:** Enhance and restore habitat, flow and improve water temperature to increase anadromous fish and trout fisheries to sustainable levels in the Bear River and other streams.

**Performance Measure:** Restore 10 acres of riparian habitat.

- The coordinator worked with Beale AFB on their efforts to restore over 10 acres of habitat. Project post monitoring is currently being conducted.
- The coordinator also attended IRWMP planning group meetings to represent the Bear River and the identified Bear River priorities. The planning group is made up of stakeholders from the upper Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba watersheds (CABY). The group is working together to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.



## **Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains**

### **Santa Monica Bay Watershed**



**Amount Funded:** \$171,542

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$613,412

### **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 Visioning Process to solicit project ideas from the Malibu Creek Watershed Council members to be incorporated into the Los Angeles Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan. The ideas will be incorporated into the plan. The coordinator also worked with other key stakeholders such as California State Parks to make sure key projects make it into the IRWMP.
- ◆ Worked with MCWC to add a 45th action item that addresses the need to transform energy use in the region. As a result new stakeholders with energy use concerns have joined the council.
- ◆ Lead lobbying efforts to obtain funding for the USACE Malibu Creek Environmental Restoration Feasibility Study. The study will explore the possibility of removing Rindge Dam. The coordinator obtain support letters from Heal the Bay, several local mayors, Assemblymember Fran Pavley, Senator Sheila Kuehl, concerned citizens, and more.
- ◆ Supported Wetlands Recovery Project day in Sacramento in order to help bring more funding into the watershed related projects.
- ◆ Developed partnerships with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District, West Basin Municipal Water District, and Water District 29 to find a way to create a Native-scaping project patterned after the Tahoe RCD "Backyard Conservation" program.
- ◆ Conducted a native plant sale to provide Santa Monica Mountains residents with water-efficient native plants for landscaping. Over 2,500 plants were sold.

- ◆ Held a Malibu Creek Watershed Tour to highlight Malibu Creek watershed concerns, showcase existing watershed projects, and provide participants with valuable information about the watershed.
- ◆ A video of the tour “A Watershed Experience: the Malibu Creek Watershed Tour” was created and shown on local television stations in five cities and two public access cable stations.
- ◆ Created an educational video, “the Clean Water Act and Our Backyards: Improving Water Quality in the Santa Monica Mountains”, to provide viewers with information about the Clean Water Act and how to improve water quality.
- ◆ Worked with A.E. Wright middle school to plan a native garden that will be constructed on school grounds to be used as a teaching site.

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Water Use Efficiency** – In support of Water Use Efficiency Program goals the coordinator:

- Worked with partners to conduct a native plants sale. Over 2,500 drought tolerant water plants were sold to Santa Monica Mountains residents for landscaping.
- Began planning the development of a native plants video that will teach viewers about the water saving benefits of native plants.
- Wrote and published several articles promoting the use of Native Plants and providing readers with information about the water use efficiency of Native Plant landscaping.
- Wrote grants to obtain funding for native plant gardens in local schools.
- Conducted outreach efforts to promote water use efficiency including distributing the Clean Water Act and Living Lightly in the Watershed guides.
- Worked with the City of Malibu to plan the development of an E.T. Controllers installation and refund program.

**Watershed Management** – In support of the Watershed Management Program the coordinator:

- Worked with other watershed groups and agencies to collaborate on potential projects.
- Worked with local schools to plan implementing native plants teaching gardens on school grounds.
- Partnered with the Gabrielino/Tongva Tribe to plan a restoration project on Kuruvunga Springs.
- Held a Malibu Creek Watershed Tour to educate participants about the watershed.

**Ecosystem Restoration** – Although the watershed is technically outside of the Ecosystem Restoration Program jurisdiction, the coordinator supported the goals of the program by:

- Helping with the effort to obtain funding for the completion of the USACE Malibu Creek Environmental Restoration Feasibility Study which is exploring the possibility of removing Rindge Dam.

- Worked with stakeholders to develop plans for removing cement out from the Calabasas portion of the creek. Grant funding has been obtained for the project but engineering designs are still under development.

### **Performance Measures**

**Objective 1:** Coordinate Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council Meetings.

**Performance Measure:** 1. 25% of stakeholder surveys returned to Coordinator 2. Three stakeholders will seek funding from sources on available grants list.

#### **Progress:**

- Completed a Stakeholder survey in 2004.
- Sent out a Stakeholder Survey via email for 2005 in January of 2006.
- Malibu City is currently coordinating a very large Prop 50; stakeholders have co-funded grant writers to manage the project.
- The Ballona Creek Watershed Coordinator wrote a Prop 50 Watershed Coordinator grant as a result of a suggestion made by the coordinator in December 2005.
- Stakeholders supplied project ideas to the IRWMP project after encouragement by the coordinator.

**Objective 2:** Collaborate with other watershed groups in the Santa Monica Bay Watershed.

**Performance Measure:** 1. MCW Coordinator meets with Ballona Stakeholders annually to exchange watershed planning ideas and goals. 2. MCW Coordinator and Topanga Creek Watershed Committee meet annually to exchange watershed planning ideas and goals.

#### **Progress:**

- Met with the Ballona Creek Watershed Coordinator on a regular basis to exchange planning ideas and goals.
- Attended the 2005 Ballona Creek Watershed Walk.
- Met with the Topanga Creek Watershed Coordinator to discuss shared goals and the potential for collaborating on projects.
- Partnered with the Ballona Creek Watershed Coordinator on a Proposition 50 “Go Wild” Native-scaping project.

**Watershed Goal 2:** Increase residential community awareness of watershed issues.

**Objective 1:** Maintain and expand current watershed awareness by updating *the Living Lightly Guide*.

**Performance Measure:** 1.Coordinator obtains resources to publish and re-distribute revised

*Living Lightly Guide*. 2. Living Lightly Guide revision reaches 100,000 Watershed households. 3. Two Southern California watershed groups adopt a “Living Lightly” type document for their own watersheds

**Progress:**

- Obtained over \$51,000 to fund reprinting the Living Lightly Guide.
- Distributed 19,000 revised Living Lightly Guides throughout the watershed.
- Over the next 3 years, the Living Lightly Guides will be distributed by Las Virgenes Municipal Water District and Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Water District 29 to all new homeowners throughout the watershed.
- The City of Malibu has agreed to distribute the guide to every home within the city.

**Objective 2:** Build watershed awareness by conducting media outreach.

**Performance Measure:** 1. Two watershed-focused articles in local newspapers each year. 2. Two watershed events or issues covered on Cable TV each year.

**Progress:**

- Created a three-hour documentary about the 2004 Malibu Creek Watershed Tour called “A Watershed Experience”. The documentary has been shown on city TV stations in Santa Monica, Malibu, Calabasas, and on two cable access stations.
- The coordinator worked with City of Calabasas to film the Native Plants sale. The film will provide information about using native plants for landscaping.
- Developed an educational video about improving water quality called, “The Clean Water Act and Our Backyards: Improving Water Quality in the Santa Monica Mountains”.

**Watershed Goal 3:** Reduce water use within watershed homes and gardens.

**Objective 1:** Encourage development of rebate program for City of Malibu for low-flush toilets, dual-flush toilets and low-water use washing machines.

**Performance Measure:** 1. Rebate programs advertised in City of Malibu news media and Malibu newspapers. 2. WBMWD becomes MCWAC stakeholder. 3. WBMWD presents rebate program at one City of Malibu event and distributes rebate information to residents aged over 50.

**Progress:**

- This performance measure is complete. The coordinator worked with the City of Malibu and Malibu newspapers to advertise rebate programs.
- WBMWD has signed on to become a member of the MCWAC.
- WBMWD and City of Malibu hosted several events at the Malibu Farmers Market to promote the ultra-low-flush toilets/water-efficient clothes washer rebate program.

**Objective 2:** Develop stakeholder-driven plan to promote “California Friendly” gardening.

**Performance Measure:** 1. Six MCWAC or MCW stakeholders establish “California Friendly” Garden Subcommittee, meet bi-monthly. 2. Gardening Subcommittee holds annual “California Friendly” Garden event with 25 participants in each year beginning in 2004 – 2007. 3. “De-lawning” party receives media coverage on cable TV and two local newspapers. 4. Coordinator solicits sites for “De-lawning” event. 5. Coordinator submits 1 grant or pursues three other funding sources for garden coordinator position.

**Progress:**

- The California Friendly Garden subcommittee has held one meeting.
- Obtained a PIE grant received from Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission to fund: The development of six articles on Native-scaping to be published locally; a Native Plants Sale; a Delawning Party; and, the creation of a Native-scaping Teaching Garden.
- Held a Native Plants Sale and sold over 2,500 native plants.
- The A. E. Wright elementary school agreed to host a native plant demonstration garden.
- Developed a partnership with three water districts to plan the development of a backyard conservation program modeled after the program developed by Lake Tahoe RCD.

**Watershed Goal 4:** Increase water re-use throughout watershed.

**Objective 1:** Build support for water re-use within the watershed.

**Performance Measure:** 1. Publication of 5 articles over 3 years on re-use options in local newspapers. 2. 15 MCWAC stakeholders visit TreePeople and LVMWD water re-use demonstration sites.

**Progress:**

- Talked to TreePeople staff about conducting presentations on cisterns for local City Councils. The staff has expressed an interest.
- Proposed that cistern use, greywater use, and turning treated effluent into potable water be included as potential projects as part of the IRWMP process.

**Watershed Goal 5:** Meet and exceed nutrient/bacteria TMDLs by limiting sources of non-point source pollution.

**Objective 1:** Facilitate development of TMDL video for public education/outreach program.

**Performance Measure:** 1. Funding acquired to create TMDL video. 2. Video completed and 45 MCWAC stakeholders view video at MCWAC meeting. 3. Plan implemented to present video to a minimum of 10 MCW community groups each year through 2007. 4. 100 surveys returned after 10 video viewings.

**Progress:**

- Obtained \$25,000 for the TMDL video.
- A script was approved by Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council Education Subcommittee.
- The video has been completed. The first public screening was held in December 2005.
- The film is now being shown at City TV stations in Malibu, Santa Monica, Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, Thousand Oaks and on the Charter Communications public access cable channel.

**Objective 2:** Obtain funding for a Santa Monica Horse Outreach/Education Coordinator to determine impact of horses on pollution within the creek.

**Performance Measure:** Coordinator writes 2 grants or develops other funding sources for Horse Outreach/Education Coordinator.

**Progress:**

- Submitted several interrelated SEP proposals to the Regional Water Quality Control board in attempt to obtain funding for a horse outreach and education coordinator. These proposals were not selected for funding.
- Included a discussion of horse related water quality issues in the water quality video.
- Held meetings with the County Planner and a Board of Supervisors staff members to highlight horse BMPs currently used in the watershed.

**Objective 3:** Continue to work with watershed cities and agencies to implement “Plan Blue,” a collaborative effort to reduce non-point source pollution.

**Performance Measure:** 1. Plan Blue document completed and utilized by MCW cities. 2. Plan Blue annual revision plan adopted and scheduled. 3. Plan Blue revision meetings occur annually, with participation of 4 cities and Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works. 4. Participating Plan Blue cities meet NPDES standards.

**Progress:**

The development of Plan Blue was delayed due to the key architect of the plan taking maternity leave. The planning will move forward when there is an opening in her schedule.

**Watershed Goal 6:** Continue momentum on priority ecosystem restoration projects.

**Objective 1:** Support completion of Rindge Dam Feasibility Study.

**Performance Measure:** 1. Forty public outreach meetings held over three years by CalTrout expert to educate public about Steelhead Trout and Rindge Dam blockage issues. Total of 400 people attend meetings. 2. Funding acquired to complete Rindge Dam Feasibility Study.



**Progress:**

- Attended and supported USACE-lead meetings designed to solicit information to complete the Rindge Dam Feasibility Study.
- Lead an extensive lobbying effort in attempt to obtain funding to complete the study.

**Objective 2:** Build upon previous coordinator's efforts to implement top ten Lagoon Task Force recommendations.

**Performance Measure:** 1. Inventory of Malibu Lagoon properties is created. 2. Task Force develops plan to address priority parcels around the Lagoon.

**Progress:**

- Local philanthropist/activist Ozzie Silna has an inventory of the Lagoon properties in place.
- Hired an employee to manage the permit process for the planned Lagoon Restoration project designed by Heal the Bay on behalf of California Department of State Parks and Recreation.
- Sent a Notice of Preparation to all stakeholders as part of the permit process.
- A priority parcel, the Chili Cook-off site, has been obtained by Malibu City.

## **Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency Lower American River**



**Amount Funded:** \$278,036

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$157,523

### **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**

- ◆ Coordinated a habitat survey project on Clover Valley Creek by working with the DCC contractor and volunteers. The survey collected information regarding barriers and habitat for anadromous fish.
- ◆ Provided planning and oversight of water quality monitoring activities. The data is used to develop projects that will lead to improved habitat, water quality, and compliance with stormwater permits.
- ◆ Engaged agencies and local government in several grant proposals that will lead to more cooperative watershed management. Proposals included: a full proposal to the CALFED Watershed PSP to continue monitoring in the Dry Creek Watershed and extend it to other watersheds in the American Basin; a proposal led by CalEPA OEHHA was submitted to the SWRCB Consolidated PSP to obtain funding to fill data gaps on sediment; a Sacramento River Watershed Program proposal was submitted to obtain funding for Secret Ravine fish passage improvement; a proposal was submitted to the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program to improve citizen spawning survey in Dry Creek Watershed, and, a grant was awarded by REI for work with the City of Rocklin to improve Johnson-Springview Park.
- ◆ Worked with representatives from the American Motorcycle Association, Placer County, Audubon, Cities of Roseville and Rocklin, and the state ORV Recreation Commission to develop an ORV facility in West Placer that will include a large amount of open space.

- ◆ Worked with the members of the Auburn Ravine and Pleasant Grove Coordinated Resource Management groups to consolidate them. There are plans to consolidation with the Dry Creek Watershed Council as well.
- ◆ Participated in planning with CalEPA OEHHHA and others to engage SACOG planners in a discussion about including low impact development measures in the SACOG Blueprint guiding development in the five county region.
- ◆ Worked with an environmental consultant to organize a meeting of area engineers to employ Low Impact Development measures in local development projects. LID will result in more watershed friendly development in the Dry Creek Watershed and surrounding watersheds.
- ◆ Continued developing the public involvement portion of the Secret Ravine Restoration Project. This included working with the Placer County Flood Control District to plan the hiring of a coordinator to manage Sierra College involvement. The Project will implement the Dry Creek Watershed Flood Control Plan and increase instream habitat for salmonids and other species by installing 50 root wads and reconnecting the floodplain.
- ◆ Participated in meetings to create a regional long term *Sesbania* management program based on the initial program developed by Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. *Sesbania* is an invasive plant that has become a problem in valley riparian areas. The coordinator was able to follow up with local governments and agencies to secure \$15,000 for the program. This is the first regionally funded maintenance program and may serve as a model for a variety of regionally funded maintenance activities.
- ◆ Coordinated the Creek Week committee, which is organizing the tenth annual creek week. This event is the major watershed education and public outreach event for the watershed and neighboring watersheds. Over 400 people participate in the workdays and educational events.

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** – The coordinator conducted numerous activities to support the goals of the CALFED Watershed Program. Including:

- Coordinating a citizen habitat survey on Clover Valley creek
- Implementing a regular water quality-monitoring program in the watershed. Data is used to develop management plan actions that will lead to improved habitat, better water quality, and compliance with stormwater permits.
- Organized a consolidation of the Auburn Ravine and the Pleasant Grove Coordinated Resource Management groups.
- Continued development of the public involvement portion of the Secret Ravine Restoration Project.
- Coordinated comments on the Clover Valley development project DEIR that were favorably received regarding setting up a monitoring program as part of the mitigation measures.
- Coordinated the Creek Week committee in organizing the tenth annual creek week. The event will provide watershed education and outreach for residents within the watershed and neighboring watersheds.

**Ecosystem Restoration** – In support of Ecosystem Restoration Program goals the coordinator helped create a regional *Sesbania* management program.

**Science** – The coordinator supported the goals of the Science program by investigating the relationship between water quality parameters and the benthic macroinvertebrate community and, investigating the contribution of the Steelhead Creek watershed to organic carbon loads in the Delta.

### **Performance Measures**

**Goal:** Reduce run-off; improve water quality; and improve aquatic and terrestrial habitats, and the ecosystem function of the Dry Creek Sub-Watershed.

**Objective 1:** Strengthen the organizational capacity of the Dry Creek Watershed Council (DCWC) to provide continuous long-term management of the Dry Creek Watershed and improve the coordination between the DCWC and the watershed groups in the two other watersheds comprising the Lower American River (LAR) Watershed (HUC #18020111).

**Performance Measure:** Compilation of spatial and numeric watershed data; creation of a DCWC website featuring the watershed data, meeting announcements, minutes, organizational information and relevant links to the websites in the other watersheds of the LAR HUC; implementation of funded watershed restoration projects; development of grant proposals to fund future goal related projects.

### **Progress:**

- Data continues to be gathered as part of DCC monitoring programs. The data is being catalogued in PDF and database format for entry into the BDAT database program.
- There is no available funding for website development but a DCC volunteer is using the DCC website to post information.
- Work has continued on the Secret Ravine Restoration Project and the Miners Ravine Restoration Project.
- Three proposals have been developed and submitted, and work plans are being developed for two others.

**Objective 2:** Develop and implement a focused education and outreach program to promote an integrated, watershed-based approach to land-use planning in the Dry Creek Watershed.

**Performance Measurement:** Establish an executive level oversight group; complete a series of informational presentations to local planners, design engineers and developers; convene a workshop on the principles of watershed-based land-use planning and the value of minimizing imperviousness in urban infrastructure and subdivision design; create a working group to develop a specific set of recommendations for modifying urban planning and design requirements in the Dry Creek watershed; and support a demonstration project illustrating good design for existing and new development.

**Progress:**

- A presentation is planned to a group of local engineers and another presentation to SACOG planners is scheduled.
- Convened a workshop on the principles of watershed-based land –use planning and the value of minimizing imperviousness in urban infrastructure and subdivision design.
- Created a working group to develop a specific set of recommendations for modifying urban planning and design requirements in the Dry Creek Watershed.
- Sacramento County and Roseville are working on stormwater measures that will incorporate recommendations for modifying urban planning and design requirements in the watershed. The Placer Regional Stormwater group is working on similar measures.
- Demonstrations of rain gardens to mitigate stormwater from individual sites are planned with city of Roseville and Roseville Joint Union High School District.

## San Francisquito Creek JPA

### Coyote Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$656,815

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$3,907,056

### **Background**

The watershed drains into the San Francisco Bay and consists of urban, 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 eleven 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 fish. It is critical that stakeholders work together to protect the environment, restore habitat, and minimize damage due to flooding.

### **Benefits to the Watershed**

- ◆ Facilitated four volunteer workdays to plant 300 native plants at SFWC's long-term revegetation sites and remove invasive plants from 300 linear feet of creek. The workdays involved 70 volunteers. These efforts strengthened native cover on 600 linear feet of creek side land and provided community residents with education on watershed stewardship and native planting techniques.
- ◆ Coordinated an effort to complete 50% designs for a fish passage improvement at McGarvey Gulch. The site is currently blocking access to 0.25 miles of prime spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead.
- ◆ Released funds to a partner to complete designs for a project to improve passage at a barrier that impedes fish access to 3.6 miles of prime spawning and rearing habitat on Los Trancos Creek.



*Volunteers removed approximately 320 bags of trash and other assorted nonnatives at a watershed workday.*



- ◆ Developed a new partnership with Urban Creeks Council to conduct a pilot project in upper San Francisquito. The project will help landowners assess creek side land management issues on two headwater tributaries. The project will assist landowners, who own approximately 80% of the land in the watershed, in undertaking creek-friendly restoration projects.
- ◆ Oversaw construction of two demonstration projects to retrofit landscaping to reduce, slow, and clean storm waters. One site is on a residential driveway and the other is on a municipal parking lot. The projects involved replacing impervious surfaces with permeable ones such as pervious concrete, unit pavers, and grass pave. It is estimated that these projects will reduce runoff by approximately 0.8-acre foot/year.
- ◆ Worked with a restoration ecologist to develop a scientifically rigorous, volunteer-based monitoring protocol to help SFWC develop best management practices to ensure the long-term sustainability of its restoration sites. This work will help safeguard existing restoration efforts from reinvasion by invasive species on approximately 4000 linear feet of stream bank. Results from the monitoring may help other watershed groups and landowners ensure the long-term sustainability of their restoration efforts.
- ◆ Talked with a teacher at a school in the upper watershed about two small-scale creek side projects on campus. The projects will raise awareness about the creek and teach the principles of stewardship to approximately 150 students and their families.
- ◆ Encouraged broad public participation in the Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project feasibility study. The coordinator participated in feasibility study planning discussion and disseminated information to SFWC members about providing input to the feasibility study being conducted by San Francisquito Creek JPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- ◆ Completed a contract with the Sonoma Ecology Center to conduct a second phase of *Arundo donax* mapping and removal.
- ◆ Worked with Streamkeepers and San Francisquito Watershed Council volunteer monitors to track a paint spill in a San Francisquito Creek tributary to determine when the paint arrived in the mainstem of the creek.
- ◆ Conducted an annual “maintenance walk” through San Francisquito Creek with seven agency staff to mark debris sites and identify plant materials that need to be removed.
- ◆ Treated 16 resprouts of *Arundo donax* on land in the middle and lower watershed.

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Program** - In building a partnership with Urban Creeks Council to conduct a landowner assistance pilot project, the coordinator fostered the kind of broad collaboration encouraged by the Watershed Program to promote integration among community-based watershed efforts and to raise the public profile of watershed conservation. The coordinator also worked with SFWC staff to write grant proposals for \$389,244 to support SFWC’s work. This effort supports the Watershed Program goal of bringing technical expertise and other resources to local watersheds. Finally, the coordinator continued to expand existing partnerships and build new ones.

**Water Use Efficiency** – The creek side landowner assistance pilot project that the coordinator collaborated with partners to create seeks to reduce impacts from impervious surface, thereby helping to meet CALFED’s goal of improving water quality by altering the volume, concentration, timing, and location of return flows. The coordinator also worked with SFWC to develop an action plan to promote irrigation systems that will improve water use efficiency and enhance instream flows. Finally, the coordinator supported and participated in storm water runoff retrofit projects that help to improve water quality by altering volume.

**Ecosystem Restoration** – The coordinator completed activities that support the Ecosystem Restoration Program goal of aiding in the recovery of steelhead (a listed species), rehabilitate natural processes related to stream channels and to protect and restore functional habitat; and the goal of reducing negative impacts from invasive species. Specifically the coordinator:

- Worked with SFWC to secure 50% designs for two fish passage improvement projects;
- Secured funding for final designs for a third fish passage improvement project;
- Worked on mapping and removing the remaining stands of *Arundo donax*;
- Planned for the long term sustainability of SFWC’s restoration sites by developing monitoring protocol to help guard against reinvasion;
- Coordinated volunteer workdays that helped reduce the negative impacts of invasive species by increasing the density of native species;
- And, participated in discussions and dissemination of information to members about the SFC JPA/USACE Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project feasibility study.

**Levee System Integrity** - By participating in the San Francisquito JPA as an Associate Member and member of the Management Team, the coordinator supports the JPA’s work to ensure that levee maintenance and habitat needs are met.

### **Performance Measures**

**Goal # 1:** Improve and maintain aquatic and riparian habitat within the watershed.

**Objective # 1:** Maintain and enhance in-stream flows and reduce impacts of impervious surfaces on watershed hydrology.

**Performance Measure:** Permanent water use efficiency gains and storm water runoff reductions totaling up to 3-acre feet per year (1 million gallons per year).

### **Progress:**

- Participated in discussions about potential water budget study to be included with the San Francisquito Creek JPA / U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration project feasibility study. The study would offer a unique opportunity to examine trends in the hydrologic function of the watershed and to understand impacts of withdrawals and impervious surface on flows.

- Identified irrigation systems as the most relevant focus for an evaluation of opportunities to improve water use efficiency and enhance in-stream flows. The coordinator began gathering information for an action plan. These systems could save at least 1 million gallons per year in withdrawals and/or storm water runoff if operating at peak efficiency.
- Hired a consultant to draft a policy, code, ordinance, and operations review of local agencies' storm water management practices and develop recommendations of areas for improvement.
- Completed two grant proposals to fund projects that will sustain in-stream flows and reduce the impacts of impervious surfaces. One proposal was for a project to enhance monitoring at SFWC's storm water demonstration sites. The other was a pilot project to provide technical consultations to landowners.

**Objective 2:** Restore native riparian vegetation along San Francisquito and tributary creeks

**Performance Measure:** 1000 linear feet of stream bank revegetated with native riparian plants

**Progress:**

- Worked with Urban Creeks Council to plan a pilot project on 1-2 tributaries in the upper watershed. The intent of the project is to provide technical consultations to landowners with bank erosion problems or interest in reducing impervious surface on their properties. The project has the potential to produce revegetation projects that will exceed SFWC's goal of 1000 linear feet of revegetated stream bank.
- Worked with partners to identify and prioritize sites for invasive species removal. The coordinator secured funding and began developing a mapping and eradication plan for *Arundo donax*.
- Developed monitoring protocol to assess the success of SFWC's revegetation sites. The monitoring will measure percent cover, densities of native and nonnative plant species, and other parameters to determine the sustainability of the sites' development trajectory. The results will help SFWC plan maintenance efforts.
- Oversaw 23 volunteer workdays that resulted in 1,693 native plants planted at SFWC's long-term revegetation sites. Additionally, invasive plants were removed from 1,500 linear feet of streambank. This effort involved 520 community volunteers. Volunteers also removed approximately 320 bags of trash from the mainstem of San Francisquito Creek.
- Provided advice to eight property owners about the use of native plants in their restoration projects.

**Objective 3:** Restore habitat connectivity for steelhead trout by remediating barriers to migration passage.

**Performance Measure:** Access to 18.5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat improved for adult steelhead.

**Progress:**

- Worked with partners from the Steelhead Task Force to draft a list identifying and prioritizing barriers to steelhead passage to 18.5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat.
- Coordinated the development of 50% designs on two barriers to steelhead passage to 2.8 miles of prime spawning and rearing habitat in the upper watershed.
- Facilitated the release of funds to a partner to assist with the completion of designs for a fish passage improvement project at a barrier that currently impedes access to 3.6 miles of prime spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead in the upper watershed.
- Wrote and submitted three grant proposals for \$207,618 and helped two partners secure grants for five projects to improve passage for steelhead migrating from the Bay to the upper watershed.
- Presented information about steelhead in the San Francisquito watershed at one public meeting and three community events.

## **San Joaquin County RCD**

### **Lower Cosumnes-Lower Mokelumne Watershed**



**Amount Funded:** \$182,505

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$1,378,000

#### **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 90% 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**

- ◆ Facilitated meetings of the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Steering Committee. These meetings keep local stakeholders involved in implementing the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Plan, allows the committee to review the plan and make changes to meet changing needs of the community and stakeholders, and the meetings keep stakeholders up to date on activities in the watershed. Stakeholder participation in the Committee is increasing and the committee is taking on additional projects
- ◆ Planned and oversaw an agricultural water quality best management practices field day in the watershed. The field day was held in conjunction with government agencies and non-governmental organizations to meet their needs while promoting best management practices to reduce non-point source pollution that enters the river. The field day strengthened relationships between government agencies and non-governmental groups, and provided taught agricultural producers how to reduce non-point source contamination.
- ◆ Continued to work with the SLEWS coordinator on a project site in the watershed. The coordinator worked with SLEWS staff to select the site, the types of plants to be planted at the site, and the students that would be involved with the program. The coordinator also secured equipment for the project site. During the school year students participated in a restoration project that included developing a planting plan, removing non-native invasive species, planting native plants, and monitoring the success of the project.
- ◆ Continued to work with the San Joaquin Watershed Education Partnership (SJWEP) to promote using the Mokelumne Watershed as a focal point for place-based learning activities.
- ◆ Promoted the successes achieved in the watershed at several local, regional, and statewide meetings.

- ◆ Continued to cooperate and collaborate with other watershed coordinators on a regional and statewide basis to help increase cooperation and collaboration and share information.
- ◆ Worked with partners to submit two grant applications for restoration projects that would make improvements at Lodi Lake and provide educational opportunities.

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** – In support of the Watershed Management program, the coordinator:

- Facilitated meetings of the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Steering Committee.
- Helped recruit students for a FARMS/Leadership program in the watershed.
- Served as a mentor for SLEWS program activities a project site in the watershed.
- Helped plan the ongoing Mokelumne River activities of the San Joaquin Education Partnership.
- Participated in Coastal Clean-up day activities along the Mokelumne River at Lodi Lake Park.
- Planned and co-hosted a second agricultural water quality best management practices field day in the watershed.
- Worked in partnership with the city of Lodi and the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission to finalize a non-point source runoff workshop for urban/suburban residents.
- Wrote grant proposals to fund restoration and other activities in the watershed.
- Participated in regional and statewide watershed groups and councils, including TOPPS and SJCDWQC in San Joaquin County, the CARCD/DOC Watershed Coordinators group, and the CALFED Watershed Subcommittee.

### **Performance Measures**

**Goal:** Facilitate and improve coordination, collaboration, and assistance among government agencies, other organizations, and local watershed groups.

**Objective # 3:** Continue the involvement of diverse stakeholders in the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Steering Committee

**Performance Measure:** 10% increase the number and diversity of active participants in the steering committee, 50% increase in the number of non-project related news stories about Steering Committee Efforts, and a 20% annual increase in the number of hits on the RCD website pages devoted to the watershed stewardship plan and watershed owner's manual.



**Progress:**

- A 10% increase in the number and diversity of active participants was achieved. The new participants have continued to attend the steering committee meetings. Meetings typically include 10-12 people, with absentees or non-participants rotating month to month. The original work plan called for quarterly meetings, but these meetings have been increased to monthly as the committee undertakes additional projects.
- The 50% increase in non-project related news stories has been achieved and exceeded. In addition to stories about restoration projects in the watershed, meeting notices have been published in the newspaper as well as notices of the agricultural best management practices field day.
- Visits to the website have increased above the 20% goal.

**Objective # 4:** Create a greater involvement of school systems and educational institutions in watershed improvement and outreach efforts.

**Performance Measure:** 20% increase the number of teachers and students doing projects in the lower Mokelumne River Watershed, a 30% increase in field trips to the watershed involving the watershed coordinator.

**Progress:**

A 20% increase in the number of teachers and students doing projects in the watershed has been achieved, as has the 30% increase in the number of field trips. These performance measures have been achieved through the coordinators work with the SLEWS program.

**Objective #5:** Expand education and outreach about runoff control and non-point source pollution for both agricultural and urban-suburban stakeholders.

**Performance Measure:** 5% % increase in dissolved oxygen, 5% increase in water clarity, 10% increase in applications for assistance through NRCS EQIP water quality/quantity programs and 10% increase in applications for NRCS WHIP program.

**Progress:**

- Water Quality data collected by the city of Lodi through its storm drain detectives program indicates overall improvement for dissolved oxygen levels in 2006 when compared with 2005 figures. There were a few monitoring stations that remained nearly the same from year to year, while others showed decreases in dissolved oxygen levels. Some of this may be due to different natural river conditions in 2005 and 2006 however; some sites did show as much as a 25% improvement in dissolved oxygen levels (mg/L) when compared with the previous year.
- Applications for assistance through the NRCS EQIP program have declined rather than increased in terms of total number of applications. This may be due in part to changes to the rules that now favor a smaller numbers of recipients for larger amounts of money.

- The number of applications for assistance through the NRCS WHIP program have also declined.

**Objective #6:** Increase capacity building in the watershed.

**Performance Measure:** Secure funding for restoration and other projects, including continuation of the watershed coordinator's work; conduct tours for local/state/federal agency personnel, NGO's, and other watershed coordinators; make presentations to CBDA, the California Watershed Council, and other state/regional watershed organizations.

**Progress:**

The coordinator has received a total of \$1.37 million in funding for restoration and other watershed improvement projects. During past year, two grant proposals were submitted for work in Lodi Lake and for a watershed education project.

## San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust

Middle San Joaquin-Lower  
Chowchilla Watershed



**Amount Funded:** \$158,624

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$450,400

### **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**

- ◆ Began mapping *Arundo donax* during a January volunteer workday. Clusters were identified on hand drawn maps for future GPS location. One 350-acre property was mapped.
- ◆ Conducted an acorn planting project at the river center.
- ◆ Began implementing the Jensen River Ranch habitat enhancement project and Riverbottom park project.
- ◆ Recruited students to help propagate native plants for the Jensen River Ranch project. The coordinator has obtained a commitment from students at CART high school and other schools and community groups have expressed an interest.
- ◆ Began weed eradication at Jensen River Ranch with community volunteers. Volunteers were educated about invasive weeds and the protection necessary for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle habitat.
- ◆ Coordinated Camp Pashayan clean-up with East Fresno Kiwanis Club. Small mammal and bird habitat was improved by the creation of new cover from predators.



*Volunteers at work during an Oak Thistle Removal Day.*

- ◆ Coordinated the purchase of a Habitat Conservation Easement between the City of Fresno and the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust to protect new Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle habitat at Riverbottom Park. The city will provide biological monitoring while the Trust holds and monitors the easement.
- ◆ Conducted a Watershed Model presentation for a FARMS program field trip. The coordinator created models with diatomaceous earth to teach high school students how watersheds function and how surrounding land uses impact watersheds.
- ◆ Worked with California State University of Fresno students and other volunteers to remove Bull Thistle from Parkway properties.
- ◆ Negotiated the final details of the Sycamore Island Ranch acquisition. The acquisition will be important for future San Joaquin River restoration projects.

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** – In support of Watershed Program goals, the coordinator involved community volunteers in river clean-up activities, involved high school students in monthly stewardship days and native plant propagation for future restoration projects, held stakeholder meetings to educate and inform the community about the watershed and projects within the watershed.



*The San Joaquin River*

**Ecosystem Restoration** – In support of the Ecosystem Restoration program, the coordinator: Continued planning habitat enhancement at Riverbottom Park with the help of a college intern; Began implementing the Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement project in partnership with DWR, San Joaquin River Conservancy, and the City of Fresno; Worked with volunteers to remove a Bull Thistle infestation; Began mapping *Arundo donax* infestations as part of the *Arundo* Eradication and Coordination Program; and, worked with volunteers to conduct numerous river clean-ups and invasive species removal workdays.

### **Performance Measures**

**Goal:** Protect and restore riparian, upland, and aquatic habitat through a community-based restoration program

**Objective 1:** Establish program to solicit and maintain community involvement in the implementation of restoration activities.

**Performance Measure:** Number of acres restored through community-based restoration program.

**Progress:**

- Began implementing the weed eradication portion of the Jensen River Ranch Project. The project includes approximately 120 acres of riparian, wetland, and oak savanna habitat.
- Continued to recruit and maintain River Steward volunteers through monthly workdays, regular communication, presentations, newsletter articles, and a Teach the River Symposium workshop.
- Coordinated with the city of Fresno to finalize environmental compliance for the Riverbottom Park project.
- Began mentoring an intern who will create a planting design for the Riverbottom Park project.
- Coordinated with Kiwanis, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and high school students to implement cleanup projects and raise awareness about upcoming restoration projects.

**Objective 2:** Design, develop and implement discrete watershed conservation, maintenance and restoration activities.

**Performance Measure:** Amount of funding secured for project planning and implementation.

**Progress:**

- Secured a grant from the San Joaquin River Conservancy for Invasive Weed Eradication at Jensen River Ranch.
- Subcontracted with the Sonoma Ecology Center for the *Arundo donax* Education and Coordination program.

## **Santa Barbara County**

### **Santa Barbara Coastal Watershed**



**Amount Funded:** \$202,943

**Additional Funding Obtained to Date:** \$80,000

#### **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**

- ◆ Completed the San Jose Creek Watershed Plan and held a public meeting to present the final plan. Efforts are underway to begin implementing the Plan.
- ◆ Coordinated efforts to secure permits for two steelhead barrier removal projects in the watershed. These projects were identified as high priorities in the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Plan.
- ◆ Met with the Rincon Creek Watershed Council to guide development of the Rincon Creek Watershed Plan.
- ◆ Worked with TetraTech to conduct a data gap analysis and to prepare a work plan to guide fieldwork for the Rincon Creek Watershed Plan.
- ◆ Promoted use of the irrigation evaluation lab to help reduce polluted runoff and increase irrigation efficiency. The coordinator sent mailings to the agricultural community to publicize the availability of the mobile lab.
- ◆ Conducted a water use efficiency workshop for stakeholders. The workshop covered choosing the correct hardware to insure uniform water application; maintenance and management to keep the system’s high efficiency; and scheduling techniques to avoid under- and over-irrigation. The workshop was presented in both English and Spanish. More than 27 people attended.
- ◆ Implemented the Green Gardener Certification Program advanced training to help educate landscape maintenance professionals in resource efficient landscaping practices. The course was offered in both English and Spanish. As of August 2005, there are 63 certified Green Gardeners in the South County, 23 of which are certified as Advanced Green Gardeners (which means that they have completed a more intensive course). In the North County, there are 31 certified Green Gardeners, 15 of which are Advanced Green Gardeners.

- ◆ Promoted the *Our Water, Our World* (OWOW) program to educate the community about increasing irrigation efficiency and using less toxic pest control alternatives. The coordinator distributed brochures and visited eight hardware and nurseries that distribute pesticides.
- ◆ Initiated the Restoration Network web site, which will be a resource for people implementing restoration projects throughout the south coast.
- ◆ Completed irrigation system evaluations at four avocado ranches to evaluate existing hardware and scheduling and to provide recommendations to reduce run-off and increase irrigation efficiency.
- ◆ Completed irrigation system evaluations at one ranch that used a total of 20 irrigation systems. The coordinator evaluated the existing systems and provided recommendations for potential improvements to improve efficiency.
- ◆ Conducted extensive stakeholder outreach in the Carpinteria Creek and Rincon Creek Watersheds, through participation in monthly meetings and through a BBQ to update stakeholders on the status of watershed planning efforts. Sixty people attended the BBQ, which helped in obtaining landowner support for watershed planning efforts.
- ◆ Completed a draft white paper on watershed planning in Santa Barbara County, which included a detailed summary of watershed planning efforts underway in Napa, Sonoma, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Ventura, and Riverside Counties. The paper contains recommendations for what role the County could play in future watershed planning efforts.

### **Benefits to CALFED Program**

**Watershed Management** - In support of CALFED Watershed Program goals, the coordinator:

- Coordinated education and outreach for the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition by editing a bi-weekly column for the local newspaper entitled “In the Watershed.” Topics covered included OWOW point-of-sale education program on least-toxic pest control, Earth Day events, and the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Plan.
- Participated in the Santa Barbara Task Force of the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project to provide information on County watershed efforts and to explore opportunities for collaboration.
- Organized an educational tour of the highway 101 culvert on Rincon Creek for the Rincon Creek Watershed Council, to learn about restoration alternatives.
- Completed revisions, based on public comments, to the San Jose Creek Watershed Plan.
- Distributed the “Creek Care Guide” through the South Coast Watershed Resource Center.
- Sponsored Earth Day exhibits to educate participants about the Green Gardener Certification Program and the OWOW.
- Completed the Final San Jose Creek Watershed Plan and released it to the public in December 2005. Worked with URS Corporation to develop the Riparian System Management Program under a grant from the US EPA.

**Ecosystem Restoration** – In support of the Ecosystem Restoration Program the coordinator helped coordinate permitting for two key restoration projects that will remove barriers to fish passage.

**Water Use Efficiency** – In support of Water Use Efficiency Program goals, the coordinator:

- Conducted three irrigation workshops: one for greenhouse growers, one for landscape professionals, and one for open field agriculture. Each workshop was conducted in partnership with the Cachuma Resource Conservation District's watershed coordinator. The workshops were designed to instruct growers and landscapers: how to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers; reduce run-off through proper selection of irrigation hardware; conduct proper water scheduling, and use an integrated pest management approach. Each workshop was conducted in English and in Spanish.
- Sponsored a landscape irrigation class to train professional landscapers in water efficient irrigation techniques and systems. Information was presented and distributed in both English and Spanish.
- Prepared irrigation evaluation reports for growers in Carpinteria and Goleta, which included information on DU, scheduling, and soils.
- Secured \$5,000 in funding from the US Bureau of Reclamation to revise the irrigation evaluation brochures.

### **Performance Measures**

**Goal:** Improve water use efficiency, water quality, and ecosystem restoration within the watersheds.

**Objective 1:** Increase water use efficiency within the watersheds by improving agricultural and landscape irrigation.

**Performance Measure:** Decrease water use by 10% in landscapes and agricultural operations that utilize Mobile Lab services.

#### **Progress:**

- Conducted three irrigation workshops a year: one for greenhouse growers, one for landscape professionals, and one for open field agriculture. Each class teaches professionals how to improve the efficiency of their irrigation systems. The CIMIS hotline and free irrigation evaluations are promoted during these workshops.
- Worked with the Cachuma Resource Conservation District to perform irrigation evaluations on a regular basis.

**Objective 2:** Improve water quality by reducing nonpoint source pollutants from agricultural and landscape maintenance operations, such as nutrients and pesticides.



**Performance Measure:** Conduct three annual irrigation workshops. Distribute less toxic pest management information at a minimum of ten locations throughout the watershed.

**Progress:**

In addition to the activities performed to meet the Objective 1 performance measure, the coordinator promoted the *Our Water, Our World* program. The program teaches homeowners and professionals how to use less toxic alternatives to pesticides. The coordinator promotes the program through newspaper articles, newspaper ads, and by handing out brochures about the program at community events.

**Objective 3:** Facilitate ecosystem restoration through the development of watershed plans and implementation of pilot projects.

**Performance Measure:** Produce at least two watershed plans (Carpinteria, San Jose), and develop and implement pilot Riparian System Restoration Program; seek grant funds for implementation of pilot projects.

**Progress:**

- Both the Carpinteria Creek Watershed Plan and San Jose Creek Watershed Plan have been finalized. The coordinator is working to assist stakeholders in implementing aspects of each Plan. In Carpinteria Creek, the coordinator continues to assist in facilitating permitting for removal of barriers to fish passage. And, in San Jose Creek, the coordinator has been developing a Riparian System Management Program under a separate grant from US EPA, to help prioritize riparian restoration projects that will be used as mitigation for flood control projects.
- Helped guide the development of the Rincon Creek Watershed Plan. The coordinator attends monthly meetings of the Rincon Creek Watershed Council and provides guidance to a consultant in preparing the Watershed Plan. The Santa Barbara County's engineering technician is also preparing the GIS for the project.

**Objective 4:** Increase opportunities for coordination among various groups implementing watershed improvement projects.

**Performance Measure:** Implementation of a list-serve for watershed coordination newsletter.

**Progress:**

- Attended regular meetings among various groups involved in regional watershed planning such as the Wetlands Recovery Project, the San Antonio Creek Coordinated Resource Management Plan committee, the Agricultural Watershed Coalition, and Cachuma Resource Conservation District.
- Researched the best method to help various groups in coordinating watershed planning efforts. A regional restoration network or list-serve is one idea for doing this. The coordinator is continuing to investigate the feasibility of a list-serve.

**Objective 5:** Develop a strategy for incorporating watershed protection and restoration into County operations.

**Performance Measure:** Compile report and recommendations for a County role in watershed management.

**Progress:**

Prepared a draft white paper about the role the County could play in regional watershed planning. The paper included a summary of what other counties are doing in California with respect to watershed planning in terms of their organization, funding, staffing, etc. The white paper is currently being reviewed and discussed by the highest levels of the County government. The white paper has served as a catalyst for discussions about how the County should participate in watershed planning.