

## Napa County Resource Conservation District San Pablo Bay Watershed

**Amount Funded:** \$46,298

**Match Provided:** \$15,535

**Additional Funding Obtained:** \$886,139

**Watershed Coordinator:** Leigh Sharp



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

### Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

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

- Updated mailing lists for three stewardship groups and initial mailing lists developed for three additional stewardship groups.
- Distributed five newsletters that provided highlights of ongoing watershed activities and educational inserts.
- Developed and used educational flyers and a display board.
- Conducted nine formal and informal presentations regarding stewardship efforts and accomplishments.
- Assisted in the development of a watershed information center for Napa County.
- Coordinated and conducted a workshop on stewardship development.
- Coordinated and conducted several watershed stewardship education presentations for local stewardship, industry and business groups.



*Napa River, Napa County*

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

- Since July 1, 2002 there has been approximately 16 subwatershed stewardship meetings in the Carneros, Sulphur, Salvador, Selby, and Murphy Creek watersheds. Attendance at each meeting varies but the range is generally between 6 and 20.
- Multiple presentations have been made during the scope of this granting period. Evaluations from two educational workshops have been completed and compiled. The first workshop entitled “Developing Watershed Partnerships for a Better Tomorrow” received positive evaluation with an average score of 4.71 for relevance and 4.6 for overall content value. The second workshop entitled, “Getting to Know Your Creek” also received positive evaluation

with an average score of 4.59 for relevance and overall content value. Scoring was done on a scale of 1 to 5; 5 being most favorable.

- Assistance in compiling a watershed wide database was completed through on-going coordination with the Watershed Information Center (WIC) and agreement by the RCD Board of Directors to provide relevant data to the WIC website. The watershed coordinator assisted by writing grants, reviewing and editing scopes of work, and coordinating data gathering for the RCD.

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

- Support of the stewardship groups continued through the quarter with assistance with meeting and event coordination.

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

- New Stewardship groups have been developed on Salvador, Murphy, and Selby creeks and along a 4-mile reach of the Napa River (RDRT). The latter two require less direct assistance from the watershed coordinator, with more responsibility being taken on by the landowners.
- Watershed assessments were completed for Carneros and Sulphur Creeks and management plans are being drafted.
- Assisted by the watershed coordinator, the stewardship groups were able to accomplish a revegetation project, repair of a fish ladder for improved fish passage, and creek clean-up events.

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

- Submitted a proposal to the DOC to extend the watershed coordinator Grant.

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

- Seven funding requests have been submitted to various sources including: SWRCB, CALFED, County Board of Supervisors, and DFG. Over \$4.5 million in funding was requested, \$658,000 obtained and \$758,139 is pending.
- Funds obtained have been or will be used to remove fish barriers and improve riparian habitat in the Sulphur Creek watershed, and will implement the Napa Green Farm Certification Program: Fish Friendly Farming for the Napa Valley.
- Reception to the Napa Green program has been very good, with over 40 landowners interested and over 11,000 acres of land enrolled.

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

A list of all grant proposals resulting from the watershed coordinator's efforts:

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Project Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Status</b>
State Water Resources Control Board (Prop. 13)	\$500,000	Implementation of Napa Green Certification Program	Awarded \$500,000
California Department of Fish & Game (SB 271)	\$158,000	Heath Canyon Restoration Project	Awarded \$158,000
Watershed Protection, Watershed Management and Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants (319(h))	\$500,000	Implementation of Napa Green Certification Program	Pending
Watershed Protection, Watershed Management and Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants	\$2,395,000	Napa River Watershed Enhancement Program	Application denied
Watershed Protection, Watershed Management and Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants	\$1,214,000	Napa River Implementation	Application denied
County Board of Supervisors	\$30,000	Phase One: Milliken Creek Stewardship Development	Pending
DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant Program	\$228,139	Watershed Coordinator position funding	Awarded \$228,139

### **Grant Benefits to the Watershed:**

Direct benefits to the Napa River watershed derived through the coordinator's efforts include:

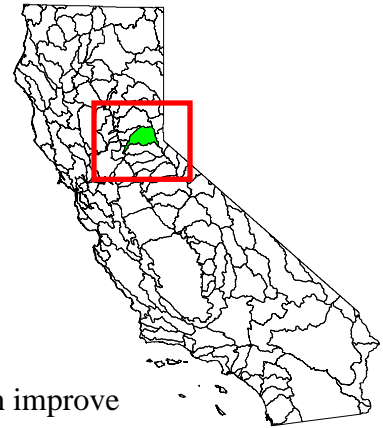
- Two riparian revegetation projects.
- Three creek clean-up events.
- A fish ladder repair project to improve migratory fish passage.
- Several additional projects including riparian restoration, erosion control, and fish barrier removal have received funding and will be implemented in 2004.
- Watershed assessments for Carneros and Sulphur Creeks were completed and will result in management plans that will identify and prioritize potential restoration programs for each watershed.

Indirect benefits from the coordinator's efforts that will serve to inform future projects in the watershed include:

- Three seasons of ground water monitoring data.
- One completed and two draft creek and watershed management plans.
- Hundreds of informed watershed stakeholders who are interested in improving watershed conditions. The coordinator worked closely with several public, private and not-for-profit organizations over the term of the grant and is seeing improved community relationships and growing enthusiasm for protecting and restoring the Napa River watershed.

## Placer County Resource Conservation District

### North Fork American River Watershed



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

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

**Additional Funding Obtained:** \$788,413

**Watershed Coordinator:** Bonnie Bagwell

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

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

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

- Three ARWG regular meetings held.
- Four “Core Team” meetings held.
- Attended the following meetings: Bear River CRMP (2x), Placer County Fire Safe Alliance (2x), Friends of Bunch Creek, North Fork American River Alliance, PCWA Water Efficiency work group, Citizen’s Advisory Committee NPDES, Placer County, City of Colfax Parks and Recreation, Auburn Ravine Coon Creek CRMP, and the South Fork American River Watershed Group.
- Continuing to develop the Master Watershed Project Matrix with assistance from MOU signatories. This group was presented with a process outline to initiate discussion on the topic and requested to submit proposed projects for consideration. In conjunction with the RCD and Fire Safe Groups, the MOU signatories are in the process of prioritizing proposed projects.

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

- A significant measure of performance of the coordinator is demonstrated by the direction the ARWG is now moving. The group was, at the beginning of the contract, a fractured, contentious body of stakeholders. Through facilitation and a lot of patience, the group has regained its cohesion and trust among members and is focused on a common goal, the sediment study project.
- Developed an initial Master Watershed Project Matrix that includes the creation of a biomass working group whose goal is to bring a co-generation facility to the Forest Hill area.
- Assisted “Friends of Bunch Creek” in Colfax with a watershed strategy. Included portions of their strategy in the new watershed coordinator work plan.
- Several “on-the-ground” projects have been initiated, however none were completed during the term of the grant.

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

- Worked with the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance and Placer County Stormwater coordinator to develop the annual “Fire and Water” publication including watershed, water quality, and fire safe information. This publication was delivered to 15,000 Placer County residents as a newspaper insert and continues to be available at public offices and events.

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

- Fifty individuals attended Implementation of Effective Policies for Sustainable Natural Resource Management in California featuring Allen Savory.
- Twenty people attended advanced training in Holistic Management and its application in California with Allen Savory.
- Twenty-two people participated in the “Day in the District” program. Participants included representatives from nine local, state, and national legislators and one elected representative.
- Twenty CCC students attended a presentation by the coordinator titled “Understanding Watersheds”.
- Informal surveys indicate that each event provided participants with useful information and that, in most cases, the results were positive.

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

- Work continues with the RCD and ARWG to approve the final product resulting from the Category III grant that was submitted to the funding agency in early January 2003. The final report and data disk continue to be distributed to ARWG members and others for review. The PCRCD and Placer County are providing peer review of the document and accepting comments provided by ARWG members. Once review and modification of the document and data are complete, final approval will be sought by the ARWG and implementation of the Stewardship Strategy will be initiated.
- The ARWG submitted a proposal to the DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant Program in the amount of \$244,239.00.
- Working with the American River Watershed Institute to develop a GIS Center. Sierra College is no longer the preferred storehouse for the center; instead, Sacramento State University has been contacted to determine the feasibility of housing the information there.
- In conjunction with the Fire Safe Alliance and PCRCD, the combined project committee selected three projects to submit for funding to the Fire Safe Council Grant Clearinghouse. These proposals will be developed in January for submittal on the February 2nd deadline. The watershed coordinator will spearhead the Todd Valley Fuel Break project proposal.
- Updated the ARWG website.
- Sent solicitation letters to join the MOU to two adjacent RCDs and one Fire Safe Council. The boards for El Dorado RCD and Georgetown Divide RCD have both decided to sign the MOU.

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

- The North Fork American River Sediment Dynamics Study proposal, approved for funding by the Department of Waters Resources, continues to move through the contracting process.
- In conjunction with the Fire Safe Alliance and Placer County RCD, three projects were submitted for funding to the Fire Safe Council Grant Clearinghouse.
- Five new signatories to the MOU have been obtained with and additional four under consideration.
- The ARWG submitted a proposal to the DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant Program.

**Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:**

- Awarded a DOC 2004 Watershed Coordinator Grant in the amount of \$234,013.

**Grant Benefits to the Watershed:**

- The grant provided a coordinator whose services as a facilitator assisted the American River Watershed Group work through a serious disagreement over implementation of a CALFED grant (a sediment study) between its members. The coordinator was able to re-work the sediment study to reach consensus so that the group is now moving forward with a course of action.

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



**Amount Funded:** \$62,535.00

**Match Provided:** \$16,712.74

**Additional Funding Obtained:** \$1,483,595

**Watershed Coordinator:** Melina Watts (replaced Melissa Johnson)

**Watershed Goal:** Coordinate Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council.

### Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

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

- Coordinated 8 Watershed Council meetings.
- Created and sent five “available grants list” and two “project status reports.”
- Updated the Malibu Creek Watershed website on a regular basis. Changes included new information on Advisory Council subcommittees, additional water quality information (with links to local Regional Board and “waterbody impairments” map), and “upcoming events” calendar; developed horse page.
- Held five Education Subcommittee meetings.
  - Based on stakeholder input, worked with key stakeholders to create a video/outreach campaign about how TMDLs impact local property owners; the coordinator obtained a letter of commitment for \$15,000 in funding for this project from L.A. County Department of Public Works and Heal the Bay has offered to use their Speakers’ Bureau program to support outreach efforts. Developed a Filmmakers’ Selection Committee to select from over two-dozen applicants to narrow the field to 6 filmmakers. Draft for the script for *The Clean Water Act and Our Backyards* is completed. Coordinator sought additional funding for project.
  - Based on stakeholder requests, created and managed Malibu Creek Watershed education booths at the Acorn Festival in September 2003 (200 people attended) and at the Pumpkin Festival in October 2003 (4,500 people attended). Used a watershed model to discuss TMDLs and BMPs with the public; planted native plant seeds in take-home cups; provided volunteer experts such as arborists, naturalists, and septic tank experts etc. to discuss issues of concern.
  - Education Subcommittee worked on pinpointing educational goals for 2004, especially in the area of water use reduction.
  - Coordinator completed “school outreach matrix” which helped to clarify: 1) number and type of schools in watershed 2) which schools have taken advantage of existing



Malibu Lagoon

environmental education programs 3) which programs need to increase outreach to certain schools.

- Filled vacant sub-committee chair positions for two Advisory Council subcommittees (Monitoring Subcommittee and Habitat and Species Subcommittee).
- Coordinated a Lagoon Task Force meeting and facilitated the coordination of the Lagoon Restoration Committee. On March 11, 2004 Heal the Bay and California Department of State Parks and Recreation signed a contract with Moffatt & Nichol to develop a plan to restore a portion of the Malibu Lagoon.
- Coordinator pursued status of dormant Rindge Dam feasibility study and found that if funding was not supplied by January 2004, Army Corps of Engineers aimed to shelve project; connected with Dept. of Recreation and State Parks, which promised needed funding to Army Corps of Engineers and project got back on track after a year on hiatus. This study will explore the feasibility of removing the Rindge Dam.
- Created, distributed and analyzed 2 surveys on stakeholder satisfaction.

**Performance Measure:** The implementation of Advisory Council goals, the completion of at least two stakeholder surveys and an analysis of the results:

- The Rindge Dam feasibility study was reinitiated. One of the Advisory Council's goals was to support the completion of this study.
- Distributed and analyzed the results of a stakeholder survey during the second quarter and 7th quarters. Based on October 2002 survey results, the coordinator extended the project update section and reorganized presentations into interactive question and answer "workshops."

**Objective 2:** Create aggressive water conservation programs for residents of the City of Malibu and unincorporated Los Angeles County.

- Worked with Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) to begin sharing information with Malibu and unincorporated County on successful water conservation programs.
- Coordinated initial meeting with West Basin Municipal Water District; LVMWD, Water District 29 and Malibu City officials. The coordinator helped to develop event and bill stuffers to promote the water districts toilet give-aways and extensive rebate programs to promote the purchase of low flush toilets, dual flush toilets and low water-use washing machines.
- Met with WBMWD, Water District 29, City of Malibu and LVMWD to develop a new rebate program for ET Controllers. Westlake Village and City of Agoura expressed an interest in developing such a program for their cities.
- Worked with Malibu and County via Urban Runoff Reduction Plan/now called "Plan Blue" on outdoor water conservation strategies. Coordinator and stakeholders entered the final stages of editing last draft with "Plan Blue."
- Coordinated stakeholder efforts to create a new Gardening Subcommittee that will create aggressive water conservation programs in the City of Malibu and throughout the watershed.



- Worked with West Basin Municipal Water District to apply for funding for a “Delawning Party.” The “Delawning Party” would involve installing xeriscape landscaping at a demonstration site. The coordinator began searching for candidates sits for the demonstration.
- Partnered with Water District 29, the Malibu Garden Club, the City of Malibu and other partners to promote two “Smart Gardening Workshops” that were held in April 2004 in the City of Malibu.
- Partnered with LVMWD and MWD to promote “Protector del Aqua” program held over 4 Thursday nights in March. Due to the coordinator’s cross-agency introductions, the decision was made to open this event to City of Malibu citizens.
- LVMWD, WBMWD, the City of Malibu, Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works, Water District 29 and the watershed coordinator are working together to establish three trial efforts to promote E.T. Controllers in the watershed. Studies show that 7 of 10 gallons of potable water are used in irrigation, so this effort has great potential to result in water conservation.



*Watershed Coordinator Melina Watts (third from left) giving DOC staffer Jenny DiStefano (far left) a watershed tour*

**Performance Measure:** Malibu City Council approval of at least 2 significant residential water conservation measures.

- Because of uncertainty regarding the status of Water District 29 and if it will continue to service the City of Malibu or if the district will be sold, it was not feasible to approach Malibu City Council about residential water conservation measures.

Instead:

- Five rebate programs and free low-flow toilets have been heavily promoted through events at the Farmers’ Market in the City of Malibu in May 2004. These programs have also been promoted using bill stuffers that the coordinator helped to create.
- The coordinator worked with partners on gardening events designed to promote water conservation:
  - L.V.M.W.D. hosted MWD program “Protector del Aqua” for City of Malibu citizens and L.V.M.W.D. customers.
  - Water District 29 planned to host 2 “Smart Gardening Workshops” in Malibu in April 2004.
  - W.B.M.W.D., Water District 29 and City of Malibu linked up with the Farmers’ Market to promote rebate programs for water conservation measures.

**Objective 3:** Reduce non-point sources of pollution through outreach and education.

- Green Map: Worked with stakeholders to create proposal and seek funding for a Green Map but the grant was not funded. As a result the Committee redirected its efforts to develop a “Plan Blue.” The “Plan Blue” would focus on implementing NPDES standards and shared watershed goals.

- To continue efforts to reduce non-point sources of pollution through outreach and education, created and ran a Malibu Creek Watershed booth at the Malibu Creek State Park Acorn Festival on September 26 and ran a Malibu Creek Watershed booth at the Calabasas Pumpkin Festival on October 18 and 19.
- To continue efforts to reduce non-point sources of pollution through outreach and education, the Education Subcommittee decided to develop a TMDL video and associated outreach program. The plan is to send speakers out to the community with the video.
- Developed TMDL video/outreach committee; the first draft of script was developed with TMDL committee experts. The coordinator then developed RFQ/RFPs and solicited responses. A Filmmakers Selection Committee was developed that winnowed over two-dozen applicants down to six applicants to receive RFPs. The committee is currently awaiting proposals.
- Garnered support from Heal the Bay and LVMWD. Heal the Bay and LVMWD have made a commitment to send Speakers' Bureau volunteers out to promote better creek care.
- Obtained a letter of commitment for \$15,000 in funding from the L.A.D.P.W. to fund the TMDL video.
- Began to seek funding for the project from the Cities of Malibu, Agoura, Westlake Village and Agoura, Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office, the Environmental Media Association and various individual committed stakeholders.
- To continue efforts to reduce non-point sources of pollution through outreach and education, the Education Subcommittee determined that coordinator should develop working relationships with local media to promote education/outreach goals. As a result the coordinator:
  - Met with Jonathon Friedman, Staff Writer *Malibu Times*.
  - Met with Anne Soble, Publisher *Surfside News*.
  - Developed working relationship with Dan Mazur, editor of *The Topanga Messenger*.
  - Met with Jeannette Scoville, Charter Communications.
  - Met with Emily Green, Staff Reporter *L.A. Times* (specializing in native-scaping, xeriscaping and California gardening) who committed to supporting the planned "Delawning Party."
- Based on current assessment of complexity of determining extent of horse contributions to nutrient, bacteria and erosion issues, determined that ideal solution for planned BMP manual would be to fund a Horse Coordinator for the Santa Monica Mountains, especially as finding regionally appropriate scientific data has been a problematic endeavor. Made searching for grant funding for this position a task in the DOC 2004 – 2007 Grant Application.
- Worked with an all horse-owner sub-committee on efforts to rewrite the current BMP manual to reflect horse-owners experience/knowledge, current scientific data, regional differences in implementation, and to account for TMDL pressures.
- Worked to develop long-term manure solutions (i.e. a manure removal/composting facility option.) and created a share manure concept for the "horse page" on [www.malibuwatershed.org](http://www.malibuwatershed.org).
- Published a Horse Regulations Matrix, which was posted on the website on the "horse page."

- Worked with Heal the Bay and horse-owners to find a stable that could be used as a model for the benefits of BMP installations.
- Attended monthly “Plan Blue” meetings. The meetings included the coordinator, LADPW, and stormwater officials from the Cities of Malibu, Las Virgenes, Westlake Village, Agoura and Calabasas. With the support of SWRCB the committee worked on meeting NPDES standards via a watershed-wide plan. They began identifying efforts that could achieve the best-case scenario TMDLs. Efforts to conserve water were structured into “Plan Blue”.
- The coordinator began to co-edit the second-to-final draft of “Plan Blue,” subject to approval by committee.
- Attended three recent Wetland Recovery Project Los Angeles Task Force to focus on: working with other watershed entities on sharing resources, to avoid duplication and to create synergy in maintaining and developing watershed educational programs.
- Attended Stormwater Co-permittee Quarterly Meetings on on-going basis.
- Attended Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission meetings.
- Attended Non-point Source Pollution Conference in Ventura, California in October 2003.

**Performance Measure:** Concept development and completion of 2 grants to solicit funding of pollution-prevention/reduction educational piece. Concept development and completion of 2 grants to solicit funding of horse BMP outreach program.

- Coordinator created The Living Lightly Guide, which was distributed to over 100,000 homes in the Malibu Creek Watershed.
- The concept for a watershed-wide educational piece was completed in working draft form in “Plan Blue.” The educational programs will be funded in large part by the cities, and supplemented by grants where necessary.
- The City of Calabasas submitted a grant for Green Map, which was not approved.
- The City of Calabasas applied for and received \$500,000 in funding from a Proposition 13 Grant to establish a watershed wide water quality-monitoring program.
- Secured a letter of commitment for \$15,000 from L.A.D.P.W. for the TMDL video/outreach program; script is complete in draft form and filmmakers are being pursued.
- Obtained a commitment for a \$40,000 in-kind contribution for horse outreach from the Los Angeles County Environmental Education division in the second quarter; this funding has since been revoked.
- The coordinator co-wrote and submitted a DOC 2004 - 2007 grant to meet a number of goals, to include plans to create further pollution-prevention/reduction educational piece, to pursue ecosystem restoration goals, to increase water conservation and to promote water re-use. As part of this process, the coordinator raised a total of \$73,625.00 in pledges to include contributions in cash and in-kind.

**Objective 4:** Incorporate Malibu Creek watershed protection and restoration priorities into local, regional, state and federal plans.

- Worked closely with cities within the watershed and Los Angeles County on Urban Runoff Reduction Plan (URRP), now called “Plan Blue.” The plan addresses many goals stated in the Advisory Council Top 10 and Lagoon Task Force Top 10 goals.
- Attended monthly NPDES permit meetings as well as three URRP meetings.
- Attended six Wetland Recovery Project meetings; promoted the Malibu Creek watershed education priorities that were established in the “Living Lightly in Our Watershed Guide” at the Wetland Recovery Project meetings.
- Submitted comments on the LA County Department of Public Works “White Paper for the North Santa Monica Bay Watershed.”
- Attended 2 Malibu 2020 Visioning events to promote Watershed goals. Suggested ideas for eventual revision of Malibu City General Plan.

***Performance Measure:*** Inclusion of at least 3 Malibu Creek watershed protection and restoration priorities into local, state, or federal plans.

- This performance measure was completed when Los Angeles County included three watershed priorities in their Urban Runoff Reduction Plan during the second quarter.
- Worked with Regional Water Board to consolidate restoration recommendations from numerous watershed plans into a “master list”. This master list will be incorporated into the Board's Watershed Management Initiative document, and will help the Board ensure that funded projects are consistent with watershed goals.
- When complete, work on “Plan Blue” will result in ongoing inclusion of watershed protection/restoration goals into our regional NPDES implementation.

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

- Obtained a \$171,542.00 grant from DOC to continue the watershed coordinator position
- A \$4,000 grant was received from Patagonia to fund a portion of the printing costs of the Living Lightly guide.
- A \$360,000 grant for watershed improvement efforts was obtained from CALTROUT.
- A Prop. 13 water quality monitoring grant was funded for \$500,000.
- A Prop. 12 \$75,000 grant was received to fund a Las Virgenes Creek restoration project.
- A \$187,000 grant was received from DWR to fund phase two of the Las Virgenes Creek restoration project.

#### **Grant Benefits to the Watershed:**

- Coordinating Stakeholder Efforts
  - The coordinator’s work to develop inter-agency support for watershed efforts was key to developing a watershed-wide monitoring program, the development of plans to restore the Malibu Lagoon, and the creation of a Santa Monica Mountains Fish Survey.
  - Due to the collaboration efforts of the Watershed coordinator, a project that had stalled, the Rindge Dam Feasibility Study, is now underway again. The study will determine if the removal of Rindge Dam is feasible.

- Watershed Restoration
 

Working with the support of the coordinator, a variety of agencies have developed the following projects:

  - The City of Calabasas will be removing concrete from a large portion of the Las Virgenes Creek.
  - Heal the Bay will be removing an Arizona crossing in the lower watershed.
  - Heal the Bay and the Dept. of State Parks are conducting a Lagoon Restoration project.
  - The US Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to revive their Feasibility Study, which will explore the option of removing Rindge Dam.
- Watershed Outreach
 

The coordinator has worked with the Watershed Council Education Subcommittee to collaborate on the following efforts:

  - The Living Lightly in the Watershed Guide was distributed to over 100,000 landowners and stakeholders within the watershed. This document is also being used as a template in other watersheds.
  - The coordinator provided information about best management practices to interested landowners.
- Water Conservation
 

Due to the coordinator's facilitation efforts, several water districts have come together to collaborate on water conservation efforts. Efforts completed or initiated during the grant include:

  - The coordinator is promoting xeriscaping and "delawning parties".
  - A plan was developed to promote the use of "ET Controllers". The plan is currently being implemented.
  - Rebate programs and give aways for low water use household equipment are being promoted in the City of Malibu.
- Water Quality
  - A water quality-monitoring grant will increase the ability of stakeholders to recognize problems.
- Watershed Awareness
  - The coordinator continues to recruit volunteers to assist with worthwhile projects. As stakeholders volunteer for projects, such as *Arundo donax* removal and creek clean up events, their knowledge of the watershed is increased.

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



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

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

**Additional Funding Obtained:** \$120,693.10

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

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

### Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

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

- Gave a Water Conservation presentation at the December 2003 Watershed Council meeting. Ten people were involved. Of the ten, eight committed to implementing at least one of the water conservation strategies that were demonstrated.
- Provided over 250 local property owners and 20 teachers with information on water conservation strategies.
- Held a graywater-harvesting workshop in November 2002. Twenty landowners attended the workshop. Of the participants, five have implemented a graywater strategy on the property. An additional ten are considering implementing strategies presented at the workshop.
- Recruited homeowners to give presentations about their graywater systems they implemented on their property. Presentations were given at Watershed Committee meetings.
- Coordinated effort to organize volunteers for assisting in mechanical removal of *Arundo donax* in Lower Topanga with State Parks, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and Rhapsody in Green.
- Participated in several local and regional workshops to discuss effective removal strategies. Prepared a presentation for the War on Weeds Symposium held 14 November 2003 at CSUMB entitled “Tarping and cut/re-cut method for *Arundo donax*”.
- Coordinated an *Arundo donax* removal event. Fifty Volunteers were able to remove 2.25 tons of *Arundo donax* from the Lower Topanga State Park.



Watershed Coordinator Rosi Dagit collecting data in the field with assistant

- Over 100 volunteers participated in mapping, monitoring and *Arundo donax* removal efforts focused at six locations within the watershed. Eight workdays were organized aimed at providing both educational information and hands-on removal experiences. Monitoring efforts continued monthly to document effectiveness of tarping and cut/re-cut methods. Established contact with Nile Fiber to coordinate chipping and re-use of cut *Arundo Donax* from large removal efforts. Obtained \$700 in donations from numerous stakeholders to cover waste disposal and tarp costs for a demonstration site in Lower Topanga.
- Made presentations about watershed related events and planning efforts at three meetings of the Topanga Chamber of Commerce. The presentations were well received and resulted in five local businesses implementing water conservation measures (low-flow faucet emitters, revision of clean up measures at a local restaurant replacing driveway washing with raking, rainwater capture in decorative pools). The coordinator has been asked to continue our participation in the local Chamber events for the future.
- The coordinator worked with the Town Council to facilitate three creek clean-up events. The Council has also been instrumental in obtaining in-kind services for the creek clean up and Earth Day events.

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

- 25% of the graywater and groundwater recharge workshop participants installed collection and distribution methods on their properties. This performance measure has been met.
- 52% of the landowners who attended the Erosion Control and Slope Stabilization workshop implemented erosion control BMPs. This performance measure has been met.
- Twenty landowners have begun noxious weed eradication as a result of the watershed coordinators information efforts.
- 80% of the participants in the water conservation workshop have committed to implementing at least one conservation technique on their properties.

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

- Organized and facilitated monthly general meetings, and Invasive sub-committee meetings.
- Articles on various watershed restoration, research and planning issues were published in the local newspaper. Furthermore, watershed issues were also addressed in the Topanga Docents newsletter, the CNPS newsletter, the Topanga Business Journal, the Topanga Messenger, Malibu Times, Malibu Surfside News, TASC Newsletters, and Topanga Canyon Town Council Newsletters.
- Submitted a \$9,482 grant proposal to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for a Santa Monica Bay Fish History project. The coordinator also worked on a grant proposal for the DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant Program that will be submitted in November.
- Responded to over 300 calls and over 150 emails from local stakeholders regarding watershed issues since the grant began in July 2002.



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

- Two recommendations for the Watershed Management Plan have been added.
- Two workshops have been conducted to inform stakeholders about rainwater harvesting, in-home water conservation, erosion control and slope stabilization practices, sustainable brush clearance and fuel modification information. This performance measure has been reached.
- The *Topanga Living Lightly in the Watershed* guide was updated in the 1st quarter.
- The coordinator has responded to over 350 calls and 150 emails from stakeholders requesting information on native plants, bark beetle control, noxious weeds, water conservation and water quality. This performance measure has been met.



*Watershed Coordinator Rosi Dagit and assistant preparing to collect data*

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

- Coordinated communication between the Technical and Landowners Advisory Committee, the contractors, and the community regarding progress on meeting restoration planning for lagoon restoration.
- Written comments were provided on a number of significant regional development and planning efforts during the course of the grant. Most notably, we contributed BMP recommendations to the Topanga Traffic Management Committee, the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Preparedness, LA County Road Maintenance Division, Caltrans District 7, LA County Waterworks District 29, and the Firewise Communities Workshop.

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

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

- Set up watershed classes for 4th and 5th graders in February 2003 and December 2003.
- Provided teacher resources for watershed lessons and continued meetings with local teachers to discuss their needs.
- Planned the watershed classes with the new science teacher in September 2003.
- Assisted science teacher in preparing new classroom with watershed materials.



- The Topanga Watershed Exploration Curricula is almost complete.
- During the course of the grant, a total of 6 elementary school students, 8 middle school and 10 high school students participated in watershed related research which required commitment of their time over several months. Two videos and 6 science fair projects resulted from their efforts.
- Held three creek clean up events. The coordinator worked with Topanga Creek Stream Team, Surfrider Foundation, Topanga Canyon Town Council and State Parks to organize dumpsters and volunteers. 270 volunteers contributed 740 hours to remove a total of over 9 tons of trash. The dumpsters were provided by the Topanga Canyon Town Council, Topanga Hauling, Surfrider Foundation and Trout Unlimited.
- Coordinated a service learning internship cray fish removal project. Interns include 4 high school students and 6 sixth graders. Interns were able to remove over 100 crayfish from Topanga Creek.

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

- 9 tons of trash was removed from Topanga Creek and Beach during the three creek clean up events.

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

- Received \$24,888.60 from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to continue monitoring of endangered steelhead trout in Topanga Creek from March 2003 – April 2004.
- Received \$9,482.00 from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to conduct a historical archive search for steelhead records in the Santa Monica Bay.
- Worked with Cal Trout and Heal the Bay to help secure a \$44,796 grant to conduct a habitat assessment of all creeks in the Santa Monica Bay for steelhead trout.
- Volunteers contributed a total of 2,857 hours valued at \$30,000 for a variety of watershed related events and projects.
- In-Kind services and cash contributions of \$8,930 were made for a variety of watershed projects including Earth Day, the turtle study and Creek Clean up events.
- \$1,000 of inkind services was obtained for graphic design of restoration fact sheets.
- Thirty Stream Team Volunteers participated in Water Quality Monitoring Training contributing (90 hours at \$10.50/hour) valued at \$945.
- Five Stream Team Volunteers contributed 25 hours to collecting water quality samples valued at \$262.50.
- Three Stream Team volunteers contributed 18 hours to a snorkel survey documenting fish population status valued at \$189.00.
- Topanga Elementary School Science Teacher contributed 8 hours to teaching watershed related lessons to 4th and 5th graders valued at (\$25/hr) totaling \$200.

**Grant Benefits to the Watershed:**

- The grant resulted in an increase in stakeholder support for long-term sustainable stewardship of the watershed. The community has an increased basic understanding of watersheds. Surveys distributed to the community indicated that the strong educational effort, especially the hands-on workshops and activities made a real impact. Several stakeholders are implementing water conservation or water quality improvement measures as a result of the education efforts.
- The logistical and organizational support provided by the coordinator freed up volunteers to take more active roles in recruiting more stakeholders and actually implementing Best Management Practices.
- This grant provided essential support to help the TCWC meet its mission of providing guidelines for sustainable living in the watershed.
- Over 9 tons of trash and debris were removed from Topanga Creek and Beach by 270 volunteers.