

California
Department of Conservation
2004-07 Watershed Coordinator Grant Program



South Fork Elder Creek, Tehama County

Ninth Quarter Report
March 30, 2005

California Bay-Delta Authority
Interagency Agreement #4600002373



Summary of Grant Program

This report covers the period of October 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004. Information received from the grantees has been reviewed by the DOC staff and is presented in this report. Also included in this report are two tables. Table 1 summarizes the coordinators' accomplishments and activities during the current quarter. Table 2 summarizes the total amount of additional funding obtained through the efforts of the coordinators since the start of the grant program.

The grantee reports are summarized as individual fact sheets and are listed alphabetically by grantee name. For each grant, the watershed background, benefits to the watershed, and benefits to the CALFED Program are listed. Please refer to the individual fact sheets for details.

We are pleased to report that the main accomplishments of the watershed coordinators for the third quarter period of the current grant program are as follows:

- ◆ Over **\$8.5 million** in additional watershed funding has been secured by the coordinators since the start of the grant program. This additional funding is the result of grant writing and fund-raising activities conducted by the coordinators.
- ◆ Six watershed cleanup events were held, resulting in the removal of hundreds of pounds of trash from local watersheds and involving dozens of community volunteers.
- ◆ Forty-two (42) outreach events, focusing on educating the public about local watershed issues, were held at public venues such as county fairs and local festivals.
- ◆ Forty (40) restoration projects were in progress or completed. Restoration projects included bank stabilizations, fish ladder installations, barrier removals, etc.
- ◆ Eleven workshop/training sessions were conducted on a range of conservation issues including water monitoring, non-native invasive species, and the agricultural waiver program.

In late November and early December, in partnership with CBDA, CARCD, and NRCS, we coordinated a series of training workshops, geared for watershed coordinators, titled "Tools and Methods of Watershed Conservation." These workshops covered topics such as watershed stewardship, meeting facilitation, communication techniques, conservation corridor planning, and permit guidance. The workshops were held in Redding and Fresno and included field exercises. The trainings were well attended with 24 coordinators present at the Redding workshops, and 22 coordinators participating at the Fresno workshops.

The workshops included a number of group activities and role-playing scenarios to give participants an opportunity to practice their new skills and build partnerships. Surveys completed by participants at the end of the workshops gave high marks to all training sessions and instructors. Coordinators praised the usefulness of the training sessions and the excellent cooperation between agencies to present these highly successful workshops.



Watershed coordinators receiving field training at the DOC workshops



DOC watershed coordinator training workshop in Redding

Table 1: Quarterly Accomplishments

<i>Categories</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Watershed / Location</i>
Public Education / Outreach Events Conducted	42	
Watershed Cleanup Events Conducted	6	Kirker Creek, San Joaquin River, Kelsey Creek
Workshop / Training Events Conducted	11	
Watershed Assessments / Plans Worked On or Completed	11	Bear Creek, Ulatis-Dixon Sub-watersheds, Nathanson Creek, Lower Feather River, Upper Carson River, Arroyo Seco, Battle Creek, Deer Creek, Carpinteria Creek, Sierra Valley Watershed
Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Programs Created or Data Collected	20	Upper Merced River, Carneros Area (Napa County), Lake Berryessa, Big Chico, Cherokee Watershed, Traverse Creek (sub-watershed), Wolf Creek, Redwood Creek
K-12 Education Curriculum Developed	8	
Watershed Websites Created / Updated	7	
Restoration Projects Planned or Conducted	40	Pennington Creek, Arroyo Grande Creek, Sulphur Creek, Strentzel Meadow, Upper Merced River, Heath Canyon Creek, Spring Creek, Murphy Creek, Upper Sacramento River, East Fork Carson River, Middle Fork Mokelumne River, Little Deer Creek, Traverse Creek, Beale AFB, San Francisquito Creek, Carpinteria Creek, San Jose Creek, Little Last Chance Creek, Carman Creek
Watershed Materials (brochures, maps, newsletters, etc.) Published	15	
Watershed Tours Conducted	10	Arroyo Grande Creek, Ballona Creek, Malibu Lagoon, Cache Creek, Los Angeles Watershed, Little Chico Creek, Upper Mokelumne River
Conservation Plans Developed	3	
Best Management Practices Implemented	11	
Invasive Weed Removal Projects	7	San Joaquin River, Upper Sacramento River, San Joaquin River
New Stakeholder Groups Established	6	Hamilton Creek, Honcut/Lower Feather River, Concow Watershed
Technical Reports / Databases Created	10	
Regional Coordination Teams / Technical Review Committees Created	2	
Fuel Break Projects Worked On or Completed	2	
Technical Support Provided to Landowners or Local Agencies	12	
Water Irrigation Research, Monitoring or Data Collection Projects Worked On	3	Kirker Creek

Table 2: Additional Funding Requested / Awarded to Date

Grantee Name	Cumulative Requested	Cumulative Awarded
Alpine County	\$10,000	\$4,000
Arroyo Seco Foundation	\$22,256	\$22,256
Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy	\$642,380	\$635,980
Butte County RCD	\$173,147	\$144,450
Central Modoc RCD	\$57,500	\$57,500
Central Sierra RC&D	\$1,072,000	\$0.00
Chowchilla-Red Top RCD	\$2,100	\$2,100
Coastal San Luis RCD	\$653,802	\$653,802
Colusa County RCD	\$1,084.00	\$46,634
Contra Costa Public Works Department	\$338,766	\$0.00
Contra Costa RCD	\$29,874	\$29,874
Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy	\$0.00	\$0.00
Earth Resource Foundation	\$26,500	\$6,500
East Merced RCD	\$2,371,733	\$2,350,000
El Dorado Irrigation District	\$5,000	\$0.00
Fall River RCD	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friends of Deer Creek	\$1,425,500	\$197,610
Georgetown Divide RCD	\$43,500	\$18,157.02
Glenn County RCD	\$0.00	\$0.00
Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council	\$165,945	\$128,535
Mariposa County RCD	\$475,905	\$475,905
Mojave Desert / Mountain RC&D	\$330,000	\$0.00
Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority	\$14,325	\$0.00
Napa County RCD	\$3,421,267	\$818,598
Nevada County RCD	\$8,714	\$0.00
Placer County RCD	\$554,500	\$554,500
RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains	\$1,027,225	\$29,920
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency	\$0.00	\$0.00
San Francisquito Creek JPA	\$1,172,331	\$247,311
San Joaquin County RCD	\$1,370,000	\$1,370,000
San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust	\$33,900	\$3,900
Santa Barbara County Water Agency	\$75,000	\$75,000
Sierra Valley RCD	\$25,000	\$25,000
Sloughhouse RCD	\$0.00	\$0.00
Solano RCD	\$1,346,411	\$226,450
Sonoma Ecology Center	\$2,144,822	\$112,750
Stockton East Water District	\$901,371	\$0.00
Tehama County RCD	\$72,000	\$0.00
Upper Putah Creek Stewardship	\$0.00	\$0.00
Upper Sacramento River Exchange	\$477,500	\$41,102
Urban Watershed Project	\$0.00	\$0.00
West Lake RCD	\$150,775	\$150,775
Western Shasta RCD (Sac-Upper Clear)	\$0.00	\$0.00

Grantee Name	Cumulative Requested	Cumulative Awarded
Western Shasta RCD (Upper Cow-Battle)	\$38,849	\$29,368
Westside RCD	\$175,000	\$58,500
Yolo County RCD (Lower Cache)	\$114,500	\$36,000
Yolo County RCD (Lower Sac)	\$999,008	\$0.00
Yuba County RCD	\$1,096,816	\$0.00
Totals	\$23,066,306	\$8,552,477

Alpine County

Upper Mokelumne / Upper Stanislaus /
South Fork American / Upper Carson /
West Walker Watersheds



Amount Funded: \$138,473

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$4,000

Background

These watersheds are located in Alpine County, the least populated county in the state, and provide water to regions throughout California. Today, 96% of the land is publicly owned, heavily forested, and highly utilized by outdoor recreationists. Resource management is challenged by excessive fuel loads and erosion that have resulted from over 150 years of extensive mining, grazing, timber harvesting, and road building. Mining operations were common at one time and more than 300 abandoned mines are located throughout Alpine County. Timber operations, rural development, and grazing practices have contributed to sedimentation and erosion. With an increase in the population and consequential recreational impacts, animal habitats and water quality continue to be threatened. It is imperative that this pristine environment is restored and protected for future generations.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Completed the Upper Carson River Watershed Stream Corridor Conditions Assessment. Establishes the foundation for future planning, restoration, and improvements in the watershed.
- ◆ Recruited nine volunteer water quality monitors and established three new water quality-monitoring sites.
- ◆ Identified erosion control and riparian revegetation projects and partnerships in Kirkwood Meadow, Markleeville, and Bear Valley Meadow to restore banks degraded by excessive recreation and improve water quality.
- ◆ Developed and implemented educational project with classroom and field activities involving local high school students in water quality monitoring and database management.



Volunteers planting willow stakes on the East Fork of the Carson River during the Markleeville Creek Day 2004.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Ecosystem Restoration - Assisted in hosting the Fourth Markleeville Creek Day. Volunteers revegetated stream banks along the East Fork of the Carson River and removed invasive species. Raised more than \$4,000 to host the first Kirkwood Creek Day.

Watershed Management - Formed new partnerships with watershed groups and coordinators in adjacent basins collaborating in outreach and educational efforts. Applied for membership on the Alpine County Resource Advisory Committee to ensure that restoration efforts are coordinated maximizing resources. Worked with the local high school to integrate watershed management into the curriculum. Students are participating in the water quality monitoring effort and database management. Also increased the number of volunteers participating in quarterly water quality monitoring events in Alpine County. As a result, the group is monitoring physical and chemical parameters at eight sites.

Arroyo Seco Foundation

Los Angeles Watershed



Amount Funded: \$214,360

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$22,256

Background

The Arroyo Seco watershed is located within the larger Los Angeles Watershed. It connects the San Gabriel Mountains with downtown Los Angeles. Contamination and growing water consumption in some neighborhoods has led to tremendous stress on the watershed and increased reliance on imported water sources. Creeks, rivers and groundwater throughout the watershed are plagued with perchlorate, trash, bacteria and volatile organic compounds, leading to the closure of ten local wells and the designation of the critical spreading grounds at the mouth of the Arroyo as a Superfund site. The Watershed Coordinator Program aims to address these critical issues through broad-based education and action programs.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ More than 60 Altadena residents expanded their awareness of watershed issues and appropriate conservation measures at the “Healthy Watersheds” workshop.
- ◆ Conducted a bus tour of the watershed to provide information to stakeholders about important issues. Fifty-five people participated in the tour.
- ◆ Co-sponsored a four month exhibition, “*Flowing Water, Fruitful Valley*,” on the history of the watershed and local water development at the Pasadena Museum of History.
- ◆ Participated in an event at the Pasadena Museum of History where more than 100 people learned about the importance of water in Native American culture.
- ◆ Supported the City of Pasadena’s watershed restoration project by providing local residents with information on habitat restoration.



Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – The Council of Arroyo Seco Organizations (CASO) has developed ongoing forum for communication and collaboration about watershed related issues.

Water Management – Co-sponsored and developed content for the Water History Exhibit at the Pasadena Museum of History. More than 1,500 attended the exhibition. Displays included information on hydrology, watershed management, contamination, groundwater issues and the Raymond Basin, CALFED, and water conservation.

Drinking Water Quality – Promoted improved water quality by completing Arroyo Seco water quality baseline sampling with LA County Public Works and coordinating with North East Trees on development of Best Management Practices and storm water projects. This information will also be used to implement a citizen-monitoring program and develop outreach programs.

Ecosystem Restoration – Advanced environmental stewardship programs by working with North East Trees to identify and develop habitat projects in the Arroyo Seco. Co-sponsored the “*How Pasadena Fits into the California Water Picture*.” Emphasized water conservation and ecological restoration.

Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy

Upper Cow-Battle Watershed



Amount Funded: \$87,918

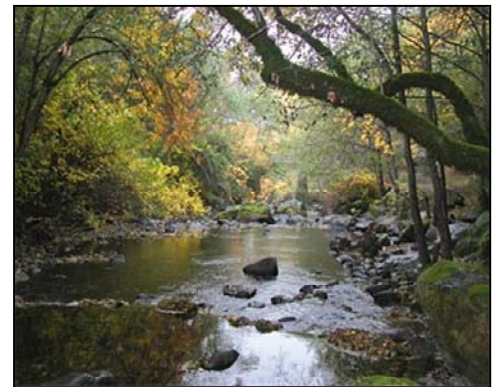
Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$635,980

Background

Throughout the watershed, streams provide habitat for a variety of fish including steelhead and Chinook salmon. These species and others are facing tremendous pressures from increased sedimentation and a reduction in habitat. In the event of a fire, excessive fuel loads would not only destroy wildlife habitats but would also affect livestock grazing, farming operations, and local homeowners. The diversity of the watershed requires a coordinated, collaborative effort to ensure that issues are addressed on a comprehensive basis.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Conducted outreach activities at the Manton Apple Festival. More than 5,000 people attended. The display included photos and provided the opportunity to distribute informational brochures to stakeholders from throughout the watershed.
- ◆ Organized and facilitated a meeting where the Coleman National Fish Hatchery steelhead supplementation program was discussed. Provided an ideal forum for discussion between partners and stakeholders.
- ◆ Worked with the Manton Volunteer Fire Department on a plan to hold a workshop to develop a comprehensive fire plan for the community.
- ◆ Set up an outreach booth at the *Return of the Salmon Festival* at the Coleman National Fish Hatchery. Provided local residents with information and materials.



North fork of Battle Creek

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Program - Acted as liaison between landowners and government agencies so that surveys can be done on private property. Worked with the Tehama County Fire Safe Council to organize workshops that address fire issues in the community. A major goal is to develop a fire plan that incorporates a fuel break to protect the Battle Creek area where salmon restoration is planned. Represented the Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy Board at the Greater Battle Creek Watershed Working Group meetings where issues concerning the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project were discussed. Coordinator acted as liaison between Conservancy Board and agencies involved in the Restoration Project. Updated BCWC website to include links to federal and state agencies involved in the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project. Worked with Kier Associates, subcontractor responsible for the KRIS Battle Creek database system, on completion plan for Version 2 of the KRIS Battle Creek Program. This program contains the Battle Creek Watershed Assessment, which will be used by federal and state agencies involved in the Restoration Project. Worked on the final draft of Proposition 50 CALFED Watershed Grant Program Grant Agreement between the State Water Resources Control Board and the Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy.

Butte County RCD

Mill-Big Chico / Upper Butte / Lower Butte Watersheds



Amount Funded: \$218,338

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$144,450

Background

The upper portions of the watersheds are primarily forested lands highly susceptible to fires. Throughout the region, communities are growing rapidly exerting tremendous pressure on the environment. Both water quality and wildlife habitat is being severely degraded. There is tremendous concern about the Butte Basin Aquifer, which may not be recharging as rapidly as in the past. Water quality, invasive weeds, range management, and excessive fuel loads are only some of the issues that need to be addressed. Recognizing that significant challenges face the community, several organizations came together to form a partnership to address these critical issues.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Conducted four tours focusing on sub-watersheds. Provided stakeholders with information to better understand the issues confronting the community.
- ◆ Worked on forming two new watershed groups in the Honcut/Lower Feather River and the Concow Watersheds.
- ◆ Expanded the citizen-monitoring program by providing volunteers with additional training.
- ◆ Worked on a grant-writing workshop that is planned for next quarter.
- ◆ Monitored and collected data at a road demonstration project where tributaries cross a rehabilitated road. Recent rains provided an opportunity to witness first flows and the potential impact of sediment.



*Tour of Little Chico Creek.
Focused on urban/rural interface
in the watershed.*

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management - Conducted monthly meetings that included representatives from throughout the watershed. Facilitated collaboration and cooperation on projects and activities. Reached out to non-traditional partners including local Native American Tribes. Worked on an oak woodlands management plan of Butte County. Will allow landowners to seek funding for conservation easements and oak woodlands protection.

Water Quality - Expanded the citizen-monitoring program by providing additional training to volunteers. Continued monitoring activities on Big Chico and Cherokee Watersheds. Held presentations and a field day on dirt road rehabilitation.

Water Transfers - Hosted a tour highlighting the research being conducted on the Lower Tuscan Areas of Butte County. Described local efforts to protect and enhance the recharge area.

Central Modoc RCD Upper Pit Watershed



Amount Funded: \$196,330

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$57,500

Background

The Pit River Watershed is a significant tributary to the Sacramento River. The main stem Pit River has been identified by the EPA as impaired due to nutrient loading, low dissolved oxygen, and high temperatures. Sediment is also a concern. A watershed-wide assessment is under way to collect data to support initiation of a comprehensive watershed plan.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ The Upper Pit River Watershed Assessment was completed. The Pit River Watershed Alliance is now reviewing the assessment and working on strategies to address data gaps.
- ◆ The RCD's water quality monitoring program is currently being fully implemented.
- ◆ Working with the City of Alturas in the development of an urban storm water-monitoring plan.
- ◆ Successfully conducted the 2nd Annual College Student Watershed Tour. Twelve students from the Watershed and Resource Management Program at Feather River Community College participated. The coordinator will continue to develop this event as a significant outreach opportunity for community college students throughout the region.
- ◆ Coordinated with the Bureau of Land Management in Susanville for an in-kind contribution of 100 rolls of geo-jute erosion control netting (worth \$7,500), which was used in on-going stream restoration projects.
- ◆ Attended three meetings of the Pit River Tribal Council at the X-L Ranch and conducted four site visits to assist with local watershed issues. Also conducted four site visits to private ranches to assist local landowners deal with stewardship problems.



College students from Feather River Community College tour a revegetation project on Witcher Creek.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management - Facilitated coordination and assistance among government agencies, other organizations, and local watershed groups (met with numerous stakeholder groups, including the Pit Tribe and NRCS, to improve coordination with upcoming projects and dealing with watershed issues). Also supported education and outreach with a student tour, and continued support and assistance in the development of the River Center's programs.

Central Sierra RC&D

Upper Mokelumne Watershed



Amount Funded: \$311,591

Additional Funding Obtained to Date:

Background

The watershed's condition varies from pristine riparian habitats in some locations to other areas that have been significantly impacted by deforestation. Also, past practices such as gold mining have adversely affected the quality of water and continue to pose problems for wildlife and people. Residential communities are growing rapidly, exerting pressure on the environment. Recreational users, commercial entities, and agricultural operations add to the impact on the watershed. The diversity of interests requires a coordinated approach to ensure that resources remain available for future generations.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Hosted the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Tour. Event was well attended and provided an opportunity to interact with numerous stakeholders from throughout the watershed.
- ◆ Supported effort to establish an education committee and a recreation committee within the watershed council to expand public outreach within the community.
- ◆ Worked with the Burson Water Committee to secure funding for a Burson Community Public Water System to replace contaminated groundwater. Many local wells are contaminated which requires the community to rely on tanker trucks for potable water.
- ◆ Conducted outreach at the Alpine County Creek Day Event and also set up a booth at the Lumber Jack Days Event.
- ◆ Initiated collaborative restoration project with CalTrans for slope stabilization and water quality protection at Highway 26 Middle Fork Mokelumne Bridge.



Alpine County School District activity in the Upper Watershed, which included students from Markleeville and Kirkwood areas.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Drinking Water Quality - Established a local watershed Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program. Reviewed historical water quality monitoring and watershed assessment projects to identify needs within the community. Held four public meetings to provide information and support to local agriculture irrigators for the formation of local agriculture irrigation advisory committees and develop coalition strategies. Participated in numerous outreach activities to educate and communicate with stakeholders from throughout the watershed. Worked with CalTrans to reduce sediments from highway construction activities.

Science - Submitted grant proposal to fund temperature and flow characterization study for the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed.

Watershed Management – Completed three public outreach events that have improved public awareness and stakeholder interactions. Attended Upper Mokelumne Watershed Council meetings, which promote collaboration and integration among watershed groups.

Chowchilla-Red Top RCD

Upper Chowchilla-Upper Fresno / Middle San Joaquin-Lower Chowchilla Watersheds



Amount Funded: \$176,430

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$2,100

Background

Abundant wildlife, diverse topography, and cascading rivers epitomize these watersheds. Increased population densities, past practices, and an infusion of noxious weeds jeopardize their long-term health. Like many forested areas, fuel loads are growing at an alarming rate and rivers are being inundated by sedimentation. It is imperative that a coordinated, collaborative approach be taken to address these issues. The watershed coordinator will ensure that stakeholders from both watersheds work together to address the natural resource concerns of the local community.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Presented and distributed watershed, water conservation, and invasive/noxious weeds information at seven community group meetings.
- ◆ Assisted the Central Sierra Watershed Committee in the development and printing of a Property Owner Brochure, which included information on water conservation, fire protection, septic systems, erosion, and other topics to be mailed out to all residents in Mariposa and Eastern Madera County along with distribution by hand at various business, events, and fairs.
- ◆ Prepared and submitted an application to get funding for a “Creek Stewardship Day.”
- ◆ Wrote an article for the local newspaper on “Well Testing Program” offered by Madera County and the Central Sierra Watershed Committee. Provides landowners an opportunity to test their well water for contaminants.
- ◆ Worked with the San Joaquin River Parkway and the City of Chowchilla to partner to eradicate *Arundo donax* along rivers within the watersheds.



*Students being trained in water –
quality monitoring*

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management - Attended several meetings for the water transference plan from Redinger Lake to the mountain area to assist with surface water issues. Participated in stakeholder meetings. Volunteered as committee chair for two projects with the Central Sierra Watershed Council (CSWC). Worked with the Forest Service, Oakhurst River Parkway, and the Madera County Fire Safe Council to set up partnerships with projects.

Water Management - Spoke at community organization meetings discussing and distributing information on “50 Ways to Conserve Water.”

Coastal San Luis RCD Central Coast Watershed



Amount Funded: \$165,977

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$653,802

Background

There are three active and significant areas within the Central Coast Watershed: Morro Bay, Arroyo Grande Creek and San Luis Obispo Creek. These water bodies suffer to a greater or lesser extent from pathogens, siltation, metals, nutrients, and turbidity. A combination of agricultural practices, resource extraction, land disposal, and urban runoff contribute to these conditions.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Helped to plan and coordinate the California Association of Resource Conservation District (CARCD) Annual Conference. The conference was attended by more than 250 people and included panel discussions and workshop sessions that focused on resource conservation. A field tour (with over 50 participants) highlighting the district's watershed conservation practices and strategies was held.
- ◆ The Pennington Creek Highway 1 Baffle Modification Project was completed and is going as planned according to the project engineer and CDFG fisheries biologist. The project required collaboration between the RCD, Department of Fish and Game, Morro Bay National Estuary Program, NOAA Fisheries, Caltrans, and the California Conservation Corps (CCC).
- ◆ Developed a display and promotional information for the Envirothon and the CARCD Speak-off Contest. The coordinator also attended and used the display at the TEECH Fair held in San Luis Obispo, which attracted K-12 environmental teachers.
- ◆ Helped the San Luis Obispo Land Conservancy prepare a fish passage grant proposal.
- ◆ Assisted with permitting, funding, and the establishment a monitoring program for the CCC to conduct vegetation management within the Arroyo Grande Creek to reduce flooding and enhance tree shading of the active channel.



*Arroyo Grande Creek
before clearing project*



*Arroyo Grande Creek
after clearing project*

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Funding in the amount of \$637,802 was awarded to the RCD during the quarter. This funding resulted from coordination and collaboration from multiple government agencies, watershed stewardship groups, stakeholders, and landowners.

Water Use Efficiency – Three conservation plans were developed and 11 BMPs were installed on properties throughout the watershed. These BMPs increased water use efficiency by reducing sedimentation and non-point source pollution.

Colusa County RCD

Upper Cache Watershed

(Sub-watershed Bear Creek)



Amount Funded: \$127,317

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$46,634

Background

The 24-mile Bear Creek drainage is a rare aquatic ecosystem that supports four native fishes, western pond turtles, and yellow-legged frogs. It is an important corridor for neotropical migratory birds, and biological inventories have documented 33 other special status plants and animals. The California Unified Watershed Assessment has identified several areas of concern for Bear Creek: non-functioning riparian communities, habitat degradation from non-native species, and impaired water quality.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Facilitated a meeting with the BLM to discuss soil erosion, mercury issues and possible ways to move forward with a watershed assessment.
- ◆ Corresponded with John Green, a geomorphologist with Pacific Watershed Associates (PWA), to bring in PWA for grant writing and watershed assessment work.
- ◆ Organized and supervised revegetation work with American Land Conservancy (ALC) and Wilbur Hot Springs (WHS) to enhance a riparian area “Caretaker’s Creek” as part of a post-tamarisk eradication program.
- ◆ Initiated a revegetation research project with ALC and WHS using four key riparian floodplain plant species: mugwort, ambrosia, narrow-leaf goldenrod, and creeping wildrye.
- ◆ Worked with ALC, WHS and a livestock lessee to construct a livestock exclusion fence in the Sulphur Creek Valley area known for high levels of mercury and soil erosion.
- ◆ Completed preliminary data analysis for saline water irrigation research for native-grass enhancement and weed suppression at Wilbur Hot Springs in cooperation with NRCS and WHS.
- ◆ Attended the 2-day coordinator training workshops sponsored by DOC and CARCD.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Began initial work to produce a watershed assessment to address soil erosion and mercury issues in Bear Creek Watershed. Helped to organize a planning team to conduct the assessment. New partnerships with USDA and USDA-NASA centered on cooperative ecosystem restoration programs were also initiated.

Ecosystem Restoration – The coordinator facilitated major new riparian restoration and revegetation research in Sulphur Creek watershed, a tributary to Bear Creek. In cooperation with NRCS, WHS and ALC, the coordinator helped complete the first year of saline water irrigation research and data analysis for native-grass enhancement and exotic grass suppression on Wilbur Hot Springs property.

Contra Costa Public Works Department San Joaquin Delta Watershed



Amount Funded: \$215,959

Additional Funding Obtained to Date:

Background

This is one of the fastest urbanizing watersheds in California. Consequently, ever increasing amounts of polluted run-off is entering the Delta – the water supply for over 20 million people. The watershed is also home to numerous unique special status terrestrial plant and animal species. Agriculture is an important element of the landscape, economy and cultural heritage. Recognizing the need for cooperation, Contra Costa County is implementing a new Stormwater Management Plan. However, much more needs to be done to address critical issues such as flooding, erosion, and diminishing habitat.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Met with partners to discuss the excessive sedimentation of Kellogg Creek and the impact on Delta water quality and the Water District's intake structure on Old River. Discussed and developed a strategy to obtain funding. Separate but complementary grant applications were submitted to the State Water Board's Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program by the Contra Costa RCD and the Contra Costa Water District.
- ◆ Participated in a local work group meeting hosted by NRCS, which brought together farmers, ranchers, and private landowners. Provided an opportunity to network and meet new stakeholders.
- ◆ Confirmed existence of spawning fall-run Chinook salmon in Marsh Creek by organizing two community volunteer events to monitor fall-run Chinook salmon in Marsh Creek.
- ◆ Increased awareness of Marsh Creek's importance to the community by getting front-page story on salmon and monitoring in local press.
- ◆ Partnered with the City of Brentwood and Contra Costa Flood Control and Water Conservation District (CCFCWCD) to improve the design of a local housing development to incorporate and protect Marsh Creek.



Surveyors preparing for a land survey of 200 acres of irrigated farmland. Information will be used to implement BMPs.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Drinking Water Quality/Water Use Efficiency - Worked with partners and a landowner to identify the type and location of beneficial management practices that would assist in the implementation of the Rock Slough drainage management project. Conducted a scoping meeting with other organizations to identify sedimentation problems along Kellogg Creek.

Watershed Management - Assisted Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed to monitor salmon, restore riparian habitat, and increase the awareness about Marsh Creek within the local community.

Ecosystem Restoration - Worked with developers, City of Brentwood, and CCFCWCD on a plan to restore 1,900 linear feet of riparian habitat along Marsh Creek. It will increase habitat for threatened species, rehabilitate the natural hydrology, and protect the local community.

Contra Costa RCD Suisun Bay Watershed



Amount Funded: \$188,730

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$29,874

Background

The Suisun Bay watershed includes rangeland, protected wetlands, state and regional parks, and urban areas. Invasive non-native plants are a widespread problem in the watershed, decreasing upland and riparian habitat value. Trash and illegal dumping impair creeks throughout the region, and several creeks also have serious erosion and sedimentation problems. Water quality is also a significant concern with the California Unified Watershed Assessment assigning the watershed a Category 1 priority.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ planned and conducted a Creek Cleanup and Restoration Day in the Kirker Creek Watershed. Over 150 volunteers removed 2.5 tons of trash and invasive weeds from the creek.
- ◆ Watershed cooperators completed a GPS survey of the lower segment of Kirker Creek and presented the findings at a watershed stakeholders meeting.
- ◆ Assisted in planning seven restoration days at the Strentzel Meadow/Mt. Wanda restoration site in the Alhambra Creek Watershed. Cooperators removed invasive plants and replaced them with native species, and applied mulch to reduce weed growth at Dow Wetlands.
- ◆ Provided grant writing support to several local stakeholder groups resulting in \$24,500 being awarded for projects in the Alhambra Creek and Kirker Creek Watersheds.
- ◆ Updated and maintained the watershed website.
- ◆ Attended the watershed coordinator training workshops sponsored by DOC and CARCD.
- ◆ Wrote, edited, and distributed a regional watershed newsletter.



A volunteer removes trash and debris from Kirker Creek.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Worked with the local school district to integrate restoration activities into the curriculum, and attended meetings of several conservation/watershed groups to improve their coordination and collaboration.

Ecosystem Restoration – Facilitated several restoration days and a creek clean-up day that resulted in the removal of invasive plants, the planting of native species in riparian and upland areas, and the collection and removal of trash and debris from an active creek system.

Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy

Mill-Big Chico Watershed



Amount Funded: \$192,099

Additional Funding Obtained to Date:

Background

Deer Creek is a pristine watershed that possesses one of California's few remaining populations of wild Spring-run Chinook salmon. In the southern portion of the watershed, farmers grow a variety of crops. Both wildlife and agriculture need water to survive and thrive. Consequently, water management is absolutely critical and requires a comprehensive, collaborative approach. Changes in land use contribute to erosion and runoff. The watershed is characterized by a diversity of natural resources and competing stakeholder interests. As the population increases, so will the challenges.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Reviewed objectives identified in the Watershed Management Strategy. Began to outline and revise priorities to ensure that stakeholder needs are addressed.
- ◆ Began to collect information and data from resource agencies to use in researching funding opportunities within the watershed.
- ◆ Worked with the Tehama RCD to expand the Tehama/Glenn Fire Management Plan to include residents in the area. The watershed coordinator will ensure that stakeholder issues and concerns are considered when developing the fire plan.
- ◆ Held discussions and facilitated field trips with representatives of the USFS to identify and prioritize erosion and sedimentation worksites for Phase II of the Deer Creek Watershed Erosion and Sedimentation Project.
- ◆ Coordinated project management activities for the lower Deer Creek Restoration and Flood Management Project. Working on drafting, revising, and submitting required documentation to move the project forward.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Contacted former Watershed Action Committee members and conducted stakeholder outreach activities in an effort to energize and create interest in watershed issues. Held discussions and facilitated meetings with local stakeholders to discuss water quality issues and potential solutions including water exchange and water use efficiency programs. Facilitated stakeholder meetings and worked with local governments and other agencies to improve coordination, cooperation, and collaboration.

Earth Resource Foundation

Santa Ana Watershed



Amount Funded: \$178,135

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$6,500

Background

The Santa Ana is the largest river in Southern California and has a significant impact on residents throughout the region. Agriculture, industrial, and residential demands for water is intense and will only grow. Due to population growth, water usage will surge by a more than 40% over the next 50 years. In the 1980's the federal government determined that the river posed the greatest risk for flooding west of the Mississippi and initiated several major projects, including the construction of the Seven Oaks Dam. The river is managed to maximize groundwater recharge. Runoff from urban areas, agricultural operations, and industrial facilities pose health hazards for residents. Many areas are extremely urbanized with little open space. Debris and other trash flow toward the ocean, polluting beaches. Some areas along the river have little natural habitat.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Participated in the Human Broom Beach Clean up. More than 125 high school students participated and picked up over 300 bags of trash. Provided an ideal opportunity to teach future stakeholders about watershed issues, including on how river, storm drains, streets and oceans are interconnected. The students also participate in workshops on renewable energy, water conservation, restoration, Native American art, ocean pollution, and steelhead trout.
- ◆ Identified four restoration projects. Began working with partners to get funding and develop the implementation plan necessary to move the projects forward.
- ◆ Organized World Water Monitoring Day for high school students. More than 20 students participated.



Students from Pico Elementary School plant native plants as part of Bridge Week

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Held three workshops where the Santa Ana River Watershed Alliance (SARWA) began developing a plan to address specific concerns and issues in the watershed. Developed and distributed sponsorship packet for Santiago Creek Week activities. Provides an opportunity to interact with stakeholders and partners. Also, submitted a grant to Bren School of Environmental Management for Analysis of Alternative Watershed Management Strategies addressing water conservation, water quality, and land management.

Ecosystem Restoration – Planned, organized, designed and planted native garden at Pico Elementary School, involving more than 100 students and 30 volunteers.

East Merced RCD

Middle San Joaquin-Lower Merced- Lower Stanislaus Watershed



Amount Funded: \$286,957

Additional Funding Obtained to Date: \$2,350,000

Background

The lower Merced River and its adjacent floodplains have been heavily altered through channel narrowing, diking, placement of revetments (rip rap), removal of riparian vegetation and gravel mining. The lower Merced is almost entirely privately owned and its predominant land use is agricultural. Issues of concern in the watershed include: urbanization, water quality, habitat degradation, invasive species, and pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer run-off.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Facilitated a summit meeting between major Merced River advocacy organizations to increase collaboration between agencies and other stakeholders.
- ◆ Facilitated a Merced River Stakeholders group meeting.
- ◆ Planned and scheduled irrigated lands training workshops for local landowners. Test kits will be distributed as part of the workshops.
- ◆ Coordinator partnered with Community Alliance with Family Farmers to conduct a field trip to the confluence of Dry Creek and the Merced River to examine a sedimentation problem with local officials.
- ◆ Worked towards increasing watershed funding by submitting three Proposition 50 grant proposals.
- ◆ Working with Sustainable Conservation regarding grant funding to work on permit coordination.
- ◆ Attended DOC watershed coordinator training workshops.

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Helped to establish new partnerships with UC Merced and Merced River Education Initiative and facilitated the first biannual Merced River Summit Meeting. Also assisted three partners (East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, Department of Pesticide Regulation, and San Joaquin County RCD) in preparing separate Proposition 50 grant applications for water quality projects on Mustang Creek.

El Dorado Irrigation District

South Fork American Watershed



Amount Funded: \$214,157

Additional Funding Obtained to Date:

Background

The watershed is located within the fastest growing region of the Sierra Nevada. Water quality is affected by many factors including timber and mining operations, agricultural runoff, industrial facilities, and recreational use. Natural events such as flooding, soil erosion, and fires exacerbate the problems. It is estimated that more than 13,000 septic systems are located within the watershed. Failing systems could pose problems for local residents, vacationers, and down stream water users. It is imperative that a comprehensive approach be used to prevent potential disasters.

Benefits to the Watershed

- ◆ Finalized the American River Watershed Portal for the benefit of all users interested in the activities, data, and projects within the watershed.
- ◆ Worked with the Regional Watershed Authority, an entity comprised primarily of water purveyors in the Sacramento area, to develop an Integrated Water Management Plan that includes components of watershed management.
- ◆ Partnered with the Sierra Environmental Business Council, Sierra Nevada Alliance, and the Sierra Nevada Water Caucus to develop an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for a pilot sub-region within the Sierra Nevada.
- ◆ Began drafting a proposal for a GIS interactive mapping system for the American River Basin.
- ◆ Assisted with outreach activities for the South Fork Watershed Group to broaden stakeholder participation to the agricultural community and other water purveyors in the region.
- ◆ Worked with the American River Conservancy to implement the Spivey Pond Restoration Project.



Enjoying the American River

Benefits to CALFED Program

Watershed Management – Conducted outreach activities throughout the watershed. Partnered with government agencies and watershed groups on a GIS interactive mapping system to establish baseline water quality data. Worked with American River Conservancy to implement the Spivey Pond Restoration Project.

Water Use Efficiency - Developed a draft recognition program to reward homebuilders and developers who incorporate water efficient methods in design, construction, and landscape projects.

Drinking Water Quality - Assisted in preparing a water quality program that will assess the impacts of recreational structures on Silver Lake. Worked with the American River Watershed Groups, Resource Conservation Districts, and the Placer County Water Agency on a GIS interactive mapping system to establish baseline water quality data.

Water Management – Began drafting an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the Consumes, American, Bear and Upper Yuba watersheds. This plan will improve regional water management, increase water supply reliability, and enhance coordination between water districts.