

Watershed Coordinators

LOCAL ACTION WITH STATEWIDE RESULTS

FINAL REPORT

2008-2012

Department of Conservation

Watershed Coordinator

Grants



State of California
Department *of* Conservation

Watershed Coordinators: Local Action with Statewide Results

California Department of Conservation

2008-2012 Watershed Coordinator Grants Report

Developed by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) for the California Department of Conservation (DOC). Grantee accomplishments were based on final reports of the Watershed Coordinator Grants.

CARCD is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation as defined by the IRS.

For more information, please visit the CARCD website at <http://www.carcd.org>.

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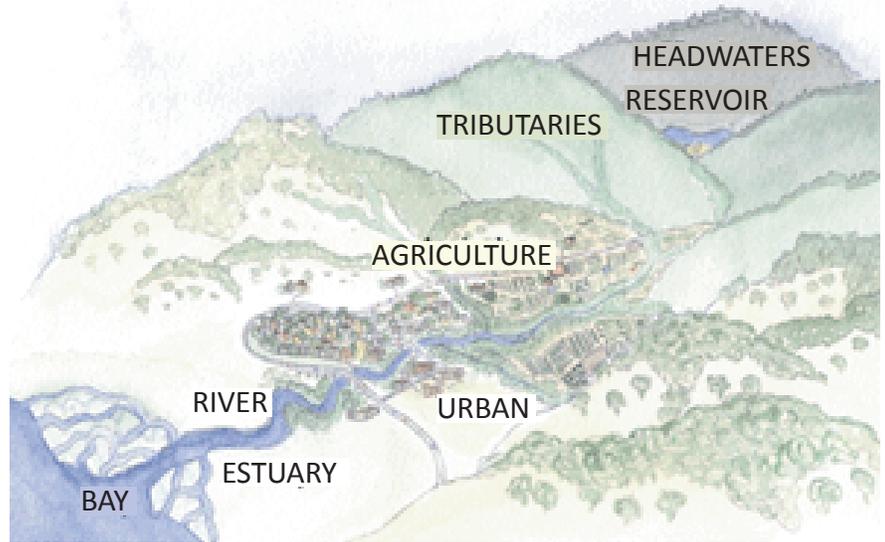
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What is a Watershed?

Where water in an area of land flows to a common area

A WATERSHED describes an area of land where all of the water that flows out of it goes into the same natural drainage system. John Wesley Powell, a scientist geographer, put it best when he said that a watershed is:

“That area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community.”



California Environmental Protection Agency/State Water Resources Control Board - San Francisco Bay

Watersheds are interconnected systems of varying geographical size that are composed of all the plants, animals and geologic formations of the natural world, as well as all the housing, agriculture and industry of the developed world. Whether we know it or not, we spend our lives working and playing in watersheds. We rely on water and other natural resources for our most basic needs and our most expansive creations. Understanding a watershed helps us understand water supply, the fate of nutrients and pollutants, soil erosion and deposition, crop options, wildlife habitat, urban development patterns, air quality, and many other important conservation issues.

The Watershed Coordinator with the San Joaquin RCD played a critical role in the Mokelumne River Watershed, where they worked with landowners and partners to make restoration projects an educational opportunity for local high school students.



Why use the Watershed Approach?

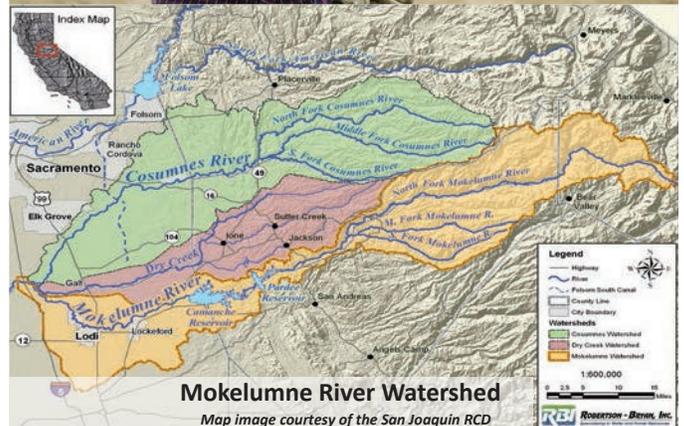
The environment doesn't function within political boundaries

As a cohesive approach, the WATERSHED CONCEPT helps us understand what problems residents might share in an area and what solutions might work. Residents within a watershed often share similar challenges. Landscapes in a watershed fit together like puzzle pieces; knowing what is going on upstream may help us understand issues downstream. Understanding a watershed helps us to understand water supply, the fate of nutrients and pollutants, soil erosion and deposition, crop options, wildlife habitat, urban development patterns, air quality, and many other important conservation factors.

A WATERSHED APPROACH relies on the premise that many water quality and ecosystem problems are best solved on a watershed level instead of focusing on an individual water body or the pollutant discharge level in a single location. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, "A watershed approach is the most effective framework to address today's water resource challenges. Watersheds supply drinking water, provide recreation and respite, and sustain life. More than \$450 billion in food and fiber, manufactured goods, and tourism depends on clean water and healthy watersheds."



The San Joaquin RCD Watershed Coordinator collaborated with the Lodi Wine Grape Growers Commission, Lodi Rules program and others to provide local farmers with new opportunities for conservation in the watershed.



With the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Plan as a roadmap, the San Joaquin RCD Coordinator worked closely with partner organizations and local landowners to develop and implement over \$1 million in watershed improvement projects.



The Watershed Coordinator Grants

Improving our environment at the local level

OVERVIEW

The Watershed Coordinator Grants (WCG) were established to improve watersheds throughout California by providing support for watershed improvement efforts at a local level. The WCG is a part of California's Statewide Watershed Program (SWP). The SWP's purpose is to advance sustainable watershed-based management of California's natural resources through community-based strategies. The SWP is currently administered through the Department of Conservation (DOC) and provides watershed resource information, grants, and technical support.

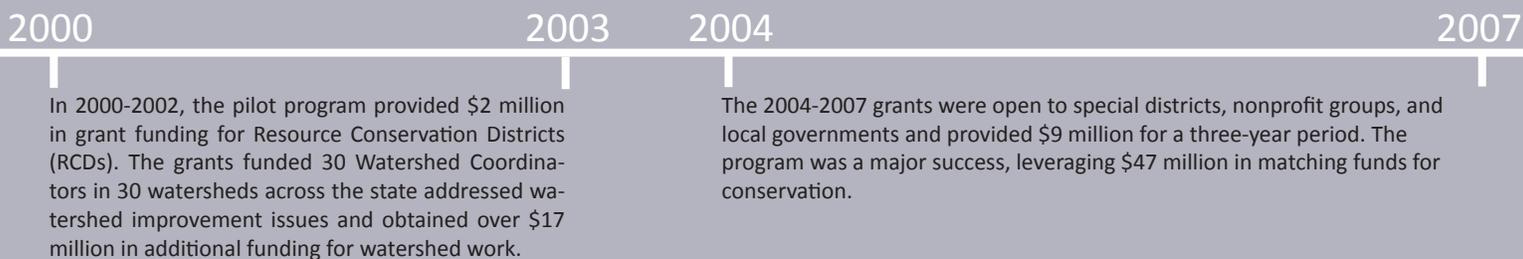
The WCG differs from other grant programs in that it does not provide project funding. Instead, it builds much needed human resource infrastructure by creating a network of local experts who can implement efficient and effective resource management. This army of experts works to improve and conserve clean water, build local economies, protect the environment, and address critical needs where it is most effective - at the local level.

The 2008-12 grant cycle focuses on watershed areas that affect the health of the Bay-Delta System. The purpose of the WCG is to improve watersheds throughout California by improving streams, rivers and the surrounding land through locally-led planning and action. These grants demonstrate that Watershed Coordinators are very effective in conserving, improving, and protecting California's valuable water resources.

The WCG focuses on partnerships. Why? Because partnerships equal support. For every dollar that the State provided to fund Watershed Coordinators, the Coordinators were able to obtain \$6 from partners to increase the impact of their work. This demonstrates not only how critical partnerships are, but how essential the work that Watershed Coordinators carry out is to a broad cross section of the State. Because this round of grants was funded by CALFED Proposition 50 funds, these grants focused on the State's CALFED objectives.

Grants funded through this round remained within the CALFED Solution Area, which includes watersheds that contribute to or import water through the Bay-Delta System. The grants were required to demonstrate a direct benefit to the Bay-Delta System. Grantees were required to support the goals of the CALFED Watershed Program and at least one other CALFED program. The CALFED Watershed Program focused on supporting local watershed activities, facilitating coordination and assistance, developing watershed monitoring and assessment protocols, and supporting education and outreach. Other CALFED programs supported included: Conveyance, Ecosystem Restoration, Levee System Integrity, Storage, Water Quality, Water Supply Reliability, Water Transfer, and Water Use Efficiency. Grants located in regions that import water through the Bay-Delta System were required to focus on Water Use Efficiency.

The Delta ecosystem is unique as part of the largest estuary on the Pacific Coast. According to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, the Delta is home to more than 750 species of flora and fauna. Additionally, the Delta is home to more than 500,000 people, is a major recreation destination and a crossroads for Northern California infrastructure. The majority of the state's water runs through the Delta and into aqueducts and pipelines which distribute water to 25 million Californians throughout the state, making the Delta the single largest and most important source of water for drinking, irrigation, and industry.



BACKGROUND

Watershed Coordinator Grants were established by the Legislature, in the Budget Act of 2000, to fund Watershed Coordinator positions. For the \$2 million pilot program, DOC awarded competitive grants to Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) to hire Watershed Coordinators to work on 30 impaired watersheds across the state for a period of two years. During this first round of grants, the Coordinators were responsible for obtaining over \$17 million in grants, contributions, and matching funds to carry out additional watershed work. This amount was over seven times the State's initial investment into the program. In 2004, the WCGP was expanded through CALFED funding from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50). The 2004-07 grant round provided \$9 million for a three-year period. The 2004-07 grant round was another success, leveraging \$47 million in matching funds for additional conservation work.

WHAT DO WATERSHED COORDINATORS DO?

Watershed Coordinators improve our water, streams, rivers, and surrounding land to create a better environment by working with their communities at the local level.

For the 2008-12 grant round, Watershed Coordinators focused the following CALFED objectives:

-  Making water cleaner for people, plants and animals (**DRINKING WATER QUALITY**)
-  Creating homes for fish and wildlife (**ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION**)
-  Addressing water supply issues (**WATER TRANSFERS**)
-  Protecting people and their livelihoods (**LEVEE SYSTEM INTEGRITY**)
-  Thinking bigger - planning for system wide effects (**CONVEYANCE**)
-  Improving groundwater storage capacity (**STORAGE**)
-  Teaching people to save water (**WATER USE EFFICIENCY**)
-  Building a system to keep water flowing (**WATER SYSTEM RELIABILITY**)
-  Promoting smarter environmental planning (**WATERSHED MANAGEMENT**)

2008

2011

2012

2014

BEYOND...

The 2008-2012 WCG were funded with \$9 million through CALFED Proposition 50 funds to improve watersheds which affect the CALFED Solution Area and provide support for local watershed improvements. The program leveraged \$65.9 million in matching funds.

The 2011-2014 WCG were allocated approximately \$9 million of Proposition 84 funds to support coordination for watershed management and local watershed improvements throughout the state.

Accomplishments

A summary of outcomes

The 2008-2012 grant cycle funded 43 grantees throughout the state (see Map on page 50). Recipients of these highly competitive grants have worked to bring together environmental groups, agricultural landowners, citizens, state and federal agencies, and local governments to cooperate on projects that benefit water quality, stream restoration, fire safety and other local watershed issues. For every \$1 million invested in the grants, Watershed Coordinators obtained \$6.59 million in additional funding for on-the-ground watershed improvements.

ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION: A HEALTHIER CALIFORNIA FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

Coordinators play a significant role in improving ecosystem function in watersheds throughout the state. They are able to integrate local, state, and federal conservation priorities, identify resource conservation needs locally, help stakeholders create solutions and implement on-the-ground projects that meet those conservation needs. Ecosystem function accomplishments under this round of grant funding included:

- **263 miles** of streambank restored
- **200 sites** monitored for water quality
- **139,000 acres** of upland habitat restored
- **326 tons** of trash removed
- **8,500 acres** of noxious weeds removed
- **104,000** native trees planted
- **Thousands of acres** protected from wildfire

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: STRONGER RESULTS BY WORKING TOGETHER

Watershed Coordinators built extensive networks and facilitated collaborative decision-making between private and public entities to develop and implement actions that best address local issues. Coordinators are familiar with issues relevant to their watersheds and have become an important resource to their communities. During three-year grant cycle:

- **Over 681 new partnerships** developed

SAVING WATER, SAVING FARMLAND: A WIN - WIN APPROACH

Poorly managed irrigation on farmland wastes water and causes erosion, soil loss, and crop damage. Coordinators in agricultural communities work one-on-one with farmers and partners to improve irrigation efficiency on agricultural lands. They provide education, technical support and assistance through the Department of Water Resources Water Use Efficiency Program and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service programs. Grantee efforts resulted in:

- **24,000 acres** of land with improved irrigation efficiency

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: GOOD SCIENCE FOR EVERYDAY DECISIONS

Coordinators developed scientific and technical reports as well as watershed management plans to identify and evaluate opportunities in their watersheds in order to achieve positive natural resource outcomes. Coordinators also worked



Watershed Coordinator Grants 2008-2012

with landowners to solve specific problems. This type of technical assistance increases the number activities that make water cleaner, build wildlife habitat, and protect farmland. During the grant cycle, achievements included:

- **37 scientific reports** written
- **76 watershed management plans** developed
- **967 landowners assisted** with environmental improvements

OUTREACH: HELPING PEOPLE SAVE WATER AND MAKE BETTER CHOICES

Educating local stakeholders creates a more informed citizenry that is better able to protect its resources, prevent future problems and effectively manage future problems as they arise. Watershed Coordinators held public outreach events including land management workshops, watershed celebrations, landscaping demonstrations, community forums and restoration activities. Topics included wildlife enhancement practices for urban and rural landowners, irrigation efficiency for farmers, holistic grazing for ranchers and water conservation for homeowners. The Coordinators also educated kids and young adults by working with teachers and creating school-oriented watershed education programs. Outreach results:

- **1.4 million people** reached
- **426 outreach and educational workshops** conducted
- **122 outreach publications** created

MEASURABLE SUCCESS: HIGH ACCOUNTABILITY EQUALS HIGH RESULTS

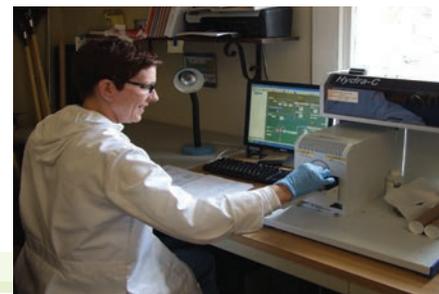
The WCG is responsible with state dollars. In a recent audit of bond funds, the Department of Finance found that DOC awarded funds were “in compliance with applicable legal requirements and established criteria. DOC established several key accountability processes, including comprehensive grant guidelines, competitive awarding processes, and established project reporting requirements.” (Source: An Audit of Bond Funds: Department of Conservation, Propositions 12, 40, 50 and 84 Bond Programs. March 2012). Such external reviews show comprehensive accountability and responsibility for state bond funded programs. As a result:

- **Over 95% of grantees completed their workplan goals**
- **Grantees met or exceeded performance measures, goals and objectives**

HIGH RETURN ON THE INVESTMENT: YIELDING over \$6 FOR EVERY \$1 INVESTED

Watershed Coordinators find partners who want to support local efforts to improve watersheds. As the WCG cover the salary for Coordinators and not project costs, funding for on-the-ground watershed improvement projects must be obtained through other sources, such as Federal grants or other state programs. Over the three-year grant period, the Watershed Coordinators obtained an additional \$3.43 in non-state funding for every \$1 the state spent on funding these grants. Through grant writing, match, or fundraising the Watershed Coordinators brought in:

- **\$65.9 million in additional funding for watershed improvement projects; 60% of this additional funding came from non-state sources, while 40% came from other state sources**



Findings

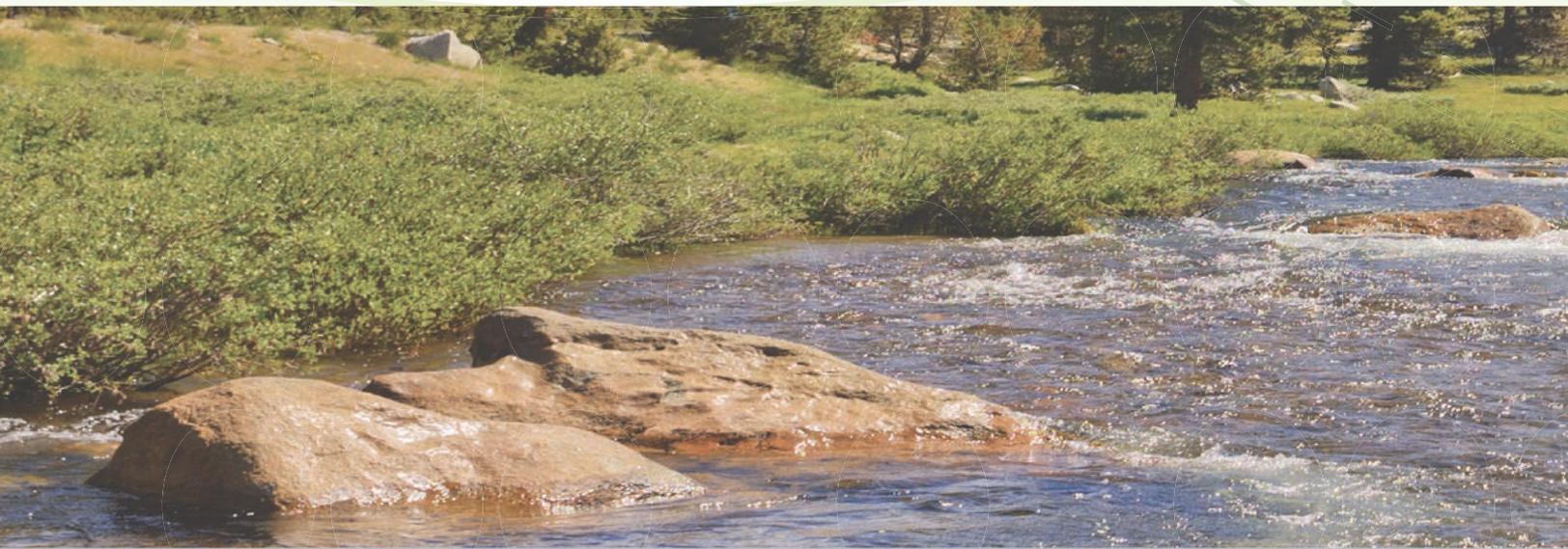
What did we learn?

Results show that Watershed Coordinators are highly effective and extremely valuable in improving water resources statewide. Because of Watershed Coordinators, we now have a state with cleaner water and that uses water more efficiently to support people, animals, habitat, and the economy. Coordinators fill a critical gap in providing the needed infrastructure of experts to tackle California's pressing natural resource issues.

But we need more. This type of work is crucial to protecting California's water supply. In the California Resources Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board report, "Addressing the Need to Protect California's Watersheds: Working with Local Partnerships," they discovered that a key gap in watershed management is in building local capacity to develop and implement on-the-ground projects. Continued funding of the Watershed Coordinator Grants would go a long way to filling this critical need.

The results of the 2008-2012 Watershed Coordinator Grants demonstrate that:

1. Watershed Coordinators are crucial for the health of the people and animals that rely on clean water.
2. Partnerships are critical because they bring money and resources to important issues. This makes projects more efficient and effective. For every dollar the State provided to fund Watershed Coordinators, the Coordinators were able to obtain an additional \$6 to support State watershed goals. That is a total of \$65.9 million dollars brought into augment State efforts that wouldn't have existed without the Watershed Coordinators. That is a high return on the State's investment. In total, the Watershed Coordinators created 681 new partnerships. That means new cooperative partnerships and local networks focused on improving California's water in an effective and efficient way.



"Without funded Watershed Coordinators positions, many grant programs will

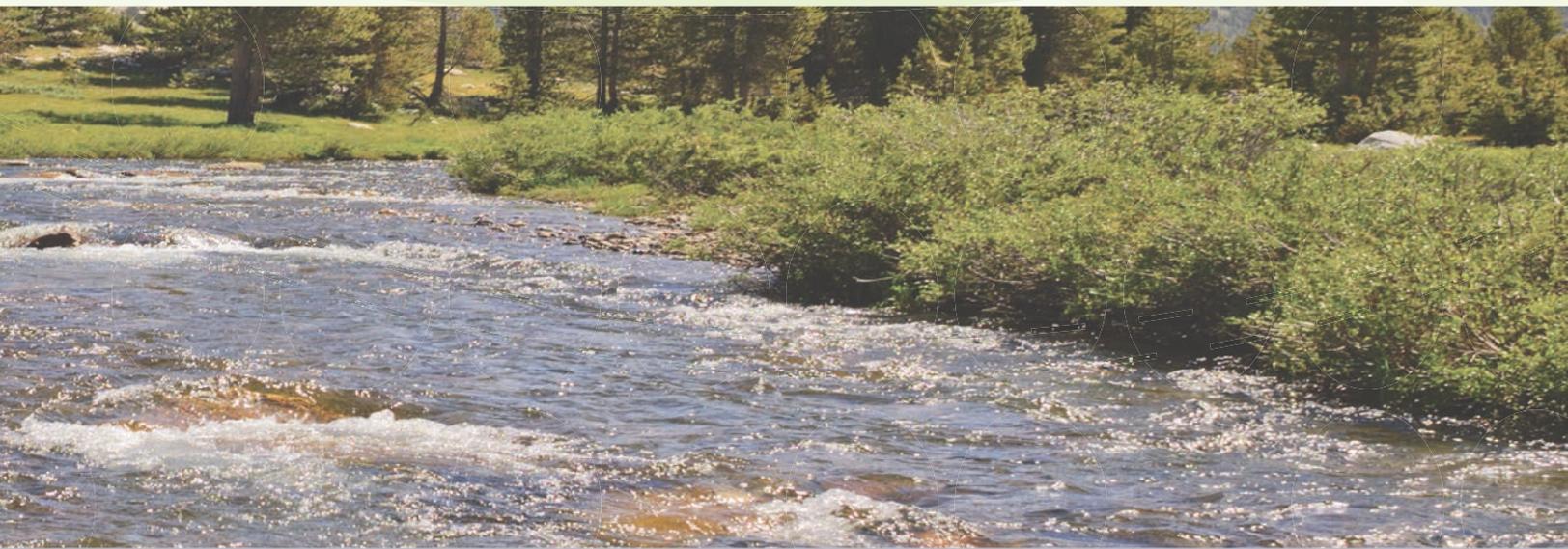
Watershed Coordinator Grants 2008-2012

3. California is significantly healthier because of the hard work of the Coordinators. Coordinators restored 263 miles of streambank, removed 326 tons of trash, planted 104,000 native plants and trees, and restored over 139,000 acres of habitat. Coordinators know their local communities and help clean water happen in their corner of the State. This type of environmental restoration is well worth the investment.

4. Teaching people how to protect California creates a dedicated coalition of people committed and prepared to do the right thing. Landowners and other community members trust the Coordinators because they come from and live within their own community. This gives Watershed Coordinators access to locations and populations that few others can reach, creating real and lasting changes. There is no more effective way to create change than to work from the ground up. The coordinators held 426 workshops on critical conservation issues, created 122 outreach publications, and reached over a million residents statewide.

5. The key to using good science is making it available and applicable to the person who is going to use it. Coordinators provide landowners with one-on-one assistance to help them make sound management decisions, based on good science, on their land. In addition, Coordinators are able to work with landowners that others may not be able to reach. Coordinators work with landowners on potentially sensitive topics such as reducing pollution in waterways, creating healthy habitat for wildlife, and conserving water and other resources. Coordinators act in a non-regulatory capacity and are therefore more approachable to landowners. Coordinators developed 76 watershed management plans, 37 technical reports, and helped over 967 landowners solve specific problems on their property. Irrigation efficiency was improved on approximately 24,000 acres of land.

6. Watershed Coordinators help to provide local solutions to statewide problems. The accumulated impact of local actions is a cleaner, healthier, and greatly improved environment throughout the State.



find it difficult to get their funding to local groups and have successful projects.”

American River Watershed - South Fork

Addressing climate change and future water supply in the Sierra Nevada region

Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, Placer and Sacramento Counties; State Senate District 1, State Assembly Districts 4, 10



EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT



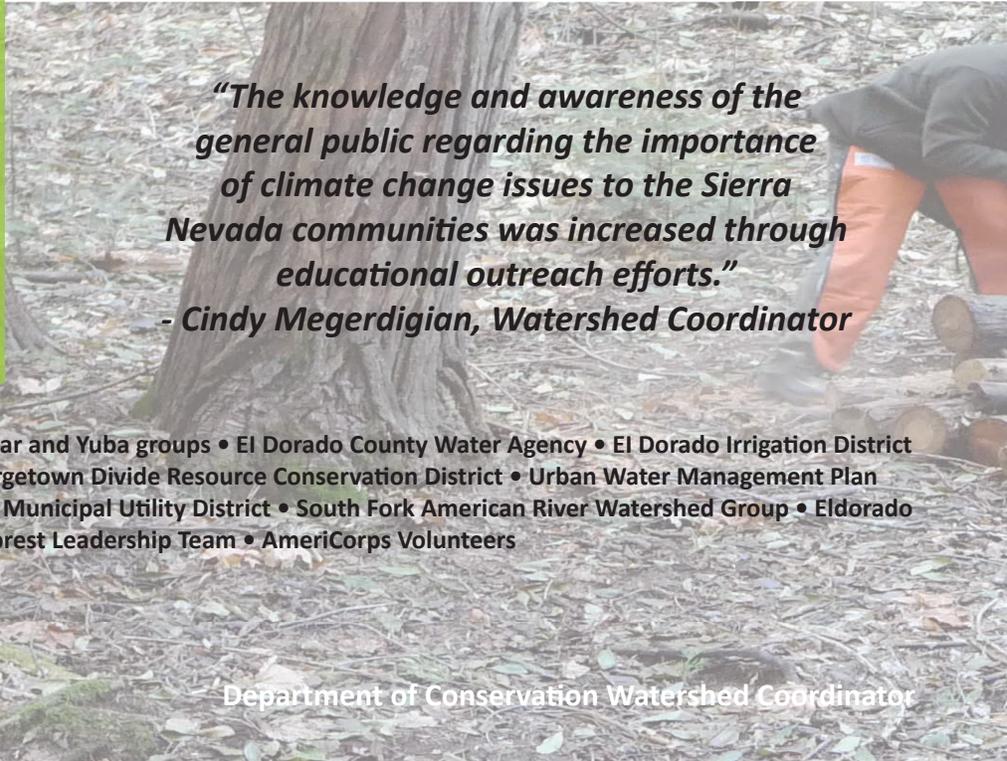
- Completed the El Dorado County Drought Preparedness Plan
- Planned and facilitated a volunteer work day on the Miwok Trail at Sly Park Recreation Area
- Hosted a series of Watershed Tours
- Obtained funding to develop an economic analysis for a variety of climate change scenarios and the anticipated economic effects
- Established the South Fork American River Watershed Group
- Collected data to track greenhouse gas emissions
- Completed the South Fork American River Watershed Plan

The El Dorado Irrigation District's (EID) Watershed Coordinator took a holistic approach to addressing South Fork American River watershed issues. The Coordinator met regularly with a diverse group of stakeholders to complete the South Fork American River Watershed Plan. The plan has been used to prioritize and fund watershed improvement actions, and has influenced larger planning efforts such as the region's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).

From this watershed group, another stakeholder group, including water purveyors and resource agencies, was formed to address the effects of climate change on the natural resources of the Sierra Nevada region. With the support of these stakeholders, the Coordinator was able to obtain funding to develop an economic analysis for a variety of climate change scenarios and the anticipated economic impacts on industries such as ranching, farming, and forestry.

The Coordinator also completed an update to the EID's Urban Water Management Plan. The plan documents the District's current water supply and includes tools to anticipate projected water use. The District is continuing to use these plans to help provide local farmers and residents with a sustainable supply of high-quality water.

For more information visit the EID website at <http://www.eid.org>



“The knowledge and awareness of the general public regarding the importance of climate change issues to the Sierra Nevada communities was increased through educational outreach efforts.”
- Cindy Megerdigian, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba groups • El Dorado County Water Agency • El Dorado Irrigation District • City of Placerville • El Dorado County • Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District • Urban Water Management Plan stakeholders • Rand Corporation • Sacramento Municipal Utility District • South Fork American River Watershed Group • Eldorado National Forest Leadership Team • AmeriCorps Volunteers

American River Watershed - South Fork

Reducing the risk of wildfire in El Dorado County

El Dorado County; State Senate District 1, State Assembly District 4

GEORGETOWN DIVIDE RCD

Collaboration with local partners is an important aspect of Watershed Coordination. The Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District (RCD) Coordinator was involved in many local groups such as the Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee Working Group, the Forestry and Fuels Technical Advisory Committee, the Regional Watershed Coordination Team, and the El Dorado County Agricultural Watershed Group. All of these organizations brought community members and experts together to address specific issues in the watershed.

Through the work of the Coordinator, the Fish Friendly Farming Program was implemented to promote water quality protection through farm conservation planning in El Dorado County. A total of 44 farmers were certified through the program, giving them recognition for their stewardship efforts that improve the overall water quality of the South Fork American River Watershed.

In addition, the Coordinator worked with the El Dorado County Water Agency to develop the Community Watershed Stewardship program. This program offered grants of \$5,000 to community groups for projects that connect people with their watershed and protect and enhance watershed health.

For more information visit the El Dorado and Georgetown Divide RCDs website at <http://www.eldoradorcd.org>



- Completed the Fannon Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project, which restored a lake back to its original 350-acre capacity
- Certified 2,755 acres of working lands through the Fish Friendly Farming Program
- Developed a restoration plan for the Gold Bug Park; the plan is designed to improve the trail system, information signage, erosion control, and road stabilization
- Hosted 12 public watershed improvement events including the annual Water Monitoring Day for citizen volunteers
- Provided educational farm, ranch and forestry field trips to over 2,692 third grade students

“The Watershed Coordinator increased collaboration by convening stakeholder meetings that informed participants of the most recent projects occurring in the watershed.”

***- Mark Egbert, District Manager
Georgetown Divide RCD***

PARTNERS INCLUDED: El Dorado National Forest • USDA Natural Resource Conservation District • El Dorado County El Dorado County Water Agency • El Dorado Irrigation District • American River Conservancy • City of Placerville • S.A.G.E Ag. In The Classroom • El Dorado County Office of Education • Sierra Nevada Alliance

Battle Creek/Upper Cow - Battle Watersheds

Restoring salmon and steelhead in the Battle Creek Watershed

Shasta and Tehama Counties; State Senate District 4, State Assembly District 2



BATTLE CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVANCY



The Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy (BCWC) Watershed Coordinator helped to improve watershed conditions and water quality in the Battle Creek Watershed while supporting fisheries restoration. The BCWC and the Watershed Coordinator have become a vital link between the community and the resource agencies currently implementing CALFED's Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project. The Coordinator provided the community with ongoing information regarding this project, among the largest cold-water anadromous fish restoration efforts in North America.

The Watershed Coordinator worked to provide outreach for fuels reduction projects, to develop an invasive weeds program, and to create a local watershed management plan. Addressing the community's number one concern of fuels reduction and fire safety, the Coordinator helped to establish the Manton Fire Safe Council and facilitate stakeholder decision-making.

The Watershed Coordinator created a website for the BCWC which functions as a hub of information for local projects, and provides partner agencies a way to inform each other and the community of activities connected to the watershed.

For more information visit the Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy website at <http://www.battle-creek.net>

- Created and distributed a series of six fire safety informational flyers
- Worked with local technical experts to identify high priority restoration activities
- Organized and facilitated Manton Fire Safe Council meetings
- Expanded wildfire planning for areas outside the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)
- Contributed to plan reviews for the Coleman National Fish Hatchery
- Participated as a member of Battle Creek Watershed Working Group
- Organized an MOU to create a forum for identifying, reviewing and coordinating various watershed activities

“Since its creation in 1997, Battle Creek Watershed Conservancy and the Watershed Coordinator have become a vital link between the community and the resource agencies.”

***- Sharon Paquin-Gilmore,
Watershed Coordinator***

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California • The Greater Battle Creek Watershed Working Group • Tehama County RCD • CAL FIRE

Bear Creek, Cow Creek, Stillwater - Churn Creek Watersheds

Restoring fish habitat by improving water quality and removing fish barriers

Shasta and Tehama Counties; State Senate District 4, State Assembly District 1

WESTERN SHASTA RCD



The Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator focused on riparian and fisheries habitat restoration, improving fish passage, and improving water quality.

The Coordinator developed and organized a citizen water monitoring program, involving 53 sites in the watershed. The program included macroinvertebrate surveys, precipitation recording, ground water depth measurement, and measuring physical properties of surface water. Analysis of the survey data is currently used to determine water quality and quantity changes over time.

The Coordinator initiated an additional volunteer citizen-based survey program to inventory barriers to fish passage in the Stillwater Watershed. A Fish Passage Barrier report was completed and is used to prioritize fish passage improvement projects.

The Coordinator also developed and assisted in implementing a 10 acre wetland restoration project on Sulfur Creek. Revegetation using native plants was designed to mitigate impacts of highway construction projects in Redding. The Coordinator was critical to obtaining all necessary agreements and permits for the project and created the native plant list for revegetating the wetland.

For more information visit the Western Shasta RCD website at <http://www.westernshastarc.org>



- Monitored water quality at 53 sites in the watershed
- Removed more than 40 tons of trash from waterways utilizing over 300 volunteers
- Removed non-native invasive weeds on 30 acres of riparian woodland habitat
- Eradicated *Arundo donax* on 16 miles of Stillwater Creek
- Facilitated planting, management, and monitoring of a Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Conservation Area
- Assisted in the development of a Strategic Fuel Management Plan for the Keswick Basin Watershed
- Updated Strategic Fuel Management Plans for the French Gulch, Lower Clear Creek, and Shasta West Watersheds
- Educated nearly 100,000 residents about fuels reduction via workshops and outreach

“Great strides were made to implement on-the-ground restoration projects, to create a more educated and engaged community, and to secure valuable project funding.”

- Leslie Bryan, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: CDFW • DWR • Central Valley RWQCB • USDA NRCS • BLM • U.S. Bureau of Reclamation • USFWS • Model Forests Policy Program • Shasta County • Shasta County Fire Safe Council • City of Redding • Shasta College • Shasta County schools • Sacramento River Watershed Program • Cow Creek Watershed Management Group • Churn Creek Stillwater Alliance • Bear Creek Watershed Group • Shasta Conservation Fund • Turtle Bay Exploration Park • KIXE Public Television • Anewscafe.com • Channel 7 News • Channel 12 News • Redding.com • North Valley Times • Whiskeytown Environmental School • Trinity County Office of Education • The Forest Foundation • Northern CA Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) • The Redding Rotary Stream Team • Institute of Fisheries Resources • Whole Earth and Watershed Festival Committee

Bear River Watershed

Protecting the Upper and Lower Bear River Watershed from the threat of fire and invasives

Nevada County; State Senate Districts 1 and 4, State Assembly District 3



NEVADA COUNTY RCD

The Nevada County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator was funded to continue the watershed improvement efforts of the Bear River Watershed Group in the Upper and Lower Bear River Watersheds in Nevada County.

The Watershed Coordinator worked with 300 individuals to develop a grazing education program to reach out to rangeland managers and the public. A video entitled, "The Environmental Benefits of Grazing," was produced and shown in a series of watershed seminars at the Nevada County Fair over several years. The RCD also conducted 15 more seminars on a variety of watershed issues. Over 5,500 people attended workshops and received information and technical assistance.

The Coordinator also led several invasive plant removal projects. Annual "Scotch Broom Challenges" were planned where volunteer groups and community partners worked in the field to reduce the spread of this extremely invasive weed.

The Coordinator also worked closely with 35 public and private landowners to create firebreaks on 250 acres in a wildfire prone area. The firebreaks will protect the local communities from catastrophic wildfire and also protect drinking water sources.

For more information visit the Nevada County RCD website at <http://www.ncrcd.org>

- Developed a project entitled "Sierra-wide Solutions for Private Meadow Restoration"
- Provided technical assistance to landowners covering 30,000 acres, with information on soil conservation, efficient irrigation practices, and critical habitat enhancements
- Coordinated the removal of 2,250 non-native invasive purple loosestrife plants on a total of 13.5 acres
- Coordinated river clean-ups throughout the Sierras
- Partnered with Nevada Irrigation District on the Lake Combie mercury removal project.
- Hosted an "Aquatic Plant ID" day where 27 residents came for information on pond weeds

"The Coordinator worked with local groups to increase water quality monitoring efforts and coordinated events to improve watershed health."
-Lynn Lorenson, Board President

PARTNERS INCLUDED: USDA NRCS • Placer County RCD • Sutter County RCD • Yuba County RCD • Fire Safe Council of Nevada County • Placer County Fire Safe Alliance • USFS • Bear River Watershed Group • Yuba-Bear Watershed Council • Wolf Creek Community Alliance • CARCD • BLM • USFWS • CDFW • CAL FIRE • PG&E • SNC • South Yuba River Citizens League • Friends of Deer Creek • El Dorado and Nevada Irrigation Districts • Sierra Pacific Industries • High Sierra RC&D • Nevada County Ag Commissioner • City of Grass Valley • Nevada County • Nevada County Farm Bureau • Placer County Water Agency • Cosumnes/American/Bear/Yuba-IRWMP Grass Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant • Nevada County Land Trust • Idaho-Maryland Mining Corporation • Sierra Foothills Audubon Society • UCCE • Sierra College • American Rivers • landowners • Placer/Nevada/South Sutter/North Sacramento Water Quality Coalition

Cache/Bear Creek Watershed - Upper

Planning for success and working towards the restoration of Bear Creek

Colusa, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Sonoma and Yolo Counties; State Senate District 4, State Assembly District 2

COLUSA COUNTY RCD



The Colusa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Upper Cache Watershed Coordinator helped to complete a comprehensive watershed assessment for one of the largest watersheds in the state. Working with local partners, the Watershed Coordinator developed stakeholder goals, identified stewardship issues, and prioritized restoration plans for the Colusa Basin Watershed. The Watershed Coordinator co-authored a five-year Watershed Stewardship Plan, and nine stewardship profiles to help further guide land stewardship in the watershed.

These planning efforts facilitated on-the-ground ecosystem restoration projects and will help guide future projects as well. In collaboration with UC Davis and 50 volunteers, the Watershed Coordinator coordinated a three-year program of botanical inventories in the watershed. This group documented 491 plant species, 80% of which were native. Eighteen Special Status native plants were recorded. As part of the many land stewardship projects, 25+ low-profile rock structures were constructed to improve stream function of four degraded waterways. Also, thousands of native trees, understory vegetation, and wetland plants were installed on restoration sites to help achieve resource management goals.

For more information visit the Colusa County RCD website at <http://www.colusarcd.org>



- Completed the Bear Creek Watershed Assessment
- Helped develop a grazing management plan for 12,000 acres of public land
- Initiated a prescribed burn on Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Bear Creek Ranch to help control three noxious weeds: medusahead, yellow starthistle, and barbed goatgrass
- Completed the "Stewardship Priorities for the Bear Creek Watershed" Watershed Stewardship Plan
- Conducted numerous tours, education events, project development visits, and land stewardship meetings
- Obtained additional funding to continue watershed coordination beyond the life of the grant

"The Watershed Coordinator worked with partners to develop stakeholder goals and identify stewardship issues."

***- Patti Turner, Executive Director,
Colusa County RCD***

PARTNERS INCLUDED: BLM • CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife • CA Dept. of Water Resources • CAL FIRE • Caltrans • Dr. Ellen Dean, Center for Plant Diversity, UC Davis • Dr. Vic Claassen, Dept. of Land, Air, and Water Resources • Jack Alderson, Natural Resources Conservation Service • Jason Horn, Stetson Engineering • Regional Water Quality Board • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • UC Davis: Dept. of Plant Sciences • Tuleyome • Volunteers • Wilbur Hot Springs • Wildlife Conservation Board

Cache Creek Watershed - Upper

Wildfire protection and invasive weed removal in Lake County's watersheds

Lake County; State Senate District 2, State Assembly District 1



WEST LAKE RCD



- Implemented a 40 acre Scotch broom control project on Sumner Ridge
- Implemented wildfire protection measures for 251 homes
- Installed the Soda Bay Road Shaded Fuel Break Project along 10 miles of road
- Successfully eradicated 22 invasive *Tamarisk* weed colonies on 1.5 acres of Kelsey Creek
- Surveyed 28 miles of streams in Lake County and removed 2 acres of *Arundo donax*
- Removed 300+ tires, numerous refrigerators, stoves and up to 100 yards of recyclables along Clear Lake's shoreline
- Coordinated the development of the Ely Stage Stop & Country Museum, a local facility that will depict the various stages of Lake County's natural history

The West Lake Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator provided support for stakeholders, while protecting and improving watershed conditions of Upper Cache Creek Watershed. The Watershed Coordinator was instrumental to the completion of watershed assessments for the Kelsey Creek, Middle Creek, and Scotts Creek Watersheds as well as the creation of the Clear Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

Working in collaboration with the Lake County Weed Management Area, the Watershed Coordinator received annual baseline funding for non-native invasive weed eradication. Over 25 miles of stream channel in the North Fork Cache Creek, Kelsey Creek, and Grizzly Creek Watersheds were monitored and treated for highly invasive plants, such as: *Tamarisk* and *Arundo donax*. In addition, over 40 acres of land were surveyed and treated for the invasive weed Scotch broom.

The Watershed Coordinator helped to plan and host the annual "Invasive Weed Awareness Week" weed tour. More than 50 people attend the tour each year, visiting sites around the county to learn about the detrimental effects of non-native invasive weeds on watershed health and ecosystem function.

"The support that the Coordinator provided to the stakeholders in the watershed facilitated the implementation of numerous projects to restore ecosystem health and function."

- Chuck Morse, Board President

PARTNERS INCLUDED: DOC • CARCD • USDA NRCS • DWR • CALFED Bay Delta Watershed Committee • Lake County • State of California District Attorney – Environmental Department • Yolo County RCD • East Lake RCD • CDFA • USFS • BLM • Lake County Historical Society • Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District • State Water Resources Control Board • RWQCB • Sierra Club • Middle Creek CRMP • local watershed councils • Robinson Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians • Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians • Big Valley Rancheria • CA Fire Safe Council • Lake County Fire Safe Council • CAL FIRE • Mt. Konocti Conservation Camp • local homeowners' associations • UCCE • Rose Foundation • Upper Putah Creek Stewardship

Cache Creek Watershed - Lower

Agriculture and natural resource stewardship planning in the Hungry Hollow Watershed

Yolo County; State Senate District 5, State Assembly District 2

YOLO COUNTY RCD

The Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator worked on numerous projects that increased land stewardship in the Lower Cache Creek Watershed.

The Coordinator worked closely with landowners and stakeholders in a small agricultural community to address soil erosion, flooding, and improve wildlife habitat. The Coordinator helped to develop and complete the Hungry Hollow Watershed Stewardship Plan. This plan provides landowners with a framework for maintaining and improving watershed health and is being used to guide the development of individual and collaborative conservation projects within the watershed. The planning process brought distant neighbors together to form the Hungry Hollow Watershed Stakeholder Group and continues to provide the opportunity for landowners to work together to address conservation issues.

The Coordinator also led the RCD's sponsorship of two successful Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) proposals. AWEP provided cost-share assistance through the Farm Bill for conservation practices on over 14,636 acres of farm and rangeland in Yolo County. Practices such as increasing irrigation efficiency and reducing irrigation runoff on cropland, improving rangeland management, and planting wildlife and pollinator habitat borders on farm edges have benefited landowners and the watershed.

For more information visit the Yolo County RCD website at <http://www.yolorcd.org>

"The Hungry Hollow Watershed Stewardship Plan was developed to be complementary and supportive of other watershed work and plans for Cache Creek Watershed and the larger Bay-Delta Watershed."

***- Jeanette Wrynski, Executive Director,
Yolo County RCD***

PARTNERS INCLUDED: USDA NRCS • UCCE • Audubon California • Yolo Natural Heritage Program • County of Yolo • City of Woodland • City of Davis • Cache Creek Watershed Forum • The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation • Solano County RCD • Colusa County RCD • East and West Lake RCD • Yolo Land Trust • Yolo County Farm Bureau • Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District • Center for Land-Based Learning • CARCD • California Rangeland Conservation Coalition



- Helped to complete the Hungry Hollow Watershed Stewardship Plan
- Installed 22,406 feet of cross fencing to improve grazing management on rangeland
- Installed Irrigation efficiency improvements on 3,586 acres of irrigated cropland
- Enhanced 218.7 acres of wetland wildlife habitat
- Removed over 15 tons of trash from the Hungry Hollow Watershed
- Sponsored a local NRCS program to provide cost-share funding to address conservation issues on 14,636 acres of farmland and rangeland
- Developed the Yolo County 'Welcome to the Watershed' natural resources directory which was made available to over 1,000 community members

Central Coastal Watersheds

Fostering farmland and open space stewardship in San Luis Obispo County

Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties; State Senate District 15, State Assembly District 33



COASTAL SAN LUIS RCD



The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (RCD) utilized their Watershed Coordinator to successfully engage the farming community in San Luis Obispo County. The Watershed Coordinator focused on providing extensive outreach, education and watershed planning opportunities to a variety of stakeholders. The Coordinator conducted 25 workshops and 11 watershed tours reaching over 300 participants and stakeholders. The Watershed Coordinator worked closely with landowners and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to implement whole farm approaches to land management. The Coordinator worked to develop numerous conservation plans, which provided landowners with a road map to better land stewardship. As a result of watershed coordination funding, the RCD was able to obtain additional funding in order to complete many conservation plans while implementing a significant number of conservation projects.

The Coordinator worked closely with the local district of the California State Department of Parks and Recreation to integrate park efforts into the community watershed approach. The Coordinator also worked alongside the local flood control district to seek and obtain funding to implement projects addressing creek flooding and other natural resource issues.

For more information visit the Coastal San Luis RCD website at <http://www.coastalrcd.org>

- An estimated 347 tons of manure, 4,721 pounds of nitrogen, 184 pounds of phosphorus and numerous bacteria colonies were kept out of local creeks and estuaries (through the implementation of cattle exclusion fencing)
- Irrigation efficiency was measured and increased by an average of 19% on 518.8 acres
- Installed 8,223 feet of riparian cattle exclusion fence in order to protect San Luisito Creek in the Morro Bay Watershed
- 92 Best Management Practices (BMPs) were implemented. BMPs were related to irrigation efficiency, water conservation, water quality, and flood reduction
- Developed 47 conservation plans for farms, ranches, and municipalities

“When one jurisdiction boundary or organization mission ends, another is not always waiting in the wings to carry conservation efforts forward. The Watershed Coordinators played an invaluable role in filling management and funding gaps to shepherd on-the-ground projects to completion”
- Nicole Smith, Conservation Programs Manager

PARTNERS INCLUDED: • USDA NRCS, Templeton Service Center • California Department of Parks and Recreation, Oceano Dunes District • Morro Bay National Estuary Program • County of San Luis Obispo • Central Coast Salmon Enhancement • City of Arroyo Grande • Los Osos Community Service District • Cachuma RCD • State Water Resource Control Board • Numerous individual landowners

Chowchilla - Fresno Watersheds - Upper

Creating a collaborative approach to solving issues in the Chowchilla and Fresno River Systems

Madera and Mariposa Counties; State Senate District 14, State Assembly District 25

CHOWCHILLA RED TOP RCD



The Chowchilla Red Top Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator worked with several organizations and stakeholders to complete the Upper Fresno River Watershed Assessment. In partnership with California State University, Fresno, California Water Institute, Madera County, and private consultants, the Watershed Coordinator assessed the overall health of the watershed through field surveys, on-site measurements, laboratory tests, and data analysis. Studies included: a dissolved oxygen study of aquatic system health and a fecal indicator bacteria study which looked at human health issues and watershed activity. Three community workshops were held during this process to keep the watershed stakeholders informed of the procedures and findings.

Invasive weeds, such as *Arundo donax*, pose a risk to the health of the Chowchilla and Fresno River Systems waterways. The Watershed Coordinator worked with private landowners to survey their properties and complete a map of *Arundo donax* populations in the Chowchilla waterways. The Coordinator provided residents with information about the harmful effects of the weed and effective management strategies to remove it.

For more information visit the Chowchilla Red Top RCD at <http://cfwatershed.org>



- Mapped 85% of the invasive *Arundo donax* weed infestations in the Chowchilla waterways
- Sampled water quality in 29 locations on the Upper Fresno River, Coarsegold Creek, and tributaries of the Upper Fresno River
- Set up water quality monitoring sites in 4 sediment traps and 9 septic systems within the watershed
- Formed the Regional Water Management Group
- Organized 14 watershed clean-up days
- Gave 24 presentations to community organizations and school classes on watershed related subjects
- Created 10 educational brochures/flyers to hand out to stakeholders.

“The RCD Watershed Coordinator is an integral part of the local watershed improvement and conservation outreach efforts”
- Norman Kuhr, Board Chair

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Madera County • City of Chowchilla • Chowchilla Water District • Root Creek Water District • Madera Irrigation District • Coarsegold RCD • Central Sierra Watershed Committee • Gravelly Ford Water District • Madera Valley Water Company • Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council • North Fork Mono Rancheria

Colusa Basin Watershed

Starting the watershed conversation in the Colusa Basin

Colusa County; State Senate District 4, State Assembly District 3



COLUSA COUNTY RCD



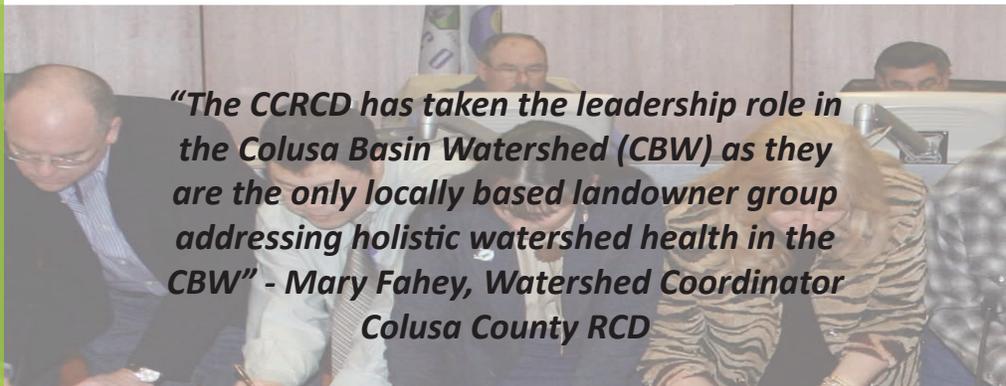
The Colusa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator fostered months of research, public meetings, and stakeholder interviews to complete the Colusa Basin Watershed Management Plan. The plan is helping to guide conservation efforts to reduce flooding and erosion, increase groundwater recharge, and improve riparian habitat quality and quantity in the watershed.

The Watershed Coordinator helped complete Colusa Basin's first comprehensive GIS weed map, which is being used to facilitate weed removal and management. In another step to eradicate noxious weeds in the predominantly agricultural region, the Coordinator helped develop a cost-share program to assist farmers and ranchers with invasive weed eradication.

The Coordinator also conducted many educational outreach activities including workshops, field days and the distribution of quarterly newsletters; over 120,000 residents in three counties were reached by this effort. The Coordinator mentored and engaged over 450 students in hands-on watershed restoration projects. The education focused on natural resource protection and will have a lasting effect as the next generation takes on the care of the watershed.

For more information visit the Colusa County RCD website at <http://www.colusarcd.org>

- Assisted over 25 landowners with on-the-ground conservation projects
- Received \$127,312 in funding to start projects identified in The Colusa Basin Watershed Management Plan
- Facilitated 10 outreach workshops and field days
- Completed the Colusa Basin Watershed GIS Invasive Weed Map
- Created an invasive weed public awareness campaign
- Planted over 7,000 native plants and installed 20,000 feet of drip irrigation in the watershed
- Received the Watershed Coordinator of the Year Award from the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts



“The CCRCDC has taken the leadership role in the Colusa Basin Watershed (CBW) as they are the only locally based landowner group addressing holistic watershed health in the CBW” - Mary Fahey, Watershed Coordinator Colusa County RCD

PARTNERS INCLUDED: USDA NRCS, Colusa Field Office • Jack Alderson - NRCS Area Engineer • Glenn County RCD • Yolo County RCD • Colusa Basin Drainage District • Colusa County Ag Department • Glenn County Ag Department • Community Alliance for Family Farmers

Cosumnes/Mokelumne Watersheds - Lower

Increasing local stakeholder participation for long-term sustainability in the San Joaquin Valley

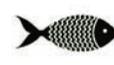
San Joaquin County; State Senate Districts 1, 5, 14, State Assembly Districts 10, 15, 26

SAN JOAQUIN RCD

The Mokelumne River Watershed Coordinator worked on a variety of education and outreach programs for watershed residents in both agricultural and urban settings. One program worked to reduce contaminants from urban storm water by encouraging conservation practices that reduce storm water flow from residential areas. Another program brought students to the field to assist with habitat restoration and revegetation projects. Another initiative educated local winegrowers about methods to improve the watershed and helped to give them a greater understanding of their role in protecting the watershed.

Through collaboration with the Lodi Wine Grape Growers Commission, Lodi Rules program, and other partners, the Coordinator was able to connect with local farmers and provide them with new ideas and opportunities for conservation. As a result of the Watershed Coordinator's role in the community, three wine growers began working with the Center for Land-Based Learning to make their restoration projects an education opportunity for local high school students participating in the Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) program. This program allows students to work hand in hand with farmers in the field and exposes them to conservation efforts.

For more information visit the San Joaquin RCD website at <http://www.sjcrd.org>



- Organized 6 watershed tours
- Refined the Lower Mokelumne River Owner's Manual
- Mentored high school students in the SLEWS program
- Expanded the Lodi Storm Drain Detectives Program by helping to teach high school students about non-point source pollution and how to gather water quality data, prepare annual reports, and post findings on the City of Lodi website
- Secured an additional \$1,009,000 for restoration projects
- Refined the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Plan

"The Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Plan promotes individual responsibility, collaboration, and an overall approach to watershed stewardship."
- John Brodie, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Lower Mokelumne River Partnership • East Bay Municipal Utility District • USDA NRCS Stockton Service Center • USDA NRCS CA Plant Materials Center • City of Lodi • Lodi Winegrape Commission • Center for Land-Based Learning

Cosumnes River Watersheds - Upper and Lower

Working with private landowners to enhance the Cosumnes River Watershed

Amador, El Dorado and Sacramento Counties; State Senate Districts 1, 14, State Assembly Districts 10, 15, 26



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RCDs

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) collaborated with several Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) in the Sacramento region to provide conservation education and technical assistance to both the farming and residential communities. The Watershed Coordinator sought and received funding from CalRecycle to remove garbage from waterways and floodplains in the region, and organized volunteer clean-up days on the Cosumnes River.

The Coordinator also developed the Greener Gardens Project, a grassroots program dedicated to educating local homeowners about sustainable gardening practices. The group designed and built a low water-use demonstration garden in Elk Grove and also developed and hosted the Greener Gardens Festival and Garden Tour.

In partnership with the Sloughhouse RCD and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Coordinator developed a Backflow Prevention Initiative. This program provides technical assistance to local strawberry farmers to address water quality issues on their fields by reducing the risk of irrigation water directly entering the groundwater table. The Coordinator worked with 39 strawberry farms to educate local farmers and to install a total of ten backflow prevention devices.

For more information visit the CARCD website at <http://www.carcd.org>

“The stakeholders are glad to learn ways to protect their property from fire and erosion while maintaining the landscape and reducing water use.”

- Amanda Platt, Watershed Coordinator



- Removed 45 tons of debris and 3,400 tires from the Cosumnes River
- Designed and planted a low water demonstration garden at the Elk Grove Community Garden
- Developed 14 conservation plans for residents in the watershed
- Assisted in the formation of the Greater Sandridge Firewise Watershed Council
- Coordinated the Elk Grove Greener Gardens Tour and Festival; 550 attendees in 2012
- Developed and facilitated the Well Decommissioning Committee
- Participated in a state-wide NRCS video educational campaign for Well Decommissioning

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Center for Land Based Learning • City of Elk Grove • Sloughhouse RCD • Florin RCD/ Elk Grove Water District • Lower Cosumnes RCD • Amador RCD • El Dorado Fire Safe Council and Satellites • City of Sacramento • USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service • Cosumnes Community Service District • Grizzly Flats Community Service District • Sacramento County Farm Bureau • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service • Elk Grove Community Garden • UC Cooperative Extension • Sacramento County CalRecycle • Lao Community Empowerment Group • Sierra Nevada Conservancy

Deer Creek Watershed

Monitoring and improving water quality in the Deer Creek Watershed

Butte, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra and Yuba Counties; State Senate District 1, State Assembly District 3

DEER CREEK WATERSHED CONSERVANCY

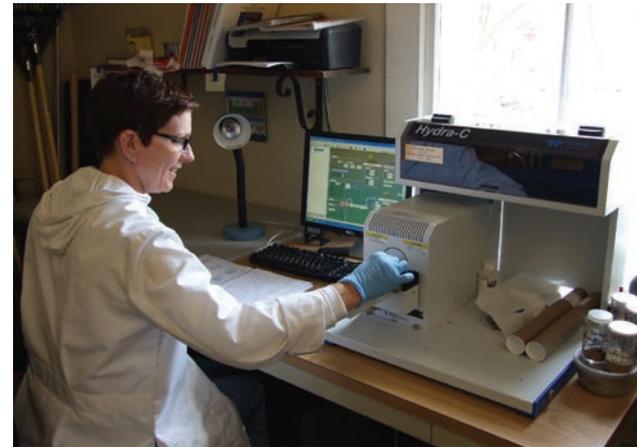


The Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy (DCWC) Watershed Coordinator worked closely with farmers in the watershed to establish a cooperative work partnership. The Cone Kimball Agreement addresses the water needs of irrigated agriculture operations while maintaining adequate flows to sustain fish habitats through key diversion structures along the creek. This agreement expanded already successful working relationships and increased partnerships within the watershed, while improving in-stream conditions for fish passage, making this a win-win situation.

The Coordinator also participated in the region's Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) process. The management plan incorporates the enhancement of anadromous fish spawning and rearing, and the maintenance of viable habitats. The plan also provides an integrated, long-term, adaptive flood management plan for lower Deer Creek.

The Watershed Coordinator helped to promote the Sustainable Beef Program sponsored by the DCWC. This program marketed local grass fed beef directly to consumers. It was successful in showing consumers that they have economically viable options to benefit land stewardship via their food choices.

For more information visit the Deer Creek Conservancy website at <http://www.deercreekconservancy.org>



- Assisted California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in advancing the replacement or repair of fish ladders on Deer Creek by participating in the proposal process and serving on the review committee
- Assisted CDFW with an annual angler survey to tag and count salmon
- Completed several high profile erosion and road abandonment projects
- Developed a Responsible Recreation Plan that provides information to recreational users about private property rights and appropriate ways to access Deer Creek
- Participated in numerous education and outreach programs across 6 counties

“The Cone Kimball Agreement promotes responsible land stewardship, while emphasizing the importance of current land use.”
- Holly Jorgenson, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Central Valley Flood Management Planning Program • CA Dept. of Water Resources • CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife • Lassen National Forest • US Fish and Wildlife Service • Northern CA Regional Land Trust • The Nature Conservancy • Tehama County RCD • CA State University Chico • Abbey of New Clairvaux • Mill Creek Watershed Conservancy • USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service • Tehama County Public Works • UC Cooperative Extension • North Sacramento Valley IRWMP • Sierra Pacific Industries • Collins Pine

Feather River Watersheds - Upper

Meadow restoration for groundwater recharge in the Feather River Watersheds

Butte, Lassen, Plumas, Shasta and Tehama Counties; State Senate District 1, State Assembly District 3



PLUMAS CORPORATION



The Plumas Corporation Watershed Coordinator focused on restoration project planning, development, and implementation. The results of these coordination efforts have been the development of a dozen watershed improvement projects throughout the Upper Feather River Watershed.

One of the projects completed by the Watershed Coordinator was the Red Clover-Poco Restoration Project, which restored 3.3 miles of channel and 186 acres of meadow lands. The Coordinator included a long-term monitoring program for collecting stream flow, water temperature, and turbidity data. After implementation of the Red Clover-Poco project, measurements showed an average 31% reduction in daily maximum water temperatures from the top to the bottom of the restored areas. Cooler water temperatures greatly improve habitat for native fish as well as other aquatic organisms.

The Coordinator also worked to promote watershed awareness within the local community. For example, watershed tours of restoration projects were offered to the public, the annual Wild & Scenic Film Festivals were organized and well attended, and the Great Sierra River Clean-ups events were held each year bringing the community together to share in the effort to improve the health of their watershed.

For more information visit the Plumas Corporation website at <http://www.feather-river-crm.org>

- Secured \$3,581,574 in additional funding for watershed improvement planning, development, and implementation
- Implemented and completed 12 watershed restoration projects
- Restored a total of 6.2 miles of stream channel and 439 acres of meadow within the watershed, resulting in measurable native fish habitat improvements
- Published 4 watershed newsletters mailed to over 400 subscribers
- Coordinated student volunteers in marking 50 storm drains with “Do Not Dump - Drains to Spanish Creek” signage
- Organized volunteer citizen monitors to collect a total of 211 water quality samples from 19 locations along the watershed’s river
- Organized 6 watershed tours for the public



“These activities have brought awareness of watershed issues and the importance of being a good steward to thousands of people, including local citizens, visitors, and legislators.”

- Gia Martynn, Watershed Coordinator

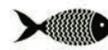
PARTNERS INCLUDED: U.S. Forest Service, Plumas National Forest • CA Dept. of Water Resources • USDA NRCS • Plumas County (Planning Dept., Public Works, and Flood Control and Conservation District) • UC Cooperative Extension • Sierra Valley and Feather River Resource Conservation Districts • State Water Resources Control Board

Kern River Watersheds - Upper and South Fork

Increasing fire protection and recovery of the Kern River Valley

Inyo, Kern and Tulare Counties; State Senate District 18, State Assembly Districts 32, 34

DESERT MOUNTAIN RC&D COUNCIL



The Desert Mountain Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council Watershed Coordinator focused on addressing the negative impacts of wildfires on the Kern River Watershed. The Coordinator planned and developed numerous projects to protect ecosystem health and public safety. The Coordinator worked closely with the Sequoia National Forest staff to plan activities on an ongoing basis. Together they worked on projects to protect water quality and promote sustainable forest management.

The Watershed Coordinator conducted a water quality study to determine where E-coli bacteria were present in the Upper Kern River areas. The findings showed that bacteria levels were very high in areas where sanitary and trash services were not available nearby. The study convinced the US Forest Service to install barriers and signage to keep campsites away from the water's edge.

The Coordinator worked on post-fire ecosystem recovery projects, coordinating 60 volunteers in the collection of over 300 pounds of acorns, and hosted several native plant sales. Viable acorns were planted in burn areas, including the 16,000 acre Bull Fire and Manter burn areas. The Coordinator also conducted three irrigation efficiency workshops to help educate the community about the importance of water conservation and fire protection.

For more information visit the Desert Mountain RC&D Council website at <http://desertmountainrcandd.org>.



- Planted 1.5 miles of trail with native vegetation in the Canebrake Wildlife Preserve
- Organized 50 volunteers to collect 55 pounds of pinyon pine tree seeds to revegetate several acres in watershed restoration sites
- Provided watershed education/information booths at 26 public events. Interacted with thousands of stakeholders and valley visitors
- Participated in the development of the National Geographic Sierra Nevada Geotourism Map Guide
- Participated in public meetings to address natural resource concerns about the 20,000 acre Lion Fire in the Golden Trout Wilderness Area
- Worked with CalIPC to complete an inventory of invasive weeds in the Kern Valley region

“Local youth are becoming invested in the preservation of the wetlands, forests and restoration project areas they are involved in. They are making a difference in the environment.”

- Robert Robinson, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: US Forest Service • Bureau of Land Management • USDA NRCS • Kern County • Tulare County • Inyo County • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • Sierra Nevada Alliance • Kern County Water Agency • CA Rural Water Association • CA Water Company • Owens Valley Career Development Center • Nuui Cunni Indian Cultural Center • Kern River Valley Revitalization • Kern Valley Indian Council • National Geographic Society • Kern Valley Fire Safe Council • Eastern Kern County RCD • Tehachapi RCD • Southern Sierra IRWMP • Kern IRWMP • Inyo Mono IRWMP • Kern River Preserve • CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife • Kernville Chamber of Commerce • Kern River Valley Chamber of Commerce • Kennedy Meadows Property Owners Association • Lake Isabella Property Owners Association • Oasis Garden Club • Southern California Edison Company • many program volunteers

Los Angeles/Arroyo Seco Watershed - Upper

Promoting water conservation in the Upper Los Angeles River

Los Angeles and Ventura Counties; State Senate Districts 29, 21, 22, State Assembly Districts 44, 45, 59



ARROYO SECO FOUNDATION



The Arroyo Seco Watershed Coordinator grant has allowed the Arroyo Seco Foundation (ASF) to expand its education, outreach and coordination functions that promote better watershed management in the Arroyo Seco Watershed, a tributary watershed to the Los Angeles River. This funding was particularly helpful in supplementing ASF's Central Arroyo Stream Restoration Program which restored native Arroyo chub to the stream, enhanced the trail network, and built model runoff/water quality islands in the Rose Bowl parking lot. A severe drought in the region led to important changes by local water agencies to eliminate water waste and reduce per capita water consumption. The ASF Watershed Coordinator participated actively in the discussions and meetings that led to improvements in conservation policies and programs in the four cities that are part of the Arroyo Seco Watershed.

The Coordinator helped the ASF to pursue Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) funding for the critical Hahamongna area, the flood basin in Arroyo Seco Watershed at the Devil's Gate Dam reservoir. The Coordinator, working closely with the City of Pasadena Public Works and Water and Power Department, led a success proposal for \$3.3 million to fund the Hahamongna Multiuse Project, which incorporates water supply, water quality, habitat and recreational activities.

For more information visit the Arroyo Seco Foundation website at <http://www.arroyoseco.org>

"This has been a very exciting and productive period for the Arroyo Seco Watershed and its inhabitants."

***Tim Brick, Managing Director,
Arroyo Seco Foundation***

- Participated in the development of an IRWMP for Pasadena
- Conducted 10 stream clean-up projects and installed 1,000 trash screens on storm drain inlets reducing the amount of trash and debris in the watershed by >50 %
- Conducted a publicity campaign to promote a ban on plastic bag usage
- Sponsored Family Water Festivals in 3 cities emphasizing water conservation and Bay-Delta awareness
- Participated in community water conservation efforts that resulted in reduction in per capita water consumption: 14% in Pasadena and 18% in Los Angeles
- Initiated a petition that collected 500 signatures leading the County to conduct a full environmental review of a project planned to remove sediment in the Devil's Gate Basin

PARTNERS INCLUDED: County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works Watershed Management Division • Pasadena Water & Power Dept. • Foothill Municipal Water District • Audubon Center at Debs Park • Camp Dresser McKee • Urban Semillas Sierra Club, Pasadena Group • Council of Arroyo Seco Organizations • Council of Arroyo Seco Agencies • Friends of the Los Angeles River • Scenic Arroyo • City of Los Angeles Planning Department • Raymond Basin Management Board Pasadena Dept. of Public Works • US Army Corps of Engineers

Los Angeles River Watershed

Increasing water use efficiency in the Los Angeles River Watershed.

Los Angeles and Ventura Counties; State Senate Districts 17, 19-30, State Assembly Districts 38-46, 48-52, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59

COUNCIL FOR WATERSHED HEALTH

The Watershed Coordinator focused on innovative education projects to reduce water use, increase water use efficiency, and thereby reduce the region's reliance on imported water.

The Coordinator planned and conducted a series of 10 sustainable landscape design seminars which also addressed the quality and reliability of local water resources. When the 586 seminar participants were surveyed, 90% said they would work to improve their water use efficiency by implementing some of the landscape design and maintenance practices they learned about during the workshops.

The Watershed Coordinator also took the lead in removing noxious weeds detrimental to the watershed. As chair of the Los Angeles County Weed Management Area (WMA) group, the Coordinator administered an invasive plant management program, established a community lending program for weed control tools, and developed and distributed literature on the watershed benefits of removing non-native plant species and replacing them with water efficient native plants.

Following the devastating 2009 San Gabriel Mountains Station Fire, the Coordinator conducted a symposium which focused on post-fire natural resource conservation and recovery challenges and successes; 132 people attended.

For more information visit the Council for Watershed Health website at <http://www.watershedhealth.org>



- Developed the County of Los Angeles' Drought Tolerant Landscape Ordinance; as a result 34 cities in Los Angeles County updated their landscape ordinances
- Developed an approved plant list for the Los Angeles Unified School District
- Trained 50 employees of the City of Los Angeles and 'North East Trees' on sustainable landscape practices and maintenance
- Eliminated over 10 acres of non-native noxious weeds within the watershed
- Trained more than 120 Green Gardeners
- Created and distributed 48,000 'Sustainable and Fire Safe Landscape' calendars and guidebooks
- Organized 30 Landscape Ethic Committee meetings

"Through our programs and projects we are redefining Southern California as a region providing a far greater proportion of its own water than previous generations could have imagined."

- Drew Ready, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Arroyo Seco Foundation • Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy • Baldwin Hills Conservancy • CA Invasive Plant Council • California Department of Parks and Recreation • City of LA • Department of Interior, National Park Service • Environment Now • Generation Water • Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner Weights and Measures • LA County Parks and Recreation • LA County Weed Management Area • LA Unified School District • Metropolitan Water District of Southern California • North East Trees • Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden • San Gabriel and Lower LA Rivers and Mountains Conservancy • San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments • RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains • Southern California Edison • The River Project • Theodore Payne Foundation • TreePeople • USDA, Forest Service Angeles National Forest • UC Cooperative Extension • US Fish and Wildlife Service, Schoolyard Habitat Program

Merced River Watershed - Upper

Evaluating and maintaining the health of the Upper Merced Watershed

Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties; State Senate District 14, State Assembly District 25



MARIPOSA COUNTY RCD

The Mariposa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinators worked closely with the community to increase their interest, involvement, and understanding of the need for watershed protection.

The Coordinators developed a Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Program, which utilized over 50 volunteers to monitor 19 sites along the watershed. In addition to collecting and managing the data collection, the Coordinators used the information to identify potential biological, chemical, and physical threats to water quality. The Coordinators then worked closely with partners to prioritize work sites and develop action plans to address degraded areas along the watershed.

The Coordinators helped to facilitate a ground-breaking study, which became a component of the State Watershed Assessment Framework. This study included socioeconomic factors in evaluating the watershed approach to resource management. This pilot project was intended to help resource managers, planners, and watershed stakeholders understand the social and economic conditions and trends and the role they play affecting the local watershed and watersheds throughout the state.

For more information visit the Upper Merced River Watershed Council website at <https://umrwc.wildapricot.org> or the Mariposa County RCD website at <http://www.mcrd.net>

- Coordinated volunteers in the removal of over 6,000 pounds of trash, debris, and recyclables from the Merced River
- Implemented over 20 Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the watershed
- Removed 80 acres of invasive, non-native yellow starthistle and Italian thistle from sensitive riparian habitat in the Merced River Canyon
- Managed the quarterly water quality monitoring of 19 sites on the main stem of the Merced River and its tributaries
- Maintained a water quality database
- Removed 7 stream miles of invasive weeds from the watershed
- Provided watershed education to over 125 local students

“The Upper Merced River Watershed is a highly diverse area that attracts 4 million visitors each year and is an important source of water for San Joaquin Valley agriculture. The Coordinator’s efforts will have a far reaching impact”

- Connie Nielson, Project Manager

PARTNERS INCLUDED: • Bureau of Land Management • Sierra Foothill Conservancy • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • Yosemite Audubon • Yosemite Bug Mountain Resort • Sugar Pine Café • Sierra Nevada Alliance • NatureBridge • Dr. Adam Burns • Sierra Stationers • Mountain Meadow Farm • Mariposa Gazette • Sierra Sun Times Gold Rush Cam • Department of Interior National Park Service - Yosemite National Park • Mariposa County Unified School District

Pit River Watershed - Upper

Integrated planning to restore, enhance and protect the Upper and Lower Pit River

Shasta, Lassen and Modoc Counties; State Senate District 1, State Assembly Districts 1,3

PIT RCD

The Pit Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator focused on the development of integrated resource management planning and project development within the Upper and Lower Pit River Watersheds.

Seven watershed improvement projects were implemented and another eight projects were permitted. Together, these projects will restore, enhance, and protect nearly 5,800 acres of meadow, 1,200 acres of upland habitat, and over 100,000 linear feet of stream and river.

The Watershed Coordinator also worked on integrated resource planning, including the development of the Upper Pit River Watershed Management Strategy and the Fall River/Burney Creek/Hat Creek Management Plan. The Watershed Coordinator formed the Burney-Hat Creek Community Forest and Watershed Group to assist the U.S. Forest Service with the successful development of an integrated planning project to guide stewardship on 365,000 acres in Lassen National Forest. The Coordinator organized and facilitated the group meetings and assisted with proposal development for grants. The Coordinator managed the development of the IRWMP (Integrated Regional Water Management Plan) for the Upper Pit River region, which will help to guide and prioritize future watershed projects.

For more information visit the Pit RCD website at <http://www.pitriverriveralliance.net/pitrccd>



- Restored/enhanced/protected: 5,800 acres of meadow, 1,200 acres of upland habitat, and more than 100,000 linear feet of stream and river

- Leveraged funding for >\$8 million to implement projects covering a diverse set of Bay-Delta resource issues

- Conducted an estimated 170 stakeholder meetings

- Developed 16 watershed restoration projects

- Developed an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the Upper Pit River region

- Developed the Fall River/Burney Creek/Hat Creek Management Plan

“The Watershed Coordinator funding was used to leverage over \$8 million to implement projects covering a diverse set of Bay-Delta resource issues.”

- Todd Sloat, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: • Numerous private landowners • USDA Forest Service, Lassen National Forest, Hat Creek Ranger District • CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife, Ash Creek Wildlife Area • Northeastern California Water Association • Fall River Conservancy • USDA NRCS • Central Valley RWQCB, Water Quality and Timber Divisions • CA Dept. Fish and Wildlife, Water Quality and Timber Divisions • Sierra Institute for Community and Environment • Shasta Resource Advisory Committee • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • Wildlife Conservation Board • U.S. Partners for Fish and Wildlife • Army Corps of Engineers • Ducks Unlimited • California Waterfowl Association • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation • CAL FIRE • National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Plumas Corporation

Pit River Watershed - Upper

Developing, permitting and implementing restoration projects on public and private lands

Lassen, Modoc and Siskiyou Counties; State Senate District 1, State Assembly District 2



CENTRAL MODOC RCD



The Central Modoc Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator worked on watershed restoration and water quality improvements on public and private lands in the Upper Pit River Watershed. The Coordinator provided technical assistance to local and regional public agencies on multiple habitat restoration and water quality improvement projects. The Coordinator also helped develop 35 projects and applied for over \$6 million in grants to fund additional work on habitat and water quality improvements. The Coordinator assisted numerous landowners in completing state and federal permit documents, which allowed many projects to be completed that otherwise may have been abandoned.

The Watershed Coordinator also helped to develop the Upper Pit River Watershed Management Strategy. This document highlights the ecologic and economic needs of the watershed, identifies scientific methods, and prioritizes goals for addressing watershed needs.

The RCD held a very successful annual tree sale, distributing over 3,000 native trees, selected for wildlife enhancement benefits, to local residents. With the County's population at roughly 9,000 people, the tree sale had a high percentage of community participation.

For more information visit the Central Modoc RCD website at <http://www.centralmodocrd.org>

“Landowners are so overwhelmed with the paperwork required, that projects would never take place if there was not an entity available to assist them. This grant enabled the work to happen.”

- Kathryn Hall, Central Modoc RCD

- Developed and implemented the Pit River Watershed Management Strategy
- Distributed 500 copies of the Pit River Watershed Management Strategy to the public
- Designed 32 restoration projects
- Implemented 6 restoration projects
- Distributed more than 3,000 native trees to watershed residents
- Provided conservation planning for over 5,000 acres of agricultural land

PARTNERS INCLUDED: NRCS • USDA Forest Service, Modoc National Forest • North Cal-Neva Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) • USFWS/ Modoc National Wildlife Refuge • Bureau of Land Management • Modoc County • City of Alturas • Hot Springs Irrigation District • Pit River Watershed Alliance • North-Eastern California Water Association • Pit River Tribe • Sierra Valley RCD • Pit RCD • Fall River RCD • Honey Lake RCD • Goose Lake RCD • Central Modoc River Center • Vestra Resources

Sacramento/Cow Watersheds

Increasing anadromous fish habitat and improving ecosystem function

Shasta and Tehama Counties; State Senate District 4, State Assembly District 2

WESTERN SHASTA RCD



The Western Shasta Resource Conservation District (RCD) Coordinator worked to implement projects that restored ecosystem function and increased anadromous fish spawning habitat. These projects included invasive weed removal and native species replanting in the Upper and Lower Clear Creek Watersheds, gravel augmentation in Lower Clear Creek, and sediment removal in Middle Creek. Monitoring activities throughout the watersheds engaged citizen volunteers and involved both benthic organism surveys and fish barrier surveys.

The Coordinator developed projects and action plans in partnership with local watershed groups that led to the award of \$3,658,610 in grants for additional watershed work. Action plans were developed for Anderson Creek, Lower Clear Creek, and Keswick Basin Watersheds. The plans identified problem issues, established plan objectives, and prioritized water quality improvement projects for the watersheds.

The Watershed Coordinator also worked with the community on reducing the risk of catastrophic fires. The Coordinator helped to develop a Strategic Fuel Management Plan for the Keswick Basin Watershed. The Coordinator also educated stakeholders about fuel reduction practices and provided status updates on fuels management projects within their watershed.

For more information visit the Western Shasta RCD website at <http://www.westernshastarc.org>

“Great strides have been made to implement needed on-the-ground restoration projects, to create a more educated and engaged community, and to secure valuable funding for multiple restoration, education, and resource management projects.”

- Leslie Bryan, Watershed Coordinator



- Added 5,550 tons of spawning gravel into Lower Clear and Middle Creeks to improve fish habitat
- Coordinated the planting and irrigation of 11,000 native plant cuttings on the restored floodplains in Lower Clear Creek
- Removed 280 tons of sediment and debris from behind Swasey Dam
- Developed the Anderson Creek Watershed Action Plan, Keswick Basin Watershed Action Plan and Strategic Fuel Management Plan for the Keswick Basin Watershed
- Completed 3 shaded fuel breaks on over 100 acres along Highway 299
- Used the Fire Safe Trailer and outreach materials to educate over 8,000 residents about fuels management
- Coordinated a volunteer citizen-based survey program to inventory fish barriers

PARTNERS INCLUDED: CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife • CA Dept. of Water Resources • Central Valley RWQCB • USDA NRCS • US Bureau of Land Management • US Bureau of Reclamation • US Fish and Wildlife Service • Whiskeytown National Recreation Area • Shasta County • Shasta County Fire Safe Council • City of Redding • Shasta College • Shasta County schools • Sacramento River Watershed Program • French Gulch Upper Clear Creek Resource Management Group • Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve • Shasta Conservation Fund • Turtle Bay Exploration Park • KIXE Public Television • North State Public Radio

Sacramento - Lower Thomes Watershed

Better wildfire management for cleaner water and spring-run Chinook salmon habitat

Tehama County; State Senate District 4, State Assembly District 2



TEHAMA COUNTY RCD



The Lassen foothills of the Sacramento Valley provide abundant habitat for anadromous fish. Unfortunately, intense wildfires lead to increased erosion and degraded water quality for fish habitat. The Tehama County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator helped address fire and fuels management through the RCD Chipper Program. The Coordinator also helped to develop 30 miles of grant-funded fuel breaks. The RCD assisted Cal Fire in completing three miles of roadside fuel breaks. These breaks have significantly increased the ability of fire fighters to control the spread and impact of catastrophic wildfires.

In order to improve fish habitat enhancement plans, the Watershed Coordinator conducted a survey of stream geomorphology and fish passage conditions within Antelope Creek and integrated his findings into the plan. The creek is a tributary to the Sacramento River and has potential as spawning habitat for the endangered spring-run Chinook salmon.

The Coordinator also operated the RCD Irrigation Mobile Lab Program. This service provides growers with an on site evaluation of their irrigation systems and technical assistance to increase irrigation efficiency, conserve water, improve production, and even reduce their power requirements.

For more information, visit the Tehama County RCD website at <http://www.tehamacountyrcd.org>

- Obtained funding to complete 30 miles of wildfire fuel breaks
- Completed 3 miles of roadside fuel breaks
- Helped growers conserve water over the four-year period through the Irrigation Mobile Lab
- Designed an erosion control and soil stabilization project that will return the impacted area to a natural stream bed slope and reduce sediments generated by erosion at Childs Meadow
- 7,132 acre conservation easement established in the western portion of the watershed will protect and preserve a significant area of threatened oak woodlands
- Developed a model of fire ecology and fire return intervals of the Lassen Foothills

“The Coordinator’s initiatives to reduce sediment production within the watersheds of the Sacramento River are anticipated to result in improved water quality conditions”
- Vicky Dawley, Executive Director
Tehama County RCD

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Cal Fire Tehama Glenn Unit • CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • Lassen National Forest • Mendocino National Forest • USFWS • Bureau of Reclamation • Tehama County Public Works Department • Tehama County Agriculture Department • Tehama County Board of Supervisors • California Fire Safe Council • Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee • The Nature Conservancy • Glenn County RCD • Western Shasta RCD • Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group • Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District

Sacramento - Stone Corral Watershed

Improving water-use efficiency in the Dunnigan and Colusa Basin Watersheds

Yolo County; State Senate District 5, State Assembly District 2

YOLO COUNTY RCD

The Yolo County Resource Conservation District's (RCD's) Watershed Coordinator grant helped develop and implement the Colusa Basin Watershed Management Plan. The plan is helping to guide conservation efforts to reduce flooding and erosion, increase groundwater recharge, and improve riparian habitat quality and quantity in the watershed.

The Watershed Coordinator spearheaded proposals for two RCD-sponsored Agricultural Water Enhancement Programs (AWEP). AWEP provided \$3.5 million in Farm Bill cost-share assistance funding to implement conservation practices on over 33,000 acres of farmland in the Colusa Basin and surrounding watersheds.

The Coordinator worked with a variety of partners to plan and promote native vegetation for wildlife enhancement, water conservation, and water quality benefits. The Coordinator worked with the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District to draft alternative native revegetation schemes for their canal system. The Coordinator also worked with the City of Woodland to design several native and water-wise landscape plans for residential neighborhoods. In addition, the Coordinator was instrumental in bringing stakeholders together to implement a native plant demonstration garden on county park land.

For more information visit the Yolo County RCD website at <http://www.yolorcd.org>



- Obtained NRCS cost-share assistance to fund 222,406 feet of cross fencing for improved grazing management on hundreds of acres of rangeland
- Helped farmers improve water use efficiency on 33,586 acres of irrigated cropland
- Completed 'Welcome to the Watershed' natural resource directory for Yolo County
- Helped develop the Colusa Basin Watershed Management Plan
- Worked with UC Davis researchers to help farmers install and monitor wildflower strips on field borders to help conserve pollinators which then benefit crop production
- Coordinated trash removal, erosion control measures, and revegetation of a section of Oat Creek for wildlife habitat enhancement

***“RCD Watershed Coordinators for Yolo, Glenn, and Colusa Counties worked together to develop and promote a watershed stewardship plan that increased overall implementation of conservation practices in the region”
- Heather Nichols, Watershed Coordinator***

PARTNERS INCLUDED: USDA NRCS (Woodland Field Office and State Office) • Colusa County RCD • UC Cooperative Extension • Audubon California • Yolo Natural Heritage Program • Dunnigan Water District • Reclamation District 108 • Colusa Basin Drainage District • Glenn County RCD • County of Yolo • City of Woodland • City of Davis • The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation • Yolo Land Trust • Yolo County Farm Bureau • Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District • Center for Land-Based Learning • CARCD • CA Rangeland Conservation Coalition

Sacramento - Upper Stony/Lower Thomes Watersheds

Protecting instream habitat of the Stony Creek Watershed.

Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino and Tehama Counties; State Senate District 4, State Assembly District 3



GLENN COUNTY RCD



The Glenn County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator was critical to the development and initial implementation of the Lower Stony Creek Watershed Restoration Plan. The plan expanded partnerships with organizations and landowners, and encouraged conservation planning to address bank erosion and non-native species removal. The plan created a road map to be used by landowners to implement organized and consistent restoration projects.

The Watershed Coordinator implemented restoration projects on over 150 acres of land. Weed management projects included both conventional and biological control of invasive non-native plants, such as *Arundo donax*, which degrade the watershed.

The Coordinator developed conservation newsletters, coordinated educational field tours, and facilitated numerous stakeholder meetings. The Coordinator also provided public outreach, including the creation of a website and blog, the implementation of a native plant demonstration garden and a watershed mural, and the development of a 5K/10K run-walk fundraiser. By the end of the grant, the Watershed Coordinator's outreach and education efforts was estimated to have reached over 187,037 residents - an 80% increase in community awareness of watershed projects in the region.

For more information visit the Glenn County RCD website at <http://www.glenncountyrcd.org>

- Implementation of Lower Stony Creek Watershed Restoration Plan
- Developed a conservation plan with 10 landowners on 400 acres of working lands
- Released over 20,000 Tamarisk Leaf Beetles to control invasive plant species
- Removed 65,289 square feet of *Arundo donax* from the watershed
- Educated over 187,037 residents on conservation and watershed issues
- Increased the monitoring of bank erosion stabilization and invasive weed removal by 60%
- Started the "Annual Run Your Tail Off... through the Watershed 5K/10K Run-Walk" fundraiser

"The Watershed Coordinator has built the capacity of watershed restoration efforts in numerous ways."

***- Kandi Manhart, Executive Director,
Glenn County RCD***

PARTNERS INCLUDED: CA Conservation Corps • CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife • CDFA • DWR • CAL FIRE • CARCD • CSU Chico • Central Valley RWQCB • City of Orland • County of Glenn • Glenn County Certified Farmers' Market • Glenn County's Charter Schools • Glenn County Fair • Glenn County Farm Bureau • Glenn County's FFA & 4-H Groups • Glenn County's Girl Scouts • Glenn County Office of Education • Orland and Willows Unified School Districts • Orland Unit Water Users Association • Tehama County RCD • Tehama-Glenn Fire Safe Council • UCCE • US Army Corps of Engineers • US Bureau of Reclamation • USFWS • USFS • US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration • USDA NRCS

Sacramento Watershed - Lower

Rebuilding native plant populations in the Lower Sacramento Watershed

Napa, Placer, Sacramento, Solano, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba Counties; State Senate District 5, State Assembly District 8

SOLANO RCD



The Solano Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator worked with diverse stakeholders to develop and implement targeted restoration projects. The Watershed Coordinator developed habitat restoration projects along Putah Creek, Alamo Creek, Sweeney Creek, and the Delta area. Habitat restoration activities involved 8,759 acres of invasive species weed control and 5.1 stream miles of native plant installation.

The Coordinator worked with RCD staff and partners to develop a native plant propagation program. The collection of seeds specific to local watersheds allowed for the preservation of local ecotypes. Volunteers grew and transplanted seedlings, resulting in thousands of native plants for specific local restoration efforts. The planting of 39,855 native plants on public and private property has reduced bank erosion, filtered sediment and pollutants, and improved water quality.

The Watershed Coordinator also developed an environmental education program at Lake Solano County Park. A half mile interpretive trail was installed in addition to two educational kiosks. A program was developed to train 30 docents on natural resource issues so that they can educate the public. The docents now lead two visitor education events during spring and summer months at the park.

For more information visit the Solano RCD website at <http://www.solanorcd.org>



- Brought in \$1,920,071 in new grant and local partner funding for additional work in the watershed
- Completed a survey of 42 miles of shoreline in the Delta and removed hundreds of invasive trees
- Provided 214 households with “Welcome to the Watershed” kits
- Wrote 19 conservation plans for landowners which provided guidance for land management covering 4,763 acres
- Offered 16 resource conservation educational events attended by 327 households
- Planted 39,855 native plants 4,530+ trees/shrubs and 35,325 sedge/grass plugs in the watershed
- 8,759 acres were managed for invasive weeds

“This grant allowed the RCD to develop numerous habitat restoration projects in the Delta, on ranches and farms, and along waterways.”

***- Katherine Holmes, Ph.D.
Watershed Coordinator***

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Audubon California • Bureau of Reclamation • Caltrans • Center for Land Based Learning • City of Dixon • City of Vacaville • City of Winters • Dixon Boat Club • Dixon RCD • John Muir Institute of the Environment • Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee • USDA NRCS • Putah Creek Council • Putah Creek Discovery Corridor • Solano County Agriculture Department • Solano County Parks • Solano County Water Agency • Solano County Weed Management Area • Solano Irrigation District • Solano Land Trust • UCCE • Yolo County RCD

Sacramento Watershed - Lower

Encouraging best management practices to improve the health of Willow Slough

Yolo County; State Senate District 5, State Assembly District 2



YOLO COUNTY RCD



The Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator, in partnership with Solano RCD and the Putah Creek Council, provided technical support and guidance to Willow Slough Watershed landowners. The Watershed Coordinator helped to initiate three restoration projects along Chickahominy Slough. One project, a hedgerow and riparian vegetation planting project along two miles of Chickahominy slough, resulted in over 4,000 native trees and shrubs planted and nearly 20 acres of native grasses and forbs planted within the riparian zone.

The city of Woodland occupies a large footprint within the Willow Slough Watershed. The Coordinator worked with the City on several native vegetation restoration, vegetation management, and water conservation projects enhancing open space for wildlife and improving water quality.

The Watershed Coordinator secured \$400,000 in funding for various watershed improvement projects. These projects were implemented in part by local high school students through the Center for Land-Based Learning's (CLBL) Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship (SLEWS) program. SLEWS helps to link high school students to their local watershed by pairing environmental education with hands-on field experience.

For more information visit the Yolo County RCD website at <http://www.yolorcd.org>

- Established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Woodland to provide ecosystem restoration on city open space land and water conservation guidance for city residents
- Developed partnership with City of Woodland and UC Master Gardeners to conduct annual water conservation workshops for city residents
- Developed vegetation management plan for the City of Woodland's East Regional storm water pond
- Helped to develop the 'Welcome to the Watershed' natural resource directory for Yolo County residents
- Developed watershed educational materials and displays for the Yolo County Fair which attracts 140,000-142,000 local attendees every year

"Watershed coordinator funding has given us the resources to develop projects and spend time educating local farmers, ranchers, and the general public."

- Chris Robbins, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service • City of Woodland • Audubon California • Yolo Land Trust • Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District • Center for Land-Based Learning Woodland High School agricultural students

San Gabriel River - Upper/Rio Hondo Watersheds

Spearheading improvement efforts in the San Gabriel and Los Angeles River Watersheds

Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties; Senate Districts 21, 22, 24, 29, 30, 32, Assembly Districts 44, 49, 57, 58, 60, 61

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

The Watershed Coordinator for the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments worked to improve a watershed area that includes 31 cities and many unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

The Watershed Coordinator developed numerous planning tools to help stakeholders identify watershed stewardship projects. The Coordinator oversaw an action plan to identify opportunities for capturing stormwater via Best Management Practices (BMPs). He also created a database for open space planning for use by local municipalities and other organizations. The Coordinator created maps to prioritize streams for day-lighting and identify locations where community gardens are most needed.

One of the Coordinator's projects, the Cattle Canyon Project, helped improve water quality by addressing the widespread issue of litter in natural areas. Trash cans, picnic benches, and interpretive signage were added, and an interpretive program was established to provide the public with information on the negative impacts of trash in natural stream systems. Other public outreach efforts included the development and production of the Landscaping Lightly 2012 Calendar. Delivered to 2,500 residents, the calendar provided helpful resources for residents to improve water quality and conserve in their daily lives.

For more information visit the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments website at <http://www.sgvkog.org>



- Designed and built a 1,000 foot bioswale in Encanto Park
- Planted a 3000 sq. ft. native garden which also serves as a stormwater retention demonstration site within the River Wilderness Park in Azusa
- Created a 10,000 sq. ft. public open space and interpretive center at the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy office building
- Coordinated two river clean-up and park beautification events and removed more than 6 yards of trash along the San Gabriel River and the Rio Hondo
- Headed the development of the Emerald Necklace grassroots effort for an interconnected network of multi-use trails, urban parks, and multi-benefit greenways
- Played a key role in the development of the region's Open Space Preservation Policy

“The seeds that this grant has sown will continue to grow and serve the region as the plans turn to action and greater water conservation in the watershed is achieved.”
- Rob Romanek, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee • Water Resources Working Group • Watershed Conservation Authority • San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy • Council for Watershed Health

San Joaquin Delta Watershed

Improving water quality and fish habitat in Marsh Creek and the San Joaquin Delta

Alameda, Contra Costa, Sacramento, and San Joaquin Counties; State Senate Districts 5 & 7, State Assembly Districts 15 & 17



NATURAL HERITAGE INSTITUTE



The Natural Heritage Institute's Watershed Coordinator worked to improve water quality, plan statewide floodplain restoration, and increase public awareness of the San Joaquin Delta Watershed. The Watershed Coordinator also helped the Friends of Marsh Creek Watershed grow from a small community organization to a well-known non-profit organization that has greatly helped to improve the Marsh Creek Watershed.

The Coordinator helped to create a water quality monitoring program which increased public awareness of water quality threats to Marsh Creek. Marsh Creek experienced three fish die offs in between 2005-2008; an exact cause couldn't be determined. In response, the Coordinator established a Fish Kill Monitoring Response Plan. As part of the plan, the Coordinator conducted training events and developed a water quality monitoring strategy that may help to determine the cause of future fish die offs. Water quality thresholds for Marsh Creek were summarized to inform community members of potential issues and how to report problems.

The Coordinator worked to restore riparian and floodplain habitat of Marsh Creek which enabled fall-run Chinook salmon to access an additional seven miles of spawning habitat.

For more information visit the Natural Heritage Institute website at <http://www.n-h-i.org>

- Conducted a total of 36 training, outreach, and water quality monitoring events
- Analyzed 10 years of water quality monitoring data and incorporated findings into State of the Marsh Creek Watershed report
- Restored 5.55 acres of riparian and floodplain habitat for fish and wildlife
- Removed 21.7 tons of trash from Marsh Creek
- Coordinated the planting of over 1,700 native plants in restoration areas
- Developed recreational trails along Marsh Creek in the City of Oakley's Creekside Park

"Funding for Watershed Coordinators has transformed the landscape in the San Joaquin Delta, and drastically increased awareness and understanding of the watershed on a local and regional level."

- Diane Burgis, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District • City of Oakley • City of Brentwood • Contra Costa County • Contra Costa Clean Water Program • Contra Costa Watershed Forum • East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy • East Bay Regional Park District • American Rivers • Department of Water Resources • Save Mt. Diablo • Central Valley RWQCB • Burrowing Owl Conservation Network • Contra Costa Water District • Liberty Union High School District • Oakley Union High School District • Freedom High School • Contra Costa RCD • Delta Science Center • The Watershed Project • Brentwood Chamber of Commerce • Oakley Chamber of Commerce

San Joaquin - Middle/Chowchilla - Lower Watersheds

Engaging the public in protecting and preserving the San Joaquin River

Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Benito, and Stanislaus Counties; State Senate District 14, State Assembly District 29

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER PARKWAY AND CONSERVATION TRUST, INC.



The San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc. forms an important bridge between agencies and the public. Its Watershed Coordinator provided multiple opportunities for local residents to participate in the long-term restoration of the San Joaquin River.

The 'River Steward' volunteer days were designed to engage the public in hands-on, work-related river restoration. Between 2009 and 2011, 1,685 volunteers donated 4,746 hours to improve riparian habitat by helping with restoration projects, clean-ups, and invasive weed removal. In addition, the Watershed Coordinator mapped 278 acres of invasive weeds, including *Arundo* and *Sesbania*, along the San Joaquin River Parkway from Friant Dam to Road 31 in Madera. These maps are instrumental in the planning and coordination of invasive weed removal.

In collaboration with the East Fresno Kiwanis, the Watershed Coordinator organized the construction of the Hidden Homes Nature Trail at the River Center. The one mile loop trail is designed as an educational resource for teaching children concepts in river ecology.

For more information visit the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, Inc. website at <http://www.riverparkway.org>



- Implemented habitat restoration projects on over 560 acres
- Coordinated the planting of more than 5,330 native trees, shrubs, and grasses for restoration projects
- Removed 3,319 pounds of trash from the river system
- Completed the reclamation of a 28 acre former gravel mine
- Obtained \$875,912.80 in additional funding for habitat restoration on the San Joaquin River Parkway.
- Obtained \$2 million in additional funding to remove invasive weeds along the San Joaquin River
- Hosted the San Joaquin River Conference in 2010 and 2012

"Funding from the Watershed Coordinator grant allowed us to provide meaningful opportunities for local residents to participate in the long-term restoration of the San Joaquin River."

- Lina Valenzuela, Project Manager

PARTNERS INCLUDED: San Joaquin River Conservancy • San Joaquin River Partnership • River Partners • The Nature Conservancy • HandsOn Central California • United States Bureau of Reclamation • East Fresno Kiwanis • Ducks Unlimited • California Department of Water Resources • Friends of Lost Lake Park • California Waterfowl Association • Sonoma Ecology Center

San Pablo Bay Watershed - North

Improving fish habitat and passage in the Napa River and San Pablo Bay Watersheds

Napa, Sonoma, and Marin Counties; State Senate District 2, State Assembly District 7



NAPA COUNTY RCD

The Napa County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator focused on issues important to the Napa River and the larger San Pablo Bay. These included excess sediment, stream bank instability, increased water temperatures, decreased summer stream flows, lack of instream and riparian habitat, fish migration barriers, and overall aquatic habitat degradation. The Coordinator worked with numerous partner agencies on the Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) update. As a result, 33 natural resource management projects were added to the 2013 plan update.

The Napa RCD's Coordinator supported community efforts to address the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) on the Napa River. The Coordinator provided direct community outreach and spearheaded a grant proposal for the watershed that funded restoration and enhancement of over 18.5 miles of stream for fish migration and rearing. Practices addressing water quality and erosion control prevented 19 thousand cubic yards of sediment from entering Carneros and Sulphur Creeks. Several small dams were removed which resulted in the restoration of over two miles of additional channel for wild salmon passage.

For more information visit the Napa County RCD website at <http://www.naparcd.org>



- Enhanced over 18.5 miles of stream for fish migration and rearing
- Completed habitat surveys for 10 creeks in the Upper Napa River watershed and assessed 24 fish passage barriers for removal
- Planted over 1,000 native trees and understory plants for streambank stabilization
- Coordinated volunteer days to clean up 15 miles of waterways in Napa County
- Coordinated the planting of 300 native Valley Oak acorns for a restoration project in the Maxwell Creek Watershed
- Planned and coordinated 8 watershed workshops for 330+ local residents
- Coordinated 3 Bay-Friendly Landscaper Qualification Program courses and 2 Bay-Friendly Garden Tours in the City of Napa



“The Coordinators facilitated cooperative multi-objective watershed planning and projects at various geographic scales.”

- Frances Knapczyk, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: City of Napa • County of Napa • Bay Area IRWMP • USDA NRCS • numerous private landowners and volunteers

Department of Conservation Watershed Coordinator

San Pablo Bay Watershed - South

Protecting the Wildcat and San Pablo Creek Watersheds through restoration and education

Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, Solano, and Sonoma Counties; State Senate Districts 7 & 9, State Assembly Districts 11 & 14

THE WATERSHED PROJECT



The continued urbanization of the San Pablo Bay South Watershed threatens to further alter watershed processes and functions. The Watershed Coordinator worked to develop a stewardship program to engage the urban community to take action in improving the health of their local watershed. Nearly 1,100 volunteers in the Wildcat Watershed and 1,409 volunteers in the San Pablo Creek Watershed were mobilized to assist with watershed improvement projects. Volunteers removed invasive weed species and planted native vegetation to enhance the riparian corridor along six stretches of the Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks.

The Coordinator worked with community partners, volunteers, and Contra Costa County's Watershed Forum to design and implement a water quality monitoring program for the San Pablo Creek Watershed. This program has provided valuable baseline data for measuring water quality conditions that is now being used to educate residents and encourage better stewardship.

The Watershed Project's educational programs brought interactive watershed education programs to almost 500 children each year of the three-year grant cycle. An innovative outdoor education program called the Riparian Lab has inspired a new generation of young watershed stewards.

For more information visit The Watershed Project website at <http://www.thewatershedproject.org>



- Removed over 60 cubic yards of trash over the course of 60 stewardship workdays
- Removed over 20,000 square feet of invasive vegetation and planted over 2,220 native plants along local creek banks
- Hosted 2 native garden tours at a San Pablo Creek restoration site to explain the benefits of native plants and methods for reducing invasive vegetation
- Recruited and trained 13 interns in plant identification, vegetation monitoring, restoration and erosion control techniques
- Organized 2 six-week-long job training programs for a group of at-risk youth
- Trained 243 volunteers in the identification and removal of invasive weeds
- Created a Wildcat Watershed Plant list and identification handbook

"We have strong partnerships with local municipalities and storm water managers and, more importantly, with local community groups and organizations interested in helping us protect the Wildcat and San Pablo Watersheds."

- Juliana Gonzalez, Program Manager

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Contra Costa County Public Works Dept. • Office of Supervisor John Gioia • Contra Costa County Library System • El Sobrante Chamber of Commerce • El Sobrante Boys and Girls Club • Soroptimists of Richmond • City of San Pablo • City of Richmond • Grizzly Peak Flyfishers Club • Contra Costa County Watershed Forum • Bay Area Watershed Network • California Native Plant Society • The Watershed Nursery • Native Here Nursery • Earth Team Environmental Network • Contra Costa County Unified School District • Wildcat, San Pablo, Rheem Watershed Council • Making Waves Academy • Recycle More

Sonoma Creek Watershed

Engaging the Sonoma County community in natural resource issues

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



SONOMA ECOLOGY CENTER



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

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

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

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

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

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

- Caitlin Cornwall, Program Manager

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

Stanislaus - Upper/Mokelumne River - Upper Watersheds

Improving water quality in five headwaters of the Bay-Delta System

Alpine County; State Senate District 1, State Assembly District 4

ALPINE WATERSHED GROUP

The Alpine Watershed Group is a diverse stakeholder group working to protect and restore the five headwater watersheds in Alpine County. The Watershed Coordinator helped the group to develop and refine watershed assessments and plans, implement restoration activities, strengthen the already diverse stakeholder partnerships, lead local education and outreach activities, and implement monitoring and assessment protocols based on sound science.

The Coordinator led both a groundwater level monitoring program in Indian Valley on the Upper Mokelumne and a bacteria monitoring program in Stanislaus Meadow. These projects were completed in partnership with the Amador Ranger District, El Dorado National Forest, Calaveras Ranger District, and Stanislaus National Forest. GIS maps identifying key monitoring sites were created for conservation work in the headwaters.

The Coordinator also worked to include restoration priority planning in both the Mokelumne Amador Calaveras Intergrated Regional Water Management Plan (MAC IRWMP) and the Cosumnes American Bear Yuba IRWMP. Monthly watershed group meetings were held to discuss the Sierra Meadows Restoration Project, Indian Valley monitoring and restoration plans, and Stanislaus Meadow monitoring.

For more information contact Alpine County at <http://www.alpinecountyca.gov>



- Coordinated the Markleeville Creek Day event which attracted 50 participants and resulted in the removal of over 250 pounds of invasive weeds while protecting 100 native cottonwood trees and stabilizing 50 feet of stream bank

- Created GIS maps for the Upper Mokelumne and Upper Stanislaus identifying the active water monitoring sites in the Alpine County region of both watersheds

- Coordinated 15 local volunteers in the Great Sierra River Clean-up event

- Completed a stakeholder database identifying 21 watershed partners including natural resource managers, government agencies and community groups

- Raised \$486,678 through grants and private donations for program implementation

“Our Watershed Coordinator has worked to inspire long-term commitment to watershed protection and, most importantly, improve water quality in the Upper Stanislaus, and Upper Mokelumne headwaters, which are both tributaries to the Bay-Delta System.”
- Sarah Green, Project Manager

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Amador Ranger District of El Dorado National Forest • American Rivers • Calaveras Ranger District of Stanislaus National Forest • Central Sierra Resource Conservation and Development • Ebbetts Pass Scenic Byway Association • Foothill Conservancy • Mokelumne Amador Calaveras Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (MAC IRWMP) and the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Suisun Bay Watershed

Fostering grassroots stewardship for the Northern Suisun Bay Watershed

Alameda, Contra Costa, Napa and Solano Counties; State Senate District 3, State Assembly Districts 4, 11, 14



SOLANO RCD



- Planted 20,700+ native trees, shrubs, grasses and sedges for restoration projects
- Conducted 8 “Welcome to the Watershed” water conservation and native plant gardening workshops which attracted over 200 participants
- Developed and completed 11 habitat restoration projects in the watershed
- Developed 16 conservation plans for landowners of local farms and ranches
- Installed 20 new blue bird nesting boxes, which were maintained by volunteers in the Blue Rock Springs Corridor
- Educated over 11,400 visitors to Lake Berryessa on better boating practices that reduce pollution and halt the spread of noxious invasive aquatic species

The Watershed Coordinators worked to restore and enhance watershed function, aquatic and riparian habitat, and water quality in the Northern Suisun Bay Watershed. They coordinated the cleanup of illegal dump sites on agricultural lands, the management of invasive weed populations, and the collection and preservation of native plants for restoration projects. The Coordinators also worked to expand direct contact with rural residents and develop sustainable funding partnerships to support future watershed programs.

The Coordinators worked with many organizations and partners to complete several habitat restoration projects. They worked closely with local landowners to help them develop conservation plans for their properties. They also helped landowners add wildlife habitat on several waterways and upland areas, both alongside farm fields and within urban areas, on their properties.

The Coordinators worked to develop a place-based, citizen science biomonitoring program for local high school and junior college students. Through this program, young people received hands-on training in scientific data collection and first-hand knowledge of water quality issues in their watershed. All data collected was submitted to the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP), which is a statewide watershed monitoring program.

For more information visit the Solano RCD website at <http://www.solanorcd.org>



“Both Coordinators work with regional and local partners and cooperators to increase stakeholder participation in watershed improvement efforts.”

- Chris Rose, Executive Director, Solano RCD

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Solano County Water Agency • USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service • Vallejo Watershed Alliance
City of Fairfield • City of Suisun City • City of Vallejo • Solano County • California Land Stewardship Institute

Suisun Creek Watershed

Improving steelhead trout habitat and water quality for Suisun Marsh and Northern Suisun Bay

Napa County; State Senate District 2, State Assembly District 7

CALIFORNIA LAND STEWARDSHIP INSTITUTE



In order to improve and protect water quality in the Suisun Creek Watershed, the Watershed Coordinator helped landowners to identify erosion and runoff issues on their properties and also helped them to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce sediment pollution from their farms and roads from going into the bay.

The Coordinator also worked with landowners to prepare farm conservation plans through the Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification program. These plans identified BMPs that help to conserve soil and water, improve steelhead trout habitat, and also help to carry out other priority actions identified in the Suisun Creek Watershed Program.

The Watershed Coordinator held workshops for local residents to demonstrate practices to reduce pollutants coming from houses and gardens. The Coordinator also spearheaded conservation activities over one mile of White Creek, 1.25 miles of Wooden Valley Creek, and 9.5 miles of Suisun Creek. These activities included reducing water temperatures in these trout rearing streams by revegetating riparian corridors in denuded areas, eradicating invasive weed species, and replanting stream banks with native trees. These actions helped to reduce soil erosion and sediment run-off into the streams.

For more information contact California Land Stewardship Institute at <http://www.fishfriendlyfarming.org>



- Worked with 70 landowners and enrolled 4,500 acres in the Fish Friendly Farming Environmental Certification program in order to reduce sediment pollution
- Assessed and treated 25 miles of dirt roads with Best Management Practices (BMPs) which keep 1,130 tons of fine sediment out of waterways every year
- Assessed 6.96 miles of riparian corridor and stream channels
- Completed over 12 acres of revegetation
- Coordinated removal of a fish barrier
- Provided 3 workshops for rural residential landowners
- Treated over 90% of the noxious weed *Arundo donax* in the watershed
- Stabilized 2.25 miles of stream bank

“Many landowners are enthusiastic and proud of the projects they’ve participated in and will continue to maintain them. These changes in the people of the watershed are a significant change brought about by the Watershed Coordinator.” - Darcie Luce, CLSI

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Solano RCD • State Coastal Conservancy • Caltrans • Numerous private landowners

Trinity River Watershed

Improving fish habitat and reducing wildfire threats in Upper Trinity River Watershed

Humboldt, Shasta, Siskiyou and Trinity Counties; State Senate District 4, State Assembly District 1



TRINITY COUNTY RCD

The Trinity County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator worked to support ongoing activities of numerous local conservation efforts in order to protect and restore the Upper Trinity Watershed. Work included projects to improve water quality, to reduce risks of catastrophic wild fires, to reduce the spread of invasive weeds, and to improve forest health.

Prescribed fire is a cost-effective tool for managing forest health. The “Browns Project” is one phase of a larger fuel hazard reduction strategy developed in partnership with several local organizations. The Coordinator worked with the U.S. Forest Service to complete plans for the Browns Project which included timber stand improvement, sediment reduction, and comprehensive water monitoring.

The Coordinator also initiated a Classroom Aquarium Education Program which allowed students to observe the hatching of native salmon and to learn about their critical habitat requirements. The Coordinator led a volunteer revegetation and invasive plant removal workday in conjunction with the release of fish hatchlings into the Trinity River. After the release, the Coordinator conducted “Creek Watch” stream monitoring activities, utilizing a corps of citizen-scientist volunteers to regularly monitor stream conditions.

For more information visit the Trinity County RCD website at <http://www.tcrd.net>



- Developed a 200-acre tree thinning plan for the Mining District Fuels Reduction Project
- Worked with BLM to develop a long-term Stewardship Agreement for the 16,000 acre Grass Valley Creek Watershed
- Created a quarterly Conservation Almanac and an annual 24-page “Be Prepared for Wildfire” newspaper insert which was distributed throughout the community
- Collected LiDAR data and aerial photography for 30,000+ acres, encompassing the entire Weaver Creek Watershed and parts of Indian Creek Watershed
- Facilitated the Environmental Science Education Camp for 44 6th grade students
- Initiated a schoolyard wetlands project that led to a successful grant to promote a wetlands restoration service learning program for schools in the region

“The Watershed Coordinator provided a critical education and outreach element to watershed restoration awareness.”

***- Alex Cousins, District Manager,
Trinity County RCD***

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Watershed Research and Training Center • The Nature Conservancy’s Fire Learning Network • Trinity River Hatchery • CAL FIRE • US Forest Service • Bureau of Reclamation • CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife • OHV Commission • Trinity Trust • McConnell Foundation • FEMA • US EPA • Trinity County • US Department of Agriculture • Trinity County Resource Advisory Committee • NOAA • CA State Parks • CalRecycle • Trinity County Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Council • Northwest California Resource Conservation and Development Council • Bureau of Land Management • California Fire Safe Council

Tuolumne River Watershed - Upper

Enhancing water quality in the Upper Tuolumne River Watershed

Mariposa, Mono, Stanislaus and Tuolumne Counties; State Senate District 14, State Assembly District 25

TUOLUMNE COUNTY RCD



The Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District (RCD) Watershed Coordinator worked on the Stream Team Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring program that monitors 26 sites along streams in Tuolumne County for fecal coliform and E. Coli bacteria. Nine of these sites were sampled for microbial source tracking.

The Coordinator also worked to complete the 104 acre Rim Truck Shaded Fuel Break, improving protection from catastrophic fires for the Groveland and the Tuolumne River communities. The Coordinator also developed a “Living with Fire in Tuolumne County” homeowner’s guide to fuels management, which was completed in collaboration with local Fire Safe Councils and UC Cooperative Extension. The guide was distributed to residents throughout the Tuolumne and Stanislaus River Watersheds.

The Watershed Coordinator also hosted a Yellow Star Thistle Control Workshop in collaboration with the local UC Cooperative Extension office that was attended by over 30 members of the public. In addition, the Coordinator assisted their staff in the field inventory and mapping of over 100 acres of invasive thistle along roadsides in Tuolumne County.

For more information visit the Tuolumne County RCD website at <http://www.tcrd.org>



- Removed over 10,510 pounds of trash from local waterways
- Hosted a tour of 3 successful forestry projects in the Groveland area
- Hosted a workshop on fuel load reduction and its benefits
- Removed 150 invasive Tree of Heaven trees and replaced them with native trees
- Completed the 104-acre Rim Truck Shaded Fuel Break
- Monitored 26 sites in the watershed for water quality as part of the 18 member ‘Stream Team’

“A Watershed Coordinator acts across bureaucratic boundaries to realize management on a scale large enough, diverse enough, and coordinated enough to achieve meaningful improvements in watershed health.”

- Lindsay Rosasco, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: Sierra Nevada Conservancy • USDA NRCS • Tuolumne Utilities District • National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/Environmental Defense Fund • CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts • Sonora Area Foundation • Tuolumne County • Caltrans

West Contra Costa County Watersheds

Working to improve ecosystem function of riparian and shoreline areas of South San Pablo Bay

Contra Costa County; State Senate Districts 7 & 9, State Assembly Districts 11 & 14



URBAN CREEKS COUNCIL

The Urban Creeks Council Watershed Coordinator facilitated the planning, execution, and management of natural resource projects within the West Contra Costa County Watersheds. The Coordinator developed action and maintenance plans, created connections between stakeholders, and involved the local community.

The Wildcat Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan and Priority Projects (WRAPP) document was completed as the guiding document for flood control projects, ecological improvements, and restoration work in the watershed. The WRAPP includes recommendations on prioritizing resources for on-the-ground projects based on feasibility and importance. The Coordinator developed a GIS model that was used to assess the watershed area for open space. This model incorporated demographics, proximity measures, and ranking criteria for quality of open space. Incorporation of these measures allows restoration projects to be prioritized based on human and ecological factors, resulting in more effective projects and greater benefit to the public.

The Watershed Coordinator also established a Restoration Intern Program to train and employ local youth. The program brought 580 new volunteers to the watershed restoration program. In total, 27 volunteer days were held which involved over 3,000 hours of volunteer participation.

For more information contact Urban Creeks Councils at <http://www.urban creeks.org>

- Convinced City of Richmond to designate 540 acres of tidal marsh and 900 acres of tidal flat as protected open space

- Developed the Wildcat Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan and Priority Projects (WRAPP) document

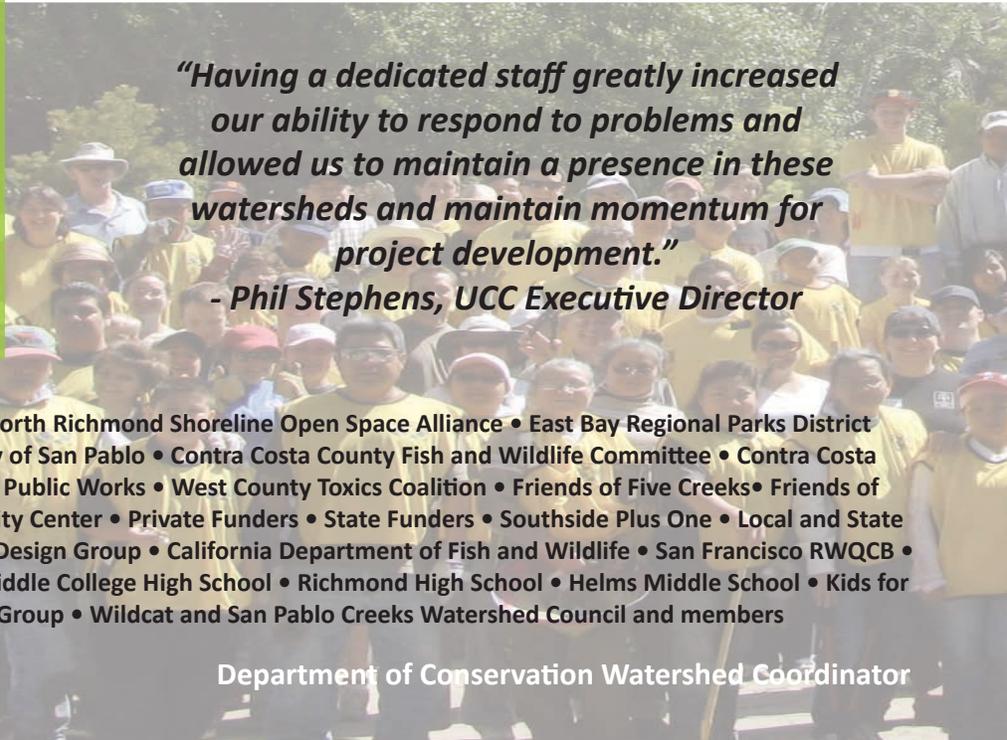
- Created a prioritization document focusing on environmental justice and opportunity for contact with natural areas.

- Established a Restoration Intern Program to employ local youth and reach at-risk and nature-deprived youth in the watershed.

- Restored 2,000 linear feet of riparian habitat along streams, removing over 300 cubic yards of invasive plants and planting over 2200 natives

- Obtained \$50,000 in funding for eelgrass and oyster bed restoration

- Developed a volunteer BMP handbook



“Having a dedicated staff greatly increased our ability to respond to problems and allowed us to maintain a presence in these watersheds and maintain momentum for project development.”

- Phil Stephens, UCC Executive Director

PARTNERS INCLUDED: City of Richmond • North Richmond Shoreline Open Space Alliance • East Bay Regional Parks District • Urban Tilth • The Watershed Project • City of San Pablo • Contra Costa County Fish and Wildlife Committee • Contra Costa County Flood Control • Contra Costa County Public Works • West County Toxics Coalition • Friends of Five Creeks • Friends of Baxter Creek • Booker T Anderson Jr Community Center • Private Funders • State Funders • Southside Plus One • Local and State Councilmembers and Legislators • Restoration Design Group • California Department of Fish and Wildlife • San Francisco RWQCB • Hands On Bay Area • Contra Costa College • Middle College High School • Richmond High School • Helms Middle School • Kids for the Bay • Eastshore Neighborhood Group • Wildcat and San Pablo Creeks Watershed Council and members

Yuba River Watershed - Upper

Monitoring and improving water quality in the Deer Creek Watershed

Butte, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sierra and Yuba Counties; State Senate District 1, State Assembly District 3

FRIENDS OF DEER CREEK



The Watershed Coordinator grant allowed the Friends of Deer Creek the opportunity to develop the Sierra Streams Institute (SSI). SSI is a scientific research facility, laboratory, and outreach center that now plays a regional role in environmental leadership.

The Coordinator organized comprehensive water monitoring and completed a watershed assessment. The Friends of Deer Creek is one of the first watershed groups in the state to use algae as an additional stream bioindicator along with macroinvertebrates.

SSI has become a leader in the field of heavy metal remediation, focusing on abandoned mine sites. The Watershed Coordinator worked to investigate the transport of mercury over a dam (including a massive storm sampling effort through three winters), assess soil at abandoned mine sites, and developed a plan to remediate three of the assessed sites. The Coordinator also surveyed recreational users of the watershed to assess metal exposure, collaborated with partners to develop a regional plan for heavy metal remediation, and implemented a pilot phytoremediation effort to determine the effectiveness of native plant uptake of heavy metals.

For more information visit the Sierra Stream Institute's website at <http://www.sierrastreamsinstitute.org>



- Completed the Deer Creek Restoration Plan
- Completed a study of the transport of mercury over Lake Wildwood Dam on Deer Creek and received \$600,000 in funding to clean up heavy metal contamination at 3 mine sites along the creek
- Conducted over 1,000 mercury sample and analysis tasks every year of the grant
- Revegetated and restored 26 acres of native creek habitat
- Coordinated 245 community volunteers for conservation project implementation
- Worked with Nevada City to reduce 75% of the chlorinated by-products released into the watershed
- Established an algae monitoring program
- Provided hands-on science instruction to 150 students

“The most significant result is nothing less than the total transformation of our organization – from a small ‘friends’ group to the regional scientific institute that we are today.”
- Jane Sellen, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: City of Nevada City • Nevada County • Nevada Irrigation District • American Rivers • The Sierra Fund • Bear Yuba Land Trust • Wolf Creek Community Alliance • Central Valley RWQCB • Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program • Nisenan Tribal Community of the Nevada City Rancheria • The California Wellness Foundation • CABY IRWMP (Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba) • Bella Vista Foundation • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • US Environmental Protection Agency • California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control • Bureau of Land Management

Yuba Watershed

Protecting salmon and water quality of the Yuba River Basin

Nevada, Sutter and Yuba Counties; State Senate District 4, State Assembly District 1



SOUTH YUBA RIVER CITIZENS LEAGUE

Historic and present day mining activities have heavily degraded water quality in the Yuba River Basin. The South Yuba River Citizen's League (SYRCL) utilized their Watershed Coordinator to develop the initial foundation for a citizen-engaged watershed assessment of the Yuba River.

The Watershed Coordinator completed a community-based watershed assessment called "The 21st Century Assessment of the Yuba River Watershed." The assessment provides SYRCL, landowners, and public agencies in the region with a scientific framework to support watershed improvement activities. The assessment also provides a foundation for the "Watershed Guilds" project. This pilot project will include citizen-based watershed assessments for three tributary-scale watersheds within the Yuba River Watershed and will outline watershed-specific conservation activities and prioritize habitat restoration improvements.

The Coordinator also improved on existing river monitoring programs and developed a means of communicating data to stakeholders. Projects developed by the Coordinator included sensitive and invasive species monitoring, flow monitoring, and the creation of a "Watershed Atlas" of GIS-generated watershed attributes and maps for ten Yuba River tributaries.

For more information visit the SYRCL website at <http://www.yubariver.org>

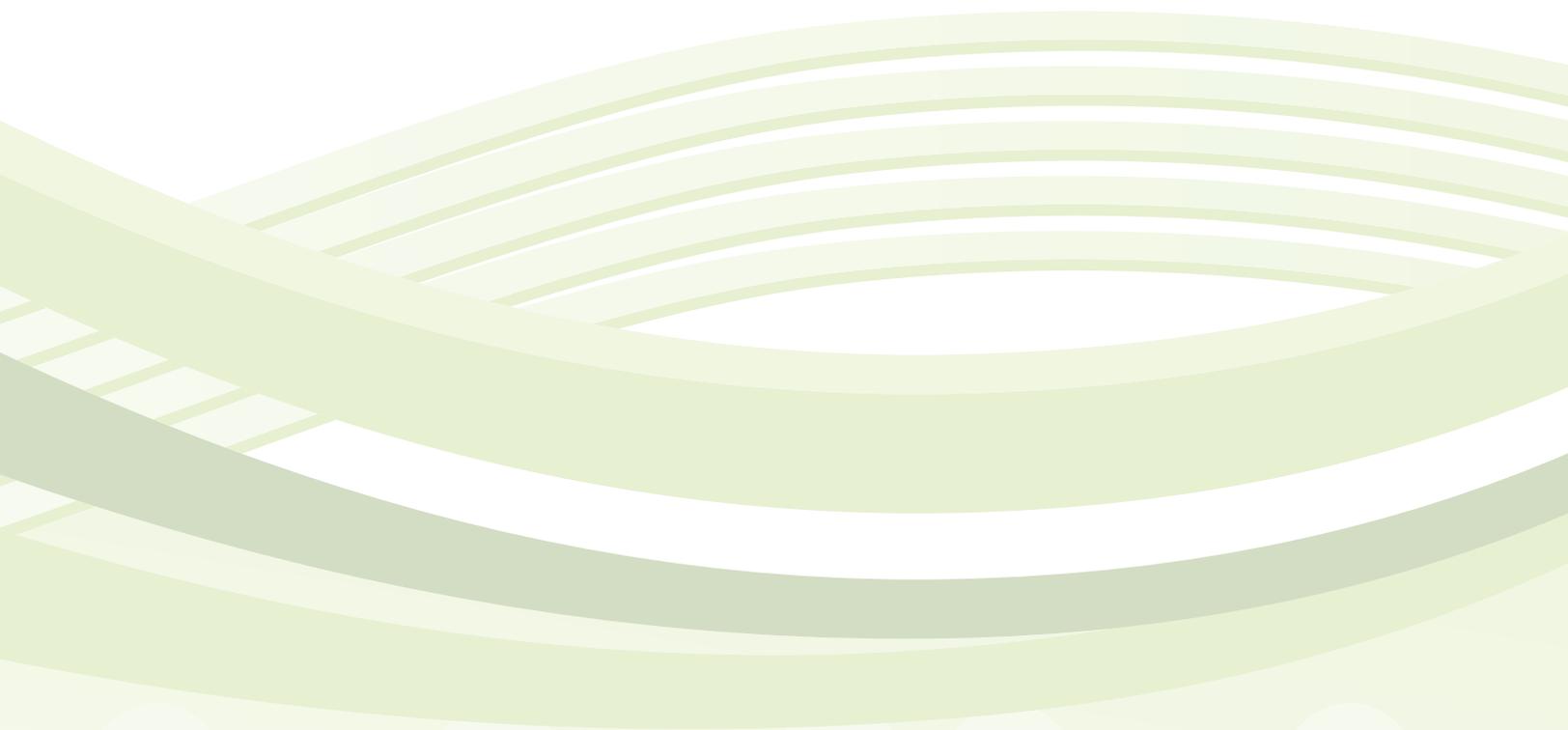


- Developed the Yuba River Watershed Information System (<http://www.yubashed.org>) to provide public access to river monitoring data and management plans
- Established 42 water quality monitoring stations, which now provide data once each month between March-October
- Trained 112 volunteers for the monitoring program
- Implemented over 10 restoration work days involving over 1,900 volunteers
- Removed 10,000 pounds of litter from the Yuba River
- Secured \$150,000 to support technical rehabilitation planning for 10,000 acres of gravel piles, remnant of historic mining known as "The Yuba Goldfields"

"Watershed coordination activities have strengthened the organizational and scientific basis for ongoing work of stewardship in the Yuba River watershed as prioritized by citizens and resource agencies."

- Gary Reedy, Watershed Coordinator

PARTNERS INCLUDED: American Rivers • Bella Vista Foundation • Bureau of Land Management • Cosumnes, America, Bear, Yuba Integrated Regional Water Management • California Department of Fish and Wildlife • California Department of Water Resources • California Department of Parks and Recreation • Caltrans • Lower Yuba River Technical Working Group • Nevada County FireSafe Council • Nevada County Land Trust • Sierra Nevada Conservancy • Sierra Streams Institute • US Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest • Tsi-Akim Maidu Tribe • US Fish & Wildlife Service - Anadromous Fish Restoration Program • Western Aggregates, LLC • Yuba Accord River Management Team • Yuba County Water Agency • Yuba-Bear Watershed Council



Appendix

Appendix

Map: Watershed Coordinator Grants 2000-2014

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor
NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
John Laird, Secretary
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
Mark Nechodom, Director

Watershed Coordinator Grants 2000-2014

Department of Conservation
Division of Land Resource Protection
Watershed Program



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1) 18060011 - Alisal-Ekhon Sloughs | 48) 18020106 - Lower Feather | 96) 18070102 - Santa Clara |
| 2) 18070001 - Aliso-San Onofre | 47) 18010206 - Lower Klamath | 97) 18070002 - Santa Margarita |
| 3) 18090206 - Antelope-Fremont Valleys | 48) 18020003 - Lower Pit | 98) 18060008 - Santa Maria |
| 4) 17100309 - Applegate | 49) 18020109 - Lower Sacramento | 99) 18070104 - Santa Monica Bay |
| 5) 18010108 - Big-Navarro-Garcia | 50) 18020107 - Lower Yuba | 100) 18050010 - Santa Ynez |
| 6) 18010111 - Bodega Bay | 51) 18010102 - Mad-Redwood | 101) 18010206 - Scott |
| 7) 18010205 - Butte | 52) 18060002 - Madeline Plains | 102) 18070201 - Seal Beach |
| 8) 18070103 - Calleguas | 53) 18040204 - Massacre Lake | 103) 18010207 - Shasta |
| 9) 18060012 - Carmel | 54) 18010107 - Matole | 104) 18010101 - Smith |
| 10) 18060003 - Carrizo Plain | 55) 18020004 - McCloud | 105) 18040203 - Smeke Creek Desert |
| 11) 18080008 - Central Coastal | 56) 18010104 - Middle Fork Eel | 106) 18020129 - South Fork American |
| 12) 17100312 - Chetco | 57) 18020123 - Middle Fork Feather | 107) 18010106 - South Fork Eel |
| 13) 18020113 - Cottonwood Headwaters | 58) 18030003 - Middle Kern-Upper Tehachapi-Crapevine | 108) 18030002 - South Fork Kern |
| 14) 18070305 - Cottonwood-Tijuana | 59) 18040001 - Middle San Joaquin-Lower Chowchilla | 109) 18010212 - South Fork Trinity |
| 15) 18050003 - Coyote | 60) 18040002 - Middle San Joaquin-Lower Merced-Stanislaus | 110) 18100100 - Southern Mojave |
| 16) 18090207 - Coyote-Cuddeback Lakes | 61) 18030008 - Mill | 111-A) 18050001 - Suisun Bay North |
| 17) 18090102 - Crowley Lake | 62) 18020119 - Mill-Big Chico | 111-B) 18050001 - Suisun Bay South |
| 18) 18060007 - Cuyama | 63) 18060208 - Mojave | 112) 18060001 - Surprise Valley |
| 19) 18090001 - Death Valley-Lower Amargosa | 64) 18060101 - Mono Lake | 113) 18050005 - Tomales-Drake Bays |
| 20) 18020122 - East Branch North Fork Feather | 65) 18070204 - Newport Port | 114) 18010211 - Trinity |
| 21) 18050301 - East Walker | 66) 18020128 - North Fork American | 115) 18050102 - Truckee |
| 22) 18060004 - Estrella | 67) 18020121 - North Fork Feather | 116) 18030012 - Tulare-Buena Vista Lakes |
| 23) 18090201 - Eureka-Saline Valleys | 68) 18090103 - Owens Lake | 117) 18090202 - Upper Amargosa |
| 24) 18060010 - Fish Lake-Soda Spring Valleys | 69) 18060002 - Pajaro | 121) 18040011 - Upper Calaveras |
| 25) 18020001 - Geopie Lake | 70) 18090204 - Panamint Valley | 118) 18020126 - Upper Bear |
| 26) 18010109 - Guadalupe-Salmon | 71) 18040014 - Panoche-San Luis Reservoir | 119) 18020120 - Upper Butte |
| 27) 15330101 - Havasu-Mohave Lakes | 72) 15030102 - Pullin Wash | 120) 18020118 - Upper Cache |
| 28) 18020124 - Honey-Headwaters | 73) 18010110 - Russian | 121) 18040011 - Upper Calaveras |
| 29) 18080003 - Honey-Eagle Lakes | 74) 18020005 - Sacramento Headwaters | 122) 18050201 - Upper Carson |
| 30) 17100311 - Illinois | 75) 18020101 - Sacramento-Lower Cow-Lower Clear | 123) 18040007 - Upper Chowchilla-Upper Frasco |
| 31) 15030104 - Imperial Reservoir | 76) 18020103 - Sacramento-Lower Thomas | 124) 18020127 - Upper Coon-Upper Auburn |
| 32) 18090205 - Indian Wells-Searles Valleys | 77) 18020104 - Sacramento-Stone Corral | 125) 18040013 - Upper Cosumnes |
| 33) 18060015 - Inland-Path-Fairburn Valleys | 78) 18020112 - Sacramento-Upper Clear | 126) 18020118 - Upper Cow-Battle |
| 34) 16050101 - Lake Tahoe | 79) 18060005 - Salinas | 127) 18030005 - Upper Deer-Upper White |
| 35) 18070105 - Los Angeles | 80) 18010210 - Salmon | 128) 18030009 - Upper Dry |
| 36) 18010204 - Lost | 81) 18100206 - Salmon Sea | 129) 18010103 - Upper Eel |
| 37) 18020111 - Lower American | 82) 18060009 - San Antonio | 130) 18020111 - Upper Eel-Upper Thomas |
| 38) 18020108 - Lower Bear | 83) 18070304 - San Diego | 131) 18030007 - Upper Kaweah |
| 39) 18020105 - Lower Butte | 84-A) 18050004 - San Francisco Bay West | 132) 18030001 - Upper Kern |
| 40) 18020110 - Lower Cache | 84-B) 18050004 - San Francisco Bay East | 133) 18030010 - Upper King |
| 41) 18040004 - Lower Calaveras-Mormon Slough | 85) 18050006 - San Francisco Coastal South | 134) 18010206 - Upper Klamath |
| 42) 18030101 - Lower Colorado | 86) 18070106 - San Gabriel | 135) 18030011 - Upper Los Gallos-Avenal |
| 43) 18040005 - Lower Cosumnes-Lower Mokelumne | 87) 18070202 - San Jacinto | 136) 18040008 - Upper Merced |
| 44) 18020102 - Lower Cottonwood | 88) 18040003 - San Joaquin Delta | 87) 18040012 - Upper Mokelumne |
| 45) 18010105 - Lower Eel | 89) 18050001 - San Lorenzo-Sacramento | 138) 18020002 - Upper Pit |
| | 90) 18070303 - San Luis Rey-Escondido | 139) 18030004 - Upper Poiso |
| | 91-A) 18050002 - San Pablo Bay North | 140) 18020117 - Upper Putah |
| | 91-B) 18050002 - San Pablo Bay South | 141) 18040008 - Upper San Joaquin |
| | 92) 18070107 - San Pedro Channel Islands | 142) 1804010 - Upper Stanislaus |
| | 93) 18070203 - Santa Ana | 143) 18020115 - Upper Stony |
| | 94) 18060014 - Santa Barbara Channel Islands | 144) 18030006 - Upper Tule |
| | 95) 18060013 - Santa Barbara Coastal | 145) 18040009 - Upper Tuolumne |
| | | 146) 18020125 - Upper Yuba |
| | | 147) 18070101 - Ventura |
| | | 148) 17120007 - Warner Lakes |
| | | 149) 18050302 - West Walker |

Funded Between 2000 - 2014
Funded Between 2008 - 2011
 California County Boundaries
 USGS Hydrological Unit Code Boundaries

The United States is divided and sub-divided into successively smaller hydrologic units which are classified into four levels: regions, sub-regions, accounting units, and cataloging units. The hydrologic units are arranged within each other, from the smallest (cataloging units) to the largest (regions). Each hydrologic unit is identified by a unique hydrologic unit code (HUC) consisting of two to eight digits based on the four levels of classification in the hydrologic unit system.

The first level of classification divides the Nation into 21 major geographic areas, or regions. These geographic areas contain either the drainage area of a major river, such as the Missouri region, or the combined drainage areas of a series of rivers, such as the Texas-Gulf region, which includes a number of rivers draining into the Gulf of Mexico. Eighteen of the regions occupy the land area of the continental United States. Alaska is region 19, the Hawaii Islands constitute region 20, and Puerto Rico and other outlying Caribbean areas are region 21. [The regions are shown in Figure 1.]

The second level of classification divides the 21 regions into 221 sub-regions. A sub-region includes the area drained by a river system, a reach of a river and its tributaries in that reach, a closed basin(s), or a group of streams forming a coastal drainage area.

The third level of classification subdivides many of the sub-regions into accounting units. These 378 hydrologic accounting units nest within, or are equivalent to, the sub-regions.

The fourth level of classification is the cataloging unit, the smallest element in the hierarchy of hydrologic units. [Efforts are underway to add further levels of subdivisions.] A cataloging unit is a geographic area representing part of all of a surface drainage basin, a combination of drainage basins, or a distinct hydrologic feature. These units subdivide the sub-regions and accounting units into smaller areas. There are 2264 Cataloging Units in the Nation. [Cataloging Units sometimes are called "watersheds."]

A Watershed Protection Approach is a strategy for effectively protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems and protecting human health. This strategy has, as its premise, that many water quality and ecosystem problems are best solved at the watershed level rather than at the individual water body or discharger level. Major features of a Watershed Protection Approach are: targeting priority problems, promoting a high level of stakeholder involvement, integrated solutions that make use of the expertise and authority of multiple agencies, and measuring success through monitoring and other data gathering.

Spatial and tabular data compiled by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection. Source for Hydrological Unit Code boundary coverage is the United States Geological Survey. County lines provided by the Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program from United States Geological Survey, 1:100,000 scale topographic maps. Copyright © 2014, California Department of Conservation. The Department of Conservation makes no warranties as to the suitability of this product for any particular purpose.

Bold type indicates watersheds funded between 2008-2011.

- 1) 18060011 - Alisal-Elkhorn Sloughs
- 2) 18070301 - Aliso-San Onofre
- 3) 18090206 - Antelope-Fremont Valleys
- 4) 17100309 - Applegate
- 5) 18010108 - Big-Navarro-Garcia
- 6) 18010111 - Bodega Bay
- 7) 18010205 - Butte
- 8) 18070103 - Calleguas
- 9) 18060012 - Carmel
- 10) 18060003 - Carrizo Plain
- 11) 18060006 - Central Coastal (p. 17)**
- 12) 17100312 - Chetco
- 13) 18020113 - Cottonwood Headwaters
- 14) 18070305 - Cottonwood-Tijuana
- 15) 18050003 - Coyote
- 16) 18090207 - Coyote-Cuddeback Lakes
- 17) 18090102 - Crowley Lake
- 18) 18060007 - Cuyama
- 19) 18090203 - Death Valley-Lower Amargosa
- 20) 18020122 - East Branch North Fork Feather (p. 23)**
- 21) 16050301 - East Walker
- 22) 18060004 - Estrella
- 23) 18090201 - Eureka-Saline Valleys
- 24) 16060010 - Fish Lake-Soda Spring Valleys
- 25) 18020001 - Goose Lake
- 26) 18010109 - Gualala-Salmon
- 27) 15030101 - Havasu-Mohave Lakes
- 28) 18020124 - Honcut Headwaters
- 29) 18080003 - Honey-Eagle Lakes
- 30) 17100311 - Illinois
- 31) 15030104 - Imperial Reservoir
- 32) 18090205 - Indian Wells-Searles Valleys
- 33) 16060015 - Ivanpah-Pahrump Valleys
- 34) 16050101 - Lake Tahoe
- 35) 18070105 - Los Angeles (pp. 25, 26)**
- 36) 18010204 - Lost
- 37) 18020111 - Lower American
- 38) 18020108 - Lower Bear (p. 13)**
- 39) 18020105 - Lower Butte
- 40) 18020110 - Lower Cache (p. 16)**
- 41) 18040004 - Lower Calaveras-Mormon Slough
- 42) 15030107 - Lower Colorado
- 43) 18040005 - Lower Cosumnes-Lower Mokelumne (p. 20)**
- 44) 18020102 - Lower Cottonwood
- 45) 18010105 - Lower Eel
- 46) 18020106 - Lower Feather
- 47) 18010209 - Lower Klamath
- 48) 18020003 - Lower Pit
- 49) 18020109 - Lower Sacramento (pp. 34, 35)**
- 50) 18020107 - Lower Yuba
- 51) 18010102 - Mad-Redwood
- 52) 18080002 - Madeline Plains
- 53) 16040204 - Massacre Lake
- 54) 18010107 - Mattole
- 55) 18020004 - McCloud
- 56) 18010104 - Middle Fork Eel
- 57) 18020123 - Middle Fork Feather (p. 23)**
- 58) 18030003 - Middle Kern-Upper Tehachapi-Grapevine
- 59) 18040001 - Middle San Joaquin-Lower Chowchilla (pp. 18, 38)**
- 60) 18040002 - Middle San Joaquin-Lower Merced-Lower Stanislaus
- 61) 18030008 - Mill
- 62) 18020119 - Mill-Big Chico (p. 22)**
- 63) 18090208 - Mojave
- 64) 18090101 - Mono Lake
- 65) 18070204 - Newport Bay
- 66) 18020128 - North Fork American
- 67) 18020121 - North Fork Feather (p. 23)**
- 68) 18090103 - Owens Lake
- 69) 18060002 - Pajaro
- 70) 18090204 - Panamint Valley
- 71) 18040014 - Panoche-San Luis Reservoir
- 72) 15030102 - Piute Wash
- 73) 18010110 - Russian
- 74) 18020005 - Sacramento Headwaters
- 75) 18020101 - Sacramento-Lower Cow-Lower Clear (pp. 12, 30)**
- 76) 18020103 - Sacramento-Lower Thomes (pp. 31, 33)**
- 77) 18020104 - Sacramento-Stone Corral (pp. 19, 32)**
- 78) 18020112 - Sacramento-Upper Clear (p. 30)**
- 79) 18060005 - Salinas
- 80) 18010210 - Salmon
- 81) 18100200 - Salton Sea

Appendix

United States Geologic Service (USGS) 8-Digit Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) Watersheds (cont.)

- 82) 18060009 - San Antonio
- 83) 18070304 - San Diego
- 84-A) 18050004 - San Francisco Bay West
- 84-B) 18050004 - San Francisco Bay East
- 85) 18050006 - San Francisco Coastal South
- 86) 18070106 - San Gabriel (p. 36)**
- 87) 18070202 - San Jacinto
- 88) 18040003 - San Joaquin Delta (p. 37)**
- 89) 18060001 - San Lorenzo-Soquel
- 90) 18070303 - San Luis Rey-Escondido
- 91-A) 18050002 - San Pablo Bay North (pp. 39, 41)**
- 91-B) 18050002 - San Pablo Bay South (pp. 40, 47)**
- 92) 18070107 - San Pedro Channel Islands
- 93) 18070203 - Santa Ana
- 94) 18060014 - Santa Barbara Channel Islands
- 95) 18060013 - Santa Barbara Coastal
- 96) 18070102 - Santa Clara
- 97) 18070302 - Santa Margarita
- 98) 18060008 - Santa Maria
- 99) 18070104 - Santa Monica Bay
- 100) 18060010 - Santa Ynez
- 101) 18010208 - Scott
- 102) 18070201 - Seal Beach
- 103) 18010207 - Shasta
- 104) 18010101 - Smith
- 105) 16040203 - Smoke Creek Desert
- 106) 18020129 - South Fork American (pp. 9, 10)**
- 107) 18010106 - South Fork Eel
- 108) 18030002 - South Fork Kern (p. 24)**
- 109) 18010212 - South Fork Trinity
- 110) 18100100 - Southern Mojave
- 111-A) 18050001 - Suisun Bay North (pp. 43, 44)**
- 111-B) 18050001 - Suisun Bay South
- 112) 18080001 - Surprise Valley
- 113) 18050005 - Tomales-Drake Bays
- 114) 18010211 - Trinity (p. 45)**
- 115) 16050102 - Truckee
- 116) 18030012 - Tulare-Buena Vista Lakes
- 117) 18090202 - Upper Amargosa
- 118) 18020126 - Upper Bear (p. 13)**
- 119) 18020120 - Upper Butte
- 120) 18020116 - Upper Cache (pp. 14, 15)**
- 121) 18040011 - Upper Calaveras
- 122) 16050201 - Upper Carson
- 123) 18040007 - Upper Chowchilla-Upper Fresno (p. 18)**
- 124) 18020127 - Upper Coon-Upper Auburn
- 125) 18040013 - Upper Cosumnes (p. 21)**
- 126) 18020118 - Upper Cow-Battle (pp. 11, 12)**
- 127) 18030005 - Upper Deer-Upper White
- 128) 18030009 - Upper Dry
- 129) 18010103 - Upper Eel
- 130) 18020114 - Upper Elder-Upper Thomes
- 131) 18030007 - Upper Kaweah
- 132) 18030001 - Upper Kern (p. 24)**
- 133) 18030010 - Upper King
- 134) 18010206 - Upper Klamath
- 135) 18030011 - Upper Los Gatos-Avenal
- 136) 18040008 - Upper Merced (p. 27)**
- 137) 18040012 - Upper Mokelumne (p. 42)**
- 138) 18020002 - Upper Pit (pp. 28, 29)**
- 139) 18030004 - Upper Poso
- 140) 18020117 - Upper Putah
- 141) 18040006 - Upper San Joaquin
- 142) 18040010 - Upper Stanislaus (p. 42)**
- 143) 18020115 - Upper Stony (p. 33)**
- 144) 18030006 - Upper Tule
- 145) 18040009 - Upper Tuolumne (p. 46)**
- 146) 18020125 - Upper Yuba (pp. 48, 49)**
- 147) 18070101 - Ventura
- 148) 17120007 - Warner Lakes
- 149) 16050302 - West Walker

AWEP	Agricultural Water Enhancement Program
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
CALFED	CALFED Bay-Delta Program
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CalIPC	California Invasive Plant Council
CARCD	California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
CDFA	California Department of Food and Agriculture
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CRMP	Coordinated Resources Management and Planning
DOC	California Department of Conservation
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
FB	Farm Bureau
FSC	Fire Safe Council
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric
RC&D	Rural Community & Development
RCD	Resource Conservation District
RWA	Regional Water Authority
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SLEWS	Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship
SNC	Sierra Nevada Conservancy
SWAMP	Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program
SWRCB	State Water Resource Control Board
UCCE	University of California Cooperative Extension
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WHIP	Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program
WMA	Weed Management Area

Appendix

Table: Senate Districts by Watershed

Watershed Grantees page #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	14	15	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
American River p. 9	X																		
American River p. 10	X																		
Battle Creek p. 11				X															
Bear Creek p. 12				X															
Bear River p. 13	X			X															
Cache/Bear Creeks p. 14				X															
Cache Creek p. 15		X																	
Cache Creek p. 16					X														
Central Coastal p. 17											X								
Chowchilla p. 18										X									
Colusa Basin p. 19				X															
Cosumnes/Mokelumne p. 20	X				X					X									
Cosumnes River p. 21	X									X									
Deer Creek p. 22				X															
Feather River p.23	X																		
Kern River p. 24													X						
Los Angeles River p. 25																X	X		
Los Angeles River p. 26												X		X	X	X	X	X	X
Merced River p. 27										X									
Pit River p. 28	X																		
Pit River p. 29	X																		
Sacramento/Cow p. 30				X															
Sacramento - Thomes p. 31				X															
Sacramento - Stone Corral p. 32					X														
Sacramento - Stony p. 33				X															
Sacramento – Lower p. 34					X														
Sacramento – Lower p. 35					X														
San Gabriel River p. 36																X	X		X
San Joaquin Delta p. 37					X		X												
San Joaquin - Chowchilla p. 38										X									
San Pablo Bay – North p. 39		X																	
San Pablo Bay - South p. 40							X		X										
Sonoma Creek p. 41		X	X																
Stanislaus - Mokelumne p. 42	X																		
Suisun Bay p. 43			X																
Suisun Creek p. 44		X																	
Trinity River p. 45				X															
Tuolumne River p. 46										X									
West Contra Costa p. 47							X		X										
Yuba River p. 48	X																		
Yuba p. 49				X															

Appendix

Table: Assembly Districts by Watershed

Watershed Grantees page #	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	10	11	14	15	17	25	26	29	32	33	34	38
American River p. 9				X															
American River p. 10				X															
Battle Creek p. 11		X																	
Bear Creek p. 12	X																		
Bear River p. 13			X																
Cache/Bear Creeks p. 14		X																	
Cache Creek p. 15	X																		
Cache Creek p. 16		X																	
Central Coastal p. 17																	X		
Chowchilla p. 18													X						
Colusa Basin p. 19			X																
Cosumnes/Mokelumne p. 20								X			X			X					
Cosumnes River p. 21								X			X			X					
Deer Creek p. 22		X																	
Feather River p.23			X																
Kern River p. 24																X		X	
Los Angeles River p. 25																			
Los Angeles River p. 26																			X
Merced River p. 27													X						
Pit River p. 28	X		X																
Pit River p. 29		X																	
Sacramento/Cow p. 30		X																	
Sacramento - Thomes p. 31		X																	
Sacramento - Stone Corral p. 32		X																	
Sacramento - Stony p. 33			X																
Sacramento – Lower p. 34							X												
Sacramento – Lower p. 35		X																	
San Gabriel River p. 36																			
San Joaquin Delta p. 37											X	X							
San Joaquin - Chowchilla p. 38															X				
San Pablo Bay – North p. 39						X													
San Pablo Bay - South p. 40									X	X									
Sonoma Creek p. 41					X	X													
Stanislaus - Mokelumne p. 42				X															
Suisun Bay p. 43				X					X	X									
Suisun Creek p. 44						X													
Trinity River p. 45	X																		
Tuolumne River p. 46													X						
West Contra Costa p. 47									X	X									
Yuba River p. 48			X																
Yuba p. 49	X																		

Californians make their home amidst some of the most productive farmland and diverse open spaces in the world. The Department of Conservation provides services and information that promote environmental health, economic vitality, informed land-use decisions and sound management of our state's natural resources. The Department of Conservation's Division of Land Resource Protection (DLRP) works with landowners, local governments, and researchers to conserve these resources for everyone's future.

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