

Department of Conservation

Resource Conservation District
Watershed Coordinator Grant Program



Pit River, Modoc County

Third Quarter Report
May 15, 2003

Department of Water Resources / CALFED Bay-Delta Program
Interagency Agreement #4600002373



Summary of Progress

The third quarter covered the period of January 1 to March 31, 2003. In April, quarterly status reports, summarizing watershed work plan progress, were submitted by all 18 grantees. The information received has been reviewed by the Department of Conservation (DOC) staff, and is presented in this report. The grantee reports are listed alphabetically and each is formatted as an individual fact sheet. For each grant, progress on objectives and performance measures are reported. Please refer to the individual grantee fact sheets for details.

We are pleased to report that the major accomplishments of the 18 coordinators thus far are as follows:

- ◆ **Almost \$5.5 million in additional watershed funding has been obtained thus far by the watershed coordinators.** This amount is \$280,000 more than the total that was reported last quarter. This additional funding is the result of grant writing and fund-raising activities conducted by the coordinators.
- ◆ **Coordinators are initiating on-the ground projects that were funded by grants obtained during the last cycle.** These projects include, for example, watershed revegetation, stream bank stabilization and sediment removal, wildlife pond installations, noxious weed monitoring and removal, fish ladder installations, gravel replacement for fish spawning habitats, and water-quality monitoring. Refer to the individual grantee fact sheets for details.
- ◆ **Many landowner-based workshops have been held and more are being planned.** Topics have included ranch/farm water-quality planning and monitoring, stewardship orientation and training, insectary hedgerow installation, irrigation monitoring, non-point source pollution reduction, and water conservation strategies.
- ◆ **Six new watershed stewardship/working groups are becoming established** and existing groups are continuing to meet on a regular basis to plan watershed improvement strategies and activities.

These results show how instrumental watershed coordinators are for the success of watershed improvements. As the grant program has progressed, it has become increasingly apparent that watershed coordinators are vital for facilitating collaboration, building consensus, increasing stakeholder awareness, obtaining project funding, and initiating watershed improvement projects. Coordinators are building the watershed management infrastructure necessary for healthy watersheds statewide.

Cachuma Resource Conservation District

Santa Maria River and Cuyama River Watershed



Amount Funded: \$68,500

Match Provided: \$45,179

Watershed Coordinator: Thomas Lockhart

Watershed Goal: To reduce off-site transport of water, sediment, and nutrients from farms and ranches.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Assist three existing watershed working groups in implementing their watershed plans.

- The Oso Flaco watershed work group conducted a meeting out in the field. During the meeting, a draft farm plan was presented to the group. All 10 of the farmers agreed to prepare farm plans and four of the plans are already being worked on. These individual plans will be used to prepare an aggregate plan for the whole watershed.
- An engineering survey was conducted at the site of a “low-water crossing,” where a bridge is proposed as a replacement for the crossing.
- A field presentation was made to a Cal Poly Science class on the soil nitrate quick test, plant tissue testing, and precision irrigation in vegetables.
- Irrigation drainage water was sampled in 8 locations. Samples were measured for nitrate in the lab, and field parameters for nitrate, sediment, pH, and EC were taken. A portable sampling unit was setup to take 24 automated samples in one of the 8 sampling locations.
- A total of 9 irrigation evaluations were conducted, including 3 turf-grass, 2 avocado orchards, a drip irrigated vegetable, and 2 vineyards.
- The soil nitrate quick test was demonstrated to 8 farmers on two different farms.



Micro-irrigation presentation to Cal Poly Crop Science Class

Performance Measure 1.1: Produce three watershed plans which include conservation of water quality and water quantity.

- The Oso Flaco Creek Watershed Plan has begun. The San Antonio Creek plan is almost complete and the Carpinteria Creek plan is just getting started.

Performance Measure 1.2: Decrease nitrate concentration by 20% in Oso Flaco Creek.

- The soil nitrate quick test was demonstrated to 8 farmers on two different farms this quarter.

Performance Measure 1.3: Reduce sediment delivery into San Antonio Creek by 30%.

- The plan is almost complete and if implemented as proposed, sediment delivery would be reduced by 30%.

Performance Measure 1.4: Improve steelhead passage in Carpinteria Creek by 50%.

- A low water crossing is proposed to be removed that would allow steelhead to access an upper portion of the stream.

Objective 2: Oversee the start-up of two additional watershed working groups.

- The preliminary erosion control plan was produced for the Bradley Ranch subwatershed of the Santa Maria River.
- Proposals were written for preparing erosion control plans in Arroyo Hondo Creek and Gaviota Creek Watersheds.
- Conducted nine mobile irrigation lab evaluations.



Demonstrating the soil nitrate quick test to the Oso Flaco Watershed Working Group

Performance Measure 2.1: Draft two watershed plans, which include conservation of water quality and water quantity.

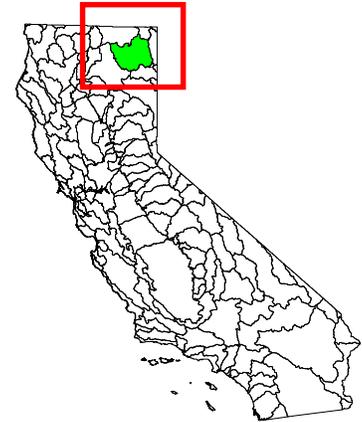
- San Jose Creek and Bradley Ranch sub-watersheds will be new watersheds that have plans prepared during this project.

Performance Measure 2.2: Improve conservation of water quantity and quality in two new watersheds by 20%.

- A preliminary erosion control plan was presented to the landowners in the Bradley Ranch sub-watershed.

Central Modoc Resource Conservation District

Upper Pit River Watershed



Amount Funded: \$66,400
Match Provided: \$18,100
Additional Funding obtained to date: \$585,000
Watershed Coordinator: Cliff Harvey

Watershed Goals, Objectives, and Progress

Goal 1: Contribute to watershed-wide assessment.

Objective 1: Support Pit River Watershed Alliance assessment project.

- Attended regularly scheduled Pit River Watershed Alliance (Alliance) meetings and provided contractors with information necessary for the assessment.

Performance Measure: Documentation of district input to assessment drafts, participation in 9 team meetings.

- Since the first quarter the Coordinator has attended five team meetings.

Objective 2: Contribute to watershed wide GIS database

- Consolidated data from current and past watershed projects.

Performance Measure: Annual GIS Update, documentation of updates to SARE and ICE

Goal 2: Continue implementation of the CMRCD Monitoring Plan.

Objective 1: Collect, document and disseminate complete monitoring site data set for target parameters and locations.

- Winter weather prohibited data collection during this quarter.

Performance Measure: Establish 10 monitoring sites, 50 independent photo points, and collect macroinvertebrate data for 10 tributaries.

Goal 3: Continued implementation of demonstration watershed restoration projects.

Objective 1: Initiate Proposition 13 Projects.

- The Prop. 13 Phase I contract has been approved and started on February 1, 2003. A new project coordinator has been hired to administer the projects funded through this grant.

Performance Measure: Completed signed Prop. 13 contract.



Coordinators Cliff Harvey (left) and James Rickert, working on the Godfrey Tract Project, Modoc National Wildlife Refuge in Alturas

- This performance measure was met when the Prop. 13 contract was signed and work commenced on 2-1-2003.

Objective 2: Initiate Cantara Foundation Projects

- Worked towards securing the necessary permits for two of the projects funded through the Cantara Foundation grant.
- Supervised the installation of a sediment sampling device in Witcher Creek that will document pre-project conditions.
- The ground layout for the Gleason Creek Fencing project is nearly complete. Project construction will begin in the summer.
- Conducted site visits with four landowners to discuss project implementation at the Bushey Ranch, Heard Ranch, Valena Ranch and DJ Ranch.

Performance Measure: Approved and signed contract; submitted permit applications and initial CEQA/NEPA documentation; draft project design.

Objective 3: Develop New Project Proposals

- Conducted site visits to the Pit River Tribe on the X-L Ranch to discuss potential projects and funding opportunities.
- Began data collection and site assessment for the Clark Property project.
- New project proposals under development include: treatment of bank erosion on the North Fork Pit River at the Schluter Ranch, treatment of an incised spring fed channel to improve wetland function at the Ahrens property, treatment of a channelized reach of the South Fork Pit River at Likley Land and Livestock, treatment of a channelized reach with the rehabilitation of old meander channels at the Silvestri Place.

Performance Measure: Production of approved project design alternatives for all projects.

Goal 4: Ensure coordination of District programs with other watershed stakeholders.

Objective 1: Continue and improve coordination of UPRWEPP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

- Disseminated the Winter 2003 TAC Newsletter to over 150 stakeholders.
- Attended two Pit River Watershed Alliance meetings and two Modoc Noxious Weed Working Group meetings to provide assistance and ensure collaboration between all working groups within the watershed.

Performance Measure: Minutes of 3 TAC meetings. Complete 6 TAC newsletters. Maintain TAC website link. Attend 8 meetings of PRWA, MNWWG, documentation of cooperation with PRWA coordinator.

- The coordinator has conducted 2 TAC meetings, completed 2 TAC newsletters, attended 5 Alliance meetings, and 4 Modoc County Noxious Weed Working Group meetings.

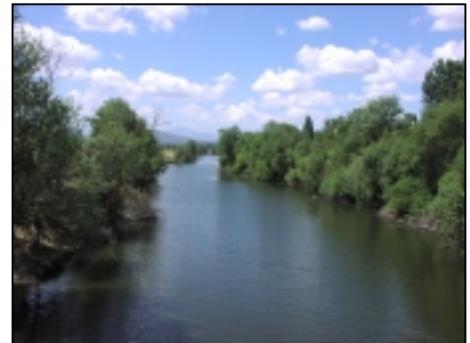
Goal 5: Ensure that all stakeholders are aware of and informed about watershed concepts and issues.

Objective 1: Link all CMRCD/UPRWEPP monitoring, assessment, and restoration projects to the CMRCD River Center education & outreach programs.

- The coordinator has worked with River Center staff to develop new interpretive displays. The River Center officially opened its doors on May 1st, 2003. The coordinator will use this facility to teach the entire community about watershed stewardship.
- The coordinator has assisted River Center staff in developing and facilitating opportunities for the community to learn more about the watershed.

Performance Measure: Facilitate preparation of 6 CRWQMPs; assist in three K-12 watershed programs; assist in 6 outreach events; coordinate stream restoration workshop; complete 54 site visits.

- The coordinator has assisted with developing an educational program for high school students, conducted one watershed restoration workshop, assisted in two outreach events and conducted 18 site visits.



Goal 6: Ensure continuing implementation of CMRCD/UPRWEPP vision and goals.

Objective 1: Obtain funding for new and continuing projects and programs.

Pit River, Modoc County

- The Coordinator will submit a package of proposals for the combined Request for Concept Proposals from CALFED, SWRCB and the EPA that is due May 9.

Performance Measure: Preparation and submission of competitive grant proposals, and development of viable Scope of Work/contract documents for awarded grants.

- The coordinator has submitted a total of four grant applications, finalized a Prop. 13 scope of work, finalized a Cantara Foundation scope of work and started work on a Prop. 13 phase II scope of work.

Central Modoc Resource Conservation District

Goose Lake, Upper & Lower Pit River Watersheds



Amount Funded: \$62,500
Match Provided: \$23,400
Additional Funding obtained to date: \$113,000
Watershed Coordinator: James Rickert

Watershed Goal: Achieve long-term economic and environmental health through active community participation.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Improve communication among partners and stakeholders.

- Conducted two community information presentations about the goals of the Pit River Watershed Alliance. The High Mountain Hay Growers and the Modoc County Noxious Weed Group both signed the PRWA Memorandum of Understanding as a result of the presentations.
- The coordinator identified six potential funding sources to fund website improvements. Proposals were sent to all six sources in an attempt to secure funding.
- Distributed 260 Pit River Watershed Alliance brochures to introduce the Alliance to stakeholders within the watershed.
- Held meetings with several groups in the watershed to discuss overlapping interests and to explore possibilities for collaborative work. The Coordinator met with groups such as the Pit River Tribe, the Northeastern California Watershed Association, and several private landowners.



Godfrey Tract Project, Modoc National Wildlife Refuge in Alturas

Performance Measure: Obtain and secure a total of 35 signatories on the Memorandum of Understanding.

- Since the first quarter, the coordinator has obtained three new signatories including the High Mountain Hay Growers, the Modoc County Noxious Weed Working Group, and the Fall River Wild Rice Growers Cooperative.

Objective 2: Seek funding for Pit River Watershed Alliance to implement priority projects.

- Submitted six grant proposals to obtain funding for Website upgrades. A total of \$61,000 was requested from Ben and Jerry's Foundation, Mead Foundation, Patagonia Foundation, Redding Rancheria Foundation, The Sonoran Institute Resources for Community Collaboration Program, and the Town Creek Foundation. The coordinator also helped the Alliance Water Quality Monitoring subcommittee develop a \$95,000

proposal for a water quality monitoring coordinator. This proposal was submitted to DWR and awarded to the North Cal Neva RC&D.

Performance Measure: Assist writing five funding proposals for priority projects in cooperation with Pit River Watershed Alliance stakeholders.

- The coordinator has submitted seven proposals since the first quarter.

Objective 3: Coordinate Pit River Watershed Alliance projects.

- Assisted the Alliance Water Quality Monitoring Subcommittee in analyzing data collected during monitoring conducted last year.
- The Water Quality Monitoring subcommittee developed a \$95,000 proposal to fund a Pit River Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator. The proposal was sent to DWR and subsequently funded.
- Assisted Vestra Resources in developing the Pit River Watershed Assessment. The Watershed Assessment is scheduled to be completed in Dec. 2003.



Rose creek site visit (future restoration site), Lookout, CA

Performance Measure: Three projects are identified.

Grant Funding Received/Pending:

The Coordinator applied for a total of \$61,000 from Ben and Jerry's Foundation, Mead Foundation, Patagonia Foundation, Redding Rancheria Foundation, The Sonoran Institute Resources for Community Collaboration Program, and the Town Creek Foundation. The coordinator also helped the Water Quality Monitoring subcommittee develop a \$95,000 proposal that was funded by DWR.

Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

Central Coastal Watershed



Amount Funded: \$60,024
Match Provided: \$80,459
Additional Funding obtained to date: \$500,000
Watershed Coordinator: Malcolm McEwen

Watershed Goal: Improve water use efficiency, ecosystem quality, and water quality in watersheds in the district.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Provide assistance for implementation of conservation practices that improve water use efficiency, ecosystem quality, and water quality.

- Met with several landowners as a result of contacts obtained from the Farm Bureau, the Zone 1/1A Flood Control District Advisory Committee and the Morro Bay National Estuary Program.
- Assisted a landowner in Morro Bay watershed by providing funding through Project Clearwater for partial completion of a fencing and water development project on a 320 acre ranch on San Luisito Creek.
- Submitted a proposal to the California Department of Water Resources requesting funds to acquire wetland conservation easements on properties in a floodplain at the base of Los Osos Creek.
- Completed the Morro Bay Watershed Steelhead Restoration Plan. This plan will make steelhead restoration efforts more effective, and will help attract funding for this purpose.
- Assisted the District in their application to the NRCS to enroll 23 acres of converted wetland to the Wetland Reserve Program.
- Coordinated efforts by a radio-tower site lessee in removing a radio tower support structure and restoring native vegetation on property owned by the District.



Coordinator Malcolm McEwen (left) congratulates Dan Guthrie in front of his construction site, which was selected as the site with the best erosion control measures.

Performance Measure: Number of landowners that participate in Cooperative Extension short courses (# over two courses). Number and extent of conservation practices installed (10). Number of growers who receive irrigation system evaluations. Amount of funding obtained for funding conservation practices (funding for 10 practices).

- Contacted 15 landowners.
- Installed four conservation practices to date.
- Obtained one permit so far but working to develop a coordinated permitting program.

Objective 2: Support education and outreach to landowners and agency staff.

- Organized an event, the 2-year anniversary of the levee breach, to recognize examples of good erosion control on construction sites in Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach, and Grover Beach, and to highlight the connection between erosion and flood control.
- Organized University of California Cooperative Extension and NRCS staff to present a workshop and field tour concerning agricultural conservation planning at the Salmonid Restoration Federation/Urban Streams conference.

Performance Measure: Number of demonstration sites developed (2). Number of landowners who document or otherwise share the benefits of conservation practices (6). Number of people who participate in farm tours or field days (# over 3 tours). Number of regulatory referrals to the NRCS or the district (12).

- Established three demonstration projects on construction sites in Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande, and Grover Beach.
- Conducted a land owner tour and provided NRCS with a regulatory referral in Nipomo.

Objective 3: Facilitate and improve coordination, collaboration, and assistance among governmental agencies, other organizations, and local watershed groups.

- Met with several key landowners in the watershed to discuss potential projects to submit to the State Coastal Conservancy to preserve agriculture in the Arroyo Grande Valley.
- Submitted a grant proposal to the State Coastal Conservancy for \$160,000 to expand the flood control study on the lower Arroyo Grande Creek levee project.
- Assisted the Land Conservancy of SLO County in resolving details of a contract with DWR for funding a 2.5 acre restoration project on the banks of Nipomo Creek.



*An "Agriculture and Salmonids"
Field Conference
discussion on how intensively
managed grazing systems benefit
water quality and steelhead*

Performance Measure: Number of watershed stewardship groups that form through assistance from the watershed coordinator (3). Number of RCD board members who participate in watershed stewardship groups (3). Number of landowners who participate in watershed stewardship groups (6). Amount of funding obtained by watershed stewardship groups through assistance from the watershed coordinator (3 proposals submitted).

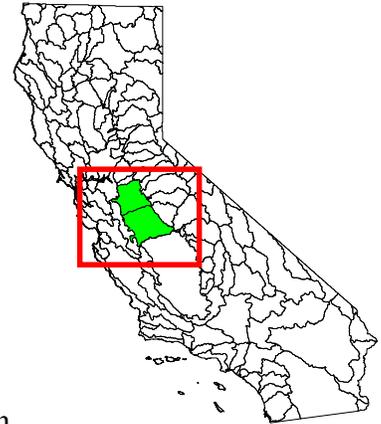
- Conducted two education events.
- Working on four farm/ranch plans.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

Submitted a proposal to the Coastal Conservancy for \$160,000 for a flood control study.

East Merced Resource Conservation District

Middle San Joaquin-Lower Merced-Lower Stanislaus (Lower Merced portion) & Middle San Joaquin-Lower Chowchilla Watersheds



Amount Funded: \$59,600

Match Provided: \$14,900

Watershed Coordinator: Teri Murrison

Watershed Goal: Preserve or enhance the Merced River and floodplain environment.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Metamorphosis of Merced River Stakeholders Group from a single project focus to a watershed group.

- Planned and conducted two meetings (January and February) of the Merced River Stakeholders Group.
- Group adopted a mission statement, goals, and objectives.
- Attended California Watershed Education Day in Sacramento. Met with legislators and staff to acquaint them with the Lower Merced River.
- Attended Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interest (MAGPI) and Merced Groundwater Basin Advisory Panel meetings.
- Redesigned and updated Merced River Stakeholders' website.



Members of the Merced River Stakeholders Group collecting macroinvertebrates at a Water Quality Monitoring Workshop (Lower Merced)

Performance Measures: 1) MRS remains viable watershed group with average active participation of 35 stakeholders; 2) Provide staffing for 12 monthly meetings; 3) Adopt mission, goals and objectives by June 2003; 4) Participation of at least 15 MRS members at each of two field days with implementation of prescribed practices by five stakeholders after each event; 5) Submit at least three grant applications for continued funding of stakeholder group.

Objective 2: Implement voluntary individual water quality monitoring program on Lower Merced watershed.

- Planned and conducted 2-day workshop on water quality monitoring

- Co-sponsored Streambank Stabilization Workshop (30 attended) and Farmscapes (beneficial hedgerows) Workshop (35 attended).
- Secured 25 water quality testing kits from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Kits will be distributed to landowners for use during next quarter.

Performance Measures: 1) Provide 30 stakeholders with water monitoring training and monitoring kits by August 2003. Complete a survey of same 30 stakeholders by October 2003 to verify that at least 10 have adopted BMPs for water quality by comparing monitoring results; 2) Submit at least one grant application to fund a school-based water quality monitoring project by May 2003.

Objective 3: Administer watershed coordinator grant program.

- Monitored potential funding programs for future projects.
- Attended DOC/Legacy Project Workshop in Modesto.

Performance Measures: 1) Prepare and submit quarterly reports to DOC; 2) Attend CARCD annual meeting; 3) Submit at least one grant application for continued funding of watershed coordinator position.



Erick Burris with the SWRCB's Clean Water Team provides Merced River Stakeholders training on how to monitor for chemicals in the Lower Merced River

East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District

Middle San Joaquin-Lower Merced-Lower Stanislaus & Panoche-San Luis Reservoir Watershed



Amount Funded: \$44,986
Match Provided: \$28,425
Additional Funding Obtained: \$475,000
Watershed Coordinator: Norman Crow

Watershed Goal: To improve water use efficiency, water quality, riparian health and ecosystem quality in the watersheds in the district.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Assisting the East Stanislaus RCD and West Stanislaus RCD in achieving their long-term goals for watershed benefit through information exchange, education and outreach.

- Participated in a NRCS/CALFED meeting regarding the Water Use Efficiency grant program. Provided input on grower needs.
- Attended five board meetings and prepared monthly summary reports.
- Assisted Stanislaus County in its effort to lease property from the U.S. Navy. Secured an agreement with West Stanislaus RCD to relocate its office to the NASA Crows Landing Flight Facility. The county will pay the district to manage the natural resources on the lease property.

Performance Measure: Number of new stakeholders attending annual and workshop meetings (22). Number of referrals seeking information or assistance from NRCS or the RCDs.

Objective 2: Provide assistance for implementation of conservation practices that improve water use efficiency, ecosystem quality, and water quality.

- Assisted eight growers obtain funding and technical assistance through EQIP funding. New conservation practices adopted by the growers include improving water use efficiency, installing soil erosion measures and implementing habitat protection.
- Two Irrigation Scheduling workshops are planned for May. Information on the basics of irrigation scheduling and the advantages to using a soil moisture measurement and irrigation scheduling tool will be shared with workshop participants.
- To date, 17 growers are participating in the TIM program.
- Maintained working status of CIMIS station.

Performance Measure: Number of landowners that participate in irrigation scheduling short course (1 workshop). Number and extent of conservation practices installed (10 practices). Number of growers who participate in irrigation evaluations (18). Amount of funding

obtained for funding conservation practices and future funding of Total Irrigation Management (1 proposal submitted).

Objective 3: Assisting West Stanislaus RCD in achieving their long-term goals for watershed benefit through information exchange, education and outreach.

- Contacted seven growers along Orestimba Creek and worked with them to implement management practices to reduce irrigation induced runoff into Orestimba Creek.
- Assisting in the restoration effort of three conservation easements held by West Stanislaus Resource Conservation District. Arranged for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to contract with the Agriculture Department of Orestimba High School to grow native plants and trees to outplant on the easements in the spring of 2004.

Performance Measure: Number of landowners who form into a watershed stewardship group (8 land-owners). Amount of funding obtained by watershed stewardship group (1 proposal submitted).

Objective 4: Assisting the East Stanislaus RCD and West Stanislaus RCD in achieving their long-term goals for watershed benefit through information exchange, education and outreach.

- Coordinated information on needed monitoring sites along the San Joaquin River. Worked with San Joaquin River Group Authority and the Delta-San Luis Water Authority in determining needed sites.

Performance Measure: Number of monitoring sites developed (15). Establish database for flow and salinity of drains into the San Joaquin River.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

<u>Proposal Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Status</u>
Demonstrate an achievable reduction of chlorpyrifos loading in drainage water discharging from the tributary watershed of Orestimba and Del Puerto Creeks into the San Joaquin River	\$717,020 requested from State Water Resources Control Board	RFP submitted to SWRCB for review and selection process

Mariposa County
Resource Conservation District
Upper Merced River Watershed



Amount Funded: \$68,400

Match Provided: \$24,800

Additional Funding Obtained: \$242,987

Watershed Coordinators: Nancy McConnell & Holly Warner

Watershed Goal: Improve and protect watershed resources and values through cooperative, comprehensive, and watershed-wide resources management by all public and private sector stakeholders.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Promote community and landowner involvement in the planning process for the Upper Merced River Watershed.

- Met with members of Mariposa County Planning Commission to discuss inclusion of watershed element in new County General Plan.
- Submitted 5 Star Restoration Grant for water monitoring equipment.
- Working with the Land Use/Restoration Committee in conducting two visual and one transect survey of Yellow Starthistle and Italian thistle along the Wild and Scenic portion of the Merced River.



Learning how to measure residual dry matter on rangeland

Performance Measure: Provision of two educational workshops for local ranchers and grazing land managers, including one Rangeland Water Quality short course.

- Performance measure 50% complete.

Objective 2: Promote watershed education through outreach to private landowners and other stakeholders.

- Planned and held Rangeland Management Toolkit Workshop which covered “Everyone Lives in the Watershed”, Government Cost Share Programs, Measuring Forage Residue (RDM), Conservation Easements. Thirty-nine landowners attended the event.

Performance Measure: Hold one region-wide “Day in the Watershed” event.

- Performance measure completed.

Objective 3: Promote historic and cultural education.

- Conducted five educational hikes which focused on the following topics:
 - Water and Snow Monitoring in Yosemite National Park
 - Bagby – North Fork Trail Hike
 - Hite’s Cove Wildflower Hike
 - Dragonflies in the Watershed
 - BLM History and Management in the Watershed



Performance Measure: Adoption of South Fork Trail system and signing of MOU with U.S. Forest Service.

- Performance measure completed.

Learning about macroinvertebrates

Objective 4: Promote data coordination.

- Continuing to work with numerous agencies to develop a program that collects and stores historical and current information on the watershed.

Performance Measure: Collection and publication of current data on Upper Merced River Watershed.

- Grantee has met this performance measure with publication of water test data collected in July.

Objective 5: Protect and restore the ecology of the Upper Merced River Watershed.

- Completed MOU with the US Forest Service to adopt the South Fork Trail in the Upper Merced River Watershed.

Performance Measure: Successful completion of two service projects in the Upper Merced River Watershed Water Monitoring Program in place.

- Grantee has completed this performance measure by hosting the Bear Creek Trash Clean-up Day in July, and the Hite Cove Trail Maintenance Day in November.

Additional Funding Obtained:

A Five Star Restoration Challenge Grant (\$13,750) was submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Service to develop community stewardship within the Upper Merced River area using volunteer monitors.

Mission Resource Conservation District San Luis Rey-Escondido Watershed

Amount Funded: \$69,982

Match Provided: \$27,518

Additional Funding obtained to date: \$911,000

Watershed Coordinator: Cynthia Mallett



Watershed Goals, Objectives, and Progress

Goal 1: Sustain the progress of the San Luis Rey Watershed Council by providing continuing coordination through a Watershed Coordinator and by seeking funding to implement projects to address priority issues identified in the San Luis Rey River Watershed Guidelines developed by the council.

Objective 1: Conduct presentations, coordinate a watershed field event, submit grant applications and provide administrative support to the Watershed Council.

- Held discussions with the County of San Diego, Department of Environmental Health to provide presentations to two work groups.
- Met with a representative of the Bonsall Sponsor Group to plan and organize two field trips, focusing on watershed projects and successes. Contacted applicable agency representatives and began coordinating activities.
- Developed a database of funding opportunities that would benefit the San Luis Rey Watershed and the CALFED Watershed Program.
- Coordinated three Watershed Council meetings.
- Five speakers have presented at Watershed Council meetings.

Performance Measure: Six watershed presentations to stakeholders, 25 stakeholders attend watershed field event, 100 copies of the Guideline supplement distributed to stakeholders, 12 guest speakers make presentations at watershed council meetings.

Goal 2: Develop working relationships with other agencies.

Objective 1: Submit grant applications in conjunction with local, state and national organizations to implement watershed related projects.

- Successfully formed the California NEMO partnership, which is a formal agreement between various collaborating agencies and other stakeholders. The goal of the program is to educate land use decision makers about the link between land use planning and water quality. The informational sheet was also completed. Drafting a grant application for submittal to the State Water Resources Control Board for full implementation of a NEMO Education Outreach Program.
- Received GIS training from NRCS, which is a necessary tool to implement a project NEMO scoping workshop.

Performance Measure: Three grant applications submitted for watershed improvement projects, 100 brochures distributed to stakeholders, project NEMO scoping workshop presented to ten municipal officials.

Goal 3: Development of water conservation and efficiency resource information.

Objective 1: Work with local municipalities, planning groups, building industry groups and developers to research feasibility of implementing drought tolerant landscapes and grey water systems in new development projects.

- Collaborating with partners to develop a drought tolerant/native demonstration garden in front of the Fallbrook Land Conservancy office.

Performance Measure: Installation of drought tolerant landscape, develop new conditions of approval with a local planning group or municipality and develop two Memorandum of Understanding documents with two development related groups (water district, building industry group, developer and/or planning group).

Grant Funding Received/Pending:

Pending Funding: Mission Resource Conservation District and the San Luis Rey Watershed Council were included in a proposal submitted by Rainbow Municipal Water District to Metropolitan Water District to install a drought tolerant demonstration garden at the Water District offices. Included with the garden installation was a comprehensive education outreach program to educate residents and businesses about native and drought tolerant landscaping. Mission RCD would manage the education outreach component.

Napa County Resource Conservation District

San Pablo Bay Watershed

Amount Funded: \$46,298
Match Provided: \$15,535
Additional Funding obtained to date: \$663,000
Watershed Coordinator: Leigh Sharp



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

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Conduct Outreach and Education on Stewardship and Watershed Issues

- Completed a workshop on stewardship development titled “Developing Watershed Partnerships for a Better Tomorrow” (March 10) with 30 people attending. The target audience was landowners or others interested in developing watershed partnerships.
- Gave presentation regarding stewardship efforts made at a meeting of CALFED Bay Delta Advisory Committee (February 21).
- Distributed the February newsletter and educational insert to about 750 people. The target audience is people interested in conservation and restoration.
- Attended Watershed Information Center/Conservancy meeting (February 19).
- Maintained and updated mailing lists for Carneros, Sulphur, Dry, Salvador and Murphy Creek Stewardships, Watershed Newsletter and Napa Green Program on a regular basis.



Upper Sulphur Creek

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

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

- Coordinated and delivered a Stewardship workshop, “Developing Watershed Partnerships for a Better Tomorrow.”
- A second restoration project has been planned for Carneros Creek in partnership with the Carneros Creek Stewardship, Napa County Farm Bureau, RCD, Acorn Soupe, and a local elementary school.
- Field work for two watershed management plans is complete.

- Work on two watershed management plans has begun.
- Coordinated committee meetings for the Carneros Creek Stewardship group: Steering Committee Meeting Jan. 6; Stewardship Meeting January 21; Subcommittee Meeting February 10.
- Sulphur Creek Stewardship coordination: Stewardship Meeting January 13.
- Salvador Creek Stewardship coordination: Stewardship Meetings – January 13, February 10, March 10.

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

- Assisting in the development of 2 new stewardship groups. Aside from the stewardships on Carneros and Sulphur Creeks, which are well established, stewardship groups are now established in the Salvador and Murphy Creek watersheds and along a four mile stretch of the Napa River. Interest has been expressed in starting additional stewardship groups in the Milliken, Chase and Simmons Creek watersheds.

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

- Last quarter, received full funding for implementation of the Napa Green Program from the State Water Resources Control Board Prop. 13 funds (\$500,000). This funding will support a watershed wide program for grape growers to participate in watershed restoration.
- Funding to implement a restoration project in the Sulphur Creek watershed has been sought by the RCD and approved by the CDFG.
- Researching potential funding sources.
- Developing a table of funding sources.



*Carneros Creek Revegetation
Project Volunteers*

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

- Performance measure is complete. A fundraiser to benefit Carneros Creek was held in August 2002 and raised over \$5,000 to support stewardship activities.
- An application for the State Water Resources Control Board Prop. 13 grant was submitted and approved for funding. The funds (\$500,000) were received in full last quarter.
- An application to the California Dept. of Fish and Game - SB 271, for a Heath Canyon Restoration Project, has been approved for funding at \$158,000.

Placer County Resource Conservation District North Fork American River Watershed



Amount Funded: \$78,000

Match Provided: \$26,180

Watershed Coordinator: Bonnie Bagwell

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

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

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

- Facilitated 8 watershed group meetings.
- Attended 10 meetings with neighboring watershed groups.
- Developing master watershed project matrix and working to identify needed on-the-ground projects.

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

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

- Produced a workshop titled: *Design and Implementation of Effective Policies for Sustainable Natural Resource Management in California*. Approximately 50 people attended. A survey is in the process of being completed to measure participant implementation of material presented. Web pages and literature were produced for this event.
- Co-produced an *Improving Profitable Production and Environmental Quality Workshop* with Allan Savory. Approximately 20 people attended. A survey is in the process of being completed to measure participant implementation of material presented. Web pages and literature were produced for this event.
- Coordinating a joint “Day in the District” with the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance. The event is scheduled for May 9, 2003. Representatives of and elected officials from local, state, and national arenas have been invited to attend. The event will showcase ARWG/Alliance efforts to create fire safe communities and protect watersheds from catastrophic wildfire.
- Completed a proposal to fund a watershed education program for Placer County school children in conjunction with the Placer Nature Center.
- Working with the High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development District to develop a GIS workshop.
- Working with the American River Watershed Group to develop a brochure that can be sent to households within the watershed. It will be modeled after the RCD of Santa Monica Mts. brochure “Living healthy in the watershed.”

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

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

- Worked to complete the *North and Middle Forks Sediment Dynamics Study* proposal. The Department of Water Resources has set aside approximately \$554,000 to fund the impending project.
- Initiated discussion with the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance to produce a joint proposal for fuel reduction projects to the Request for Concept Proposals (RFCP) Consolidation of Watershed Protection and Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants. The proposal includes fuel reduction work in and around the communities of Colfax and Foresthill. Concept proposals are due May 9, 2003.
- Set up the ARWG website and regularly updated and refined information as needed.
- Working with ARWG to approve the final product resulting from the Category III grant that was submitted to the funding agency in early January 2003.
- Soliciting signatures from four of five (Greater Colfax Area is already a signatory) Fire Safe Councils in Placer County as well as private landowners.
- Drafting a proposal for the Forest Service Community Protection Program and the Wild Land Urban Interface. Both are grant programs for fire protection.
- Writing a grant proposal to support the CDF Chipper Program throughout Placer County.



Fire safe freeway project in Colfax – showing cleared areas off I-80

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

- One proposal was submitted to the DOC Resource Conservation District Grant Program, for a Chicken Hawk Road Demonstration and Rural Residential Landowner Roads Workshop Project. The proposal would also fund the creation of a GIS workshop for watershed groups. This proposal was not selected for funding. However, the GIS workshop will be conducted with other funds.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

Proposal submitted on April 18, 2003: *North and Middle Forks Sediment Dynamics Study* to Department of Water Resources. Project will produce a risk assessment for erosion and sediment in the watershed and direct future efforts. Amount requested is \$554,000.

Proposal to be submitted in May 2003: *Waterworks* in conjunction with the Placer Nature Center. This project will provide watershed education for Placer County school children. Amount to be requested - \$ 5,120.00.

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



Amount Funded: \$57,500

Match Provided: \$15,000

Additional Funding Obtained to date: \$1,374,543

Watershed Coordinator: Melissa Cole Johnson

Note: The Watershed Coordinator was on maternity leave January through April 2003. During her absence, the RCD President, Nancy Helsley, kept the Watershed Council's momentum going by coordinating the Advisory and Education Subcommittee meetings. Activity will resume as planned starting in May 2003.

Watershed Goal: Implement the Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council's long-range restoration plan

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Coordinate Malibu Creek Watershed Council meetings.

- Coordinated the February 4th and April 1st Watershed Council meetings.
- Created and distributed one "available grants list."
- Chaired one Education Subcommittee meeting.
- Chaired the Monitoring Subcommittee and Habitat and Species Subcommittee meetings.

Performance Measure: Development of at least 3 on-the-ground restoration projects that will have direct benefit to the watershed as a result of well organized, productive meetings.

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains Topanga Creek Watershed



Amount Funded: \$66,815

Match Provided: \$35,650

Additional Funding obtained to date: \$24,888.60

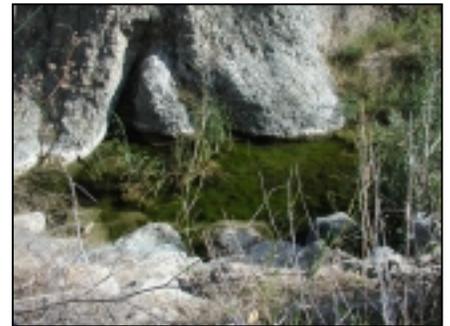
Watershed Coordinators: Rosi Dagit and Tricia Watts

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

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

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

- Attended public meetings to promote the use of drought tolerant species for landscaping and fire safety.
- Submitted an article to the Topanga Business Journal on water conservation strategies. The article was published in the spring edition of the journal.
- Conducted an Erosion Control and Slope Stabilization workshop to explain methods and strategies for using native vegetation to control erosion. 25 local residents attended. Through follow up surveys, the RCD learned that since the workshop 13 of the 25 attendees have implemented the techniques suggested at the workshop.
- Continued to provide public with education on role of thirsty non-native plants, such as *Arundo donax*.



Topanga Creek, Topanga CA

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

- 25% of the greywater and groundwater recharge workshop participants implemented greywater strategies on their properties.
- 52% of the landowners who attended the Erosion Control and Slope Stabilization workshop implemented erosion control BMPs.
- 10 landowners have begun noxious weed eradication as a result of the watershed coordinator's outreach efforts.

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

- Organized and facilitated two general meetings and two invasive species subcommittee meetings.
- Completed a watershed newsletter and distributed it to 12,000 residents.
- Submitted grants to the Toyota Tapestry program for \$7,400 to fund weather station equipment and teacher training for the elementary school science program. To the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission for \$24888.60 to secure funding to continue monitoring of endangered steelhead trout in Topanga Creek. And to the Southern CA Wetland Recovery Project for \$26,195.30 to fund a Topanga *Arundo* removal project.

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

- Two recommendations for the Watershed management plan have been submitted and are currently under consideration.
- Two workshops have been conducted to inform stakeholders of sustainable living practices.
- The Topanga *Living Lightly in the Watershed* guide was updated in the 1st quarter.
- The Coordinator has responded to over 160 calls and 100 email from stakeholders requesting information on native plants, noxious weeds, water conservation and water quality.

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

- Participated in workshop to develop inclusive strategy for incorporating watershed planning into mitigation efforts for flood and fire hazard reduction with LA County Office of Emergency Management.

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

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

- Developed watershed related class material and participated in the Earth Day Science Fair.
- Worked with Topanga Canyon Town Council and CA State Parks to secure a dumpster for the Creek Clean up day and to organize volunteers.

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

Additional Funding Received/Pending:

The RCD applied for a \$7,500 grant from the Toyota Tapestry Program, a \$25,195.30 grant from the Southern CA Wetlands Recovery Project, and a \$24,888.60 grant from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The RCD received the \$24,888.60 grant from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and is waiting to hear about the others.

San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District

Lower Cosumnes & Lower Mokelumne River Watershed

Amount Funded: \$47,668

Match Provided: \$16,250

Additional Funding obtained to date: \$25,000

Watershed Coordinator: John Brodie



Watershed Goal: To improve water quality and biodiversity in the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective: Reduce non-point source pollution through an integrated voluntary, stewardship approach using the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Plan (LMSP) Citizen’s Water Quality Improvement Program, Self-Assessment-Action Plan Program, and Riparian Restoration Program.

- Continued to coordinate the quarterly meetings of the LMSP Steering Committee. The committee met in February and March. The committee added a restoration element to the Watershed Stewardship Plan. The final draft of the restoration element was completed in April.
- Met with landowners and stakeholders in the watershed to generate interest in riparian restoration projects along the Lower Mokelumne River. These meetings have been and will continue to be conducted in conjunction with partners from the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission (LWWC) and the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD).
- Continued to meet with other stakeholders and watershed organizations including Lodi Unified School District teachers working with the Adopt-A-Watershed Program and the Mokelumne-Cosumnes Watershed Alliance.
- Continued to serve on the CALFED Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee Watershed Subcommittee. The coordinator is planning to host a subcommittee “Road Show” tour of the Mokelumne River Watershed in April.
- Represented the watershed at two stakeholder meetings during the third quarter. The first was a public meeting to gather input on Bay-Delta area research being conducted by the California Bay-Delta Authority and the U.S. Geological Survey. The second was a public scoping meeting for public comments on the North Delta Improvements Group’s alternatives for improving flood capacity.
- Two funding requests were submitted by the Watershed Coordinator. The first request was for about \$115,000 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Private Land



A Mokelumne River restoration site

Stewardship Grant Program. The second is for an estimated \$1.6 million from the California Department of Water Resources Flood Protection Corridor Program. The RCD is awaiting word on whether either of these proposals will be funded.

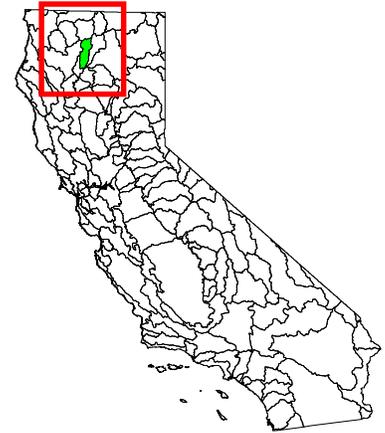
Performance Measure: Three hundred acres enrolled in Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP). Twelve individual citizens/landowners trained for monitoring. Twelve action plans developed and implemented in response to WQIP. Improvement of water quality (e.g., decreases in temperature, decreased dissolved solids, decreased concentrations of toxic chemicals, increased species diversity, etc.).



*Mokelumne River gravel
enhancement site for salmon
restoration*

Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District

Sacramento Headwaters (Sub-basin) Watershed



Amount Funded: \$64,894

Match Provided: \$21,631

Additional Funding obtained to date: \$381,000

Watershed Coordinator: Vince Cloward

Watershed Coordinator Goals, Objectives and Progress

Watershed Goal 1.2: Provide local leadership for identification of resource needs and implementation of chosen solutions.

Objective: Increased public participation and ownership of watershed needs and solutions.

- Facilitated planning meetings with Union Pacific Railroad regarding selected restoration sites along the railroad right-of-way.
- Held meetings with Discovery Center planning group regarding the programs and planning steps needed for development of an interpretive facility in Mt. Shasta.
- Completed initial approvals and permits with the City of Dunsmuir for implementation of the Hedge Creek Falls Trail and Restoration Project.
- Designed and submitted a grant in cooperation with the Dunsmuir Garden Club for riparian willow restoration at the Tauhindauli Park site.
- Participated in event planning and community meadow restoration project for Sisson School in partnership with the Siskiyou Land Trust, area schools, community volunteers, local conservation groups, and agency partners.
- Hosted a community television show at the River Center on the River Exchange and community programming. Solicited memberships and promoted watershed partnerships.



City Manager and Dunsmuir Garden Club going over restoration plans concerning the Taulindahli Park Project that was led by the Upper Sacramento River Exchange

Performance Measure: Meeting minutes; number of participants; meeting evaluation documentation by participants; article reprints; media coverage report; track number of sign-ups to CRMP; track number of sign-ups/attendees at RCD or CALFED sponsored meetings or hearings; identify needs and record solutions to those watershed needs, record groups participating, provide attendance lists to participants and compile a resource database for the public; survey participants to assess program effectiveness.

Watershed Goal 2.1: Support and encourage (facilitate) educational activities in the district at all levels of education.

Objective 1: Design and facilitate conservation, restoration and stewardship activities in partnership with the RCD, Forest Service and other agencies, and Siskiyou County Office of Education.

- Coordinated and hosted an educator biodiversity workshop for 30 teachers from Siskiyou, Shasta, and Oregon. The workshop included a watershed curriculum produced by the Exchange in cooperation with the Siskiyou County Office of Education. The curriculum highlights the areas unique features and provides stewardship linkages for teachers and their students.
- Organized and conducted one restoration field trip for high school students to Tauhindauli River Park. Students planted riparian trees in the flood plain as part of an on-going restoration project.
- Conducted 10 presentations and tours for students from grades K-12. Presentation topics included habitat puppet theatre, stewardship, mammal adaptations and birds of the watershed.
- Conducted planning meetings with the U.S. Forest Service for two community restoration projects this summer.

Performance Measure: Provide an educational partners group and implement watershed educational programs involving a minimum of 3,000 students and teachers; survey students as to what they learned, or will take time to share; survey teachers as to their evaluation and effectiveness of classroom presentations and fieldtrips. Evaluate the program annually with all educational and resource groups.

Watershed Goal 3.4: Promote and facilitate improved water quality (awareness).

Objective 1: Increased public awareness of water quality standards, impacts, and monitoring in the sub-basin.

- Conducted planning with the Department of Fish and Game and recruited high school students for the water quality monitoring program.
- Designed three community restoration and interpretive outings for the coming field season. These include a community riparian work day and a Panther Meadows restoration project in collaboration with the Forest Service.
- Began year two of the Rip Rap Project. Willows were planted at six more sites. This year, an additional 5,000 willows will be planted along the Upper Sacramento River.
- Completed planning for a community water quality awareness and storm drain stenciling program. Began design for a water quality brochure.

Performance Measure: Numbers of participants, documentation of training agendas and evaluations, article reprints and media coverage report. Report and publish water quality monitoring data to partners, agencies, organizations and the public during forums, meetings, planning groups and provide information at the River Center for visitors.

Watershed Goal 3.5: Promote and facilitate the restoration, enhancement, and conservation of plant, fish and wildlife resources.

Objective 1: Increased public participation in improving the health of the watershed.

- Partnered with the Dunsmuir Garden Club and coordinated a community restoration outing at the Tauhindayuli River Park in Dunsmuir. Work included planting potted shrubs, riparian trees and grasses along the Upper Sacramento River, as part of a stream bank alteration project funded through the Cantara Trustee Council.
- Collaborated with the Siskiyou Land Trust and partners to implement an Earth Day celebration and meadow cleanup.
- Presented at the Mount Shasta Earth Day Celebration. Provided stewardship educational materials and printed resources. Provided bird feeders for 100 visitors.



Biodiversity Workshop

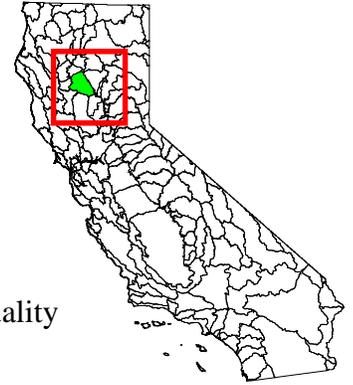
Performance Measure: Documented participation; record of meeting agendas; workshop evaluations; create photographic display for public viewing at the River Exchange Center of successes of objective; track how participation and number of volunteers has increased since previous year. Monitor all restoration projects and provide quantitative results.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

One grant, for \$23,000, was awarded for a trail restoration and Scotch broom removal project.

Tehama County Resource Conservation District

Sacramento-Lower Thomes Watershed



Amount Funded: \$57,110

Match Provided: \$14,361

Watershed Coordinator: Nani Teves

Watershed Goal: To improve upper watershed and riparian health, water quality and water quantity within the Tehama County RCD.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Assisting the Tehama County RCD in achieving their long-term goals for watershed health through information exchange and enhanced education and outreach activities.

- Planted in the greenhouse at Reeds Creek School. Students helped with planting and learned how to calculate growth rates and survival percentages.
- Scheduled and assisted with a macro invertebrate sampling on Reeds Creek and Red Bank Creek. Shasta College professor Morgan Hannaford supervised the sampling. Eight high school and six college students participated. Eight sites were sampled.
- Coordinated a tour of the Coyote Creek Conservation Area to discuss monitoring techniques and vernal pool characteristics with partner agencies (i.e. NRCS and Nature Conservancy).
- Organized a Technical Advisory Group meeting to discuss future projects for the RCD
- Organized a stakeholder meeting focused on the issues with *Tamarisk* and *Arundo* removal along Reeds Creek and Red Bank Creek (31 landowners attended).
- Organized a meeting with irrigators to listen to a presentation by a representative of Central Valley RWQCB on the irrigation discharge waiver program (65 irrigators attended).
- Three new landowners added to Reeds Creek and Red Bank Creek mailing lists.
- Attended several community meetings (e.g. Fire Safe Council and Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group) and training workshops throughout the quarter.



Community meeting on agricultural irrigation discharge waiver program

Performance Measure: Mailing list for stakeholder meetings increased by 50 landowners and completion of project design for one greenhouse project.

Objective 2: Improve strategies for long-term planning and management of resources within the watershed.

- Identified fire concerns and natural resource priorities during two stakeholder meetings.
- Located and photographed *Arundo* and flood control issues along Burch Creek near Corning.

- Attended website design workshop offered through Shasta College and designed website for watershed.

Performance Measure: Active website and documented summary of past and present Westside watershed resources and conditions.

Objective 3: Provide assistance for an irrigation mobile laboratory.

- No activity occurred toward this objective during the quarter.

Performance Measure: Successful completion of 30 irrigation evaluations and seasonal reports to agencies and landowners stating results of Mobile Lab activities including benefits to the watershed.



Reeds Creek School students prepare tray for planting. Children learned how to calculate growth rates and survival percentages.

Objective 4: Work directly with CSU Chico to implement

removal of *Arundo donax* and *Tamarix* as well as replace native vegetation in some riparian areas on Reeds and Red Bank Creeks.

- Met with CSU partner to discuss a tour of properties with *Tamarisk* problems.
- Set dates for monitoring *Arundo* on Red Bank Creek and Brickyard Creek.

Performance Measure: Landowner agreements in place for removal of approximately 35 acres of invasive plant species and monitoring forms completed for eradication sites.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Status</u>
1. Research and prepare a fire plan for the western side of Tehama County.	\$35,777	US Forest Service reviewing application

Workplan Update:

During the second quarter, the RCD requested permission to amend its workplan. As a result of a successful grant application, the RCD was able to hire a full-time Irrigation Mobile Lab Technician, which removed the need for the watershed coordinator to manage this program. The RCD proposed to eliminate Tasks 3.3 through 3.6 that supported the irrigation mobile lab. The lab technician will complete these tasks. The watershed coordinator will still provide training to the lab technician and assist with irrigation evaluations as identified in Tasks 3.1 and 3.2.

In place of the tasks eliminated under Objective 3, the RCD proposed to add four new tasks under Objective 1. The new tasks are:

<u>Task #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Task Completion</u>	<u>Schedule</u>
1.0	Collect and analyze water quality samples, discharge, and stage data on two tributaries of the Sacramento River	Completion of a rating curve and calculation of sediment loadings	Jan 03 – Dec 03
1.3a	Expand the macro-invertebrate sampling and citizens monitoring to include a meeting, presenting the data gathered and thanking the volunteers	Conduct one citizens monitoring meeting	August 03
1.9	Apply to funding agencies for projects such as Citizens Monitoring, the Agriculture Discharge Waiver, Watershed Oral History, or a Fire Plan	Two applications submitted	October 03
1.10	Conduct a monitoring workshop for local landowners and students	Conduct one workshop	July 03

These new tasks will meet several CALFED criteria and conform to the RCD's long-range plan. The department has approved all the amendments to the workplan and determined that a contract amendment is not needed. These changes have been documented and made a part of the file.

Ulatis Resource Conservation District
(Name changed to Solano RCD)
Lower Sacramento River Watershed



Amount Funded: \$69,190

Match Provided: \$18,913

Additional Funding obtained to date: \$5,000

Watershed Coordinator: Kathleen Robins

Watershed Goal A: Promote Community-based Watershed Stewardship in Solano County

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective A-1: Foster development, coordination and funding of local stewardship groups for Solano County creeks

- Submitted four new funding proposals, totaling \$190,163 to support watersheds throughout the County.
- Continuing to work with three stakeholder groups on three different Solano County Creeks. (Pleasants Creek, Sweeney Creek and Alamo Creek).
- Organized a weed identification and management workshop on January 10th, jointly produced by the RCD and the Weed Management Area. It was attended by over 100 people throughout the county. A total of 78 evaluations were returned, with 95% of evaluators finding the information provided “very useful” and “pertinent to the management of their lands.” The event was the second of a planned annual series.
- Organized the First Solano County Watershed Fair at the Vacaville Cultural Center. The event was comprised of a morning session, targeted at farmers and agency personnel, and an afternoon session targeted at rural land owners. The morning topic was: The Conditional Waiver for Agricultural Runoff. Of the 75 people present, 60 completed evaluations and 97% of the evaluations found the forum “very useful” and “pertinent to the management of their lands.”

Performance Measure: Three functioning local stewardship groups (each with at least 20 stakeholders); written work priority list of four projects for each group; monitoring protocol in hands of stakeholders; three grant proposals written to support work of each group.

- Eight grant proposals submitted thus far to support watershed work.

Objective A-2: Seek agency partnerships and funding to develop a “Welcome to the Watershed” stewardship orientation and training program for rural landowners

- MOU signing basically complete. Signatories include NRCS, Dixon RCD, Solano Irrigation District, Solano Water Agency, Suisun RCD, and Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District.

- Working closely with target agencies to seek funding for the “Welcome to the Watershed” program. Discussions regarding a potential partnership with the Solano Irrigation District have continued.
- The Watershed Friendly Demonstration Garden at the newly christened Conservation Education Center, is basically complete. A grand opening celebration will be held on April 19th. The garden is the inspiration for and flagship project for our Welcome to the Watershed Program.

Performance Measure: Eleven signed MOUs with stakeholder agencies and organizations in Solano County to support project; project description and workplan in hands of stakeholders; two grant proposals written to support and extend project.

- Six MOUs or interagency agreements signed thus far.
- Two grant proposals were submitted. Neither was selected for funding.

Objective A-3: Develop a farmer-written Farm Conservation Plan Program to help farmers develop watershed appropriate conservation plans and comply with USDA funding requirements.

- Submitted a full proposal to the Western SARE’s Research and Education Program which would fully fund the project. Notification expected in May.
- Submitted a proposal to the Great Valley LEGACI Program to support the Farm Conservation Plan Program. Notification expected in June.
- Continuing to work with NRCS and CARCD to find funding to start implementation work sooner.
- Planning for the program is underway with Yolo County and Dixon RCDs. Several workshops will be planned.

Performance Measure: Twenty field days yielding 20 completed farmer-written farm conservation plans; evaluations of process and product by the 20 participants and the 3 RCDs; documentation of 6 month follow-up with participants regarding actual usefulness of FCP with program improvement recommendations; write 3 grant proposals to support continuation and expansion of project.

- Two grant proposals submitted. Both awaiting notification.

Watershed Goal B: Promote Cooperation and Information Sharing between Solano County Stakeholder Groups, Local Agency Personnel, Environmental Groups and Other Watershed Interests.

Objective B-1: Foster continued development of Countywide Watershed Partnership Group

- Working with Solano Irrigation District, Yolo Co. RCD, and Dixon RCD to develop a Water Quality and Conservation Mobile Lab to serve stakeholders in both Solano and Yolo Counties.
- Completing final edits for the *Solano County Watershed Groups and Projects Compendium*. Will be published on RCD website by the end of June.

- The Countywide Solano County Watershed Partnership Group met for its third quarterly meeting in March. It was attended by 30 agency stakeholders.
- Working with the Solano County Farm Bureau, Solano Irrigation District and the Dixon RCD to assist agricultural producers in our district and county in responding to the Conditional Ag Waiver.
- Working on pre-proposals for the consolidated RFP released for multiple funding entities.
- Working with the Regional Environmental Education Group in developing an urban stream restoration program and support funding in the city of Fairfield.
- Continued to collaborate with the Community Alliance with Family Farmers. The RCD is entering its second year of watershed stewardship partnership with the Alliance.

Performance Measure: Six quarterly meeting of the Solano County Watershed Partnership Group; biannual updates of existing *Solano County Watershed Groups and Projects Compendium*; priority list of projects for the group to address; 4 grant proposals written to support those projects.

- The Solano County Watershed Partnership Group has meet three times so far.

Grant Funding Received/Pending:

Proposal	Project Amount	Purpose	Status
US Environmental Protection Agency (submitted Qtr 3)	\$66,281	Welcome to the Watershed	Pending Notification expected 5/03
US Environmental Protection Agency (submitted Qtr 3)	\$85,220	Welcome to the Watershed	Pending Notification expected 5/03
5-Star Restoration Program (submitted Qtr 3)	\$6,542	Re-vegetate Lake Hermon, partnership with CA Native Plant Society	Pending Notification expected 6/03
Great Valley Center LEGACI (submitted Qtr 3)	\$32,120	Partially funds a series of farmer created On-Farm Conservation Plan workshops in Solano & Yolo Counties	Pending Notification expected 6/03
Sacramento Regional Water Quality Control Board (submitted Qtr 1)	\$108,886 (2 year project)	Remove noxious invasive and revegetate w/ watershed appropriate plants on a stretch of Alamo Creek	Pending Preliminary approval subject to litigation
Western Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education (submitted Qtr 2)	\$157,529 (3 year project)	Funds a series of farmer created On-Farm Conservation Plan workshops in Solano & Yolo Counties	Pending Notification expected 5/03
Solano County Fish & Game Fine Funds (submitted Qtr 2)	\$11,250	Rehabitation projects in Solano County	Awarded \$5,000 2/7/03
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Pulling Together Initiative (submitted Qtr 2)	\$90,486	Noxious Weed Mapping and Eradication	Pending Notification expected 6/03

West Lake Resource Conservation District

Upper Cache Creek Watershed



Amount Funded: \$75,912

Match Provided: \$19,758

Additional Funding obtained to date: \$23,740

Watershed Coordinator: Greg Dills

Watershed Goal: Improve watershed conditions on Upper Cache Creek tributaries.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Increase community involvement in watershed activities.

- Continued outreach activities such as assisting the Big Valley CRMP organize a spring yard sale/fund raiser.
- Presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Lakeport Kiwanas Club about CRMP groups and their ongoing watershed activities/projects.
- Worked with the Lake County Weed Management Area to produce an informational pamphlet addressing invasive weeds in Lake County. The WC was also successful in obtaining funds from the Lake County Fish and Wildlife Committee to reproduce the Landowner's Guide to Healthy Watersheds in Lake County.



Volunteer students from Carlé High School planting willows in Schindler Creek

Performance Measure: Six or more fund raising events/activities held, 6 or more grant applications submitted, one new CRMP formed, twelve PowerPoint presentations and three hundred students involved in watershed education events.

- Two more grant applications were developed this quarter for a total of five.
- Created and presented two more PowerPoint Presentations about watershed protection and activities. To date nine presentations have been created and presented.

Objective 2: Improve stream channel conditions by reducing solid waste in the Upper Cache Creek tributaries.

- Met with a Lake County Supervisor to discuss the annual cleanup event and the possible formation of an "Adopt-a-Creek" program.

Performance Measure: Minimum 60 cubic yards of rubbish and recyclables removed each year.

- The minimum yardage has been satisfied in this performance measurement. Additional trash that is collected further benefits the watershed.

Objective 3: Coordinate implementation of the Schindler Creek/High Valley CRMP streambank restoration project.

- Coordinated with Mendocino College, Lake Center to propagate 100 Valley Oak seedlings, 240 California Brome starts and 12 mulfat starts for the project. The Robinson Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians held 75 plus will starts in a nursery tank over the winter for the project. These plants starts and will cuttings, along with dozens of additional willow stakes harvested by a hand crew, were installed by a group of High School students and landowner volunteers.

Performance Measure: Two thousand twenty feet of streambank restoration implemented.

- The stream bank structures have been successfully completed with the revegetation component of the project being implemented.

Objective 4: Coordinate implementation of the Middle Creek Restoration Project.

- The Middle Creek Restoration Project has been successfully completed.

Performance Measure: Two streambank projects implemented.

- This performance measurement has been met.



Constructed post and cable barrier on South Cow Mountain.

Objective 5: Survey, map and begin eradication of *Arundo donax* in Lake County.

- Participated in the completion of the lake survey of *A. donax*, identifying 87 locations of infestation to date and participated in the Highway 20 corridor survey. To date, approximately 225 locations have been surveyed and mapped.
- Provided survey data entry and mapping of lake infestations using ARCGIS software.

Performance Measure: Survey and map a minimum of 12 colonies of *A. donax* and perform eradication.

- Survey of Clear Lake has revealed 87 infestation sites at this stage of the survey.
- The total number of sites eradicated to date: Middle Creek, 8 sites; Alley Creek, 8 sites; Clover Creek, 9 sites; Morrison Creek, 1 site.

Objective 6: Establish Biological and Habitat Assessment Citizen Monitoring Team.

- Coordinating efforts between the Sustainable Land Stewardship Institute, Lake County Tribes and CRMPs to host the Citizen's Water Quality Monitoring Workshops.
- Obtained the cooperation of a landowner to initiate water quality monitoring on a vineyard occupying several hundred acres and containing 5 streams. This monitoring will involve High School students from the Carle High School in Lower Lake and the Upper Putah Creek Stewardship Bioassessment Citizen Monitoring Team.

Performance Measure: Establish 6 monitoring sites for annual sampling of water quality in the Clear Lake Basin.

Objective 7: Coordinate natural resource management efforts with BLM on the Cow Mt. Recreation Area, specifically in Eight Mile Valley.

- Conducted an aerial survey of the valley under a Cooperative Agreement Task Order between the West Lake RCD and BLM. The finished product has been produced, providing the contour lines of the project site. Maps can now be produced in ARCGIS software filling the void previously not represented on the "Purdeys Garden" USGS Topographical Map.
- Completed a partial installation of the post and cable barrier project. Construction was done on two sites on South Cow Mountain, in Eight Mile Valley and in Four Mile Glade.

Performance Measure: For Eight Mile Valley, produce a watershed assessment, install a minimum of a one-mile post and cable barrier to protect sensitive species on the floor of the Valley, and design an implementation project.

Westside Resource Conservation District
Upper Los Gatos-Avenal
(Sub-watershed: Arroyo Pasajero)



Amount Funded: \$36,222
Match Provided: \$11,000
Additional Funding obtained to date: \$155,000
Watershed Coordinator: Linda Ballentine

Watershed Goal: To improve the water quality of the Arroyo Pasajero/
Domengine Watershed and protect the California Aqueduct by reducing erosion,
sedimentation and flooding.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: To increase the visibility of the Arroyo Pasajero CRMP among landowners,
agencies and other organizations.

- Solicited landowners who are not currently involved in the CRMP. Added a new landowner who owns 40 acres along the Los Gatos Creek.
- Worked with DWR to order monitoring stations for bridges in the watershed.



*Revetment fencing and cottonwoods
along the bank of the Arroyo
Pasajero River.*

Performance Measure: Increased attendance and involvement in CRMP; new names added to mailing list; development of three additional ranch plans which identify conservation practices that relieve erosion and flooding.

Objective 2: Improve watershed conditions in the Arroyo Pasajero by reducing erosion and flooding.

- Replaced all defective rain gauge units and ensured that they were properly installed.
- Worked with DWR to develop a monitoring workshop.

Performance Measure: Implementation and support of monitoring practices that result in the collection of data that indicates reduction in sediment erosion and flooding in the Arroyo Pasajero.

Objective 3: Procure funding for CRMP landowner watershed improvement project implementation.

- Continued to research grant sources and provide landowners with relevant information.

Performance Measure: Obtain funding to support the implementation of ranch plans and monitoring plans through 2004.

Objective 4: Plan and hold education and outreach events.

- Planning a Weed Monitoring workshop to be held in June of 2003. Topics will include weed identification and management, restoration projects after weed removal, permitting, and mapping using a computer.
- Working with West Hill College Ag Department to use students to map weed infestations.

Performance Measure: Increased awareness of the Stewards of the Arroyo Pasajero CRMP activities, create attendance at meetings, workshops and tours.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

Received a \$100,000 grant from the State Water Contracts for project implementation.

Submitted an application for \$100,000 Challenge Grant and a \$257,500 CALFED pre-proposal for the 319(h) Program.



Cottonwoods planted along the Arroyo Pasajero River to prevent soil bank erosion by dissipating the water's force.