

# Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION WATERSHED COORDINATOR FINAL REPORT 2004 - 2007

State Senate  
District 1  
State Assembly  
District 4

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Completed fall salmon run surveys on 20 miles of creek while training 40 volunteers to complete assessments

Coordinated Creek Week in 2006 and 2007. 800 volunteers helped clean watershed creeks, rivers and streams

Revegetated 2 acres of riparian forest in a City of Roseville Preserve

Developed a regional program to eradicate Red Sesbania

Coordinated a three-day benthic vertebrate workshop to train local stream monitoring volunteers

Worked with Rio Linda High School to develop a watershed stewardship program that included a creek restoration

Installed Creek ID signs on major roads throughout the watershed

Developed a Placer County handbook on Low Income Development projects

## PARTNERS

- Dry Creek Conservancy
- Cal EPA
- Placer County
- City of Roseville
- Placer County RCD
- Sacramento Flood Control
- REI
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Bella Vista
- American Water
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- PG&E
- and many more



249%  
Matched  
Funding

Grant Award: \$278,036

Funds raised:	
Federal	0
State	569,000
Local	6,500
Private	115,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>691,000</b>

## Restoration with Knowledge

Watershed Coordinators provide local solutions to statewide problems by addressing the needs of the community they work in. The Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator assessed Dry Creek's needs and worked to meet those needs through a prescription just right for Dry Creek. The Dry Creek Watershed Coordinator's overall goal was to reduce run-off, improve water quality, and improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat thus improving the overall health of the watershed. He accomplished this through two strategies. First, he strengthened the organizational capacity of the Dry Creek Watershed Council (replaced by a collaborative group called American Basin Council of Watersheds) in order to provide continuous, long-term management of the watershed. Second, he provided information to stakeholders about the impact of their decisions on watershed health, organizing educational opportunities, and providing techniques to minimize impact. More educated citizens make better watershed management decisions. He trained citizens and involved them in watershed monitoring; merged several watershed groups together to make a stronger, more cohesive group (American Basin Council of Watersheds); coordinated Creek Week; and completed numerous restoration projects. Not only is Dry Creek healthier thanks to his work, the community now knows how to keep it healthier.

### Restoration through Better Science

The Watershed Coordinator and watershed partners completed important studies assessing the current conditions of the watershed. This included monitoring of water quality, aquatic micro-invertebrates (an indicator of water health), and salmon species. Leading

minds in ecological restoration convened in a two-day workshop to present and discuss current watershed assessments and data. This information can be used to assess Dry Creek's biggest needs and then solve those problems in an informed way.

### Knowledge Transfer

The Watershed Coordinator knew that informing the public is important to science being practical as well as informative. Not only did he gather watershed information, but he also taught the citizens of the watershed how to go out and collect that information themselves. He held a three-day benthic invertebrate workshop to make sure volunteers were up to date on the latest information and techniques. Citizen monitoring creates a more informed, more engaged citizenry that is able to take action to solve issues in their own community. He trained a volunteer base that grew throughout the cycle of the grant and that will work for the improvement of their watershed for years to come.

### Revegetation and Restoration

When used in the wrong places, off-road vehicles can do a lot of harm to the environment. Riparian areas are particularly sensitive because they are wet most of the year. The Watershed Coordinator organized volunteers to re-plant two acres of riparian forest badly damaged by irresponsible off-road vehicle use. He then installed signs and information to deter future destructive activities.

### Contact Info:

1007 7th Street, 7th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
916-771-2013

2317%  
Matched  
Funding

Grant Award: \$210,091

Funds raised:

Federal	550,000
State	5,000
Local	4,261,000
Private	52,233
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,868,233</b>



## Creeks, Trees and Citizens

Thanks to the Department of Conservation grant, the San Francisquito Watershed Council (SFWC) and JPA met a set of important measurable objectives to improve aquatic and riparian habitat within the San Francisquito watershed. Both Watershed Coordinators addressed goals of ecosystem restoration, improved conveyance, increased levee system integrity, and improved water quality, and expanded education and outreach. Citizens were educated about flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, native plants, steelhead, water usage, storm water runoff, bank stabilization, and sediment. Working with partners, the Watershed Coordinators improved approximately 1300 linear feet of streambank; designed, permitted, and built three modifications to instream barriers that previously limited the migration of steelhead (a federally listed species) to 15.5 miles of prime habitat; and designed and built two demonstration projects that reduce stormwater runoff by 250,000 gallons. SFWC also completed several planning documents including a water budget study for a habitat-sensitive sub watershed; a water conservation and runoff reduction plan for homeowners; a set of recommendations for local agencies on stormwater management; an action plan for working with partners and volunteers to remove invasive plants and plant natives; a priority list for removing instream barriers to steelhead passage; a scientific, volunteer monitoring program to assess revegetation sites; and a study correlating tree canopy cover to stream temperature and quality of habitat for steelhead.

### Mapping and Protecting Vulnerable Trees

The Watershed Coordinators inventoried vulnerable trees on 14 miles of creek with help from the Boy Scouts, their families and creekside residents. Roughly 75 vulnerable/mature trees have been photo documented and mapped. Protecting these trees protects habitat, bank stability and water temperature. The square footage of habitat documented as "in need of protection" is approximately 16,000 to 17,000 square feet. Not only is habitat more protected, but local citizens know how and where to protect their stream.

### Providing Scientific Evidence to Guide Restoration

The Watershed Coordinator significantly expanded the utility of the existing invasive removal and native planting programs by developing three new project elements: a monitoring component for its revegetation projects, a study correlating tree canopy cover with water temperatures, and a study examining the effects of immediate revegetation on success in suppressing regrowth of *Arundo donax*, an invasive plant that is highly deleterious to the riparian corridor. These three elements will provide a set of scientific findings and outreach tools that will help property owners in our watershed – and potentially throughout Northern California – understand the implications of different land management strategies for the riparian corridor.

#### Contact Info:

701 Laurel Street  
Menlo Park, CA 94025  
(650) 330-6765  
[www.sanfrancisquito.org](http://www.sanfrancisquito.org)

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Completion of Citizens Guide to Creekside maintenance

Oversaw 42 volunteer habitat improvement workdays involving 835 volunteers who spent 2,900 hours removing 1.9 acres of invasive species and planting 2,100 native plants

Conducted "Vulnerable Tree Inventory"

Mapped and treated 37 stands of *Arundo donax*

Coordinated emergency declaration and levee repair estimates for East Palo Alto

Launched a scientifically rigorous, volunteer-based assessment project for re-vegetation

Installed 2 demonstration projects to reduce, slow, and clean stormwater runoff on existing landscapes

## PARTNERS

- Acterra
- CDFG
- California Native Plant Society
- City of Menlo Park
- City of Palo Alto
- Girl Scouts
- Save the Bay
- Jasper Ridge Preserve
- NOAA Fisheries
- Palo Alto homeowner
- Portola Valley Conservation Committee
- San Mateo County Parks
- San Francisquito Creek JPA
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Sonoma Ecology Center
- UC Davis
- and many more

# San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION WATERSHED COORDINATOR FINAL REPORT 2004 - 2007

State Senate  
District 5 & 14  
State Assembly  
District 10, 15 & 26

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Secured the first non-mitigation programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement in the State of California

Created an annual "Watershed Stewardship Award"

Held an agricultural best management practices field day in the watershed

Coordinated and restored a SLEWS project site

Created a workshop for homeowners to reduce storm water pollution

Reduced turbidity in the water by 31%

Improved dissolved oxygen in the river by 5%

## PARTNERS

- San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Lower Mokelumne River Partnership Group
- East Bay Municipal Utility District
- City of Lodi, Depts. Of Parks and Recreation, and Public Works
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
- Department of Water Resources
- Lodi Public Library
- Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission
- SLEWS and FARMS Leadership Program and many more



1323%  
Matched  
Funding

Grant Award: \$182,505

Funds raised:

Federal	80,497.21
State	2,268,539
Local	11,560
Private	54,312
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,414,908</b>

## Working with Landowners for a Healthier Watershed

The purpose of this DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant was to increase water quality; facilitate and improve coordination, collaboration and assistance among government agencies, other organizations, and the local watershed group; and to implement a strategy that will ensure the long-term sustainability for local watershed activities. The Watershed Coordinator accomplished these goals by implementing The Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Plan. The Plan promotes individual responsibility, collaboration, and an approach to watershed stewardship that depends on many different actions by many different individuals. The Watershed Coordinator was successful in increasing participation on the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed Stewardship Steering Committee; held two agricultural water quality field days; created an annual watershed stewardship award; worked with the Center for Land-Based Learning to expand the SLEWs and Farms Leadership programs; and raised more than \$2 million dollars in additional funding. The efforts of the Watershed Coordinator helped create a more intact, more informed watershed.

### Agricultural Water Quality Field Days

The Watershed Coordinator planned and held an agricultural water quality field day. The field day was coordinated with government agencies and non-governmental organizations to promote best management practices to reduce non-point source pollution. The field day fostered cooperation among watershed stakeholders and provided information to agricultural producers in the watershed on ways to reduce non-point source contamination.

### Empowering Landowners to Protect their Watershed

Local residents contribute greatly to non-point source pollution, yet most do not even know they are doing it. The Watershed Coordinator worked with the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission to create a workshop for homeowners to help them reduce runoff and non-point source pollution that enters the river from urban/suburban sources. The Watershed Coordinator also conducted several tours of the watershed, showcasing restoration and education and outreach activities for funders, stakeholders and others. Local residents know more about protecting their watershed thanks to the work of the Watershed Coordinator.

### Creating Safe Harbor

Sometimes landowners who want to institute restoration projects on their properties are unable to do so because of fears of future litigations. The Watershed Coordinator helped to secure the first non-mitigation programmatic safe harbor agreement in the State of California. The agreement protects landowners from endangered species concerns when restoration activities are successful. This benefits the watershed by restoring ecosystem function, encouraging actions that benefit listed species, and fosters collaboration, cooperation, and understanding among governmental agencies and non-governmental groups and individuals.

### Contact Info:

3422 W Hammer Lane, Suite A  
Stockton, CA 95219  
(209) 472-7127 ext 125  
[www.sjcrd.org](http://www.sjcrd.org)

## 960% Matched Funding

Grant Award: \$158,624

### Funds raised:

Federal	153,900
State	1,361,408
Local	0
Private	7,974
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,523,282</b>



## Empowering Volunteers to Restore Habitat

The Department of Conservation Watershed Coordinator Grant gave the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust the ability to coordinate the restoration of riparian and adjacent upland and wetland habitat along the San Joaquin River by collaborating with public agencies, non-profits, and community groups. Restoration was achieved by establishing an outreach program to solicit community involvement in restoration activities and building strong relationships with local landowners and partners to facilitate restoration. The Watershed Coordinator successfully implemented the Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement Project, an Arundo Eradication and Coordination effort, a small native plant planting project at Camp Pashayan, and the planning of 3 additional restoration project. In the midst of these large accomplishments, the Watershed Coordinator coordinated monthly volunteer workdays, provided several special workdays and field trips for student and community groups, and conducted seven semi-annual river clean-up events.

### Restoration

The Watershed Coordinator was extremely successful in getting local community members to restore and improve their natural areas. Restoration has been completed on 100 acres, invasive weeds have been removed on 500 acres, and an additional 150 acres are being planned for restoration. Approximately 600 volunteers from high schools, church groups, service organizations, university students, and businesses assisted in making these natural areas more natural.

### Reaching out to the Community

Community direction for restoration is important to ensure that projects are in line with community values and to gain community support for local efforts. The Watershed Coordinator held stakeholder meetings, coordinated two Latino focus groups, held outreach meetings with local organizations, coordinated a stakeholder advisory committee, and submitted a survey to the committee. The community outreach led to restoration projects that brought over 600 volunteers on-site to donate their services.

### Educating Youth for a Better Environment

The Watershed Coordinator provided extensive opportunities for youth to become more involved in protecting their environment. She created a Youth Summit to bring local youth together to learn more about local issues, presented environmental issues to countless youth organizations and classrooms, worked closely with local Cub Scouts to guide the implementation of an acorn planting project, held a Summer River Camp Program, held river clean-up events, and held workdays for many high schools, youth groups, boy scout troops, cub scout troops, and college students. Thanks to the Watershed Coordinator local youth better understand their world and how to protect it.

### Contact Info:

1550 E Shaw Avenue Suite 114  
Fresno, CA 93710  
(559) 248-8480

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Completed a 100 acre restoration project at Jensen River Ranch including a native Oak Acorn collection and planting

Coordinated and conducted 7 semi-annual River Clean up events utilizing hundreds of volunteers. Several tons of trash were removed from the river corridor.

Educated local youth by providing educational river field trips for local groups

Coordinated a Project Wet facilitator training

Restored Riverside Trail by planting native grass

Recruited interns to plan and for a large-scale restoration projects at Spano River Ranch, Owl Hollow, and the Riverbottom Nature Area

Held a Youth Summit and Summer River Camp Program to educate youth

## PARTNERS

- San Joaquin River Conservancy
- City of Fresno
- DWR
- Fresno Pacific College
- Fresno City College
- Clovis West High School
- Bullard High School
- East Fresno Kiwanis
- The Unitarian Church
- FARMS program
- Cub Scouts
- 4H Club
- Society for Ecological
- Restoration Conference
- Chaffee Zoo
- Wildlink Program and many more

# Santa Barbara County

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION WATERSHED COORDINATOR FINAL REPORT 2004 - 2007

State Senate  
District 19  
State Assembly  
District 35

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conducted 10 water quality workshops with an attendance of 321 growers
- Conducted 74 irrigation evaluations on agricultural land
- Reduced agricultural water usage by 473 acre ft. a year
- Trained 247 professional landscapers on water-efficient landscaping
- Removed 1 fish barrier and proposed 7 others
- Restored native vegetation along Mission Creek
- Created "Our Water Our World" program to educate the public about pest management

## PARTNERS

- Cachuma Resource Conservation District
- Rincon Creek Watershed Council
- Carpinteria Creek Watershed Coalition
- Community Environmental Council
- Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project
- Local water purveyors (Carpinteria Valley Water District, Montecito Water District, City of Santa Barbara, Goleta Water District)
- Southern San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties
- Agricultural Watershed Coalition
- UC Cooperative Extension
- Farm Advisors
- 1st and 2nd District County Supervisors



# 18.7% Matched Funding

Grant Award: \$202,943

Funds raised:	
Federal	38,000
State	0
Local	0
Private	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,000</b>

## Watershed Management, Fish and Water Quality

The goal of this grant was to improve water use efficiency, water quality, and ecosystem restoration in watersheds along the South Coast of Santa Barbara County. Other goals included improving coordination between watershed groups and developing an organizational approach to watershed management within the County. To meet these goals, the Watershed Coordinator worked to increase water use efficiency for irrigation systems, promoted the reduction of fertilizer and pesticide use, facilitated ecosystem restoration and watershed planning, and developed a strategy for incorporating watershed protection and restoration into County operations. Many of the Watershed Coordinator's accomplishments will have long-term benefits for watershed health on the South Coast.

### Reducing Water use and Improving Water Quality

The Watershed Coordinator reduced water use and improved water quality through workshops, classes, irrigation evaluations, and public outreach and education. A total of 568 growers and landscapers were trained on methods to increase irrigation efficiency and reduce the application of fertilizers and pesticides. Over 74 irrigation system evaluations were conducted. Results can save a total of 473 ac-ft of water per year if implemented correctly. Through follow-up visits, it was found that 18 irrigation systems have been improved to date. The Watershed Coordinator conducted educated multiple watershed groups, wrote newspaper articles, and created fact sheets to distribute at local stores and events. Residents of the South Coast are more aware of their impact on the watershed thanks to the efforts of the Watershed Coordinator.

### Facilitated Watershed Management

The Watershed Coordinator was instrumental in the development of three watershed plans for Carpinteria, San Jose, and Rincon Creek watersheds. The plans are already being used by agencies, watershed groups, and individuals to guide restoration objectives. Plans include projects to remove barriers to steelhead migration on Carpinteria Creek and its tributaries.

### Restoration and Removal of Fish Barriers

The Watershed Coordinator completed two ecosystem restoration projects on local creeks. The Watershed Coordinator managed the preliminary design and permitting work for modification or removal of five fish passage barriers on the South Coast. The progress made on the projects will allow construction to begin as early as summer 2008. The permitting process can be a major hurdle for restoration projects. The Watershed Coordinator's involvement ensured that the necessary permits were secured in a timely fashion so that the projects could be carried out. The projects also included public outreach and education components such as permanent interpretative signs at the project sites. Both the watershed plans and restoration projects coordinated by the Watershed Coordinator will have a lasting effect on watershed health on the South Coast.

### Contact Info:

123 E Anapamu St  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-3440  
[www.countyofsb.org](http://www.countyofsb.org)

513%  
Matched  
Funding

Grant Award: \$182,505

Funds raised:

Federal	10,000
State	831,980
Local	94,760
Private	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>936,740</b>



## User-friendly Science Guiding Restoration

Watershed Coordinators specialize in using valid scientific information to educate the public and guide restoration projects. Making science usable gives it practical value. The Middle Fork Feather River Watershed Coordinator utilized existing information to develop and implement a watershed action plan in order to prioritize actions to improve watershed conditions. The sole purpose of the Watershed Coordinator was to bring surrounding watershed groups to the table in order to work cooperatively on watershed wide solutions that foster land stewardship. The 3 years of the Watershed Coordinator Grant resulted in a number of accomplishments and achievements including the management of 5 resource management areas, completion of a watershed assessment report, two "Barns Birds and Barbecues" (BBB) festivals, a sustainable agriculture conference, a honey bee and native pollinator workshop, noxious weed removal, an agricultural waiver program, and collection of watershed data.

### Carmen Valley Restoration Project

The Watershed Coordinator actively organized and coordinated efforts on one of the largest restoration projects in Sierra Valley. This project utilized the efforts of the USFS an ongoing large-scale venture that included 10 organizations; some of the major contributions to the project included Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group (FRCRM), San Francisco State University and USFS. The project restored several acres of meadows and stream channel that were actively down cutting and depositing sediment in the watershed. This project stabilized the streambanks, brought the

stream up to meadow surface, reseeded native grasses and planted native plants like willow along the water ways. This project also included the Loyalton High School in revegetation efforts. The project was completed and a video of the efforts was created.

### Barns Birds Barbecue Festival

The event fosters awareness about the connections between farming, ranching and the environment in the Sierra Valley. The SVRCD was a key organizer and sponsor in the first ever BBB event. The First festival earned the State Innovation Award. The success of the festival has placed the SVRCD in the public spotlight and allowed the RCD to become the lead sponsor on the second annual BBB. All the funds raised benefited the local agriculture industry. The Watershed Coordinator along with the SVRCD has recognized the importance of Agri-tourism in the Sierra Valley watershed and continues to promote the BBB to help foster connections between people and the land.

### Watershed Action Plan (WAP)

The plan is a guiding document for the SVRCD that was compiled from all existing sources. One of the main sources of information was the Watershed Assessment Report (WAR) and information from public meetings. The Watershed Coordinator reviewed all relevant reports/finding for the Sierra Valley WAP and participated in drafting priorities for watershed restoration.

#### Contact Info:

PO Box 50  
Vinton, CA 96135  
(530) 993-4580

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Held a conservation easement workshop to provide agriculturists with alternatives to selling their land

Organized and coordinated one of the largest restoration projects in the Sierra Valley

Created a Sierra Valley Watershed Assessment Report and an Action Plan

Managed 5 wildlife areas

Conducted watershed wide frog surveys

Hosted and coordinated 2 sustainable agriculture workshops

Held a Honey Bee and Native Pollinator Workshop with over 36 people in attendance

Collected water quality data from 7 sites

## PARTNERS

- USDA Forest Service-
- UC-Cooperative Extension
- DFG
- DWR
- Caltrans
- Sierra & Plumas Counties
- Public Works Departments
- NRCS
- Loyalton City Council
- Sierra Pacific Industries
- Sierra Valley Water Company
- Sierra Valley Ground Water Management District
- Plumas County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
- Plumas-Sierra Agricultural Commissioner
- CDF
- RWQCB
- and many more

# Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION WATERSHED COORDINATOR FINAL REPORT 2004 - 2007

State Senate  
District 1 & 14  
State Assembly  
District 10, 15 & 26

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Created 17 conservation plans on 15 ranches or farms encompassing over 6,000 acres of land

Held 3 Ranch Water Quality Monitoring workshops to educate over 60 agriculturists about watershed-friendly production techniques

35 watershed members were trained in water monitoring

Coordinated 3 watershed tours with 36 presenters and approximately 90 people in attendance

Helped agriculturists in applying for and receiving over \$6 million in EQIP, CSP and CRP funding.

Distributed over 1100 conservation brochures including "water-wise planting" and "backyard conservation"

## PARTNERS

- Cosumnes River Task Force
- Sacramento County Farm Bureau
- Local land owners
- NRCS- Sacramento County
- The Nature Conservancy
- Florin RCD
- Lower-Cosumnes RCD
- Amador RCD
- El Dorado RCD
- Rancho Murietta CSD
- City of Elk Grove
- CARCD
- Cosumnes Preserve
- UC Davis
- Elk Grove School District
- Elk Grove Water Service
- El Dorado Irrigation District
- CABY IRWMP and many more



40%  
Matched  
Funding

Grant Award: \$149,044

Funds raised:	
Federal	60,000
State	0
Local	0
Private	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,000</b>

## Managing, Educating, and Improving the Watershed

The Cosumnes River is a unique gem in the state of California because it is the last river on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains without a major diversion. The Watershed Coordinator had the unique opportunity to work with local agriculturists, residents, and agencies to create real change in the watershed. The focus of the three years of DOC funding was restoration, planning and education. In order to guide restoration in an informed manner, the Watershed Coordinator wrote the Cosumnes Watershed Management Plan. The 75 page, document will provide the basis of watershed action over the next decade and will guide the restoration of this highly important watershed. Education and outreach was also very important. Through distributing information at community events, holding workshops for agriculturists, guiding watershed tours, holding public meetings, training citizens in water quality sampling, presenting in local schools and creating educational materials, the Watershed Coordinator educated the public about important watershed issues. With a more informed, engaged citizenry, the watershed is more able to address current issues and react to issues that may arise in the future.

### Watershed Management Plan

In December 2007, the Sloughhouse RCD released a watershed management plan based on over 10 years of assessments. The 75 page, management plan identified all the major issues in the watershed, presented all reasonable solutions to the problems, and outlined a recommended strategy for watershed improvement. The plan was comprehensive enough to provide a framework for implementation. Find the plan at: [www.cosumneswatershed.org](http://www.cosumneswatershed.org)

### Improving Agricultural Practices

Outreach to agriculturists made a big change in the way the watershed works. three ranch water quality management workshops were held to educate agriculturists on better management practices. Presenters from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and University of California Extension Services transferred the latest techniques to agriculturists to encourage them to update practices. The workshops allowed agriculturists to share ideas, resources and advice in both formal and informal dialogue.

### Educating the Watershed

Education and outreach to the watershed was an integral part of the Watershed Coordinator Grant. Over 550 "Backyard Conservation" brochures and over 550 other conservation brochures were distributed to local residents along with technical assistance and advice. Many local residents approached the Watershed Coordinator at local events to ask advice, say thank you for helping them design a better yard, and to receive specific information about local concerns. Community interest in conservation practices was encouraged and strengthened. A Citizen's Water Quality Monitoring Program was initiated and sampling was completed on World Water Quality Monitoring days. Two watershed tours were held to educate citizens about the challenges facing the watershed.

### Contact Info:

9701 Dino Drive, Suite 170  
Elk Grove, CA  
(916) 457-7904

740%  
Matched  
Funding

Grant Award: \$208,100

Funds raised:

Federal	105,876
State	1,153,941
Local	279,906
Private	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,539,723</b>



## Outreach, Planning and Preparedness

The Watershed Coordinators worked hard to get the word out about protecting the watershed and to implement on-the-ground restoration projects. They worked with regional and local partners to increase stakeholder participation in water quality improvement, watershed restoration, watershed education and stakeholder-driven resource management. The workplan for the project expanded and broadened partnerships and strengthened support for multiple watershed projects including the development of a regional landowner watershed education program, the creation of the Yolo Solano Conservation Partnership, a regional agricultural water quality education program, a thriving school watershed education program, a seasonal person-to-person outreach program at Lake Berryessa, and numerous multi-partner restoration projects.

### Welcome to the Watershed

Welcome to the Watershed is a landowner stewardship education program created and facilitated by the Watershed Coordinators. The program includes a personal site visit, a handbook, information (including a website) and a welcome bucket of watershed friendly gadgets and products. Watershed members are invited to a series of workshops on watershed friendly management issues. Welcome to the Watershed targets 100 rural residents each year. The idea is so popular that the program has already expanded into Yolo County. Yolo County now contributes both directed action funding and technical expertise to the program's steering committee meetings, program development, implementation and funding development.

### Flood Awareness

The Watershed Coordinators developed and coordinated a comprehensive flood awareness and preparedness program, supported by the Solano County Water Agency. The Watershed Coordinators developed a flood preparedness manual in English with Spanish translation. Once the manual was complete, they held a series of presentations at local organizations to provide information to local residents. A series of flood awareness articles were posted on the website and submitted to the local press.

### Conservation Planning Workshops

Conservation Planning Workshops are held annually at UC Davis by the Watershed Coordinators. The program pairs landowners with local conservation professionals and landscape architecture students to create a custom conservation plan for their land complete with drawings. The Coordinator recruited 7-12 landowners for each session, and worked with participants to gather all information needed to create a successful plan. At the end of the program, landowners were better able to manage their land in a watershed-friendly way. Over 25 Solano County landowners participated in the program during the grant. Each workshop series is jointly produced by Solano and Yolo County RCDs, in partnership with the UC Davis Landscape Architecture Department.

### Contact Info:

1170 N Lincoln, Ste. 110  
Dixon, CA 95620  
(770) 678-1655 x3  
[www.solanorcd.org](http://www.solanorcd.org)

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Annual participation with 4 high school bio-monitoring and 6 elementary school watershed exploration programs

Facilitated Agricultural Waiver Stewardship Group to improve water quality on 190,000 acres of irrigated farmland

Coordinated more than 1200 volunteers in removing thousands of pounds of trash from Lake Berryessa

Held 4 conservation Planning Workshops

Hosted 3 watershed tours

Created a Flood Preparedness and Prevention Handbook in English and Spanish

Coordinated the Yolo-Solano Conservation Partnership

## PARTNERS

- Fairfield Suisun Sewer District
- Solano County Water Agency
- Napa County Environmental Management
- Solano County Cities
- Yolo County RCD
- Solano Land Trust
- CA Audubon
- Center For Land-based Learning
- Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District
- Vallejo Watershed Alliance
- EPA
- Dixon RCD
- Barryessa Resorts
- Lake Barryessa Chamber of Commerce
- Upper Putah Creek Stewardship
- Solano Irrigation District and many more



# Sonoma Ecology Center

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION WATERSHED COORDINATOR FINAL REPORT 2004 - 2007

State Senate  
District 2 & 3  
State Assembly  
District 6 & 7

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Made 79 site visits to streamside properties to promote better management

Held 10 "Creek Salons" in a high-priority reach develop a rehabilitation plan

Created concept designs and permitting on 2 fish passages

Updated maintenance practices on 600 acres of erosive hillside

Held a middle school native planting event

Created the North Bay Watershed Network

Monitored water quality and base flows all three years of the grant

## PARTNERS

- Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District
- Sonoma County Water Agency
- City of Sonoma
- Sonoma County Public Works, Roads Department
- Landowners and Residents
- Department of Fish and Game
- US Geological Society
- North Bay Watershed Association, council and network
- Sonoma Creek Watershed Conservancy
- Bay Area Open Space Council
- SWRCB
- Coastal Conservancy
- California ReLeaf
- CALFED
- San Francisco Foundation
- Bella Vista Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation



1401%  
Matched  
Funding

Grant Award: \$155,193

Funds raised:

Federal	0
State	2,050,815
Local	0
Private	123,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,173,815</b>

## Providing Technical Support for a Healthier Creek

The Sonoma Creek Watershed Coordinators accomplished a tremendous amount in three years. They provided technical assistance to hundreds of landowners and residents; teamed with local agencies and landowners to develop large-scale restoration projects; obtained significant funding for future projects; improved the quality, coordination, and representation of several governance processes; helped the community understand and respond to the largest flood event on record; and increased the number of miles of accessible steelhead spawning habitat. The watershed is functioning in a much more natural way thanks to the efforts of the Watershed Coordinators.

### Providing Assistance to Landowners

The Watershed Coordinators provided extensive advice on improving instream fish habitat, helped landowners work with permitting agencies and contractors, made referrals to native plant nurseries, helped landowners compare streambank options, assisted landowners in planning drip irrigation and native plantings, developed and distributed a Stream Stewards manual filled with information, held 10 "Creek Salons" to receive and convey information for reach-scale stream rehabilitation projects, connected interested landowners with each other, and helped organize stewardship groups in 6 locations. The watershed is 85% privately owned, so voluntary, informed actions hold the most hope for a future healthy watershed.

### Large Scale Restoration Projects

Restoration projects included a flood reduction/groundwater recharge/habitat improvement/ bridge protection project on Sonoma Creek in Kenwood. This project capitalized on a very energetic stewardship group that was built there. The Watershed Coordinator

also completed a riparian weed removal and revegetation project along Sonoma Creek; a riparian weed removal/ revegetation/ flood reduction project on a vineyard on lower Sonoma Creek; and a riparian revegetation/ environmental education/ flood reduction project on Nathanson Creek in the City of Sonoma. The watershed is looking a lot more natural thanks to the efforts of the Watershed Coordinators

### Helping with Flood Response

The Watershed Coordinators helped the community respond to one of the largest flood events in history. They met onsite with numerous landowners; explained the hydrological history behind the flood; demonstrated onsite evidence of past similar flooding; explained the tangle of agency responsibility; developed habitat-friendly approaches to restoration that were satisfactory to landowners and regulatory agencies; and helped landowner groups at 4 sites accomplish debris removal projects. They also held a well-attended public forum to elicit community goals for water management and to convey the connection between slowing runoff and reduced flood and drought risk.

### Contact Info:

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(707) 996-0712

[www.sonomaecologycenter.org](http://www.sonomaecologycenter.org)

# Stockton East Water District

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION WATERSHED COORDINATOR FINAL REPORT 2004 - 2007

89%  
Matched  
Funding

Grant Award: \$106,472

Funds raised:

Federal	0
State	0
Local	95,266
Private	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,266</b>



## Community Building for Watershed Health

The DOC Watershed Coordinator grant allowed the Stockton East Water District to implement short-term and long-term watershed goals included in the collaborative creation of a Watershed Management Plan. The main goals of the plan were “to ensure ongoing community involvement in the watershed planning and management process..., providing community education, keeping the community informed on progress made in improving water quantity and quality and habitat function.” The Watershed Coordinator provided a mechanism for stakeholders to work in collaboration in an efficient manner to achieve common watershed goals. This grant provided an opportunity to form new partnerships, develop old partnerships, reach out to the public and allowed stakeholders to be part of managing the watershed where they live and work

### Watershed Stewardship Group

The Watershed Coordinator established a watershed stewardship group, known as the Calaveras River Watershed Stewardship Group (CRWSG) which encourages preservation and proper management of the Lower Calaveras River Watershed through watershed-wide cooperation between landowners, water users, recreational users, conservation groups, and local, state, and federal agencies. The Watershed Coordinator provided the framework for group development and facilitated the creation of a mission, goals, and decision making process. The CRWSG developed a Watershed Implementation Plan (2007) to function as an adaptive management tool that identifies and prioritizes watershed improvement and monitoring projects that will achieve the Lower Calaveras River Watershed Stewardship Group’s long-range goals.

### Community Outreach and Education

The Watershed Coordinator has made community outreach and education a priority in the watershed. Before the existence of a Watershed Coordinator and the formation of a watershed stewardship group, most residents of Stockton weren’t aware that there is a river running through the city. That has changed with the visibility of CRWSG, watershed events, increased media coverage, and public education. The Calaveras River Watershed Coordinator created an educational watershed website for the CRWSG ([www.calaverasriver.com](http://www.calaverasriver.com)) which contains regular updates of recent meeting agendas, meeting notes, presentations, calendar of events, educational material, news articles, fisheries reports, and documents of interest to the stewardship group.

### Building Community Partnerships

The community is more engaged thank to The Watershed Coordinator. New partnerships were formed, old partnerships were further developed and community processes brought together various agencies in common goal. The Watershed Coordinator is attempting to expand the coordination area of focus into the upper watershed, form an upper watershed stewardship group, and form a watershed-wide citizen’s water quality monitoring coalition.

### Contact Info:

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(209) 948-0333

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Formed a watershed group representing 20 organizations

Mapped invasive species in the watershed

Created a Citizen Water Quality Monitoring program

Conducted 6 river cleanup events with 600 attendees removing 50,000 pounds of debris

Hosted 3 watershed tours

Developed a “Lower Calaveras Watershed Implementation Plan”

Created a research monitoring and watershed improvement database

## PARTNERS

- Calaveras River Watershed Stewardship Group
- Stockton East Water District
- Calaveras County Water District
- Fishbio Environmental
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Anadromous Fish Restoration Program
- Department of Fish and Game
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Water Quality Control Board
- San Joaquin County
- Calaveras County
- City of Stockton
- University of the Pacific
- Delta Community College
- Deltakeeper
- Fishery Foundation
- Central Sierra RC&D
- Peace and Justice Network
- Stockton Urban Waterway