

Department of Conservation

Resource Conservation District Watershed Coordinator Grant Program



Upper Merced River, Mariposa County

**Sixth Quarter Report
June 30, 2004**

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



Summary of Grant Program

This report, covering the period of July 1, 2002 to March 31, 2004, constitutes the sixth and final report for the 2002 Watershed Coordinator Grant Program. Funding from the California Bay-Delta Authority allowed DOC to extend 18 of the grants from the pilot Watershed Coordinator Grant Program for a period of 18 months. Of the original 30 grants, 21 fell within the CALFED Solution Area and were eligible for funding; however, only 18 requested to be refunded. Three of the grantees had secured enough funding to become self-sufficient and declined additional support. The remaining 9 original grantees from the pilot program fell outside of the CALFED Solution Area and were not eligible for additional funding.

Information received from the grantees has been reviewed by the DOC staff, and is presented in this report. Also included at the end of this report are three tables. Table 1 summarizes the total amount of additional funding obtained by the grantees, Table 2 lists the political districts covered by each grantee, and Table 3 shows progress on work plan objectives and performance measures.

The grantee reports are formatted as individual fact sheets and are listed alphabetically. For each grant, progress on objectives and performance measures, as well as benefits to the watershed are listed. Please refer to the individual fact sheets for details.

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

- ◆ **Over \$14.5 million in additional watershed funding was obtained by the watershed coordinators.** This amount is \$7.9 million more than was reported last quarter. This additional funding is the result of grant writing and fund-raising activities conducted by the coordinators. This money would have gone to other purposes or even to other states without the efforts of the coordinators. With \$1.1 million paid for coordinator costs, this represents an impressive **13:1 return on investment**.
- ◆ **Seventy percent (50 out of 71) of the work plan objectives were completed.** These objectives included completing on-the-ground and educational projects, establishing new watershed groups, and obtaining new project funding. Many of the remaining objectives were long-term and are still in progress.
- ◆ **Established 18 new watershed stewardship or working groups.**
- ◆ **Coordinated the completion of 53 on-the-ground projects.**
- ◆ **Established 108 new water quality/quantity monitoring sites.**
- ◆ **Assisted with the implementation of 64 best management practices.**
- ◆ **Helped to develop watershed conservation plans for landowners/farmers.**
- ◆ **Coordinated the removal of invasive species from over 217 acres of land.**

Cachuma Resource Conservation District

Santa Maria River and Cuyama River Watershed



Amount Funded: \$68,500

Match Provided: \$45,179

Additional Funding Obtained: \$118,000

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.

- Watershed working groups in Oso Flaco, San Antonio and Carpinteria Creeks are ready to implement their watershed plans. Portions of the plans that do not require outside funding have begun. Cachuma RCD's irrigation mobile lab and the NRCS EQIP program are both being promoted in these watersheds.



Demonstration of drip-tape splicing, which allows tape to be re-used for up to 10 crops.

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

- Watershed plans for Oso Flaco, San Antonio and Carpinteria Creeks are complete. Water conservation practices are included in each plan as follows:
 - The Oso Flaco Creek plan relies heavily on farmers utilizing the mobile irrigation lab to evaluate their irrigation systems. Mobile lab evaluations often lead to the farmers using less irrigation water and having less runoff.
 - The San Antonio Creek plan includes irrigation water management as a recommended practice for the vineyards and vegetable farms in the watershed. Erosion control structures are recommended for repair and installation, which will reduce sedimentation and improve water quality.
 - Carpinteria Creek's plan includes a recommendation for use of the irrigation mobile lab and conversion to more efficient micro-sprinkler irrigation systems, which will conserve water and reduce runoff. Practices that will reduce spraying in the riparian zones are also included in the plan.

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

- The pre-sidedress soil nitrate quick test has been recommended to the farmers in the Oso Flaco Creek Watershed. Two farmers are incorporating this practice into their operations and are managing nitrogen fertilizers in a more conscientious manner.

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

- The San Antonio Creek Plan contains recommendations that will result in the installation of new and the repair of old grade control structures. When implemented, sediment delivery to the creek should be reduced by the 30% goal.

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

- There are five low-water crossings that have been identified for removal; however, it will be at least another year before any of the barriers are removed.

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

- The San Jose Creek Stakeholder Group met once during the fifth quarter and its watershed plan is in draft form.
- The Gaviota Creek Watershed Work Group will have its first meeting this winter.

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

- The San Antonio Creek and the Oso Flaco Creek watershed plans are completed and contain numerous water quality improvements and methods to conserve water.

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

- The irrigation mobile lab has provided seven water conservation workshops in three new watersheds. These presentations resulted in ten additional mobile lab evaluations. Recommendations from these evaluations will help participating landowners decrease water application on their land.

Additional Funding Obtained:

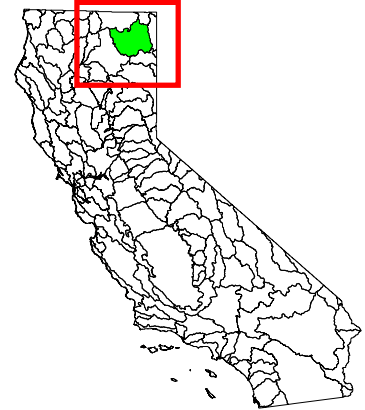
- A contract has been signed with the California State Parks to produce the Gaviota Watershed Plan Project (\$82,000).
- The California Coastal Conservancy awarded the district funds to conduct a hydrologic study of the lower reaches of the Santa Maria River (\$22,000).
- The Cachuma Lake Conservation and Release Board awarded Cachuma RCD \$10,000 to oversee the construction of fish ladders in tributaries of the Santa Ynez River.
- The Land Trust of Santa Barbara agreed to provide funding for the preparation of an erosion control plan for the Arroyo Hondo Creek Watershed (\$4,000).

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

- 48 farms have been mapped in the Oso Flaco Creek Watershed and Individual Farm Plans are being produced by nine of the operators at those farms.
- San Jose Creek has an active watershed work group that will finalize their watershed management plan in 2004.
- 92 irrigation evaluations were conducted by the Mobile Irrigation Lab.
- A watershed-working group is now active in Gaviota Creek Watershed.
- Over 14 different organizations and agencies have cooperated with Cachuma RCD on watershed projects.

Central Modoc Resource Conservation District

Upper Pit River Watershed



Amount Funded: \$66,400
Match Provided: \$18,100
Additional Funding Obtained: \$1,496,330
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 12 regularly scheduled meetings of the Pit River Watershed Alliance (PRWA) Watershed Assessment Committee during this grant and responded to calls for information.
- Provided input in to the development of the assessment. The “Technical Review Draft” of the assessment was reviewed, and comments were forwarded to the Assessment contractor.

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

- Attended 12 team meetings.

Objective 2: Contribute to watershed wide GIS database.

- GPS data for new monitoring locations was collected and is to be incorporated into the PRWA Water Quality Monitoring GIS layers.
- Consolidated past and current CMRCD watershed data.
- Compiled raw data for the watershed.

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.

- Coordinated a botanical survey of the Upper Pit River.
- Established 12 new monitoring locations on the Pit River and its tributaries. Initial data collection began in December.
- Developed contracts to fund the monitoring projects.
- Assisted the Watershed Alliance Monitoring Committee with the development of monitoring plans and budgets.



Modoc National Wildlife Refuge,
Alturas, CA

- Obtained access permission for numerous private land sampling sites.
- Trained staff and coordinated staff time to provide for data collection.
- Assisted in data collection.

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

- 12 new monitoring sites were established.

Objective 2: Compile baseline vegetation data for project sites with emphasis on revegetation success and noxious weeds.

- Completed botanical surveys for 3 different re-vegetation projects. The coordinator is currently assisting with preparing survey reports.

Performance Measure: Re-vegetation data for two project sites.

- Botanical surveys were conducted for three different re-vegetation project sites.

Goal 3: Continued implementation of demonstration watershed restoration projects.

Objective 1: Initiate Proposition 13 Projects.

- The Prop. 13 contract was approved in February 2003.
- Over a mile of riparian fencing was put in place over the summer. Re-vegetation work will begin in spring 2004.

Performance Measure: Completed signed Prop. 13 contract.

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

Objective 2: Initiate Cantara Foundation Projects.

- The Cantara Foundation grant consists of seven individual projects.
- The following work was conducted on the seven projects:
 - 1. South Fork Pit River - Talbott Project: The coordinator obtained all the required permits for this project. Most excavation and revegetation were completed in fall 2003. Additional revegetation efforts continued as planned in the spring and summer of 2004.
 - 2. Nader-Witcher Creek: The coordinator obtained all necessary permits for this project. Work is set to proceed under supervision of CMRCD project coordination staff as soon as field conditions allow.
 - 3. Gleason Creek Fences: This riparian fencing project is complete. Additional work may be added to the project if any Cantara funds remain at the end of the other projects.
 - 4. Bushey Ranch - Turner Creek: This project was removed from the active list of projects in November 2003 at the request of the landowners. The reason cited was the landowners inability to economically manage required grazing elements. Several substitute project proposals are under consideration.
 - 5. Heard Ranch & Valena Ranch/Pit River: Riparian fencing is complete at this project area, with a mile of the Pit River now protected through better livestock management.

The coordinator has continued site visits with design consultants to refine the planned project's details. Development of the proposed revegetation sites occurred in early 2004 and installation is planned for later in the year.

- 6. DJ Ranch, Parker Creek banks: No new activity.
- 7. Weber Parker Creek fish habitat structure: Permitting has been approved for this project. Construction was planned to begin as soon as weather permitted.

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

- The Scope of Work and contract were finalized and signed on September 30, 2003.
- Project designs were drafted and finalized for the Weber Ranch-Parker Creek fish habitat structure and the Nader-Witcher Creek Restoration Project.
- Permits were obtained for the South Fork Pit River Tallbott Project, the Nader-Witcher Creek Restoration Project, the Bushey Ranch project on Turner Creek, and the Weber Parker Creek fish habitat structure project.
- The Gleason Creek fencing project was completed. The Heard Ranch & Valena Ranch/Pit River: Riparian fencing was also completed resulting in a mile of the Pit River now protected through better livestock management.

Objective 3: Develop New Project Proposals

Work under this objective is dependant on funding from a Prop. 13 Phase 2 grant from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). Notification of the award of this Prop. 13 grant was received early in the life of the DOC grant. Four draft "Scope of Work" and budget forms were submitted, reviewed by SWRCB, and returned for revision. Each return included new problems not mentioned in previous reviews. In some cases, subsequent reviews requested changes to previously recommended elements that returned the text to a form that was near the original submission. At the time the grantee submitted their sixth quarter report, they had submitted a draft 5 that appeared to be acceptable to SWRCB. The Prop. 13 grant was executed on April 15, 2004.

Despite the delay in funding, the following work took place on the projects funded through the Prop. 13 grant:

- The X-L Cemetery Reach project: Detailed work on this project was delayed pending the start of expected Prop 13 Phase 2 funding. Communication with tribal staff continued.
- No activity took place on the Dry Creek Fencing project because of the funding delay.
- The coordinator supervised the collection of site assessment data for the Clark Property project. Project planning proceeded when funding was secured.
- The landowners involved with the Cedotal Project decided not to proceed with the project: The coordinator anticipates working with Mr. Cedotal and the I'Sot community to improve watershed and riparian management on their lands in the future.
- Other new project proposals developed by the coordinator include:

- Treatment of bank erosion associated with seasonal inundation at irrigation diversions on the North Fork Pit River at the Schluter Ranch. Funding for engineering studies of this difficult site was secured through a new Prop. 13 grant.
- Treatment of an incised spring fed channel to improve wetland function on an un-named tributary to the South Fork Pit River.
- Treatment of a channelized reach of the South Fork Pit River. Funding for this project was secured through a new Prop. 13 grant.
- Treatment of a channelized reach including rehabilitation of old meander channels on the Pit River (in association with Modoc NWR). Funding for this project was secured through a new Prop. 13 grant.

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.

- Held three Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings.
- Disseminated three TAC newsletters to over 150 stakeholders. The newsletter provides information about projects taking place within the watershed.
- Put most CMRCD watershed project photos on their website at <http://cmrcd.carcd.org>
- Attended the regularly scheduled Pit River Watershed Alliance meetings and maintained contact with all PRWA participants to ensure coordination of efforts.
- Maintained communication with the Modoc County Noxious Weed Working Group and attended most of their regularly scheduled meetings.
- Worked with the PRWA coordinator to visit past and current project sites, to develop grant proposals, to obtain project permits, and to coordinate efforts.



The watershed coordinator assists in data collection at Canyon Creek Dec. 2003.

Performance Measure: Minutes of three TAC meetings. Complete six TAC newsletters. Maintained TAC website link. Attend eight meetings of PRWA, MNWWG, documentation of cooperation with PRWA coordinator.

- The coordinator conducted three TAC meetings, completed three TAC newsletters, attended nine Alliance meetings, and five 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.

- Conducted site visits to Pit River Land and Cattle Co., the Silvestri property, and the Hagedorn/Morris property.
- Staffed the Modoc County Fair watershed booth to provide Modoc County residents with information about the Pit River watershed.
- Contacted the Modoc High Natural Resources Academy advisor to develop watershed education activities for the new school year.

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

- The coordinator has assisted with developing an educational program for high school students, conducted one watershed restoration workshop, assisted in three outreach events and conducted 27 site visits.

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

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

- The coordinator obtained \$1,496,330 in new funding.

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

- Submitted a total of eight 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.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

- The USFW provided an additional \$15,000 of funding for a bank stabilization project.
- Received \$585,580 in additional funding through a Prop. 13 Phase II grant. This funding will support assessment, outreach, and planning activities within the watershed.
- Obtained a \$700,000 grant for the Upper Pit River Watershed Enhancement and Protection Project that will fund various watershed restoration activities. The project will be funded through the Prop. 13 Non-point Source Program.
- Obtained a \$196,330 grant from the DOC to fund a watershed coordinator position for the Upper Pit River.

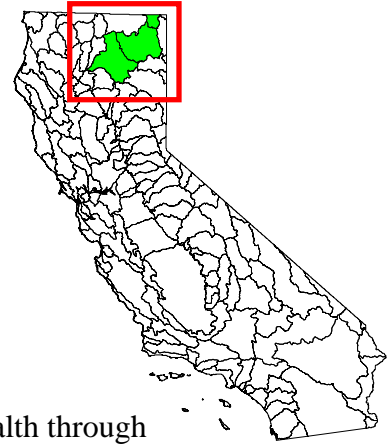
Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

- Established 12 new monitoring locations on the Pit River and its tributaries.
- Obtained access permission for numerous private land sampling sites.
- Obtained permits to implement four separate watershed improvement projects.
- Project designs were drafted and finalized for constructing a fish habitat structure and for implementing a restoration project on the Nader-Witcher Creek.
- Completed a fencing project on Gleason Creek.

- Riparian fencing was also completed on a mile stretch of the Pit River resulting in better livestock management within the watershed.
- Obtained stakeholder support for watershed improvement efforts by conducting site visits to 27 landowners, by frequently communicating with landowners, and by conducting outreach.
- Obtained \$1,496,330 in grant funding to conduct a wide variety of watershed improvement projects.

Central Modoc Resource Conservation District

Goose Lake, Upper & Lower Pit River Watersheds



Amount Funded: \$62,500
Match Provided: \$23,400
Additional Funding Obtained: \$945,000
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.

- Facilitated 10 Pit River Watershed Alliance meetings during this grant.
- Initiated a Pit River Internet discussion group to allow for increased communication among watershed stakeholders.
- Held a 3-day irrigated agriculture water quality short course Fall 2003. The short course focused on a variety of topics including, water quality monitoring, irrigation water effects on water quality, minimizing nonpoint source pollution, and new regulations.
- Maintained the Pit River Watershed Alliance interactive website.
- Initiated a Yahoo discussion group for the Pit River Watershed Alliance. The group is used to announce events within the watershed. The discussion group has resulted in a greater amount of communication between watershed partners and stakeholders.
- The coordinator has distributed a total of 437 PRWA brochures since the start of this grant.



Pit River Water Quality Monitoring Field Day

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

- 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. The MOU now includes a total of 27 signatories.

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

- Helped the Pit RCD obtain a \$320,000 EPA 319(h) grant that will allow them to hire a watershed coordinator. The coordinator will supervise the implementation of several stream restoration projects.

- Obtained a \$305,000 Prop. 13 CALFED Watershed Program grant to fund a Pit River Watershed Assessment.
- Helped the North Cal Neva RC&D obtain a \$95,000 grant from the Dept. of Water Resources to fund a water quality monitoring coordinator.
- Worked with representatives from the North Cal-Neva RC&D and CMRCD to develop a funding strategy for the Pit River Watershed “River Center”.
- Collaborated with the Pit River Tribe to develop a grant proposal that would fund research based restoration to analyze various methods of minimizing nonpoint source pollution.
- Received an \$18,000 challenge grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for further development of the Alliance website.

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

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

Objective 3: Coordinate Pit River Watershed Alliance projects.

- Helped initiate and coordinate the Pit River Water Quality Monitoring Program. The program includes a total of 52 monitoring sites on the main stem of the Pit River and 18 tributaries. Due to the success of the program, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board asked PRWA to expand their monitoring program to include the Fall River, a neighboring watershed.
- 12 water-quality monitoring sites were established in the Fall River watershed. Monitoring began in September.
- Coordinated the Fall River water-quality monitoring program.
- Held several Watershed Assessment Subcommittee meetings to provide the consultant with direction in the completion of the watershed assessment. The consultant has since developed a draft watershed assessment, which is currently being reviewed by the technical review team.
- Coordinated the PRWA Watershed Monitoring Field Day. This field day provided stakeholders with an opportunity to tour current monitoring locations on the Pit River and Ash Creek. Stakeholders and agencies also had the chance to exchange monitoring information and ideas.
- The coordinator is currently working on a watershed inventory of all restoration projects within the watershed.



PRWA contractor testing water quality on Fall River, Shasta Co.

Performance Measure: Three projects are identified.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

CVRWQCB SWAMP Program (plus Fall River monitoring contract amendment)

- Total funding amount: \$82,000

DWR Monitoring Coordinator Position

- Total funding amount: \$204,000

Prop. 13 CALFED Watershed Program

- Obtained a \$305,000 to fund a Pit River Watershed Assessment.

EPA 319(h)

- Helped the Pit RCD obtain a \$320,000 grant that will allow them to hire a watershed coordinator. The coordinator will supervise the implementation of several stream restoration projects.

Funding Obtained for Website and Capacity Building:

USFS Interactive Watershed Website Funding

- Total funding amount: \$15,000

Modoc National Forest

- Total funding amount: \$15,000

North Cal-Neva RC&D

- Total funding amount: \$4,000

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

The PRWA Watershed Monitoring Program was initiated and is currently underway. This program consists of multiple government and state agencies working together to strategically monitor 52 tributary and Pit River main stem sites, as well as 12 sites on the Fall River. This coordination effort has been a major accomplishment for the entire Pit River watershed.

The Pit River Watershed Assessment is currently under public review and will be completed soon. The Assessment will help guide future management watershed decisions for many years to come.

The coordinator helped obtain \$945,000 in funding to conduct watershed improvement projects.

Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

Central Coastal Watershed

Amount Funded: \$60,024
Match Provided: \$80,459
Additional Funding Obtained: \$1,558,656
Watershed Coordinator: Deborah Barker



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.

- Coordinated the completion of the Implementation and Maintenance agreement for the Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve (CCER). The CCER will be used as a demonstration site for conservation practices and restoration practices. The coordinator began working with Morro Bay National Estuary Program staff to revise the Interim Management Plan. The coordinator will continue her work on the development of this site.
- The Partners in Restoration Permit Coordination Program was developed during the life of this grant as a one-stop regulatory permit process for farmers and ranchers that want to implement conservation practices on their land. The PIR program has been used for four conservation projects in the Morro Bay watershed.
- During the life of the grant the coordinator assisted landowners in the completion of the following projects:
 - Fencing and water development on Warden Creek.
 - Cross fencing and water development on Hollister Peak Ranch and no San Luisito Creek.
 - An emergency snag removal project on Los Osos Creek.
 - Three crossing replacement, bank stabilization, riparian buffer and instream flow augmentation projects on Chorro and San Bernardo Creeks.
 - Two snag removal projects on Warden Creek.
 - A fencing project on Warden Creek.
 - A grade stabilization project on Warde Creek.
 - A Los Osos Creek corridor improvement project.
 - A snag removal on Los Osos Creek.
 - A Los Osos Creek sediment removal and steelhead passage project.
 - A Los Osos Creek critical area planting project.
 - Easement appraisals
- The coordinator also initiated several other projects that are currently in process. Projects currently underway include:
 - The Chorro Creek bank stabilization project.

- Projects on the Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve, including a fencing project that began in February 2004.
- A weed clearing and revegetation project at Chorro Flats. This project will remove non-native weeds and replace them with native grasses and flowers.
- A Chorro Flats Roadside weed removal and revegetation project.
- The Pennington and Dairy Creek Fish Barrier Removal projects. The coordinator facilitated the initiation of the design process for these two projects. These projects will provide steelhead with increased access to high quality habitat in the upper watershed.
- The coordinator facilitated the start of a grazing management plan for a ranch that spans the San Bernardo Creek and San Luisito Creek watersheds. This plan will result in the installation of 6,000 feet of fencing, eight water troughs, and three water tanks.
- In the Los Osos Valley, the coordinator initiated the design phase for the installation of two sediment basins.
- Helped develop a grazing management plan for a ranch on San Bernardo Creek. The plan will eventually result in the installation of 18,000 feet of fencing, two wells, pumps, several troughs, and several water tanks.
- Currently helping to develop a ranch management plan on Escuela Ranch that will result in a stream crossing improvement.
- Several projects are being developed on the Arroyo Grande Creek that will include the repair or replacement of out-dated and poorly functioning irrigation systems. These projects will help improve water use efficiency in the watershed and serve as demonstration sites for successful conservation projects.

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).

- Participated in the presentation of 11 UCCE short courses. 112 landowners participated in the courses.
- Contacted 39 landowners.
- Installed 32 conservation practices to date.
- Assisted 21 landowners in obtaining cost share funds.
- Obtained 9 permits so far.
- Completed coordinated permitting program for Morro Bay Partners in Restoration.

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

- Coordinated several farm tours, field days, and workshops to demonstrate the effectiveness of conservation practices. The events took place on both private and public lands.

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.
- Seventeen landowners documented benefits that resulted from conservation practices.
- Conducted ten tours or field days throughout the watershed.
- Provided NRCS with six regulatory referrals.

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

- Coordinated watershed activities of the RCD and the MBNEP. Including the development of the Los Osos Creek Management Plan, The Los Osos Creek Wetland Reserve Management Plan, Project Clearwater, and several other MBNEP projects.
- Provided assistance to the Arroyo Grande Watershed Forum and assisted UCCE with the development of the Arroyo Grande Watershed Management Plan.
- Helped to re-establish the Zone 1/1A Flood Control Advisory Committee. The coordinator is continuing to work with this group to develop a plan and find funding sources for the Arroyo Grande Creek channel.

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).

- Assisted in the development of four watershed stewardship groups.
- Encouraged landowners to attend 19 watershed stewardship group meetings.
- Conducted three education events.
- Developed ten farm/ranch plans.
- RCD members have attended 33 watershed stewardship group and/or governmental agency meetings.
- Submitted six proposals to obtain funding for watershed stewardship group projects.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

Arroyo Grande Creek Water Quality Enhancement Project

- Description: Technical support and cost share funds to implement conservation projects on agricultural land. Funding organization: State Water Resources Control Board. Funding amount: \$102,538 (319h). Approved for funding: 11/2003

Project Clearwater-Morro Bay

- Description: Technical support and cost-share funds to implement conservation practices on agricultural land. Funding organization: State Water Resources Control Board. Funding amount: \$500,000. (319h). Approved for funding 10/2003.

Project Clearwater-Morro Bay

- Description: Technical support and cost-share funds to implement conservation practices on agricultural land. Funding organization: Morro Bay National Estuary Program. Funding amount: \$499,562. Approved for funding: 10/2002.

DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant-Grant # 3003-557

- Description: Improve water quality, water use efficiency, ecosystem quality, and soil conservation through out the watershed. Funding amount: \$165,977. Approved for funding : 3/2004

Mobile Water Quality Laboratory

- Description: Irrigation systems evaluations for landowners to improve water quality and water use efficiency. The lab is shared with the Upper Salinas Los Tables and Cachuma RCDs. Funding organization: Cachuma RCD. Funding amount: \$15,000/year for three years. Total funding \$45,000. Funding approved: 8/2003

Dixon and Searcy Ranches Conservation Easement Monitoring

- Description: The RCD will conduct annual inspections of these ranches to document compliance with easement requirements and conditions. Funding organization: Dixon and Searcy Ranches. Funding amount: \$5,000. Funding approved: 11/2002.

City of Arroyo Grande Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Review

- Description: The RCD has signed a contract with the City to check development plans for erosion control and sedimentation control during and after project construction. Funding organization: Developer fees billed by the City of Arroyo Grande. Funding amount: \$5,000. Funding approved: 8/2002.

Arroyo Grande Watershed Management Plan

- Description: The coordinator worked with Central Coast Salmon Enhancement on this grant. The purpose of the grant is to develop a watershed management plan for Arroyo Grande Creek which includes habitat assessment, hydrological surveys, and geological studies of the watershed. The coordinator will assist with the studies and plan development. The grant will provide funding for the coordinators time on the project. Funding organization: CA Dept. of Fish and Game. Funding amount: \$173,341. Funding approved: 11/2002.

Total amount of funding approved = \$1,558,656.

Total amount of proposals not funded = \$3,013,528.

Total value of all grant proposals submitted = \$4,572,184.

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

The grant was effective because it provided funding for a staff member to work on a wide variety of projects within the watershed. The watershed coordinator was able to provide technical assistance for project design, permitting, and obtain grant funds for public and private

landowners in several watersheds. The watersheds the coordinator worked within have benefited as follows:

Morro Bay Watershed

- Chorro Creek Ecological Reserve Interim Management Plan completed – Phase 1 is being implemented.
- Los Osos Creek Wetland Reserve Management Plan complete.
- Stream Crossing Inventory and Fish Passage Evaluation completed.
- Partners in Restoration Permit Streamlining Program completed and being used for projects in the watershed.
- Several conservation projects that include numerous BMP's have been installed on public and private lands.
- Several demonstration sites have been developed in the watershed.
- Several new projects are in the design/development phase.
- The coordinator has a strong working relationship with the MBNEP that has helped provide additional grant funding for conservation projects.
- Tours of successful projects are given to landowners, agency staff, and watershed stewardship groups. Chorro flats is used as a demonstration site by local colleges and K-12 schools in the RCD.

Arroyo Grande Creek Watershed

- Increased public awareness of watershed and stream dynamics.
- The coordinator is involved in the planning and design process for several irrigation improvement projects in the watershed. These projects will improve water use efficiency.
- The coordinator is participating in several watershed and flood management groups to solve flooding, sedimentation, and erosion problems in the watershed.
- The City of Arroyo Grande is consulting with the RCD on erosion control measures for new developments. They are incorporating the coordinators recommendations into the City building permit process.

Pismo Lake Watershed

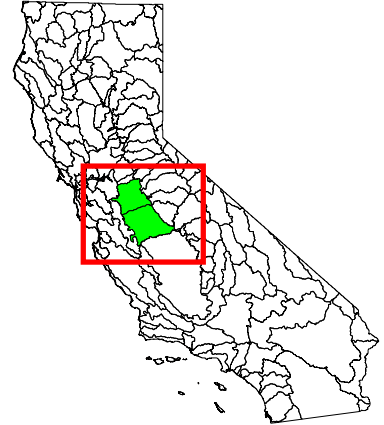
- Pismo Lake Watershed Enhancement Plan completed.

Osos Flaco Lake Watershed

- A technical advisory committee for the Oso Flaco Lake Nonpoint Source Pollutant Assessment Project has been established.

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

Additional Funding Obtained: \$286,957

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 (MRS) Group from a single project focus to a watershed group.

- The Merced River Stakeholders Group has successfully transitioned into a viable watershed group. The group meets every other month and has adopted a mission statement, goals and objectives.
- The MRS co-sponsored a stream bank stabilization workshop with Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) during the fifth quarter. Implementation of certain Best Management Practices (BMPs) taught at the workshop have been delayed due to permitting costs and requirements; however, a grant to develop a river-wide master coordinated permit process was submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board and is pending review. The MRS also co-sponsored a watershed fair designed to celebrate the Merced River and share watershed facts with the public. Approximately 250 people attended the fair.
- Four grant applications were submitted during the grant period.

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.

- Co-sponsored Streambank Stabilization Workshop (30 attended) and Farmscapes (beneficial hedgerows) Workshop (35 attended).
- Planned and conducted a two-day workshop on water quality monitoring. Secured 25 water quality testing kits from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which were distributed to landowners. Unfortunately, the water quality monitoring program could not be fully

implemented due to stakeholder concerns over regulatory penalties. However, SWRCB's repeal of the Agriculture Waiver Program has helped to overcome this initial hesitancy. The program is still in progress, with a commitment from USFWS to provide additional training on use of the test kits.

- A proposal was submitted to the SWRCB under its Proposition 13 grant program. If awarded, the grant would fund a K–12 water quality education/monitoring program.

Performance Measures: 1) Provide 30 stakeholders with water monitoring training and monitoring kits by August 2003 then 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.

- All reports were submitted on a timely basis and the coordinator attended three conferences related to watershed issues.
- A proposal was submitted to the DOC under its 2004 Watershed Coordinator Grant Program.

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.

Additional Funding Obtained:

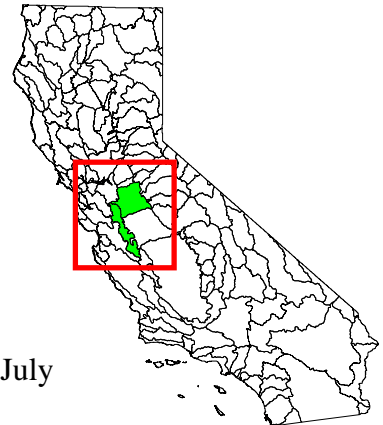
- Awarded a DOC 2004 Watershed Coordinator grant in the amount of \$286,957.

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

- The grant is absolutely responsible for the ongoing existence and efficacy of the lower Merced River Stakeholder (MRS) group. Without neutral facilitation and leadership in pursuing funding and collaboration between members, the previously highly contentious group would not have been able to stay together, let alone achieve the metamorphosis from a restoration plan-focused public participation group to a functioning multi-issue watershed group.
- The MRS group has contributed to CALFED's goals in the watershed by becoming a high-profile forum for coordination and problem solving. The group made a concerted effort to focus agencies and groups within the watershed on pursuing funding for stakeholder approved priorities. The group also encouraged a collaborative approach among educators and saw Adopt a Watershed, River of Words, and the Merced River Education Initiative begin to work with MRS to eliminate duplication of effort and to support each others programs.

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: \$906,610

Watershed Coordinator: Audrey Johnson (replaced Norman Crow in July 2003)

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.

- East Stanislaus RCD partnered with UC Cooperative Extension and Marsha Campbell-Mathews to support research regarding dairy waste management. The watershed coordinator has provided assistance in the grant process for the research project.
- The watershed coordinator is on the technical advisory committee for East San Joaquin Valley Water Coalition (ESJVWC). The coalition is providing outreach to local farmers to educate them about the current Regional Water Quality Control Board guidelines.

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

- Assisted 32 growers request and receive funding to implement BMPs through NRCS' EQIP program.

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

- No activity this quarter.

Performance Measure: Number of landowners that participate in irrigation scheduling short course (1 workshop). Number and extent of conservation practices installed (ten 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 (one proposal submitted).

- Approximately 100 landowners attended the irrigation workshop.
- 17 growers participated in the Total Irrigation Management program representing over 900 acres of irrigated land.

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

- The watershed coordinator is assisting West Stanislaus RCD monitor conservation easements.

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).

- The Agriculture Waiver Program instituted by the RWQCB resulted in the creation of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority and East San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority. Growers are joining these two organizations in response to the new mandates. As a result, a watershed stewardship group was not formed.

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.

- Monitoring continues on the flow and salinity stations installed in concert with the RWQCB.

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

- Eleven monitoring sites were established.
- A website was established to assist monitors track real-time water quality status in the monitored areas.

Additional Funding Obtained:

The following additional funds were received during the grant period:

- CALFED Drinking Water Grant Program
Orestimba Creek Watershed Agricultural Water Quality Pilot Program
Amount funded: \$285,000
- CALFED Drinking Water Grant Program
Dairy Nutrient Management Program
Amount Funded: \$271,930 with matching federal funds (319h) of \$349,680

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

- The Total Irrigation Management (TIM) workshops and outreach resulted in growers establishing an irrigation scheduling technique for their crops. Three growers found that they used too much water on their land. This project will continue for another year.

**Mariposa County
Resource Conservation District
Upper Merced River Watershed**



Amount Funded: \$68,400

Match Provided: \$24,800

Additional Funding Obtained: \$398,641

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.

- Conducted a second Rangeland Water Quality Short Course in December. The training was co-sponsored by UC Cooperative Extension, NRCS and the Upper Merced River Watershed Council. Twenty-one landowners or rangeland managers attended the course.
- Encouraged stakeholders to participate in the public process of developing a new general plan for Mariposa County. Attended scoping sessions on projects in Yosemite National Park and worked closely with the local Weed Management Area.



Day in the Watershed event

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

- This performance measure was modified to two Rangeland Education Workshops after the public notices for Water Quality Short Courses generated little interest. The first workshop was changed to a “Rangeland Toolkit” workshop that was coordinated with the Natural Resource Conservation Service and UC Cooperative Extension. That workshop generated community interest and 21 landowners attended the subsequent Water Quality Short Course.

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

- The outreach and education efforts of the coordinators have focused on raising awareness and understanding of watershed issues. The coordinators have partnered with other organizations and agencies to provide workshops, walks, and talks on control of invasive weeds, rangeland management for water quality, and reducing recreational impacts.

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

- Developed and conducted two Annual Watershed Days with activities for adults, families, and children. The events were attended by 75 people in 2003 and 125 people in 2004.

Objective 3: Promote historic and cultural education.

- Arranged two presentations on cultural and historic topics at the Upper Merced River Watershed Council’s meetings and sponsored three history walks.

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

- Adoption of the South Fork Trail system and signing of a MOU with Sierra National Forest was completed in the spring of 2003.

Objective 4: Promote data coordination.

- Substantial progress was made during the fifth quarter to gather information on water quality between El Portal and Briceburg. Collected data was published in two annual reports. Efforts to create a watershed data management system continue, but the system was not completed within the grant timeframe.
- This objective has been the most challenging to achieve. Research studies in the Upper Merced River Watershed have been numerous because of the many agencies involved in managing public land and because of long-time interest in Yosemite National Park. However, no single catalog of existing research exists. There is also no agreement on the digital format that an eventual catalog should take. The watershed coordinators have taken initial steps in identifying research studies and have written a grant proposal to fund an initial scientific literature search by a subcontractor.

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

- Collection and publication of current data on the watershed is 75% complete. Water quality data gathered in the summers of 2002 and 2003 has been collated and published. Water quality and resource data collections have been identified and some documents have been collected. A presentation on water rights issues pertaining to the Merced River and its impoundment at Lake McClure has been held.

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

- Grantee met this objective by hosting Bear Creek Trash Clean-up Day in July 2002, Hite Cove Trail Maintenance Day in November 2002, and five weed pulls completed during the fifth quarter. Stakeholders have contributed over 100 hours of volunteer time in pulling invasive weeds.
- Discreet signposts with the message “Take Care” were installed at heavily used beaches and swimming holes.

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

- Over the course of the grant, seven service projects have been completed. A water quality monitoring program has begun and will be continued with the help of additional grant funding.

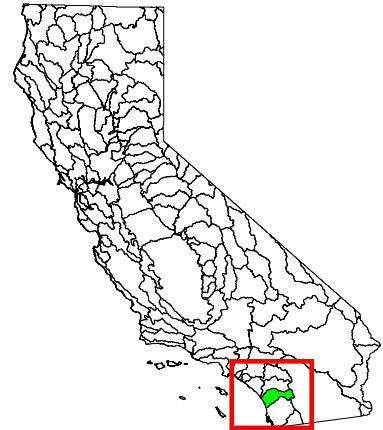
Additional Funding Obtained:

- Awarded a DOC 2004 Watershed Coordinator Grant in the amount of \$155,654.

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

- The yellow starthistle demonstration project has made a 2.5 mile stretch of trail along the Wild and Scenic River usable again for walkers, hikers and bikers. The trail had previously been overgrown by yellow starthistle and other invasive thistles. This work will continue for an additional two years with funding from other grants.
- The adoption of the South Fork Trail is the first step in rehabilitating a historic trail and improving access for hikers, kayakers and equestrians.
- Volunteer workdays hauled several hundred pounds of abandoned junk and broken glass from popular swimming holes along a tributary to the Merced River. Discreet “Take Care” signs were installed. Volunteers will continue to monitor for trash and will encourage “taking care” among those who use the swimming holes.
- Volunteers on two trail days pruned brush, especially poison oak, along a famous wildflower trail and thus enhanced visitor experience.
- Two water quality snapshot days in the summers of 2002 and 2003 gathered baseline data on water temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, conductivity, nitrates, fecal coliform, and heavy metals. The protocols of the State Water Resource Control Board’s Clean Water Team were followed. Streamside conditions were also assessed using the Department of Fish and Game’s Streamside Assessment Protocol. Monitoring will be continued on a quarterly basis and will provide the assessment needed for joint management decisions.
- Twenty-one landowners or managers responsible for managing over 12,000 acres of rangeland in the Merced and Chowchilla watersheds completed the Rangeland Water Quality Short Course developed by UC Davis for the State Water Resource Control Board.
- Most important, the Upper Merced River Watershed is now recognized by local residents, organizations, and agency staff as a “can-do” partner. As a result individuals and agencies are suggesting more projects and activities that will continue to enhance the health of the watershed.

Mission Resource Conservation District San Luis Rey-Escondido Watershed



Amount Funded: \$69,982

Match Provided: \$27,518

Additional Funding Obtained: \$1,007,129

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.

- Conducted five presentations. The presentations provided an overview of watershed issues, including: water conservation, the amount of water imported by the watershed, other issues affected the watersheds, and suggestions for ways to address critical watershed issues. Presentations were given to the Valley Center Rotary Club, Pauma Valley Lions Club, Santa Margarita-San Luis Rey Watershed Planning Agency, and the Inter-Tribal Water Protection Network. Participants included both watershed professionals and local citizens.
- A State of the Watershed tour was held on November 20, 2003. The tour was originally scheduled for October 30, 2003 but was postponed because of the October wildfires in the region.
- Worked with a watershed council subcommittee to develop a supplement to the San Luis Rey River Watershed Guideline. The supplement included information about water use in San Diego County and why water conservation and education programs are a necessity for the county. The supplement also includes a list of projects that could be implemented to reduce county water use.
- Arranged for nine guest speakers to give presentations at the watershed council meetings. Speakers presented on topics such as fuels management, the county general plan, water quality, NPDES permits, groundwater storage, the energy outlook for San Diego County, among others.

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.

- Five presentations given to stakeholder groups. (83%)
- Twenty-two stakeholders attended a “State of the Watershed” tour. (88%)
- 125 copies of the Guideline supplement were distributed (100%)

- Nine guest speakers gave presentations at Watershed Council meetings (75%)

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.

- Worked with the Upper San Luis Rey RCD to submit a proposal to the CA Integrated Waste Management Board's Farm and Ranch Clean Up and Abatement grant program. Their proposal was selected for funding. The \$96,129 grant will fund a project to remove illegally dumped trash along a 1.5 mile stretch of agriculturally zoned land in the watershed. The Pala Band of Mission Indians is also a partner and will assist with implementing the project.
- Worked with San Diego County staff to begin drafting a proposal for a wetland restoration project. This proposal will be submitted later this year when the SWRCB releases its 2004 consolidated request for proposals.
- A project NEMO scoping workshop was conducted on October 17, 2002. Mission RCD was awarded \$4,000 to cover the costs of the workshop. Representatives from several state and local agencies attended the workshop.
- Submitted a proposal to the SWRCB to fund a full project NEMO training workshop. The proposal was not selected for funding however, the coordinator intends to revise the proposal and resubmit it in 2004.
- Designed and produced a San Luis Rey Watershed Council brochure that will be used to promote the Watershed Council.

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

- Submitted two proposals for watershed improvement projects and worked with County staff to begin drafting a third proposal. (83%)
- A project NEMO workshop was presented to 12 municipal officials. (100%)

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 gray water systems in new development projects.

- The Rainbow Municipal Water District was awarded a grant to develop a water conservation garden at their offices. The coordinator is working with the water district to finalize plans for the garden.

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).

- This performance measure was not completed.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

The coordinator submitted a total of nine grant proposals during this grant period. Of these, three were awarded. Grants Received include:

- A \$911,000 grant for a Upper San Luis Rey Watershed project that includes Arundo Donax control and riparian habitat restoration.
- A \$97,932 grant from the CA Integrated Waste Management Board to fund farm and ranch solid waste cleanup.

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

- The grant was effective in improving needed dialogue between stakeholders because of the watershed coordinator position that served as a facilitator for the stakeholders. Additional voting delegates were added to the Watershed Council and more stakeholders are freely communicating with one another. The Indian tribes in the watershed have now begun to share grant proposals and project ideas between tribal groups. This communication is vital to the watershed and can be directly attributed to the facilitation provided by the coordinator.
- Funding for the watershed coordinator position provided the staff time needed to draft and submit grant proposals to implement watershed related projects. The coordinator's efforts resulted in \$1,007,129 in new funding for watershed improvement projects.
- The task related to water use efficiency provided the time to research the feasibility of installing drought tolerant landscapes and gray water systems. By speaking with watershed stakeholders, the coordinator was able to establish a list of needs to address these water use efficiency issues. Though some of the tasks were not completed, the time spent in researching and discussing the issues is vital to the development and implementation of future water use efficiency projects. A list of follow-up watershed improvements relating to water use efficiency is listed in the section below.
- Conducting presentations to stakeholders groups also provided the first step in educating the community about the importance of the San Luis Rey Watershed Council and how it can be mutually beneficial. In order to make the Watershed Council sustainable with local funding, these presentation will be vital and an ongoing part of the watershed coordinator's position.

Napa County Resource Conservation District

San Pablo Bay Watershed

Amount Funded: \$46,298
Match Provided: \$15,535
Additional Funding Obtained: \$886,139
Watershed Coordinator: Leigh Sharp



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

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

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

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



Napa River, Napa County

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

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

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

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

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

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

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

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

Placer County Resource Conservation District

North Fork American River Watershed



Amount Funded: \$78,000

Match Provided: \$26,180

Additional Funding Obtained: \$788,413

Watershed Coordinator: Bonnie Bagwell

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

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

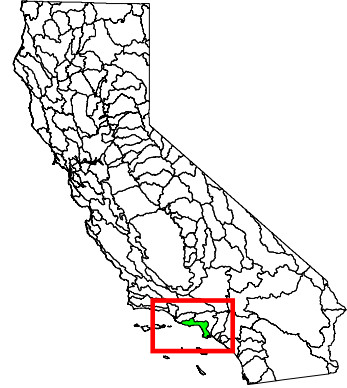
Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

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

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

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

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



Amount Funded: \$62,535.00

Match Provided: \$16,712.74

Additional Funding Obtained: \$1,483,595

Watershed Coordinator: Melina Watts (replaced Melissa Johnson)

Watershed Goal: Coordinate Malibu Creek Watershed Advisory Council.

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

Objective 1: Coordinate Malibu Creek Watershed Council meetings.

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



Malibu Lagoon

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Instead:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

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

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

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

- Watershed Restoration

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains Topanga Creek Watershed



Amount Funded: \$66,815

Match Provided: \$35,650

Additional Funding Obtained: \$120,693.10

Watershed Coordinators: Rosi Dagit and Tricia Watts

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

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

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

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



Watershed Coordinator Rosi Dagit collecting data in the field with assistant

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Watershed Coordinator Rosi Dagit and assistant preparing to collect data

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

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

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

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

San Joaquin County
Resource Conservation District
Lower Cosumnes & Lower Mokelumne River Watershed



Amount Funded: \$47,668
Match Provided: \$16,250
Additional Funding Obtained: \$1,783,700
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.

- Conducted two workshops on water quality and urban/suburban non-point source pollution. Forty teachers attended the training.
- Conducted water quality education programs in four classes for 72 students.
- Partnered with Lodi Woodbridge Winegrape Commission and East Bay Municipal Utility District to submit grant proposals for restoration work and other programs.

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.).

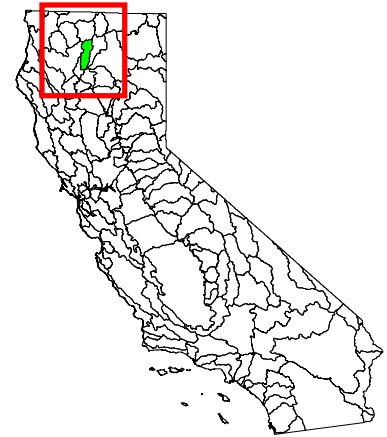
- The NRCS did not offer a WQIP program for 2002-03. However, there was funding for water quality improvement projects in the EQIP program. This program includes irrigation projects, dairy wastewater projects, and erosion reduction projects. Over 2,300 acres was enrolled in EQIP’s water quality/water usage categories in the Lower Mokelumne River Watershed.
- Because the WQIP program was not funded, there were no action plans in response to WQIP data.

Grant Funding Received/Pending:

- Conditional approval was granted by DWR for our full proposal submitted in response to the consolidated grant process. The grant amount was reduced to \$1.6 million.
- A grant to extend the watershed coordinator position was awarded by DOC. Requested funding was \$158,700.

Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District

Sacramento Headwaters (sub-basin) Watershed



Amount Funded: \$64,894

Match Provided: \$21,631

Additional Funding Obtained: \$245,194

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.

- Shasta Valley RCD and Upper Sacramento River Exchange, Inc., met to plan next year's events.
- Scheduled three public scoping meetings for the development of the Cantara River Center in Dunsmuir.
- Provided review and input for a timber harvest plan proposed by Roseberg Timber Products.
- Designed a river cleanup project with Union Pacific for this fall. Drafted plan and began permit process with the Department of Fish and Game.
- Produced eight press releases for the quarter that included: community restoration outings, two nature workshops, two center interpretive shows, a school program, and an annual holiday fundraising campaign.



Native plant restoration at Tauindauli Park

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.

- 205 people participated in CRMP partner programs and activities (i.e. volunteer sign-ups, workshops, restoration field trips, and RCD meetings).

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.

- Met with resource and educational professionals for the development, design, implementation and review of our curriculum guide.
- Disseminated CALFED informational brochures and attended the CALFED Shasta Dam expansion informational meeting near Red Bluff.
- Conducted watershed conservation education workshop for the National Resource Education Program.
- Coordinated eight restoration and stewardship field trips for 190 students. Workshops focused on native plant habitat values and impacts of invasive plants.
- Conducted seven nature presentations and tours for 150 students. Presentations included native birds and nesting habitats, animal skulls and adaptations, stewardship, and watershed awareness and education.
- Added new CALFED resource materials to the River Exchange's library.

Performance Measure: Provide an educational partners group and implement watershed and 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 fieldtrips. Evaluate the program annually with all educational and resource groups.

- An annual planning process with regional educators and resource specialists has been established. The River Exchange works with the Siskiyou County Office of Education to upgrade programs, meet state standards, conduct program planning and coordinate and train teachers, resource partners and community members.
 - 400 students participated in the River Festival (i.e. watershed education and student presentations)
 - 940 students received classroom presentations on watershed stewardship
 - 95 educators completed school educator watershed training
 - 849 students participated in interpretive field trips
 - 101 students participated in restoration field trips (i.e. tree planting and noxious weed eradication on Hedge Creek and in Tauhindauli Park)
 - 1,758 students participated in stewardship field studies
 - 385 students participated in watershed partnerships (i.e. living history, aquatic insect booths, etc.)

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.

- Completed planning for macro-invertebrate monitoring with the Department of Fish and Game and recruited volunteers for monitoring on the Upper Sacramento River.
- Met with Department of Fish and Game and agreed to coordinate volunteer creel survey clerks for the upcoming trout season.

- Completed two community riparian planting and blackberry removal field trips.
- Developing a community education campaign to generate water quality awareness.

Performance Measure: Numbers of participants, documentation of training agendas and evaluations, article reprints and media coverage reports. 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.

- The River Exchange has established a team of monitoring volunteers, provided on-site training, and highlighted the team’s efforts in local media and in the River Exchange’s newsletter.
- Local awareness of water quality issues was increased through the annual river-wide cleanup day, and local cleanups with schools and community groups.
 - Nine local residents participated in restoration field trips
 - 32 volunteers participated in stewardship field trips
 - 255 volunteers participated in River Cleanup Day
 - 373 volunteers participated in watershed partnership events
 - At least 36 articles and 56 press releases related to watershed issues and River Exchange activities were published in local newspapers and newsletters

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.

- Completed watershed river clean-up event. Over 130 volunteers participated with 70 local businesses providing sponsorships.
- Coordinated two community restoration outings to Tauhindauli River Park. Volunteers removed fennel and Himalayan blackberry.
- Conducted two school meadow restoration trips. Work included planting willows, removing invasive plants and planting native grass.
- Held two railroad safety meetings. Coordinated on-going railroad safety team to discuss railroad issues on a quarterly basis.
- Scheduled three community input meetings for the design and development of the Tauhindauli River Park Interpretive Center.
- Working with the U.S. Forest Service to partner on a Panther Meadows restoration series.

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.

- 39 miles of riverbank replanted with willow slips.
- Eradicated noxious weeds from seven acres of riverfront property (i.e. fennel, Himalayan blackberry and scotchbroom).

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

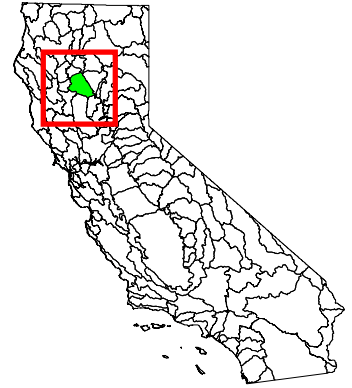
- Awarded a grant in the amount of \$33,250 from the Resource Advisory Council for a trail and restoration project at the Mt. Shasta Fish Hatchery.
- Received a \$10,000 endowment from a private party.
- Received a DOC 2004 Watershed Coordinator Grant for \$163,944.

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

- Citizens, community groups, the City of Dunsmuir and county officials now collaborate on various conservation projects.
- Hundreds of children gained hands-on experience about their watershed, and learned about the values of a healthy watershed ecosystem.
- The grant built and sustained two community events – the River Clean-up and the River Festival. Both events attracted hundreds of community volunteers, children, and stewardship in the region.
- The grant led to the involvement of the Union Pacific Railroad in a restoration project (river-wide cleanup) that will directly benefit the river ecosystem, and improved railroad safety.
- Other benefits to the watershed include: increased awareness and stewardship action, willingness to participate by the railroad, timber interests, ranching and farming interests, and improved watershed planning, communication, and restoration projects.

Tehama County Resource Conservation District

Sacramento-Lower Thomes Watershed



Amount Funded: \$57,110
Match Provided: \$14,361
Additional Funding Obtained: \$618,971
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.

- Surveyed in staff gauges on Reeds Creek and Red Bank Creek with a NRCS engineer. Collected and analyzed one sample on Reeds Creek and Red Bank Creek.
- Recruited 20 volunteers to collect rain data for the Citizens Monitoring Project.
- Attended the Watershed Coordinator Forum at the CARCD Annual Meeting.
- Submitted grant proposals to the DOC and CALFED.



Watershed Coordinator and NRCS crew survey Red Bank Creek

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

- Added 74 new landowners to the mailing list.
- Organized a greenhouse project with Reeds Creek School and facilitated four activities including math in the greenhouse, replanting, a greenhouse experiment, and a wrap-up activity.
- Assisted the SLEWS project with mentoring Corning High School students in a riparian restoration project.
- Coordinated one benthic macroinvertebrate sampling day with Shasta College (Professor Morgan Hannaford). Thirteen Red Bluff High School and Shasta College students participated in the event.
- Planned a vernal pool monitoring program. Conducted four field trips to identify appropriate monitoring timing, meeting with the landowner, evaluating species present and potential monitoring techniques with the Nature Conservancy and NRCS, and fixing the location of the pool using GPS.

- Conducted RDM Field Monitoring on Coyote Creek Conservation Area in order to develop a grazing management plan for the 02-03 grazing period.
- Facilitated six stakeholder meetings and attended an additional 31 local meetings.

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

- Photographed housing development sites on agriculture land for the Watershed Assessment.
- Documented references collected for the Watershed Assessment in one document.
- Updated the TCRC website with current activities.

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

- Created the TCRC website and updated it every two months.
- Developed an extensive checklist of information to be included in the Watershed Assessment.
- Gathered 42 applications for inclusion in the Watershed Assessment.
- Completed a table of concerns and current watershed activities gathered through a 300 - person survey and watershed group surveys.
- Five areas of special concern photographed and entered into a photo library.
- Created a biomass feasibility study.

Objective 3: Provide assistance for an irrigation mobile laboratory.

- This objective was adapted with the hiring and training of an Irrigation Mobile Lab Project Manager and field technician. Task 3.2 was changed from 30 evaluations to 21 evaluations, and tasks 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6 were replaced with tasks 1.0, 1.3a, 1.9, and 1.10.
- Technician is currently working independently and is leading the mobile lab program.
- Assisted Irrigation Mobile Lab with harvesting walnuts at the UC Cooperative Extension experimental site.

Performance Measure: Successful completion of 21 irrigation evaluations and seasonal reports to agencies and landowners stating results of Mobile Lab activities including benefits to the watershed.

- Assisted with 20 irrigation evaluations, approximating 1200 acres of orchard land evaluated.
- Participated in a walnut harvest on four UC Cooperative Extension research plots.

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 Chico and Tehama County Department of Agriculture to analyze aerial photos for changes at restoration sites occurring over time.
- Met with CSU Chico partners to review landowner agreements.

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

- 77 written agreements signed and verbal permission given for eradication at all sites targeted for treatment this season.
- Over 20 acres of *Arundo* was treated on Red Bank Creek and all the Tamarisk was treated on Reeds Creek.
- Over 200 landowners adjacent to Red Bank Creek were sent a Red Bank Creek Management Strategy for comments, agreement forms, and distribution of educational materials.
- Organized one stakeholder meeting with Matt Kondolf and Bitterroot Restoration to discuss creek characteristics and revegetation potential.
- Coordinated seven team meetings and two field days.
- Monitored treatment effectiveness on Brickyard Creek, a tributary of Reeds Creek.

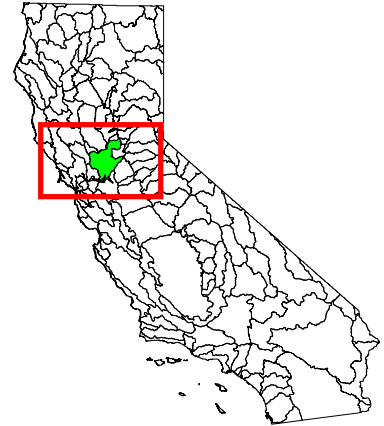
Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

<u>Proposal</u>	<u>Amount Requested</u>	<u>Status</u>
Watershed Coordinator to improve upper watershed and riparian health	\$132,196 requested from the Dept. of Conservation	Grant awarded
Watershed management program for western Tehama County	\$460,775 requested from CALFED	Approved for funding pending corrections

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

- Increased outreach and coordination efforts by participating in local watershed meetings and activities.
- Completed a biomass feasibility study on the west side of Tehama County.
- Expanded the district’s service area into southern Tehama County.
- Established baseline water quality conditions of Reeds Creek and Red Bank Creek.
- Brought landowners and government agencies together in partnerships for conservation.

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



Amount Funded: \$69,190
Match Provided: \$18,913
Additional Funding Obtained: \$597,972
Watershed Coordinator: Kathleen Robins

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

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

Watershed Coordinator Objectives and Progress

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

- After three years of watershed coordination funding, Solano RCD is a leader and partner in County-wide watershed activity. Solano RCD is a participant in everyday watershed activity in the county, providing facilitation, group development and grant proposal writing expertise where needed. The district works both at the county level and at the small watershed level, though its county level work has brought the most durable results and partnerships.



The Solano RCD Conservation Education Center's Watershed Friendly demo garden

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.

- Helped to develop or coordinate five stewardship groups: Sweeney Creek, Pleasants Creek, Horse Creek, Ledgewood Creek, and Lake Berryessa Watershed Group. Each of these groups has 25 or more regular participants and strong agency support.

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

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.

- This objective was not fully met due to the current funding climate. The Welcome to the Watershed program was envisioned to be a comprehensive program with many layers and parts. While enthusiasm for the concept has been virtually universal, large-scale commitment to fund it has been almost completely absent.
- Three separate grant proposals were submitted in an attempt to fund the program.
- MOU completed with the following signatories: NRCS, Dixon RCD, Solano Irrigation District, Solano Water Agency, Suisun RCD, and Fairfield-Suisun Sewer District. The seven cities in the county have signed on to the program in principal.

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.

- Two pilot workshops have been scheduled for February.

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.



Non-native species in Pleasants Creek

- Received primary funding for the program from the Great Valley Center's LEGACI program. Supplemental funding provided by the NRCS.
- The RCD has developed a series of 12 field days and short courses to run August '03 through July '04 to present these units to rural stakeholders throughout the county. Plans for implementation of this project with partners Yolo County RCD and Dixon RCD are in process, though behind schedule.

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

- Recent conversation has been focused on the local State Water Resources Control Board's consolidated proposal, future funding opportunities and necessities, WMA activities and the Conditional Ag Waiver.
- The group has become a forum to share watershed information and develop working partnerships with other members.

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.

- Six meetings of the Solano County Watershed Partnership Group were convened and attended by stakeholder representatives from all over the county.
- All performance measures have been completed, but require ongoing review and revision.

Grant Funding Received/Pending:

The following grant applications were submitted during this quarter:

- A \$90,000 grant to enhance weed management activities in Solano County watersheds was submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
- A \$208,100 grant to continue and expand watershed coordination in the Ulatis, Dixon and Putah Creek watersheds was awarded by DOC.
- A \$1,400,000 grant to build understanding and protection for two urban creeks was submitted to CALFED and SWRCB as part of the consolidated grant process.

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

Solano RCD's capacity to work at a watershed level in the region has grown exponentially. Among our professional peers, there is greater understanding that our interests are best served regionally, and that scarce resources require creative leveraging. The grant provided the district an opportunity to be a major part of this paradigm shift and to take a leadership role in developing a shared stewardship for the watershed.

West Lake Resource Conservation District

Upper Cache Creek Watershed



Amount Funded: \$75,912

Match Provided: \$19,758

Additional Funding Obtained: \$638,225

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.

- Submitted a watershed coordinator proposal to DOC.
- Prepared an application to the EPA's Watershed Initiative Grant Program in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management, Yolo County RCD, and the Patwin Tribes in Yolo County. It is a coordinated watershed management project with each partner developing complementary components.

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.

- Seven grant applications submitted during the term of the grant.
- One CRMP group was formed during the grant period, with another group showing interest in formation.
- Over 12 PowerPoint presentations have been given to a variety of groups.
- More than 400 students have been exposed to watershed management and natural resource protection issues.



Volunteers remove trash from Scotts Creek on Creek Cleanup Day 2003

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

- The creeks identified for the 2004 cleanup program are: Cache Creek, Cole Creek, Kelsey Creek, Middle Creek, Scotts Creek and South Fork of Scotts Creek.

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

- Two community cleanup days were held in 2002 with two additional events held in October 2003.
- Over 250 volunteers participated in cleanup activities. Multiple cubic yards of trash, tires, appliances and recyclables were removed from the Upper Cache Creek tributaries.

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

- All tasks successfully completed.

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

- All components of the Schindler Creek Restoration Project have been successfully completed.

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

- All tasks successfully completed.

Performance Measure: Two streambank projects implemented.

- The Middle Creek Restoration Project was successfully completed in July 2002.

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

- All tasks successfully completed.

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

- All surveying, mapping, and eradication efforts have exceeded the initial requirements. The survey effort has identified 413 sites with *A. donax* eradicated from 40 of these sites.

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

- The 319(h) grant scheduled to fund field training of the citizen monitoring team was delayed due to state budget difficulties and the contract freeze imposed by the governor. The contract is expected to be completed and work initiated by January 2004.

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

- Six sites have been identified and although funding has been delayed, training and monitoring did take place during the term of the grant. A monitoring team is waiting for equipment to start sampling.

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

- All tasks successfully completed.

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

- The watershed assessment has been completed and a portion of the post and cable project has been performed. Currently, the design for the implementation project is being developed.

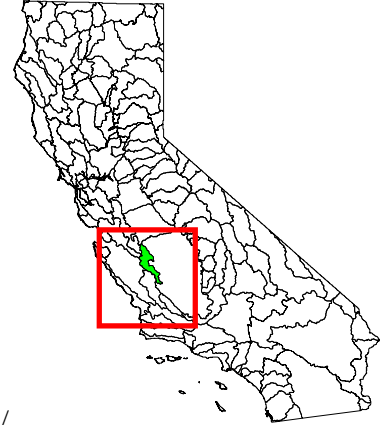
Additional Funding Obtained/Pending

- Awarded a three-year grant from DOC to continue the watershed coordinator position. Grant amount was \$148,414.

Grant Benefits to the Watershed

- The watershed coordinator facilitated coordination between 11 state and federal agencies and six Native American tribes to accomplish numerous projects in the watershed.
- The grant supported the formation of a weed management area (WMA) that led to the mapping and eradication of non-native invasive species and additional fund raising.
- The watershed coordinator was able to plan and implement a 5-mile long fuel break and other fuel breaks in the watershed.
- Formation of the Lower Lake Watershed Council (CRMP) was instigated and facilitated by the watershed coordinator. This active council is working with the local community to raise community awareness about general watershed issues and is currently working with high school students to implement a water quality monitoring program.
- The watershed coordinator established more than a dozen new partnerships between the conservation district and local businesses. In one instance, a local vineyard donated several hundred cubic yards of crushed rock for the Schindler Creek Restoration Project.

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



Amount Funded: \$36,222
Match Provided: \$11,000
Additional Funding Obtained: \$376,728
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.

- Met with Amanda Peisch (DWR) to discuss monitoring projects, Pam Buford (RWQCB) to discuss CEQA follow-up issues, and with Leedy Dunkle (CCC) to discuss projects that require use of their crews.
- Worked with landowners and the BLM to negotiate an additional contract for project implementation.

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.

- Three landowners, one conservation organization (CA Rangeland Trust), and one agency representative (USFWS) joined the Stewards of the Arroyo Pasajero CRMP.
- Ten names were added to the CRMP's mailing list.
- One new ranch monitoring plan (Los Gatos Creek Ranch) was developed and two ranch plans were amended (Birdwell Ranch and Kreyenhagen Ranch).
- Conservation practices implemented were:
 - Varian Ranch: water distribution (installed 5,000 feet of pipeline and three troughs).
 - Birdwell Ranch: Installed approximately 10,000 feet of new/repared fence line, and one new water tank, several troughs and a new pump.
 - Whitehouse Ranch and Gragnani Ranch: Installed new fencing and water distribution system.
 - Los Gatos Creek and Coalinga Mineral Springs Road: Over 150 acres treated for yellow starthistle.

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

- Downloaded data from rain gauges, replaced batteries and mapped rain gauge stations.
- Copied and delivered annual monitoring reports to DWR.
- Met with Larry Rathbun of West Hills College for assistance with developing a weed mapping program.
- Preparing to send Watershed Management Plan, Ranch Plans and biological data to the State Clearinghouse to meet CEQA circulation requirements.

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.

- Ten rain gauges were installed in locations throughout the watershed. Unfortunately, the units experienced software problems and were sent back to the manufacturer (Rainwise) for replacement. The gauges were reinstalled but data collection has been limited as a result.
- Westside RCD is developing a dynamic web site that will display the gauges on a map and show rainfall frequency to interested users.

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

- Prepared a full proposal for the consolidated RFP and submitted it to the State Water Resources Control Board.
- Submitted a watershed coordinator proposal to DOC .
- Evaluating the \$200,000 NFWF Putting It Together grant for resubmittal to NRCS.

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

- Received a Packard Foundation grant of \$100,000 for riparian restoration on Kester Ranch.
- Received a BLM grant of \$60,000 for weed management.
- Received a three year DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant of \$106,614.
- Received a grant of \$3,500 from Westlands Water District for the purchase of plant materials to assist the Tree Bank program.

Objective 4: Plan and hold education and outreach events.

- Working with Nita Vail (California Rangeland Trust) to conduct a joint event in the future.
- Working with the CCC to develop a “Unity Day” work day on a project in the watershed.

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

- Coordinated two workshops:
 - Wildlife Habitat Restoration (September 2002) – focused on wildlife habitat projects implemented in the lower watershed by Turk Station and by Viets-Allen Ranch.

- Weed/Invasive Plant Management and Eradication (June, 2003) – classroom instruction on identification and treatment of noxious and invasive weed species as well as on-site observation of tamarisk growth and a removal test plot. Training was also provided on weed mapping and the permitting process.

Additional Funding Obtained/Pending:

- Awarded a three-year watershed coordinator grant from DOC for \$106,614.

Grant Benefits to the Watershed:

- Landowners who became inactive with the CRMP are becoming active again.
- A landowner who purchased property in the Coaling Mineral Springs Road area received funding for spraying yellow star thistle last year. This year, he is participating again and is very enthusiastic about the program.