



The Year in Review: 2012

January 2013

Regional Priorities

The Water Resources Association of Yolo County (WRA) provides its member agencies and the public with the following benefits: serves as a forum for the exchange of water and resource related information; provides leadership on funding and water resource planning efforts; develops and implements regional water management plans; and coordinates and collaborates with other regional and state-wide organizations.

Throughout the Sacramento Valley, agencies and stakeholders continue to collaborate for more effective resource planning and to maximize funding opportunities that benefit regional projects. State programs are encouraging regional consensus to address a multitude of resource management challenges with smaller and more competitive funding opportunities.

Here are a few collaborative projects underway in Yolo County with regional benefits:

- The Westside Regional Water Management Group is a multi-county collaboration to develop and implement the Westside Integrated Re-

gional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The Plan includes more than 140 projects with extensive public outreach to encourage stakeholder involvement and input to the process. The final Plan will be adopted by June 2013 with implementation beginning in FY 2012-13. For plan details and meeting information visit: www.westsideirwm.com.

- A new local collaborative effort is developing a floodplain management plan for the Lower Sacramento River & Delta North region in response to the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) & California Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) regional planning. Two committees have been established representing both sides of the Sacramento River. A DWR funding application has been submitted to develop the plan.
- The Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency has reached notable milestones to advance this regional water supply project. The project continues to reduce the project costs and leverage local, state and federal partnerships to ensure an affordable water management solution.

Read more about these projects on pages 3 & 4

Education, Collaboration, & Strategic Planning



Yolo Bypass Levee Repair
West Sacramento Project (Photo: USACE)

The WRA Board strives to stay informed about the impacts of local and statewide water legislation on resource planning and implementation efforts. Some of the presentations and topics discussed by the Board in 2012 included:

- Davis Woodland Water Supply Project Update (Dennis Diemer, Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency)

- Sacramento River Joint Intake/Diversion/ Fish Screen Project (Robert Thomas, Reclamation District 2035)
- Westside IRWMP Development Update (Ken Kirby Consulting)
- Bay Delta Conservation Planning Program Update (Jerry Meral, California Natural Resources Agency)
- Historical Overview of Sacramento River Water Rights & Federal Contracts (Lewis Bair, Reclamation District 108)
- Update on Yolo County Delta Efforts (Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza)
- **Annual Water Conditions Update (Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District)**
- Regular Delta planning and legislative/regulatory updates
- Regular WRA Technical Committee updates on local project activities and available funding opportunities

Davis, City of

Dunnigan Water District

Reclamation District 108

Reclamation District 2035

University of California, Davis

West Sacramento, City of

Winters, City of

Woodland, City of

Yolo County

Yolo County Flood Control &
Water Conservation District

Water Resources Association
of Yolo County

P.O. Box 8624
Woodland, CA 95776

(530) 666-2733

www.yolowra.org

info@yolowra.org

WRA Funded Projects and Programs in 2012

The WRA Technical Committee focused on implementing regional IRWMP projects and funding opportunities for the benefit of its member agencies. The WRA contributed funding toward the following IRWMP project priorities for FY2011-12:

- **Cache Creek Watershed Weed Management Plan:** The Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) initiated this collation of multi-agency data and efforts to identify invasive weeds throughout the Cache Creek watershed. The plan sets goals & objectives for weed management to control the spread of invasive species and noxious weeds. As a result of this project the RCD was eligible to apply for additional funding to continue implementation of the plan. View the final report at: www.yolorcd.org/nodes/resource/reports.htm.
- **Yolo Bypass Integrated Project:** The Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF) is a longstanding leader and convener for stakeholder interests in the Yolo Bypass, an integral part of the Sacramento River flood control system. The YBF facilitates subcommittees of the existing Yolo Bypass Working group to collaborate with farmers, wetland managers and local, state and federal agencies on management strategies for the Yolo Bypass. The WRA relies on YBF's updates and recommendations for the implementation of important Bypass-related planning efforts and regional impacts from Delta planning processes. The YBF staff participates in 15 different plan-

ning and research efforts impacting Yolo Bypass habitat, agricultural economy, and flood management.

- **Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program:** Since 2006, WRA members contribute ongoing support for the monitoring program, an IRWMP Foundational Action. The YCFC&WCD as lead agency collects groundwater elevation data for the Water Resources Information Database (WRID), which is shared with the **California Department of Water Resources' California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM)** program.
- **Yolo County Surface Water Monitoring Plan:** The development of this plan is an IRWMP Foundational Action and an important component in managing Yolo County water resources. This project is expanding the Water Resources Information Database (WRID) to include surface water quality monitoring data similar to the functioning groundwater monitoring program model. Existing Cache Creek data will be used to test this new database component.
- **Westside IRWMP:** The WRA is one of 5 regional partners funding the development of an IRWMP for the Westside sub-region of the Sacramento River Funding Area. A 2-year Proposition 84 grant was awarded in 2011 to develop this IRWMP.

To view a poster board presentation of select agency projects, go to: www.yolowra.org/board_agendas/2012/ProjectPosterBoards_PPT.pdf

Financial Summary

July 2011 - June 2012 Income

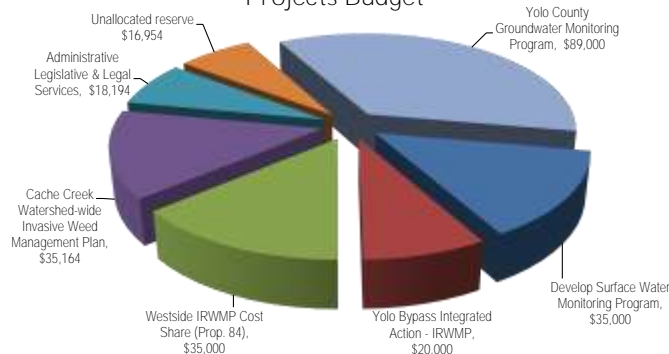
WRA Membership Dues: Baseline Budget

- Administrative Fund: \$88,775
- Project Fund: \$99,391

Supplemental Income: Special Projects Budget

- Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program: \$89,000

July 2011 - June 2012 Expenses Projects Budget



Grant Funding - WRA Agencies (selected list 2011-12)

Agency	Project	Funding Source	Amount	Status
LPCCC (SCWA)	Putah Creek Nature Park Restoration	CA River Parkways	\$1.162 million	Received grant
LPCCC (SCWA)	Priority Projects	CA Watershed Program	\$2 million	Received grant
Yolo Basin Foundation	Putah Creek Restoration - Fish Bypass	DFG Ecological Restoration Prgm	\$2.6 million	Received grant
RD 2035	Sacramento River Joint Intake Project	USBR	\$16.7 million	Rcvd federal grant - construction
Westside RWMG	Westside IRWMP	Proposition 84 Planning	\$1 million	Received grant
Yolo County	Cache Creek Parkway Plan	Nat'l Park Service's RTCA Prgm	In-kind services	Renewed for 2013
YCFC&WCD	Ag Water Use Efficiency	AB 303	\$1.6 million	Pending
YCFC&WCD	Real-time Groundwater Level Monitoring Network	AB 303	\$250,000	Pending

IRWMP Integrated Projects & Ongoing Member Agency Activities

The WRA's member agencies were involved in many projects throughout the year to implement actions in the Yolo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The WRA adopted the IRWMP in 2007, which is considered the guiding document for water resources planning in Yolo County. The WRA updated the status of IRWMP priority projects in 2011. New projects continue to be identified by the WRA Technical Committee for future inclusion in the IRWMP. www.yolowra.org/irwmp.html

A regional (5-county) Westside IRWMP is being developed over a 2-year period under the guidance and direction of the Westside Group. The \$1 million Proposition 84 planning grant work will be completed by June 2013 when participating agencies adopt the Westside IRWMP. The Solano County Water Agency serves as the project manager and the YCFC&WCD is the grant's fiscal agent. Approximately 65 projects from the Yolo County IRWMP were submitted for inclusion in the Westside Plan. The Westside Group will be pursuing Prop. 84 Implementation Grant funding in March 2013. The Westside will be reviewing potential projects for inclusion with a total application target of \$4-6 million dollars. The grant has a 25% cost share requirement. Projects that meet multiple regional objectives that are able to carry the up-front grant costs and provide matching funds will be best positioned for the competitive grant application.

Restoration work on the Putah Creek Nature Park continues with another round of funding from the California River Parkways Grant Program. A \$1.162 million grant will allow the Solano County Water Agency to complete the final phase of the Winters Putah Creek Channel Realignment Project. Sites that were home to sewage aeration ponds will be transformed into river parkways, and an oxbow water feature will be the new home of rearing Sacramento Perch.



Putah Creek Nature Park Restoration

CA River Parkways Grant Program Award Ceremony

(L-R: Libby Earthman, Putah Creek Council; Kurt Balasek, BSK; Winters Mayor Cecilia Curry; Sec. John Laird; Winters City Council Harold Anderson; Rich Marovich, LPCCC)

The Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF) is working collaboratively with the CA Department of Fish & Game (DFG) Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) and the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Commit-

tee (LPCCC) on implementing habitat improvement activities along Putah Creek. YBF has received a \$2.6 million grant over 3 years from the DFG Ecosystem Restoration Program for the Lower Putah Creek Restoration from the Toe Drain to Putah Diversion Dam project. The project focuses on improving salmonid passage and spawning habitat along 26 miles of creek. The proposed activities include re-alignment of Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area portion of Putah Creek around the Los Rios Check Dam. The grant funds activities related to securing creek-wide regional general permits and completing CEQA documents that will cover habitat improvement work for the next 5 years. YBF is coordinating a team of consultants and agency staff on this complex project. SCWA will supply engineering support to develop plans and specifications for habitat projects on the upper reach of the creek.

Yolo County hired a UC Davis team to analyze the agricultural impacts of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan's proposal to flood the Yolo Bypass to benefit juvenile salmon and other fish species. The "Yolo Bypass Flood Date & Flow Volume Agricultural Impact Analysis" report was published in May 2012. The study's modeling established several conclusions about the economic impacts to farming tied to the timing and duration of flooding. The full report can be accessed on the WRA's website home page.

The City of West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (WSAFCA) completed a \$27 million levee improvement project. The new levees control erosion and has the deepest seepage wall in state history that will ensure the levees remain strong during the biggest flood event. WSAFCA continues to work collaboratively with DWR, US Army Corps of Engrs., and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board to complete additional levee repairs and address all aspects of flood control and emergency preparedness to provide the best level of flood protection for West Sacramento.

The Lower Sacramento & North Delta (LSND) Regional Working Group was established in response to DWR's creation of arbitrary boundaries of regional planning areas in Yolo county. The group is comprised of Yolo cities, WSAFCA, SAFCA and reclamation districts on both sides of the Sacramento River. The LSND-Regional Flood Management Plan (RFMP) is being developed to promote the goals of the CVFPP and advance the flood management priorities in our region. They have applied for DWR funding to support development of the RFMP.

The YCFC&WCD completed AB 303 grant funding work on comprehensive computer modeling of the groundwater aquifers in Yolo County. Grant work is reflected in four reports on the well canal pump program; the Integrated Groundwater Surface Water Model; canal and gravel pit recharge; and nitrate fingerprinting/groundwater age determination. The YCFC &WCD has applied for another AB303 grant in 2012 to continue work on the "Real-time Groundwater Level Monitoring Network".



WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION O F Y O L O C O U N T Y

IRWMP Integrated Projects & Ongoing Member Agency Activities (cont. from page 3)

The Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency (WDCWA)'s regional surface water supply project is the largest capital project contained in the 2007 Yolo County IRWMP. It will significantly improve drinking water quality and reliability for the cities of Woodland and Davis while helping those agencies comply with stricter water and wastewater regulations over time. The project will divert water from the Sacramento River. WDCWA is responsible for planning, designing, and implementing the project. The project is scheduled to be operational by the fall of 2016.

Woodland and Davis extensively evaluated their water consumption patterns and identified a combined reduction in project capacity from 40 to 30 mgd. As a result of this cost saving measure, the total project costs have been lowered by \$48 million. A Design-Build-Operate methodology is being employed that will also yield construction cost savings.

A partnership between WDCWA and Reclamation District 2035 to jointly construct and operate the joint intake facility on the Sacramento River is also reducing project costs. RD 2035 has received \$1.165 million for a design grant and another \$16 million in federal funding has been authorized for the intake project by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. State-of-the-art fish screens will protect out-migrating fish, while enhancing the reliability of water deliveries for area agriculture and cities. Visit www.wdcwa.com for the most up-to-date information on the Project.



Water Supply Sources
Davis Woodland Water Supply Project



Proposed Joint Intake Facility
Reclamation District 2035

Board Profile and Meeting Information

The WRA is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of representatives appointed by each member agency. The WRA Technical Committee, composed of senior staff of the participating agencies, performs much of the work for the WRA. The WRA Executive Committee handles administrative and oversight functions for the association. The Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Technical Committee Chair are Executive Committee members.

The WRA Board of Directors meets a minimum of five times per year on a Monday from 3-5 p.m. in Woodland. The Technical and Executive Committees meet on a monthly basis. Additional meetings of the Board and Committees are arranged on an as-needed basis depending on issues that require timely attention.

The public is invited to attend and participate at WRA meetings. Meeting minutes, future meeting announcements and pertinent documents are available on our website at www.yolowra.org.

2012 WRA Officers & Board of Directors

- ◆ William Marble, City of Woodland, Chair
- ◆ Sid England, University of CA Davis, Vice-Chair
- ◆ Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, City of Winters, Treasurer
- ◆ Jacques DeBra, City of Davis, Technical Committee Chair and Alternate Board Member
- ◆ Donna Gentile, Administrative Coordinator
- ◆ Perry, Bunch, Battaglia & Johnston, Auditor
- ◆ Brett Lee, City of Davis
- ◆ Christopher Ledesma, City of West Sacramento
- ◆ Gary Schaad, Dunnigan Water District
- ◆ Fritz Durst, Reclamation District 108
- ◆ Robert Thomas, Reclamation District 2035
- ◆ Matt Rexroad, County of Yolo
- ◆ Jim Mayer, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Davis, City of

Dunnigan Water District

Reclamation District 108

Reclamation District 2035

University of California, Davis

West Sacramento, City of

Winters, City of

Woodland, City of

Yolo County

Yolo County Flood Control &
Water Conservation District

Water Resources Association
of Yolo County

P.O. Box 8624
Woodland, CA 95776

(530) 666-2733

www.yolowra.org

info@yolowra.org