

DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant Program

2007 Final Report

Grant Number: 3003-577

Grantee Name: **Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency**

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Preparer Name and Title: **Gregg Bates, Watershed Coordinator**

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Reporting Period: Grant Start Date **(6/29/04)** through Grant End Date **(12/31/07)**

Report submission date: **1/10/08**

Watershed Name: **Dry Creek (sub-watershed of Lower American River)**

State Senate District Number(s): **1**
Senators(s): **Dave Cox**

State Assembly District Number(s): **4**
Assembly Member(s): **Ted Gaines**

1. **Executive Summary:** (A concise, one paragraph summary of the overall purpose of grant.) The overall Goal of the coordinator is to reduce run-off; improve water quality; and improve aquatic and terrestrial habitats, and the ecosystem function of the Dry Creek Sub-Watershed. The goal was to be accomplished with completion of two objectives. *Objective 1* would strengthen the organizational capacity of the Dry Creek Watershed Council (DCWC) so that it could provide continuous long-term management of the Dry Creek watershed by facilitating the monthly stakeholder meetings, maintaining stakeholder contacts, sharing data among stakeholders, coordinating with adjacent watersheds, and collaborating on multi-stakeholder grant proposals. *Objective 2* would provide information to stakeholders about the impact of impervious cover on watershed health and organize discussions about techniques to minimize the impact.

Comment [B1]: no change

Comment [B2]: no change

2. Results and Accomplishments Summary: Briefly summarize major results and accomplishments achieved from the Grant Start Date through the Grant End Date (one page maximum). This should only be an overview. Specific details should be discussed under sections #3 and #5.

Objectives 1 and 2 have been effectively accomplished. Nearly all the tasks have been completed and performance measures accomplished.

Early in the grant term (May of 2005) Dry Creek Conservancy (DCC), Placer County, and CalEPA Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) organized a two day workshop to present and analyze current data about fish, aquatic insects, and other water quality data with the aim of directing future data gathering, and to gather national and California experts on Low Impact Development techniques to provide information to local government planning jurisdictions. Led by DCC, monitoring in the watershed continued after the workshop, and reports and analyses were developed with the help of OEHHA, CDFG, and consultants. DCC carried out stormwater monitoring and routine water quality monitoring to develop a credible baseline of data for comparison to future conditions. There were a series of meetings with specialists to discuss organizing the data to develop an analysis or assessment. Stakeholders developed several grant applications that led to more refined goals and objectives for the assessment. Ultimately OEHHA took the lead on the assessment as a way to demonstrate techniques of the California Watershed Assessment Manual. OEHHA also coordinated the development of a method of estimating the amount of impervious cover as a tool to guide development of stormwater management practices.

Concurrently DCC carried on public outreach programs that involve residents in watershed issues while they perform a monitoring or maintenance task. Creek Week participation grew both in resident participation and in sponsorships by local government and business. The number of participants in the annual salmon survey was enough to get good coverage of the watershed to estimate numbers of returning spawners.

Stakeholders led a process to merge several watershed stakeholder groups in west Placer, north Sacramento, and Sutter Counties that cover the foothill and valley areas to the Sacramento River. Many of the same participants went to meetings of two or three groups and found it to be a large of investment of time. Issues and programs discussed at each meeting were similar, and there was a desire to merge the groups into one meeting process that would be more efficient and provide for greater collaboration on related issues. The coordinator led this process over a period of months to satisfy participants that matters of importance to everyone would continue to be discussed. Eventually the American Basin Council of Watersheds was formed.

During this time other regional processes were meeting such as state encouraged IRWMP's, and nonprofits interested in promoting better planning and development such as the SACOG Blueprint process, California Water and Land Use Partnership, and Local Government Council. The newly formed ABCW represented by the watershed coordinator and other stakeholders was able to take part in these processes to the benefit of the local watersheds.

At present there is a good history of collaboration in west Placer and north Sacramento Counties on a variety of projects that have mutual benefit for multiple entities. The soon to be completed watershed assessment will guide stakeholders toward more coordination on stormwater management, habitat preservation, and flood protection. ABCW has developed a workplan for the watershed that will emphasize homeowner and landowner practices leading to those goals, and that will support regional management by local government for mutual benefit.

3. List at least 10 of the Watershed Coordinator's most significant beneficial impacts on the watershed that occurred during the entire 3-year grant period.

(Use bullets; however, include enough detail for the reader to understand what happened and how the WC was involved). Quantify progress and results where possible. Statements such as, "good progress was made" or "the workshop was very successful" are not meaningful without being quantified. Please state how your actions or activities have directly benefited the watershed.

- Organized a two day conference to report on the current watershed assessment data for Dry Creek Watershed, and to convene national experts on Low Impact Development in a workshop to educate local stakeholders. The conference made local stakeholders aware of data available and provided techniques for improving problems that were revealed.
- Coordinated water quality monitoring and compilation of data into a form that can be used for a watershed assessment by CalEPA OEHHA. The assessment will lead to specific management recommendations that can be implemented to improve water quality, improve wildlife habitat, facilitate stormwater permitting, and reduce flood damage.
- Coordinated with OEHHA to provide funding and data used to develop methods of estimating impervious cover in Dry Creek Watershed and throughout the state. Impervious cover data can be used to improve stormwater management by retrofitting, conservation landscaping and Low Impact Development.
- Coordinated and implemented the annual fall salmon spawning surveys involving 30 to 40 volunteers per year and about 20 miles of creeks. The surveys provide data to analyze trends of salmon populations that is not available for other areas.
- Took photos at selected problem sites throughout the watershed during storm events and construction projects, and coordinated Water Quality monitoring of streams during stream events to assess use of BMP's. Presented the photos to the ABCW and made follow-up reports to local government. Later surveys revealed some sites had been improved and that new development erosion protection had been designed to avoid similar problems in many cases.
- Coordinated Creek Week in 2006 and 2007. Participants totaled 700 to 800 and there was good press coverage. Creek Week is a major regional outreach event providing information about watershed management issues.
- Coordinated revegetation of about two acres of riparian forest impacted by off road vehicles (ORV's) in a City of Roseville preserve. Worked with City of Roseville, City of Rocklin, Sutter Hospital, and developers to prevent access of ORV's and to install signs informing citizens of open space values. Vehicle traffic that led to erosion has been greatly reduced. This project was posted on the SWRCB website as the

CVRWQCB success story for 20907.

- Led the process to merge three watershed stakeholder groups into the American Basin Council of watersheds. The three adjacent watershed groups were meeting separately and developing separate management plans. Many participants attended all three meetings. Merging the groups resulted in greater efficiency for stakeholders and greater collaboration in the region.
 - Organized support by local government of a regional program to eradicate red Sesbania. This is important step toward regional collaboration on regional problems. Local government has now extended the concept to other management issues such as water hyacinth.
 - Represented the interests of watershed management by serving on the advisory committee for the Placer County Water Agency Loomis Basin Canal Efficiency Study as part of the water rights renewal process. The outcome of this study will affect the amount of water allowed to flow in Dry Creek and tributaries and will impact ecosystem functioning.
4. **Identify and describe the activities taken to date (cumulative since the Grant Start Date) toward completing the performance measures (PMs) for each objective.** Under each objective, use a bulletized list to describe accomplishments completed on each PM. Use your original Work Plan as reference. You are reporting on the status of accomplishing PMs; not tasks.

Objective #1: Strengthen the organizational capacity of the Dry Creek Watershed Council (DCWC) to provide continuous long-term management of the Dry Creek watershed and improve the coordination between the DCWC and the watershed groups in the two other watersheds comprising the Lower American River (LAR) Watershed (HUC #18020111).

PM: Compilation of spatial and numeric watershed data; creation of a DCWC website featuring the watershed data, meeting announcements, minutes, organizational information and relevant links to the websites in the other watershed of the LAR; Implementation of funded watershed restoration projects; development of grant proposal to fund future goal related projects.

Accomplishment:

- Published the DCC newsletter which informs agencies and residents of activities and efforts to improve the watershed.
- Coordinated fish passage improvement proposals on Secret Ravine and Miners Ravine. Continued development of restoration/flood control projects on Secret Ravine including participating in a citizens advisory committee, collaborating on the grant proposal, serving on the planning advisory committee, and serving on the contractor selection team. (See section 10 below.)
- Worked with Sierra College, Placer County Flood Control District (PCFCD), and consultants to develop a scope of work for a volunteer coordinator who will lead student and other volunteer activity in monitoring about one linear mile of fish habitat restoration on Secret Ravine on the Sierra College campus. Developed an agreement with PCFCD to fund the coordinator.
- Served on the advisory committee for the \$3.5mm off-channel detention and floodplain restoration project on Miners Ravine completed by Placer County Flood

Control and Water Conservation District. Citizen input resulted in a trail and interpretive signs.

- Coordinated and implemented the annual fall salmon spawning surveys involving 30 to 40 volunteers per year and about 20 miles of creeks.
- Coordinated a three day benthic macroinvertebrate workshop at Sierra College with presenter Jim Harrington of CDFG attended by 13 participants. Jim Harrington's workshops are the primary source of citizen based bmi monitoring in California. One participant immediately put his new knowledge to work in a letter to a local paper explaining the importance of preserving instream habitat in development projects.
- Coordinated the Creek Week committee for 2006 and 2007. This event is the major watershed education and public outreach event for the watershed and neighboring watersheds. The committee consists of representatives from local government, schools, and other organizations. Over 700 people participate in the workdays and educational events. Organizations make donations that pay for T-shirts for volunteers that promote watershed stewardship throughout the year.
- Continued coordination of the compilation of water quality data from various sampling activities of recent years. Produced the PRELIMINARY REPORT ON BENTHIC MACROINVERTEBRATE DATA, DRY CREEK CONSERVANCY BIOASSESSMENT PROGRAM 2000 TO 2006. Developed a map showing spawning location data from 1997 to 2007
- Took photos at selected problem sites throughout the watershed during storm events and construction projects, and coordinated Water Quality monitoring of streams during stream events to assess use of BMP's. Presented the photos to the ABCW and made follow-up reports to local government. Later surveys revealed some sites had been improved and that new development erosion protection had been designed to avoid similar problems in many cases.
- Coordinated meetings to discuss the workplan for analyzing watershed data collected by DCC and others to identify the most important sources of watershed degradation and to develop specific remedial and management actions to be included in the Dry Creek Coordinated Resource Management Plan (DC CRMP). Participants included representatives from CDFG, CalEPA-OEHHA, USGS, CVRWQCB, and DCC. These meetings built on presentations made at the Dry Creek Watershed conference held in May of 2005. The process evolved into a watershed assessment performed by CalEPA-OEHHA to demonstrate techniques of the California Watershed Assessment Manual and US EPA stressor ID procedures. Due to the breadth of data for the watershed the National Center for Ecological Assessment at the Office of Research and Development at the EPA in Washington DC has expressed interest in the Dry Creek DCW assessment as a model project.
- Participated in meetings to create a regional long term Sesbania management program based on the initial program by Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency with DWR flood plain management funding. Contacted local governments and agencies to secure \$15,000 for the program. After commitment to the program was confirmed, it was passed to the Placer RCD for long term implementation. This is the first regionally funded maintenance program and may serve as a model for a variety of regionally funded maintenance activities.
- Coordinated comments on the Clover Valley development project NOP that led to inclusion of protective watershed measures in the draft EIR. Worked with the Clover

Valley environmental consultant to organize a meeting of area engineers to employ similar measures in other local development projects. This will result in more watershed friendly development in the Dry Creek Watershed and surrounding watersheds.

- Coordinated a proposal to develop an ORV facility in West Placer. Participants included representatives from the American Motorcycle Association, Placer County, Audubon, Cities of Roseville and Rocklin, and the state ORV Recreation Commission
- Posted DCWC information on the DCC website. This item was not budgeted in the workplan; a DCC volunteer provided updates.
- Worked with Rio Linda H.S. to develop a watershed stewardship program including a riparian planting project.
- Coordinated with City of Roseville on a grant proposal to fund installation of creek ID signs in the City. This has greatly increased resident awareness of creeks.
- Coordinated with Regional Water Authority to include DCWC projects in their Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).
- Developed a resolution which ABCW approved to support the CABY IRWMP. The resolution facilitates possible funding for watershed projects proposed by ABCW participants.
- Continued participation in the Foothill Water Network collaboration to represent interests of West Placer creeks in two FERC Relicensing projects.
- Served on the advisory committee for the Placer County Water Agency Loomis Basin Canal Efficiency Study as part of the water rights renewal process. The outcome of this study will affect the amount of water allowed to flow in Dry Creek and tributaries and will impact ecosystem functioning.

Objective #2: Develop and implement a focused education and outreach program to promote an integrated, watershed-based approach to land-use planning in the Dry Creek watershed.

PM: Establish an executive level oversight group; complete a series of informational presentations to local planners, design engineers and developer; convene a workshop on the principles of watershed-based land-use planning and their value of minimizing imperviousness in urban infrastructure and subdivision design; create a working group to develop a specific set of recommendations for modifying urban planning and design requirements in the Dry Creek Watershed. And support a demonstration project illustrating good design for existing and new development.

Accomplishment:

- Placer County and the Dry Creek Conservancy arranged and hosted a West Placer Watershed Conference, with one day devoted to the state of the Dry Creek watershed and the next to the benefits of low impact development (LID) (Task 2.1.5). Experts from the University of Connecticut Non-point Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO) Program and other made presentations. The event was well attended by local government officials and consultants. (Agenda attached)
- Worked with CVRWQCB and CalEPA OEHHA to reallocate unused grant funds for development of impervious surface coefficients that will be used to estimate impervious cover in the Dry Creek Watershed and can be applied throughout the state.

- Worked with an environmental consultant to organize a meeting of area engineers to discuss the practical considerations of using Low Impact Development measures in local development projects. Comments from the meeting were useful to the planning efforts of the California Water and Land Use Partnership in its goal to promote LID.
 - Worked with OEHHA, Calwalup, and others to plan a meeting of CalEPA OEHHA, SACOG planners and others to engage in a discussion about including low impact development measures in the SACOG Blueprint guiding development in the five county Sacramento region.
 - Worked with the Local Government Commission to organize a Sacramento region Water and Land Use Planning meeting hosted at the American River Conference.
 - Participated in meetings with relevant Placer County departments, OEHHA, and CVRWQCB to develop development standards that include LID. This led to a grant proposal to develop a Placer County handbook on LID for development projects.
 - Developed signs to be placed in City of Roseville open space informing residents of salmon life cycle requirements and stressing the importance of LID. The signs have been used by other parties as well.
 - Participated in a homeowner education research project being implemented by UC Davis, CSU Riverside, and Institute for Ecological Health to determine if education has a direct impact on water quality.
 - Comments submitted to development projects have resulted in incorporation of LID measures. A proposal to incorporate LID measures into the new library/utility education center in west Roseville has been under consideration. There is a proposal to demonstrate BMP's on the site. The open space manager at William Jessup University would like to use a 40 acre conservation area and small pond to treat stormwater as well as possibly providing floods control benefits and wildlife habitat. The American Basin Council of Watershed (successor to DCWC) is developing a program that would focus on homeowner and small landowner measures to manage stormwater on their property.
 - Participated in development of a Lorman seminar on stormwater management to be presented in January 2008. Developed a presentation on LID and stormwater impacts on watersheds.
 - Worked with a representative from the Center for Watershed Protection to develop a paper that describes and quantifies the economic benefits to homeowners of conservation landscaping that will be used to encourage homeowners and small landowners to use LID BMP's. The paper incorporates a method (Green Values Calculator) of determining the stormwater benefits of various types and sizes of BMP's.
5. **List all activities that directly supported or benefited CALFED Program goals for the Bay-Delta, that occurred during the entire 3-year grant period.** Under each CALFED Program Element addressed, list the actions taken to achieve that program's objectives (Use bullets; however, include enough detail to describe what happened and explain how the WC was involved). Put "NA" next to elements not addressed in your work plan. Refer to <http://calwater.ca.gov/Programs/Programs.shtml> for CALFED Program information.

CALFED Program Element: **Watershed Management**

Completed or partially completed support activities:

- Strengthened regional collaboration for watershed management by merging adjacent stakeholder groups.
- Developed data that can be used to determine management priorities.
- Developed method for estimating impervious cover.
- Involved residents in monitoring and maintenance projects such as salmon spawning surveys and creek week.

CALFED Program Element: **Water Use Efficiency**

Completed or partially completed support activities:

- Promoted use of Low Impact Development.
- Promoted use of conservation landscaping that emphasizes appropriate vegetation.
- Provided a list of benefits that provide incentive for residents to practice water use efficiency.

CALFED Program Element: **Ecosystem Restoration**

Completed or partially completed support activities:

- Coordinated with CABY and RWA IRWMP's to develop regional management.
- Developed data and projects to improve and increase salmonid habitat.
- Coordinated revegetation projects.

CALFED Program Element: **Drinking Water Quality**

Completed or partially completed support activities:

- Coordinated monitoring to assess contaminants.
- Reported erosion problem sites and inadequate use of BMP's.

CALFED Program Element: **Storage**

Completed or partially completed support activities:

- NA

CALFED Program Element: **Conveyance**

Completed or partially completed support activities:

- NA

CALFED Program Element: **Water Transfers**

Completed or partially completed support activities:

- NA

CALFED Program Element: **Science**

Completed or partially completed support activities:

- NA

CALFED Program Element: **Levee System Integrity**

Completed or partially completed support activities:

- NA

6. **Provide information on all proposals submitted and grants funded through the efforts of the watershed coordinator.** (Use the Tab key to add rows to the tables)

a. Proposals submitted during the final Quarter (3-month) reporting period:

Total amount requested this period = \$ 1,920,500

Cumulative total requested to date = \$ 4,437,500

Funding Source	Program Name	Purpose	Requested Amount	Status
Prop 84	IRWMP (CABY)	Fish passage improvement	1,278,500	Pending
Environmental Support Center	LEAP	Organizational Development	10,000	Pending
Department of Conservation	Watershed Coordinator Grant	Auburn Ravine Watershed Management	271,000	Pending
Department of Conservation	Watershed Coordinator Grant	Dry Creek Watershed Management	302,000	Pending
HP	HP Eco fund	Creek Week	500	Awarded
PGE	Environmental	Native plant nursery	5,000	Awarded
REI	Conservation Grant	Oak planting	5,000	Awarded
Sierra Nevada Conservancy	Strategic opportunities	Low Impact Development Guidebook	45,000	Pending

b. Grants funded during the entire 3-year grant reporting period:

Total amount awarded this period = \$ 10,500

Cumulative total awarded to date = \$ 646,000

Funding Source	Program Name	Purpose	Awarded Amount	Date Received
REI	Conservation Grant	Add GPS to spawning survey	5,000	June 2006
CDFG	Settlement action	Salmon habitat restoration	23,000	December 2006
American Water	Local support	City of Roseville Creek signage	6,500	May 2007
Bella Vista	Small conservancy	Auburn Ravine Fish Passage	55,000	April 2007
DWR	Watershed PSP	American Basin Restoration	484,000	August 2007
Placer/SWRCB	Fine settlement	Watershed conservation	62,000	June 2007

c. **Additional funding/donations obtained the during the final Quarter (3-month) reporting period** (not previously identified in the budget).

Total amount received this period = \$ 3,500

Cumulative total received to date = \$ 51,000

Funding Source	Purpose	Amount Received
Local organizations	Creek Week	3,500

7. **Breakdown of Additional Funding Received during the entire 3-year grant period:**

County & Other Local: \$ 25,500

State: \$ 17,500

Federal: \$

Private: \$ 8,000

Total: \$ 51,000

8. **Provide list of key partners involved with this grant:**

- Dry Creek Conservancy
- CalEPA OEHHA
- Placer County
- City of Roseville
- Placer County RCD
- Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

9. **Provide sample copies of outreach materials produced during the final quarter (last 3 months), such as brochures, handouts, fact sheets, etc. Also provide photos taken during this reporting period** (digital format via email preferred).

Note: Do not submit grant proposals, surveys, technical reports, or any other large files or reports. **Monitoring maps, salmon survey draft map, salmon survey photos, Lorman brochure (hard copy only)**

10. **If applicable, describe any problems or setbacks related to the execution of the grant.** Briefly discuss any issues that affected progress on meeting work plan goals and objectives. Also discuss any actions taken to resolve those problems.

Funding for two major projects to improve instream habitat for salmonids on Secret Ravine appeared to be in place only to fall apart.

- Funding for the Secret Ravine Floodplain Restoration project Totaled \$1.4M including \$300,000 awarded by DWR Urban Streams Restoration Program. The

DWR funding was withdrawn when further hydrological studies revealed that the proposed design wouldn't provide as much storage as originally calculated. The project would have created 1.5 miles of instream habit on the protected Sierra College Campus and would have provided a coordinator to work with students and the community to implement, monitor, and maintain the project. The coordinator played a large part in developing the proposal and served on several committees over a period of over 18 months.

- Dry Creek Conservancy was awarded \$200,000 Supplemental Environmental Program funding by SWRCB to improve a major fish barrier on Secret Ravine and for extended monitoring and education. The coordinator spent a large amount of time developing the project in coordination with SWRCB, City of Roseville, and the corporate business that had been fined. This appeared to be a mutually beneficial project until SWRCB and the fined corporation were unable to agree on final contract language. The funding was withdrawn.

Both proposals can be submitted to other funding sources.

11. **Include an updated copy of the work plan Management Tool for your grant. The reporting period should cover the previous 3 months. All fields should be filled in.** Nothing should be left blank. Follow the numbering system outlined on the Reporting Schedule. For example, the markers would be "Q8, Q9, and F. If a task was not completed, please provide the reason. **Provide one electronic copy (via email) and one hard copy (via regular mail).**

12. **Provide two hard copies (via regular mail – not express) and one electronic copy (via email) of this Final Report to your assigned grant administrator, Gail or David, by the due date.** Hard copies should be postmarked within 30 days of the Grant End Date.

Reminder 1: Do not send in 3 copies. Only the invoices are required in triplicate.

Reminder 2: Invoice charges can only be made up through the Grant End Date. **DOC cannot reimburse for any charges made after the Grant End Date.**