

**Placer County Resource Conservation District Grant Activities  
For Five Year Period Ending  
December 31, 2006**

The RCD has been instrumental in the acquiring and administering the following grants and projects over the five year period ending December 31, 2006. Following you will find a summary of RCD activities.

***Proposition 204 Grant:***

**Prop 204 Grant Funds:** \$296,390

**Start Date:** June 1999

**End Date:** March 2002

**Administrating Agency:** Placer County Office of Emergency Services

**Scope of Work:**

The RCD implemented selected components of the overall grant focused on reducing fuel load on both public and private property thereby reducing the risk of wildfire and its impacts to water quality and overall watershed conditions. The RCD provided education and outreach regarding environmental issues dealing with water quality and healthy watersheds. Of particular interest to the American River Watershed Group (ARWG) was the development of a better understanding of biomass and its potential as an alternative energy source resulting in a comprehensive report by the Sierra Economic Development District on the subject. On the ground vegetation reduction and removal was accomplished with the Placer County Chipper Program and supplemental USDA Natural Resources Conversation Service (NRCS) efforts implemented thru this grant.

***CALFED Category III Grant:***

**CALFED Category III Grant Funds:** \$220,750

**Start Date:** May 1999

**End Date:** May 2002

**Administrating Agency:** National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

**Scope of Work:**

Developed a *North Fork American River Watershed Plan and Stewardship Strategy* addressing the wide range of environmental, institutional, social, and economic issues in an integrated manner with a major emphasis on gathering GIS based data from numerous sources including state and federal agencies in an effort to develop a better understanding of watershed processes and function, key resources, stressors, land uses in order to develop strategies to improve ecological function of the watershed.

***Site Specific Objectives Grant:***

**Clean Water Act Grant:** \$100,000

**Start Date:** June 1999

**End Date:** June 2002

**Administrating Agency:** Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

**Scope of Work:**

Developed bioassessment, habitat assessment, chemical monitoring, and/or sediment toxicity data to characterize watershed conditions and train citizen volunteer groups in a variety of water quality and ecological health monitoring tools in conjunction with the American River Watershed Institute educational program.

***American River Watershed Coordinator Grant I:***

**DOC Watershed Coordinator Program Funds:** \$ 91,930  
(DOC funding of \$77,300 plus NRCS Cash Match of \$14,630)

**Start Date:** March 2001

**End Date:** June 2002

**Administrating Agency:** Dept. of Conservation

**Scope of Work:**

Provided coordination of programs and activities as defined by the American River Watershed Group (ARWG) included facilitation of ARWG meetings, the evolution of ARWG subcommittees into the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance, the formation of Sierra foothill Fire Safe Councils, coordination with neighboring stakeholder watershed groups on common issues, and coordination between county, state, and federal agencies.

Funding supported the establishment of local priorities, active pursuit of funding, and projects development.

It continued the effort to finalize the *North Fork American River Watershed Plan and Stewardship Strategy* thru the ARWG and supported the development of a Sedimentation Dynamics Study as an alternative to the unexpectedly controversial Ecological Unit Inventory project awarded CALFED funding while continuing to pursue knowledge of the watershed an its natural processes.

The ARWG provided support for the pursuit of fuel reduction demonstration sites along the I-80 corridor from Ophir to Baxter with the initiation of a dialogue with CalTrans.

***American River Watershed Coordinator Grant II:***

**DOC Watershed Coordinator Program Funds:** \$104,180.

**Start Date:** July 1, 2002

**End Date:** March 31, 2004

**Administrating Agency:** Dept. of Conservation

**Scope of Work:**

Provided continued coordination of the American River Watershed Group including the successful development of the Sediment Dynamics Study proposal.

***American River Watershed Coordinator Grant III:***

**DOC Watershed Coordinator Program Funds:** \$187,200.

**Start Date:** April 1, 2004

**End Date:** June 30, 2007

**Administrating Agency:** Dept. of Conservation

**Scope of Work:**

Supports continued ARWG coordination as an avenue for collaboration between local, state, and federal agencies and private watershed stakeholders.

Supports annual public education and outreach activities including the Watershed Education Summit focused on augmenting student learning with hands on environmental science field work focused on the Rubicon watershed. Other annual events included participation in the American River Confluence Festival, the Salmon Festival, and the bi-annual American River Watershed Conference involving a wide scope of watershed stakeholders.

Supports the development of a summary of Upper American River watershed conditions including a summary of information gathered in ARWG inquiries into the watershed, its key resources, processes, and subsequent strategies development.

Supports the continued pursuit of sustainability in terms of continued watershed coordination.

**Truckee River Watershed Coordinator Grant:**  
**DOC Watershed Coordinator Program Funds:** \$82,200  
**Start Date:** March 2001  
**End Date:** June 2002  
**Administrating Agency:** Dept. of Conservation

**Scope of Work:**

Provided coordination as defined by the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) including the management of a technical consultant provided by UC Davis to enhance the development of the GIS database including the prioritization of areas identified for additional assessment, supported the prioritization and assessment of sub-watersheds, and the continuous identification and mapping of improvement projects within the watershed.

Provide for research and assessment of organizational structure options for continued watershed based coordination and TRWC sustainability that resulted in the merger of the TRWC and the Truckee River Habitat Restoration Group providing the TRWC non-profit status to continue their coordinated resource management efforts.

**2001 EQIP Grant:**  
**2001 EQIP Grant Funds:** \$5,600  
**Start Date:** April 2001  
**End Date:** September 2002  
**Administrating Agency:** USDA NRCS

**Scope of Work:**

Review, revise and re-print existing educational materials related to fire safe/fuel load reduction, healthy forest, and stream care watershed principles for the following publications; Defensible Space & Healthy Forest Handbook, A Property Owners Guide to Reducing the Wildfire Threat, and a Stream Care Guide: Management Tips for Streamside Agricultural Landowners.

**1999 319(h) Grant:**  
**Clean Water Act 1999 319(h) Grant Funds:** \$260,000  
**Start Date:** November 1999  
**End Date:** June 2003  
**Administrating Agency:** Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

**Scope of Work:**

Mentored and trained citizen volunteer groups in a variety of measurement tools including bioassessment, habitat assessment, erosion potential, chemical monitoring, and/or sediment toxicity and the collection of data about watershed conditions.

Supported citizen volunteer activities; enhancing their long-term viability and effectiveness as change agents in the Sacramento River Watershed, through communication training, resource center maintenance, and networking and information exchange opportunities. Improved the knowledge and commitment of volunteers, local land owners, resource managers, public works personnel, and elected officials to take actions to reduce the negative consequences of their activities on stream channel integrity by encouraging the implementation of appropriate *Best Management Practices* for erosion/sediment reduction. Implemented demonstration restoration projects in four tributary watersheds to reduce physical impacts of sediment and chemical impacts of pollutants associated with sediments on in-stream habitat and aquatic organisms.

***Community-Based Wildfire Prevention Grant:***

**Community-Based Wildfire Prevention Grant Funds:** \$79,750.

**Start Date:** June 1, 2002

**End Date:** April 30, 2004

**Administrating Agency:** Sacramento Region Community Foundation

**Scope of Work:**

Conducted 7,050 4291 Defensible Space Inspections in the communities of Meadow Vista, Foresthill, and Colfax; communities located within the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI) area.

Provided private landowners with continuing education regarding their responsibility to maintain defensible space from which an offence can be mounted in a fire emergency by fire safety personnel.

***CDF/WUI Grants:***

**USFS Wildland/Urban Interface Grant Funds:** \$753,476.

**Start Date:** March 21, 2003

**End Date:** December 31, 2005

**Administrating Agency:** CA Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection

**Scope of Work:**

Provided funding for the continuation of the Placer County Chipper Program; the RCD provided administration of the program, under the direction of CDF, providing wood chipping services to the residents of Placer and Eastern Nevada Counties, thereby reducing hazardous fuels and the risk of wildfire.

***Colfax Shaded Fuel Break Grant:***

**Watershed Protection Grant Program Funds:** \$45,300.

**Start Date:** July 1, 2004

**End Date:** March 31, 2006

**Administrating Agency:** City of Colfax/State Water Resources Control Board

**Scope of Work:**

The RCD implemented selected portions of the overall grant by managing and administering the completion of the CEQA/NEPA process and obtaining of permits for the construction of a strategically placed *Shaded Fuel Break* (SFB) on contiguous private properties to protect the community of Colfax.

Managed and administered the preparation of a SFB Plan based on public and professional input gathered in a public outreach effort in conjunction with ARWI and with input from CDF and USFS.

Managed and administered the preparation of the *Estimated Load Reduction Report* for submission to the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Managed the Inspection of completed fuel load reduction projects for compliance and administered a cost share program on private properties that overall provided Colfax with a strategically placed SFB.

***CDF Prop 40 Grant:***

**CA Prop 40 Sierra Nevada Forest Land & Fuels Mgt. Funds:** \$75,215.

**Start Date:** June 1, 2005

**End Date:** December 31, 2006

**Administrating Agency:** CA Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection

**Scope of Work:**

Fiscal administration of the Placer County Chipper Program, under the direction of CDF, for residential chipping services encouraging landowner efforts in the reduction of hazardous fuels on private property and maintaining defensible space.

**2002 319(h) Grant:**

**Clean Water Act 2002 319(h) Grant Funds:** \$279,696.

**Start Date:** September 13, 2004

**End Date:** December 31, 2006

**Administrating Agency:** Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

**Scope of Work:**

This grant continues previous monitoring activities and the collection of background data for streams. This project is a community-based collaboration within and between subregions of the lower tributaries to the Sacramento River. Four recognized subwatersheds will boost and extend current site identification, restoration and protection implementation, evaluation and public outreach. Building upon earlier successes, this project will result in reduced erosion and sedimentation, enhanced riparian corridor vegetation and habitat, protected reservoir capacity and enhanced water quality.

Funding supported a growing corps of citizen scientist/engineers applying current assessment knowledge to specific technology-based implementation actions using a variety of tools; including signage; stream bank re-vegetation; erosion control measures; and invasive species mapping, eradication, and monitoring.

**USFS/WUI Grants:**

**USFS Wildland/Urban Interface Grant Funds:** \$396,000.

**Start Date:** September 15, 2005

**End Date:** December 31, 2006

**Administrating Agency:** CA Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection

**Scope of Work:**

Under the direction of CDF, The RCD provided fiscal administration for the Placer County Chipper Program that provides wood chipping services to the residents of Placer and Eastern Nevada Counties to reduce hazardous fuels and reduce the risk of wildfire.

**SAFCA/DOC Dry Creek Watershed Coordination Grant:**

**DOC Watershed Coordinator Program Funds:** \$186,956.

**Start Date:** June 30, 2005

**End Date:** June 30, 2007

**Administrating Agency:** Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency/CA Dept. of Conservation

**Scope of Work:**

Coordination strengthened the organizational capacity of the Dry Creek Watershed Council to provide coordinated resources management of the Dry Creek watershed by evolving into the American Basin Council of Watersheds with the incorporation of the Auburn Ravine/Coon Creek Watershed Group, the Pleasant Grove/ Curry Creek Watershed Group, and the Dry Creek Watershed Council and expanding their scope of interest to American Basin watersheds. Provides for continued implementation of a focused education and outreach program promoting an integrated watershed-based approach to land use planning in the Dry Creek watershed where urban growth has been focused over the past five years.

***BLM Grant:***

**US Bureau of Land Management Grant:** \$10,000.

**Start Date:** July 1, 2005

**End Date:** June 30, 2006

**Administrating Agency:** US Bureau of Land Management

**Scope of Work:**

Provide chipper services to residents of private property directly adjacent to BLM lands to reduce the risk of wildfire by reducing fuel load.

***CDF/CARCD Grant I & II:***

**CA Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection:** \$60,000.

**Start Date:** July 1, 2003

**End Date:** June 30, 2009

**Administrating Agency:** CA Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection/CA Association of RCDs

**Scope of Work:**

The RCD supports CA Association of RCDs (CARCD) and CDF Forestry subcommittees that provide policy guidance to CARCD and CDF on forest stewardship matters, guidance for the CDF Forest Stewardship Program, leadership for educational programs on forestry and fuels management to RCDs, and assistance to local RCDs in funding implementation grants for forestry enhancement and improvement.

***Projects:***

***CALFED North Fork American River Sediment Dynamics Study:***

**CALFED/CA Dept. of Water Resources:** \$15,000.

**Start Date:** June 1, 2006

**End Date:** May 30, 2007

**Administrating Agency:** Sierra College

**Scope of Work:**

The RCD provides support to the *Sediment Dynamics Study* Technical Advisory Committee empowered by the ARWG to oversee the study currently in the process of conducting an assessment of erosion potential in the North Fork American River watershed.

***Dept. of Facility Services:***

**DFS:** \$24,000.

**Start Date:** January 6, 2006

**End Date:** June 30, 2006

**Administrating Agency:** Placer County DFS

**Scope of Work:**

The RCD developed a fuels reduction, range management plan for the Hidden Falls and a storm water planning-erosion/sediment control plan for the Squaw Valley Park site.

***Pending Grants:***

***CALFED Working Landscapes Grant:***

**CALFED:** \$1,860,898.

**Start Date:** to be determined

**End Date:** To be determined

**Administrating Agency:** Placer County RCD

**Scope of Work:**

Develop a GIS-based *American Basin Working Landscape Strategy*, implement three specific riparian and wetland restoration projects, and prepare the applicants to purchase up to four wildlife friendly agricultural easements. These efforts would complement similar efforts in the American Basin funded for more than \$8M in private, state, and federal grants.

**CDF Prop 40 Fuels Reduction Program**

**Proposition 40/Fuels Load Reduction Program:** \$ To be determined

**Start Date:** to be determined

**End Date:** To be determined

**Administrating Agency:** Sierra Coordinated Resources Management Council

**Scope of Work:**

The Sierra Coordination Resources Management Council (Council) a Joint Powers Authority consisting of six area RCDs including the Placer County RCD is in contract development with CDF to administer a Prop 40 Fuel Load Reduction Program, providing cost share funding to assist private landowners to implement fuel load reduction projects. The Placer RCD will administer the fifteen county program on behalf of the Council.

The goal of the CDF Prop 40 Fuels Reduction Program is to reduce wildland fuel loadings that pose a threat to watershed resources and water quality on nonfederal lands within fifteen Sierra Nevada counties as follows: Butte, Plumas, Sierra, Yuba, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Amador, Alpine, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Madera, Mariposa, Fresno, and Tulare.

**Pending Projects:**

**SAFCA/RCD Red Sesbania Long Term Management & Maintenance Project:**

**Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency:** \$234,000.

**Start Date:** January 1, 2007

**End Date:** December 30, 2017

**Administrating Agency:** Placer County RCD

**Scope of Work:**

Provide for a cost share based ten year Red Sesbania management and maintenance program in the Dry Creek watershed as a follow up to a three year eradication program conducted by SAFCA. A long term control effort has been deemed imperative in controlling this toxic and highly prolific riparian plant. The follow up eradication program's current cost share partners include SAFCA, Placer County, and the City of Sacramento and potential partners include Sacramento County and the Cities of Roseville, Rocklin, and Loomis.

**Dept. of Facility Services:**

**DFS:** \$30,000.

**Start Date:** To be determined

**End Date:** June 30, 2007

**Administrating Agency:** Placer County DFS

**Scope of Work:**

The RCD will provide assistance including, but not limited to issues such as vegetation, soils, water, fire prevention, and related resources, implementation of management plans, and the development of funding strategies, to be determined by individual work plans to be developed.

In addition to the above referenced activities the RCD has continued to answer the needs of individual Placer County residents, local municipalities, and state and federal agencies in terms of resource management.

The RCD continues to implement the Annual RCD/Placer County Joint Work Programs that over the last five years have totaled \$376,040 and have primarily consisted of natural resource education highlighted with the Annual Placer County Ag Tour, provided erosion and sediment control assistance, provided support to watershed stakeholder groups that have all developed either Coordinated Resource Management Plans (CRMPs) or Ecosystem Restoration Plans (ERPs) for the Auburn Ravine/Curry Creek/Markham Ravine watersheds, the Dry Creek watershed, and the Pleasant Grove/Curry Creek watersheds in collaboration with the Placer County Planning-Natural Resources Division over the past five years.

Through the Joint Work Program the RCD has also provided support for the Bear River Watershed group in their resource planning effort that resulted in the Bear River Watershed CRMP in collaboration with the Nevada County RCD.

The Joint Work Program has also allowed the RCD to support a citizen based urban forestry group that has evolved into the Placer Tree Partners, dedicated to enhancing Placer County's urban forest.