



Colusa County Water 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

The Year in Review: 2011

January 2012

Regional Focus

The Water Resources Association of Yolo County (WRA) provides its member agencies and the public with a forum for the exchange of information to coordinate water management activities throughout Yolo County.

The WRA continued to focus on regional water planning during 2011 as driven by Proposition 84 statewide planning efforts. The Westside Regional Water Management Group was awarded a \$1 million Proposition 84 planning grant to develop the Westside Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. The Plan will assemble water-related management strategies across the sub-region. The counties of Yolo, Solano, Lake, Napa and Colusa will collaborate to identify regional opportunities and benefits. The Westside is a sub-region of the Proposition 84 Sacramento River Funding Area (SRFA) recognized by

the California Department of Water Resources. Contracts were finalized in October/November 2011.

Throughout the year representatives from WRA member agencies met with State and Federal representatives, locally and in Washington, D.C., to highlight Yolo County's infrastructure priorities and garner financial support. The projects emphasized were: the Davis-Woodland Water Supply/RD 2035 Sacramento River Intake/Fish Screen Project; and flood protection for West Sacramento, Mid-Valley Area Levee Reconstruction and Lower Cache Creek. Regional collaborative efforts that support sustainable solutions for the challenged Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta's eco-system and water supplies were also the focus of discussions amongst stakeholders.

Staying Ahead of Changing Issues

In 2011, the WRA Board focused on the impacts of local and statewide water legislation on resource planning and implementation efforts. The State and Federal economic environment is forcing local agencies to do more with less available resources. Multi-agency communication and collaboration is an important model for surviving these times.

The WRA Board kept informed about issues by receiving presentations from a variety of experts and decision-makers including:

- Current Water Issues & Considerations for Yolo County (Senator Lois Wolk)
- Current Water Issues Facing California (Tim Quinn, Association of CA Water Agencies)
- Responding to Water Policies & Regulations Impacting Sacramento Valley (David Guy, Northern CA Water Association)
- California Water Resources, "The Cost of Doing Nothing" (John Brown, Central Valley Flood Protection Board)

- Regional Mercury Issues, Regulations and Activities (McCord Environmental)
- Update on Activities of the Central Valley Flood Control Association (Mike Hardesty, President)
- Regular staff updates on Delta planning, legislation and regulatory issues
- Regular updates from the WRA Technical Committee on member agency activities and funding opportunities



Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
(Photo: UC Davis Watershed Sciences)

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 2011

The WRA Technical Committee focused on regional IRWMP efforts and funding opportunities for the benefit of its member agencies. The WRA contributed funding toward the following IRWMP project priorities for fiscal year 2010-11:

- **Yolo Bypass Integrated Project:** The Yolo Bypass is an integral part of the Sacramento River system. Several Yolo Bypass stakeholder committees are actively working on long-range strategies for the Yolo Bypass watershed. One subcommittee developed a Westside Option proposal to improve salmon rearing habitat that was distributed to the BDCP and other Delta interests. The Yolo Basin Foundation identified local stakeholders for the CA Resources Agency's Yolo Bypass Fisheries Enhancement Planning Team.
- **Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program:** WRA members have financially supported the monitoring program, an IRWMP Foundational Action, since 2006. The YCFCWCD as lead agency collects groundwater elevation data for the Water Resources Information Database (WRID), which is shared with the California Department of Water Resources Water Data Library.
- **Surface Water Monitoring Program:** The development of a surface water monitoring plan is an IRWMP Foundational Action and an important component in managing Yolo County water re-

sources. Preliminary planning proposes to expand the WRID to include surface water quality monitoring similar to the model used for the groundwater monitoring program.

- **Proposition 84 Planning Grant/Westside IRWMP:** A regional 5-county agreement formally established the Westside Regional Water Management Group to satisfy DWR eligibility requirements for Proposition 84 funding opportunities in 2010-11. The Westside partners (Yolo, Solano, Napa, Lake, Colusa) were awarded a \$1 million planning grant in 2011 to develop an IRWMP for the Westside sub-region of the Sacramento River Funding Area. Grant and consultant contracts were executed in October 2011. A multi-county public outreach effort is planned to include all interested stakeholders.
- **Yolo County IRWMP Update:** Over the span of a year, the WRA Technical Committee updated the status of the 200 plus actions and programs listed in the 2007 IRWMP. A series of special working meetings were held to discuss each listed project with the appropriate lead agencies. Two updated lists were distributed: projects completed by 2011 and priorities to be implemented by 2020.
- **Administrative Legislative & Legal Services:** A budgeted placeholder for utilizing support services in the absence of the WRA's own dedicated legislative or legal consultants.

For more details on these projects visit:
<http://www.yolowra.org/projects.html>

Financial Summary

July 2010—June 2011 Income

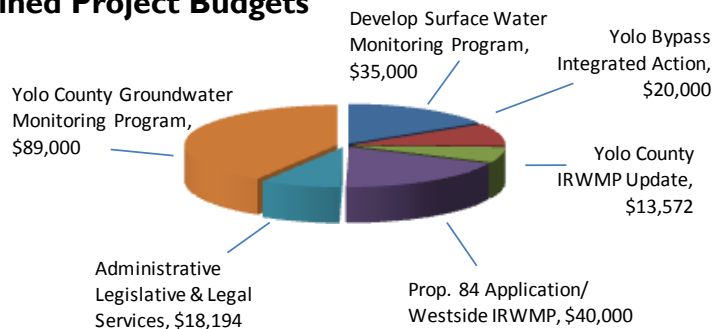
WRA Membership Dues: Baseline Budget

- Administrative Fund: \$74,945
- Project Fund: \$99,345

Supplemental Income: Special Projects Budget

- Groundwater Monitoring Program: \$89,000
- Prop. 84 Funding/Westside IRWMP: \$40,000

July 2010 - June 2011 Expenses Combined Project Budgets



Grant Funding (selected list 2010-2011)

Agency	Project	Funding Source	Amount	Status
LPCCC (SCWA)	Putah Creek Nature Park Restoration	CA River Parkway	\$2 million	Received grant
RD 2035	Sacramento River Joint Intake Project	USBR	\$1.165 million	Received grant
RD 108	Recycled Water Station Project	CALFED (USBR)	\$1.2 million	Received grant
Westside Group	Westside IRWMP	Proposition 84 Planning	\$1 million	Received grant
YCFC&WCD	Groundwater Monitoring Program	DWR / AB 303	\$250,000	Received grant
Yolo County	Cache Creek Parkway Plan	National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program	Technical Assistance Grant	In progress

IRWMP Integrated Projects & Ongoing Member Agency Activities

The Yolo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) is considered the guiding document for water resources planning in Yolo County. The WRA and its member agencies were involved in many projects throughout the year to implement actions contained in the IRWMP. The Foundational Actions provide important information for both the Yolo and Westside IRWMPs. The IRWMP is a periodically updated “living” document. www.yolowra.org/irwmp.html

In 2011, the WRA, in partnership with the YCFC&WCD, became the designated monitoring entity for the legislatively mandated California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program (CASGEM). DWR is still developing the program database. CASGEM ties into the existing Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program that collects groundwater elevation and water quality data throughout the county from numerous locations.

Water conservation was a central theme for many urban and agricultural WRA member agencies in 2011. The cities of Woodland and Winters installed residential water meters to comply with State mandated regulations and are benefiting from reduced water usage due to leak repairs and user conservation awareness. Local urban water agencies also adopted their 2010 Urban Water Management Plans, which included future per capita water use targets for each community.

RD 108 completed a large project that improved the flexibility and management of recycled water by increasing the area served and reducing distribution system spills. The capacity of 4 recycle pumping plants was increased using salvaged pumps and motors. Recycled water comprises approximately 25% of RD 108’s total applied water. The project was funded by a CALFED grant administered by US Bureau of Reclamation with a 50-50 local funding match.



Reclamation District 108 Recycled Water Station
with salvaged pumps & motors on the right bay
(Photo: RD 108)

Restoration work on the Putah Creek Nature Park is underway. The project will narrow the creek’s flow channel and lower its floodplain. This restoration improves fish and wildlife habitat while giving the community better access to



Putah Creek Channel Realignment
Diversion pipes follow future meander of channel
(Photo: Rich Marovich)

enjoy the park. Rich Marovich gave a project update to the WRA Board in September 2011, which is funded by California River Parkway grants received by the Solano County Water Agency.

The Davis-Woodland Water Supply Project was identified as the most cost-effective and environmentally sensitive solution to water quality issues for Woodland and Davis. The Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency (WDCWA) created a historic partnership of voting board members from the cities of Woodland and Davis and non-voting members from UC Davis and Yolo County. Partnership agreements between RD 2035 and WDCWA to construct a joint agricultural-urban water intake facility on the Sacramento River were solidified. This partnership will save ratepayers millions of dollars and provide environmental benefits. RD 2035 also received acknowledgement of Federal funding support for the intake structure design and construction.

Yolo County is actively engaged in various efforts by state and federal agencies to address ecosystem and water supply issues associated with the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, including the development of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), the Delta Plan, and the Delta Economic Sustainability Plan. Yolo County focus is on avoiding or minimizing impacts to existing land uses from proposed ecosystem restoration projects, such as the BDCP proposal to flood the Yolo Bypass more frequently for endangered fish species. The County has secured funding to analyze the impacts of this proposal on agriculture and waterfowl habitat, and also is working to secure funding for an analysis of the potential flood protection impacts. Yolo County is working with the Delta Counties Coalition and local organizations, such as the Yolo County Farm Bureau and the Yolo Basin Foundation, to further Delta advocacy.

The City of Woodland finalized cost sharing agreements with the USACE and the CVFPB to re-initiate work on the Cache Creek Settling Basin (CCSB) Feasibility Study. The Study is a critical step to identifying reasonable flood solutions for Woodland and will explore solutions involving modifications of the CCSB. The initial study action will seek USACE approval of the hydrology developed for Cache Creek by the floodSAFE Yolo Pilot Program.



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 Chair are 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-need basis depending on issues that require timely attention.

The public is invited to attend and participate at WRA meetings. Meeting minutes and future meeting announcements are available on our website at <http://www.yolowra.org>.



Creek Walk 2011, Cache Creek
(Photo: Dr. Tim Horner, Cache Creek Area Plan TAC)

2011 Board of Directors & Officers

William Marble, City of Woodland, WRA Chair
Sid England, University of California, Davis, WRA Vice-Chair
Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, City of Winters, WRA Treasurer
Christopher Ledesma, City of West Sacramento
Sue Greenwald, City of Davis
Don Peart, Colusa County Water District
Gary Schaad, Dunnigan Water District
Fritz Durst, Reclamation District 108
Regina Cherovsky, Reclamation District 2035
Matt Rexroad, Yolo County Board of Supervisors
Jim Mayer, Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

Jacques De Bra, City of Davis, Technical Committee Chair
Donna Gentile, Administrative Coordinator
Perry, Bunch, Battaglia, & Johnston, Inc., Auditor

Colusa County Water 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