



The Year in Review: 2013

January 2014

Partnering on Regional Water Issues

The Water Resources Association of Yolo County (WRA) reached a organizational milestone in 2013. WRA members celebrated the 20th anniversary of the association, which was created in 1993. Past and present board members attended to acknowledge the WRA's ongoing commitment to the protection and stewardship of Yolo County's water resources.

"Water has become one of the most critical issues of our generation", said WRA Chair, William Marble. "Water shortages are a California reality and key discussions are taking place about a statewide water plan. It is increasingly more important that our member agencies work together to be at the table in order to add our collective voice to the debate." Here are a few examples of how WRA members strive to work together.

- The Westside Regional Water Management IRWMP is a four county collaboration to implement regional priorities. The final Plan was adopted in July 2013. State imple-

mentation grant funding will be sought in winter 2014-15. For more information visit: www.westsideirwm.com.

- FloodProtect is a regional planning effort established to reduce flood risks to the greater Sacramento, Solano, Sutter and Yolo county areas. Funding has been secured from the State of California to develop a sustainable action plan that will identify a list of prioritized flood management solutions. For more details on the process visit: www.floodprojectplan.com
- The Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency and Reclamation District 2035 have secured State and Federal funding for a new surface water intake facility on the Sacramento River. This project is a team effort for an affordable water management solution that also has strong support from local and regional officials. Visit www.wdcwa.com for details.

Read more about all of these projects on page 3

Water Resources Planning and Implementation



Irrigated land north of Sacramento Metropolitan Airport

The WRA Board received many presentations on key topics to stay informed and make decisions about regional issues in 2013.

- Perspective on California Water Issues (Tim Quinn, ACWA Executive Director and Stuart Leavenworth, Sacramento Bee Editorial Page Editor)
- Current Water Issues and Possible Statewide Water

Bond (Senator Lois Wolk, Senate District 3)

- 2013 Water Conditions Update (Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District)
- Update on Settlement Contracts Litigation (Lewis Bair, Reclamation District 108)
- Proposed State Water Bond 2014 Discussion (Tim Quinn, ACWA and David Guy, NCWA)
- Woodland Davis Surface Water Supply Project Update (Dennis Diemer, WDCWA)
- Westside Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Adoption July 2013
- Putah Creek Restoration and Fish Video Project (Ken Davis, The Creekman)
- Regular Delta planning and legislative/regulatory updates
- Regular WRA Technical Committee updates on local project activities and available funding opportunities

Davis, City of
 Dunningan 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

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WRA Funded Projects and Programs in 2013

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 in FY2012-13:

- **Surface Water Monitoring Plan (\$35,000):** This project is an IRWMP Foundational Action and an important component in managing Yolo County water resources. The Water Resources Information Database (WRID) was expanded to include existing surface water quality monitoring data from the Cache Creek Resources Management Plan. Authorized users can gain access to the WRID to upload/edit data and analyze groundwater and surface water level and quality well data.
- **Yolo Bypass Integrated Project (\$20,000):** The Yolo Basin Foundation is a longstanding leader and convener for stakeholder interests in the Yolo Bypass. WRA project funds support their participation in numerous Yolo Bypass and Delta-related planning processes and studies that have an impact on water resources in Yolo County.
- **Westside IRWMP (\$23,864):** The WRA's participation as a regional partner helped to fund the Westside IRWMP. In 2013, an extensive public outreach process culminated in the creation and

adoption of the Westside IRWMP. Plan implementation will be the focus during the next fiscal year of this multi-county effort.

- **Pilot Study-Groundwater Co-removal of Chromium 6/ Nitrate (\$19,358):** The 4-month long study conducted by the City of Davis, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants and Envirogen Technologies investigated a biological treatment process in response to state legislated establishment of a new Cr6 drinking water standard.
- **Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) Project (\$24,358):** City of Woodland's ASR Well 28 project is part of their Groundwater Management Plan Implementation. The project goal is to provide high quality groundwater to the City and help replace supplies from aging wells. WRA's funding purchased 7 data loggers for designated monitoring wells within the City of Woodland.
- **Mercury TMDL Impacts & Implementation Assessment (\$19,080):** McCord Environmental, Inc. (MEI) and the Mercury Subcommittee assess, monitor and inventory mercury TMDL-related activities and recommends any actions to the WRA. MEI provides regulatory consulting services to the WRA related to Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board policies impacting Yolo County watersheds.

WRA Funded Projects & Programs (Continued on page 4)

Financial Summary

July 2012 - June 2013 Income

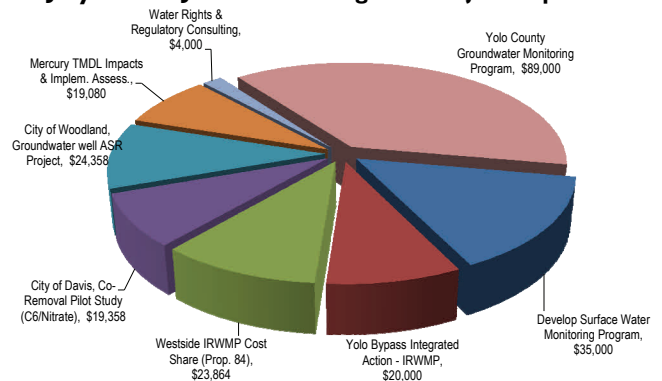
WRA Membership Dues: Baseline Budget

- Administrative Fund: \$88,828
- Project Fund: \$99,377

Supplemental Income: Special Projects Budget

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

July 2012 - June 2013 Budgeted Project Expenses



Grant Funding - WRA Agencies (selected list 2012-13)

Agency	Project	Funding Source	Amount	Status
Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency & Reclamation Dist. 2035	Sacramento River Joint Intake Facility	California Proposition 40; US Bureau of Reclamation	\$10 million; \$14.15 million	Approved; Approved
Yolo Basin Foundation	Putah Creek Restoration Grant (Putah Creek Diversion Dam to Yolo Bypass Toe Drain)	CDFW Ecosystem Restoration Program	\$2.26 million	Awarded in 2012 Amended in 2013
YCFC&WCD	Winters Main Canal Modernization: Integrated Precision Water Mgmt.	Agricultural Water Use Efficiency Grant (Prop. 50)	\$1.4 million	Awarded
FloodProtect	Lower Sacramento North Delta Regional Flood Management Plan & Governance Study	CA Department of Water Resources	\$1.6 million	Awarded
Yolo Habitat JPA	Yolo County Habitat Conservation Plan/NCCP	US Fish & Wildlife Service	\$999,000	Awarded
Dunnigan Water District	Water Delivery System Remote Control & Monitoring	CalFed Water Use Efficiency	\$80,000	Awarded

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 2007 Yolo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The IRWMP is considered the guiding document for water resources planning in Yolo County. The status of IRWMP priority projects will be reviewed every 5 years (first review in 2011). New projects continue to be identified by the WRA Technical Committee for future inclusion in the IRWMP. www.yolowra.org/irwmp.html

The Westside Regional Water Management Group developed and adopted the Westside IRWMP in July 2013. The IRWMP was funded by a \$1 million Proposition 84 planning grant from the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) plus a \$500,000 cost share from a consortium of agencies representing a 5-county region (Cache and Putah Creek watersheds). An extensive public outreach process assisted with the evaluation and prioritization of projects from Napa, Solano, Lake, Yolo and Colusa counties. Although a Prop. 84 Implementation Round 2 grant proposal was not funded in 2013, they plan to apply for future implementation funding in FY2014-15. The Westside Group is moving forward with IRWMP implementation. The Yolo County Resource Conservation District was selected to provide administrative support to track the progress of projects, objectives and facilitate public outreach meetings.

Several studies were conducted under the direction of Yolo County with assistance from the Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF) to provide technical information into the development of a series of actions that would comprise the Yolo Bypass Conservation Measure in the draft Bay Delta Conservation Plan. These studies can be accessed on the County's website: www.yolocounty.org, Hot Topics, [Delta eLibrary](#).



American Avocets, Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
(Dave Feliz)

A scope of work is being prepared to submit to DWR to develop a Yolo Bypass Corridor Plan. This would be funded under the FloodProtect Regional Flood Management Plan. The Corridor Plan would include studies conducted by Yolo agencies and outline best strategies identified to specifically benefit the Bypass and agricultural sustainability. FloodProtect is one of six regional flood management plans under development in California. Through collaborative planning, FloodProtect aims to reduce flood risks in the Lower Sacra-

mento Delta North region, which includes Yolo County. This planning effort includes diverse interest groups and will prioritize potential flood solutions based on need and regional benefit. The FloodProtect Planning Team has vetted the draft Problem Definition report in public workshops and is now working on the solution sets by gathering information from urban, small and rural community stakeholders with working knowledge of the issues. The Plan will identify potential regional improvements and alternatives to address regional flood risk problems. The Team anticipates that the FloodProtect Plan will influence the 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan update.

In October 2013, the Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency (WDCWA) Board awarded a \$141.2 million service contract to CH2M Hill for the design, construction and long-term operation of a new surface water treatment system. This project will improve water supply reliability and water quality for more than two-thirds of Yolo County residents. The cities of Davis and Woodland will receive the majority of their water from the Sacramento River by mid-2016 based on the current project schedule. This is a significant milestone in Yolo County history after two decades of planning and collaboration by local agencies.

A related Yolo IRWMP priority project is the Sacramento River Surface Water Joint Intake Facility. Reclamation District 2035 and WDCWA have successfully leveraged over \$33 million in state and federal funding for this project. The intake will be jointly constructed and operated by WDCWA and RD 2035 and is the cornerstone of WDCWA's regional surface water project. The intake facility will be replacing the largest unscreened surface water intake on the Sacramento River north of the Delta.

The YCFC&WCD was awarded a Proposition 50 Agricultural Water Use Efficiency grant for the Winters Main Canal Modernization Project. The project will modernize 16 miles of its main canal by installing automatic water control gates and pump flow meters. This will allow the District and its water customers to manage their irrigations more efficiently while achieving water conservation benefits. Enhancing the system will also help mitigate the drought effects of climate change. The project is also consistent with the Westside IRWMP's objectives and should be completed mid-2016.

The City of West Sacramento and the West Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency are fully committed to the West Sacramento Levee Improvement Program. Two public meetings to review the draft Southport Sacramento River Early Implementation Project EIR/EIS were held in December 2013. The project would bring the 5.6 mile South Levee up to standard with Federal and state flood risk reduction criteria. For more information about the project, visit http://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/city/flood/southport_eip/



Best Wishes to a Retiring WRA Board Member

Jacques DeBra has been an active member of the WRA on behalf of the City of Davis since the WRA's inception in 1994. He has played an instrumental leadership role on the WRA Board of Directors and has been the Chair of the WRA's Technical Committee since 2005. His valuable insight guided the WRA's development as a recognized regional association of water resource management for Yolo County. He was a key figure overseeing the long development of the Yolo County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan that is a guiding document for local planning efforts. In 2009, he once again continued his involvement in the creation of the Westside IRWMP, a 5-county regional plan. Jacques persistently pursued grant and funding opportunities for the benefit of WRA member agencies and for the enhancement of the Yolo County region. Jacques retired in December 2013 after 24 years with the City of Davis.



Sid England and Jacques DeBra, November 2013

Sid and Jacques, pictured to the right, are original members of the 1992 Interagency Water Management Coordinating Group (ICOR) that updated the 1984 Yolo County Water Plan.

WRA Funded Projects and Programs in 2013 *(Continued from page 2)*

- *Water Rights Legislative & Regulatory Consulting (\$4,000)*: Northern California Water Association (NCWA) advises the WRA membership on legislative and regulatory issues that may affect water rights and supplies in Yolo County. NCWA staff provides regular updates at WRA Board and Technical Committee meetings. The focus in 2013 has been on Bay-Delta issues and the proposed 2014 Water Bond.
- *Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program (\$89,000)*: Since 2006 WRA members contribute ongoing support for this important IRWMP Foundational Action managed by the YCFC&WCD. The program is championed by DWR as one of the premier non-urban monitoring programs in the State. Many plans, projects and stakeholders have used and continue to use Program data. Monitoring data is provided to California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) program.

To view information detailed project information and access project reports, please visit to www.yolowra.org/projects.html

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 www.yolowra.org.

2013 WRA Board of Directors & Officers

- 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 & 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, Yolo County
- Jim Mayer, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD

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