

NEW IMAGE NEEDED

Coordinating Committee

Lake County Watershed Protection District

Marina Deligiannis
Marina.Deligiannis@lakecountyca.gov
Angela DePalma-Dow
Angela.DePalma-Dow@Lakecountyca.gov



Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Chris Silke
Christopher.Silke@countyofnapa.org
Rick Thomasser
Richard.Thomasser@countyofnapa.org



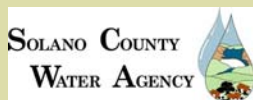
Water Resources Association of Yolo County

Elisa Sabatini@yolocounty.org
Max Stevenson
mstevenson@ycfcwcd.org



Solano County Water Agency

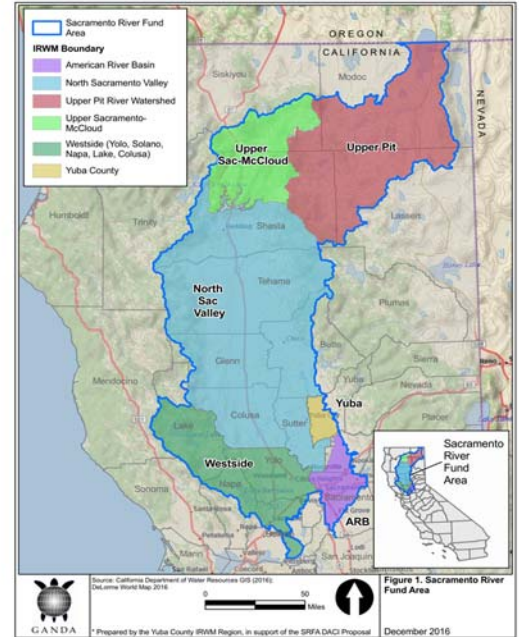
Sabrina Colias
scolias@scwa2.com
Chris Lee
clee@scwa2.com



Administrative support provided by Yolo County Resource Conservation District; info@yolorcd.org 530-661-1688

Lake County Special Districts Awarded IRWM Grant

Starting in 2018 the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) made non-competitive Prop 1 grant funding available to each of the IRWM Funding Areas in the State, prioritizing disadvantaged communities (DACs). Through strong collaboration among representatives from the six IRWM Regions in the Sacramento River Funding Area (SRFA), grant funds were equitably distributed among all of the Regions, with most of the money going toward projects that will improve water quality and delivery to DACs in this large funding area. In the Westside Region, Lake County Special Districts was awarded \$4.7M to fund critical water-line upgrades, deteriorating water tanks, emergency water supplies, and contamination prevention projects in their communities. Contracting was completed March 1st, with project activity due to start soon after.



Lake Berryessa Mussel Prevention at the International Sportsman's Expo

In January 2020, Solano County Water Agency and Lake County Water Resources Department attended the International Sportsman's Exposition in Sacramento as exhibitors. Agency staff attended to educate the public on the implications of zebra and quagga

mussels, and on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Over the three-day Expo this exhibit reached over 600 people in one-on-one engagement, many of whom have never seen invasive mussels in person. The Mussel Boat, funded by the Westside IRWM small grant program, took center stage at the Agency's exhibit. The mussel boat drew in many attendees and was observed by thousands on onlookers as they entered the Exposition arena. Both Solano and Lake County staff showed their appreciation to responsible boaters with their educational swag including key chains and plug wrenches for the boaters to take the message of Clean, Drain, Dry back home. Being one of the more publicly displayed outreach events, Westside IRWM members hope to attend similar events held in the future.



Solano County Water Agency staff with Zebra-Quagga mussel boat display at International Sportsman's Expo Feb 2020

Disadvantaged Community Work in its Final Phase

Since 2018 The Westside Sacramento IRWM Region, along with other Regions in the Sacramento River Watershed, has benefited from grant funding through the State Department of Water Resources (DWR) for working with disadvantaged (DAC), under-represented, under-served and tribal communities

(<https://www.srfadacip.com>). Work has included a Kelseyville Community-based Needs Assessment, Technical/Managerial/Financial Needs assessments across Lake County water systems, funding to support a DACI-Coordinator, and an analysis by UC Davis on unincorporated DAC areas to support water-system consolidation efforts. Technical Workshops offered in the Region via RCAC (www.rcac.org) included Emergency Response training, COVID-19 Response, Drinking Water Math, Wastewater Math and Tribal-only trainings. Support was also provided for preparation of a DWR Implementation Grant application and Project Information Form reviews. Many small water systems, those without any paid staff, and those lacking training in current standards and methods for providing safe and affordable drinking water, received these free trainings and targeted technical assistance with their water systems. The “Tu Agua” Equity Initiative, started in Yuba County IRWM Region, began with the development of Spanish-language materials aimed at educating community members about where their water comes from and ways they can engage in ensuring water quality. The program, which depended on public events for outreach, was slowed by COVID-19 lockdowns but work continues and the program is intended for export to other Regions in the funding area like the Westside.



Tu-Agua Water Cycle graphic developed through disadvantaged community involvement grant.

Funds brought into the Westside Sac IRWMP Region

Year	Request	What
2011-13	\$1,000,000	IRWMP (DWR) Planning Grant; \$167,048 local match from member counties
2014	\$7,000,829	IRWM Prop 84 Drought Funding; Local Match \$5,443,740, Total Value \$12,444,569)
2015	\$ 467,378	EPA Brownfield Assessment Coalition grant
2015	\$2,212,085	DWR IRWM Prop 84 Implementation Grant Solicitation, funding recommendations
2017	\$ 25,000	DWR Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) , Region Coordinator, Phase 1
2018	\$ 25,000	DWR DACI, Region Coordinator, Phase 2
2019	\$ 10,000	DWR DACI, Region Coordinator, Phase 3
2017-21	\$ 400,000	DWR DACI Grant services to the Westside from Funding Area Coordinator Team
2019	\$4,700,000	DWR Prop 1 IRWM Implementation Grant, Disadvantaged Community

Each year the member agencies for the Westside contribute funds toward operation of the organization. Some of those funds are used to apply for grant funds and for other activities that help achieve the goals of the IRWM Plan. Since the Westside was organized, millions of dollars have been brought into the four-county Region (Yolo, Lake and portions of Napa and Solano Counties), with over a million more in requests currently in-progress.

Brownfields in the Westside Region

State water quality regulators are developing a statewide mercury control program. Many water bodies in our region are listed as impaired by mercury contamination and because of that are subject to that upcoming regulatory program. Indeed, our own Westside Sacramento IRWM Plan identifies mercury contamination as a key cause of regional water quality impairment. Although found naturally in our region's soils and mineral springs, significant mercury contamination downstream has resulted from the legacy of mercury mining for use in gold mining.

The federal (Environmental Protection Agency - EPA) brownfields program provides financial assistance to inventory, assess, clean up, and plan the reuse of brownfield sites. Brownfields are "real property... complicated by the presence or potential presence of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, controlled substances, petroleum or petroleum products, or that are mine-scarred land." The IRWM Coordinating Committee completed a four-year brownfields assessment project in 2019 (<https://www.westsideirwmbrownfields.org/>). The final report includes an Area-wide Plan for how to address our regions mercury mining legacy.

In October 2020, the Committee submitted a proposal for another three-year assessment grant to continue and expand upon that work. Awards are expected by spring 2021. If awarded, the grant would fund additional site assessments and site cleanup & reuse plans for mines and other brownfields identified in our region.



View of Lake Berryessa after a storm. The plume of sediment carries mercury from mine sites to waterways where it can bioaccumulate in fish.

Statewide Network of IRWM Regions



There are 48 IRWM Regions in California covering 87% of the state's area and 99% of the population. Each Region is unique, but they all share many common interests.

The statewide Roundtable of Regions (ROR) consists of more than 130 representatives from IRWM Regions around the state and serves as a forum for people working on IRWM to network, discuss common interests and share their successes and challenges. It also provides opportunities to give feedback to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on the IRWM program. Members have participated in numerous conference calls and summits, and the Roundtable has conducted four comprehensive surveys of the membership. Roundtable members have been actively engaged in preparing and implementing IRWM plans for more than eleven years, applying for and administering IRWM grants, and integrating IRWM activities with other local, state, and federal programs at the local level. Functionally, the Roundtable serves as an association of professionals engaged in IRWM activities.

The IRWM Roundtable of Regions works with these groups on a statewide level.

Status of Projects in the IRWM Plan

Every two years the Westside Coordinating Committee (CC; see sidebar on front page) embarks on an update of all projects in the IRWM Plan. Projects get added to the Plan on an ongoing basis. With a current total of 212 projects from all four member counties (Solano, Yolo, Napa and Lake), some being joint or multi-county projects, this is no small effort. That 2021 effort is underway as part of the Westside's obligation to report out to the public on the status of plan implementation.



Members of the SAFER Advisory Group

Funding for IRWM Projects

While numerous Westside projects have been completed through grant funding from the State Department of Water Resources – Division of IRWM, there will never be enough program funding to complete all of the regional projects needed to upgrade and improve our water systems. Over the years some projects have been funded through funding opportunities from the State Revolving Fund (State Water Resources Control Board), the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Delta Conservancy and others. These are often matched with local funds, greatly increasing the value of the overall projects. A new, state-level program aimed at pooling technical expertise and funding sources is moving more projects forward. This is the SAFER Program: Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience. At least six state entities are involved, with some providing planning services and others loans and grants. An Advisory Group with 19 members from 7 categories helps direct efforts. This program may be able to provide funding for your water-related project, so for more information, see the SAFER website at www.waterboards.ca.gov/safer.



Goals of the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program



State SAFER Program Participants