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Lake County Special Districts IRWM Grant Update

Lake County Special Districts recently completed the first year of project activity on its Prop1, Round 1, IRWM Grant awarded in 2020. The grant provides funding for six (6) projects in Lake County and was executed in March 2021. It assists disadvantaged communities with critical water-line upgrades, new water tanks, emergency water supplies, and contamination prevention.



LCSD staff replace sections of broken pipe.



Damage from root intrusion.

The projects are at different stages of completion:

1. Spring Valley Lake Reservoir Recovery project (~25% complete);
2. Lake County Sanitation Districts Infiltration & Inflow Reduction Plan (55% comp.);
3. Quail Trail Water Line Replacement (~5% comp.);
4. Live Oak Water Line Replacement (30% comp.);
5. Hidden Valley Lake Infiltration & Inflow Mitigation Plan (~82% comp.);
6. Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District, Water Tank Replacement (in DWR review).

Collectively, these projects address the highest priority water infrastructure concerns and contribute to enhanced climate and drought resiliency for communities in Lake County.

DWR Drought Set-Aside Funding for Dunnigan Area Groundwater Recharge Pilot Project

In March, the Sacramento River Funding Area (SRFA), of which the Westside IRWM region is one of five IRWM regions, obtained a fiscal sponsor to apply for and manage a \$5 million per IRWM Funding Area set-aside from the Department of Water Resources through the Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program. Each of the five IRWM regions was allocated \$800,000 to award to one project and there was very short turnaround for project submissions. Five projects were submitted to alleviate drought conditions for disadvantaged communities in the Westside Region. The Coordinating Committee convened a special meeting in late March to consider the projects and the Dunnigan Area Groundwater Recharge Demonstration and Pilot Project in Yolo County was chosen to be advanced to the SRFA application, which was submitted to the state on April 12.



Buckeye Creek Trickle Flow - low flows in ephemeral streams enable recharge to occur by infiltration into the aquifer, mimicking the natural process.

The Dunnigan program is a pilot demonstration project to address declining groundwater levels that are threatening agricultural and residential water supply and causing land subsidence. This project augments groundwater and demonstrates that recharge is a viable tool to alleviate drought. The project will install monitoring wells to document groundwater levels and divert District water into ephemeral streams and fields at rates between 1,500—5,000 gpm to ensure that diverted water infiltrates the groundwater table. The project will maximize the quantity of surface water infiltration within each ephemeral stream.

Yolo County's Three-Pronged Approach to Drought Relief

Yolo County is meeting the challenges posed by ongoing drought with both short- and long-term strategies. In the short term, individuals with wells running dry are receiving direct assistance and for long-term sustainability, efforts are being made to boost groundwater recharge and obtain grant funding.

Short-term solutions. Yolo County Office of Emergency Services (OES) has partnered with the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency to confirm occurrences of dry domestic wells and coordinate water deliveries at these locations. These water deliveries are a form of short-term assistance while long-term solutions can be developed. Five houses have received water, and one home is temporarily using a 2500 gallon tank through this program. Deliveries of bottled water have been coordinated by OES. The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) has worked with OES to provide depth-to-water and total well depth measurements to those affected by declining water levels.

Winter recharge. Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (YCFC&WCD) applied for a 180 day temporary permit to divert water for groundwater recharge during high-flow events. Since 2016, YCFC&WCD has received permits to divert excess winter water. There are robust requirements that only allow for diversions to take place during high-flow events. When conditions are right, excess water is diverted at the Capay Dam and enters YCFC&WCD's

canal system, where it percolates into the aquifer. Additionally, Dunnigan Water District has been facilitating winter recharge on Buckeye Creek. The

Tehama Colusa Canal was dewatered recently for maintenance work. Groundwater levels were monitored before and after dewatering, and there was positive change in groundwater levels in the area where recharge occurred.

Longer-term strategies. The Yolo County Board of Supervisors allocated \$50,000 to fund a grant writer to assist special districts and small water systems with applications for state and federal emergency drought funding opportunities. Twelve emergency drought projects were identified through collaboration with the YSGA, the Water Resources Association of Yolo County, Yolo LAFCo, and the County's Rural Community Support team in the County Administrators Office.

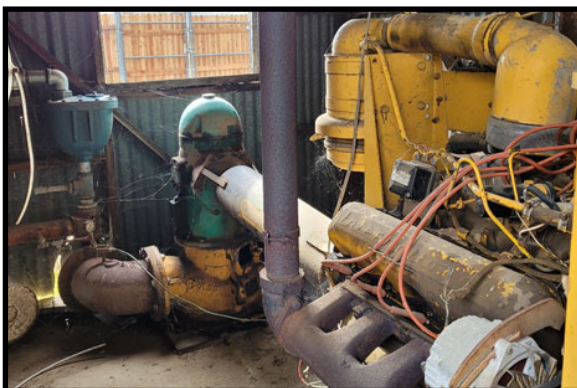


The temporary 2,500 gallon storage tank serving a residence with a dry well.

Planning Assistance for 3 Small Westside Water Systems

In 2017, DWR launched an initiative targeted towards Disadvantaged Communities (DAC), known as the Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement program. This \$3.8 million program was launched across the larger Sacramento River Fund-

ing Area (SFRA) of which the Westside IRWM is a part. In this, the final year of the grant (2021-22), it was decided to conduct SFRA-wide outreach to identify communities/ water systems to participate in the creation of a Capital Improvement Plan/CIP.



Grimes water infrastructure: documentation/ assessment

Westside communities served by this project are Grimes (Colusa County), El Rio Villa (Yolo County), and the City of Lakeport (Lake County). The process for all three entities followed the same steps: kick-off call, site visit to detail and document infrastructure, improvement / O&M / repair cost estimates, timeframe for improvements, development of a 5-year funding strategy, outreach to local counties to ensure collaboration and communication, and finally, preparation of a finished CIP which includes sections on orienting new Board members to the annual update and a detailed checklist to inform the implementation and update process.

Protecting Water-based Recreation in Lake County

The Quagga Zebra Mussel Prevention Program is working in Lake County. Lake’s recreational water bodies continue to be mussel-free thanks in part to the County’s screening, inspection, and sticker program and the Westside Sac IRWM’s QZ mussel display educational boat. Despite drought conditions, Clear Lake was open for the entire 2021 calendar year, although the drought did lead to decreased use compared with 2019, partially due to fishing contest cancellations in the fall, when Clearlake levels were very low, reaching -2.33 Rumsey in mid-October.

During 2021, 12,191 boats were screened for potential contamination; about a third of those belonged to residents of Lake County, while about two-thirds were visiting. Of the inspected boats, only two needed to undergo decontamination.



Lake County QZ prevention signage. Citations are issued if a boat is observed on the water without current stickers that show it was screened for invasive aquatic infestation.



New Monitor Tom talking to Lake County Fair participants about risk of QZ mussels. QZ boat on display provided through 2016 IRWM small grants program.

Meanwhile, the QZ educational display boat, which is covered in mussel shells to educate the public about the perils of invasive mussels, was displayed at the Educational Outreach Booth at the Fourth of July in Downtown Lakeport and the Lake County Fair.

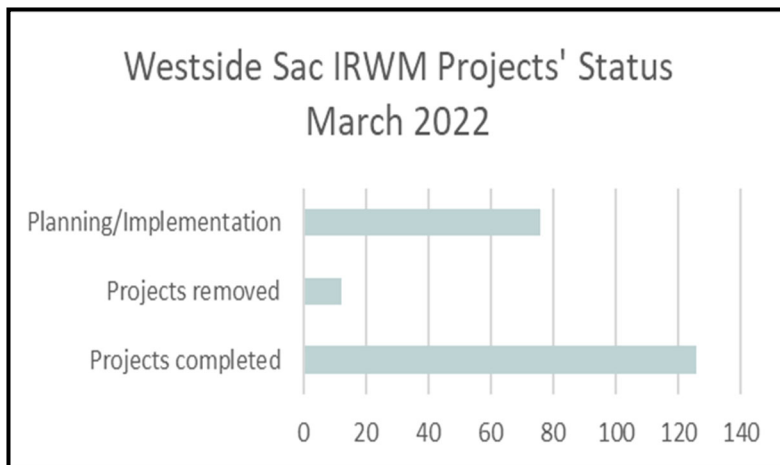
These efforts were successful; in 2021, no mussels were found in Clear Lake, Blue Lakes, Indian Valley Reservoir, Hidden Valley, Highland Springs Reservoir or Lake Pillsbury during multiple monitoring events using several sampling techniques.

The prevention program is funded through grants provided by the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (www.dbw.ca.gov/QZGrant) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. These funds, totaling over \$1M, cover the costs of ramp monitors, mussel detection dogs, outreach and education, monitoring and new technology and planning.

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 projects in the IRWM Plan. The projects represent the changing needs and priorities of the Westside region. Projects that meet plan objectives are added to the Plan on an ongoing basis after approval by the CC. Of the 217 projects approved since 2012, 127 have been completed, some through the IRWM program, others through other means. Seventy-eight projects are in progress or not yet started, with 75 of those projects providing updates so far in 2022. Twelve projects have been removed from the plan by their sponsor.

This reporting effort is part of the Westside’s obligation to report out to the public on the status of plan implementation. Updates are available on the Westside Sac IRWM [website](#).



Funds brought into the Westside Sac IRWMP Region

Each year the member agencies for the Westside contribute funds that are used for activities that help achieve the goals of the IRWM Plan. Since 2011, the Westside Sac Coordinating Committee (CC) has brought over \$20 million in state and federal funding to the four-county Region.

The latest grant funds were executed in early 2021 and support the implementation of the Lake County projects described on Page 1. Funding from Department of Water Resource's (DWR's) IRWM Program



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for the six projects was over \$4.7 M and project sponsors provided matching funds of \$1.5 M, for a total of over \$6 M in project implementation to benefit disadvantaged communities. DWR has funded much of the planning and implementation that the Westside Sacramento CC has accomplished and facilitated.

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Drought Task Force Gets Visual

In July and August 2021, the Lake County Drought Task Force took to the streets with bilingual messaging to urge Lake County residents to conserve water.

