

ANNUAL REPORT SPRING 2023



Pumped water is discharged from an outlet in foreground; flooded field in background.

Dunnigan Area Groundwater Recharge Project

The Dunnigan Area Recharge Program (Program), led by the Dunnigan Water District, was selected by the CC for DWR's 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Funding in Spring 2022. The Program addresses declining groundwater levels that threaten agricultural and residential water supply and cause land subsidence. In February 2022, the District discharged water into Buckeye Creek, an ephemeral stream, and groundwater levels increased at nearby wells. The Program has expanded to include Dunnigan and Bird Creeks and on-farm recharge which provides habitat for migratory shorebirds and enhances groundwater-dependent ecosystems.

Since October 2022, the Program has installed monitoring wells to document groundwater levels and conducted initial recharge events. In late-October and early-November last year, the Program diverted 300 acre-feet (AF) of water on fallowed fields. This inundation resulted in excess surface water infiltrating the groundwater table and raising groundwater elevation between 5 and 8 feet at nearby monitoring locations and provided habitat for migratory shorebirds. The Program leveraged DWR funding by partnering with The Nature Conservancy, which purchased water to apply to fields, reimbursed landowner preparations, and assessed shorebird habitat benefits.

Additionally, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation made Section 215 water available under the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982. The District diverted 691 AF into Buckeye Creek and 685 AF on C & H Farm fields for a total of 1,376 AF between February 9th and April 28th. Nearby monitoring wells have come up about 40 feet overall.

The District continues to seek opportunities to expand the Program.

Westside Sac IRWM CC Small Grants Program 2023

The Westside Sac IRWM Coordinating Committee re-opened its small grants program in 2023. The solicitation period ran from March 1st—May 1st and received 4 applications requesting a total of \$16,200 and leveraging over \$22,000 in outside funding as matching funds. The projects were approved by the Coordinating Committee on May 10th.

The Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District will receive \$5,000 to provide flowmeter devices for groundwater wells on socially *(continued on page 2)*

COORDINATING COMMITTEE (CC)



Lake County Watershed Protection District

Marina Deligiannis
Angela DePalma-Dow
William Fox



Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Chris Silke
Rick Thomasser



Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency

Sarah Leicht
Sabrina Snyder
Elisa Sabatini



Solano County Water Agency

Chris Lee
Max Stevenson

Westside Sac IRWM CC Small Grants Program 2023 *(continued)*

disadvantaged farms allowing growers to monitor water use and more effectively respond to irrigation issues and changes in groundwater conditions.

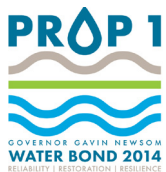
The City of Winters will receive \$5,000 to plant 50 Valley Oaks and companion Santa Barbara sedge on the south side of the North Bank Trail at the Winters Putah Creek Nature Park. At maturity, the oaks will provide near total shade over this heavily used public trail.

The Putah Creek Council and Winters Middle School will receive \$1,200 for a Family Canoe Picnic at Lake Solano Park. This special day will help students and their families foster a positive relationship with the creek and our natural world.

Lake County Watershed Protection District will receive \$5,000 to host a Clear Lake Hitch Science Symposium that builds on recent collaborative efforts between Tribes, State Water Board, California Fish and Wildlife Department, Lake County Water Resources Department, UC researchers, and others. The Symposium will also address Clear Lake water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and biodiversity.

Lake County Special Districts IRWM Grant Update

By Yolanda Garibay



Lake County Special Districts, in partnership with Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District (HVLCSO), recently completed the second year of project activity on a Prop1, Round 1, IRWM Implementation Grant. The \$4.7M grant was awarded in 2021 and funds 6 Lake County, CA projects. The grant will benefit a majority of disadvantaged communities with critical water line upgrades new water tanks, emergency water supplies, and contamination prevention.

Two of the grant's projects are completed. The Spring Valley Lake, Quail Trail Water Line Replacement in Clearlake Oaks adds 2,000 linear feet of 6" water main, hydrants, and valves. This project's water supply improvement outcome will assist in meeting four goals in the Westside IRWM Plan: Goal 7, Preserve, improve, and manage water quality; Goal 8, Promote reasonable use of water and watershed resources; Goal 10, Provide reliable water supplies for multiple beneficial uses; and Goal 13, Support sustainable economic activities. The HVLCSO Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) Mitigation project rehabilitated 700 feet of sewer pipe. This project's water quality improvement outcome will also assist in meeting four goals in the Westside IRWM Plan: Goal 7; Goal 8; Goal 11, Reduce the risk of flooding disturbances; and Goal 13.



Project Managed by LSDA Administration; Quail Trail Water Line Replacement: Installation of 3-valve assembly at the intersection of Spring Valley Road and Quail Trail.

The other projects in the grant agreement are underway and in different stages of completion. The Spring Valley Reservoir Recovery project, which will reclaim the original capacity of the reservoir, to about 320 acre-feet, is about 50% complete. Lake County Sanitation's I&I Reduction Plan, which is 70% complete, analyses and repairs about 110 miles of the sewer collection system. The Live Oak Water Line Replacement is about 50% complete and will replace 650 feet of water main line. Finally, the HVLCSO Water Tank Replacement is in the planning, design, and engineering phase.



System Spotlight: Hidden Valley Lake CSD

Located in Coyote Valley in Lake County, Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District (HVLCSO, District) provides water, wastewater, and reclaimed water to about 2,500 residential and commercial connections. Like water systems elsewhere in California and the United States, the District contends with aging infrastructure and external factors such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent drought.

What makes the HVLCSO unique is its proactive approach to system modernization. The District has used bonds and grants through FEMA to update critical infrastructure and remove outdated facilities. District representatives also regularly attend Westside Sac IRWM CC meetings and, importantly, follow up on opportunities. To date, the HVLCSO has received Prop 1 funding through DWR (see article directly above) and has made use of the Rural Community Assistance Corporation technical assistance for leak detection, scheduling a leak test and purchasing the equipment recommended by RCAC technicians. The District routinely submits projects for inclusion into the WS IRWM Plan and by so doing, makes use of WS IRWM staff's work to match projects with funding. The District is currently pursuing funding opportunities it received through WS IRWM outreach.

The Westside Sac IRWM CC commends the HVLCSO for its participation and urges more water systems to lean on the resources available through the Westside Sac IRWM process!

Planning Assistance for 3 Small Westside Water Systems

By Katie Burdick

In 2017, DWR launched an initiative targeted towards Disadvantaged Communities, known as the Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement program. This \$3.8 million program was launched across the larger Sacramento River Funding Area (SRFA) of which the Westside IRWM is a part. In the final year of the grant (June 2022 - July 2023), it was decided to conduct SRFA-wide outreach to identify communities/ water systems to participate in the creation of a Capital Improvement Plan/CIP. Outreach was conducted across the region, with three entities coming forward from the Westside IRWM to participate: Grimes (Colusa County), El Rio Villa (Yolo County), and the City of Lakeport (Lake County).

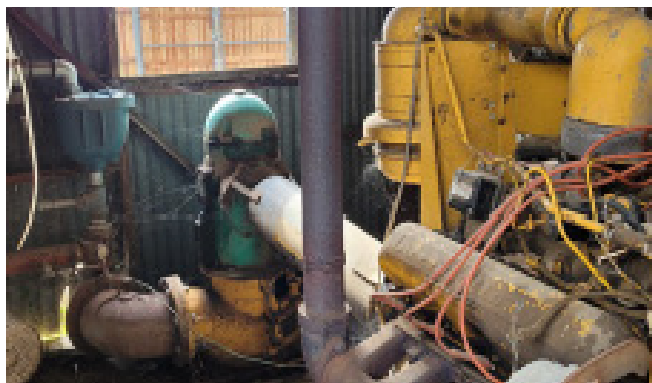
The initial intent was to prepare a standard Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for each jurisdiction. However, after considerable initial outreach and coordination, it became clear that each jurisdiction has different needs and priorities, as well as markedly different circumstances. The process for each jurisdiction follows:

Grimes: This community has roughly 100 hook-ups, a volunteer Board and no employees. It is in the process of

addressing its arsenic contamination via a grant from the State Water Resources Control Board that will completely replace its water treatment facilities. In the meantime, the community needs to manage its existing system, as well as raise its rates to build capital reserves and support system maintenance and repairs between 2023 and the installation of the arsenic treatment facilities in or after 2025. The CIP, therefore, focused on this near-term situation and needs. The work is nearly complete, however the team is also supporting RCAC in developing a rate raise/218 process, as well as miscellaneous management systems and support. The work effort will continue until December, 2023.

Lakeport: The City of Lakeport has a strong staff and approached the CIP process from two perspectives – confirming its water/wastewater infrastructure needs and supporting a city-wide bond initiative to ensure full funding. In this case, the CIP confirmed the existing system needs and condition and then generated a “funding memo” to identify funding sources beyond the City-initiated bond. The final Funding Opportunities Summary was completed in October 2022.

El Rio Villa: The El Rio Villa community is managed by the Yolo County Housing Authority. Because of the Management/Administrative structure of the organization, the work effort took an alternative strategy for CIP preparation: focusing on the asset inventory and condition assessment as a tool to help prioritize future infrastructure improvements for the community. The funding for these future improvements is within a much more extensive, multi-community planning process. The CIP process provided an up-to-date assessment of community needs, a vital component of any future funding strategy within the Housing Authority. The final report will be completed by July 2023.



Grimes water infrastructure: documentaton and assessment.

Westside Sac —CivicWell Collaboration for Funding



The Westside Sac CC and CivicWell have been collaborating to identify and obtain technical assistance and funding for several WS IRWM projects.

Since Grace Person introduced herself as a new staff member for CivicWell at the Westside Sac IRWM Coordinating Committee on January 11th, she and her team have been working hard to help Westside IRWM project sponsors obtain funding for important projects.

Five projects are currently seeking assistance for habitat enhancement and restoration, Tribal drinking water security, and drought funding. We look forward to continued collaboration with CivicWell in obtaining funding for projects that advance the goals and objectives of the Westside Sac IRWM Plan!

Funds brought into the Westside Sac IRWM Region

Each year the member agencies for the Westside contribute funds that are used for activities that help achieve the goals of the Westside Sac IRWM Plan. Since 2011, the Westside Sac Coordinating Committee (CC) has brought over \$22 million in state and federal funding to the four-county Region.

This year, the Westside Sac CC is the funding agency; at its May 10th regular meeting, the CC voted to provide \$16,200 to fund four projects that collectively leverage over \$22,000! Learn more about these projects on pages 1-2.

CONTACT US

Westside Sacramento IRWM Coordinating Committee

LAKE COUNTY

marina.deligiannis@lakecountyca.gov
angela.depalma-dow@lakecountyca.gov
william.fox@lakecountyca.gov

SOLANO COUNTY

mstevenson@scwa2.com
dgantner@scwa2.com
clee@scwa2.com

NAPA COUNTY

christopher.silke@countyofnapa.org
richard.thomasser@countyofnapa.org

YOLO COUNTY

sleicht@yolosga.org
sabrina.snyder@yolocounty.org
elisa.sabatini@yolocounty.org

Dunnigan Project Makes the News *(see page 1)*

[DWR Water News Blog](#)

[LA Times Article](#)



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES



Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Canal Recharge

Since 2016, the YCFC&WCD has planned to divert excess winter storm flows from Cache Creek into the District's 160-mile unlined canal system. Because the canals are unlined, water that is diverted into the canals contributes directly to the groundwater aquifer. In winter-spring 2023, approximately 4,300 acre-feet were recharged!

