



The Year in Review: 2014

January 2015

Drought and the Year of Groundwater

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

In January 2014, Governor Brown announced a statewide drought emergency as we entered the third dry year without normal precipitation. Californians were asked to conserve water and reduce water usage by 20%. The State and regional agencies prepared drought response action plans to coalesce conservation strategies. The Plans educate how to implement those strategies into conservation practices that will sustain the state through this drought.

“WRA member agencies have a long history of collaboration to achieve and maintain sustainable water supplies for Yolo County”, said Bill Marble, WRA Chair. The Westside IRWM Group applied for the State’s Emergency Drought Grant Solicitation and was awarded a \$7 million grant for regional drought-relief projects. Two projects are in Yolo County and three are in Lake County (see page 3).

This year California has made more progress on water policy in many years with bipartisan support. Voters passed a \$7.5 billion water bond and Governor Brown signed 3 groundwa-

ter bills that creates the framework for sustainable, local groundwater management for the first time in California history.

The WRA Board kept their focus on water legislation, drought response and preparing for changes to local and statewide groundwater management. The WRA and the Yolo County Farm Bureau under the guidance of Tim O’Halloran are promoting the Year of Groundwater to further local education about Yolo County’s readiness to comply with the legislation. Outreach and discussions will continue into 2015 to develop a mandated groundwater sustainability plan by 2020 and a groundwater sustainability agency by 2017. Yolo County has been at the forefront of groundwater management for more than a decade with the establishment of the Yolo County Groundwater and Subsidence Network Monitoring Programs, expansion of the Water Resources Information Database (WRID) and participation in the State’s CASGEM program providing a level of confidence in sustainability of local water resources.

2014 Board Meeting Topics and Presentations

- Yolo County Perspective on Delta Issues (Jim Provenza, Supervisor District 4, Yolo County)
- State Water Bond 2014 Updates and Discussions (David Guy, Northern CA Water Agency)
- State Water Issues & ACWA’s Statewide Water Action Plan (Tim Quinn, Association of CA Water Agencies)
- Drought Conditions Update (Dana Carey, Yolo County Office of Emergency Services)
- 2014 Water Conditions Update (Tim O’Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD)
- Lower Cache Creek Feasibility Study Update (Tim Busch, City of Woodland)
- California Water Foundation’s Subsidence Report (Vicki Kretsinger, Luhdorff & Scalmanini and Jim Borchers, Hydrologist)
- The “Year of Groundwater” (Tim O’Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD)
- Update Mercury TMDL Impacts & Implementation Assessment Project (Stephen McCord, McCord Environmental, Inc.)
- City of Woodland Water Recycling Program & City of Winters Water Re-use Project
- Updates on the WRA Technical Committee activities and Yolo County IRWMP projects
- Updates on Westside IRWMP regional activities; State and local legislative and regulatory issues updates



Water Resources Association
of Yolo County

P.O. Box 8624
Woodland, CA 95776

(530) 666-2733

www.yolowra.org

info@yolowra.org

WRA Funded IRWMP Projects and Programs in 2014

The WRA contributed funding toward the following project priorities in FY2013-14:

- **Yolo Bypass Integrated Project (\$20,000):** The Yolo Basin Foundation (YBF) convenes stakeholder interests and Delta-related planning processes and studies that have an impact on water resources in the Yolo Bypass. Local match \$5,000.
- **Westside IRWMP (\$20,000):** The WRA participates as a regional partner in the Westside IRWMP, which is now in the implementation phase of the plan. \$60,000 matching funds from Napa, Lake and Solano counties.
- **Mercury TMDL Impacts & Implementation Assessment (\$16,000):** McCord Environmental, Inc. (MEI) and the Mercury Subcommittee assess, monitor and inventory mercury TMDL-related

activities. MEI provides regulatory consulting related to mercury regulations impacting Yolo County watersheds.

- **Cache Creek Nature Preserve Building Stabilization (\$12,000):** Cache Creek Conservancy utilized this funding to stabilize a dilapidated metal building on the Cache Creek Nature Preserve that is used for storing all restoration equipment. Local match \$7,000.
- **Salmon in the Classroom and in the Yolo Bypass (\$10,920):** Putah Creek Council partnered with the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee, UC Davis, and CalTrout to provide educational outreach to elementary schools in Winters and Davis. In-class presentations on watershed health and the importance of floodplains for flood control and wildlife habitat. Local match \$27,770.

(continued on back page)

Financial Summary

July 2013 - June 2014 Income

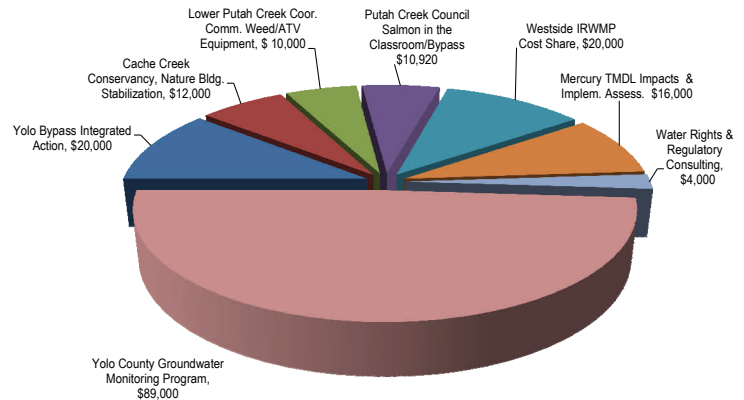
WRA Membership Dues: Baseline Budget

- Administrative Fund: \$87,798
- Project Fund: \$98,513

Special Projects Budget (Supplemental Income)

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

July 2013 - June 2014 Budgeted Project Expenses



Grant/Loan Funding WRA Member Agencies (selected list 2013-14)

Agency	Project	Funding Source	Amount	Status
Dunnigan Water District	Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition (SCADA) Project	Bureau of Reclamation	\$80,000	Awarded, completed by Nov. 30, 2014
City of West Sacramento	Flood Emergency Response Plan	CA Dept. of Water Resources	\$270,500	Awarded, contract executed
City of Woodland	Lower Cache Creek Feasibility Study	Federal budget (Presidential); Continuing resolution	\$800,000 (\$200,000/ qtr)	Committed
FloodProtect	Lower Sacramento North Delta Regional Flood Management Plan & Flood Governance Study	CA Dept. of Water Resources	\$1.6 million/ \$100,000 (governance)	Awarded
WDCWA/ City of Davis	Davis-Woodland Water Supply Project, Davis' share of regional facilities	Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SWRCB)	\$95.5 million	Committed
WDCWA/ City of Woodland	Davis-Woodland Water Supply Project, Woodland's share of regional facilities	Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (CDPH)	\$111,358, 449	Committed
WDCWA/RD2035	Sacramento River Joint Intake/Fish Screen Facility	Federal grant funds (USBR); State grant funds	\$13.7 million; \$10 million	Committed
Westside-Sacramento IRWMP	Westside-Sacramento 2014 Drought Funding, Lake County & Yolo County	CA Dept. of Water Resources Prop. 84 IRWM Drought	\$7 million (\$4 million for Yolo—see page 3)	Awarded

IRWMP Integrated Projects & Ongoing Member Agency Activities

Highlighted in this section are selected projects and activities from 2014 by WRA Member Agencies.

WESTSIDE IRWMP

The Westside Regional Water Management Group selected projects from the Westside IRWMP (July 2013) after a focused review process to submit an application for DWR's 2014 Emergency Drought Grant Solicitation. The proposal included projects from Yolo and Lake counties that were awarded a \$7 million grant in November 2014. The two local projects are: YCFC&WCD's drought preparedness Canal Modernization Project (\$2 million) and the City of Woodland's Recycled Water Project (\$2 million). www.westsideirwm.com

JOINT INTAKE AND FISH SCREEN PROJECT

Reclamation District 2035 awarded a contract to MWH for construction management of the Sacramento River Joint Intake and Fish Screen Project in 2014. The dual-purpose intake will provide environmental benefits, water quality benefits and improve water supply reliability in the region and is consistent with the State and Federal ecosystem restoration goals. This intake is a result of partnerships between RD 2035 and the cities of the Woodland and Davis (collectively represented by the Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency) to combine their intake facility needs to reduce the overall impacts on endangered fishery species, provide reliable water supply for existing agricultural activities and enable supplemental water supply to urban areas to address water supply reliability and potential health concerns from extensive use of groundwater.

WOODLAND-DAVIS SURFACE WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The cities of Davis, Woodland and UC Davis (aka WDCWA) continue progress on the Surface Water project. Facility construction has begun. The project will be completed by 2016. Both cities independently secured Clean Water State Revolving Fund low interest loans to cover their costs for the regional project, which reduces costs for ratepayers while contributing to the overall success of the project. www.wdcwa.com

DROUGHT-RESPONSE EFFORTS

Yolo County Office of Emergency Services (OES) updated the WRA Board and Technical Committee on local, state and federal resources available to assist agencies with the negative impacts of the drought. OES collected data and distributed weekly reports to CalOES to report on Yolo county's agricultural and urban needs. OES compiled a matrix of drought assistance opportunities for farms and ranches, as well as, low-income groups/individuals. All information is posted on their

website or contact OES staff with questions.

WRA Member Agencies instituted many water conservation efforts as urged by the Brown Administration. Some of these efforts included: the City of Woodland's recycled water program, the City of Winters water re-use project, and the water meter retrofitting projects completed by Yolo County cities. All local agencies are continuing public outreach education to promote the need for water conservation by residents and businesses. The City of Davis was ranked 3rd in the State for reducing residential water use in September, with a 28% water reduction rate in the State Water Resources Control Board's "Per Capita Daily Water Use Numbers" report released in November.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

The crafting and adoption of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was a focal task for Governor Brown, state legislators and stakeholders. The WRA Board and Technical Committee have been tracking 2014 legislation in preparation for future decision-making on how our groundwater is managed. The WRA's "Year of Groundwater" was organized in response to this legislative process. The WRA will focus on the requirements of this legislation beginning in 2015 as the State clarifies how it will implement the legislation.

FLOOD MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The City of West Sacramento was awarded funding from DWR for their Flood Emergency Response Plan. The City of Woodland continues its efforts to further the Lower Cache Creek Feasibility Study in 2015 with Federal and State support to achieve flood risk reduction objectives with fiscal responsibility and community support.

LOCAL STUDIES AND REPORTS

Yolo County released two documents in 2014 available on www.yolocounty.org. Use search box to locate "[Delta eLibrary](#)"

- **Yolo Bypass Drainage and Water Infrastructure Improvement Study** (April 2014) - The study will assist with the identification of improvements that could be implemented as part of any project to increase inundation in the Yolo Bypass for fish.
- **Yolo County Agricultural Economic Development Fund** (October 2014) - The Yolo Ag Fund is a central component of Yolo County's efforts to support agricultural sustainability in the face of potential changes to the existing landscape of the county.

The Luhdorff & Scalmanini published report findings with the support of the California Water Foundation on "**Land Subsidence from Groundwater Use in California**" (April 2014) - [Report Link on CWF website](#)



WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

O F Y O L O C O U N T Y

High and Low Water Conditions at Indian Valley Reservoir



Comparative photos of Indian Valley Reservoir (IVR), Lake County, managed by the YCFC&WCD.
Photo on left illustrates approximately 286,700 acre-feet in 2006 (maximum storage capacity 300,600 acre-feet).
Photo on right shows IVR at approximately 28,000 acre-feet in 2008. As of 11/28/14, IVR was at 23,433 acre-feet.

WRA Funded Projects and Programs in 2014 (continued from page 2)

- *ATV Weed Sprayer and Trailer (\$10,000)*: Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee purchased equipment for use on large restoration projects to control invasive weeds on Putah Creek. Local project match \$10,000.
- *Water Rights Legislative & Regulatory Consulting (\$4,000)*: Northern California Water Association (NCWA) advises the WRA membership on legislative and regulatory issues related to water rights and water supplies in Yolo County.
- *Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program (\$89,000)*: WRA members contribute ongoing support for this IRWMP Foundational Action managed by the YCFC&WCD. Many plans, projects and stakeholders use this Program data.

For more project information and reports, please go 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 is composed of senior staff from each of the participating agencies. The WRA Executive Committee is comprised of the Association Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Technical Committee Chair and handles administrative and oversight functions for the association.

The WRA Board of Directors meet 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 all WRA meetings. Meeting minutes and future meeting announcements are available on our website at www.yolowra.org.

2014 WRA Board of Directors & Officers

- ◆ William Marble, City of Woodland, Chair
- ◆ Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, City of Winters, Vice-Chair
- ◆ Robb Davis, City of Davis
- ◆ Beverly Sandeen, City of West Sacramento
- ◆ Blair Voelz, Dunnigan Water District
- ◆ Fritz Durst, Reclamation District 108
- ◆ Robert Thomas, Reclamation District 2035
- ◆ Sid England, University of California Davis
- ◆ Matt Rexroad, Yolo County
- ◆ Jim Mayer, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD
- ◆ Tim O'Halloran, YCFC&WCD, Treasurer
- ◆ Elisa Sabatini, Yolo County, Technical Comm. Chair
- ◆ Donna Gentile, Administrative Coordinator
- ◆ Perry, Bunch & Johnston, Auditor

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