



The Year in Review: 2016

January 2017

Keeping Pace with Groundwater Sustainability in Yolo County

The WRA and the Yolo County Farm Bureau (YCFB) partnered to implement the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) legislation. The intent of SGMA is to provide local agencies the authority, technical tools and financial assistance to sustainably manage groundwater resources. The first step was education and outreach to potentially impacted landowners and businesses. In March 2016, a series of successful public meetings were convened to engage a broad group of stakeholders. Since those meetings, the Yolo SGMA Working Group continues to discuss the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) by June 2017. Several milestones were achieved in 2016 for Yolo's SGMA implementation. A Bulletin 118 Basin Boundary Modification request was submitted and approved by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Monthly meetings are being held with the

eligible GSA entities in Yolo County to discuss the logistics of membership in the proposed GSA and a JPA governance framework with dues and voting structure. The GSA's primary task will be SGMA compliance, oversight of groundwater management areas within our subbasin and the collaborative development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for Yolo County by 2022.

Yolo County is fortunate to have a host of groundwater management activities established over the past 20 years. Several planned tasks will further document Yolo's groundwater sustainability, such as, developing a water balance model, regular land subsidence monitoring and continued data collection and information sharing.

The WRA's recognized history of regional collaboration continues throughout the SGMA implementation process.

2016 Board Meeting Presentations and Topics

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA):

- Facilitated Public Outreach Overview and Update on Process, Dave Ceppos, Center for Collaborative Policy (January and March 2016)
- Bulletin 118 Basin Boundary Modifications Request, Tim O'Halloran, SGMA Committee (March 2016)
- Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Governance and Public Outreach Meeting Summary, Tim O'Halloran, SGMA Committee (June 2016)
- GSA Management Areas Concept Model and Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Components, Tim O'Halloran, SGMA Committee (June and September 2016)
- GSA Formation Discussions, Tim O'Halloran, SGMA Working Group (November 2016)

OTHER PRESENTATIONS:

- Water Evaluation & Planning System (WEAP), David Purkey, Stockholm Environment Institute (January 2016)
- Water Conditions Update, Tim O'Halloran, Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (March 2016)
- California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Data and Tool Requirements for SGMA and DWR Subsidence Monitoring Update, Dan McManus, DWR SGM Section (September 2016)
- Woodland-Davis Surface Water Supply Project Implementation Update, Stan Gryzcko, City of Davis, and Tim Busch, City of Woodland (September 2016)
- DWR Informational Briefings (Flood Management Division): 2017 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan Update, Jeremy Arrich, DWR and Lower Elkhorn Basin Setback Levee Project, Todd Bernardy, DWR

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

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WRA Funded IRWMP Projects and Programs in 2016 (For details www.yolowra.org/projects.html)

The WRA contributed funding toward the following project priorities in FY2015-16:

- **SGMA Implementation (\$77,500):** FY2014-15 project budget carryover funding for FY2015-16 groundwater-related projects and priorities (includes funds for the 2016 subsidence network monitoring re-observation)
- **Davis-Woodland Schools and Parks Water Conservation Plan (\$31,710):** Cities of Davis and Woodland, Local match \$41,825
- **Westside-Sacramento IRWMP Implementation (\$20,000):** Napa, Lake and Solano counties match \$60,000
- **Cache Creek Water Education & Wacky Wilderness Days (\$11,000):** Cache Creek Conservancy, Local match \$5,000
- **Nitrogen and Irrigation Best Management Practices for Orchards, Technical Workshop (\$10,000):** Yolo County Resource Conservation District, Local match \$7,000
- **Putah Creek Fall Clean-up (\$8,000):** Putah Creek Council, Local match \$14,830
- **Salmon in the Classroom/ Salmon in the Bypass (\$5,000):** Putah Creek Council, Local match \$34,000
- **Native Plant Nursery Volunteer Events Coordinator (\$7,500):** Putah Creek Council, Local match \$46,250
- **Yolo Bypass Integrated Action (\$5,000):** Yolo Basin Foundation, Local match \$5,000
- **Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program (\$89,000):** IRWMP Foundational Action managed by the YCFC&WCD

Financial Summary

July 2015 - June 2016 Income

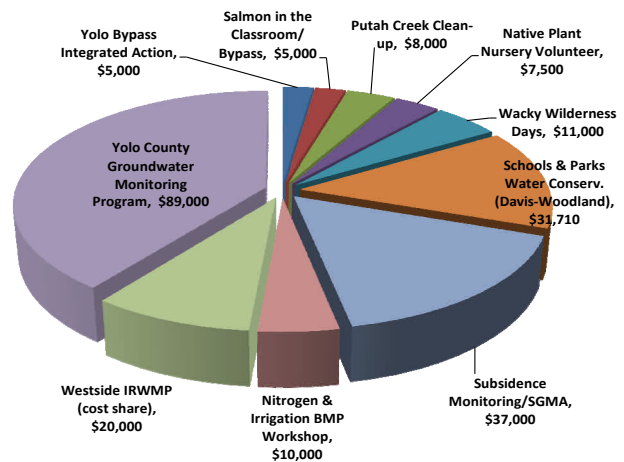
WRA Membership Dues: Baseline Budget

- Administrative Fund: \$85,060
- Project Fund: \$98,570

Special Projects Budget (Supplemental Income)

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

July 2015 - June 2016 Budgeted Project Expenses



Grant/Loan Funding

(WRA Member Agencies, selected list)

Agency	Project	Funding Source	Amount	Status
Westside-Sacramento IRWMP (YCFC&WCD)	Westside-Sacramento 2015 IRWM Grant: City of Woodland Recycled Water and YCFC&WCD Winters' Main Canal Modernization Projects	DWR, Proposition 84 IRWM Program	\$2.21 million	Awarded
City of Woodland	Water Pollution Control Facility Aeration Project	SWRCB, Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan (grant included in loan agreement)	\$2 million (principal forgiveness)	Awarded
Reclamation District 108	Distribution System Improvement Project	DWR, Prop. 1, Water Use Efficiency Grants Program, USBR, Water Smart	\$1.5 million \$750,000	Awarded Awarded
Yolo County Resource Conservation District (with multiple local partners)	Yolo Bypass Corridors for Flood Escape on the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area	Delta Conservancy, Proposition 1 Ecosystem Restoration & Water Quality Grant Program	\$688,196	Awarded
Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District	WRA Prop.1 Stormwater Planning Grant Program	State Water Resources Control Board, Proposition 1 Storm Water Grant Program	\$325,631	Awarded
Yolo County in partnership with Yolo County RCD & Cache Creek Conservancy	Restoring a Creek to Health: Capay Open Space Park from Gravel Mine to Parkway	California Natural Resources Agency, River Parkways Grant Program	\$499,319	Awarded

IRWMP Integrated Projects & Ongoing Member Agency Activities

WESTSIDE-SACRAMENTO IRWMP

The Westside-Sacramento IRWM Coordinating Committee received a \$450,000 grant under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment Program to evaluate mine-scarred lands within the watershed and create an area-wide plan for cleanup. The grant is spread over a 3-year period that includes assessing all the mine-scarred sites and evaluating them for potential cleanup based on site-specific relevant criteria for mercury contamination. Stephen McCord is the project manager. For details visit www.westsideirwmbrownfields.org.

FISH PASSAGE AND RESCUE PROJECTS

Reclamation District 108 was the local project lead on two projects focused on salmon recovery and rescue in the Sacramento River. The Wallace Weir Fish Rescue Project Facility and Knights Landing Outfall Gates projects are improving fish passage conditions for salmon this winter. In partnership with state and federal partners these projects highlight the integration of fish, farm, water supply and waterfowl benefits. The Outfall Gates keeps fish from straying into the Colusa Basin Drain and construction of a permanent earthen weir incorporates a fish rescue facility into the weir so the fish that arrive at the Wallace Weir via the Yolo Bypass can be safely rescued and returned to the Sacramento River to resume migration to their upriver spawning grounds. For details visit www.rd108.org

DROUGHT RESPONSE

Yolo County urban and agricultural agencies continue their conservation message to residents, businesses and farmers as the region strives to respond to depleted groundwater supplies from the past 4 years of drought conditions. Weather conditions as 2016 comes to a close has offered hope of a wet winter to bolster our reservoir and groundwater supplies. Here are some of the drought response activities of WRA member agencies.

Groundwater Recharge & Sustainable Groundwater Management The Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District (District) continues to implement conjunctive use projects for effective management of groundwater and surface water resources. The District recharged underground storage in Yolo County in the spring of 2016 by diverting and percolating 11,000 acre-feet of additional surface water from Cache Creek into its existing unlined canal distribution system. This project allowed the District to capitalize on capturing storm water for underground storage that would otherwise have left Yolo County. To assure accountability the District used its SCADA system to monitor and report water diversions. Groundwater levels continue to be monitored as part of the ongoing Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program.

City of Woodland's Recycled Water Project The \$5.75 million Recycled Water Project provides tertiary treated effluent for parks irrigation and other acceptable uses, while reducing the demand on treated surface water during dry periods. The City is one of the few recycled water permittees in Northern California. The project was funded through a mixture of grants and State Revolving Fund loans reducing the impact to current and future sewer rates. This project aligns with the completion of the **Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency's (WDCWA) Regional Water Treatment Facility** that came online in June 2016. This Facility brings high-quality, treated Sacramento River water to the cities of Davis and Woodland; one of the few California cities that relied entirely on groundwater supplies. Reclamation District (RD) 2035/Conaway's **Joint Surface Water Intake & Fish Screen Facility** is a state-of-the-art surface water intake on the Sacramento River that provides benefits to agriculture, the environment and local municipalities. Backed by historic joint construction and operation agreements between the Conaway Preservation Group and WDCWA, the intake facility replaces the largest unscreened surface water diversion on the Sacramento River. For more details on both of these WDCWA projects visit www.wdcwa.com.



Subsidence monitoring training day for cooperating agencies

2016 Yolo Subsidence Network Monitoring Event In June 2016, a re-observation of the Yolo network was conducted, which was last measured in 2008. The WRA contracted with Frame Surveying & Mapping to lead a team of local and state agencies in data collection. Six agencies volunteered field personnel for the three week effort. The project was funded by the WRA, Yolo County, Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District and RD 2035/Conaway. The 2016 survey indicates continued subsidence in the areas where it was previously observed. In the areas most affected the rate has averaged more than 2 cm per year over the last 8 years. The [final report](#) will be available on the WRA's website. Additionally, DWR is planning a Sacramento Valley network subsidence monitoring update in 2017 that will tie-in with our local effort.

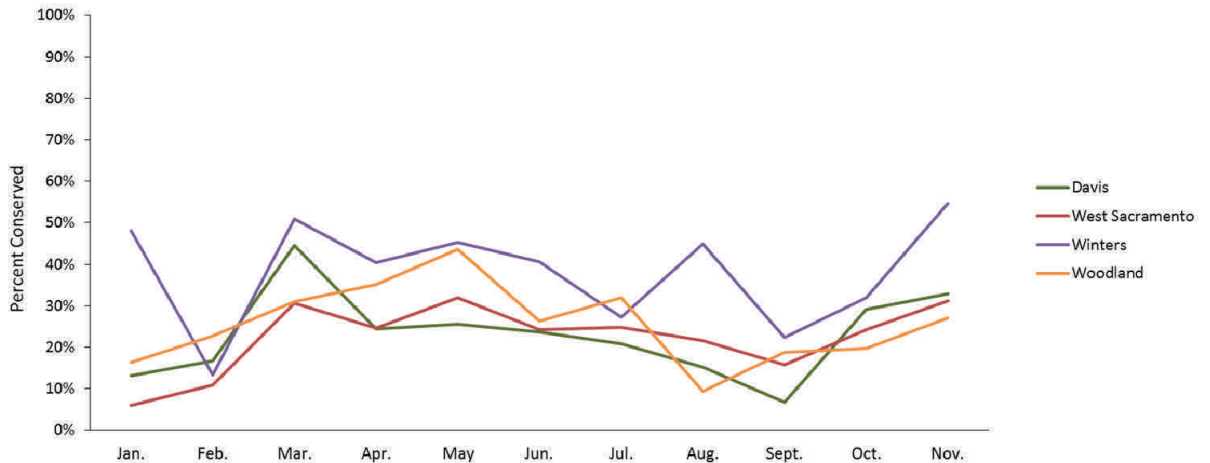


WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION

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

Water Conservation in Yolo County

Monthly Water Reduction (2013-2016)



This graph illustrates the conservation efforts of all Yolo County cities for 2014, 2015 and 2016 compared to their 2013 usage (prior to State mandatory conservation requirements). For more information visit each city's website. (Special thanks to Casey Leibler, Yolo County Natural Resources Division, for preparation of this graph!)

Thank you both for your many contributions to the WRA!



The WRA would like to thank Bill Marble and Cecilia Aguiar-Curry for their many years serving on the Board of Directors. Their leadership and vision helped the WRA become the recognized and respected regional association that it is today. Bill and his wife Sandy were called to lead their church's Mission in Trujillo, Peru. We hope that he returns to Yolo County when their service is completed! Congratulations to Cecilia on her election to the state assembly where she will continue to look out for Yolo County water interests and many other important issues. Bill served as WRA Chair for 8 of his 10 years on the Board. Cecilia served on the Board from 2008 to 2016 in the positions of treasurer, vice-chair and chair. We wish them both all the best!



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 announcements and minutes are available on our website at www.yolowra.org.

2016 WRA Board of Directors & Officers

- ◆ William Marble, City of Woodland, Chair
- ◆ Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, City of Winters, Vice-Chair
- ◆ Brett Lee, City of Davis
- ◆ Beverly Sandeen, City of West Sacramento
- ◆ Cynthia Peterson, Dunnigan Water District
- ◆ Roger Cornwell, Reclamation District 108
- ◆ Robert Thomas, Reclamation District 2035
- ◆ Camille Kirk, University of California Davis
- ◆ Duane Chamberlain, Yolo County
- ◆ Tom Barth, Yolo County Flood Control & WCD
- ◆ Tim O'Halloran, YCF&WCD, Treasurer
- ◆ Elisa Sabatini, Yolo County, Technical Comm. Chair
- ◆ Donna Gentile, Administrative Coordinator

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