

Yolo WRA - Surface Water Monitoring Program

The Surface Water Monitoring Program was defined as a *Foundational Action* in the 2007 Yolo County IRWMP. In its 2011-12 project budget, the WRA has committed \$35,000 to begin work on this program.

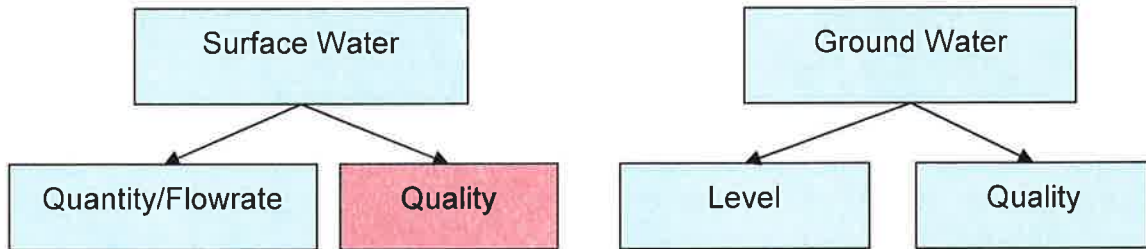
The Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (YCFCWCD) has been designated the lead partner role and was tasked with developing an initial scope of work and to begin implementation of this program. This is to be done in collaboration and coordination with the WRA Technical Committee.

Current Status of Surface Water Monitoring in the Yolo County Region

Currently, more than 40 different agencies and entities monitor surface water in Yolo County on a regular or periodic basis. Additionally, groundwater in the Yolo County region (both level and quality) is monitored extensively through the WRA sponsored Groundwater Monitoring Foundational Action Program. Usually these monitoring activities, whether surface or groundwater, have specific purposes and goals.

One way to understand these various activities is to divide them into categories, as in the figure below:

Figure 1. Types of water monitoring.



Groundwater quantity and quality are actively monitored in the County by the Cities, the YCFCWCD, and many other Federal, State, local and private entities. Surface water quantities and flowrates, are monitored and posted to the web primarily by the US Geological Survey (USGS) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). In general, there is relatively good coverage of flow monitoring in the County.

However, surface water quality monitoring and reporting is currently a mixture of many different short term studies and regulatory mandates. A comprehensive system of surface water quality monitoring and reporting is not in place in Yolo County.

Water Resources Information Database (WRID)

The WRID is actively used to manage the Yolo County Groundwater Monitoring Program. It is an online, map based tool to manage groundwater data. This same tool can be used to manage surface water data. As the first phase of developing a comprehensive surface water foundational action program, the YCFCWCD proposes developing the surface water quality management portion of the WRID database and interface.

Proposed Actions for the WRA 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

The following two actions are proposed for the coming WRA fiscal year.

To begin testing and development of the surface water component of the WRID, data from the Yolo County Cache Creek Area Plan will be brought into the database. This data covers 15 years and is contained in various Excel spreadsheets and hard copy reports. This will allow YCFCWCD staff and members of the WRA-TC to assess the advantages and limitations of using the existing WRID as a surface water monitoring management tool.

Additionally, a catalog of existing surface water monitoring efforts relevant to the Yolo County Region will be compiled into a user friendly format. The 2007 WRA IRWMP Technical Appendix will serve as the starting point for developing said catalog.

Project Deliverables

By the end of fiscal year 2011-12, a report will be produced addressing the utility of using the WRID for surface water data management. This report will include the above-mentioned catalog of existing surface water monitoring efforts.