

Dates of Activity: October 2008 through December 2008
Seed Grant: Integrating Land and Water Solutions in Tulare Lake Basin
Grantee Organization: Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (TBWP)
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Description of Activity by Goal and Objective:

The highlights of TBWP activities under its Seed Grant, "Integrating Land and Water Solutions in Tulare Lake Basin," cross-sect the following Partnership Strategic Action Plan Goals and Objectives:

Land Use, Agriculture, and Housing Work Group (Proposal pp. 49-53)

Goal 1 (Objectives A & B)

Goal 4 (Objective A)

Goal 5 (Objective A)

Goal 7 (Objectives B and C)

Further work of Water Quality, Supply and Reliability Work Group (Proposal pp. 62-64)

Goal 1 (Objectives A and B)

Goal 2 (Objective A)

Goal 3 (Objectives B and C)

Goal 4 (Objective A) and Goal 5 (Objective A)

Support work of Air Quality Work Group (Proposal, pp. 59-60)

Goal 6 (Objective C)

During this quarter, as it has in recent reporting periods, TBWP continued to focus on Partnership activities with federal, state, and county agencies; water districts; Tulare Basin Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) subregions; and Tulare Basin-wide IRWM Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). In particular, TBWP accomplished the following during the final three months of this grant:

- Completed the Draft Tulare Basin Wildlife-Riparian Corridor Conservation Plan for California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Conceptual Area Protection Plan (CAPP), funded by Resources Legacy Fund Foundation (RLFF) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and submitted it to DFG, NRCS, California Department of Conservation (DOC), and other key partners for comment. We received highly favorable comment and are proceeding to complete the document by early March 2009;
- Convened the Tulare Lake Basin Working Group meeting on Oct. 31 (more than 71 participating agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs) with primary focus on year 2009 evolution to two meetings per year, adding a new public outreach symposium and annual tour of Tulare Basin sites working with the Water Education Foundation (pursuant to direction set by the TBWP Integrated Outreach and Fundraising Plan, a seed grant deliverable);
- Commenced work under the \$100,000 U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) Grant for Deer Creek/Friant Kern Canal Basin Modification and Environmental Groundwater Banking Project, Phase 1;
- Submitted a grant request to the USBR Central Valley Project Conservation Program–Habitat Restoration Program (CVP CP-HRP) (CVP for @ \$750,000 to help launch a University of California Natural Reserve Field Station in Tulare Basin);
- Commenced work under the RLFF-funded "Tulare Basin Conservation Plan Water Supply Strategies" grant;
- Continued work on the CVP CP-HRP Goose Lake Bottoms acquisition grant (for DFG Wildlife Management Area) and worked to set meetings with additional partners and plan protection and restoration efforts (easements or acquisitions) for parcels surrounding the core DFG-proposed acquisition area;
- Worked with Conservation Strategy Group to plan consulting and lobbying activities for 2009, including long-term Watershed Coordinator funding, economic stimulus funding, and new Partnership legislation to replace 2008 Parra legislation which failed;

- Planned the ongoing maintenance and future development of the TBWP Web site;
- Developed 2009 Goal, Objectives, Work Plan and Budget for TBWP Board and TBWP Planning and Project Implementation Team; the Goal, Objectives, and Work Plan for 2009 were approved at the TBWP Board meeting on Jan. 15, 2009. (See the Attachment List #1) The TBWP intends to continue the activities and projects encouraged and leveraged through the Seed Grant, as evidenced in this document.
- Continued planning for the fundraising component of the TBWP Integrated Outreach and Fundraising Plan through use of the campaign piece developed with Partnership Seed Grant funds and carefully tailored funding requests, with a goal of raising @ \$100,000 to \$200,000 toward TBWP-projected unrestricted funding needs during 2009;
- Submitted a final Seed Grant budget adjustment in November and prepared for year-end grant completion within budget.
- Reported to the Water and Land Use, Housing, and Agriculture work groups at the Partnership Summit on Dec. 13, 2008.

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback:

There were two problems or disappointments during the October-December 2008 reporting period, as follows.

- The TBWP \$15,000 funding request to the Kings County Fish and Game Advisory Committee for a Kings County Riparian-Wildlife Corridor Survey and Report was approved by that Committee on Oct. 16, but the Kings County Board of Supervisors declined to approve the funding at its meeting on Nov. 25. A four-out-of-five favorable vote was required. Of five supervisors, three voted for funding, two voted against.
- The Council of Fresno County Governments (Fresno COG) Transportation Technical Review Committee made the decision, in October, to table the TBWP Measure C Riparian – Wildlife Corridor Report pending further internal review; this presented both a challenge and an opportunity. The TBWP worked with senior staff of the Fresno COG to include additional information in the report and is slated to present the report to a combined meeting of the Fresno COG Transportation Technical Team and Policy Advisory Committee on Jan. 16, 2009, and to the Fresno COG Board on Jan. 29. Fresno COG senior staff recommends acceptance of the report and its findings.

If you have coordinated any outreach, please describe briefly:

All of the activities described above have involved strong, coordinated outreach efforts, orchestrated by the TBWP Executive Director, President, other members of its Board of Directors, and the Planning and Project Implementation Team.

The following attachment may be downloaded from the Land Use, Agriculture and Housing Work Group Document Library located on the Partnership Web site:

1. [Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners Work Plan 2009](#)