

Dates of Activity: January 2008 through March 2008
Seed Grant: San Joaquin Valley Regional Water Plans Integration
University Farm Recycled Water Usage (Seed Grant-CSUF Foundation 37540)
Grantee Organization: California Water Institute, California State University, Fresno
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Description of Quarter's Activity/Impact on Partnership

Development of working water collaboration in the eight-county region in furtherance of developing a San Joaquin Valley Water Plan is well under way. Major items are coming together under the leadership of Kathy Wood, executive director of Water Plan Development at CWI. Working collaborations have been set up with major established water entities in all eight counties local, state and federal agencies. The advisory board has been selected and actualized. The team is on target to deliver a final San Joaquin Valley Water Plan framework to the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley board for affirmation at the February 2009 meeting. A working draft will be out for comment by early summer 2008. Revisions will be made and a second draft out by November 2008. Affirmation will be sought from water community and county elected leadership in the region. A well-crafted water plan will have a major favorable impact on the San Joaquin Valley by proactively forging a shared vision for what is possible, what can be implemented and that can be joined with existing local water planning efforts already under way.

Contact Kathy Wood (559) 298-6072 ext.201, e-mail kawood@csufresno.edu, for more information on the development of the San Joaquin Valley Water Plan.

Planned Activities for next 3-6 months

Staff will pursue the development of the Water Plan through 2Q 08 and 3Q 08 to meet the aggressive schedule for completion. At the same time, work will proceed on developing watersheds integration framework. This effort will be materially assisted by the award of a Department of Conservation Watershed Grant expected in 2Q 08.

A major opportunity in the next two quarters is for the development of a San Joaquin Valley Water Reuse Task Force to evolve the use of water reuse to a high level and replace fresh water supplies that are regulatorily constrained through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The publication of the just completed California State University, Fresno, Integrated Water Management Plan may serve as a Best Practices case study for water reuse in the central San Joaquin Valley. Other potential water reuse case studies will be sought in both the northern and southern San Joaquin Valley. CWI staff member Sarge Green (559) 298-6072 ext. 209, e-mail sgreen@csufresno.edu, is the responsible individual for the water reuse initiative.

The CWI communications effort is becoming highly evolved with the release of the second issue of the bi-monthly San Joaquin Valley Water Planning E-News. Link: http://www.californiawater.org/PDF/SJRWP_newsletter_3_28_2008.pdf

This valued communications link should materially assist in helping advance the water element of the Partnership's Strategic Action Plan. CWI staff member Theresa Sebasto (559) 298-6072 ext 212, e-mail: tsebasto@csufresno.edu, is responsible for the e-newsletter. Contact Theresa to be placed on the mailing list.

Staff will continue to support the work of the Partnership's Water Policy Working Group over the next two quarters as it seeks to develop an equitable, sustainable water policy that benefits all eight counties.

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

The development and implementation of an equitable and sustainable water policy in California is extremely complex. Water is so vital to the sustenance of all segments of California society that no action of any significance is taken without competing interests fully engaging at all levels and in all arenas. This will continue for the foreseeable future. What is heartening, however, is how the San Joaquin Valley water community and elected leadership are prepared to be proactive and to fully engage and resolve the hard issues with the vision that regional people should solve regional issues and not default to state, federal or judicial authorities that may or may not have their best interests of the region at heart.

The challenges will continue; but many leaders are trying to get ahead of and avert the coming "Perfect Storm" in California's stewardship of its precious water resources..