

Dates of Activity: July through September 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

The collaborative San Joaquin Valley Integrated Regional Water Plan Framework Version 1.0 was completed and released for comment internally Oct. 1, 2008. First round commenter's will be Partnership board members participating in the Water Policy Working Group and the Water Plan Advisory Committee. The introductory cover letter will be written by Kern County Supervisor Ray Watson who serves as the Water Work Group Convener. Release of Version 2.0 to San Joaquin Valley water agencies, local governments and the public is programmed for Nov. 1, 2008. The final version is programmed for release Dec. 15, 2008. An early copy of the report may be obtained by contacting Sarge Green or Jim Tischer.

California Water Institute (CWI) staff made a comprehensive water presentation at the Sept. 12, 2008, board meeting at UC Merced. The presentation included detailed information from the California State University, Fresno, Interdisciplinary Spatial Information Systems Center (ISIS) by Bob Slobodian and Xiaoming Yang. The presentation was well received by board members and precipitated an extended discussion on the need for collaborative water policy development in the San Joaquin Valley. Supervisor Ray Watson facilitated the discussion. The [Water Work Group Presentation](#) may be accessed from the Water Work Group Document Library, located on the Partnership Web site, as well as the California Water Institute Web site at www.californiawater.org.

The critical need for an integrated water plan that benefits all eight counties continues unabated as California struggles with an expected third year of drought in 2009. The following statement is extracted from DWR's Drought Water Bank Overview issued Sept. 2, 2008:

Introduction

Following two critically dry years, 2009 has the potential to be one of the most severe drought years in California's recorded history. Water supplies in major reservoirs and many groundwater basins are already well below average. Court-ordered restrictions on water deliveries from the Delta have significantly reduced supplies from the state's two largest water systems. Climate change is reducing mountain snowpack – a critical source of natural water storage. Finally, California's population is growing rapidly, but our statewide water system that has not kept pace.

Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed a comprehensive water plan to address the long-term water needs of the state. Earlier this summer, he issued an executive order to address the statewide drought and declared a drought emergency for much of the Central Valley. In response to the Governor's executive order, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is implementing a number of actions now in preparation for a potentially dry 2009 and beyond.

- Aggressive Water Conservation
- Financial Assistance for Drought Programs
- Technical Assistance for Small Water Systems and Private Well Owners
- Drought Education, Information and Outreach

For more information on drought-related actions, readers are referred to DWR's Drought Preparedness Web page: <http://www.water.ca.gov/news>

Planned Activities for next 3-6 months

California Water Institute staff will refine the San Joaquin Valley Integrated Regional Water Plan Framework as comments are received from board members, agencies and the public. A final copy will be released on Dec. 15, 2008, completing the contract requirement for the Partnership. CWI staff member Sarge Green is the lead for completion of the water plan supported by other staff as required.

CWI staff is fully engaged as interested parties for the Delta Vision Strategic Plan to be released in October 2008 and DWR California Water Plan 160-09 to be released in December 2008. **If** these seminal plans are collaboratively developed, are translated by political leadership to visionary public policy, funded and implemented forthrightly, California's citizens will be well-served. If not, we will not be prepared for the challenges before us.

Staff continues to develop a San Joaquin Valley Water Reuse Task Force to embrace the opportunity and put wastewater back to work. California State University, Fresno, Integrated Water Management Plan released in April may serve as one element in advancing Best Practices case studies throughout the eight-county region.

Challenges/Problems/Bottlenecks/Feedback

Time, money and politics will continue to be the major issues facing development of viable water public policy. The recent 84-day delay by the Legislature to implement California's budget only hints at the challenges before the state in the coming years. Implementation of visionary water policy that meets the needs of all eight counties will require substantial resources over an extended period of time applied in a prioritized manner fully utilizing the benefits of IRWMPs currently in progress. It remains to be seen whether we are up to the task.

The California Water Institute will continue its full engagement in the water policy arena with resources at-hand.

San Joaquin Valley Integrated Water Management Plan Advisory Committee

Name	Title & Organization	Address	Issue Assignment
Paul Betancourt	Farmer; member Central Valley Regional Water Board	311 N. Goldenrod Ave. Kerman, CA 93630-9275 betancourtunlimited@juno.com	Agriculture, water quality
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Tim Fisher	Great Valley Center	201 Needham Modesto, CA 95354 tim@greatvalley.org	Land use, energy and air quality integration
Kevin Kaufman	GM, Stockton East WD	P.O. Box 5157 Stockton, CA 95205 kkauffman@sewd.net	Water supply, groundwater management, banking
Melinda Marks	EO San Joaquin River Conservancy	5469 E. Olive Fresno, CA 93727 Melinda.Marks@sjrc.ca.gov	Ecosystem management
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Bill Van Skike	Mazzei Injector Co.	500 Rooster Dr. Bakersfield, CA 93307 bvanskike@mazzei.net	Urban water supply, private sector IRWMP participation
David Guy	Yosemite Association	P.O. Box 230 El Portal, CA 95318 dguy@yosemite.org	Ex-Officio, Valley Water Plan guidance
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