

Dates of Activity: April 2008 through June 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 the collaborative San Joaquin Valley Water Plan Framework moved forward during the second quarter, both from a technical and public policy perspective. The outline for the San Joaquin Valley Water Plan Framework was developed and released to members of the Advisory Committee for comment and recommendations prior to the June 13, 2008, California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) board meeting at Madera Center. (See page 3 for the Water Plan Advisory Committee members.)

Members of the Advisory Committee met jointly, for the first time, with the Partnership Water Policy Working Group board members (Fritz Grupe, Ray Watson, Leroy Ornellas, Gene Voiland, Gary Podesto, DeeDee D’Adamo, Sunne McPeak and Alan Autry) to meld the technical elements of water plan development with the public policy elements of plan implementation.

Key elements were linked as a result of a thorough overview of the Water Plan by California Water Institute and an informative geospatial presentation by California State University, Fresno, Interdisciplinary Spatial Information Systems Center (ISIS). A copy of the presentation may be found at [California Water Institute](#) and on the [Water Work Group Web page](#) located on the Partnership’s Web site. The water geospatial map specifically targeted for the eight-county San Joaquin Valley will be a powerful tool as the water community, cities, counties and public move forward to fully embrace a locally developed Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).

The Water Policy Working Group approved a resolution to be forwarded to the full Partnership board for approval at its June 13 board meeting. The resolution affirmed understandings that had been developed by board members, technical advisers and interested persons from the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California since the group began meeting in September 2007 under Fritz Grupe’s leadership. Technical Advisers were led by Gene Voiland and Gary Podesto. Download a copy of the [Resolution: Comprehensive Water Plan](#) located on the Partnership’s Water Work Group Web page.

The two actions noted above affirm the critical linkage for long-term success between technical water plan development and water policy actions that insure plan implementation.

Planned Activities for next 3-6 months

California Water Institute staff plan to release the 1st draft of the San Joaquin Valley Water Plan Framework Outline in 3Q08 for comment by the Advisory Committee, the water community and the public. Comments will be received, incorporated in the outline and resubmitted for round two. A final version will be completed and sent to the Water Policy Working Group for affirmation and then to the full Partnership board. The San Joaquin Valley Water Plan Framework Production/ Review & Release Schedule follows:

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER PLAN FRAMEWORK PRODUCTION/REVIEW & RELEASE SCHEDULE		
Item	Date	Release Audience
1 st Draft	September 1, 2008	*WPWG, **SJVWPAC, Selected water community and public
2 nd Draft	October 15, 2008	WPWG, SJVWPAC, water community & public
Final	December 1, 2008	Partnership Board & Public
Affirmed	January 2009	Partnership Board
*WPWG – Partnership Water Policy Working Group		
** SJVWPAC – San Joaquin Valley Water Plan Advisory Committee		

Sarge Green assumed leadership for the San Joaquin Valley Water Plan framework development in May after Kathy Wood was promoted to an executive position at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Sacramento. Sarge brings 30 years of water policy and technical and regulatory experience to the assignment. Jim Tischer will work with Sarge to develop the water plan and continue to facilitate the Partnership Water Policy Working Group.

The water reuse arena continues to be a major opportunity for the Partnership given the shortfall of water supply as a result of the current drought and expected water supply changes.

Staff continues to develop a San Joaquin Valley Water Reuse Task Force to embrace the opportunity and put wastewater back to work. The 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.

Staff will continue to support the work of the Partnership 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

Two issues: Time and money confront successful development of the San Joaquin Valley Water Plan.

Time is a major limiting factor for all members of the San Joaquin Valley water community who are fully engaged trying to deal with both the physical drought in their watersheds and the regulatory drought of conveying water through the Delta as a result of precipitous fish species' decline and resulting court orders. Senior water agency staff has scant time for long-term planning when the business survival of their water customers is in doubt. CWI must be solicitous of agency staff availability given the current situation on the ground and the challenges they face in their own districts. There are many water agency staff engaged in the development of the epic Department of Water Resources (DWR) 2009 Water Plan update which is due out in final form December 2008. An enormous amount of energy is being devoted to water plan development in California under very trying circumstances.

Money continues to be a major issue for the development of a strategic water plan outline in the San Joaquin Valley given the enormous geographic scope, competing interests and technical work involved. Funds provided by the Partnership only begin to leverage the resources required for the task at hand. Unfortunately, funds from Proposition 84, passed in 2006 for IRWMP funding, have been tied up in Sacramento with the ongoing water bond saga and not released to date.

The CWI proposal to the Department of Conservation for watershed coordinators was not funded in May. These funds would have favorably impacted the Partnership's water policy efforts.

