

# 2010 DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant Program

## Quarterly Report

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Grant number: 3010-238

Grantee name and contact information: Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (TBWP)

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Watershed name(s) + HUC(s): Tulare-Buena Vista Lakes 18030012

and location(s) [counties]: Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern Counties

State Senate District number(s): 12, 14, 16, 18

Senators(s): Canella, Berryhill, Vidak, Fuller

State Assembly District number(s): 23, 26, 31, 32, 34

Assembly Member(s): Patterson, Conway, Perea, Salas, Grove

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Quarterly Reporting Period: 08/19/13-11/18/13

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Refer to the *DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant Program Quarterly Report Form Instructions* document for detailed directions on how to complete this form.

### **1. Executive Summary:**

The goal of the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partner's Watershed Initiative (TBWI) is a healthy regional watershed with ecologically functional waterways, wetlands and uplands, providing abundant clean water for both people and wildlife. The Initiative will promote integrated natural resource management in the Tulare Basin watershed. The Initiative's main objective is to ensure that water supply, water quality and flood control practices funded and carried out through the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) process consider and incorporate ecological, watershed and sustainability principles in project design. The Watershed Coordinator (WC) will lead outreach efforts to the seven Tulare Basin IRWM planning groups and will work closely with natural resources agencies and non-profit organizations operating in the Basin.

In order to meet the Initiative's three-year objectives, the WC will utilize the TBWP's conservation planning documents, the Tulare Basin Conservation Plan Water Supply Strategies Report, and appropriate state and federal land managing agency planning documents to determine overlap with the objectives and priorities in the various Tulare Basin IRWM plans. The overall goal of this effort is to add environmental value and enhance funding opportunities for IRWM and other water-related projects in the Basin.

Objectives for the WC will also include improving overall public and stakeholder involvement for organizations not currently represented in IRWM groups. This includes the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Resource Conservation Districts (RCD) and other conservation or civic organizations active in the Basin. The Initiative will work to bring state, federal and private resources to facilitate the funding of these projects. The Initiative will also work to secure funding for the continuation and long-term sustainability of the WC functions after the end of this grant.

**2. Activities and Accomplishments Summary:** List major activities and accomplishments completed this quarter.

Priority Actions/Focus:

*The priorities from the Annual Work Plan for Year 3 with Q10 accomplishments:*

*(1) Development and integration of conservation, habitat and climate change project elements into the planning/implementation grant applications of the seven Tulare Basin IRWM groups to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR):*

- The WC and Core team members participated in the TB IRWM Collaboration Group monthly meetings.
- The WC participated in the Tulare Lake Region Design Team for California Water Plan (CWP). The Tulare Lake Region outreach meeting was held on October 18 in Visalia to solicit input to the "Tulare Lake" chapter of the 2013 CWP Update.
- The WC participated in the CWP Plenary on October 29 – 20, 2013; she collated Groundwater session comments and submitted them to DWR.
- The WC continued to participate in meetings regarding the IRWM Strategic Vision.

*(2) Deer Creek Watershed Focus Area and Southwestern Tulare County Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Integrated Resource Management:* In an ongoing effort to identify opportunities and execute projects in the Southwestern region of Tulare County (Deer Creek Watershed), the TBWI Core Team continues to engage community leaders and other stakeholders in the region.

- Members of the TBWI Core Team assisted with National Public Lands Day (NPLD) on September 28 at Atwell Island. TBWP board President and College of the Sequoias biology professor, Rob Hansen, attended the event with students of the College. The TBWI Communications and Outreach Specialist (COS) prepared NPLD outreach materials for the Bureau of Land Management and assisted with recruitment of volunteers at the Atwell Island Project Clean Up. (The NPLD flyer is included on the enclosed CD.)
- The TBWI COS coordinated the publication of the first Alpaugh-Allensworth Bulletin, a

small community newsletter intended to help inform and bring together the communities of Alpaugh and Allensworth. The COS solicited content from community members, edited the articles, formatted the newsletter, and facilitated distribution of the newsletter on Friday, October 18. United Way of Tulare County translated the content to Spanish and the TBWI COS formatted the Spanish version for distribution with the English version on October 18. (See the newsletter, also included on the enclosed CD.)

- With the \$5,000 in funding received from Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), the TBWI team advanced development of the “Rural Communities Resource Center” (RCRC), which will feature funding opportunities targeted to DACs, workshops, news/updates, project information/opportunities and more. We expect to launch the site at the beginning of 2014. (See CD for mock-up design of website section landing page.)
- The TBWI COS coordinated the AAA Trails meeting on September 13 at the Southern California Edison (SCE) Education Center. (SCE is a partner in our work in Southwest Tulare County.) The purpose of the meeting was to begin planning for a recreation and trail-building project that will connect the communities of Alpaugh, Allensworth and Atwell Island with a project already underway involving a feasibility study for water exchange among Alpaugh, Allensworth and the Angiola Water District. This was the kickoff event for a significant planning effort that brings together water agencies, environmental justice groups, and conservation groups to collaborate on a project that provides multiple benefits: (1) clean drinking water to two DACs, (2) recreational opportunities for local communities, (3) a potential recharge basin, (4) economic growth resulting from increased ecotourism, (5) environmental education opportunities, and (6) new habitat restoration opportunities.
- As a result of a survey following upon the May 2013 Tulare Basin Working Group (TBWG) meeting – at which the attendees reviewed the TBWP/TBWI 2014 – 2016 Strategic Plan and TBWG mission, a majority of TBWG participants voted to develop subcommittees to address priority issues on a deeper level. The Assistant WC (AWC) and COS are convening four TBWG subcommittees, focusing on (1) identifying and increasing water supply for Tulare Basin wetlands (with the first meeting scheduled for Nov. 19); (2) downstream water users’/upper watershed managers’ communication and collaboration (with the first meeting planned for mid-January 2014); outreach to county land use planners and elected officials in Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties (beginning in January); and (4) continuation of the rural communities regional capacity-building effort led by the COS. The latter effort has been underway for more than a year; it is focusing on increasing DAC community leadership capacity through roundtable discussions, community newsletters, and the AAA Trails project described above.
- The Pixley Conservation Project, funded through a grant from the US Bureau of Reclamation’s (BOR) Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) awarded in 2012, continued to progress with appraisal of the properties by the USFWS Realty Office in Sacramento. During Quarter 10, the CVPCP Project Manager added \$200,000 in additional funding to the project, bringing the total amount of funding to \$648,000. The project is proceeding in the context of concern expressed by agency and non-governmental organization representatives that land prices in the region are skyrocketing as a result of rapid conversion of marginal farmland, and valuable native habitat, to high value crops such as pistachios. Investment groups from outside the area are purchasing tracts of land throughout the Tulare Basin and pumping groundwater to produce the more salt tolerant nut tree.

(3) *Southern Sierra IRWMP development.*

- The WC and AWC participated in the Southern Sierra Regional Water Management Group (SS RWMG) Coordinating Committee and Planning Committee meetings to guide the development of the SS RWMG IRWM plan.

(4) *Climate Change Science, Adaptation and Resiliency.*

- The WC continued scoping for the Liberty Ranch Climate Adaptation Project. Given considerable interest by both BOR and DWR in developing a water storage project (South of the Delta) in the San Joaquin Valley and along tributaries of the Diablo Range, the WC worked with potential partners and funders to identify funding for a feasibility study; the study is needed to explore and recommend phases for the project. Engineering and design, water rights, and land acquisition are some of the issues that must be addressed in the proposed feasibility study.
- The AWC is organizing a “upstream/downstream” collaboration group (a TBWG subcommittee) based on the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Headwaters Policy and the Mokelumne watershed risk analysis project. The initial meeting is planned for mid-January 2014, as mentioned above.

(5) *Communication and Outreach implementation: serving as a catalyst for the integration of landscape level conservation through water management strategies geared to provide water supply reliability for agriculture, communities, and habitat in the Tulare Basin.*

- During this quarter, the TBWI COS distributed three e-newsletters (on September 11, October 10, and November 15) to the e-newsletter list-serve, which has grown to 209 subscribers. Open rates and click through rates have been much higher than industry standards, demonstrating that our content is relevant and that we are successfully engaging our audience. (See enclosed CD for pdfs of the newsletters. Subscribe to newsletters at: <http://eepurl.com/sXK-b>.)
- The TBWI COS created and distributed a TBWP/TBWI News Update on Friday, November 15. The COS and TBWP Executive Director distributed the News Update to agency partners, private funders, and Federal and State elected officials (including the State elected officials listed on the first page of this report.) (See enclosed CD for this News Update.)
- The TBWI website is located at [www.tularebasinwatershed.org](http://www.tularebasinwatershed.org). It serves a uniquely valuable role as a tool to assist project managers in developing watershed projects and initiatives in the Tulare Basin.
- The TBWI COS also routinely updates the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/tularebasinwildlifepartners>.

(6) *West Hills Integrated Resource Management (IRM) in partnership with the Westside RCD (WRCD).*

- The WC took the lead in the preparation and submission of a \$197,500 grant application to the BOR CVPCP for restoration of riparian habitat in the Arroyo Pasajero portion of western Fresno County in collaboration with the WRCD. Although the Federal government shutdown caused some confusion, the WC learned that the grant application (originally due on October 4) had been accepted as of October 24.
- The WC attended the September 19 WRCD meeting and continued to meet with agencies, landowners and water districts in an undertaking that had been coined “the creeks and streams initiative ” and is now a full-fledged West Hills Integrated Resource Management (IRM) project and a high priority for the final twelve-month period under

the DOC TBWI grant. The potential CVPCP funding source for this project is the same as the source of funding that was awarded for the Pixley Conservation Project last year (mentioned above in the Deer Creek Watershed Focus Area section).

- The WRCD sponsored the WC's attendance at the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) annual meeting and Watershed Coordinator Workshop in Napa (November 13-16), in the course of which the WC made a short presentation on the partnership between the TBWI and WRCD.

*(7) Secure ongoing funding to continue the work of the Tulare Basin Watershed Coordinator beyond the initial three-year Department of Conservation (DOC) grant.*

- The TBWI team submitted an inquiry to the California Water Foundation (CWF) for continued funding for the work of the Tulare Basin WC for a thirty-six month period after the end of this DOC grant. (A copy of the letter of inquiry is included on the enclosed CD).
- The WC attended the Strategic Growth Council (SGC) meeting on November 5 to learn more about SGC priorities for the upcoming Round 3 funding opportunities.
- The TBWI team submitted a \$19,000 grant request to the Fresno Regional Foundation (FRF) to fund county outreach efforts with the four Tulare Basin counties (Kern, Tulare, Kings, and Fresno). The TBWI team intends to advocate for the inclusion of TBWP and Greenprint land use planning data and Kings Basin groundwater recharge data into county land use planning efforts.

### **Benefits to the Watershed Accrued in Quarter 10 by TBWI and Partners**

The TBWI WC and team have provided a significant return on the DOC investment in the Tulare Basin Watershed Initiative. In addition to the direct benefits of technical assistance in project design and implementation, grant writing, and facilitation services, the WC and Core Team members have provided significant strategic leverage to high priority Tulare Basin project needs. For example, the TBWI WC and team were instrumental in the award of the \$519,987 planning grant to the Sequoia Riverlands Trust for the Southern Sierra RWMG IRWM during this quarter. In another example of strategic leverage, on November 1 the TBWP/TBWI provided a letter of support for the California Waterfowl Association Goose Lake Legacy Project, scheduled for decision by the Wildlife Conservation (WCB) Board on November 21. The TBWP's Goose Lake Conservation Plan (adopted by the CA Department of Fish and Game and WCB as an official Conceptual Area Protection Plan in 2007) is essential to the success of this \$2,348,836 application for acquisition of critical wetland habitat in the Tulare Basin. (Note: as of this writing, on November 21, the WCB has just approved the Goose Lake Legacy Project.)

The TBWI has been very successful throughout the grant period to date in building new partnerships. One such example, which developed during Quarter 10, is the relationship with Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting, representatives (expert field biologists) of which met with TBWP President Rob Hansen, the TBWI WC, and the TBWP Executive Director during September-October to discuss assistance to the TBWI with upland project implementation, with a particular focus on Kern County, where the Lokern Wildlife Corridor, for example, contains the largest intact native, listed species habitat (@ 84,000 acres) in the Tulare Basin. As a result, the TBWP/TBWI is in discussions with one of the Vollmar Consulting biologists (David Clendenen, former FWS employee and former manager of the Wind Wolves Preserve), whom we hope will join the TBWI team in 2014 as Associate Watershed Coordinator.

*New Tulare Basin multi-benefit projects; status since last report on “new ventures:*

- The WC attended the September board meeting of the WRCD to facilitate development of the West Hills Conservation Project. The vision for this project is a multi-agency partnership with private landowners that will span the upper watershed to the floor of the Southern San Joaquin Valley. Its purposes will be to improve rangeland, reduce flooding and deposition of sediments (including selenium) into stream courses and wetlands, restore riparian vegetation and enhance pollinator habitat. As mentioned previously, the WC submitted a \$197,500 grant application to the CVPCP in October in collaboration with the WRCD. The WC has planned a site visit by agency collaborators in conjunction with WRCD’s next regular meeting on November 21. The WC will report the results of the site visit in the Quarter 11 Report to DOC.

*Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) water projects:*

- The TBWI continued to engage in and monitor the efforts of the newly launched Steering Committee for the AAA Project, a feasibility study (funded by the SGC) to assess options for transferring water from the Angiola Water District to the communities of Alpaugh and Allensworth. The TBWI is working with the Steering Committee to make sure that conservation, habitat, and recreation components will be factored into the design and implementation plan of the feasibility study. The primary goal of this water transfer project is to bring clean water from Angiola to Alpaugh and Allensworth, in exchange for the communities’ arsenic-tainted water.

*Raising awareness about IRM and its benefits in the Tulare Basin:*

- The WC participated on the Steering Committee for the SJV Greenprint, thereby continuing to build relationships with other Valley groups interested in pursuing watershed-based IRM.
- The TBWI e-newsletters (distributed approximately every four weeks) serve as a digital means of keeping partners connected and committed to IRM in the Tulare Basin. (See the enclosed CD for pdfs of the three e-newsletters distributed in Quarter 10.)
- The TBWI COS issued the TBWP quarterly News Update to communicate TBWP/TBWI and partner successes in Tulare Basin IRM efforts. (See the enclosed CD for the October News Update).
- SCE invited the TBWP President, Rob Hansen, to present the keynote speech at its annual Water Conference in Tulare on November 5. The event was postponed and will be rescheduled as soon as possible. This will be an important opportunity to inform regional water leaders not only about Tulare Basin natural history but also about cutting edge water conservation innovations and initiatives.
- The TBWI COS and AWC are revising the content of the TBWP website and developing a new design platform with much-improved site navigation. The launch date for the new TBWP website ([www.tularebasinwildlifepartners.org](http://www.tularebasinwildlifepartners.org)) is expected to be December 1. The new site will help resource managers in the Tulare Basin better access the wealth of research and resources about Tulare Basin hydrology, species, habitats, and unique planning efforts. No other organization hosts such breadth and depth of information about Tulare Basin ecology.

*Expanding the TBWI network of partners:*

- As a guest speaker, the WC presented on the topic of Watershed Monitoring and Adaptive Management at the Watershed Workshop for the Sierra Nevada Region on November 6 -7. This was the third in a series of workshops hosted by the Sacramento

River Watershed and funded by the State Water Resources Control Board. (See enclosed CD for the presentation.)

- The fall TBWG meeting occurred at the Fresno County Council of Governments (COG) office on October 24. The participants focused on reviewing water, agriculture and habitat data and maps gathered/created by the UC Davis Information Center for the Environment (ICE) under Phase 1 of the San Joaquin Valley Greenprint (led by the Fresno COG). The TBWG meeting attracted its largest audience ever – more than 50 attendees – and introduced many new partners to opportunities for innovative IRM work in the Tulare Basin. A primary goal of Phase 1 of the SJV Greenprint, funded by a grant from the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), is to develop a GIS database that can be used by land use planners in the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley. ICE is developing that database, had solicited the input of the public and private entity stakeholders in attendance at the TBWG meeting, and continues to seek additional input from other knowledgeable, relevant sources.

*Collaborating for a healthy upper watershed:*

- TBWI Core Team member John Shelton (DFW) and the WC continue to participate on the Sierra Water Work Group (SWWG). Liz Mansfield, SWWG, is organizing a tour of the Southern Sierra in the late spring that will be similar to a Water Education Foundation tour.
- As previously mentioned, the AWC is coordinating a meeting to discuss improving communication and collaboration among upper watershed managers, foothill and valley water stakeholders in the Tulare Basin. The AWC is working with Michelle Selmon/DWR Climate Change Specialist, and representatives from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park Service, Sequoia National Forest, Tulare Basin IRWM groups, and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). SNC is completing a report examining the connection between upper watershed management and downstream water yield and quality. The AWC is also working with the ACWA headwaters subcommittee, which is developing implementation measures for its *Policy Principles for Improved Management of California's Headwaters*. The AWC expects to convene a scoping meeting in mid-January 2014 to initiate a dialogue and determine steps towards formalizing a venue for communication among upper and lower watershed managers and stakeholders.

*San Joaquin Valley Recovery Team (SJVRT):*

- Several members of the TBWI Core Team continue to participate on the SJVRT to develop a GIS map that will evaluate the protection needs of “gap” recovery areas and habitat linkages identified in the Recovery Plan. SJVRT and TBWI Core Team members are also coordinating with the GIS team from the San Joaquin Valley Greenprint to ensure that the two mapping efforts are complementary.
- Members of the SJVRT along with local corporations, consultants, members of the TBWI Core Team and other interested parties met on November 13 to discuss conservation projects in the Lokern area in Kern County; this area has high values for endangered species, particularly the San Joaquin kit fox.

**Completed performance measures (PMs) as listed in work plan.** Identify the completed PMs for this quarter.

**Watershed Goal:** The goal of the Tulare-Buena Vista Lakes Watershed Coordinator is to create a healthy regional watershed with ecologically functional waterways, wetlands and uplands,

providing abundant clean water for both people and wildlife. The Watershed Coordinator (WC) will cooperate with the seven Tulare Basin IRWM groups and with the Tulare Basin Working Group (TBWG) to promote integrated natural resource management in the Tulare Basin Watershed (in Fresno, Tulare, Kings, and Kern Counties).

**Work Plan Objective #1: Identify environmental benefits that can be added to specific IRWM water projects, adding environmental value and enhancing funding opportunities for these projects, as well as providing the following end result benefit to the watershed: conceptualization and implementation of projects emanating from relevant conservation plans that provide strategically located wetland, riparian and upland wildlife habitat.**

*Performance Measurement:* Facilitate the development and implementation of up to 14 environmental projects from TBWP and public agency planning documents that can add environmental value to IRWM projects.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- The WC and TBWI Core Team members attended meetings of the six active Tulare Basin IRWM groups and attended monthly meetings of the Tulare Basin IRWM Collaboration Group (TB IRWVG). (Task 1.2)
- The WC also served as a communication conduit between the Southern Sierra RWVG and the Kings Basin Water Association (KBWA). (Task 1.2)
- The AWC organized the TBWG water supply for wetlands subgroup and scheduled the first meeting of that group for November 19 at the Angiola Water District office in Corcoran. A report on this meeting will follow in the Quarter 11 Report to DOC. (Task 1.2)

**Work Plan Objective #2: Match IRWM and other projects that have environmental benefits to grant opportunities and work to bring state, federal, and private resources to facilitate the funding of these projects, with the end result benefit to the watershed of increased fundability of IRWM water projects as well as providing additional valuable habitat for wetland, riparian, and upland wildlife species through these integrated projects.**

*Performance Measurement:* Facilitate the preparation by IRWM cooperators of 12-36 funding proposals that add environmental benefits to IRWM projects.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- The WC prepared the grant request \$197,500 for restoration in collaboration with the WRCD in the Arroyo Pasajero portion of western Fresno County. The purpose of the CVPCP grant application, submitted on behalf of the WRCD, is funding for acquisition of water for restoration uses along the Salt-Martinez Creeks. (Task 2.2, 2.3; also Objective 3)
- The WC met with the County of Tulare regarding its Proposition 1E projects on Cottonwood Creek. One of these projects will restore the creek to its original alignment. Three of these projects are planned to reduce flooding of adjacent communities of Seville and Yettem, as well as the County's juvenile detention center. At the KBWA advisory meeting on September 18, the WC spoke in favor of the project, which was subsequently accepted by the KBWA at its October 16 Board meeting for inclusion in the KBWA IRWM project list. (Tasks 2.2, 2.3; also Objective 6)

- Sustainable Conservation (Suscon) approached the WC for assistance with the location of a high quality groundwater recharge/replenishment project. Suscon is in contact with a donor in the beverage industry that is interested in providing funding for a “shovel ready” project in 2014. Several projects, already included on the KBWA IRWM Round 3 project list, were provided by the WC and are now under review for potential inclusion among projects KBWA will advance under IRWM Round 3. Final project selection is expected to occur during Quarter 11. (Tasks 2.2, 2.3)
- TBWI Team members explored and shared a variety of grant opportunities, including potential funding from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Proposition 1E, Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and private foundations. Relevant grant opportunities and deadlines are posted on the TBWI website and sent out in e-newsletters to a mailing list of 209 subscribers (IRWM and TBWG partners). (Task 2.1, 2.2, 2.3)
- TBWI team members received regular newsletters listing grant opportunities from the San Joaquin Valley Rural Development Center at Fresno State. This information is routinely added to our TBWI website Funding Information Section and distributed to our partners. (Tasks 2.1, 2.2, 2.3)
- The WC attended the November 5 meeting of the SGC and subsequently shared the guidelines for the Round 3 Sustainable Communities planning grants with TBWI team members. High Speed Rail (HSR) mitigation is a major interest of the SGC. Since the TBWP/TBWI is working to advance high priority project concepts derived from its land use planning report information, Greenprint/ICE data, and SJVRT data for use in designing HSR mitigation projects, the TBWI is planning to work with local government partners in Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern Counties government to collaborate on a major application to SGC Round 3 (due late February 2014). (Task 2.1, 2.2, 2.3)
- In a conversation with a DOC representative on November 14, the WC learned that there is strong interest in growth inducing effects of HSR through the Tulare Basin (Merced to Southern California). The WC shared this information with Core Team members on the TBWI monthly call on November 15. The information re-enforced the TBWI decision to take a leadership role beginning immediately to collaborate with Southern SJV county governments on an application to SGC Round 3, mentioned above. (Task 2.1, 2.2, 2.3)

**Work Plan Objective #3: Coordinate with Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) and the San Joaquin Valley Resource Conservation & Development (RC & D) Council as well as with other conservation and civic organizations not currently represented in IRWM groups to promote consideration of resources other than water (e.g. soil, air, open space, recreation, and wildlife) in IRWM projects; the end result benefit of this objective will be increased public involvement that will lead in turn to increased benefits from the IRWM water projects for a wider array of the public, enhancing the regional agricultural heritage, economy, and quality of life.**

*Performance Measurement:* Facilitate development and implementation of up to 12 IRWM projects that integrate benefits to soil, air, open space, recreation, wildlife and other resources.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- The WC made a presentation on project planning and regulatory requirements at the Watershed Monitoring and Adaptive Management Workshop at Kings Beach, California.

This Workshop was sponsored by the Sacramento River Watershed and the State Water Resources Control Board and was held on November 6-7. (See enclosed CD.) (Tasks 3.3)

- As previously mentioned, the WC developed the CVPCP grant application in collaboration with Westside RCD. The full title of the application is “Riparian Restoration on the Western Fresno County Stream Groups, Arroyo Pasajero, Salt-Martinez, Cantua and Panoche Creeks.” In addition to WRCD, project partners include NRCS, Fresno State, BOR, USFWS, and the TBWP. The WC scheduled a site visit by the CVPCP managers and partners for November 21. (Task 3.1, 3.2, 3.3; also Objectives 4 and 6)
- As previously listed, the WC presented on the collaboration between the TBWI and WRCD at the CARCD annual meeting in Napa on November 13. (See enclosed CD.) (Task 3.3)
- The WC participated on the SJV Greenprint Steering committee under its Phase 1 grant funded by the SGC. (Task 3.2, 3.3)
- The WC participated on the San Joaquin Valley Committee for Sustainable Conservation, an umbrella group of nonprofit organizations working with agricultural interests on regional solutions to improve water supply and water quality in the San Joaquin Valley. (Tasks 3.2, 3.3)
- The WC continued collaboration with the San Joaquin River Stewardship Council, Tree Fresno, and Urban Tree Foundation to develop community-building projects involving natural resources such as tree plantings and environmental education events. (Tasks 3.2, 3.3)
- As previously described, the TBWG fall meeting was held on Oct. 24, in partnership with the SJV Greenprint/Fresno COG and ICE/UC Davis. The Greenprint is nearing the end of its Phase I process. Phase I has involved a major effort to collect and map natural resource data related to agriculture, water, habitat/biodiversity, and SJV energy and transportation linkages. The Greenprint steering committee (of which the WC is a member) and GIS team are seeking “experts” (resource managers, planners, and landowners who have good on-the-ground knowledge in the fields of water, agriculture and habitat) to provide feedback on the completeness and accuracy of the ICE Greenprint data and maps, as well as provide input on ways that the data can be weighted to best inform sustainable land use planning and management. The TBWP/TBWI targeted Tulare Basin resource managers, county planners and GIS practitioners for invitations to the TBWG meeting. Approximately 50 representatives attended from the following organizations: NRCS, DFW, DWR, BOR, BLM, Kings and Tulare counties, California State Parks, UC Merced, Fresno State, TB IRWM groups, private environmental consultants, Sequoia Riverlands Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Central Valley Joint Venture and USFWS. (Task 3.3)

**Work Plan Objective #4: Coordinate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist implementation of Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and other NRCS programs; the end result benefit of this objective to the watershed will be additional wetland and riparian projects funded by NRCS and increased acreage of these essential wildlife habitats.**

*Performance Measurement:* Identification and implementation of up to 12 WRP and other NRCS program projects in conjunction with IRWM projects.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- The NRCS Southern WRP Implementation Team Leader participated on the TBWI Core Team and routinely provided guidance on NRCS programs and outreach opportunities. (Tasks 4.1, 4.2, 4.3)
- The WC and TBWI Core Team continued to place a strong focus on the tasks of identifying water and funding sources for water for WRP lands in the Tulare Basin that do not currently have water. The task is linked to flood management activities, particularly the evolving White River flood management on the Allensworth Ecological Reserve and the Liberty Ranch project. (Task 4.2)
- The NRCS Fresno Office collaborated with the TBWI and WRCD on the Arroyo Pasajero project in western Fresno County submitted to BOR for CVPCP grant funding. (Task 4.2)
- The AWC organized the November 19 meeting of the TBWG water supply for wetlands subgroup. The TBWG envisions this subgroup as a permanent collaboration of Tulare Basin water managers and environmental water stakeholders to (1) identify, locate and summarize environmental water supply needs, (2) brainstorm water supply ideas, and (3) discuss potential projects in the Tulare Basin with an initial focus on southwest Tulare County. Water supply for WRP wetlands is a high priority for this subgroup, although all environmental water needs for that region will be discussed. Representatives from NRCS, BLM, Ducks Unlimited, Tulare Basin Wetlands Association, California Waterfowl Association, USFWS, DFW, Angiola Water District and TBWP planned to participate. (Task 4.2)

**Work Plan Objective #5: Coordinate with disadvantaged community interests to identify specific overlap between those interests and environmental interests and work to integrate both components into specific IRWM water projects; the end result benefit of this objective is that IRWM water projects will demonstrate increased synergy between wildlife needs and open space needs of people living in disadvantaged communities.**

*Performance Measurement:* Facilitate the integration of up to six projects that provide environmental benefits for disadvantaged communities in IRWM water projects.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- As listed previously, the COS and Core Team members worked with BLM-Bakersfield staff to engage youth and community members in Alpaugh and Allensworth at BLM's Atwell Island Project for NPLD on September 28. In spite of strong outreach efforts, volunteer turnout fell short of expectations, signifying the challenge we face to engage the community. Nonetheless, volunteers (mainly from College of the Sequoias, led by TBWP President, TBWI Core team member and College of the Sequoias biology instructor Rob Hansen) removed litter, cleared vegetation and collected bladder pod bush seeds. (Task 5.1)
- As previously described, the COS has developed content for the RCRC, a new section that will be added to the TBWI website ([www.tularebasinwatershed.org](http://www.tularebasinwatershed.org)). This section will be dedicated to serving the needs of DACs and targeted to Community Services Districts and other DAC governance entities or nonprofits that have the authority to develop projects in rural communities for watershed-improvement activities. PG&E granted the TBWI \$5,000 to conduct this work. (Note: As the TB IRWM and TB DAC

groups are well aware, there is great potential for DACs to benefit from the State IRWM program which incentivizes projects that include solutions to DAC water supply and quality problems.) (Tasks 5.2, 5.3)

- The TBWI COS has coordinated roundtables in Alpaugh and Allensworth for more than a year. As a result of a high priority recommendation made at these meetings, the COS has produced two editions of a community newsletter to facilitate better, more open communication and civic engagement. Also, as previously mentioned, the COS coordinated a kick-off planning meeting on September 13 with Southwest Tulare County community members to begin strategizing on building a trail to connect Alpaugh, Allensworth and the Atwell Island Project as part of the AAA Project to exchange water among Alpaugh, Allensworth and the Angiola Water District. (Task 5.1, 5.2, 5.3)

**Work Plan Objective #6: Provide riparian and wildlife corridor concepts to assist IRWM groups with integration of climate change adaptation and sustainability strategies into specific IRWM water projects; the end result benefit to the watershed is that IRWM water projects will include climate change adaptation and sustainability benefits that will provide movement corridors for plants and animals and fewer species will be extirpated from portions of their ranges and listed as threatened or endangered.**

*Performance Measurement:* Integrate up to 12 TBWP corridor project concepts or project components with climate change adaptation and sustainability benefits into specific IRWM water projects.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- The WC continued to refine the scoping document for the Liberty Ranch project under Objective 2. This project is envisioned to provide temporary storage for up to 100,000 a/f of flood water off the South Kings, Kaweah, and Tule Rivers. With the uncertainty of climate change and effects in the Tulare Lake Basin, accommodation of high flood flows may also lessen impacts to communities and agricultural lands off the North Kings River in communities such as Mendota and Firebaugh. (Task 6.1)
- At the Watershed Monitoring and Adaptation Workshop sponsored by the Sacramento River Watershed and SWRCB on November 6 in Kings Beach, the WC presented on the concept of “no regrets” multi-benefit projects in the Tulare Basin. (Power point presentation included on the attached CD). (Task 6.1, also Task 3.3)

**Work Plan Objective #7: Ensure stakeholder support of the Watershed Coordinator’s efforts through twelve-month reports by the Watershed Coordinator to the Tulare Basin IRWM Coordination Group (TB IRWMG, composed of lead representatives of the seven Tulare Basin IRWM groups) and to the Tulare Basin Working Group (TBWG), soliciting evaluation and consensus recommendations concerning the optimal organizational and funding basis for continuing the position beyond March 2014; the end result benefit to the watershed of this objective will be achievement of stakeholder consensus on the value of continuing the position, with post-grant optimal organizational platform agreed upon, and the need for funding continuity and long-term sustainability agreed upon.**

*Performance Measurement:* Completed twelve-month reports by the WC and performance evaluations by the TB IRWVG and TBWG, with summary reports (including summaries of reports to DOC) posted on the TBWP website.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- The WC and TBWI Core Team members participated regularly in the seven IRWM group meetings and sub-committees, presented information on TBWI progress and plans, made useful contributions and received helpful feedback. (Tasks 7.1, 7.2, 7.3)

**Work Plan Objective #8: Coordinate with the TBWP, TB IRWVG, TBWG participants and other interested parties to secure funding for the continuation and sustainability of the position after the end of the grant; the end result benefit to the watershed will be continued integration of environmental components in water and flood control projects in the Tulare Basin.**

*Performance Measurement:* Secure a minimum commitment of funds for two additional years, with a long-term funding strategy for ten years or more.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- BLM/Bakersfield-TBWP Cooperative Agreement Amendment: Through this \$36,000 amendment to the existing Cooperative Agreement for “Friends of Atwell Island” capacity-building, the WC will assist the Atwell Island Project Manager with the transition from BOR Land Retirement Program funding to sustainable short and long-term BLM funding, involving solutions to water management issues and creation of an annual agricultural income stream of \$150,000 - \$200,000. Work under the agreement amendment was originally planned to begin on October 1 but has been delayed as a result of the Federal shutdown and other matters. The TBWP now anticipates receipt of the final modification document needed before work can begin under the amendment by late November. (Task 8.1)
- The WC attended meetings with FRF, SGC, Conservation Strategy Group and others regarding continuation of funding for the WC beyond the May 18, 2014 DOC grant end date. As previously mentioned, the WC attended the November 5 meeting of the SGC in Sacramento to learn more about the Round 3 planning grant opportunities. Follow up plans are underway. (Task 8.1)
- On October 23, the TBWP Executive Director (ED) submitted a letter of inquiry to the California Water Foundation (CWF) requesting support for continuation of support the Tulare Basin WC after May 2014. Follow up occurred on October 31, when Resources Legacy Fund staff responded with a request for additional information and indicated that staff was in the process of preparing the inquiry and additional information provided by the TBWP ED for CWF team review. (The letter of inquiry to CWF is included on the enclosed CD.) (Task 8.1)

### **3. New funding obtained from the Grant Start Date through this reporting period**

Grant proposals submitted to date:

Table 1: Grant proposals submitted throughout the grant

Program Name	Funding Entity & Type	Funding Source	Purpose	Requested Amount	Status	Award Amount	Award Date
Lawrence Foundation	P	General	Cash match support for WC operating costs	\$10,000	N	N/A	N/A
NRCS	F	WRP	Cash match support, funds Assistant WC functions in 2012	\$27,500	F	\$27,500	8/12/11
FWS Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV)	F	Mig. Bird Prog.	Cash match support, operating costs, TBWI updated brochure	\$1,189.08	F	\$1,189.08	8/16/11
			Wetland Tour vans	\$675.00	F	\$675.00	3/30/12
Heller Charitable Foundation	P	Environment & Health	Cash match support, WC operating expenses	\$12,870	N	N/A	N/A
BLM-Bakersfield Regional Office	F	Healthy Lands Initiative	Cash match support, TBWI Web site, communications/out reach (TBWP-BLM Coop Agr'mnt increase)	\$27,000	F	\$27,000	8/17/11
Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)	P	Fresno Office Gov't Rel.s	Cash match support, WC operating expenses	\$3,000	F	\$3,000	7/21/11
Fresno Regional Foundation	P	Environment program	Cash match support, TBWI Web site, COS functions	\$7,700	N	N/A	N/A
Wick Kenny Foundation	P	Watershed	Cash match support, WC operating expenses	\$5,000	F	\$5,000	1/5/12
Southern Cal Edison (SCE)	P	Environment	Cash match support, WC operating expenses	\$5,000	F	\$2,500	1/12/12
Heller Charitable Foundation	P	Environment & Health	Cash match support, TBWI website	\$23,000	N	N/A	N/A
Constellation Energy Eco State	P	Environment	Cash match support, COS functions	\$5,000	N	\$5,000	N/A
NFWF/Wells Fargo	P	Healthy Communities	Pre-proposal for TBWI Website	\$45,000	N	N/A	N/A
NRCS	F	WRP	Cash match support, funds Assistant WC functions in 2013	\$27,500	F	\$27,500	8/8/12
PG&E	P	Fresno Gov't Rel.s	Cash match support, COS functions	\$5,000	F	\$5,000	8/11/12

S.D. Bechtel Fund	P	Environment & Water Program	TBWI website upgrades and maintenance	\$62,000	P		
BOR	F	CVPCP	Acquisition for Pixley NWR, SW Tulare Co Watershed Focus Area	\$885,100	F	\$448,000 (initial funding)	5/5/13
BOR	F	CVPCP	Additions funds for Pixley NWR Acquisition	NA	F	\$200,000	9/15/13
Fresno Regional Foundation	P	Environment	DAC Roundtable support	\$15,000	N	NA	NA
Kenney Brothers Foundation	P	Watershed	Cash match support for WC operating expenses	\$5,000	F	\$5,000	12/12
Heller Foundation	P	Environment & Health	TBWI – Interactive Mapping	\$23,000	N	NA	NA
Roll Global Request	P	General	TBWI general supports	\$5,000	N	NA	NA
PG&E	P	Fresno Gov't Rel.s	Cash match, COS functions in support of TBWI/DAC	\$5,000	F	\$5,000	6/4/13
Southern Cal Edison (SCE)	P	Edison Int'l	Collaborating for Sustainable Solutions in Rural Communities Program	\$10,000	F	\$10,000	8/12/13
BLM	F	Coop, agr'mnt	Friends of Atwell Island Project	\$80,000	F	\$27,000	6/28/13
BLM	F	Coop agr'mnt add-on	Transition of Atwell Island Land retirement project	\$36,000	P		
Carole Combs	P	donation	Cash match support, TBWP/TBWI brochure reprint	\$1,095	F	\$1,095	4/11/13
NRCS Contrib Agreement	F	CA WRP	DOC TBWI match Jan –May 2014	\$18,000	N	NA	NA
CWF	P	LOI	TBWI/WC June 2014 – May 2017	\$300,000	P		
Fresno Regional Foundation	P	Environment	Tulare Basin Regional Land Use and Natural Res integration	\$19,000	P		
BOR	F	CVPCP	Westhills RMP, Restoration W. Fresno Co. Stream Groups	\$197,500	P		
WRCD	P	General	CARCD conference registration & lodging	\$981.20	F	\$981.20	11/13-16/13

<b>Cumulative Total</b>				<b>\$1,868,110.20</b>		<b>\$837,440.28</b>	
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a. New non-grant funding obtained to date.

Table 2: New non-grant funding obtained throughout the grant					
Program Name	Funding Entity & Type	Funding Source	Purpose	Amount Received	Date Received
FWS CVJV	Grant Agr'mnt Mod.	Migratory Bird Program	Funded Conservation Strategy Group Consulting September 2011- August 2012, assisted WC and Core Team with funding and project implementation strategies	\$36,000	8/11/11
RollGiving	Employee contrib	Olsen/Paramount Farms; MG	General Support	\$300	12/12
1% for the Planet/RollGiving	Employee contrib	Donation	General Support	\$400	1/13
TWS SJV Chapter	Contrib	Donation	General Support	\$250	1/13
Kings-Tulare CFC	P	Employee Contrib	General Support	\$122.98, \$69.04 \$56.48	10/12, 2/4/13 6/26/13
Fresno-Madera CFC	P	Employee Contrib	General Support	\$25.11 \$208.55	4/13 7/18/13
William Loudermilk, Conservation Solutions	P	TBWP Advisor	General Support	\$1,000.00 \$200.00	10/5/12 7/3/13
David Mitchell	P	TBWP BOD	General Support	\$100.00	7/18/13
Richard Moss	P	TBWP BOD	General Support	\$100.00	10/17/13
Fresno-Madera CFC	P	Employee Contrib	General Support	\$124.72	10/28/13
Kings -Tulare CFC	P	Employee Contrib	General Support	\$55.23	10/31/13
<b>Cumulative Total</b>				<b>\$ 38,012.11</b>	

**4. Include final copies of outreach materials and other products created during the reporting period. Submit photos in digital format on CD.**

The CD enclosed with the original copy of this Report includes:

- National Public Lands Day flyer for BLM-Atwell Island
- PGE Check Presentation photo
- TBWG photos
- Letter of support to the Wildlife Conservation Board (dated 11/1)
- Alpaugh-Allensworth News Bulletin

- TBWI e-newsletters (September 11, October 10, and November 15)
- TBWP October News Update
- Rural Communities Resource Center website mock-up
- Power point presentations (pdf) WC Watershed Monitoring Workshop 11/7
- Power point presentation (pdf) Watershed Coordinator Workshop 11/13
- Letter of Inquiry to the California Water Foundation
- CVPCP Grant application – Restoration on western Fresno County Stream Groups

The TBWI website is available at: [www.tularebasinwatershed.org](http://www.tularebasinwatershed.org).

**5. If applicable, describe any problems or setbacks related to the implementation of the grant or the work plan.**

- Work Plan Objective #1: The fact that DWR Prop 84 IRWM guidelines did not include a scoring advantage for ecosystem restoration projects has, we believe, impacted our success under this objective. At the December 14, 2011 DWR IRWM Improvement workshop in Visalia, we urged DWR to make this change but were told that instead we would need to make the case through the economic benefits of ecosystem restoration projects. We then developed our own “ecosystem benefits” guidelines for our IRWM partners, distributed that document actively during the IRWM Round 2 project implementation process, and worked with the six active TB IRWM groups to incorporate ecosystem restoration components into their Round 2 project implementation applications. However, during Quarter 10 DWR announced the Round 2 final awards, and the most successful, highest scoring TB IRWM group applications were those that benefitted from the scoring advantage for DACs, i.e. the Kern County IRWM, for which all the water projects submitted benefitted from high scoring DAC components, and the KBWA, for which high scoring water metering projects are located in relatively disadvantaged communities. Round 3 of the Prop 84 IRWM process has been delayed until after the end of this DOC grant and is scheduled to take place in early 2015; the TBWI will continue its efforts under this objective after the end of this grant but at the same time will actively work to ensure adoption of the recently released Draft CA State Water Action Plan, which “. . . identifies actions that, in the next five years, will move California toward more sustainable water management by providing reliable water supply to our farms and communities, restoring important wildlife habitat and species, and helping the state’s water systems and environment become more resilient.” (Quoted from the Introduction to the draft *California Water Action Plan*, released on October 31 by the secretaries of the California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Environmental Protection Agency)
- Work Plan Objective #8: We are still working on funding the TBWI WC beyond the end of this grant in May 2014. One original expectation for this was that the TB IRWM groups would be willing to fund the continued work of the WC for the period June 2014 – May 2017, but we have determined that this is unlikely to happen. Instead our strategy, as outlined in the TBWP/TBWI 2014-2016 Strategic Plan, is to “institutionalize” the Tulare Basin watershed-based IRM approach through outreach efforts with land use planning agencies and elected officials in Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties. We intend to advance this further by bringing on an Associate WC to work with the WC to help implement multi-benefit projects that demonstrate the viability of the IRM approach (e.g. the WRCD restoration, Liberty Ranch, and the AAA water exchange and trail projects). Our project concepts, derived from the TBWP land use planning reports (2007 – 2010), are already designed to target specific high priority riparian/wetland and upland

habitat areas in Tulare Basin. We will work to align our habitat data, and that of the Greenprint, with major corporate and/or public mitigation needs as those unfold during the next phase of the TBWI. Together with our partners, we intend to facilitate projects in Tulare Basin that have maximum IRM/integrated natural resource management benefits.

6. **Within 30 days of the end of the quarter, submit one hard copy and one electronic copy** (in MS Word; no PDF files) of this completed quarterly report to your assigned grant administrator.