

2010 DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant Program

Quarterly Report Form

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

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Website: www.tularebasinwildlifepartners.org

Grant number: 3010- 238

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): **14, 16, 18**

Senators(s): **Berryhill, Rubio, Fuller**

State Assembly District number(s): **29, 30, 31, 32, 34**

Assembly Member(s): **Halderman, Valadao, Perea, Grove, Conway**

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Quarterly Reporting Period (mm/dd/yy): 05/19/12 – 08/18/12

Report submission date (mm/dd/yy): 08/22/12

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 position 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 2 with Q5 accomplishments:

(1) Development and integration of conservation, habitat and climate change project elements into the 7 Tulare Basin IRWMP/Regional Water Management Groups (RWMG) planning/implementation grant applications to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR.) The TBWI Year 1 in Review and Year 2 work plan were presented to the TB IRWMP at its June 4 meeting for review, suggestions and feedback. The WC participated in the Kings Basin IRWM plan update and assisted with the integration of landscape level conservation with water management strategies. In addition, the TBWI Core Team is integrating the water needs of the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) lands under easement agreements with NRCS into project design with IRWMPs where feasible.

(2) Deer Creek Watershed and Southwestern Tulare County Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Integrated Resource Management – Under the leadership of the TBWI Communications and Outreach Specialist, the TBWI convened the very successful Southwest Tulare County Roundtable on July 18, 2012 in Allensworth. Focusing on the communities of Allensworth, Alpaugh and Richgrove, TBWI Core team members introduced concepts on developing water projects that have multiple community benefits including health, economic, recreational and environmental. The planning committee included United Way of Tulare County, the County of Tulare and Self-Help Enterprises. Over 20 community leaders attended the first in a series of workshops designed help these communities develop governance structures to reach their sustainability goals. The next roundtable will focus on “best practices” for finance, grant funding for community improvement, and development of multi-benefit projects.

(3) Southern Sierra IRWMP plan development. The Southern Sierra RWMG received notification from DWR that its planning grant application, under Proposition 84 for development of their IRWMP, was recommended for partial funding (i.e. \$519,987 of the initial \$610,738 request will be awarded). The TBWI provided significant support in developing the planning grant application, which was submitted in March 2012.

(4) Climate Change Science, Adaptation and Resiliency. The Assistant Watershed Coordinator

(WC) served as a member of the Steering Committee for the Southern Sierra Science Symposium, which will be hosted by the Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park in partnership with the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC), US Forest Service, US Geological Survey and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The TBWI also provided leadership to the TB IRWVG Climate Change Work Group and will lead that Work Group in developing a Tulare Basin-wide approach to climate change for use in project design by each of the seven IRWVGs.

(5) Communication and Outreach implementation, serving as a catalyst for the integration of landscape level conservation with water management strategies to provide water supply reliability for agriculture, communities and habitat in the Tulare Basin. The TBWI website went “live” on August 1 to get feedback from stakeholders. The website can be found at: www.tularebasinwatershed.org. Based on feedback, upgrades are underway to further improve the look and functionality of the site, with a formal launch planned for September 1. It will serve as an instrumental tool for project managers developing the myriad watershed projects and initiatives in the Tulare Basin. The website hosts a project database, which will facilitate coordination and collaboration among project managers in the Basin and ultimately serve as an extensive resource section to facilitate the development of multiple benefit projects and watershed education information, including a link to the watershed slide show developed by the Water Education Foundation. The website was presented to the TBWP Directors at their Board meeting on July 19, 2012 for review, suggestions and feedback. Based on the URL of the website, the Communications Specialist created new email addresses for TBWI core team members.

(6) Develop Consolidated Permitting and Voluntary Landowner Agreements/Safe Harbors to support high priority Integrated Resource Management (IRM) and conservation in the Tulare Basin. The TBWI team met with the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) Regional Manager and staff on June 28, 2012; the Regional Manager recommended starting the process at the local level rather than a taking a programmatic approach. The TBWI subsequently identified two specific project areas for this purpose: West Hills stock ponds for red-legged frog recovery in collaboration with landowners and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Porterville open space adjacent to the Blue Heron Reserve with Valley long-horn elderberry beetle.

(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 WC outlined tasks to lead to success which include: forging partnerships with corporations and businesses, marketing the skills and services of the TBWI Core Team and expansion of relationships with local, state and federal agencies by assisting agencies in meeting their missions. In defining the interest and thus support of the TBWI, the long-term goal is a healthy watershed with an emphasis on water supply reliability incorporating adaptive, practical and innovative solutions regarding climate change, regulatory challenges and population growth.

Benefits to the Watershed Accrued in Quarter 5 by TBWI and Partners

- A. *Completion of collaborative wetland restoration projects:* The Rancho Visalia Duck Club wetlands restoration was completed July 18, 2012 in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Kern National Wildlife Refuge, Tulare Basin Wetlands Association (TBWA) and TBWP. This project improved

wetland conditions through structural improvements on one of the oldest duck clubs in Kern County, established in 1945. It is located in Kern County near Wasco, was featured in photos of the TBWG tour of wetlands on April 27, 2012 and included on the CD that accompanied our 4th quarter/annual report. It was strongly endorsed by the Tulare Basin Wetlands Association.

B. *New Tulare Basin multi-benefit projects:* Several new ventures are underway.

- In collaboration with Poso Creek IRWM, the TBWI is exploring opportunities to provide water to wetlands in the Tulare Basin through the Madera Avenue Intertie Project.
- The conceptual West Hills Watershed Project, under development with Westside RCD and the Westside IRWMP, will address intermittent streams that flow from the western edge of the Tulare Basin onto the valley floor. The goal is to work with landowners to create setbacks along these stream courses, restore their natural meander to reduce flooding, and restore riparian habitat.
- The Pixley Conservation Easements/Acquisition project, under development with the Lower Tule River Irrigation District (LTRID), will protect an upland corridor in Southwestern Tulare County, as well as provide linkages to several high priority areas identified by TBWP in two of its Conceptual Area Protection Plans (CAPPs) prepared for DFG and the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).

C. *Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) water projects:* The four-county DAC study, under the leadership of Tulare County, identified four focus areas for follow up, including the development of: (1) non-infrastructure solutions such as management consolidations, (2) technical solutions to improve the treatment of contaminated (arsenic and nitrates) drinking water, (3) sources of higher quality drinking water, thereby reducing the need for expensive treatment, and (4) treatment at the household level and interim solutions. The Roundtable described in Priorities Action/Focus item 2 is a first example of follow up implementation of this effort within specific, interested communities, led by the TBWI Communications and Outreach Specialist.

D. *Raising awareness about IRM and its benefits in the Tulare Basin:* Under the leadership of the Communications and Outreach Specialist, the TBWI website was launched on August 1, 2012.

The TBWI website will:

- facilitate project collaboration through a project database --a compilation of Tulare Basin projects that provide watershed benefits-- with the goal of helping groups attract more funding, expand partnerships, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of projects;
- increase the number of projects in the Tulare Basin and funding for those projects by dedicating a page to funding opportunities; this page will also feature a regularly updated news feed to alert project managers and landowners to state, federal and private/foundation grant updates;
- deepen and broaden the watershed-based IRM approach in the Tulare Basin by incorporating multiple benefits and ecosystem services into projects; the website will encourage this by keeping a comprehensive list of resources, reports and

studies related to topics such as climate change, wetland restoration, conservation planning, watershed planning, nutrient management, and landowner conservation options;

- provide an interactive map that will help project managers develop and collaborate on projects;
- promote the overall value of watershed health and conservation in the Tulare Basin;
- provide a long-term, community-supported tool for watershed protection in the Tulare Basin.

- E. *Expanding TBWI network of partners:* Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) provided funding for the Southwestern Tulare County Roundtable and increased its contribution to the TBWI to \$5,000 in August. New collaborative partners include the California Water Institute (CWI) – California University at Fresno State (CSUF) and River Partners, both of which provided valuable assessment and feedback on priorities for the TBWI.
- F. *Collaborating for a healthy upper watershed:* The Southern Sierra IRWMP/RWMP was notified by DWR in July that the planning grant application submitted on its behalf by the Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) was recommended for funding in the amount of \$519,987. This accomplishment will lead to the development of climate vulnerability assessments, expanded stakeholder outreach, mapping of critical resource areas and Best Management Practices (BMPs), providing essential IRM capacity and sustainability in the upper watershed in the eastern Tulare Basin.
- G. *San Joaquin Valley Recovery Team (SJVRT):* The SJVRT re-convened in July under the leadership of TBWI Core Team member Larry Saslaw, with high level agency and NGO biologist participation, including the participation of TBWP president Robert Hansen. The first priority of the SJVRT for fall 2012 is to produce a map of protected areas to enable the identification of gaps, in order to identify additional upland and wildlife corridor areas within the Tulare Basin watershed in need of protection. The TBWI and TBWG will assist in this effort, with a goal of producing a map that will be useful in the Resource section of the TBWI website.
- H. *TBWI Core Team Draft Comments on HSR Revised EIR focusing on Southwestern Tulare County and Kings River Corridor.* Three TBWI Core Team members participated in drafting comments for submission to HSR, focusing on Southwestern Tulare County and the Kings River Corridor. These comments will be submitted by the TBWP by the September 20, 2012 HSR comment submission deadline, with the TBWP Conceptual Conservation Projects for TBWI and HSR Mitigation Recommendations February 17, 2012 document attached. The intent is to provide as much information as possible to HSR on science-based, DFG/WCB CAPP-based, beneficial Tulare Basin watershed mitigation opportunities. A copy of the February 17, 2012 document was included with the fourth quarterly/annual report to DOC and has been widely distributed to URS Corp, US ACE, EPA, DFG and the SRT.

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 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:

- At the June 4, 2012 meeting of the TB IRWGM, the WC and Core Team members provided the annual report of accomplishments and results under the DOC Watershed Grant. The synopsis, “Tulare Basin Watershed Initiative Year in Review (Year 1)”, as well as the “Work Plan for Year 2” were provided and are attached as Word documents to this Quarter 5 report. The work plan has since been revised to add the commitment to NRCS for identifying two eligible-WRP projects by year end and three more in 2013.
- The WC and TBWI Core Team members attended meetings of the seven Tulare Basin IRWM groups, attended monthly meetings of the TB IRWGM, and began the process of providing input to the Tulare Basin IRWM sub-groups for the next implementation grant cycle (Round 2, due March 2013). (Task 1.2)
- The WC participated in the budget reassessment for the Southern Sierra IRWMP/RWGM planning grant based on funding recommendations from DWR on August 9, 2012. (Task 1.2)
- WC and a Team member participated in the monthly Kings Basin IRWMP plan update, assisting with the development of climate change, watershed and habitat restoration elements in project design (Quarters 4 & 5). (Task 1.2)
- On August 7, 2012 the WC met with LTRID on excess lands for inclusion in the proposed Pixley Conservation Easement/Acquisition project. This project is developing as a Tule River corridor/connectivity acquisition project with high value according to analyses in the TBWP Sand Ridge-Tulare Lake Conservation Plan (DFG CAPP) and TBWP Riparian and Wildlife Corridor Conservation Plan (DFG CAPP).
- The WC met with Poso Creek IRWM on August 7, 2012 to discuss the development of conservation elements for inclusion in their projects for the upcoming application for a Prop 84 IRWMP implementation grant (due March 2013). The Madera Avenue Intertie project was selected, and a follow up meeting is scheduled in September.

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 and Core Team members developed the Pixley Conservation Easements/Acquisition project with LTRID for submittal to the Central Valley Project Conservation Program. (Task 2.3)
- The TBWI Team members explored and shared with partners a variety of grant opportunities including National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Proposition 1E, Local Groundwater Assistance (LGA), private foundations and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The WC assisted with submittal of the Southern Sierra IRWMP/RWMP LGA application on July 13, 2012. (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 TBWI Core Team members met with the Central Valley Program Director of River Partners, who offered to assist with implementation of acquisition and restoration priorities for the River Ranch, CalClark Farms property on the North Fork of the Kings River. This is a high priority acquisition, originally identified by DFG as a result of the TBWP Riparian and Wildlife Corridors Conservation Plan (an official DFG/WCB Conceptual Area Protection Plan). Core parcels were submitted for flood control and Valley oak restoration purposes in the first round of Prop 1E Flood Corridor Protection program funding, narrowly missing scoring highly enough to receive funding. The KRCD anticipates resubmittal of its application in March 2013. The TBWP and TBWI are providing strong support to KRCD for this project. It was listed in the prior Kings Basin IRWMP and will be submitted again, updated, by the TBWP/TBWI for listing in the Kings Basin Plan Update Project list. (Task 3.2, 3.3)

- The WC continued collaboration with TreeTOPS, a local organization with a focus on trees, trails and open space for communities in Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Madera Counties. The group is advocating and educating the public on the need for establishing only native plants along community trails and parks to protect the integrity of valley riparian areas. (Task 3.2, 3.3)
- The WC was appointed to the advisory committee for the development of the California Water Education Center. (Task 3.2)
- The WC and TBWI continued coordination with the Fresno Council of Governments on the development of the Greenprint for the San Joaquin Valley under a grant from the Strategic Growth Council. The WC and Assistant WC (TBWG Coordinator) completed the Greenprint outreach survey in August. (Task 3.2, 3.3)
- The WC met with Westside RCD (Sarge Green) to further development of the conceptual West Hills Watershed Project, and explored funding opportunities for this project. (Task 3.1)
- The WC participated in the two-day Tulare Basin/San Joaquin River Region watershed workshop presented by Dennis Bowker. This was the first in a series of three workshops in 2012-2013; it provided the opportunity to meet with other watershed coordinators in adjacent areas and share ideas. (Tasks 3.1, 3.2, 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 strong focus on the task of identifying water and funding sources for water for WRP lands in the Tulare Basin that do not currently have water. (Task 4.2)
- The WC and TBWI Core Team is working with FWS, NRCS, Sustainable Conservation and other partners to develop consolidated permitting for restoration activities. (Task 4.1)
- The TBWI committed to identifying at least two potential WRP projects in the Tulare Basin by December 2012 and three more in 2013. The Core Team stepped up outreach efforts, and a subgroup met specifically to identify key areas/sectors to contact for potential interest in NRCS habitat program. (Task 4.3)

- The Assistant WC initiated NRCS (specifically WRP) outreach to Visalia Farmer's Market participating farmers and Tulare County Community Supported Agriculture group, Family Farm Fresh.
- The Assistant WC contacted Fresno conservation groups, El Rio Reyes Conservation Trust and Kings River Conservancy regarding possible landowner/agriculture contacts who might be interested in WRP (and other NRCS habitat programs).

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:

- The Southwest Tulare County Roundtable was very successful, with approximately 20 community leaders participating in the first meeting on July 18, 2012. A second Roundtable is planned for September 5, 2012 and will include a field trip to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Atwell Island Project in Alpaugh--an outstanding example of wetlands and upland restoration that provides recreation and education opportunities for these communities. A goal of the Roundtable is to help the TBWI meet this Work Plan Objective. This is part of the Deer Creek - Southwest Tulare County Focus Area, which is a major focus for the TBWI in Year 2. (Task 5.1, 5.2, 5.3)
- A TBWI Core Team member continued participation in the stakeholder meetings for the Disadvantaged Communities' four-county assessment under the leadership of Denise Akins, Tulare County Resource Management Agency. The two-year study assesses challenges, barriers and opportunities, with an overall goal of improving drinking water in small, unincorporated communities in the Tulare Basin. The group identified four focus areas which are outlined under Benefits Accrued to the Watershed Item C on page 3 of this Q5 report. (Task 5.1)
- At the request of the Chair of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, the WC reviewed the Bureau of Reclamation's Assessment of their Rural Water Program which has NOT funded projects in California. Gaps in data and priorities were identified. A challenge with federal funding under this program is the requirement that tribes be federally-recognized. There are many tribes in California that do not meet this requirement. (Task 5.1, 5.2, 5.3)
- The WC and a Core Team member met with Debbie Davis of the Governor's Office of Policy and Research (OPR) and Native American tribal interests to develop of a tribal outreach/communications strategy for the Tulare Basin on July 24, 2012 at CWI. (Task 5.1)

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 and Assistant WC participated on the steering committee for the Southern Sierra Science Symposium, a regional forum that will address climate change adaptation, resilience and research. The Symposium is funded in part by the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative and will be held in February 2013 in Visalia. (Task 6.1, 6.2)
- The TBWI assumed the leadership (from the Kern County IRWMP) of the Climate Change Work Group for the TB IWRMG. The goal is to develop a consistent regional approach to address climate change in IRWM planning in the Tulare Basin watershed. (Task 6.1, 6.2)
- TBWI Core Team members met with the DFG Regional Manager and staff on June 28, 2012. Two roles for the TBWI discussed included regional outreach to foster public/private resource protection activities to redress frequent expressions of adverse public opinion regarding such activities, and taking a localized approach on Safe Harbors/Voluntary Landowner agreements to augment endangered species recovery, as well as contribute to climate change adaptation and resiliency for vulnerable species in the Tulare Basin. (Task 6.1, 6.2)

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 Watershed Coordinator and performance evaluations by the TB IRWMG and TBWG, with summary reports (including summaries of reports to the Department of Conservation) posted on the TBWP website.

Completed measures and outcomes addressed:

- The WC and TBWI Communications and Outreach Specialist shared the first annual TBWI report and the proposed work plan for Year 2 with the TB IRWGM on June 4, 2012. The group requested a better understanding of the technical expertise and services that the TBWI and the Core Team can provide to the TB IRWGM and individual IRWM groups in the Tulare Basin. (Task 7.1, 7.3)
- After soliciting feedback from various groups in the Tulare Basin watershed, the TBWI website “went live” on August 1 2012. Although further refinement is underway, the website has been well-received by the IRWMs and other partners in the watershed. A formal launch of the improved site is planned for September 1, 2012. The June 4 TB IRWGM strongly suggested that the website provide a neutral, non-regulatory and non-political focus to augment its usefulness to the TB IRWGM and TBWI partners. (Task 7.2)
- TBWI Core Team members participated in the GIS team of the TB IRWGM, providing input to this CWI - CSUF effort. The TBWI Core Team applied for grant funding to further utilize the data from this effort to develop TBWI website interactive maps for use by communities, water districts, conservation organizations, students and other organizations. (Task 7.2)
- The WC and TBWI Core Group 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. (Task 7.1, 7.2, 7.3)

Work Plan Objective #8: Coordinate with the TBWP, TB IRWGM, 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:

- At their July 19 meeting, the TBWP Board of Directors agreed to continue to support the TBWI and to seek long-term funding that will enable the TBWP to maintain its support role for the TBWI after completion of the DOC grant in May 2014. At this writing, members of the TBWI Core Team are developing a five-year budget and plan (2013-2017) to continue TBWI WC and TBWI website through full funding for continued operation and development, with the goal of achieving self-sustaining capacity for the TBWI and website by the end of 2017. (Tasks 8.1, 8.2, 8.3)
- At the request of the TB IRWGM, the above budget and marketing documents are being prepared for long-term support of the TBWI. (Tasks 8.1, 8.2, 8.3)

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

a) 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	N/A	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	Migratory Bird Program	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	P	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/outreach	\$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	P	Cash match support, TBWI Web site, communications/outreach	\$7,700	N	N/A	N/A
Wick Kenny Foundation	P	P	Cash match support, WC operating expenses	\$5,000	F	\$5,000	1/5/12
Southern Cal Edison (SCE)	P	SCE	Cash match support WC operating expenses	\$2,500	F	\$2,500	1/12/12
Heller Charitable Foundation	P	P	Cash match TBWI website	\$23,100	N	N/A	N/A
Constellation Energy Eco State	P	P	Cash match support	\$5,000	N	\$5,000	N/A
NFWF/Wells Fargo	P	P	Pre-proposal for TBWI Website	\$45,000	P		

NRCS	F	WRP	Cash match support, funds Assistant WC functions in 2013	\$27,500	F	\$27,500	8/8/12
PG&E	P	P	Cash match	\$5,000	F	\$5,000	8/11/12
Cumulative Total				\$203,034.08		\$104,364.08	

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	Funds Conservation Strategy Group Consulting September 2011- August 2012, to assist WC and Core Team with funding and project implementation strategies	\$36,000	8/11/11
Cumulative Total				\$36,000	

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

Attached, please find Word documents for the referenced Tulare Basin Watershed Initiative Year in Review (Year 1), and the Work Plan for Year 2. A CD accompanies this report that includes the June News Update (PDF), the flyer for the Southwestern Tulare County Roundtable (PDF), Southwestern Tulare County Roundtable presentation (power point), and the presentation given by the WC at the Sierra Water Work Group Summit on July 18, 2012 (power point).

Other outreach materials/efforts include regular updates to the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tulare-Basin-Wildlife-Partners/172535542790036>. TBWP continues to expand the fan base of its Facebook page in order to serve as a hub for information exchange that can benefit the TBWI and general project collaboration in the region.

5. If applicable, describe any problems or setbacks related to the implementation of the grant or the work plan. None to report.

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.