



The Watershed Initiative: Coordinated Regional Water and Natural Resource Management

The Tulare Basin Watershed Initiative, launched in May of 2011, just released its first quarterly report of accomplishments. The Watershed Initiative is an ambitious three-year project that will promote integrated natural resource management in the Tulare Basin Watershed.

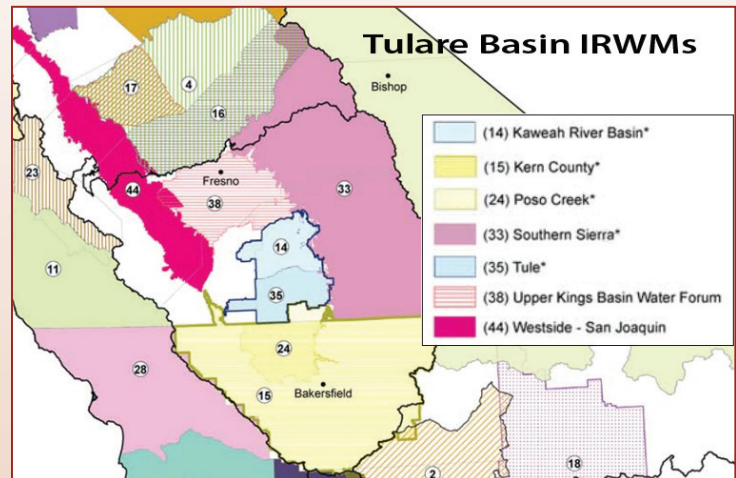
The Initiative is funded primarily by a \$300,000 grant award announced in February 2011 through the Department of Conservation's Watershed Program. Match funding for the grant is provided by the Natural Resources Conservation

Service Wetland Reserve Program through a cooperative agreement for 2011, recently renewed for 2012.

Administered by the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (TBWP), the grants fund the Tulare Basin Watershed Coordinator, Kathy Wood, and the Assistant Watershed Coordinator, Sarah Campe, to collaborate with diverse stakeholders and partners to identify, develop and implement multi-benefit projects in the region. These projects will enhance not only water quantity and quality, but will also integrate benefits to soil, air, open space, recreation, wildlife and other natural resources.

The goal of the Initiative is to create a healthy regional watershed with ecologically functional waterways, wetlands and uplands, providing abundant clean water for both people and wildlife.

In the first quarter, Kathy and Sarah have focused their efforts on outreach to the seven Integrated Regional Water Management Groups in the Tulare Basin and key participants in the Tulare Basin Working Group, including the U.S.F.W.S. Central Valley Joint Venture, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Fish and Game, California Water Institute at Fresno State, Tulare Basin Wetlands Association, Self-Help Enterprises, Community Water Center, Conservation Strategy Group and many more.



Watershed Initiative Funding from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, BLM and the Wick Kenny Fund

The Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners' Tulare Basin Watershed Initiative recently received \$29,000 in new funding, thanks to the generous support of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, which contributed \$3,000, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which contributed \$27,000. These funds will be used toward the cash match commitment required by the Department of Conservation Watershed Coordinator grant program. These funds add to the \$5,000 received in December 2010 from the Wick Kenney Fund. The funds will cover expenses vital to the success of the Watershed Initiative, including outreach materials, publicity, mileage and meeting/conference costs. On behalf of all of us at TBWP, thank you!

Renewed Funding from CVJV & Region 8 Migratory Bird Program

In August 2011, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) Central Valley Joint Venture (CVJV) and FWS Region 8 Migratory Bird Program renewed \$36,000 in annual funding to the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners to support the invaluable consulting services of Conservation Strategy Group, LLC. Thank-you, once again, for this continued support!