

2010 DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant Program Drought Response Extension Quarterly Report

Grant number: 3010-238, Amendment No. 1

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

Preparer name and title: Carole Combs, Executive Director, TBWP; Dave Clendenen/VNLC, Watershed Coordinator 1 and Kathy Wood McLaughlin/TKMC, Tulare Basin Watershed Coordinator 2

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Quarterly Reporting Period: 05/19/14-08/18/14

Report submission date: 08/25/14

1. Executive Summary:

The goal of the Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners (TBWP) Tulare Basin Watershed Initiative (TBWI) is to create a healthy regional watershed with ecologically functional waterways, wetlands and uplands, providing abundant clean water for both people and wildlife. The Initiative promotes Integrated Resource Management (IRM) 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. Over the initial three years of the DOC grant, the Watershed Coordinator (WC), Kathy

Wood McLaughlin, led outreach efforts to the seven Tulare Basin IRWM planning groups and worked closely with natural resources agencies and non-profit organizations operating in the Basin.

Utilizing 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, the WC determined overlap with the objectives and priorities in the various Tulare Basin IRWM plans. This effort added environmental value and enhanced funding opportunities for IRWM and other water-related projects in the Basin. The Initiative has worked and continues to work to bring state, federal and private resources to the funding and implementation of these projects

During the initial three years of the grant, objectives for the WC included improving public and stakeholder involvement for organizations not currently represented in IRWM groups such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Resource Conservation Districts (RCD), and other conservation or civic organizations active in the Basin.

In April 2014, DOC granted a six-month Drought Response extension through November 18, 2014. Under this extension, projects are to be identified to address climate change adaption and resiliency in the Basin. Under the Drought Response, WC duties will be split between two WCs: Dave Clendenen/Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting (VNLC)(WC 1) has focused on the southern area/Kern County during Quarter 13, and Kathy Wood McLaughlin/TKM Consulting (TKMC) (WC 2) has focused on the northern area /Fresno and Tulare Counties during Quarter 13. Due prior commitments, Kathy Wood McLaughlin's commitment under the extension ended on August 13, 2014. Dave Clendenen will carry forward the responsibility for Kern, Tulare and Fresno Counties during Quarter 14 and may pursue opportunities in Kings County as well during Quarter 14. (Note: this updates the Extension Agreement Work Plan Background language, which is adapted as necessary in the Drought Extension Work Plan Background - Update section below.)

An important TBWP strategy under the Initiative has been to encourage the "proliferation" of the watershed-based IRM approach through adoption of IRM program/project concepts and provision of either in-kind or direct funding support by other regional public and private entities, thereby advancing the permanent establishment of the watershed-based IRM approach in the Tulare Basin. While much has been accomplished, much more remains to be done. A sustained effort is required for the foreseeable future.

2. Benefits accrued to the Watershed in Quarter 13:

Acting to further its role as a catalyst for innovative enhancement of watershed-based IRM in the Tulare Basin and to maximize opportunities to address drought response and drought/flood/climate change preparedness:

- The TBWP organized and coordinated of the Watershed Connections Workshop on June 10, 2014, following up on the initial Watershed Connections meeting of February 25, 2014 described in the TBWP Quarter 12 report. The Workshop was supported by CA

Department of Water Resources (DWR), Southern California Edison (SCE) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). One of the most important results of the workshop has been the formation of a new interim collaborative-- the “Watershed Connections Working Group”-- which will be led by DWR Climate Change Specialist and CA Landscape Conservation Cooperative Vice Chair/Chair Designate Michelle Selmon.

The initial Watershed Connections Working Group (WCWG) support team includes some of the same individuals who assisted the WC through Quarter 12 as the TBWI “Core Team” and supersedes the previous TBWI Core Team. The WCWG also supersedes the previous Tulare Basin Working Group (TBWG), which convened twice yearly from May 2003 until its last meeting on May 1, 2014. Initial participants in the new group include leaders/representatives from VNLC (Dave Clendenen, WC 1), valley floor water agencies, regional NGOs, state and federal land management and natural resource funding agencies (including the federal upper watershed land management agencies), and the Rural Communities sector. The proposed over-arching goal of this new working group is “. . . to build a sustainable and resilient water future to support all beneficial uses for the Tulare Basin based on informed decision-making, integration of ecological and economic balance, and broad-based consensus.” An objective of this new collaborative, which will hold its first meeting on August 26, is to create a regional watershed-based open space authority. (June 10, 2014 Workshop meeting summary and materials are posted at www.tularebasinwildlifepartners.org; *TBWP News Update August 2014, included on the CD that accompanies this report.*)

- The TBWI continued to work to secure funding to ensure the sustainability of the WC functions beyond 2014, as pursued under Objective 8 of the preceding Watershed Program grant agreement with DOC and as agreed to in its 2010 application for that grant. To this end, the TBWP worked with Dave Clendenen and John Vollmar (VNLC Principal) to submit a VNLC Letter of Inquiry to the California Water Foundation (CWF) on August 11, 2014; the letter requests support for the continuation of Dave’s efforts as Tulare Basin Watershed Coordinator for 36 months, beginning with the end of DOC Drought Extension Quarter 14 on November 18, 2014 (i.e. November 19, 2014 – November 18, 2015). The request amount is \$85,000 for the first twelve months. The Letter received a positive reply from the CWF Program Manager, who invited VNLC to follow up in late September. *(A copy of the VNLC LOI to CWF, with attachments, is included on the enclosed CD.)*
- The TBWI strengthened watershed-based IRM efforts in the SW Tulare County focus area conducted through Quarter 12 during Quarter 13 as follows:
 - (1) The WC 2 assisted the BLM Atwell Island Project (AIP) Manager by providing advice on groundwater funding and regional conservation strategy matters, helping to orchestrate public and private partnership for a 37,000-acre AIP land acquisition opportunity and drafting the resulting land acquisition proposal for Central Valley Project Conservation Program-Habitat Restoration Program funding (to be completed during Quarter 14, conducted under TBWP/BLM cash match reported in Invoice #13);

(2) The Outreach and Communications Specialist (COS) and Operations Assistant (OA) assisted the AIP Manager, as well as the communities of Alpaugh and Allensworth, by providing “hands-on” youth conservation education and general assistance to Alpaugh and Allensworth community organizations at local community Summer Night Light events organized by TBWP Board Member-designate Denise Kadara and Board Advisor Kayode Kadara (Allensworth community leaders)(under BLM and SCE cash match reported in Invoice #13);

(3) TBWP Board Advisor Kayode Kadara collaborated with the Angiola Water District General Manager, Tulare County officials, and members of the local community to officially resurrect the Deer Creek Storm Water District, first established by the Storm Water District Act of 1900. The purpose of the District is to prevent and control soil erosion and protect the lands in the District from damage by storm water.” Quoting Kayode Kadara, who has agreed to serve as president of the District, the District “. . . is authorized to make various improvements including construction of dams, ditches, dikes, terraces and other structures; planting of trees, shrubs, grasses or other vegetation; and other actions including spreading, conserving, storing and retaining to cause waters within the District to percolate into the soil.”

- As an example of the TBWP-TBWI watershed-Based IRM “proliferation” strategy in action, the WC 2 developed the Arroyo Pasajero Cooperative Watershed Grant in collaboration with the Tulare County Resources Management Agency and Westside RCD. The request is to the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Watershed Cooperative Program for \$100,000, two–year support a Watershed Coordinator (WC 2) who will develop the West Hills Resource Management Plan and restoration plan. As described in WC 2 Objective 1.7 below, if funded, work under this grant will provide a nexus with the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative and enhance climate change resiliency in the Arroyo Pasajero riparian corridor – ranked as a high priority in the TBWP Conceptual Projects List. (The cash match value of developing this proposal is reported in Invoice #13 as in-kind cash match by the Westside RCD.) (*See the “WRCD WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Grant proposal final.pdf, June 5, 2014” on the enclosed CD.*)(*On August 22, word came that this application was not successful.*)
- Under the TBWP Land Use and Natural Resources (LUNRI) program funded by the Fresno Regional Foundation (cash match reported in Invoice #13), WC 2 took the lead in strategy development for use of TBWI Website interactive mapping as an extremely timely decision-making tool for regional land use planning and drought/flood/climate change preparedness. The WC 2 efforts on this were supported by research conducted by the OA on the Fresno, Tulare and Kings County General Plans and water/well ordinances, and by COS/TBWI Website Manager interactive maps developed under the guidance of UC Davis/Information Center for the Environment/SJV Greenprint expert Nate Roth. As a result, interactive maps are now available for review by selected entities, including the Tulare Basin IRWM Collaboration Group (planned for September 8, 2014) and will be posted as soon as possible on the TBWI website for public use as a uniquely valuable, important resource for land use planning and groundwater management in Tulare Basin. The COS has already shared the maps with Tulare County Resource

Management Agency /Tulare County Water Commission staff Denise Akins, who has been requested by the Tulare County Water Commission to develop a map that shows where groundwater recharge can happen and where soil types are conducive to recharge in all four Tulare Basin counties. COS work on these maps and additional maps will continue through December 2014 and beyond, will support the Governor’s Office of Policy and Research General Plan Guidelines 2014 model/ requirement for such a tool, and -- if outreach efforts under the LUNRI program through 2014 and beyond succeed – the maps will serve as a foremost decision-making tool for local and regional planners, officials, developers, public and private conservation practitioners, the Watershed Connections Working Group and the proposed regional open space authority. *(The two referenced maps – “tulare basin groundwater and corridors.png” and “LUNRI-land use planning - with fema flood.jpg” – sent to Denise Akins on August 18, 2014 are included on the enclosed CD.)*

- The COS/TBWI Website Manager and OA supported the TBWI DOC Drought Response through bi-weekly TBWI E-News Bulletins with timely updates on drought funding resources, water policy developments, and more. (Cash match by BLM and SCE is reported in Invoice #13.) *(Copies of the TBWI E-News Bulletins distributed during Quarter 13 are included on the enclosed CD.)*
- As a result of the opportunity provided under the DOC Drought Extension, WCs 1 and 2 made strong progress toward on-the-ground drought response project funding and implementation, working with Tulare Basin IRWM groups, NRCS, and other public/private entities, as described in the Objectives/Tasks below.

3. Drought Extension Work Plan Background - Update:

Paraphrasing and updating language in the DOC Amendment1 Final Agreement, Exhibit A, Work Plan:

“Watershed Coordinator 1, Dave Clendenen of Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting, will cooperate with Kern County Tulare Basin Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) groups . . . to promote integrated natural resource management in the Tulare Basin Watershed [in Kern County through Quarter 13; in Kern, Tulare, and Fresno Counties during Quarter 14]. Watershed Coordinator 2, Kathy Wood McLaughlin of TKM Consulting, Inc. will cooperate with Fresno and Tulare County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) groups to promote integrated natural resource management in the Tulare Basin Watershed (in Fresno and Tulare Counties [until August 13, 2014]. As such, the performance measurements and tasks lists for each Drought Extension Objective are broken out by Watershed Coordinator. In addition, the Watershed Coordinators will assist [the following] groups [through] three drought relief programs: the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Drought Response Implementation Grants . . . , and the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s (NRCS) Drought Preparedness Program and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement Program.”

4. Drought Extension Work Plan Objectives, Tasks, and Accomplishments in Quarter 13:

Drought Extension Objective #1: DWR Drought Response Solicitation Draft PSP—Provide immediate regional drought response preparedness; reduce water quality conflicts or ecosystem conflicts created by the drought. (Relates to original grant objective #6- Provide Riparian and wildlife corridor concepts to assist IRWM groups with integration of 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.)

- A. Watershed Coordinator 1 Performance Measurement: Integrate up to three TBWP corridor project concepts or project components with climate change adaptation and sustainability benefits into specific IRWM water projects.
- B. Watershed Coordinator 1 Objective #1 Task List

1.1 Work closely with the Kern County IRWM and Poso Creek IRWM groups during their DWR Drought Response application processes to integrate project components that will enhance immediate preparedness which increasing ecosystem/watershed/water supply resilience and sustainability.

Task Completion: Applications reviewed, ecosystem resilience project components included:

- Reviewed Kern-Tulare Water District proposal titled: “*Oilfield Water Conservation Project*”. Provided input regarding incorporation of waterfowl-friendly design features for a proposed reservoir which would gather and distribute 12,000 acre-feet of treated oilfield waste-water to 20,500 acres of irrigated crops that currently rely on groundwater and Sacramento-San Joaquin river delta water supplies.
- Participated in TBWP Core/Core Team May 20th conference call.
- Attended by call-in to the June 2nd meeting of Tulare Basin IRWM Collaboration Group.
- Attended by call-in to the June 3rd Poso Creek IRWM meeting.
- Participated in June 10th Watershed Connections Strategic Planning Workshop. Objectives of this workshop were to:
 - ❖ Build on previous Watershed Connections outputs to identify high priority basin-wide issues.
 - ❖ Identify gaps in resources and/or information needs to assess the region’s water resource issues, and identify potential means to fill gaps.
 - ❖ Develop a preliminary list of prioritized basin-wide water resource projects.
 - ❖ Build consensus around an over-arching goal to guide future regional collaboration, and discuss governance options and next steps.
- Participated in July 28th meeting of the Kern IRWMP.

1.2 Identify and progress in on-the-ground implementation of drought

preparedness/climate change adaptation projects in Kern County (and to the extent time permits, assist with similar projects in Kings, Tulare and Fresno Counties).

Task Completion:

Nothing to report.

1.3 Identify upland habitat conservation opportunities in the Tulare Basin, focusing on projects identified in the Tulare Basin Conservation Plans. Priority will be given to parcels adjacent to existing conservations lands, and parcels that contribute to the preservation of wildlife corridors.

Task Completion; opportunities identified included the following:

- Westside Economic Development Corporation – 1,239.8 acres of high-quality intact saltbush scrub habitat southeast of Taft. Property was not pursued due to asking price of \$20,000/acre.
- Grimmway Farms is the owner of 530.58 acres of intact mixed valley sink scrub and valley saltbush scrub habitats. This is a significant portion of the remaining natural lands at the south shore of the Kern Lake bed near the junction of Interstate 5 and Copus Road in Kern County.
- Tracy Family properties in the Goose Lake area of Kern County. The Tracy family owns significant amounts of intact valley sink scrub habitat in the old bed of Goose Lake. Met with John and Bill Tracy on August 5th for a discussion on the possibility of placing a conservation easement on some of their holdings.
- GFA Cattle and Farm Company holds 358.8 acres in three parcels east of Kern National Wildlife Refuge. Encompasses high quality valley sink scrub habitat, adjacent to CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Ecological Reserve lands and Semitropic Improvement District Lands that are the subject of a draft Habitat Conservation Plan submitted to the USFWS.
- Goldberg Property – 340 acres of retired ag land dissected by Sandy Creek wash, southeast of Taft.
- Dustin Acres property – 320 acres of retired ag land and intact habitat. Property is on the market. Completed one-day reconnaissance-level biological survey, documenting two special-status animals.
- Corcoran Road Property – owned by Reddy family. Property is located near Semitropic Water Storage District (SWSD) and is on the market. Completed one-day reconnaissance-level biological surveys. Background investigations revealed issues with hazardous materials violations of previous owners. Site visit appeared to confirm hazardous materials issues, which led to the decision not to pursue the property.
- Participated in discussion with several San Joaquin Valley conservationists regarding the disposition of the 160-acre Voice of America broadcasting site near Delano, which contains high quality saltbush scrub habitat. The Federal

General Services Administration had advertised the property as surplus and had put the property on the market. It was determined that DFW would pursue transfer of the property to be designated as ecological reserve lands.

- Yang property – 320 acres of intact saltbush scrub habitat in the area of DFW’s Allensworth Ecological Reserve lands.
- Extensive mapping and ownership searches were also completed on parcels with intact habitat in the surrounding areas of: Kern and Pixley National Wildlife Refuges, BLM’s Atwell Island Project, Semitropic Ecological Reserve, Lokern and Taft/Maricopa.

1.4 Contact owners of target parcels, and determine which are willing to participate in fee title sales or the placement of conservation easements, to facilitate protection of those parcels; then seek funding to facilitate conservation transactions.

Task Completion: Landowners contacted, willingness to participate ascertained, funding sources pursued.

- Westside Economic Development Corporation – property was not pursued because asking price of \$20,000/acre and is beyond capabilities of conservation funding.
- Tracy Family properties – Tracy family declined to participate at this time, but asked that we check back with them on an annual basis.
- Grimmway Farms – The owners declined to participate in a conservation transaction at this time, but stated they were holding the property for mitigation purposes, and that they would contact me when they decided to move forward.
- GFA Cattle and Farm Company – SWSD is in negotiations to acquire a portion of these holdings and has stated the intention to place a conservation easement on it once the acquisition is complete. VNLC will work with SWSD to acquire easement funding.
- Goldberg Property – Conservation Land Group has held discussions with landowner who is a willing seller, with potential for acquiring the property for conservation.
- Dustin Acres Property - Conservation Land Group has held discussions with landowner who is a willing seller, with potential for acquiring the property for conservation.
- Corcoran Road Property – Decision was made not to pursue the property due to presence of hazardous materials issues.
- Yang property – VNLC plans to reach out to this landowner in the near future.
- WC 1 is in the process of prioritizing hundreds of additional targeted parcels that are located adjacent to lands already in conservation and that encompass high quality habitat.

1.5 Identify riparian habitat conservation opportunities in the Tulare Basin, focusing on Projects identified in the Tulare Basin Conservation Plans. Priority will be given to riparian habitat opportunities identified in TBWP priority projects list, and parcels

that contribute to the preservation of wildlife corridors and riparian habitat connectivity.

Task Completion: TBWP Conservation Plans reviewed, prioritization of riparian and wildlife corridor projects completed.

- Ownership data of lands along the Deer Creek and Poso Creek riparian corridors have been obtained, and mapping is underway. These are projects identified by TBWP in the Tulare Basin Riparian and Wildlife Corridors Conservation Plan.
- We are pursuing a project in partnership with SWSD to place a conservation easement on retired cultivated land east of Kern NWR. In conjunction with this project, we are planning a broader initiative -- to protect a corridor from those SWSD lands to Kern NWR. This corridor includes the property held by GFA Cattle and Farm Company, and a few other owners, in a checkerboard of lands, some of which is already protected as state ecological reserve, as well as lands included in SWSD's draft HCP.
- Ownership and mapping of the TBWP Riparian and Wildlife Corridors Conservation Plan (2010) Cottonwood Creek - Cross Creek Riparian Corridor in Tulare and Kings Counties will commence in the near future.

1.6 Identify opportunities for retirement and restoration of cultivated land in the Tulare Basin, focusing on projects identified in the Tulare Basin Conservation Plans. Priority will be given to parcels adjacent to existing conservation lands, and parcels that contribute to the preservation or recreation of wildlife corridors.

Task Completion: TBWP Conservation Plans reviewed, prioritization of cultivated lands for retirement or restoration adjacent to existing conserved lands or contributing to recreation of corridors completed.

- As stated above, we are engaged with SWSD to obtain conservation easement funding on cultivated lands they purchased for the purpose of preventing excessive groundwater extraction. Protection of these lands will serve to re-establish connectivity between parcels already protected by DFW as Ecological Reserve lands, and we will also seek funding for ecological restoration to restore those lands to much needed upland habitat for imperiled species of the Tulare Basin. SWSD's plan is to use the conservation easement funding to acquire more retired ag land. Our intent is to continue this scenario in a long-term rolling process, protecting more and more lands and their underlying groundwater resources through time. Our vision is to pursue protection of at least 10,000 acres of Tulare Basin lands during the next ten years.

C. Watershed Coordinator 2 Performance Measurement: Integrate up to four TBWP corridor project concepts or project components with climate change adaptation and sustainability benefits into specific IRWM water projects.

D. Watershed Coordinator 2 Objective #1 Task List

1.7 Identify specific corridor project concepts from TBWP priority lists and Water Supply Strategies Report that offer climate change benefits. Focus will be on the Kings River watershed in collaboration with the Kings River Conservation District, Kaweah River Watershed, White River Watershed with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Arroyo Pasajero (Los Gatos Creek) with Westside RCD. Projects will address restoration of natural systems to enhance groundwater replenishment and enhancement of habitat.

Task Completion: List of project concepts that offer climate change benefits provide to IRWM groups, Westside RCD and Tulare County Resources Management Agency and updated as needed.

- Developed the Arroyo Pasajero Cooperative Watershed Grant, which included a nexus to the California Landscape Conservation Cooperative and climate change adaptation resiliency. This is a high priority riparian corridor included in the TBWP Conceptual Projects List. The multi-benefit watershed program on the Arroyo Pasajero will address storm water management including protection of downstream facilities and communities through development of the West Hills Resource Management Plan and restoration plan. *(As stated in the Benefits section above, the WRCD WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Grant proposal final.pdf submitted June 5, 2014 is included on enclosed CD)*

1.8 Participate in project planning and review committees of Kings Basin, Southern Sierra, and (time permitting) Kaweah Basin IRWM groups to identify project concepts that can be integrated into specific IRWM projects.

Task Completion: Identify projects on these sub-watersheds that will contribute to climate change resiliency.

- Participated in the Kings Basin Project Review and Selection Committee for the DWR Drought Response Solicitation to support incorporation of such components in Kings Basin Drought Solicitation applications.
- Participated in Southern Sierra IRWMP Coordinating Committee and Planning Committee meetings to provide input and guidance.
- Presented at the Sierra Water Work Group Summit June 12-13, 2014. *(A copy of the presentation powerpoint is included on the enclosed CD.*

1.9 Identify longer-term projects that will increase regional climate change resiliency, addressing uncertainty with droughts and flooding.

Task Completion: By August 1, provide a list of projects that can be implemented by IRWMs, RCDs, and other organizations.

- Provided review and comments on the San Joaquin Valley Greenprint “State of the Valley” report, which provides a snapshot of natural resource issues/challenges related to water, agriculture, and biodiversity. This effort is linked to the TWP Land Use and Natural Resources Integration (LUNRI) program funded by Fresno Regional Foundation in 2014. (The LUNRI program and funding is a source of cash match funding for this grant extension. (A copy of June 18, 2014 powerpoint presentation to the Fresno Regional Foundation is included on the enclosed CD.)
- Met with BLM and DFW on August 4, 2014 to develop strategies for protection of uplands for special status wildlife species.
- The Watershed Connections Workshop on June 10 addressed this need, and the Watershed Connections Working Group will pursue it. (TBWP Conservation Plans, Conceptual Projects List, Southern Sierra Partnership maps, as well as Greenprint/UC Davis –Information Center for the Environment maps and San Joaquin Valley Recovery Team data will be important resources for this effort.)

Drought Extension Objective #2 – DWR Drought Response Solicitation Draft PSP—Provide immediate regional drought response preparedness; reduce water quality conflicts or ecosystem conflicts created by the drought. (Relates to original grant objective #2: match IRWM projects that have environmental benefits to grant opportunities and work to bring state, federal, and private resources to facilitate the funding of these projects—providing habitat for wetland, riparian, and upland wildlife species through these integrated projects.)

A. Watershed Coordinator 1 Objective #2 Performance Measurement: Facilitate the preparation by Kern County IRWM, NRCS or other cooperators of up to three drought response project applications feasible for on-the-ground implementation within a twelve-month period.

B. Watershed Coordinator 1 Objective #2 Task List:

2.1 Identify up to three riparian or wildlife corridor projects that will achieve the stated objective(s) and performance measurement; demonstrate progress in their implementation through Kern County IRWM, NRCS, or other cooperator applications.

Task Completion: Up to three such projects identified and progress demonstrated.

- Ownership data of lands along the Deer Creek and Poso Creek riparian corridors have been obtained, and mapping is underway. These are projects identified by TBWP in the Tulare Basin Riparian and Wildlife Corridors Conservation Plan.

C. Watershed Coordinator 2 Objective #2 Performance Measurement: Facilitate the preparation by IRWM, NRCS or other cooperators of two-to-four drought response project applications feasible for on-the-ground implementation within a twelve-month period.

D. Watershed Coordinator 2 Objective #2 Task List:

2.2 Identify two-to-four riparian or wildlife corridor projects or project components that can be incorporated into IRWM groups' drought response applications or funded by NRCS or other cooperators.

Task Completion: List of potential drought response projects or project components proposed and included in applications.

- Prepared white paper on effects of drought and land-fallowing on T & E species and regulatory impacts on landowners for Westside water districts.
- Reviewed and provided input into Kern-Tulare Water District Oil Field Water Conservation Project pre-proposal application. (*KTWD Pre-proposal Application July 11, 2014 included on enclosed CD.*)

2.3 Provide immediate regional drought preparedness in assisting IRWM with project development and review prior to application submission under IRWM Drought PSP mid-summer 2014.

Task Completion: Participate on the Kings Basin Project Review and Selection Committee for the PSP.

- See 1.8 above, task completed.

2.4 Reduce water quality conflicts and/or ecosystem conflicts created by drought by assisting IRWMs with identifying potential conflicts and/or regulatory issues during project design. Work with the CVRWQCB on alternatives to the Irrigated Lands Discharge Program reporting requirements for Tulare Basin wetlands.

Task Completion: Recommend options and keep affected landowners informed.

- Advised Burbank Land Company duck club president Dennis Slater regarding CVRWQCB policy developments and kept SWQCB Chair Karl Longley informed of private wetland managers' concerns.
- TBWI Communications and Outreach Specialist (COS, Niki Woodard) worked with Chris Hildebrandt of Ducks Unlimited to encourage affected wetland landowners and other interested parties to submit comment letters to CVRWQCB in late July. (*See TBWI E-News, July 29, 2014 included on enclosed CD.*)

Drought Extension Objective #3 – Natural Resources Conservation Service(NRCS) Drought Preparedness Program & ACEP Wetland Reserve Easement. Coordinate with NRCS to assist implementation of Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE) and other NRCS programs; identify and initiate additional wetland and riparian projects that can be funded by NRCS and that will increase drought preparedness by increasing acreage of protected wetland and riparian areas.

A. Watershed Coordinator 1 Objective #3 Performance Measurement: Identification and implementation of up to three projects that meet the stated objective and that area feasible for implementation within a twelve-month period.

- Ownership data of lands along the Deer Creek and Poso Creek riparian corridors have been obtained, and mapping is underway. These are projects identified by TBWP in the Tulare Basin Riparian and Wildlife Corridors Conservation Plan. Landowners will be contacted in the near future to determine their willingness to participate, and funding sought for property owned by willing participants.

A. Watershed Coordinator 1 Objective #3 Task List:

3.1 Utilizing information from the TBWP/DFW Conservation Plans and TBWP Water Supply Strategy Report, as well as information available from Vollmar Natural Lands Consulting and other useful sources, work to achieve stated objective.

Task Completion: Information utilized, uses demonstrated.

- The Goose Lake Conservation Plan (2006), the Tulare Basin Riparian and Wildlife Corridors Conservation Plan (2010) and the Tulare Basin Conceptual Conservation Projects List for Tulare Basin Watershed Initiative And High Speed Rail Mitigation Recommendations (2012) were utilized to identify project opportunities, and as justification for selected parcels, based on their Conservation Priority ranking. Once mapping is completed, we will prioritize individual parcels based on presence and quality of riparian habitat, and whether they are adjacent to or near existing protected lands, and therefore, would contribute to the preservation of wildlife corridors. Landowners of prioritized parcels will be contacted regarding their willingness to participate in a conservation transaction (fee title sale or placement of a conservation easement).

3.2 Identify specific parcels with potential to receive NRCS funding through the Wetland Reserve Easement program. Approach owners to determine whether they are willing to participate in the Wetland Reserve or other NRCS program.

Task Completion: Parcels identified, landowners approached.

- Parcels have been identified along the Deer Creek and Poso Creek corridors, and updated ownership information obtained. Contact with landowners has not yet begun.

3.3 Work to facilitate NRCS funding for targeted parcels with willing landowners.

Task Completion: NRCS funding for targeted parcels facilitated

Nothing yet to report.

B. Watershed Coordinator 2 Objective #3 Performance Measurement: Identification and implementation of up to four projects that meet the stated objective and are feasible for implementation within a twelve-month period.

C. Watershed Coordinator 2 Objective #3 Task List:

3.4 Work directly with NRCS in Bakersfield (Marcos Perez), Visalia (Joe Williams) and Fresno (Dave Durham) on implementation of emergency drought programs.

Task Completion: Identify priority areas and priority landowners.

- Collaborated with Dave Durham among others to develop Arroyo Pasajero project concept, resulting in timely submission of Westside RCD WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Grant proposal on June 5, 2014, referenced under 1.7 above.

3.5 Identify IRWM projects that can link with WRE and other NRCS programs.

Task Completion: List of projects prepared and updated as needed.

- This will be completed under the auspices of the Watershed Connections Working Group, as mentioned in 1.9 above.

3.6 Facilitate implementation of WRE and other NRCS programs in conjunction with IRWM projects.

Task Completion: Up to four WRE and other NRCS projects facilitated in conjunction with IRWM projects.

- This will be completed under the auspices of the Watershed Connections Working Group, as mentioned in 1.9 and 3.5.

3.7 Develop the West Hills Resource Management Plan (RMP) in collaboration with the Westside RCD, NRCS, BLM, CDFW, FWS and other organizations to enhance rangelands and riparian corridors on public and private lands in Western Fresno County.

Task Completion: Identify next steps needed to lead to RMP development.

- Notification regarding the \$100,000 two-year grant application to Reclamation for the Westside RCD WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Grant proposal is expected by September 15, 2014. If the application is successful, the Watershed Coordinator-designate under that grant (Kathy Wood McLaughlin), will begin work on October 1, 2014. Her responsibilities will include taking the next steps leading to West Hills Resource Management Plan development, including completion of the RMP.

5. 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	N/A	F	\$200,000		9/15/13
Fresno Regional Foundation	P	Environment	DAC Roundtable support	\$15,000	N	N/A		N/A
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	N/A		N/A
Roll Global Request	P	General	TBWI general supports	\$5,000	N	N/A		N/A
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 Amd #1	Transition of Atwell Island Land retirement project	\$36,000	F	\$36,000		11/25/13
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	N/A		N/A

CWF	P	Water-shed	TBWI/WC June 2014 – May 2017; updated February 2014; WC Co-Share July '14 – June '15; VNLC LOI (Nov.'14-Nov.'15	(\$300,000) (\$138,600) \$85,000	P			
Fresno Regional Foundation	P	Environment	LUNRI program	\$19,000	F	\$19,000		12/17/13
BOR	F	CVPCP	West Hills restoration	\$197,500	N	N/A		N/A
	F	WaterSmart	Westside RMP	\$100,000	N	N/A		N/A
WRCD	P	General	CARCD conference registration & lodging	\$981.20	F	\$981.20		11/13-16/13
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Western Conservation Program	P	General	General TBWI Support	\$60,000	N	NA		NA
Heller Charitable Foundation	P	Environment	LUNRI program	\$17,500	N	NA		NA
CA DOC	S	Water-shed	Drought Extension 5/19-11/18, 2014		F	\$49,999.50		5/8/14
Cumulative Total				\$1,969,210.20		\$906,439.78		

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 Scott Vasquez	Contrib Contrib	Donation Donation	General Support General Support	\$250 \$25	1/13 4/7/14
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 \$500.00	10/5/12 7/3/13 11/27/13
David Mitchell	P	TBWP BOD	General Support	\$100.00	7/18/13
Richard Moss	P	TBWP BOD	General Support	\$100.00	10/17/13
Thomas Stanton	P	TBWP BOD	General Support	\$100.00	11/27/13
Fresno-Madera CFC	P	Employee Contrib	General Support	\$124.72 \$133.21 \$24.82 \$134.48	10/28/13 2/7/14 4/7/14 8/11/14
Kings -Tulare CFC	P	Employee Contrib	General Support	\$55.23 \$71.13 \$8.45 \$56.49	10/31/13 2/7/14 5/5/14 7/2/14
Cumulative Total				\$ 39,065.69	

6. Final copies of outreach materials and other products created during the reporting period. Photos submitted in digital format on CD.

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

- TBWP August 2014 News Update
- VNLC CWF LOI August 11, 2014
- WRCD WaterSmart Cooperative Watershed Grant Proposal, June 5, 2014
- Two Tulare Basin Interactive Maps, August 18, 2014
- TBWI E-News Bulletins, May 19 – August 18, 2014
- Sierra Water Work Group presentation powerpoint, June 12-13, 2014
- LUNRI powerpoint presentation to Fresno Regional Foundation, June 18, 2014
- Kern-Tulare Oil Field Water Conservation Project Pre-proposal Application, July 11, 2014

The TBWI website is available at: www.tularebasinwatershed.org.

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

The TBWP-TBWI views the drought as a challenge and opportunity. We are attempting to facilitate short and long-term solutions that align with the California Water Action Plan.

8. One hard copy and one electronic copy (in MS Word; no PDF files) of this Quarter 13/ Drought Response Extension report submitted to Kevin Peth, DOC Grant Administrator, August 25, 2014.