

## Overview of the Storm Water Resource Planning Grant

California State Proposition 1, signed into law in August of 2014, authorized \$7.5 billion in general obligation bonds for water projects, including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. These funds are administered by the State Water Board (State) under five programs. One of these programs, under Water Code Section 79747, provides \$200 million in grant funds for multi-benefit storm water management projects. Storm Water Resource Plans (SWRP), or functionally equivalent plans, are required to obtain grant funds for storm water and dry weather capture projects.

In April of 2016, under draft SWRP Guidelines, the City of Ukiah (City), on behalf of the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) and its eleven member agencies, including:

- The City of Cloverdale
- The City of Cotati
- The City of Healdsburg
- The City of Rohnert Park
- The City of Sebastopol
- The City of Ukiah
- The County of Mendocino
- The County of Sonoma
- The Sonoma County Water Agency, and
- The Town of Windsor



wrote and submitted a grant application in the amount of \$500,000 to complete a SWRP for the entire watershed. The goal of a SWRP is to identify projects that capture and re-use storm water runoff to provide multiple benefits, including environmental, flood control, groundwater recharge, and recreational opportunities. Plans must include public and stakeholder outreach to ensure selection of projects with the greatest benefit to the planning area. Twenty-four collaborating entities wrote letters of support for the application and offered matching funds in the amount of \$688,146 to meet the grant requirements, including:

- RRWA Member Agencies
- North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- North Coast Resources Partnership (North Coast IRWM)
- San Francisco Estuary Institute
- Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District
- Sonoma Resource Conservation District
- Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District
- Mendocino Resource Conservation District
- Sonoma Land Trust
- Pepperwood Preserve
- Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory
- Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

The grant was awarded on June 30, 2016. A final contract is expected to be signed by March 1, 2017. RRWA and its consultant, West Yost Associates (West Yost), will be coordinating the development of the SWRP on behalf of the City, and RRWA members and collaborators, with the goal of submitting the approved SWRP to the State at the end of 2017. This will provide all SWRP contributors the opportunity to apply for 2018 grant funding to implement included projects.

### Overall SWRP Development Process

During the SWRP Kickoff Phase, participants will be meeting to discuss the project, its goals and timelines, as well as the level of participation of each group.

During the Solicitation Phase, projects are proposed by members, collaborators, and stakeholders for inclusion into the SWRP. Once project recommendations are received, they will be grouped according to the amount of data available. A critical step in the process of developing the SWRP is defining what benefits various projects offer, and how important these benefits are to the overall watershed. Thresholds and weightings will be developed by the SWRP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), with input from member agencies to ensure that projects will be prioritized equitably.

The Analysis Phase will assign benefits and scores to each proposed project. Finally, these projects will be discussed and summarized in the draft and final SWRP, with the benefit of collaborator, stakeholder, and public input.

