

State Water Resources Control Board

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Contact: Public Affairs
(916) 341-5254

STATE WATER BOARD AWARDS \$75 MILLION FOR INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GRANTS

SACRAMENTO – The State Water Resources Control Board today awarded \$75 million in Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation grants to three entities. The funding will be used by Humboldt County, the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, and Orange County for more than 40 separate projects. The projects represent such diverse goals as improving access for salmon, improving water supplies, abandoning septic systems, increasing efficiencies in the use of water, and supplying recycled water to use for irrigation and other purposes that free up potable water for higher uses.

As a result of California voters passing Proposition 50, approximately \$360 million was made available for Integrated Regional Water Management grants. The State Water Board's share of that allocation is approximately \$183 million. The goals of the program are to provide funding via competitive grants for projects to protect communities from drought, protect and improve water quality, and improve local water security by reducing dependence on imported water sources, while encouraging water planning on a regional level.

With the \$25 million grant awarded by the State Water Board today to Humboldt County, 25 projects are planned. Included among those projects are wastewater treatment and water reclamation renovation and upgrades for Graton, Monte Rio, Crescent City, Orick, Willits, and Covelo. Sonoma County will get \$1 million of that grant for habitat preservation, reducing agricultural water demands and decreasing diversions from the Russian River system. Four of the projects will make improvements to water supplies in the City of Etna and elsewhere, and six projects will improve habitat for salmon and other species in north coast rivers, including the Salt and Gualala Rivers.

The Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County has 11 projects planned with its \$25 million grant. The funds include \$5.5 million for a Camarillo Groundwater Treatment Facility, \$1 million for the Ventura County Recycled Water System, and \$1.5 million for Ventura River watershed protection.

Orange County plans to use its \$25 million grant for seven projects altogether. Two of the projects will get \$10 million between them to treat and distribute

recycled water. Designated to improve Aliso Creek is \$4 million to restore the environment and reduce beach closure days due to bacterial contamination.

A complete list of the projects is available on the State Water Board Web site at:
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/press/2007.html>

General information on the Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program is available at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/funding/irwmgp/irwm_plan.html

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