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## California Sportfishing Protection Alliance Enabled Grants 2017-2018

In 2017 and 2018, environmental mitigation funds from CPSA cases enabled the Rose Foundation to award 31 grants totaling \$486,500 to organizations working to protect and benefit watersheds throughout much of California including Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and watershed, Russian River, San Francisco Bay, and Monterey Bay. Projects supported included citizen science-based water quality monitoring; legal and technical advocacy to protect water flows and water quality; community mobilization events that channeled the collective energy of thousands of volunteers engaged in hands-on stewardship; media and public outreach projects including an indigenous-led event where attendees travel the historical path wild Chinook salmon once swam up the Sacramento River before the construction of the Shasta Dam; and environmental education to build a new generation of conservation leadership. Below are short summaries and source-of-funds information for every grant enabled by the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance in 2017 and 2018. Full details on all projects are available upon request.

### Grants 2018

#### **American Whitewater**

##### ***Recovering from the Oroville Dam Crisis and Improving Water Quality in the Feather River*** *\$9,000 / 12 months*

The 2017 failure of the Oroville Dam spillways and emergency evacuation of 188,000 people in Northern California was one of the most dramatic water incidents in state history. Understanding and articulating the full scope of the water quality and community impacts and determining how best to mitigate them has been an imposing challenge. The grant is helping American Whitewater apply their 15 years of experience working on hydropower projects on the Feather River to provide leadership in this effort. Activities center around promoting improved water quality, upgrading river management to improve flow controls (which are crucial for temperature control and well as avoiding catastrophic release in a future heavy rain event), and building resilience in affected communities along the mainstream of the Feather River, and downstream of the Oroville Dam. The main focus is advocating for the removal gravel levees in the Oroville Wildlife Area to provide better flood control, and hill slope reconstruction and revegetation to repair erosion and vegetation loss on the hillside that holds the Oroville spillway structures, among other benefits this will reduce sedimentation; encourage the Department of Water Resources to complete their "Comprehensive Needs Assessment" to fully evaluate ways to improve operational flexibility so that the Oroville

Dam can better regulate flood flows; and continue to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to provide community input into updating the operating manual for the project.

**Source:** Bidwell Canyon Marina

### **Battle Creek Alliance**

#### ***Battle Creek Water Quality Protection***

*\$8,636 / 12 months*

Funds support legal work related to the Timber Harvest Plan in the Battle Creek Watershed that fails, once again, to acknowledge the ongoing cumulative impacts of industrial logging on the Battle Creek watershed, a tributary the Sacramento River. Battle Creek Alliance with seven years of analyzed data and five hydrologists' reviews as evidence. There has never been specific data evidence of significant impacts to a Sierra/Cascade CA watershed in the past. This is a groundbreaking first to test the regulatory agencies' failure to uphold the CEQA rules and laws--the failure which has been occurring for 20 years.

**Source:** Hansen Brothers Enterprises

### **California Coastkeeper Alliance**

#### ***Empowering the Homeless to Protect their Watershed Initiative***

*\$9,000 / 12 months*

Funds support programs to address the water quality and public health impacts of homeless encampments along the Russian River. The work in the Russian River is part of a statewide initiative to develop local programs to empower homeless communities living in sensitive riparian zones to manage the waste and debris associated with their camps. The project goals are twofold: 1) facilitate local cleanups of homeless encampments in the Russian River area; and 2) use the local data to promote a statewide trash hotspot program that will require counties to identify and address watershed impacts from homeless encampments. This grant supports the following activities:

- Partner with local community groups from the Russian River watersheds to facilitate cleanups and attend Water Board workshops and Board Member briefings to highlight existing trash hotspot programs and share best practices.
- Develop a media outreach strategy to highlight the successes of local groups' trash hotspot programs in the Russian River.
- Elevate community groups' existing trash hotspot programs around the Russian River and recommend best practices into a statewide framework for the State Water Board to help them understand the concept and secure their support for a statewide trash hotspot program.

**Source:** Pacific States Industries, Inc.

### **Coastal Watershed Council**

#### ***San Lorenzo River Health Project***

*\$10,500 / 12 months*

The project builds community capacity to address bacterial pollution and urban runoff entering the San Lorenzo River and the Monterey Bay. The Coastal Watershed Council (CWC) uses a data-driven approach to engage the communities with the greatest connectivity to the lower river to implement strategic best management practices that benefit water quality. Using the power of informed community involvement, CWC will inspire action that improves water quality, while implementing sustainable projects that are meaningful and relevant to those CWC serves. Grants fund will build on previous support from the Rose Foundation to focus on co-creating neighborhood improvement projects in which residents apply knowledge of stormwater pollution and the San Lorenzo River to implement Best Management Practiced (BMPs) and enhance their neighborhoods. The thrust of the

project is to integrate urban planning best practices like low impact development that manages stormwater runoff and water quality impacts of the urban landscape. Implementation of projects will mitigate urban runoff or inspire community stewardship while outwardly demonstrating the pride, care and commitment residents feel towards their neighborhood and the San Lorenzo River.  
**Source:** City of Santa Cruz

### **Community Alliance with Family Farmers**

#### ***Cover Crops as a Solution to Agricultural Run-off in the Delta Region***

*\$18,000 / 24 months*

Funds support the Community Alliance with Family Farmers to work with a group of farmers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to implement planting of winter cover crops in order to reduce runoff and water contamination from rainfall events in areas of the watershed that are at high risk of polluted waterways. The organization's Climate Smart Farming team will provide cover crop seed mix, conduct baseline water infiltration, and aggregate stability and compaction. Once the cover crop at each participating farm is planted, CAFF will conduct a field visit to assess the cover crops and discuss the farmer's experience. During the second year of the project, CAFF will hold a field day to share the experiences and results with a broader group of Delta farmers interested in reducing rainfall-induced water pollution through planting cover crops.

**Source:** Cargill, Inc.

### **Conservation Action Fund for Education**

#### ***Post-Fire Russian River Watershed Protection***

*\$20,000 / 12 months*

Wildfires that broke out in northern California in October 2017 wiped out nearly 7,000 Sonoma County structures, leaving in their wake properties are layered in hazardous contaminants that threaten the watershed – these contaminants include fire retardant, heavy metals and toxic ash to organic byproducts and exposed sediment. Heavy winter rains leave all residents at risk of contamination of our watershed via the 617 streams in fire-affected areas. The Watershed Protection Project coordinates outreach to private landowners, distribution and monitoring and of debris control mechanisms, and erosion control support. Primary coordination is through the SonomaCounty.Recovers.org platform, which is jointly managed by the Conservation Fund for Education and its sister organization Sonoma County Conservation Action. This platform has already helped mobilize hundreds of volunteers and helped lay over 100,000 feet of wattle in a few short months. In addition to the on-line platform, the project helps conduct on-the-ground assessments of properties to identify high risk burn sites closest to waterways, and outreach to property owners, government agencies to prioritize and coordinate clean-up activities. The project's goal is immediate debris containment for watershed protection, long-term recovery and erosion control, and education of local landowners and community members of best practices of land management for watershed health.

**Source:** Mendocino Forest Products Company, LLC

### **Feather River Chapter Trout Unlimited**

#### ***Pathogens and Passage: Restoring Feather River Fisheries***

*\$10,545 / 12 months*

Although the Feather River supports a population of wild trout above Oroville Dam, the fishery is under threat from both pathogens and physical obstacles that impede fish survival, degrading both water quality and habitat value. An outbreak of Whirling Disease has led to mass mortalities among salmonids, particularly Rainbow Trout, in several Upper Feather River tributaries. Although the pathogen that causes the disease cannot readily be eliminated, the grant will allow Trout Unlimited to form a public-private task group to develop a plan to control its spread. In the course of the

investigation, data will be gathered on other water quality variables such as water temperatures and sediment load to correlate conditions that may contribute to the disease's spread. While the focus of the project will be on improving native fish habitat by documenting the disease's extent and creating a plan to control the spread of the pathogen, human health may also benefit. The Feather River is a source of drinking water for several communities, and thus, there could be subsequent public health benefits from containing the pathogen's spread. In addition to identifying the location of Whirling Disease outbreaks in the North Fork Feather River Watershed, TU will also use the funding to work on fish passage issues in the North Fork area and identify ways to improve or remove passage barriers as these may also play a role in controlling outbreaks or reintroducing healthy populations to infected areas.

**Source:** Hansen Brothers Enterprises

### **Feather River Land Trust**

#### ***Feather River Watershed Protection and Restoration Through Diverse Communication Strategies***

*\$22,500 / 12 months*

Supports protection and improvement of water quality by conserving and restoring privately owned meadows and wetlands in the Feather River Watershed, headwaters of the CA State Water Project and a source of water for 65% of Californians. Healthy meadows improve water quality through filtration by capturing sediment and water storage that prevents peak season runoff, while degraded meadows are a source of unhealthy sediment for waterways, which affects water quality, fish habitat, and operability of dams and hydroelectric facilities. Of the 2.3 million acres of the Feather River watershed, 800,000 acres are in private ownership and 105,000 acres constitute wet and dry meadows. The recent Risk Assessment of California's Key Watersheds by the Pacific Forest Trust finds that 100% of the dry meadows and 85% of the wet meadows are candidates for restoration. Presently, FRLT has conserved 23,000 acres or 22% of these meadows and is on track in the next four years to conserve a total of 53,750 acres or 50% of the meadows. Protecting meadows is dependent upon educating landowners and the public concerning the ecosystem impact. Willing landowners are then prepared to collaborate in developing land management plans with water quality improvements in mind for specific properties. The grant funds will help defray local communications with key constituencies about the value of the Feather River watershed and the need to conserve and steward these lands in order to protect biodiversity and water quality. The primary focus is to produce print and digital stories from ranchers who are working to protect the conservation values of their ranches, highlighting why they agreed to place conservation easements on their lands as a central part of conservation/restoration efforts on Sierra meadows. FRLT is also partnering with other local watershed groups which do regular water monitoring, including the Lake Almanor Watershed Group and the Upper Feather River Watershed Group to sponsor a local event entitled *The State of the Water* in June, 2019. This event will further public outreach about the value of protecting and restoring the watershed and help recruit more willing partners from the community.

**Source:** Bidwell Canyon Marina

### **Point Blue Conservation Science**

#### ***Restoring the Petaluma River Watershed with the STRAW Program***

*\$13,500 / 12 months*

Point Blue is building on their award-winning Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed program (STRAW) to expand their existing curricula into at least four new underserved Sonoma County classrooms, whose students will complete riparian or wetland transition zone habitat restoration projects in the Sonoma County section of the Petaluma River Watershed. Through their fieldwork, program participants directly engage with the benefits of restoration, including

providing wildlife habitat, improving water quality, helping groundwater recharge, and increasing adaptability to climate change including drought, floods, extreme heat and changes in animal life cycles. The STRAW's multi-visit program engages students deeply to help them directly improve watershed health and increase ecosystem resilience to climate extremes, as well as develop ecological literacy and a sense of connection to the natural world which helps them become lifelong environmental stewards.

**Source:** Quality Stainless Tanks

### **Russian Riverkeeper**

#### ***North Bay Fire Watershed Protection Project***

*\$50,000 /12 months*

The 2017 Wine Country fires burned over 200,000 leaving significant toxic residue which is actively leaching into the Russian River watershed in Mark West Creek and many other areas. Riverkeeper estimates 2,000 sites still urgently need to be addressed. The North Bay Fire Watershed Protection Project is focused on isolating burned structures from stormwater runoff to ensure the toxic pollutants produced by structure fires does not reach our waterways. Funding defrays installation of pollution controls around homes and structures that have yet to be cleared to prevent stormwater from delivering toxic pollutants to the Russian River watershed. The Project is in partnership with the County of Sonoma and its Watershed Task force, which is providing Russian Riverkeeper and its Clean River Alliance Program with free erosion control products, and community volunteers. Many of the homeowners and volunteers are coordinated with Riverkeeper through the Sonoma County Conservation Action's SonomaCounty.Recovers.org platform. In the short term, on the ground activities include installing "wattles" (extruded sawdust barriers which trap toxic sediments). Longer term follow-up includes coordination with Sonoma County's Watershed Task Force to track structure burn sites that are cleaned and cleared fire debris by Army Corps contractors to ensure proper erosion controls and that toxin contaminated erosion control products have actually been removed to a proper HAZMAT handling facility.

**Source:** Mendocino Forest Products Company, LLC

### **Safe Strawberry Monterey Bay Working Group**

#### ***General Support***

*\$3,050 / 12 months*

Funds support community-based efforts to reduce pesticide applications in southern Monterey County, home to some of the poorest, most disenfranchised and most heavily impacted people in the region. Pesticides are a significant source of water contamination and a major threat to water quality in the local watersheds of the Monterey Bay area through drift and runoff, and the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has acknowledged that pesticides are "causing serious damage" to water resources, with "high levels of chemicals leaving agricultural areas and entering the waterways of our Region" (CCRWQCB, March 2011). Project activities will focus around community outreach to increase participation and engagement by Greenfield-area residents to reduce organophosphates, a highly volatile toxin which is prone to drifting away from where it is applied and impacting nearby schools, homes and waterways. The project's long-term goal is to reduce the use of the most hazardous pesticides and support safe replacements for drift prone pesticides in order to put the region on a path to more sustainable agricultural systems. This will produce direct watershed benefits and improve water quality by decreasing the toxicity of both surface and groundwater, and provide ecosystem benefits up the food chain by creating healthier waterways.

**Source:** S. Martinelli & Co.

### **Save California Salmon**

### ***California Salmon People's Project***

*\$10,000 / 12 months*

This project focuses on restoring Sacramento watershed salmon and water quality through flow restoration, fish passage, and toxin clean up, along with fighting off attacks on flows and clean water. As clean water in the Sacramento River benefits fish and people, this project will support and empower fisheries-based communities, such as Tribes and fishermen, along with people of color and youth whom depend on clean water. Through policy advocacy, and community action and outreach, Save California Salmon will analyze proposed actions by state and federal governments relating to surface water issues in key salmon watersheds, and conduct outreach to Tribal communities to ensure that native people are engaged in these processes. The main focus of this element will be advocating for strong pesticide, toxic and agriculture Total Maximum Daily Loads and Waste Discharge Requirements for the Sacramento River under state clean water laws, pushing for fish passage at Shasta Dam and tributaries below Keswick Dam, supporting efforts to cap water rights and restore water quality in key salmon tributaries, and supporting flow restoration proposals under the Delta plans amendments in the Sacramento River. The projects overall goal is to get information on Sacramento River policy work to the people it most affects, helping to support and organize community action, and getting these communities' messages out to public.

**Source:** Hansen Brothers Enterprises

### **Sierra Nevada Alliance**

#### ***Creating a Regional Network for Sierra Watershed***

*\$5,000 / 12 months*

The Sierra Nevada Alliance's report State of Sierra Waters 2006 used publicly available data from various state and federal agencies, including US Environmental Protection Agency, US Geological Survey, California State Water Quality Control Board and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to document that Sierra rivers, lakes and streams are impaired chemically, biologically, and physically. It is time for a reassessment and evaluation of what progress or continued degradation have occurred. Grant funds support Sierra Nevada Alliance activities to update the index with the goal to collect input on how to best measure watershed health and changes across the west slope of the Sierra - which is the main water source for the entire Sacramento River and Delta, how to best share restoration and monitoring methods, and how to move this effort forward with their expanded watershed program work. The activities include:

- Workshop for the re-evaluation of established indicators from the 2006 index report
- Creation of an evaluation plan post Sierra Nevada Alliance's 2018 annual conference for updating the index publication
- Collect input on how to best provide Sierra-wide regional watershed coordination and framework for sharing, and access what the gaps and needs are.

**Source:** Hanson Brothers Enterprises

### **The Watershed Project**

#### ***Richmond Area Citizen Science Monitoring: A Data Visualization Tool to Improve Aquatic Ecosystems***

*\$25,000 / 12 months*

Funding enables the creation of an accessible web-based data visualization tool that integrates water quality data collected by citizen scientists with existing water quality datasets. The tool will help facilitate comprehensive quantitative analysis of water quality parameters in the San Pablo and Wildcat Creeks, resulting in findings that will inform future public and ecosystem health policies in West Contra Costa County. The tool will also allow activists, NGOs, public employees, academics, consultants, and the general public to easily visualize water quality results, which will

help influence future restoration and development planning of the San Pablo and Wildcat watersheds.

**Source:** Pick-N-Pull (Richmond)

### **Urban Tilth**

#### ***Basins of Relations: Water Stewardship & Training Program***

*\$25,000 / 12 months*

Urban Tilth's Watershed Stewardship & Training Program is training young people from West Contra Costa County to become stewards of their watersheds, communities, and the creeks that run through them. The program reconnects members of the Richmond community with their natural surroundings through holistic education and multi-benefit watershed restoration projects. Over the course of a 15-week training program, participants develop skills and expertise through classroom exercises, guest lectures, and then put their knowledge to work conducting field work on creek restoration projects throughout the Wildcat and San Pablo Creek Watersheds. The grant also supports county-wide community engagement to help develop broad volunteer turnout to assist in numerous restoration projects in Wildcat and San Pablo Creek watersheds.

**Source:** Pick-N-Pull (Richmond) (\$11,000), International Disposal Corp. of California & Browning-Ferris Industries of California (\$14,000)

### **Watsonville Wetlands Watch**

#### ***Citizen Science and Action – Restoring the Health of the Watsonville Slough System***

*\$30,000 / 12 months*

Funds supported Watsonville Wetlands Watch's programs to restore habitat and water quality in the Watsonville Slough System, which is a rare, impaired and critical coastal resource. Project activity engaged over 1000 Watsonville youth, students, families, and community members in the restoration of wetland habitat on urban trails, public open space, and local farms, in citizen science water quality monitoring, and the creation and dissemination of a bi-lingual water quality report card designed to increase the awareness of the importance of clean water and the restoration of this important watershed.

**Source:** S. Martinelli & Co. (\$5,250), City of Watsonville (\$24,750)

### **Wolf Creek Community Alliance**

#### ***Wolf Creek Water Quality Analysis Project***

*\$4,000 / 12 months*

To protect and restore Wolf Creek, an important tributary to the Bear River in the Sacramento River watershed. Wolf Creek faces numerous water quality threats including more than 300 known abandoned mine sites, urbanization and associated stormwater runoff, and 303(d) impairment due to bacteria. Funds support community-based water quality monitoring, invasive plant removal, replanting native plants, meadow restoration, assessing the impact of abandoned mine sites on the watershed, and advocacy for low-impact development, creek setbacks and creek friendly landscaping. Partners will include Sierra Streams Institute, Sierra Fund, California State Parks and the Center for Watershed Health.

**Source:** Security Contractor Services, Inc.

## **Grants 2017**

### **American River Parkway Foundation**

#### ***Ensuring Water Quality Via Clean-ups***

*\$38,250 / 12 months*

Supported broad volunteer mobilization to remove trash and debris from a 23 mile stretch of the lower American River in the Sacramento area. Based on data collected in past years, it is estimated that over 50,000 pounds of trash will be removed in 2017, including broken glass, beverage containers, metal and bicycle parts, paper and plastic, and cigarette butts and human waste. In addition to periodic clean-up days, the clean-up program includes "Pups in the Park", which will distribute 40,000 pet waste bags. The American River Parkway Foundation estimates that, without the clean-up program, 70% of this waste, refuse and debris would wash into the American River, contaminating it with pathogens including streptococci and fecal coliform as well as cadmium, lead and arsenic from cigarette filters. This grant was enabled by a legal settlement paid by Elder Creek Transfer and Recovery.

**Source:** Elder Creek Transfer & Recovery, Inc.

### **Battle Creek Alliance**

#### ***General Support***

*\$4,000 / 12 months*

Since 2009, Battle Creek Alliance's citizen water monitoring program has collected over 8,500 samples along the Battle Creek watershed, a tributary of the Sacramento River. Funds supported the continuation of their long-term, year-round data and evidence regarding the diminished water quality of streams downstream of clearcut and salvage logged land in the Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountain ranges. Specific activities included the continuation of:

- Collection of water and soil data in the Battle Creek watershed to track ongoing environmental and pollution effects.
- Field work to collect visual documentation of clearcutting and salvage logging effects in order to make the data more accessible to community members.
- Capacity building and collaborating with partner groups and volunteers to work toward common goals of preservation and repair.
- Updating and website and other media materials to educate the community about water quality issues in the Battle Creek.

**Source:** Hansen Brothers Enterprises

### **bay.org (The Bay Institute)**

#### ***Helping San Francisco Bay Delta by Retiring Drainage-Impaired Farmlands in West San Joaquin Valley***

*\$13,500 / 12 months*

Funds supported expert scientific and policy analysis towards retiring more drainage-impaired lands in the Westlands Water District and neighboring federal irrigation districts in the San Joaquin Valley, thus reducing the demand for exporting more water out of the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta. Reducing water export out of the Delta is needed to restore the minimum flows necessary to maintain temperature and salinity balance needed to maintain water quality. Decreasing irrigation of marginal impaired farmland would also reduce the pollution that currently flows from those lands, which are naturally high in selenium and other salts. Irrigation washes these naturally-occurring toxins out of the soils and into the waterways of the San Joaquin River and Delta, with drastic impacts to water quality and wildlife. However, current water management policies minimize land retirement, perpetuate harmful Delta water exports, and fail to solve the drainage problem. Funding specifically supported expert scientific and legal policy specialists to identify lands where drainage problems cannot be solved, while also promoting a balanced approach that helps develop workable drainage solutions that would allow some of this land to stay in cultivation.

**Source:** River City Waste Recyclers, LLC

### **Californians for Pesticide Reform**



### ***Reducing Pesticide Use to Improve Monterey Bay Water Quality***

*\$40,000 / 12 months*

Supported close collaboration with the Salinas-based Safe Ag/Safe Schools coalition, and helps SASS expand by launching new branches in Watsonville and Greenfield. SASS is a broad coalition of local residents worked to reduce pesticide use and associated pollution runoff problems impacting local communities and the Salinas and Pajaro Rivers. Both of these rivers are principal tributaries to Monterey Bay. Several pesticides that are the most heavily used in the Monterey area (including Telone and chlorpiricin) are linked in scientific literature to aquatic toxicity in surface waters – thus, reducing the use of these pesticides and better controlling drift and runoff will have a significant impact on water quality, and also benefit human health. The goal for the year was to highlight the problems of pesticide drift from fields onto schools, homes neighborhoods and waterways, and to push for new regulations to reduce fumigants in order to better protect human and environmental health, and to prevent pesticide runoff into waterways.

**Source:** Santa Cruz County, Kasey Kolassa, and Pajaro Valley Unified School District (\$40,000)

### **Clean Water Fund**

#### ***Keeping Monterey Bay Off Drugs: Preventing Pharmaceutical Pollution***

*\$24,500 / 12 months*

Supported an expansion of Clean Water Fund’s work to promote proper disposal of household pharmaceuticals to protect the Monterey Bay Watershed. Unless properly disposed of, these unused medicines are typically either flushed down the drain or thrown in the trash. Both of these disposal methods have been found to contaminate waterways: antibiotics and other medicines may interfere with municipal sewage treatment processes and may lower the efficiency of the sewage treatment process and/or pass through sewage treatment unaltered and contaminate waterways in the area of the sewage discharge points; medicines thrown into the trash may contaminate landfill leachate and similarly then pollute waterways subject to leachate discharge. The grant helped CWF to build on the success of the California Product Stewardship Council’s successful Don’t Rush to Flush campaign to place disposal bins for unused medicines within Monterey County. Don’t Rush to Flush has won numerous awards and is conducted in close cooperation with municipal governments, police and sheriffs, and health agencies. The funds will support CWF to conduct a community outreach program to help expand participation in Don’t Rush to Flush. CWF identified and reached out to diverse organizations, decision makers, and residents in and around the Monterey Bay area (including neighboring San Benito County), and provide educational presentations and materials on proper drug disposal as a means of ensuring the success and ultimate expansion of Don’t Rush to Flush.

**Source:** Trical, Inc.

### **EarthTeam**

#### ***Sustainable Youth Watershed Internships at Marsh Creek***

*\$9,000 / 12 months*

Supported the recruiting and training of a team of 14 youth from Antioch High School’s Environmental Science Academy as paid interns to work as research assistants to help restore native vegetation and monitor water quality on a 3-acre adopted site in the upper Marsh Creek watershed. In addition to benefitting water quality and fish and wildlife habitat in this tributary to the San Joaquin Delta, the proposed project promoted scientific research and STEM skills amongst our youth, and educates the public on the importance of healthy watershed and clean water.

**Source:** Southwestern Wire, Inc. et al.

### **Friends of the River**

#### ***San Francisco Bay-Delta Watershed Protection***

*\$49,500 / 12 months*

Five years of severe drought has fueled an intense push to take California back to the era of big dams, which severely restrict downstream flow causing temperature spikes and low water conditions that severely deteriorate downstream water quality and habitat. Many climate scientists also believe that projected changes in changes in Sierra snowpack patterns will impact the future ability of dams to either conserve water or control flooding – thus rendering expensive new dams an inefficient means of ensuring adequate water for urban and agricultural uses. Funds supported FOR's engagement in numerous dam planning processes in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta watershed. The goals of the project is to make sure that the voice of California's millions of recreational river users is heard as dam projects are considered, to provide community members with robust scientific analysis of the costs and benefits of a host of proposed water projects that would cost at least \$35 billion but add less than 5% to California's water supply, and promote FOR's *Point Positive* set of water conservation and alternative solutions to ensure enough water for farms, fish and people through stormwater capture and groundwater recharge.

**Sources:** Sun Gro Horticulture Processing (\$31,500), Hansen Brothers Enterprises (\$18,000)

### **Foothill Conservancy**

#### ***Protect the Mokelumne and Cosumnes Rivers and Watershed***

*\$9,000 / 12 months*

Supports community-based outreach and advocacy to protect the Mokelumne and Cosumnes watersheds. Activities included:

- Participation in the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group to ensure that this stakeholder process prioritizes ecologically sound watershed restoration as well as local economic benefits;
- Helping local community members and business leaders understand the value of protecting the Cosumnes River from harmful upstream diversions and maintaining its status as the only major Sierra Nevada river that flows without a major dam from its headwaters to the valley floor;
- Continuing efforts to secure state Wild & Scenic River designation for the Mokelumne River;
- Participated in the Stanislaus & Eldorado National Forest Land & Resource Management Plan updates; and,
- Continued coordination of the Upper Mokelumne Salmon Restoration Team, a program to study restoration of anadromous (land-spawning, ocean-going) fish in the Mokelumne River upstream of Pardee Reservoir.

**Source:** Sun Gro Horticulture Processing

### **Greenbelt Alliance**

#### ***Promoting Equitable, Water-Wise Development in Contra Costa***

*\$3,000 / 12 months*

The Promoting Equitable, Water-Wise Development in Contra Costa County project highlighted urban sprawl's negative water impacts in Contra Costa County and Antioch. These negative impacts include increased volumes of stormwater runoff, and well as pollution including oil, grease, brakepad metals and litter. The project also focused on how to limit these negative water impacts, as well as how to promote sustainable development within the Sand Creek Watershed. Greenbelt Alliance staff and volunteers analyzed which portions of the Sand Creek area had the highest value from a water management and habitat perspective, and therefore would be the most impacted by the City of Antioch's proposed development. The Alliance then shared their findings about the impacts of development in the Sand Creek Area with local elected officials, the media, and other community leaders. As a result, the City of Antioch took action to establish a policy framework that

protects natural and agricultural lands from water-hungry sprawl development and has taken steps to pursue equitable, water-wise growth patterns – a win-win solution that helps steer a more sustainable and Delta-friendly long-term growth pattern for the area.

**Source:** Cargill, Inc.

### **Indian Cultural Organization**

#### ***Run4Salmon***

*\$1,319 / 12 months*

Funds supported hosting the event the Run4Salmon: a two-week prayerful journey in which more than 300 tribal members, indigenous relatives and allies travel the historical path wild Chinook salmon once swam up the Sacramento River before the Shasta Dam by walking, running, boating biking, boating, paddling and horse riding from the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta to the McCloud River. This high-profile public outreach and media event helped Californians understand the value of protecting the entire Sacramento River and Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta watershed and improve water quality for salmon and people.

**Source:** Hansen Brothers Enterprises

### **Sacramento Area Creeks Council**

#### ***Sacramento Creek Week***

*\$1,200 / 12 months*

Funds supported Creek Week, where more than 2,000 volunteers removed 20-tons of man-made garbage and 115-cubic yards of invasive plants at 60 sites on 32 miles of waterways in Sacramento County. Partners in the massive Creek Week effort included the Dry Creek Conservancy, City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, Rancho Cordova, Folsom, Sacramento Splash and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. Data collection was supported by Hammerdirt, a local non-profit, which specializes in tracking the density and distribution of trash and litter.

**Source:** City of Sacramento (\$300), Pick-N-Pull (Rocklin) (\$900)

### **Sierra Nevada Alliance**

#### ***Sacramento River Watershed Restoration Project & AmeriCorps***

*10,000 / 8 months*

The Sierra Nevada Alliance used its grant to bring together 28 AmeriCorps members for five days of watershed restoration and training in April of 2018. After being given hands-on training in watershed restoration techniques, the Ameircorps members restored 10 acres of impaired, but critical, riparian Sacramento River riparian habitat through invasive species removal, native plant restoration and erosion control. The AmeriCorps members used these skills to then complete an additional 100 acres of watershed restoration activities with host organizations in the American, Feather and Sacramento River watersheds.

**Source:** Hansen Brothers Enterprises

### **Yolo Basin Foundation**

#### ***Discover the Flyway***

*\$6,000 / 12 months*

Funding supported the foundation's Flyway Outdoor Education Program, which over the past 20 years has enabled roughly 64,000 K-12 students to experience the wetlands and wildlife in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The focus of the program was Discover the Flyway field trips, where students spend a full day engaging in a variety of hands-on outdoor activity stations related to wetland plants and wildlife, hydrology, pond life, migration, Native American life, agriculture, rice farming, and water quality in the Sacramento Valley waterways. Students were introduced to watershed stewardship concepts including the benefits of wetlands in providing flood control, enhancement of

water quality, and groundwater discharge. As part of participating in the programs, teachers have the opportunity to receive Wild About Wetland Kits, which provide lesson and activity plans that build on the field trips both pre- and post-program. Through active outdoor engagement, the program helps cultivate a new generation of responsible stewards of Sacramento Valley's waterways and other natural resources.

**Source:** Cargill, Inc.

### **Wolf Creek Community Alliance**

#### ***General Support***

*\$3,500 / 12 months*

Funds supported actions to protect and restore Wolf Creek, an important tributary to the Bear River in the Sacramento River watershed. Wolf Creek faces numerous water quality threats including more than 300 known abandoned mine sites, urbanization and associated stormwater runoff, and 303(d) impairment due to bacteria. Funds will support community-based water quality monitoring, invasive plant removal, replanting native plants, meadow restoration, assessing the impact of abandoned mine sites on the watershed, and advocacy for low-impact development, creek setbacks and creek friendly landscaping. Partners will include Sierra Streams Institute, Sierra Fund, California State Parks and the Center for Watershed Health.

**Source:** Agriculture Management and Production Company