

Waterways

SACRAMENTO RIVER WATERSHED PROGRAM

Issue 16
July 2002

SRWP Board of Trustees Elected

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Trustees' Chairperson



Thirteen of the 21 newly elected Board of Trustees are pictured here. The Trustees' responsibilities include managing the not-for-profit corporation and implementing the policy directions of the SRWP stakeholders.

From throughout the Sacramento River watershed, twenty-one individuals have been elected to serve as the first Board of Trustees for the Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP). These individuals are:

One-year term: Rich Gresham, Dwight Holford, Anjanette Martin, Butch Hodgkins, Phil Grossberger, Ken Lindauer, and Viewa Swearingen

Two-year term: Keith Hansen, Bill Borrer, Bob Shanks, Julie Kelley, Dianne Gaumer, Christy Corzine, and Curt Josiassen

Three-year term: Robert Harris, Rich Marovich, Mike Rippey, Fraser Sime, Molly Wilson, Barbara Vlamis, and Dawit Zeleke

The term length for each Trustee was determined during a joint meeting between the Incorporators for the SRWP (those individuals volunteering to serve as the founding trustees for the not-for-profit corporation) and the newly elected Trustees.

The Trustees meet monthly. Board meeting topics have varied, but have been largely focused on determining a structure for the Board, determining a structure for the not-for-profit corporation, developing a job description for the SRWP Coordinator, discussing funding opportunities, development of a strategic plan for operations, and learning about the Subcommittee projects and activities. The Board of Trustees meetings are open, and the meeting schedule is posted on the SRWP website (www.sacriver.org).

To introduce themselves to the stakeholders, the Trustees have prepared biographies featured on the following page.

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We are pleased to have artwork and poetry from this year's River of Words Sacramento River watershed regional competition featured throughout this issue of Waterways. For more about the competition, see page 5.



Bill Borrer

Bill is a member of the Board of Supervisors for Tehama County. He also is President of Angus Cattle Ranch and a member of the Sacramento River Conservation Area Board of Directors.

Christy Corzine

Christy is a planner with Siskiyou County. She serves as project manager for the Lake Siskiyou Watershed Conservation Plan, overseeing contract management, management of a local technical advisory committee, development of a watershed assessment report and goals, policies and an ordinance, and an environmental impact report for the lake. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Lakewood Ranch Owners Association where she provides technical input on land use planning projects.

Dianne Gaumer

Dianne has been involved with the Deer Creek Watershed Conservancy since its inception in 1994, and has formerly been the Conservancy's Executive Director and Project Manager. She is a member of the Conservancy's Board of Directors. Dianne co-authored the Deer Creek Watershed Management Plan and authored both the Deer Creek Watershed Management Strategy and the Conservancy's first annual report. The Gaumer family owns rangeland in the Deer Creek watershed.

Rich Gresham

Rich has been actively involved in resource management and coordination for several years. He has served as the manager of the Placer County Resource Conservation District (RCD) since 1981. In this role, he has worked with cities, counties, and other RCDs in developing and reviewing resource policies and technical issues related to local general plans. He has helped form several local watershed groups, and has been instrumental in writing proposals and obtaining grants for many projects.

Phil Grossberger

Phil is currently the Vice President of the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Stakeholder Group. He views his involvement in the SRWP as a natural regional extension of his local work. Phil manages his family's ranch in Tehama County.

Keith Hansen

Keith is currently the Chairperson for the Glenn County Board of Supervisors. He serves on several local and regional committees including the Colusa Basin Drainage District, the Sacramento Valley Air Pollution Control District, and the Mental Health Advisory Board. He is a farmer by occupation, growing rice, pistachio, and row crops as well as raising pheasants commercially.

Robert Harris

Robert has been active in the Cow Creek Watershed Management Group, including its startup and successful transition into an efficient and growing not-for-profit organization. He currently serves as Vice-President of the Board of Directors, and serves as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee and Grant Review Committee. Bob owns a small ranch in Shasta County, and previously managed a 13,000-acre industrial facility as a wildlife refuge in partnership with the Department of Fish and Game.

Butch Hodgkins

Butch has served as the Executive Director of the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) since 1993. SAFCA is a joint powers agency created to address the Sacramento Region's need for greater flood protection. SAFCA seeks to integrate environmental restoration and enhancement into improved flood protection. Prior to his work at SAFCA, Butch served as the Deputy Public Works Director for Sacramento County.

Dwight Holford

Dwight has been a member of the Upper Putah Creek Stewardship (Stewardship) since its inception in 1996. He helped establish the Stewardship as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation and is presently their Chairperson. He represents the Stewardship at regional meetings and oversees its grants. Currently, he is the coordinator for a 319(h) grant project to conduct bioassessment through citizen monitoring. Dwight also works closely with the Lake County RCDs to assist other groups in becoming established.

Curt Josiassen

Curt has been on the Butte County Board of Supervisors since 1997, and is currently serving his second year as Chairperson. He serves on many different local and regional committees. He is also a ranch owner and manager, the fourth generation in his family to farm rice.

Julie Kelley

Julie is a wildlife biologist working on private forestlands in the State. It is her responsibility to collect and interpret new or assimilate existing information into efficient and effective measures to provide sustainable wildlife habitat in forests managed for industrial timber production. She currently works with several watershed groups.

Ken Lindauer

Ken grew up on the Sacramento River in the Red Bluff area, fishing, boating, and hiking there all of his life. He has owned and farmed prune and walnut orchards adjacent to the Sacramento River since 1963. He served as Chairperson of a cooperative bargaining association for 15 years and is currently a member of the California Dried Plum Board and the Prune Marketing Committee.

Continued on page 7

Effects of Pesticides on Salmonid Prey Organisms

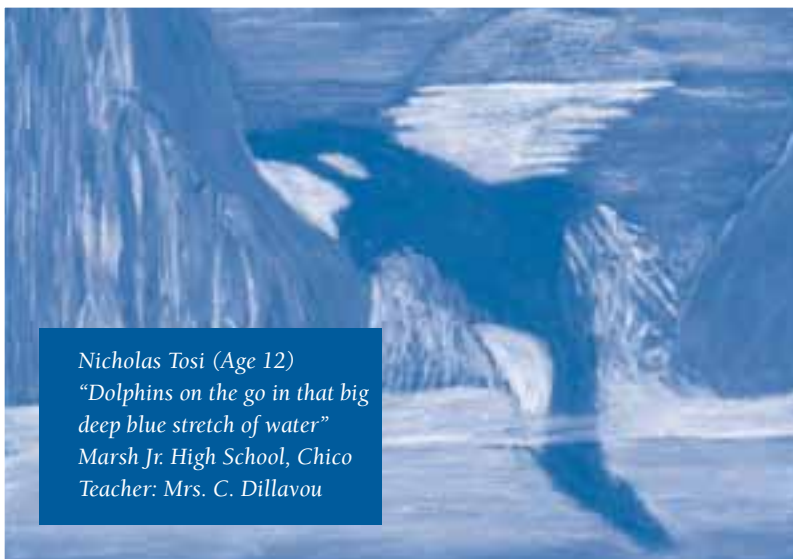
By Donald Weston, Adjunct Associate Professor, University of California, Berkeley

CALFED is funding a study to examine whether organophosphate (OP) pesticides in Central Valley rivers may be reducing the availability of invertebrate prey for salmonids, particularly the juvenile Chinook that are moving seaward in January to March when peak OP pesticide concentrations have typically been observed. Study participants include the University of California at Berkeley, and Davis, U.S. Geological Survey, Southern Illinois University, and Deltakeeper. The principal findings to date include:

- Field studies - The high OP pesticide concentrations and toxicity to *Ceriodaphnia dubia* observed throughout the 1990's were not seen in the mainstem Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers over the past two winters. In the winter of 2001, diazinon concentrations never exceeded 50 ng/L in the lower Sacramento River, compared to 300 ng/L peak concentrations common in earlier years. *C. dubia* toxicity was not observed in either river in either year. However, *C. dubia* toxicity and potentially acutely lethal OP pesticide concentrations (160 and 240 ng/L chlorpyrifos and diazinon, respectively) were observed in Ulati Creek, a north Delta tributary.
- Resident species - In addition to toxicity testing with *C. dubia*, a standard U.S. EPA test species, the study has compared the sensitivity of several resident species including a cladoceran (*Simocephalus vetulus*), two chironomids (*Chironomus tentans* and *C. riparius*) and an amphipod (*Gammarus daiberi*). *C. dubia* was far more sensitive to diazinon than any of the resident species, with sensitivity greater by at least a factor of four. It, however, was not unusual in its sensitivity to

esfenvalerate, having sensitivity comparable to most of the resident species tested, and was 10-fold less sensitive than the resident amphipod.

- Salmon prey - Gut contents analysis of out-migrating Chinook salmon fry collected at Verona have shown the dominant prey organism to be chironomid larvae. Chironomids made up approximately 60% of the diet by both numbers and biomass. Of secondary importance were cladocerans and copepods.
 - Chironomid pesticide sensitivity - Literature values and our own studies give the first impression that chironomid larvae, which are of such importance as prey for juvenile Chinook salmon, are more tolerant to OPs than *C. dubia* (by factors of two and 40 for chlorpyrifos and diazinon, respectively). However, early chironomids instars are seven times more sensitive to chlorpyrifos than the later stages, which are usually tested. We have also found that there is a residual neurotoxicity to chironomids from prior sublethal OP exposure. Individuals that experienced sublethal chlorpyrifos exposure a week earlier showed a 6-fold greater mortality rate than individuals exposed to chlorpyrifos for the first time, suggesting repeated exposures as could be experienced following multiple storm events, could be more damaging than expected.
 - Pesticide interactions - Evaluation of ten widely used insecticides and herbicides for possible interaction showed that the overwhelmingly dominant interaction was additivity. Triazine herbicides showed evidence of synergistic interactions with OPs at herbicide concentrations well above levels typically observed in Central Valley surface waters.
- This research will continue for another year, with emphasis on pesticide bioavailability and biomarkers of exposure and effect. For more information, contact Don Weston at dweston@uclink4.berkeley.edu.



Nicholas Tosi (Age 12)
“Dolphins on the go in that big deep blue stretch of water”
Marsh Jr. High School, Chico
Teacher: Mrs. C. Dillavou



Michelle Wurlitzer (Age 12)
“Living Water”
Marsh Jr. High School, Chico
Teacher: Mrs. C. Dillavou

Dennis Bowker Moves to CALFED

Dear Stakeholders:

In 1996, Larry Walker approached me on behalf of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District to ask if I could provide facilitation and consultation services for an exciting new program in the Sacramento River watershed. The program was (and is) the Sacramento River Toxic Pollutant Control Program (SRTPCP). One of the tasks of that program was to catalyze a watershed-wide, stakeholder driven watershed management program. The effort became known as the Sacramento River Watershed Program after much discussion among those who attended the first two general stakeholder meetings in Sacramento.

It has been a rewarding, fun, frustrating, exhausting, perplexing and illuminating time since then. Most of all, it has been highly educational. From the beginning, I have been impressed by the commitment of those hundreds of individuals who have participated in establishing the SRWP as a functional regional presence. It is highly impressive to look back at the volume and quality of work done by the participants in SRWP in the past six years. I am pleased to have participated in that work.



Crysta Whithaus (Age 9)
"The Hummingbirds Fly"
Hornbrook School,
Teacher: Mrs. Penny Barnum

The establishment of the new Board of Trustees marks a turning point for SRWP. The turn is a positive one that we have long awaited. The members of the Board are highly qualified, wonderfully diverse, and dedicated to supporting a healthy and productive watershed and watershed community. They have already displayed impressive ingenuity and vigor in tackling the difficult job of getting a new organization on its feet. I look forward to assisting them with the selection of a new Coordinator for the SRWP, and to helping develop the myriad of policies and procedures needed for the Program to continue and build on its successes.

This newsletter is not long enough to recognize everyone who has worked to help make the SRWP a success. Even though "naming names" will leave out a significant group of individuals and organizations that have contributed valuable time, assistance and creativity, special recognition needs to go to a few key people who set the stage for all that the SRWP accomplished since 1996. The local watershed groups throughout the watershed who have consistently demonstrated that local management of sensitive natural resources is not only possible, but highly effective; Congressmen Vic Fazio and Doug Ose, who have provided leadership and support at the federal level to keep the Program moving; Bob Shanks of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District, whose vision and belief in stakeholder processes is strong and unflagging; Val Connor, Karen Larsen, and other employees of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, who had the courage to believe in and support local stewardship; the outstanding contractors to the SRWP – Claus and Tom from Larry Walker Associates, Bobbie and Carol from Harris & Company, and Michele and Patti from MMC Communications, whose work has been crucial to SRWP success; and the multitude of individuals and organizations who have endured monthly Subcommittee meetings, endless drafts of complex documents, and the marginal coffee in the SRWP office. Special mention needs to be made of Jerry Troyan. He is a quiet but indispensable part of the success of the SRWP. I am consistently amazed at the ease and efficiency with which he has managed to keep the years, phases, tasks, subcontracts and general administrative minutia not only functioning, but also understandable to the rest of us!

Thank you all for giving me the opportunity to participate in the founding of one the nation's most significant regional watershed initiatives. It is an exciting organization with a bright future, certain to continue to grow and become ever more effective in support of local watershed management in the Sacramento River watershed. I may be leaving the position of Program Coordinator, but I am not leaving the Program. I look forward to working with all you in my role as a member of the CALFED Watershed Program team.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bowker

Allen Harthorn, SRWP Education Coordinator



Cody Taylor (Age 8) "Salmon Spectacular"
Durham Elementary School, Teacher: Rebecca Ginney

River of Words: Durham Students Receive National Awards

The SRWP sponsored River of Words regional competition was a huge success. Hundreds of entries from all parts of the watershed were received. Judging of the entries occurred in March, and regional winners were announced on April 13th at Crissy Field in San Francisco. Regional entries were automatically entered in the National River of Words contest.

The SRWP is pleased to announce that Cody Taylor and Kaila Ontiveros from Durham Elementary won National Grand Prizes in the River of Words Category I (Kindergarten-3rd grade) poetry and art contest. Kaila (8 years old) and Cody (8 years old) along with their parents were invited to visit Washington D.C. where they visited the Library of Congress. Rebecca Ginney and Janet Landess from Durham Elementary were awarded the Teachers of the Year award for the region at the River of Words Awards ceremony.

All regional Grand Prize winners and finalists will receive gift certificates donated by Barnes and Noble. Poetry and Art Grand Prize winners will also take part in an educational raft trip on the Sacramento River from the Sacramento River Discovery Center in Red Bluff to Los Molinos.



Tyler Wilken (Age 11) "My River"
Davis School for Independent Study
Teacher: Amy Thomson

Whispering Snow

The snow falls upon a whisper tree
and drops like ice into my mouth.
It falls like a peaceful sign,
a sunrise from heaven,
tumbling out from the air we breathe.
My mind thinks of snowbirds flying everywhere.
Is the world at a point that is dangerous?
Feel the glory of the heavens.
Feel the moonstones falling from the sky.
The future is like happiness beside me.

Kaila Ontiveros (Age 8)
Durham Elementary School
Teacher: Rebecca Ginney

Water Snake

The
snake
circles
the
log.
It
runs
from
my
touch,
searching
for
bugs
on
the
decomposing
log.

Chris Craven (Age 7)
Durham Elementary School
Teacher: Rebecca Ginney

The Regional Grand Prize winners are:

Grades K-3

Poetry - Chris Craven-2nd grade, Durham Elementary
Teacher - Rebecca Ginney
Art - Cody Taylor-2nd grade, Durham Elementary
Teacher - Rebecca Ginney

Grades 4-6

Poetry - Tania Flores-5th grade, Girl Scout Troop 256, Chico
Teachers - Leslie Layton-Flores, Abigail Marshall
Art - Alisha Gorder-5th grade, St. Joseph School, Redding
Independent Entry (Parent Teachers: Jeff and Gayleen Gorder)

Grades 7-9

Poetry - Jason Shabbar-8th grade, Marsh Junior High
Teacher - Bruce Duncan
Art - Ariel Rippner-8th grade, Marsh Junior High
Teacher - Cookie Dillavou

Grades 10-12

Poetry - Emily Blodgett-12th grade
Independent Entry

SRWP Subcommittee News

Third Annual Monitoring Report Released

The Monitoring Subcommittee released the Third Annual Monitoring Report for the Sacramento River Watershed Program in June. The report describes data collected from 1998 to 2001 by the SRWP and collaborating water quality monitoring programs (USGS NAWQA, Sacramento Coordinated Monitoring Program, City of Redding NPDES Monitoring, Department of Water Resources intensive tributary monitoring program).

The constituents monitored in ambient water over the last year include: mercury, total dissolved solids, pathogens and pathogen indicators, organic carbon, turbidity, aquatic toxicity, organophosphate, carbamate, triazine pesticides, and benthic invertebrates. In addition, mercury, PCBs, and organochlorine pesticides were monitored in fish tissue.

The monitoring results for 2000-2001 are similar to those reported in previous years. In general, the data support observations that most waterbodies monitored are in good condition and the water quality is meeting regulatory standards. However, results also affirm the need for management strategies for water quality problems related to mercury and OP pesticides.

Creating healthy and safe rivers is something that everyone can contribute to by performing simple practices such as:

- Recycling used motor oil
- Cleaning up pet waste by disposing in the garbage
- Using pesticides wisely and only when necessary
- Conserving water

The Annual Monitoring Report is available for downloading at www.sacrriver.org. Questions about the report should be directed to Claus Suverkropp at clauss@lwa.com or 530-753-6400.

Message from Robert Harris, SRWP Board of Trustees, Chairperson

The Board of Trustees is off to a great start. We have formed an organization that allows all Trustees to fully participate in the exciting challenges that the Board faces. To provide guidance for the future, we are doing some strategic planning that we will share with you at our next annual meeting in November. It will reflect the outstanding work done by our subcommittees as well as input from our stakeholders at the last annual meeting.

The Trustees bring diversity to the board processes as well as extensive hands-on experience in all aspects of watershed stewardship. I feel honored to be their and your chairperson. We appreciate the opportunity you have given us and pledge to make the SRWP a continuing and growing success.

*Michelle Wurlitzer (Age 12) / "Living Water"
Marsh Jr. High School, Chico / Teacher: Mrs. C. Dillavou*



SACRAMENTO RIVER WATERSHED PROGRAM SUBCOMMITTEE SCHEDULE:

The typical schedule for SRWP subcommittee meetings is listed below. Call (888) 815-3330 for more information. All subcommittee meetings are open to anyone interested in participating.

- Biological/Habitat Assessment Subcommittee meets via e-mail and in person as-needed (jharring@ospr.dfg.ca.gov)
- Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee meets on 3rd Wednesdays bimonthly
- SRTPCP Grant Subcommittee meets on 2nd Mondays bimonthly
- Monitoring Subcommittee meets on 4th Wednesday bimonthly
- Toxics Subcommittee - 4th Wednesday bimonthly
 - Sacramento/Feather River OP Pesticide Focus Group meets 4th Tuesday bimonthly
 - Delta Tributaries Mercury Council meets 2nd Tuesday bimonthly

Anjanette Martin

Anjanette is the Director of Regulatory Affairs for the Northern California Water Association, where she works on policy issues related to watershed management including the federal Clean Water Act and the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act. She is also an active participant with the CALFED BDPAC Watershed Subcommittee and is currently the Chairperson of the Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum Technical Advisory Committee. Anjanette lives in Willows with her husband Dean, who operates their half-century old family dairy.

Rich Marovich

Rich has worked for the Department of Pesticide Regulation for 14 years. He created and managed a statewide project to assist farmers and other pesticide users to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act when using pesticides. Rich serves as Stream-Keeper for the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Council, and has co-authored successful proposals for capacity building, watershed assessment and implementation projects.

Mike Rippey

Mike has served on the Napa County Board of Supervisors since 1993. He serves as the Board representative on a local, broad-based taskforce on comprehensive watershed management and implementation of the recommendations from the taskforce. He is also the lead in the collaborative development of a comprehensive groundwater protection ordinance, one of the first in the state. Mike participates in several regional organizations including the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee. Mike is also the owner/manager of a cattle ranch in Napa County.

Bob Shanks

Bob currently serves as the Director of Water Quality for Sacramento County and also as the District Engineer of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD). The SRCSD provides wastewater conveyance and treatment for over 1.1 million people in the Sacramento urban area. Bob led the effort to formulate and then obtain federal funding for the Sacramento River Toxic Pollutant Control Program and its stakeholder group, the Sacramento River Watershed Program.

Fraser Sime

Fraser is currently the Chief of the Watershed Management Section in the Department of Water Resources' Northern District office in Red Bluff and the Northern California Regional Watershed Program

Coordinator. In that role, he is responsible for providing watershed management technical assistance to locally led watershed groups and representing DWR on various technical advisory groups and Coordinated Resource Management Program committees. Fraser also coordinates the DWR Urban Streams Restoration Program in Northern California.

Viewa Swearingen

Viewa is currently the Executive Director for the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group. She has been involved with the group since its inception in 1998, and was one of the original members of the Cottonwood Creek Steering Committee – seeing it through its incorporation as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit-organization.

Barbara Vlamis

Barbara is the Executive Director of the Butte Environmental Council, a non-profit environmental education and advocacy organization located in Chico. For ten years, she has guided the organization's activities developing and maintaining education and advocacy programs, creating membership campaigns, writing and managing grants, and preparing an annual budget and calendar.

Molly Wilson

Molly Wilson was elected to the Board of Supervisors for Shasta County in 1989 and reelected in 1993 and 1996. She is familiar to many local residents for her expertise in cooking and gardening. She maintains a busy schedule of community involvement, serving on many local and regional boards and committees. Her goal has been to work with veterans and establish a veteran's cemetery and home in the North State. The groundbreaking ceremony for the cemetery occurred June 1, 2002.

Dawit Zeleke

Dawit is the Acting Project Director for the Sacramento River Project located in Chico. This project is focused on restoring and protecting natural habitats along 100 miles of the Sacramento River between Red Bluff and Colusa. Dawit has been employed with The Nature Conservancy for 10 years. He is also the owner/operator of a Satsuma Mandarin orchard in Orland.

Ariel Rippner (Age 14)

"Moonlight Life"

Marsh Jr. High School, Chico

Teacher: Mrs. C. Dillavou





Sacramento River Watershed Program
 c/o Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
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 Sacramento, CA 95827-3003
 Attn: Karen Larsen



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 Toll Free Information Number:**

(8 8 8) 8 1 5 - 3 3 3 0

Sacramento River Watershed Program Web Site:

www.sacr river.org

If you would like to submit articles, have questions or topics you would like researched and discussed in the SRWP "Waterways" newsletter, please contact Carol Atkins at (530) 758-0477.