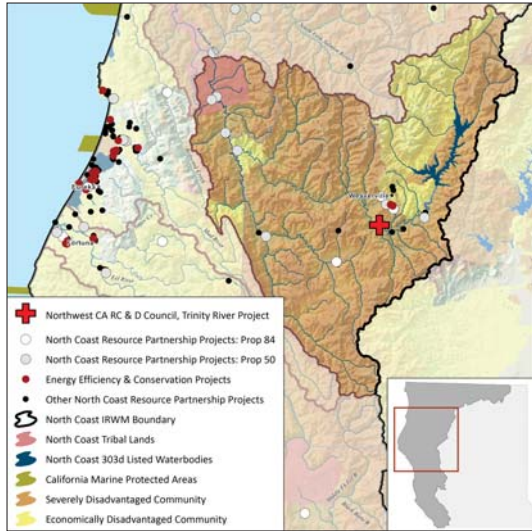


# Trinity River Water Reliability and Drought Resiliency Project

NORTHWEST CA RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL



## COMPLETION DATE

November 30, 2019

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Dry conditions pose a challenge for people living outside of a public water supply as with residents in Browns and East Fork Hayfork Creeks. Few people have any water storage in place and many had to pay for water deliveries to meet basic potable needs in the summers of 2014 and 2015. In the East Weaver Creek watershed, inefficient ditch diversions abound, contributing to lower instream flows to the creek. Low flows and extended drought conditions have resulted in the death of juvenile coho and other fish species.

## PROJECT GOALS

- Water demand reduction, particularly in the summer, through implementation projects and education. Change the timing of diversions from the critical summer season to the spring to reduce impacts to wildlife
- Improve the efficiency of existing diversions
- Improve ditch efficiencies and instream flow to East Weaver Creek.
- Preserve instream aquatic habitat to benefit threatened salmonids and other wildlife
- Water supply reliability for the communities of Browns and East Fork Hayfork Creeks

## THE SOLUTION

This project consists of outreach to landowners with existing water rights to improve efficiency of water use and convert diversion systems to utilize slow flow, lower impact pumps that collect water during the wet season for use in the dry summer months. In East Weaver Creek, the project will also include improving the efficiency of ditches within the watershed in order to preserve instream flow.

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The outreach component of this project began in early 2016 and is ongoing. Permitting and design has been started in East Weaver Creek. Project implementation activities are scheduled to begin summer 2017 and continue through the following two summers, as landowner permissions allow.

## PROJECT BUDGET

IRWM funds:	\$ 334,822
Leveraged funds:	\$ 89,371
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 424,193</b>

## BENEFITS

### Economic benefits

- Approximately \$40,000 per year in avoided costs of water deliveries

### Water Quality

- Decreased summer water temperatures and increased Dissolved Oxygen in aquatic habitat during critical summer months

### Habitat and Ecosystem function benefits

- Increased instream flow of approximately 3–6 cubic feet per second during low flow months
- Species protection for threatened coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

### Cultural benefits

- Increased community capacity; due to outreach efforts, citizens will better understand issues associated with the drought and water conservation actions
- Increased community resiliency to climate change; storage tanks will allow the community to better adapt to more unpredictable climate patterns

### Jobs and Local Economic Benefits

- Approximately \$424,000 spent locally using local supplies and labor when possible
- About 3 jobs created/maintained

## NEXT STEPS

The Northwest California Resource Conservation & Development Council will continue to assist North Coast communities to develop resiliency to climate change through outreach and implementation actions. Additional similar projects in other key watersheds will likely be pursued based on the outcomes of this project.

### CONTACT

Mark Lancaster  
Director  
MLancaster@5Counties.org  
530.623.3967 X 111

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CA Coastal Conservancy for assistance with design of East Weaver Creek projects.



**NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP**