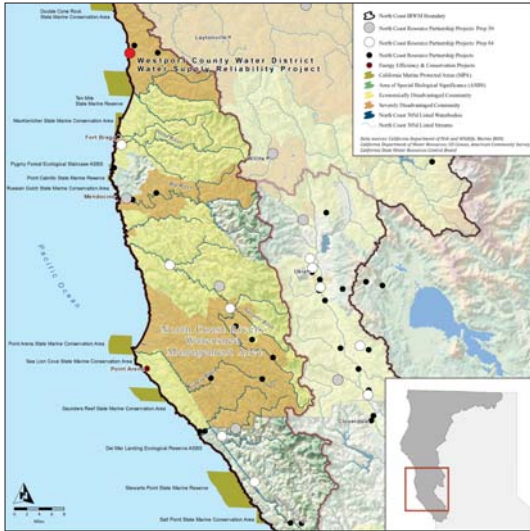


Westport County Water District Water Supply Reliability Project

WESTPORT COUNTY WATER DISTRICT



STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Westport is a small unincorporated residential community in Mendocino County. The Westport County Water District (District) provides water service to approximately 70 households and had issues ensuring reliable water supply due to limited storage.

PROJECT GOALS

Short-term Goal:

- Improve water supply reliability for residents in Westport

Long-term Goal:

- Protect fisheries and stream flow in Wages Creek
- Improve Westport's fire protection capabilities

THE SOLUTION

Wages Creek supports coho salmon and the District's bypass flows were set up to correspond to annual cycles of fish migration in accordance with state guidelines (DFG and NMFS 2002). In 2002, the District faced water shortage issues when winter rains came late and it was not able to meet its bypass flows despite a back-up groundwater well.

The District's water system consists of a water right on Wages Creek where a wet well and pump move water through a direct filtration system to a tank above the community's Fire Department buildings. From storage, water is gravity fed to the community distribution system, which was served by a 100,000 gallon redwood water tank constructed in the late 1970s. This project replaces the old tank with a new, seismically stable 100,000 gallon steel storage tank.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Project construction began in 2008. The hillside behind the existing tank was graded, seeded and erosion protection measures installed.

The foundation was installed in December 2008. Tank construction began with the roof and top ring, which was lifted to install the next lowest ring until all the rings were in place.

Internal plumbing was connected and a galvanic cathodic protection system and safety equipment were installed. The tank began to be filled for system use on December 7, 2009.

COMPLETION DATE

March 31, 2010

PROJECT BUDGET

IRWM funds: \$ 374,241
Leveraged funds: \$ 26,050
Total cost: \$ 400,291

BENEFITS

Economic benefits

- Project implementation has resulted in avoided water shortage costs estimated to have an economic benefit of \$2,371
- Avoided water supply purchases are estimated to have an economic benefit of \$3,479
- Reduced fire losses have an estimated economic benefit of \$ 557,194

Water Quality

- Improved water quality has enabled the District to ensure that bypass flows are met to protect beneficial uses including RARE, SPWN, and COLD, all of which benefit from enhanced instream flow

Water Supply

- 70 homes will have access to safe, reliable water supplies

Habitat and Ecosystem Function

- By assuring minimum bypass flows to protect fisheries in Wages Creek, this project supports the goals of the Recovery Strategy for coho salmon (CDFG, Recovery Strategy for California Coho Salmon, 2004)

Local Jobs and Economy

- \$400,291 was spent using local labor and supplies when possible, thus contributing to State goals for environmental justice and social equity

NEXT STEPS & RECOMMENDATIONS

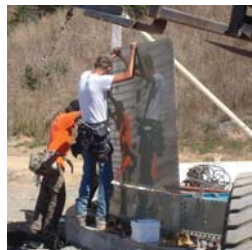
The enhanced flexibility provided by the new tank has allowed the District to take advantage of storm events to fill tanks and to stop pumping from Wages Creek when the creek falls below bypass flows. The District is adjusting to having the new storage available and as time goes on will be able to better manage the system to achieve bypass flow requirements while protecting beneficial uses.

CONTACT

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REFERENCES

California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 2002. Guidelines for Maintaining Instream Flows to Protect Fisheries Resources Downstream of Water Diversions in Mid-California Coastal Streams. CDFG, Sacramento, CA.
Winzler & Kelly. 2003. Westport County Water District Proposition 204 Water Supply Feasibility Study. Winzler & Kelly, Eureka, CA.



NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP