

Poso Creek IRWM Plan Implementation Activity and Correspondence for November and December, 2016

Summary:

- Shafer-Wasco ID continues to coordinate with Reclamation Staff to complete a grant funding contract for the Kimberlina Spreading Grounds, which is the modified Madera Ave Intertie project. Reclamation approved the NEPA EA and signed the FONSI in late September and was intending to sign the modified contract documents in the first quarter of their new fiscal year, however, the District continues to wait for the final signature approval from Reclamation. The project's earthwork construction started in October and has progressed to where several of the ponds are usable for recharge, if needed.
- Eric Quinley, Jessi Snyder, Frank Ohnersorgen, Sam Schaefer, and other Poso Creek IRWM RWMG participant continue coordination for the DAC Involvement grant application, due February, 2017.
- The County of Tulare, within the Tulare Basin Funding Area, has led the development of a proposal for submittal to DWR's PSP for Proposition 1 funding for DAC involvement. The Proposal is supported by the Poso Creek IRWM RWMG. In January, an action item to complete the Letter of Support is on the Agenda for the Poso Creek IRWM RWMG public meeting. Recall the Poso Creek IRWM RWMG authorized Stephanie Hearn to provide an update on evaluating the DAC water quality issues for the Poso Region. The preliminary information was presented to the RWMG at the August meeting. The preliminary results of this effort has helped the DAC Working Group define the near term needs and was included as a DAC work task as part of the Poso Creek IRWM Plan Update proposal, which DWR announced the IRWM Planning Grant awards in early December, 2016.
- Several districts who had received funding awards from Reclamation's WaterSMART and CalFED funding programs in 2016 were able to initiate their field biological and cultural resources surveys in support of NEPA. Final awards for funding from the DWR's AgWUE grant program were announced. All applicants who submitted within the Poso Creek IRWM were funded and will work towards completing grant agreements with the DWR in 2017 and to complete NEPA for Reclamation.
- Two Projects that were submitted for funding in July to the Stormwater funding program did not receive funding, as the results were announced in December. The Poso Creek IRWM Plan and the Kern IRWMP reviewed the development of the Kern Storm Water Resources Management Plan that covers both the Poso Creek and Kern IRWMP areas, as part of the identified public review process. A favorable debriefing was obtained by the districts who will consider submitting in the next round.
- NK continues to work with the DWR following a "Kick-off" meeting for the Proposition 84 IRWM Imp funding. The contract was signed in early September; NK is the Grantee for the DWR contract with LHUD a project sponsor. The NK project is completed. LHUD anticipates completion in early 2017.