

Investing in Watersheds

The **Department of Water Resources** uses an investment strategy to guide its resource restoration programs – managing water resources to protect, restore, and enhance the natural and human environments in California.

Invest Consistently. Applying the principles of investment to California's watersheds can produce exceptional long-term results. As in predicting financial markets, trying to anticipate the ups and downs of watersheds is tricky. A steady investment in watersheds results in the best yields. For over 30 years DWR's programs have provided technical and financial assistance to local watershed managers on an ongoing basis.

Actively Manage Resources. To realize value from personal investments an account manager consistently checks that the desired goals are being met. To realize economic and natural resource values in watersheds, we must actively evaluate our efforts and the return on our investment. DWR works with agencies and groups to continually evaluate priorities, needs, and outcomes from state grants and assistance.

Promote Diversity and Balance Assets. As with a financial portfolio, watershed management and restoration should support an abundant array of efforts and projects. From watershed planning, to design for specific biological conservation or restoration needs, to funding for infrastructure, DWR offers diverse programs and local support activities, and has successfully invested millions of dollars to achieve sound watershed management for people and communities throughout California.

Build Trust. Open communication, an invitation to participate, and the principled application of science and engineering are essential to building and maintaining the trust of the public. DWR staff works closely with project proponents to guarantee a sound technical basis for their projects; operates fair and open project selection processes for grant and loan programs; and promotes and participates in Environmental Justice efforts. DWR provides technical and financial assistance to support local community consensus building, planning, and project implementation, and provides local coordinators for projects, giving a face to the program at the local, state, and federal levels.

Create Enduring Value. A planned approach to sound watershed investment ensures that each dollar spent realizes its full potential. Working in partnership with stewardship groups, organizations, and government agencies at all levels, DWR ensures that the value and quality of the State's resources will be preserved. By contributing to plans and projects, the collection and interpretation of scientific data, and project evaluation, DWR resource restoration programs reduce flood damage, support water supply reliability, protect and aid recovery of endangered species, protect and restore wetlands, enhance natural stream and river functions, and preserve the public trust resources of California.

Resources Restoration Branch

Statewide Watershed
Coordination
(916) 651-9617

Urban Streams
Restoration
(916) 651-9625

Fish Passage
Improvement
(916) 651-9630

Loans and Grants
(916) 651-9634

Statewide Watershed Coordination helps guide DWR's watershed restoration projects. Statewide Watershed Coordination works with local, state, and federal agencies and other groups and individuals to restore watersheds.

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Urban Streams Restoration assists communities reducing damages from stream bank and watershed instability and floods, while restoring the environmental and aesthetic values of streams. Urban Streams encourages stewardship and maintenance of natural stream courses.

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Fish Passage Improvement identifies and evaluates the potential to modify or remove instream structures that impede migration and spawning of anadromous fish species within the Central Valley and Bay Area of California.

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Loans and Grants reviews and certifies applications for funds offered by five general obligation bond laws: Propositions 13, 204, 82, 44, 25 and the Davis-Grunsky Act. Loans and Grants inspects projects once a year for compliance.

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