

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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Funds Are Available to Help Nurture Urban Streams

SACRAMENTO---Due to the wet winter, Northern California creeks are brimming with rain runoff.

But many urban creeks still need nurturing, note State water officials. The Department of Water Resources has a program to help local communities improve urban streams.

The Urban Streams Restoration Program provides grants for local projects that reduce flooding and erosion on urban streams while improving the environment.

Since the program's start in 1985, DWR has worked with local governments and non-profit groups to provide technical assistance and funding to enhance urban streams. Past grants have funded a variety of activities, including creek cleanup, revegetation, bank stabilization projects and acquisition of property needed for flood management.

"We have a long list of 'success stories' involving urban creeks, but we are looking for new ones," said Sara Denzler, DWR's Urban Streams Program Coordinator.

As an example of a successful project, Denzler cited a \$13,000 grant to the City of Placerville and the Hangtown Creek Restoration Committee in 1995 to help stabilize collapsing streambanks and reestablish native riparian vegetation. The project helped reduce erosion while adding to habitat and recreational values of the creek area.

For 1999, the program has about \$87,000 available for new grants. The program will target small community projects and give priority to requests for grants under \$15,000. In addition to addressing flooding and erosion, proposed projects should help restore or enhance the esthetic, recreational, and fish and wildlife values of an urban waterway. High priority is given to projects which stress community involvement. Each grant application must have both a local government agency and a citizen group cosponsor.

Grant applications for 1999 are due by April 30. Projects qualifying for grants will be selected by July. Those interested in applying should contact [Sara Denzler](#) at (916) 327-1664, or [Kurt Malchow](#) at (916) 327-1617.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs. The State Water Project provides water to two-thirds of California's population.

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