

# COTTONWOOD CREEK AND YOU

A NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY COTTONWOOD CREEK WATERSHED GROUP

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## Planning Continues...

The contract for the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) grant is being finalized. This WMP will continue the process of developing a conceptual Management plan that will outline a vision for the watershed, continue funding the coordinator position and keeping the office open, as well as the development of a conceptual water monitoring plan. This conceptual WMP will address the issues that surfaced in the development of the Assessment (Phase I) and continued through the strategy process (Phase II), such as erosion and sedimentation; flooding, rangelands and timber, green belt/riparian corridors, aquatic habitats, terrestrial habitats, groundwater and water quality. Social and cultural issues will also be addressed throughout the document as well. The focus of this grant is to hold meetings with landowners, directors and technical advisors, establish a consensus and develop a cooperative WMP that outlines the desired watershed conditions.

CCWG needs your participation and input! This is your opportunity to set in motion the direction CCWG will take in the next few years. The meeting dates and times will be announced soon, however, we are providing you notice at this time and encourage you to contact the office to get your name & address on the list to be contacted when the meetings are set. Call Vieva @ 347-6637 or email [ccwg@shasta.com](mailto:ccwg@shasta.com).

***“Funding for this project has been provided full or in part through an Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) pursuant to Proposition 50 and CALFED and any amendments thereto for the implementation of California’s Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program.”***

**This work is starting in January 2005 and will continue for approximately 36 months.**

## Irrigated Lands Waiver in Shasta and Tehama Counties

The Shasta/Tehama Water Education Coalition (STWEC) formed in the fall of 2004 as one option for irrigated landowners and operators in Shasta and Tehama Counties to respond to the Conditional Waiver for Discharges from Irrigated Lands. Presently, there are five area landowners serving as the interim Board of Directors for the STWEC.

The STWEC, as a local organization, works within the framework of the larger Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) to comply with water quality regulations targeting irrigation and stormwater runoff from farmlands. There are nine other local organizations also working under the umbrella of the Coalition in other counties of the Sacramento River Watershed.

Over 1300 irrigated landowners or operators are members of the STWEC. Over 44,000 acres in Tehama County and about 12,000 acres of irrigated land in Shasta County are represented. Members of the STWEC are recognized by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board as taking the appropriate steps to comply with the new regulation. The Regional Board is the regulatory agency responsible to enforce the Irrigated Lands Waiver. Initial STWEC membership dues were collected in November 2004 at a rate of \$2.00 per irrigated acre or a flat rate of \$25.00 for landowners or operators with less than 12.5 irrigated acres. More information about becoming a member of the STWEC is available by calling (530)-347-6637

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***Mission Statement: “The Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group will work to preserve the environment, private property and water rights, and economic resources of Cottonwood Creek watershed through responsible stewardship, liaison, cooperation, and education.***

CCWG 10/27/99

Sufficient funds have been collected locally to support the first season of water quality monitoring, a condition that was required by the Regional Board to comply with the Irrigated Lands Waiver. Burch Creek was selected as the first site for monitoring after an extensive evaluation of possible monitoring locations that considered input from numerous local landowners and operators. Water quality monitoring on Burch Creek is part of coordinated monitoring program throughout the Sacramento River Watershed.

The Coalition approach is the most cost-effective way for irrigated agriculture to engage the Irrigated Lands Waiver. However, irrigated landowners do have the option of complying with this regulation by applying for an individual waiver or discharge permit. With respect to enforcement of the regulation, Regional Board staff are requesting pesticide permit holder lists from counties and inquiring about lists of agricultural water users from water agencies. Letters of inquiry will be sent to permit holders and possibly water users to determine who has a group waiver membership, individual waiver, or permit. Pesticide permit holders and irrigators who irrigate but do not have a waiver or a discharge permit may be subject to formal or informal enforcement actions ranging from informal consultation and inquiry, notice of violation, cease and desist orders, or civil liability or monetary penalty of up to \$1000 per day of violation. For additional reading on the Irrigated Lands Waiver, the newsletter, Watershed Coalition News, at [www.curesworks.org](http://www.curesworks.org) is suggested.

## Annual Meeting, Mark your Calendar!

**The Cottonwood Creek Watershed’s annual meeting will be held on Tuesday January 25, 2005 at the Evergreen School in Room 18, 6:15pm.**

The Annual Meeting is the time to elect Board Members. Currently we have two Board members that have tendered their resignation from the board, and at this time we have only one individual that has filled out a nomination application. **ARE YOU INTRESTED?** Please contact the CCWG office at (530)347-6637 so we can get a nomination form to you.

Also at the Annual Meeting we will be giving an overview of Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group’s accomplishments for the 2004 year. We will also be selecting programs and speakers for the upcoming 2005 Stakeholders Meetings. If you have any requests or would like to gain more knowledge on a topic, please come and share your ideas.

See what’s on the flip side!

## News from the Past

An excerpt from Dottie Smith's book, *History of Cottonwood, Now and Then*, about Cottonwood's First Milkmaid.

1903: Richard and Sarah Seale founded Cottonwood Dairy (which was also known as Seale's Dairy) with the help of only two or three cows. The dairy herd in later years included approximately 40 cows. The milkhouse was located behind the present brick building at 3306 Main Street on Seale Lane.

First Milkmaid.....Cecelia (also known as Celia) Lynch, stepdaughter of dairy owner Richard Seale, was Cottonwood's first milkmaid. Celia began delivering milk on foot in downtown Cottonwood when 14 years old. She carried a quart measurer and a 2-gallon milk can and measured and poured milk from her milk can into her customer's waiting containers which were usually located near the kitchen door. This was the only Cottonwood dairy to deliver milk door-to-door. Cecelia eventually delivered milk in a horse and buggy purchased for her delivery service. Her stepbrothers (the Seale boys) took over her milk route when they became old enough.

## Gates to be placed at Farquhar Road

This spring/summer 2005 two twelve foot gates will be placed at Farquhar Road along the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek to prevent 4X4 vehicles and ATV's from entering the creek channel disrupting aquatic and riparian habitat, disposing of trash, and trespassing on private property.

The gates will be locked with California Department of Forestry (CDF) locks; CDF will have the keys to the gates for emergency purposes. K-rails will be placed on either side of the gates if needed, to prevent new roads from being cut around the gates. The cost of the gates will be \$2,500.00 per gate, plus the expense of concrete. If any local stakeholder that benefits from the gates would like to make a donation of volunteer time to help install gates or a money donation please contact the CCWG office.

Evergreen Bridge Gate:

The gate at Evergreen Bridge is currently in the process of being welded together. Once the gate is complete we will need to dig two 3 to 4 feet deep holes for gate support, filling them with cement. If any local stakeholders that benefit from this gate would like to volunteer in helping place the gate, or purchasing the cement please contact the CCWG office. Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group would also like to thank the Sullivan Family for their kind donation for the gate at Evergreen Bridge. We thank you for all your support.

## Salmon Festival

If you attended this year's Return of the Salmon Festival, we hope you had as great of a time as we did! The Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group attended this year's Return of the Salmon Festival where thousands of people turned out. Our Education Coordinator, Holly Savage, represented CCWG at the annual festival where she spoke with the public about our projects and programs while distributing information about the watershed and the goals and objectives of CCWG. The festival took place on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 4pm and was held at the Coleman Fish Hatchery.

Students from Evergreen Middle School's Environmental Committee represented Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group's Kids for our Creek program at the festival. Environmental Committee members manned a working watershed model at our booth and engaged the public in demonstrations. Environmental Committee members also lead environmental activities and involved both parents and children who visited our booth. This allowed the Environmental Committee students to interact with the public as they demonstrated their knowledge of the Cottonwood Creek watershed and the environmental community.

The festival is a well attended event in our community where the public has a chance to take part in various environmental activities while learning about the life cycle of the salmon and its importance in nature. Activities at the festival included salmon viewing, fish tagging, wildlife art, children's activities, recreational displays, a salmon bake, and many informational booths. The Return of the Salmon Festival was an exciting and educational community event and we were excited to be a part of it. Keep an eye out for the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group at upcoming community events...

### Stakeholder's Meeting Schedule:

**When:** 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:15 pm

**Where:** Room 18 at Evergreen Middle School, 19500 Learning Way, off Bowman Road, Cottonwood, CA

Upcoming meeting dates:

**January 19:** Fire Safe Council Meeting, 6:30pm, 3233 Brush Street, Cottonwood.

**January 24:** Annual Meeting

**Our Jan-March 2005 newsletter will be available online at our new website at: [www.cottonwoodcreekwatershed.org](http://www.cottonwoodcreekwatershed.org)**

This newsletter was brought to you by the Cottonwood Creek Watershed Group. If you would like to participate in the group or have questions, please contact us. We'd also appreciate any volunteer help you can provide. We look forward to hearing from you!

**CCWG is IRS-recognized as a non-profit 501C3, meaning donations can be used as tax deductions!**