Attachment A

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The Regional Water Management Group's Role in Planning and Funding Water Projects in Monterey County and The 2019 Storm Water Resource Plan

The Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program is a statewide initiative that encourages local water resource managers to take a proactive, leadership role in solving water management problems on a local level through collaborative regional planning. An active IRWM program has been an important prerequisite for receiving project funding from state agencies through several bond fund programs. The Greater Monterey County (GMC) IRWM program is an expanded continuation of the Salinas Valley IRWM program which began receiving water project funding in 2007. Since that time participants in the IRWM program have brought over $26 million in grant funds for water resource management projects to Monterey County.

The Regional Water Management Group

The Greater Monterey County Regional Water Management Group (GMC RWMG) is the decision-making body for the IRWM region. It involves a voluntary, collaborative process with representatives from 18 diverse agencies and organizations from different parts of the region, including:

- Big Sur Land Trust
- California State University Monterey Bay
- California Water Service
- Castroville Community Services District
- City of Salinas
- City of Soledad
- Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
- Marina Coast Water District
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
- Monterey County Resource Management Agency
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- Monterey One Water
- Moss Landing Marine Labs
- Resource Conservation District of Monterey County
- Rural Community Assistance Corporation
- San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.

$26 Million Brought to Monterey County

Since 2007 the Regional Water Management Group has developed successful proposals for over $26 million in grant funds that have been awarded to Monterey County projects from State bond programs. The projects receiving awards from Propositions 50 and 84 are:

Prop 50 (2007): $13,497,000 (awarded to Salinas Valley IRWM region):

- Marina Coast Water District: Eastern Distribution System
- City of Soledad: Water Recycling/Reclamation Project
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Salinas Valley Water Project
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Fish Habitat and Monitoring

These projects were completed in 2012.

Prop 84 (2010): $4,894,264

- City of Soledad: Soledad Water Recycling/Reclamation Project
- Castroville Community Services District: Castroville CSD Well 2B Treatment Project
- San Jerardo Cooperative, Inc.: San Jerardo Wastewater Project: Water Quality Concerns in a Disadvantaged Farm-Worker Community in the Salinas Valley
- Elkhorn Slough Foundation: Integrated Ecosystem Restoration in Elkhorn Slough
- Central Coast Wetlands Group at Moss Landing Marine Labs: Water Quality Enhancement of the Tembladero Slough and Coastal Access for the Community of Castroville
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Central Coast Wetlands Group, and RCD of Monterey County: Watershed Approach to Water Quality Solutions
- UC Davis Granite Canyon Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory: Evaluation of Potential for Stormwater Toxicity Reduction by LID Treatment Systems

The final project from the Prop 84 grant was completed this year.

The GMC IRWM Region has signed a memorandum of understanding with the other five IRWM regions in the Central Coast to allocate funds from Prop 1. For the GMC region, a total of $7,987,653 has been allocated over two rounds. At least $1,775,034 of that amount must be spent on disadvantaged communities. The first round is occurring now. The GMC region will be submitting five project proposals.

Prop 1 Round 1 projects:

- Castroville Community Services District: Emergency Deep Aquifer Supply and Tank Project
- Monterey One Water/Central Coast Wetlands Group/City of Salinas: Improving Storm Water Management in Salinas: Increasing Capture, Improving Treatment, Reducing Energy Use
- Monterey County Water Resources Agency: Reoperation of Reservoirs: Decision-support Tool to Increase Water Supply Reliability in Salinas Valley
- RCD of Monterey County: Monterey County Farm Nutrient Management and Water Quality Assistance Program
- Salinas River Management Unit Assoc and RCD of Monterey County: Salinas River Multi-Benefit Stream Maintenance and Habitat Stewardship Program

Water Management Plans

The GMC RWMG has also produced three major planning documents to guide water management in Monterey County:

- IRWM Plan (2013, with updates through 2018)
- Integrated Plan to Address Drinking Water and Wastewater Needs of Disadvantaged Communities in the Salinas Valley and Greater Monterey County IRWM Region (2017)
- Storm Water Resource Plan (2019)

To download these plans, and for more information about the Greater Monterey County IRWM Region, please go to their website: www.greatermontereyirwmp.org

The latest of these documents is the Storm Water Resource Plan for the GMC IRWM region.

Storm Water Resource Plan (2019)

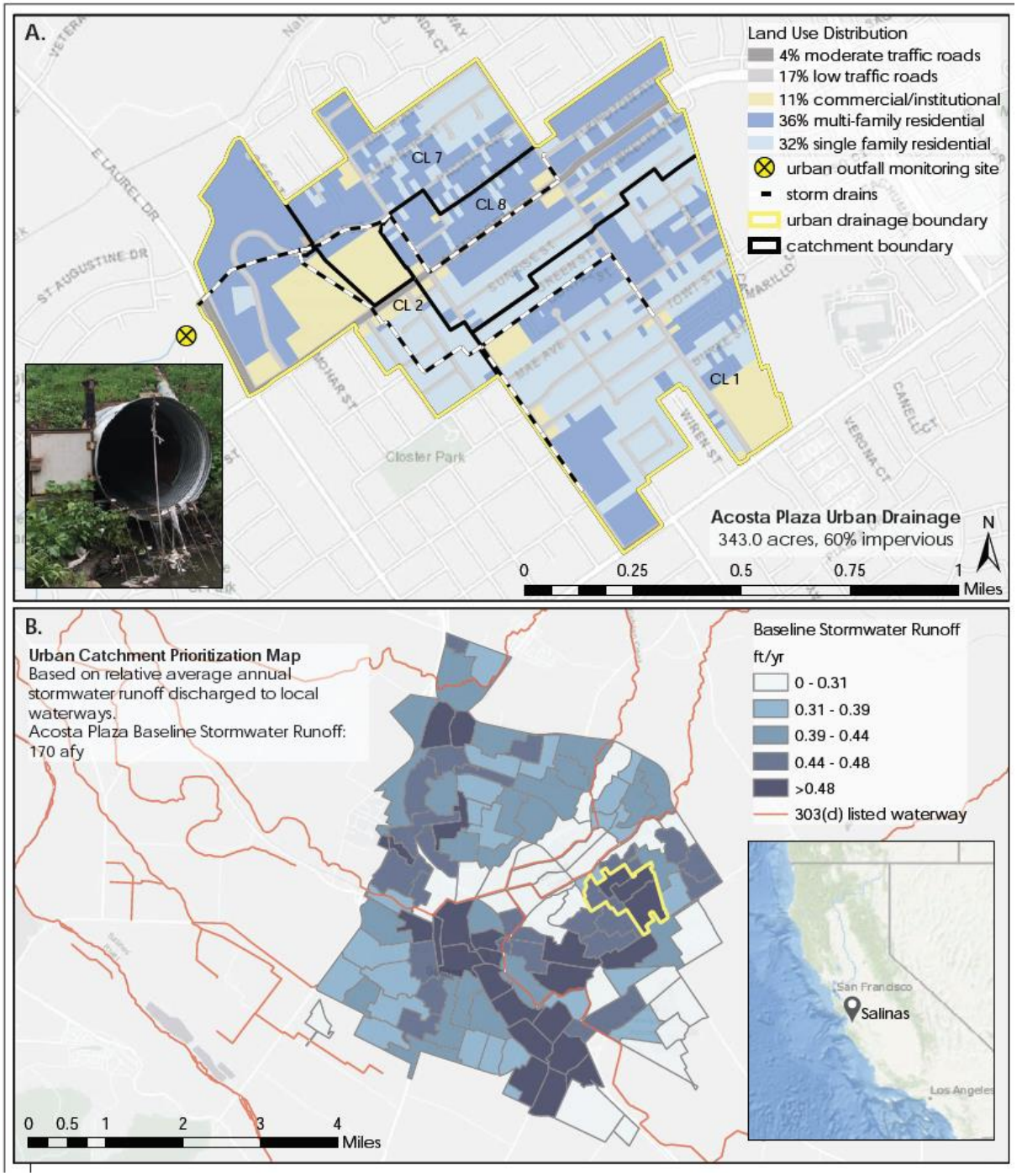
In 2017, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) awarded a planning grant to a team of water resource experts from UC Davis, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Coastal Conservation and Research, Inc., and the Regional Water Management Group. The Monterey County Resource Management Agency acted as the Lead Public Agency for the proposal. The purpose of the grant was to develop a Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) for the GMC IRWM region.

The SWRCB Storm Water Program awards Prop 1 funds for storm water management projects. The Storm Water Program draws from a different pool of bond fund monies than used for the above IRWM projects. Project eligibility for Storm Water Program grants is conditioned on each project being evaluated in a storm water resource plan. The SWRP team solicited projects from regional partners and received proposals from Monterey One Water, the Cities of Soledad and Salinas, the Big Sur Land Trust, the Resource Conservation Districts and the Elkhorn Slough Foundation.

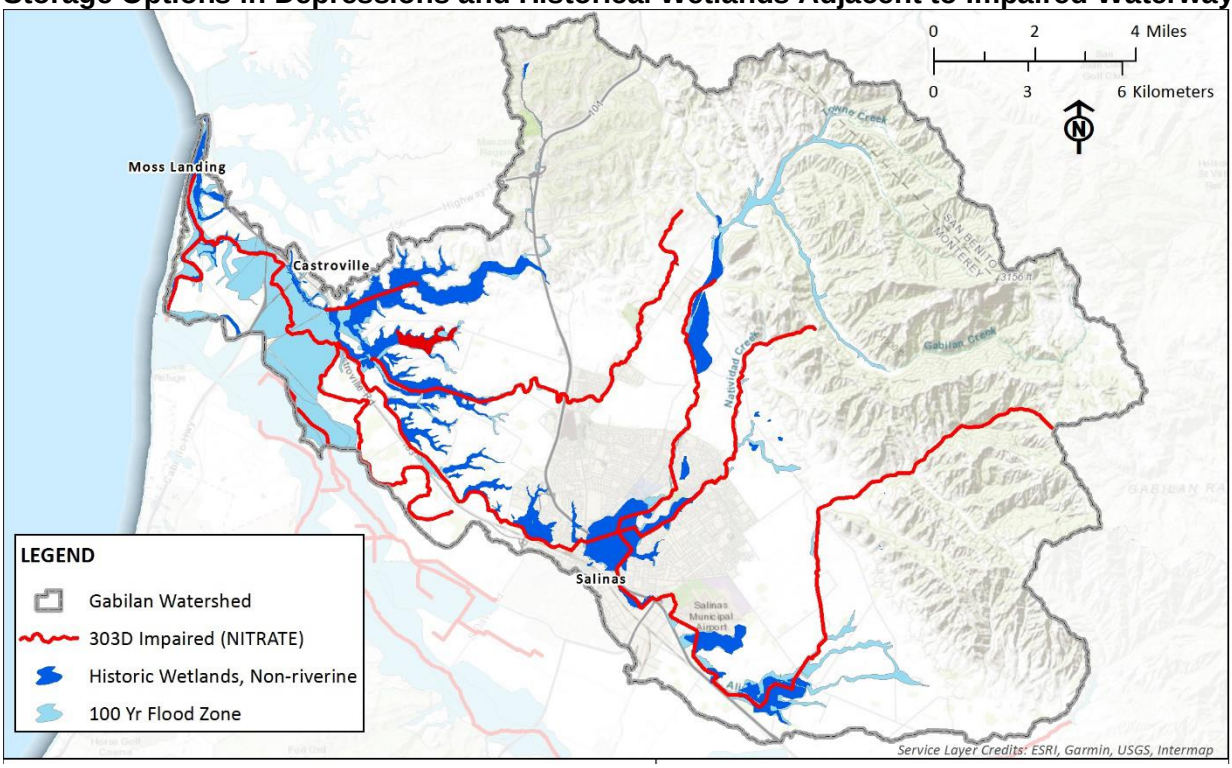
In addition, the team did extensive analysis using hydrologic modeling and geographic information systems to identify locations and opportunities for storm water projects. All identified projects are designed to improve water quality, increase water supply, improve flood protection, protect and restore aquatic habitat and provide social benefits of employment, education, open space, urban green space, recreation, trails and bike paths. Most projects addressed at least three of these major benefits categories.

The following graphics exemplify the results obtained from the analysis of storm water management opportunities.

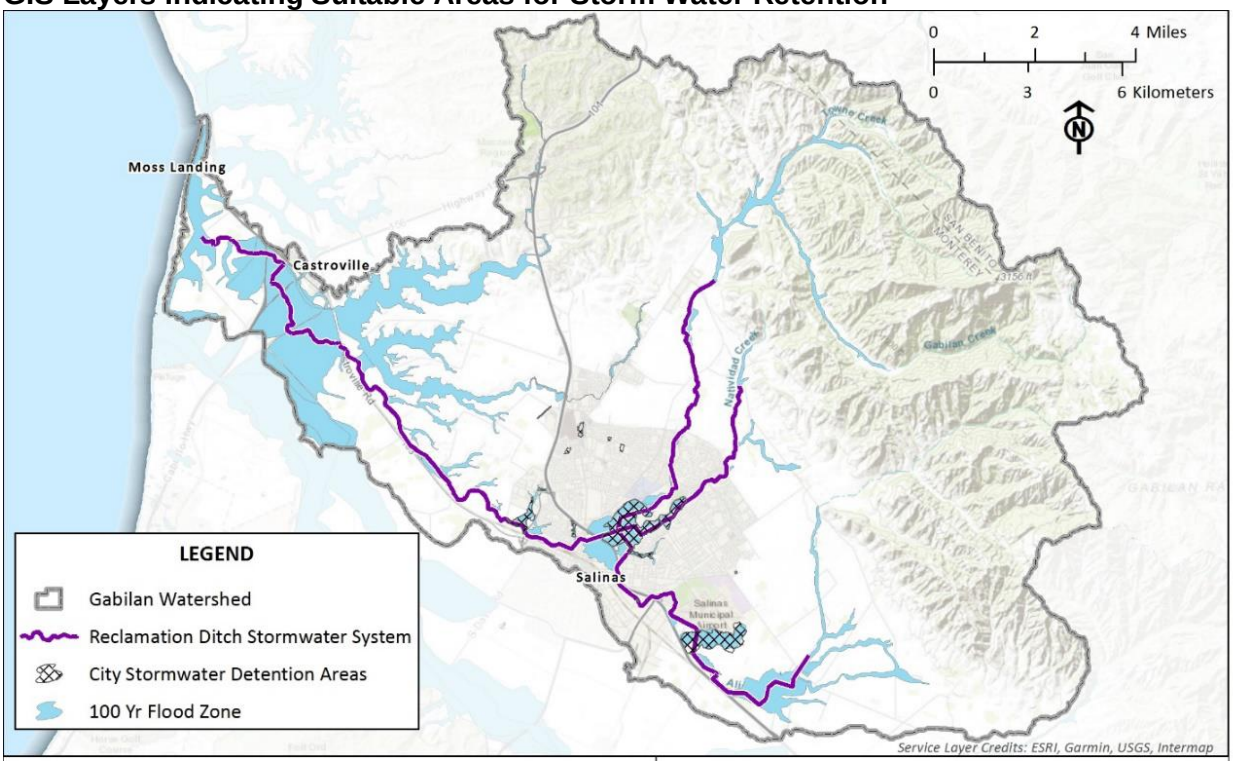
Tool to Estimate Load Reduction analysis of storm water management in Salinas



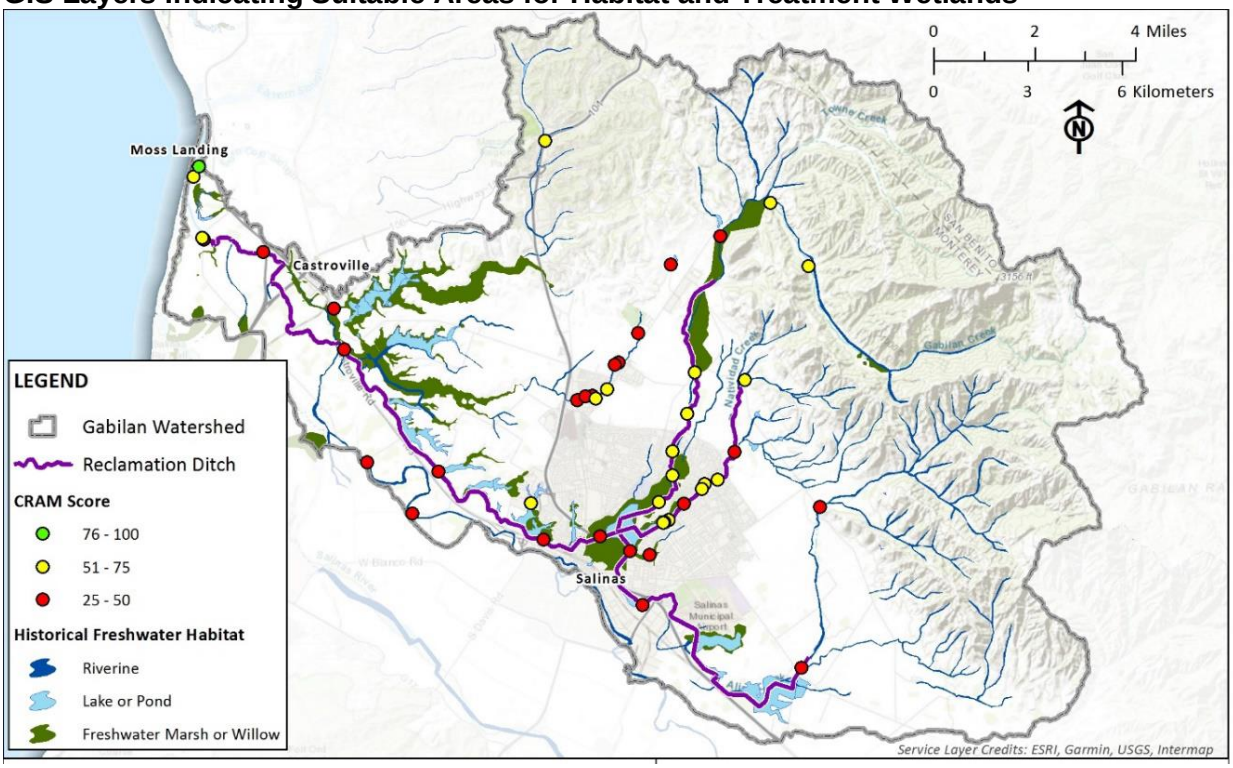
Storage Options in Depressions and Historical Wetlands Adjacent to Impaired Waterways



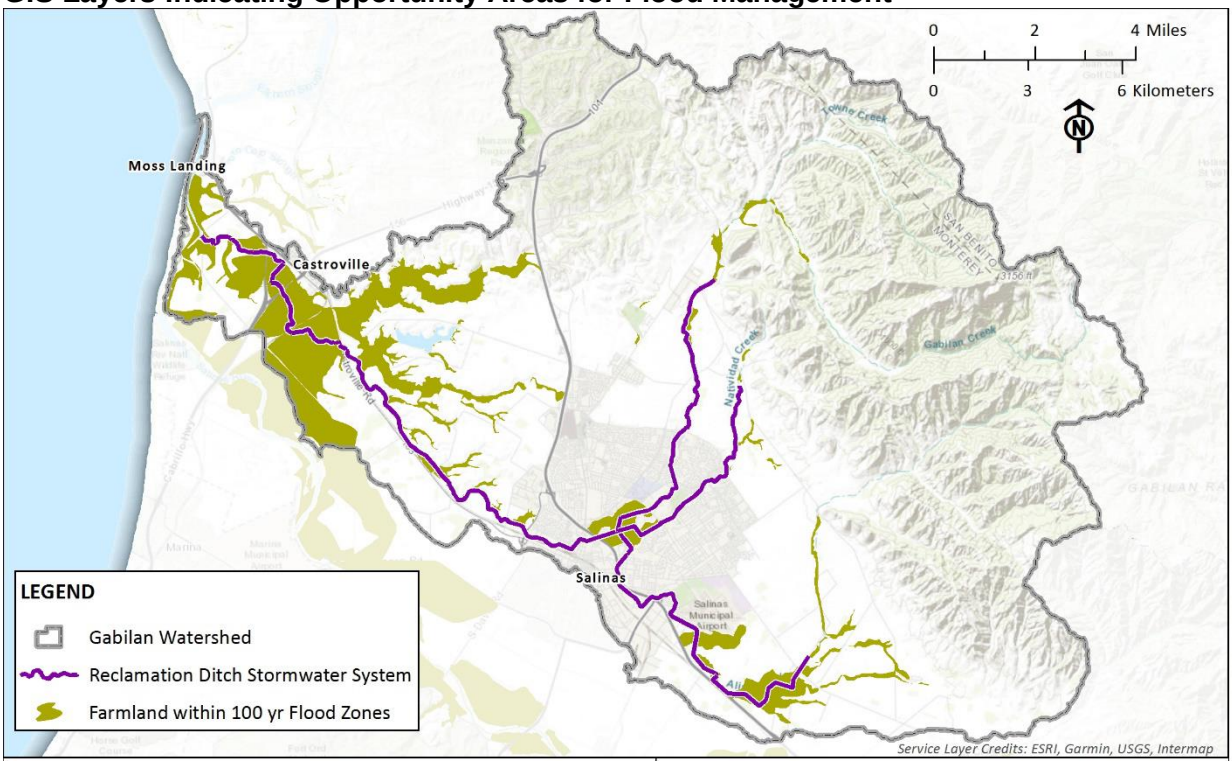
GIS Layers Indicating Suitable Areas for Storm Water Retention



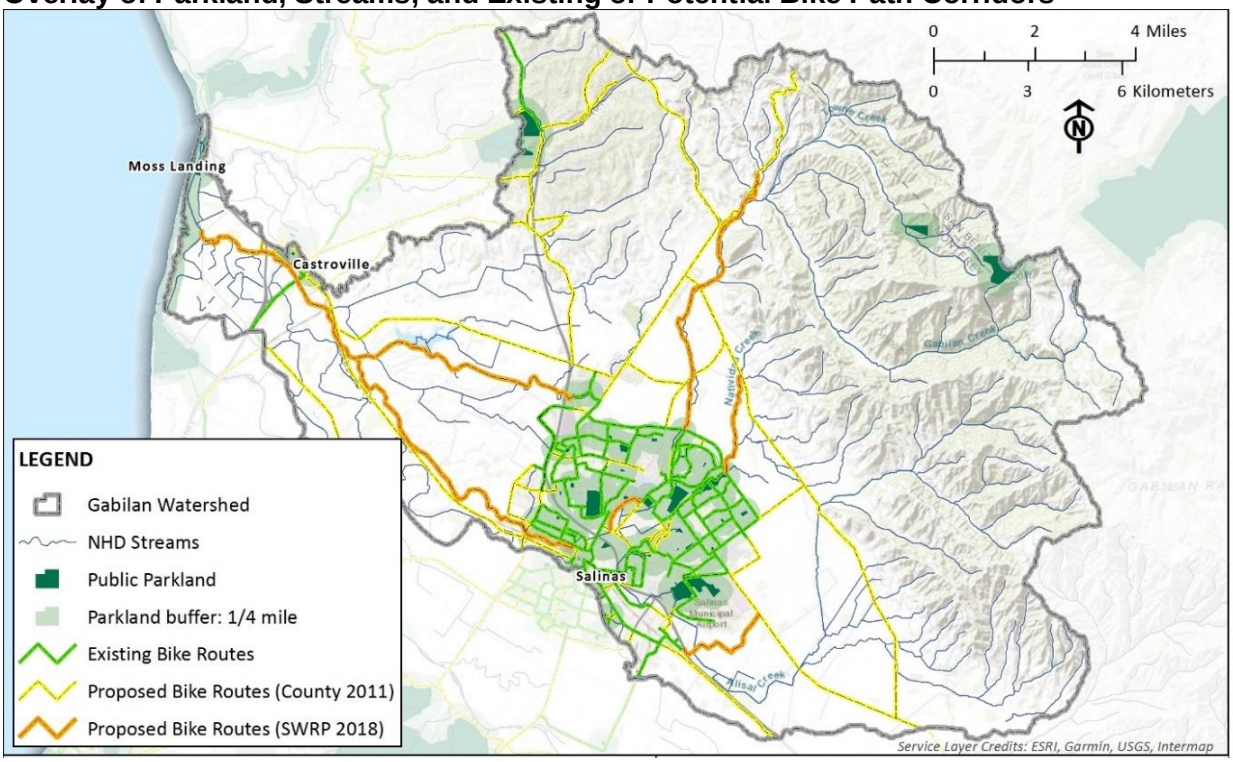
GIS Layers Indicating Suitable Areas for Habitat and Treatment Wetlands



GIS Layers Indicating Opportunity Areas for Flood Management



Overlay of Parkland, Streams, and Existing or Potential Bike Path Corridors



List of Projects Evaluated in the Storm Water Resource Plan

Based on submitted proposals and the analyses of additional storm water management opportunities, the following projects were identified and quantitatively evaluated in the SWRP. These are now eligible for state Storm Water Program funding from Prop 1.

Project Title: Acosta Plaza Urban Drainage Restoration
Applicant: City of Salinas
Main Benefits: Treat and infiltrate storm water, supply, flood management, urban green space
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $1,500,000
Summary: Integrate cost-effective best management practices, LID, education and outreach to improve storm water management and create green space in an urban area.

Project Title: Bioswales for Davis Road Bridge Replacement and Road Widening Project
Applicant: Monterey County Public Works and Facilities (Resource Management Agency)
Main Benefits: Treat and infiltrate storm water, flood management, habitat, green space
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $1,000,000
Summary: As part of constructing a 1700-foot long bridge over the Salinas River at Davis Road, the project will add roadside ditches that will collect and channel water off the road and toward the Salinas River. The roadside ditches, or bioswales, will act as areas for the water to percolate and allow for sediment to settle out of the runoff prior flowing into the river.

Project Title: Blanco Drain Treatment Wetland
Applicant: Central Coast Wetlands Group
Main Benefits: Treat and infiltrate storm water, improve supply, flood management, habitat
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $1,900,000
Summary: Construct a linear treatment wetland to treat and infiltrate water from 6,400 acres of surrounding farmland.

Project Title: Carr Lake Project
Applicant: Big Sur Land Trust
Main Benefits: water quality, flood management, riparian habitat, urban green space, education
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $4,870,000
Summary: Transform a portion of Carr Lake in Salinas to an urban park and green space for the local community, while providing multiple natural resource benefits and water quality improvements.

Project Title: Castroville and Moss Landing Storm Water Enhancement Project
Applicant: Central Coast Wetlands Group
Main Benefits: Treat and infiltrate storm water, supply, flood management, habitat, green space
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $2,400,000
Summary: The proposed project will be a partnership between the Central Coast Wetlands Group, Moss Landing Marine Labs and the Castroville Community Services District to improve storm water drainage infrastructure, increase flood attenuation, and improve habitat, urban green space and water quality.

Project Title: Espinosa Lake Flood Retention Project
Applicant: Central Coast Wetlands Group
Main Benefits: Treat and infiltrate storm water, enhance water supply, flood management, habitat
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $2,500,000
Summary: The project consists of a three-pronged approach to upgrade storm water impoundment capacity, create freshwater impoundments, and to treat lake water quality for reuse of water through a sinuous treatment wetland drainage system.

Project Title: Gabilan Floodplain Enhancement
Applicant: Central Coast Wetlands Group
Main Benefits: infiltration, water quality, flood management, habitat protection, urban green space
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $540,000
Summary: Improve floodplain function and wetland habitat along Gabilan Creek to slow flood flows and allow infiltration to replenish groundwater.

Project Title: Lincoln Green/Complete Street
Applicant: City of Salinas
Main Benefits: Treat and infiltrate storm water, supply, flood management, urban green space
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $1,430,000
Summary: Retrofit the existing street condition to integrate green infrastructure elements such as bioretention/biofiltration and permeable pavement.

Project Title: Ocean Outfall Beach Junction Structure Managed Retreat Project
Applicant: Monterey One Water
Main Benefits: Protect and improve infrastructure that supports water treatment
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $11,500,000
Summary: Implement a long-term solution to sea level rise impacts on the outfall pipeline for the Marina treatment plant, which is critical for water treatment aspects of many storm water projects.

Project Title: Old Salinas River Treatment Wetland
Applicant: Central Coast Wetlands Group
Main Benefits: Improve water quality and wetland habitat
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $1,480,000
Summary: This project will construct 4.8 acres of treatment wetlands along the Old Salinas River adjacent to the 3-acre Molera Road Treatment Wetland. This Project represents a significant step towards addressing nutrient contributions from farms along the Old Salinas River and will stand as

a highly visible partnership between farmers and resource managers to treat nutrient loading of surface waters.

Project Title: Ridgeline to Tideline
Applicant: Elkhorn Slough Foundation
Main Benefits: Treat and infiltrate storm water, enhance water supply, flood management, habitat
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $12,356,876
Summary: Ridgeline to Tideline is a comprehensive approach to addressing water resource issues in an estuarine watershed. The three phases of this work include:

1) Restoring ecosystem function in part of the Slough with consistently poor water quality, coupled with restoration of an adjacent upland buffer;
2) Acquiring two adjacent farmland properties that are chronic sources of Slough degradation;
3) Re-contouring and stabilizing their steep eroding slopes and restoring native vegetation.

Project Title: Salinas Area Flood Enhancements and Reuse Project (SAFER)
Applicants: City of Salinas and Monterey One Water
Main Benefits: Treat and infiltrate storm water, supply, flood management, habitat
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $5,900,000
Summary: This project is a series of improvements to the City of Salinas's existing Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility (IWTF) and storm water infrastructure with the ultimate goal of increasing the functionality of these facilities for increasing storm water capture and reuse, in addition to other water resource and environmental benefits.

Project Title: Salinas to the Sea
Applicant: Central Coast Wetlands Group
Main Benefits: Treat and infiltrate storm water, improve habitat, recreation, pathways
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $12,595,000
Summary: Increase flow capacity, restore wetlands and improve water quality in the Reclamation Ditch/Tembladero Slough, one of the most polluted tributaries to Monterey Bay, and provide bike paths and recreation between Salinas and Moss Landing.

Project Title: Salinas Water Quality and Agricultural Reuse Efficiency Project
Applicants: Monterey One Water, Central Coast Wetlands Group, City of Salinas
Main Benefits: Treat and reuse 200 - 300 acre-feet/year of storm water, habitat restoration
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $1,610,000
Summary: Construct improvements to the Salinas Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility and assess the feasibility and effectiveness of natural wetlands and sustainable media filtration bioreactors for passive treatment of industrial wastewater. Achieve energy efficiencies. Increase water supply to the Salinas Valley Reclamation Project, Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project and/or Pure Water Monterey.

Project Title: Soledad Regional Recharge Project
Applicant: City of Soledad
Main Benefits: Treat and infiltrate storm water, enhance supply, flood management, green space
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $8,340,501
Summary: The Soledad Regional Recharge Project consists of rerouting runoff from an upstream storm water basin to a larger downstream infiltration facility and refunctioning the existing storm water basin to community open space.

Project Title: South Moss Landing Harbor Water Quality Project
Applicant: Moss Landing Harbor District
Main Benefits: Habitat restoration, water quality improvement
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $700,000

Summary: Restore up to 14 acres of degraded salt marsh in south Moss Landing Harbor to improve habitat and capture sediment and pollutants that would otherwise enter Monterey Bay.

Project Title: Storm Water Management, Collection, and Infiltration on Private and Public Lands
Applicants: Resource Conservation Districts of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties
Main Benefits: Increased treatment and infiltration of farm runoff, flood management, water supply
Total Cost (grant + matching funds): $2,000,000
Summary: This project would identify potential sites with willing landowners along the Monterey side of the Pajaro River, conduct necessary geologic investigations, develop designs, permits and agreements, and construct and monitor recharge facilities capturing runoff from approximately 100 – 300-acre catchments into facilities generally less than 5 acres.

Conclusion

Through the active regional collaboration and planning efforts of the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), substantial state funding has been brought to Monterey County to implement projects that address water management needs, including water quality improvement, groundwater replenishment, surface water treatment and reuse, flood damage reduction, habitat restoration and preservation, and creation of community opportunities for clean water, green space and recreation.

The recently completed Storm Water Resource Plan represents another collective effort to identify and implement coordinated solutions to the County's water challenges in the face of declining aquifers, droughts, floods, sea level rise and increasing population. The IRWM program has a sole, part-time coordinator and the RWMG internally provides all financial support and proposal writing for the program. In the West where water is for fighting over, the continued success of this regional cooperative effort has been a positive development for the County and Central Coast.

We thank the County Resource Management Agency for acting as the Lead Public Agency for the Storm Water Resources Plan, and we thank the RMA and the Supervisors for the opportunity to share the outcomes of this planning effort at this Board of Supervisors meeting.