

# Bay Delta Initiative

## 2013 Progress Report BDI

Natural Resources Conservation Service



### Overview

The California Bay-Delta Watershed is remarkable for its agricultural productivity, ecological diversity and complexity. It is home to one of the largest and most complex water delivery systems in the nation. Water for an estimated \$28 billion agricultural industry is delivered through the Bay-Delta system. The watershed encompasses more than 38 million acres, and within this area, six counties produce more food than any other comparably sized area in the world.

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) established the Bay Delta Initiative (BDI) to address water conservation and habitat restoration needs in the watersheds of the San Joaquin River and Sacramento River. The BDI supports efforts of multiple federal agencies to partner with the state of California to address water supply and environmental challenges through the Interim Federal Action Plan (IFAP) for the California Bay-Delta.

### Funding

NRCS's investments from Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) funds have exceeded \$85 million to support conservation activities in the Bay-Delta thus far from fiscal years 2011–2013.

Since BDI's inception, over 750 contracts have been approved for conservation treatments on more than 150,000 acres.

### Results

In fiscal year 2013, NRCS invested over \$14 million in EQIP funds to cover 350 contracts planned on nearly 48,000 acres in the priority areas and also approved two WRP agreements on 5,722 acres. In addition, over \$4.7 million in WRP restoration and enhancement funds were distributed in the Bay Delta.

Other accomplishments for the BDI include:

- As a result of the partnership between the Bureau of Reclamation and NRCS, two successful demonstration projects have been highlighted for improvements in water management at the water district level and on the farm. The projects in the South San Joaquin Irrigation District and the Semitropic Water Storage District resulted in water use efficiency improvements of 25 percent on average. In fiscal year 2013, NRCS used \$1.7 million to support projects in the South San Joaquin Irrigation District, Central California Irrigation District, Henry Miller Reclamation District, and Tulare Irrigation District.
- For Fiscal Year 2013, NRCS obligated \$9.3 million, or 65 percent of the BDI funds, to support irrigation-related practices. Producers were approved for nearly 200 micro-irrigation systems to improve the water efficiency on their farm. Most of the micro-irrigation systems were approved in Middle San Joaquin (26% of the total); Lower Snake River (20%); French Camp Slough (17%) and Kings River Conservation (16%).
- BDI provided \$3.4 million to assist producers with implementing dairy-related conservation measures to keep their operations in compliance with state and federal regulations. Middle San Joaquin Watershed producers received approval to install 29 waste storage facilities and 22 waste transfer facilities



Fiscal Year 2013 Bay Delta Initiative  
NRCS Financial Assistance (FA) and Active and Completed Contracts\*

State	Program	Number of Contracts	Funding	Contract Acres
California	EQIP	350	\$14,282,911	47,690
California	WRP	2	\$10,959,128	5,722
<b>Totals</b>		<b>352</b>	<b>\$25,242,039</b>	<b>53,412</b>

### For More Information

For more information and updates about BDI and other NRCS conservation efforts, please visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/programs/initiatives/?cid=stelprdb1047519>

\*Data source:  
Protracts for new  
enrollment 10/25/13.