

# Draft Green Valley Watershed Management Plan

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**History:** The draft Green Valley Watershed Management Plan (GVWMP) has been under development since 2008. The State Coastal Conservancy (SCC) provided funding for the GVWMP plan to:

- Identify and prioritize sediment reduction and other projects for immediate implementation
- Continue to gather support in the watershed for fisheries restoration
- Collect existing information and field data and synthesize into existing conditions report
- Provide recommendations for BMPs to support agricultural and environmental sustainability.

Due to state budget concerns in late 2008, funding for this project was stopped and the planning effort that had begun to gain momentum was cut short. However, the Gold Ridge RCD continued to monitor water quality at selected locations within the watershed. In August 2009, the SCC told Gold Ridge RCD that the project could move forward, but at a significantly reduced funding amount and with a revised deadline of 12/31/09.

**Next Steps:** A series of tasks has been identified for completion by 12/31/09:

1. Gold Ridge RCD staff will utilize erosion assessment methodologies developed by the University of California Cooperative Extension Service to conduct erosion assessments on participating properties while taking steps to ensure landowner privacy.
2. Gold Ridge RCD will continue to collect water quality monitoring data
3. Kate Reza, Reza Environmental Consulting, will synthesize data and develop a preliminary watershed management plan

that will include BMP recommendations and the identification and prioritization of sediment related projects.

## Relation to Other Watershed

**Planning Efforts:** The draft Green Valley Watershed Management Plan (GVWMP) is a preliminary watershed enhancement effort that will eventually dovetail with the Russian River Keystone Project, a multi-stakeholder effort to ensure sufficient water supply in the Russian River watershed to support coho salmon and steelhead trout.

The GVWMP furthers the objectives of several larger planning processes. It contributes towards attainment of goals in the Russian River Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan (in development) and the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

Implementation of the GVDWMP will help to meet load allocations established by the Russian River watershed Total Maximum Daily Load, scheduled to begin in 2010.

**Opportunities:** Landowners in the lower Green Valley and Purrington Creek watersheds who are not currently participating in erosion assessment or sediment reduction projects will have the opportunity to participate in future watershed improvement efforts as funding becomes available

A public meeting will be held at 5:30 PM on October 8<sup>th</sup> at the Graton Community Club to provide additional information about the plan. Matt Deitch, PhD (CEMAR) will be giving a presentation about a newly developed GIS tool that will be used for large scale flow recovery planning. Mechanisms for public input and participation in the planning process will be discussed. Contact Diana Hines at the Gold Ridge RCD for more information.