

Carson Water Subconservancy District 2021 Activities & Accomplishments Annual Report



Our Vision

A healthy watershed that meets the water needs of all users.

Our Mission

To promote cooperative action with communities to protect the Carson River Watershed.

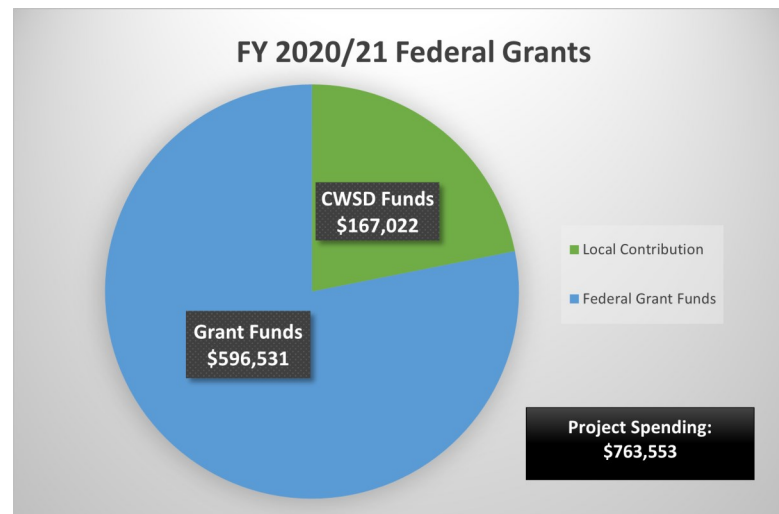
Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) strives to balance the municipal, agricultural, and environmental water needs of our watershed. We work with our watershed partners using an integrated watershed planning process to reach our goals of a sustainable, healthy watershed. To achieve this balance, CWSD integrates planning, coordinating, and management activities to support projects associated with floodplain management, river projects, water quality, water supply, invasive species, outreach and education, and recreation.

2021 accomplishments and activities are summarized as follows:

■ Grant Administration.....	2
■ Carson River Coalition Watershed Coordination Program.....	3
■ Water Supply.....	3
■ Water Quality.....	4
■ Floodplain Management.....	4-5
■ Invasive Species.....	5
■ River Rehabilitation and Stabilization.....	6
■ Outreach and Education.....	6-7
■ Recreation.....	7
■ Looking ahead to 2022.....	7-8

Grant Administration

CWSD leveraged federal funding over 3.5:1 with federal dollars. In FY 2021 staff administered grant implementation of the following regional projects totaling \$763,553.



Grantor	Local Contribution	Federal Grant Funds	Total	Task
Bureau of Reclamation (USBOR) - Awarded	\$45,930	\$39,173	\$85,103	Evaluate Water Sustainability Study
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)	\$0	\$17,903	\$17,903	Carson River Drone Monitoring Program
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)	\$105,092	\$100,417	\$205,509	Carson River Watershed Coordinator Program
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)	\$0	\$10,013	\$10,013	Clean Water Act Section 208 Planning Agency Funding
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	\$8,000	\$58,530	\$66,530	Mapping Activity Statement, Round 9
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	\$5,000	\$269,044	\$274,044	Mapping Activity Statement, Round 10
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)	\$3,000	\$101,451	\$104,451	Mapping Activity Statement, Round 11
TOTALS:	\$167,022	\$596,531	\$763,553	



Carson River Coalition

Watershed Coordination Program

The Carson River Coalition (CRC) Watershed Coordination Program funding has been continued through December 2022. The Watershed Program Manager and Specialist continue to manage the Carson River Coalition (CRC) efforts relating to water quality, floodplain management, invasive species, and environmental education and outreach outlined throughout this document. **Accomplishments include:**

- Managed grants including NDEP for Watershed Coordination, Low Impact Development, the Carson River Drone Monitoring Program, and the Nevada State Parks Recreational Trails Program grant.
- Organized several CRC Working Group meetings throughout the year addressing environmental outreach and education, river and floodplain management, invasive species, water quality and recreation issues.
- Hosted “[Watershed Wednesdays](#)” virtual Forum March 2021.
- Launched “[Water Connects Us All](#)” for Earth Day 2021.
- Coordinated and published bi-annual Watershed Connections newsletter.
- Communicated using our e-blast system to our CRC email list of 800+ individuals providing our newsletter and information on events, grant funding, trainings, and other relevant watershed information.
- Coordinated social media outreach Facebook, Instagram and our YouTube channel.
- Updated CWSD’s [website](#).
- Maintained our office as an AmeriCorps Host Site with Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation’s State AmeriCorps Program. Hosted two AmeriCorps members during 2021 as Watershed Technicians within the Watershed Coordination Program.



Water Supply

Activities conducted by CWSD in 2021 to facilitate a reliable water supply include:

- Worked on US Bureau of Reclamation water market (transfer/exchange) plan for the Carson River Watershed and identified potential storage alternatives in the Watershed. Project continues through 2021.
- CWSD funded 10 USGS Streamflow Gages on the Carson River.
- CWSD funded USGS Water Level Data Collection throughout the watershed.
- CWSD staff assisted Alpine County with its Groundwater Elevation Water Level Data Collection Monitoring Program (CASGEM) & Groundwater Monitoring on the Mesa above the south end of Carson Valley (Mesa).
- CWSD Staff created an advisory report of water and sewer rates of the 13 major water purveyors in the Carson River Watershed.
- CWSD Staff reviewed & corrected State Engineers Groundwater Pumping Reports & Federal Water Diversion Records.
- CWSD Staff participated in the 2021 Nevada legislature Session regarding Water Resource Issues.
- Applied for a Hazard Mitigation Grant from the Department of Emergency Management to create a Carson River Watershed Regional Drought and Water Sustainability Plan.



Activities conducted by CWSD in 2021 to facilitate effective water quality management included:

- CWSD continued to promote the use of Low Impact Development (LID) methods and the adoption of LID ordinances to address polluted runoff issues in our urban environment.
- CWSD funded USGS Churchill County Groundwater Level and Water Quality Study.
- CWSD continues to provide a platform for EPA regarding the Carson River Mercury Superfund site at our annual forum and continues to coordinate with EPA during their environmental site review process. Staff co-hosted with NDEP a workshop on the proposed interim plan for the Carson River Mercury Superfund Site.
- Staff is coordinating with NDEP and NRCS on the National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Assessment criteria to qualify the Carson River Watershed for NWQI funding through the NRCS.
- Staff reviewed and provided public comment on NDEP Integrated Water Quality Report 2020-2022.



Activities conducted by CWSD in 2021 to facilitate effective floodplain management included:

- Facilitated CRC Floodplain Management Working Group meetings. Staff is working with counties to improve Floodplain Management Plan to help increase community rating system scores for Carson City, Douglas, and Storey Counties.
- FEMA MAS #10 floodplain and hazard mitigation projects are in process and will be completed in 2022. The projects in this grant include: Phase 1 of Ruhenstroth Area Drainage Master Plan; West Carson City Drainage Study; Physical Map Revision of Carson River below Lahontan Dam in Churchill County; Finalize Comments on Carson Valley Physical Map Revision HEC-RAS Model Update; and Public Outreach and Education.
- FEMA MAS #11 funding for floodplain and hazard mitigation projects. Projects in this grant include: Phase 2 to complete Ruhenstroth Area Drainage Master Plan; Smelter Creek Letter of Map Revision (LOMR); Clear Creek LOMR; Web Access System; and Public Outreach and Education.
- Obtained FEMA MAS #12 funding for floodplain and hazard mitigation projects. Projects in this grant include: Southeast Carson City Area Drainage Study, Buckeye Creek Detention Mitigation, Virginia City & Six Mile Canyon Drainage Study, East Carson City Area Drainage Plan, Flood Risk Communication & Community Outreach (includes Flood Awareness, Project Outreach and School Outreach program), Douglas County Carson Valley PMR, and Ramsey Canyon LOMR.



(Continued from page 4)

- Assisted with coordination of the annual Nevada Flood Awareness (FAW) Week, Nov. 14-20, 2021. Designed and funded newspaper ads for FAW and NevadaFloods.org campaign.
- Provided Storey County, Carson City, and Douglas County with National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System Reports.
- Assisted Douglas County with Stormwater Management Activity Reporting.
- See River Restoration & Stabilization for more information on on-the-ground floodplain management measures.



Activities conducted by CWSD in 2021 to facilitate effective invasive species management:

- Distributed \$75,000 to CWMAs (Cooperative Weed Management Areas), Conservation Districts and Counties.
- Coordinated with Cooperative Weed Management Areas to support weed management throughout the watershed.
- Held a CRC invasive species working group meeting with federal, state, and local partners to better coordinate weed eradication efforts.
- Filmed PSA to support weed control and proper use of potentially environmentally degrading chemicals.



River Rehabilitation & Stabilization

Activities funded by CWSD in 2021 to facilitate river restoration included:

- Provided funding for the Carson Valley Stream Bank Restoration Projects.
- Provided funding for River Restoration Projects in Dayton Valley.
- Provided funding for Lahontan Conservation District to conduct channel clearance projects in Churchill County.
- Staff continued coordination with Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) on their Hope Valley Restoration project, Carson River Stewardship Plan project planning and implementation updates, and the West Fork Carson River Vision planning process which included CA Lahontan Water Quality Board.
- Staff coordinated with American Rivers, USFS, AWG and others on the proposed Faith Valley Beaver Analog project.
- Provided funding to River Wranglers for Conserve Carson River Workdays projects throughout the watershed.
- Staff continued UAS/Drone program to document riverine damage and monitor projects.



Outreach and Education

Activities conducted by CWSD in 2021 to provide outreach and education included:

- Launched ["Water Connects Us All"](#) Community Drinking Water PSA featuring local community members during Earth Week 2021.
- The **"I AM Carson River Watershed"** Campaign continued with the new **"Watershed Moments"** series: the **"Bag-It"** PSA was the first video in a series of 12 focused on different ways the public can help keep the Carson River healthy featuring local community members. They will be promoted on social and traditional media throughout 2022.
- Monitored watershed boundary signs in the Nevada portion of the watershed.
- The Carson River Coalition's 2021 Watershed Forum made a splash as the first virtual adaptation of the annual conference. Dubbed [Watershed Wednesdays](#), this year's forum encompassed five morning sessions over the five Wednesdays in March emphasizing a distinct aspect of integrated watershed management in the Carson River Watershed. The series debuted more than 50 presentations on five topics: Outreach &



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

Education, Recreation, Floodplain Protection, Climate Action: Regenerative Agriculture, and Floodplain Management. Early each Wednesday morning presentations premiered on the Carson River Watershed YouTube Channel giving participants time to watch at their own pace. Late morning, presenters and interested participants convened for a live Zoom Q&A, fostering discussion and connections between each of our expert speaker panels.

- Continued to update and manage the CWSD website, making it more user friendly, clear, and comprehensive.
- Sent CRC e-blasts via Mail Chimp to 800+ individuals.
- Developed biannual digital newsletter sent to 800+ individuals watershed wide. Hardcopies provided to libraries throughout the watershed.
- Conducted FEMA outreach events for flood awareness program.

Activities conducted to support AWG Environmental Education Program in 2021 included:

- CWSD provided \$25,000 in funding assistance to Alpine Watershed Group (AWG) to support their programs.
- Provided support through videos, staff time and social media for AWG programs.

Activities conducted to support RW Environmental Education Program in 2021 included:

- CWSD provided \$26,000 in funding to River Wranglers (RW) to conduct Conserve Carson River Workdays. The RW EE Coordinator maintained partnerships with local schools and offered opportunities for students to increase their knowledge and understanding of water quality, environmental, and flooding issues in the watershed.



Recreation

- CWSD received grant award from Nevada State Parks Region Trails Program (RTP) (Non-motorized) to create portage around the Mexican Dam to provide safer floating access to the Carson River Aquatic Trail.
- Applied for Additional RTP funding to improve signage, maps, and access to Caarrson River Aquatic Trail. Will learn if received funding in late 2021 or early 2022.



Looking Ahead to 2022

CWSD will continue to work with federal, state, tribal, and local entities to leverage time and money through cooperative projects and programs. CWSD will continue to pursue federal and state grants to assist counties and local districts. As a regional district, our integrated watershed approach will continue to assist entities to maximize project benefits, mitigate challenges, and avoid duplication of efforts for the benefit of the Carson River Watershed.

(Continued on page 8)

Looking Ahead to 2022

(Continued from page 7)

CWSD will continue to coordinate the Carson River Coalition (CRC), a large stakeholder group comprised of staff members of federal, tribal, state, local government organizations, and the general public, that acts as a steering committee for the Integrated Watershed Planning Process. This stakeholder model continues to be successful as it provides the unique opportunity to work across multiple jurisdictions and share perspectives, as issues within the watershed often do not end at jurisdictional boundaries.

CWSD will continue to work with the CRC to update and implement regional plans to ensure ongoing federal and state funding is funneled to regional programs and projects. We look forward to continuing these efforts to complete the tasks ahead and promote cooperative action for the health of the Carson River Watershed.

In 2022 the following work is anticipated:

Watershed Coordination

- Continue the “*I Am Carson River Watershed*” Campaign with new vignettes entitled “*Watershed Moments*.” These Public Service Announcements (PSAs) will focus on nonpoint source pollution and feature members of the watershed community. These will be released throughout 2022 via social and streaming media.
- Coordinate the Carson River Coalition and working groups.
- Host a Carson River Watershed Management Forum. Venue TBD due to Covid restrictions.
- Apply to NDEP for CWA Section 319(h) funding to continue the Watershed Coordination Program.
- Coordinate funding with Counties and Weed Conservation Districts.
- Host CRC Weed Summit.
- Continue to implement CWSD’s funding strategy to seek funding for our programs.
- Continue to work with the CRC to implement the Carson River Adaptive Stewardship Plan.
- Complete river rehabilitation structure inventory and mapping database.
- Host an AmeriCorps Watershed Technician .
- Assist Douglas County with Westwood Neighborhood and Douglas HS LID project.
- Implementation of grant deliverables for *Expansion of Carson River Aquatic Trail* grant.

Floodplain Management

- CWSD staff will facilitate CRC Floodplain Management working group.
- Work with counties to improve floodplain management plan to maximize points for community rating system.
- Continue with FEMA Mapping Activity Statement (MAS) 10, MAS 11, and MAS 12.
- Apply for FEMA MAS 13 funding.
- Continue to work with CRC to implement suggested actions outlined in the Regional Floodplain Management Plan as adopted by each County.

Water Supply

- Begin working on a water resource plan for the entire Carson River Watershed.
- CWSD will continue to work with Alpine County to provide Mesa Vista Groundwater Monitoring and maintain CASGEM (California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring).
- Develop the 2022 Water and Wastewater Rate Report.

We look forward to another wonderful year of working toward a healthy Carson River Watershed!

Ed James, Catrina Schambra, Brenda Hunt, Debbie Neddenriep, Shane Fryer & Holly Farnham