



Tulare Irrigation District

Flood Mitigation and Drought Resiliency Projects at McKays Point

Situation

Tulare Irrigation District is one of California's oldest agricultural water providers. Its service territory covers 77,000 square acres and is located within a critically over-drafted groundwater basin. To combat the effects of severe drought, Tulare Irrigation District is reclaiming two aggregate mines at the confluence of the St. Johns and Kaweah Rivers to capture up to 12,500 acre-feet of floodwater — providing additional surface water storage and offsetting agricultural uses of groundwater supplies.

This remarkable project offers an array of benefits: it mitigates the potential impact of floods in the disadvantaged community of Tulare, California; provides new water supplies; creates new and protects existing habitat; and addresses certain water conveyance issues in the region. The project's estimated cost exceeds \$27 million — so funding from federal and state sources was essential.

Objectives

- Obtain \$22 million in state and federal funding

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Tulare Irrigation District

Activities

- Developed an achievable strategic funding plan that focused on securing government lending, legislative and programmatic (agency) funding.
- Explored all available state and federal agency program funding opportunities, including via the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, California Department of Natural Resources, California Department of Water Resources, California Office of Emergency Services and State Water Resources Control Board.
- Met with and educated policymakers in the U.S. Congress, California Legislature, Executive Office of the President, and senior California officials. Advocated for legislatively-directed spending requests and project authorizations (a means of creating agency funding) for the project.
- Developed and launched a three-year legislative agenda for this and other Tulare Irrigation District projects. The agenda included a strategic funding plan.

Results

This is an ongoing project.

- Successfully developed and began implementing a three-year legislative agenda for Tulare Irrigation District, which included a strategic funding plan for the projects at McKays Point.
- Obtained \$15 million in programmatic agency funding for the project.

Summary

Through diligent and tireless efforts, Capitol Core was able to obtain federal agency funding for this critical flood protection and water storage project, which will bring up to 12,000 acre-feet of new water supplies to a drought-stricken region of California. Our **efforts have so far secured \$15 million for the client.**

This campaign is continuing on an ongoing basis.