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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County of Ventura receives \$12 million regional water management grant from state

VENTURA, Calif. – The County of Ventura, on behalf of the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County, has been awarded \$12,296,380 in the final round of Integrated Regional Water Management funding from Proposition 84. The latest grant brings the County's total funding under the program to more than \$82 million for 37 water projects.

The Division of Integrated Regional Water Management is under the state's Department of Water Resources and is a collaborative effort to identify and implement water management solutions by working with counties, cities, water districts and other interested agencies and organizations.

"Water is a precious resource in the county, especially during these drought years," said Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long. "The work Sue Hughes and her team is doing with the Coalition to coordinate these grants is playing a tremendous role in the conservation and quality of our watersheds and water supply."

The final grant will fund projects for the City of Ventura, the Camrosa Water District, the Pleasant Valley Mutual Water Company, Ventura County Waterworks District No. 1 and Cal Trout. The projects include:

- A rebate program designed to give property owners incentives for replacing lawns with low water-use or drought-tolerant plants.
- A 16-inch pipeline that will transport recycled water 3,000 feet to a storage pond.
- Two water desalter projects, one in Moorpark and one in Camarillo.
- Arundo removal and habitat restoration in the Santa Clara River floodplain.

"These grant funds show how much we can accomplish when we work together for our environment," said Sue Hughes, Senior Deputy Executive Officer for Government Affairs. "Our funding area includes the geographic areas of Ventura and Los Angeles counties, and we are the only funding entity in our area to receive absolutely everything we have applied for under Proposition 84 and the earlier Proposition 50. We have demonstrated to the state that we are serious about water issues in Ventura County and they have recognized that commitment with the grants."

The next step in the process will be the development and execution of the grant agreements. When those are completed this spring, work will begin on the projects.

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