

Flood Protection and Water Supply Project

Big Dry Creek Channel Improvements

PROJECT SPONSORS: FRESNO COUNTY STREAM GROUP



ABOUT THE FLOOD PROTECTION AND WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

The Flood Protection and Water Supply Project includes 3 key project components that together will increase water supply capture, bring greater sustainability, and enhance the environment for the people and places of Fresno County. While drastic swings between wet and dry periods are becoming the new normal, the Stream Group is investing in flood protection and drought resilience to improve the lives of those who call the Fresno region home.

ABOUT THE BIG DRY CREEK CHANNEL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT COMPONENT

This Project component includes improvements and maintenance along the Big Dry Creek Channel to increase Army Corps of Engineers masterplanned flow rate. The Big Dry Creek serves as a flood channel while the creek bed provides groundwater recharge potential.

Upstream, a new Friant-Kern Canal Turnout will allow for water diversion into the creek. The last project component is the reoperation of Redbank and Fancher creek reservoirs (including Big Dry Creek Reservoir) downstream, where water from the channel will be captured for flood control and recharge. With water flowing through the Big Dry Creek Channel during the summer months, locals can enjoy the recreation offered by this rare public access urban creek trailway.

PROJECT BENEFITS



GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

Creek bed acts as natural recharge area



ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENT

Maintenance provides right conditions for native species



JOBS CREATED

60



PUBLIC RECREATION

Maintained public access trail along embankment



FLOOD PROTECTION

Improvements increase regional flood flow conveyance capacity



ECONOMIC IMPACT

\$37,500,000

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Big Dry Creek will serve as a flood channel and create creek bed groundwater recharge potential. With water flowing through the Big Dry Creek Channel during the summer months, locals can enjoy the recreation offered by this rare public access urban creek trailway.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Improved flood protection
- ✓ Environmental enhancement and protection
- ✓ Additional groundwater recharge to sustain the drinking water supply
- ✓ Creekside trail and recreation access
- ✓ Army Corps of Engineers masterplanned flood channel improvements
- ✓ Multi-agency cooperative project regional recharge basins

PROJECT STATUS

The Big Dry Creek Channel Improvements and maintenance began but are not completed. Progress to date allowed **130 cubic-feet-per-second (cfs) to move through the channel** during high flows in early 2023, **far exceeding the previous maximum flow rate of ~60 cfs.**

PROJECT COST

\$2.5 million secured
\$2.5 million funding gap

Contact the District

Bill Stretch, General Manager, FID
Email: bstretch@fresnoirrigation.com
Tel: (559) 233-7161