

UPPER FEATHER RIVER
INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
Regional Water Management Group

Sharon Thrall, Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Paul Roen, Sierra County
Jeff Engel, Plumas County
Doug Teeter, Butte County
Russell Reid, Feather River Resource Conservation District
Rick Roberti, Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District
Jim Roberti, Sierra Groundwater Management District
Roger Diefendorf, Plumas County Community Development Commission
Trina Cunningham, Maidu Summit Consortium
Jeffrey Greening, Public Member
Joe Hoffman, Plumas National Forest (Advisory)
Carol Thornton, Lassen National Forest (Advisory)
Quentin Youngblood, Tahoe National Forest (Advisory)

**AGENDA FOR REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING OF
JANUARY 19, 2018 TO BE HELD AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE
PLUMAS COUNTY PLANNING CONFERENCE ROOM, 555 MAIN STREET, QUINCY, CALIFORNIA**

www.featherriver.org

AGENDA

The Regional Water Management Group of the Upper Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management Program welcomes you to its meetings, which are regularly held on the fourth Wednesday of every other month, and your interest is encouraged and appreciated.

Any item without a specified time on the agenda may be taken up at any time and in any order.

Any person desiring to address the Board shall first secure permission of the Regional Water Management Group Chair. Any public comments made during a regular Regional Water Management Group meeting will be recorded. Members of the public may submit their comments in writing to be included in the public record.

CONSENT AGENDA: These matters include routine administrative actions. All items on the consent calendar will be voted on at some time during the meeting under "Consent Agenda." If you wish to have an item removed from the Consent Agenda, you may do so by addressing the Chairperson.



REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting please contact Randy Wilson at 530-283-6214. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the County to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. Auxiliary aids and services are available for people with disabilities.

STANDING ORDERS

1:00 P.M. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

Matters under the jurisdiction of the RWMG, and not on the posted agenda, may be addressed by the general public at the beginning of the regular agenda and any off-agenda matters before the RWMG for consideration. However, California law prohibits the RWMG from taking action on any matter which is not on the posted agenda unless it is determined to be an urgency item by the RWMG. Any member of the public wishing to address the RWMG during the "Public Comment" period will be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/REPORTS

Brief announcements.

CONSENT AGENDA

These items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. The RWMG will act upon them at one time without discussion. Any RWMG members, staff member or interested party may request that an item be removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

A) RWMG

Approve RWMG Meeting Summary for the regular meeting held on October 13, 2017.

ACTION AGENDA

1. INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT REGIONAL COORDINATION

Summaries and discussion of various IRWM coordination efforts and updates. Informational.

2. SACRAMENTO RIVER WATERSHED DATA PORTAL

Presentation by Sacramento River Watershed Program and 34 North staff on a web portal customized for the Sacramento River Watershed. The Portal is a platform for tracking and reporting watershed health improvements associated with local, regional, and statewide planning efforts. Informational.

3. DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT MAPPING PROJECT

Sierra Institute will share updates from the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program, including a draft map of communities in the Upper Feather River Region, and discuss next steps. Informational.

4. UPPER FEATHER RIVER IRWM SUPPORT FUNDING

Update from RWMG members regarding funding contributions for administrative support and coordination for the Upper Feather River IRWM Program. Informational.

5. UPDATING THE PLAN'S IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT LIST

Review and discuss a simplified project application form and review process and provide direction to staff.

6. GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Summary of current grant opportunities. Informational.

7. NEXT STEPS

Discuss next meeting date and content.

ADJOURNMENT

Upper Feather River IRWM Regional Water Management Group

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES

October 13, 2017

Recordings of the meeting are available here:

Video #1 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dY7_wqk2KEg&feature=youtu.be

Video #2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyrbdycH-Q&feature=youtu.be>

Video #3 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2FGTUyhx9o>

Video #4 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ocbhu6ahU6c>

Video #5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjiveuFDMmM>

Call to Order and Roll Call

(Video#1 0:05)

Sherrie Thrall called the meeting to order on October 13, 2017 at 1:03 pm at the Plumas County Planning Conference Room, 555 Main Street, Quincy, California.

Members Present:

Sherrie Thrall, Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Paul Roen, Sierra County Board of Supervisors
Russell Reid, Feather River Resource Conservation District
Roger Diefendorf, Plumas County Community Development Commission
Rick Roberti, Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District
Doug Teeter, Butte County Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey Greening, Public Member
Joe Hoffman, Plumas National Forest (Advisory)

Members Absent:

Jeff Engle, Plumas County Board of Supervisors
Jim Roberti, Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District
Trina Cunningham, Maidu Summit Consortium
Carol Thornton, Lassen National Forest (Advisory)
Quentin Youngblood, Tahoe National Forest (Advisory)

Staff Present:

Randy Wilson, Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
Uma Hinman, Hinman & Associates Consulting

Additions or Deletions from the Agenda

(Video#1, 0:00:35)

None noted

Public Comment Opportunity

(Video#1, 0:01:00)

John Sheehan, coordinator of Plumas Fire Safe Council, asked the board for Public Support Letters for two projects that will be submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy November 1, 2017. First project is for 480-acres in Little Grass Valley near LaPorte. This project is left over from the Quincy Library Group and the Forest Service is taking over the last remaining 1200-acres. The second project recently had its decision notice for 460-acres in Butterfly Valley that encompasses both commercial and non-commercial use projects.

Noting the deadline of November 1st, John offered the Fire Safe Council's assistance in drafting the letters based on project descriptions to give to the planning department this week. Not having any documentation readily available to disseminate, John explained both projects are within the wildland urban interface and have been previously approved by the RWMG as fire safe activities in Plumas County. Although the RWMG was unable to take an action on the request, the board agreed to draft a letter using RWMG letterhead.

Announcements / Reports

(Video#1, 0:05:10)

Uma Hinman announced that Holly Jorgenson with the Sacramento River Watershed Program is on the phone and will be discussing Item 1d on the agenda with the group.

Uma also announced a notice was received from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy that the Strategic Assessment of the Sierra Nevada region is underway and they are welcoming written ideas. They are interested in critical issues such as large wildfires, tree die-off, and upper watershed designation.

Randy Wilson announced the cancellation of a workshop meeting on October 23, 2017 concerning cross-laminated building construction materials. Due to lack of outreach and the fires currently happening in Nevada County, Yuba County, and Butte County, the workgroup will be postponed to a later date. Sherrie Thrall offered a suggestion regarding the detailed nature of the planned workshop to split it into two segments; the first a generalized description for interested parties and the second more focused on the details involving those in the construction industry.

CONSENT AGENDA

a. RWMG Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 19, 2016

(Video#1, 0:10:39)

Upon motion by Paul Roen and seconded by Roger Diefendorf, the RWMG Meeting Minutes for June 23, 2017 were unanimously approved as presented.

ACTION AGENDA

1. Integrated Regional Water Management Regional Coordination

(Video#1, 0:11:10)

A. Sierra Water Work Group

Uma Hinman reviewed the Sierra Water Workgroup Summit that occurred July 24-25, 2017. The UFR Region was represented by Uma Hinman, Randy Wilson, Leah Wells, and Trina Cunningham. The focus of the Summit was on "Legal and Legislative Strategies to Protecting our Headwaters." The first day was spent on 4 main breakouts:

- Unrepresented (DAC's, human rights to water, tribal involvement);
- Climate Change (water quality, water supply, forest management);
- IRWM's (how they worked and what should be done to promote them more);
- Coordinated Advocacy for the Headwaters

The second day consisted of discussions with legislative members on the IRWM's and headwater issue. Randy Wilson informed the group that the Summit engaged a large range of geographical areas from the headwaters to the rest of the state. A committee was formed, although no follow up has occurred to date, to strategize how more attention can be brought to the Sierra's and its issues. Randy emphasized that in the larger counties, there is no real sensitivity to where their water comes from and that managing natural resources within headwater regions for natural, human and economic is not necessarily recognized as working towards the benefit of the state of California. The committee also worked on a project description for headwaters.

Randy also discussed the concerns for the proposed Park Bond and the fact that it does not include funds for the IRWMs. The legislative members of the Summit did confirm that the bond is more focused on Parks. Uma Hinman added that there was an emphasis on the IRWM regions to get the information out on what IRWMs do for communities and watersheds and how they are beneficial to the region, the headwaters in particular. Sherrie Thrall added the fact that the state decided to fund Proposition 84 and people spent time, money, and effort to orchestrate a Plan and set up the governance structure. At the point of Plans being ready to run, the state appears to be questioning the importance of IRWMs I

Randy noted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act has changed emphasis to the Groundwater Management Act, which appears to be impacting IRWM funding. Sherrie added that it was never just about surface water. The IRWM's can be used as the mechanism for the state to address groundwater as well; this is a huge disconnect between the state.

B. Roundtable of Regions

(Video#1, 0:17:10)

As a refresher, Uma Hinman noted the Roundtable of Regions is an all-volunteer forum with representatives from each of the IRWM's throughout the state. They have been meeting for a number of years and this year they have broken out into working groups for more focused work on specific subjects. Uma has been attending Community Involvement, Needs Assessment, and Program Evaluation Working Group meetings.

Uma noted that there was an update from the DWR staff at the last meeting. There are currently three Proposition 1 compliant plans, the Upper Feather River being the first. Fifteen regions have been awarded planning grants and are currently in the process of updating. Although not in writing, one of the DWR staff noted that there have been some internal staffing changes over the summer, which is delaying the program roughly six months. DWR's IRWM website still shows that Proposition 1 Implementation funding will most likely happen in early 2018 but there is a possibility that it will occur later.

C. Inter-regional Outreach

(Video#1, 0:19:37)

Uma Hinman let the group know that email notifications from adjacent IRWM regions (Upper Pit River Watershed IRWM and Yuba County IRWM) have been received. Both are currently updating their plans and are inviting participation from the UFR Region. Over the course of the next few months they will be holding public meetings.

D. Sacramento River Watershed Program

(Video#1, 0:20:37)

Uma Hinman introduced Holly Jorgenson, communicating via phone, as the Executive Director for the Sacramento River Watershed Program. Holly reached out to the RWMG in an effort to share information and discuss a few projects that are currently ongoing. Holly let the group know she will be covering the next three agenda items, D, E and F. After introducing herself and giving a brief history of the Sacramento River Watershed Program, she pointed out that many of our forest are unhealthy. Overgrown forests are more susceptible to disease and intense wildfires. There is a broad consensus that science based ecological restoration of our forests needs to be increased. As a result, they have partnered with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the Butte County Fire Safe Council, as well as other key stakeholders to work together to increase the capabilities of forest restoration, focusing on fuels and fire management as an access to watershed health. As a result of their collaborative efforts, Butte County has been selected to host a multi-agency training at a prescribed burning event known as TREX. TREX is a fire training and learning opportunity designed to increase professional burning capacity. Holly will provide more information on the project if needed.

The Sacramento River Watershed Program recently signed a MOU with the Butte County Fire Safe Council to develop a landscape level planning framework in Butte County. They believe that forest recreation

management should be implemented comprehensively at the landscape scale to be most effective and yield watershed benefits.

Components of this planning effort include the design and development of portal planning tool. This will support the prioritization, implementation, and monitoring of forest health projects for all three planning areas. They will work with stakeholders to gather and digitize key planning area data information, including GIS layer maps, assessment data, plans, project, and programs. Key aspects of the portal include communication, coordination, and technical assistance for stakeholders. Uma and Holly agreed to demonstrate the portal to the group at the next meeting.

E. Butte County Fire Safe Council Request for Letter of Support

(Video#2, 0:07:48)

The Little Butte Creek Forest Health Project Phase II.

F. Sacramento River Watershed Program Request for Letter of Support

The Forbestown Ridge Forest Health Project.

Sherrie Thrall asked the group if there were any questions. Paul Roen asked if the projects were within UFR's boundaries; Uma Hinman explained they are not but are directly adjacent.

Upon motion by Paul Roen and seconded by Doug Teeter, the RWMG unanimously approved providing letters of support for the Little Butte Creek Forest Health Project and the Forbestown Ridge Forest Health Project.

2. Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant Update

(Video#2, 0:10:14)

Uma Hinman discussed information disseminated at their last meeting and as of October 4, 2017, the grant funding has been awarded to the Mountain Counties Funding Area. From this point, they will move into the draft agreement process, which was submitted to the Sierra Institute October 10, 2017. The review process for the draft agreement will take a few weeks and is anticipated to be completed at the end of October or beginning of November. The DACI funding allows for an advance payment of 50%, which has been requested. They will have 18 months to complete the work that was pre-paid and 2.5 years to complete the project in its entirety. Grant tasks include a needs assessment for all DACs in the Mountain Counties Funding Area. Planned activities include outreach and community engagement, community capacity and needs assessments, capacity building, and some technical support. The intent is to build capacity within the DACs to enable them to compete for funding and to facilitate development of projects ready to apply for the second round of funding, which is for implementation. She asked the group to review the list of DACs included in the agenda packet and if there are communities that are not on it to please contact Jonathan Kusel (contact information provided on page 42 of the agenda packet).

Sherrie Thrall emphasized the importance that the group to take a careful look at the list because they may be aware of DACs in the region that have not yet been identified. Uma mentioned that the Sierra Institute is restructuring the way they identify DACs to develop more accurate methodology than DWR's current method of 80% of the median household income. Further discussion ensued regarding the state creating a state-wide criterion for better and consistent definition and identification of DACs so all organizations are on the same page.

Uma noted that statewide, two DACI grant agreements have been finalized to date; three additional grant proposals have been approved and are in the grant agreement process, including the Mountain Counties Funding Area.

3. Upper Feather River IRWM Support Funding

(Video#2, 0:18:57)

Sherrie Thrall began the discussion by recapping the conversation of splitting the administrative costs between the three represented counties that benefit from the UFR IRWM Program. Plumas County Board of Supervisors has approved a budget of \$25,000 to utilize Hinman & Associates Consulting services for fiscal year 2017-18. To introduce potential shared funding approaches, Uma presented two possible options including dividing the costs between population or percentage of plan area (acreage).

Paul Roen asked if funding becomes more available, e.g., through implementation grant funding, is there a way to pull a small percentage from the top to go directly towards administrative costs. Uma stated that it all depends on the specification of each grant but it is definitely something that can be looked at in the future.

Further discussion ensued about other possibilities in splitting the cost. Sherrie emphasized that the group needs to establish a reliable source of income to move forward with IRWM, noting that the fairest distribution in determining cost may be by geographical area. Doug Teeter agreed that was a place to start, stating that in time it may need to shift toward the counties that have the most projects. This will have to be discussed on a yearly basis.

Upon motion by Doug Teeter and seconded by Paul Roen, the RWMG unanimously agreed to bring the geographic area financial contribution model to UFR counties' respective boards for consideration.

4. IRWM Implementation Projects (Video#3, 0:15:28)

Two projects identified in the UFR IRWM Plan have been partially funded. Roger Diefendorf reported that he has made contact with grant managers from the State Water Resources Control Board to generate potential support for eligible projects. As a preliminary step to identify who potentially would be eligible, Uma Hinman, Randy Wilson, and Roger generated an initial draft table summarizing the implementation projects for the Drinking Water Proposition 1 Grant Program. Eight municipal service projects were identified based on need, DACs, and meeting eligibility needs. Roger mentioned there are also opportunities for wastewater projects as well but time was short.

The Plumas County Development Commission has experience in grant administration and management staff that can assist UFR IRWM implementation project sponsors with applying for grants and/or loans as well as managing awarded funds. An administration cost would be applicable. Sherrie Thrall added to the conversation about deciding whether or not to allow more projects into the Plan by next RWMG meeting. Randy Wilson suggested simplifying the process for the next solicitation.

Staff was directed to review the UFR Plan's list of implementation projects, pulling out any that may meet the criteria for SWRCB funding and providing to Roger Diefendorf in the next week.

5. Grant Opportunities (Video#5, 0:00:31)

Uma Hinman presented the staff report and noted that websites were provided that contained specific information about each grant opportunity. Additionally, grant opportunities and information are posted on the website and shared with the contact lists via email.

Uma also discussed DWR's next round of Proposition 1 funding. DWR is trying to change the way they interact with the regions. They are no longer going to just through applications out but rather work with the regions to help guide them. DWR is also trying to ensure that DACs and Tribes have equal opportunities to obtain funding.

6. Next Steps (Video#5, 0:13:17)

Next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2018 at 1pm at the Plumas County Planning Conference Room, 555 Main Street, Quincy, California.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 pm.

DRAFT

**Upper Feather River
Integrated Regional Water Management
Regional Water Management Group Quarterly Meeting
January 19, 2018**

To: Upper Feather River Regional Water Management Group
From: Uma Hinman, Hinman & Associates Consulting
Subject: Regional Coordination Updates

Roundtable of Regions

The Roundtable of Regions is an all-volunteer forum for IRWM regions engaged in preparing and implementing IRWM Plans to network, share ideas, and provide feedback to DWR on the IRWM program. The Roundtable of Regions has created workgroups for more focused work on specific subjects. The workgroups are still being refined but staff are participating in the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Needs Assessment and Program Evaluation Working Group meetings.

A small group met on December 7, 2018 with members of the DWR Water Plan Update team to discuss a revised draft of the Water Plan Update 2018. The discussion focused on how the Water Plan Update characterizes IRWM and the appropriate scale of regional water management. The future of IRWM was also discussed. DWR Director Grant Davis addressed the group and urged us all to work hard to sustain and improve IRWM by widely sharing stories of the value of IRWM and why/how it's been successful in our regions. A working meeting of the Roundtable is scheduled for January 16, 2018 to discuss messaging, re-branding, re-envisioning and reinvigorating IRWM.

Inter-regional Outreach

We've received outreach from adjacent IRWM regions notifying the RWMG of plan update efforts underway:

- Upper Pit River Watershed IRWM Plan has been updated to 2016 IRWM Guidelines and has been adopted. They are in the process of initiating a solicitation for additional projects to include in the Plan.
- Yuba County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan is being updated to be compliant with 2016 IRWM Guidelines. They anticipate holding a public review process of the updated IRWM Plan beginning in December.

REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION

Informational.

**Upper Feather River
Integrated Regional Water Management
Regional Water Management Group Quarterly Meeting
January 19, 2018**

To: Upper Feather River Regional Water Management Group
From: Uma Hinman, Hinman & Associates Consulting
Subject: Sacramento River Watershed Data Portal

INTRODUCTION

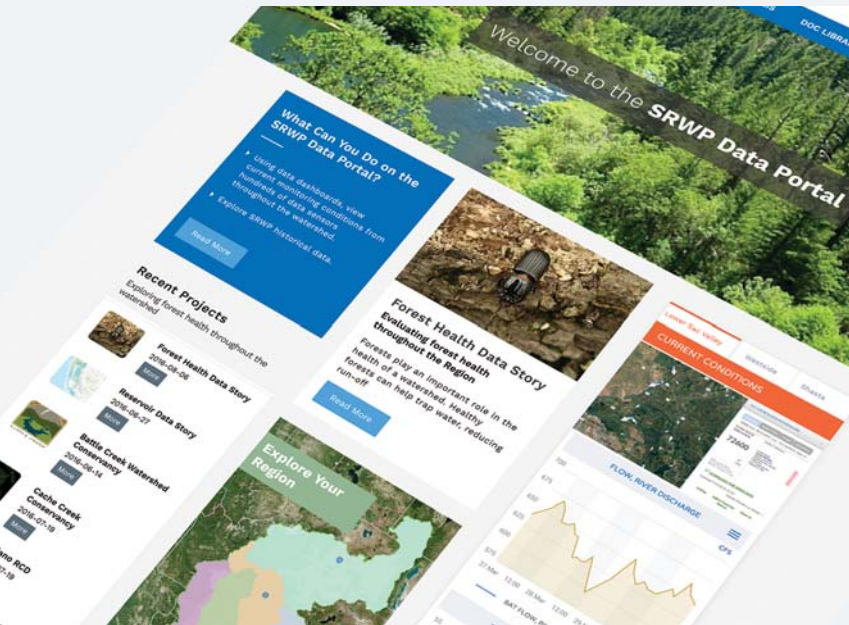
Presentation by Sacramento River Watershed Program and 34 North staff on a web portal customized for the Sacramento River Watershed. The Portal is a platform for tracking and reporting watershed health improvements associated with local, regional, and statewide planning efforts.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational.

Attachments: SRWP Portal Handout

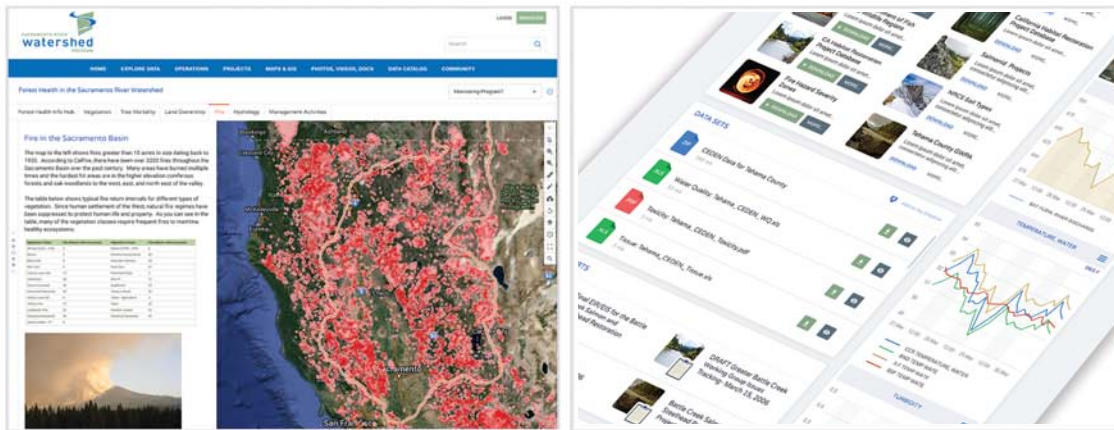
Welcome to the Sacramento River Watershed Data Portal



Sacramento River Watershed Data Portal Features

- ▶ Access to current monitoring conditions from hundreds of sensors throughout the watershed.
- ▶ Explore historical data and review data stories.
- ▶ Access catalogs of current research and reports.
- ▶ View, synthesize and download over 150 map layers.
- ▶ Dig into important topics including forest health, river water temperature, dam operations and fisheries management.
- ▶ Explore data information hubs covering key topics.
- ▶ Add and track your own projects.

Data Information Hubs for Key Topics



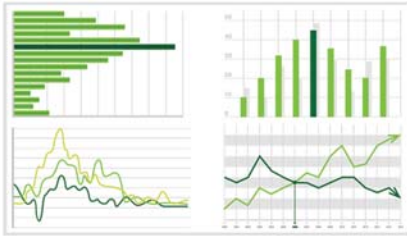
Data Stories

Explore and Contribute Data to the Sacramento and Central Valley Community

Upload and share your information

Real-time data and visualizations from key sensors throughout the region

What Can You Do on the Sacramento River Watershed Data Portal?



Turning Data into Information

Data Dashboards and Data Stories

The Sacramento River Watershed Data Portal (Portal) is a collaborative effort to aggregate watershed information and to develop informative and captivating stories. Users can combine maps, project pages, graphs, and documents to convey key messages to a broader audience.



Projects - Documents - Data Catalogs

Catalogs of data, documents, photos, maps, projects and more

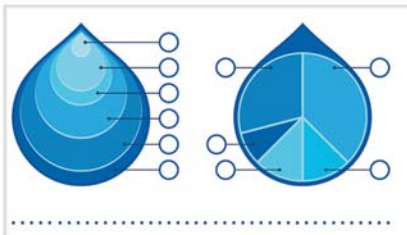
The Portal document and data catalogs have hundreds of resources including scientific papers, reports, images, videos, map layers and datasets for you to discover, share, add to projects, and to collaborate with other stakeholders.



Interactive Maps

View, synthesize and download more than 150 map layers

Combine map layers and customize visualizations using more than 150 Sacramento River watershed and California datasets. Save to your personalized map catalog and share with colleagues.



In-Depth Topics

Dig deeper into important topics

The Portal brings you the data and information to dig deeper into important topics, understanding their regulatory constraints and underlying management objectives.



Open Natural Resource Management (OpenNRM)

Building on Each Other's Programs

The data management platform, OpenNRM developed by 34 North, uses an open license to maximize collaborative development within the state of California. Portal enhancements and data contributed back to the core are shared with the OpenNRM community.

About the Sacramento River Watershed Program (SRWP)

The Portal is a key element of the Sacramento River Watershed Program's (SRWP) mission to improve watershed health by providing accurate, timely, and graphic information about the Sacramento River Watershed. SRWP works to improve communication, cooperation, and collaboration and to create and promote effective programs and projects that address growing demands for water, maintain existing agricultural production, and sustain rural communities, while restoring rivers and protecting a growing recreational economy. The Portal serves as an information hub connecting our partners to data, funding, projects, and each other. It represents an important piece of SRWP's landscape-level planning to cooperatively align watershed management activities and risk mitigation (fire, flood, drought) with community and economic development goals in the Sacramento River Watershed using a collaborative approach.



Data Providers and Contributors



**Upper Feather River
Integrated Regional Water Management
Regional Water Management Group Quarterly Meeting
January 19, 2018**

To: Upper Feather River Regional Water Management Group
From: Uma Hinman, Hinman & Associates Consulting
Subject: Disadvantaged Community Involvement Mapping Project

INTRODUCTION

Sierra Institute will share updates from the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program, including a draft map of communities in the Upper Feather River Region, and discuss next steps.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational.

Attachments: DACI Mapping Exercise Introduction and Instructions

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (DACI) MAPPING EXERCISE

Note: This is a pilot exercise and we will be asking for your feedback after you've finished. While you are doing this exercise, think about what could be improved. Please answer a few short questions after you have completed the exercise.

The Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, as part of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) program funded by Proposition 1, is working towards inclusion of low capacity, underserved, and underrepresented communities- collectively known as DAC- as well as Tribal entities in Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) planning and decision making within the Mountain Counties Funding Area (MCFA). This area comprises a majority of the Sierra Nevada and includes nine Regional Water Management Groups (RWMGs) and portions of 14 counties. As part of an approach to identifying DAC, Sierra Institute is first conducting a community mapping exercise involving county planners and local experts in order to delineate communities in the region.

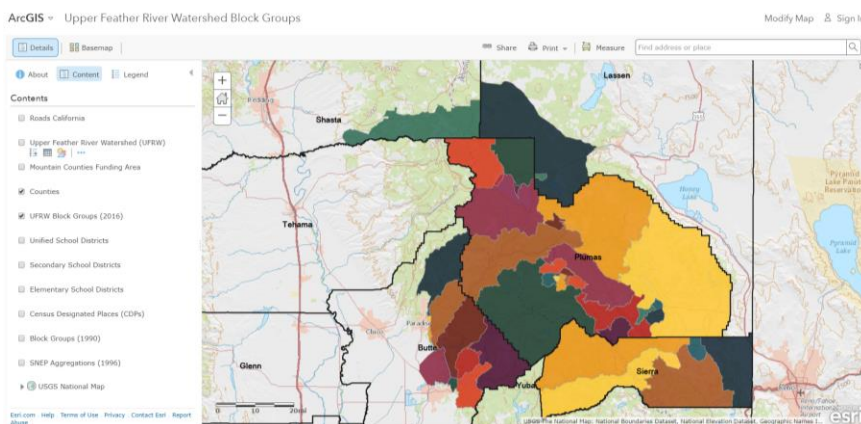
The purpose of this exercise is to identify communities based on social characteristics. We begin identification of communities using block groups, the smallest unit for which there is reliable and consistent demographic data, and which also allows inclusion of dispersed populations throughout the region.

For this exercise, community units will be created from adjacent block groups that use common service centers, have regular interactions, or share similar social characteristics, as determined by residents and local experts. Geographic features, school systems or community service districts may aid in delineating communities. Keep in mind that community units must be formed by adjacent block groups, and that block groups cannot be split into smaller units. Some communities may consist of a single block group. Communities may transcend county or watershed boundaries.

The second challenge of this exercise is to name the community, or aggregation of block groups. A single name may be sufficient for most aggregated block groups, but in some instances you may want to use two or even three names to capture the included communities.

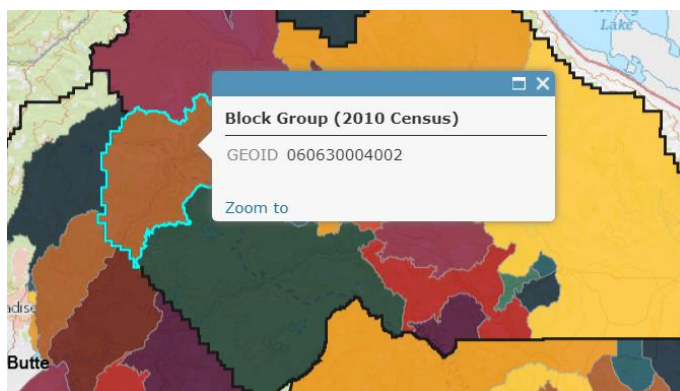
INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Open the map called Upper Feather River Watershed Block Groups by following this link:
<http://arcg.is/1SXCG8>



The map opens to show the 41 block groups (using the 2010 census) in the Upper Feather River Watershed (UFRW) Regional Water Management Group (RWMG). Most of watershed is within Plumas County, though some of the watershed extends into Butte, Sierra, Lassen and Shasta Counties.

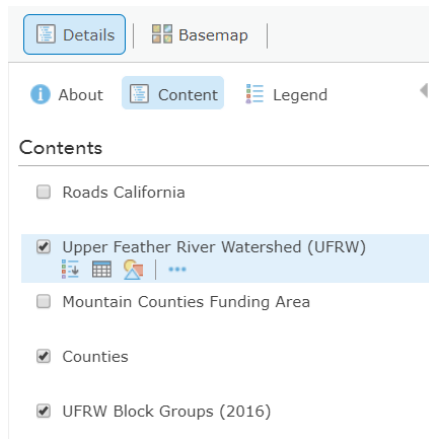
2. Click on one of the block groups.



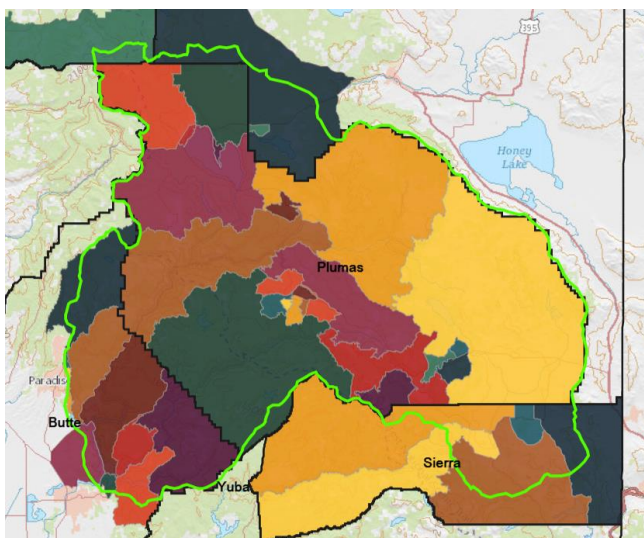
The block group identification number appears as a pop up. This number can be used to cross reference with the Block Group Populations table included in your mailed materials.

Click the x to close the pop up.

3. On the left, in the map's contents, select the box labeled Upper Feather River Watershed (UFRW).



This turns on the layer that shows the boundary of the Upper Feather River Watershed, outlined in bright green:

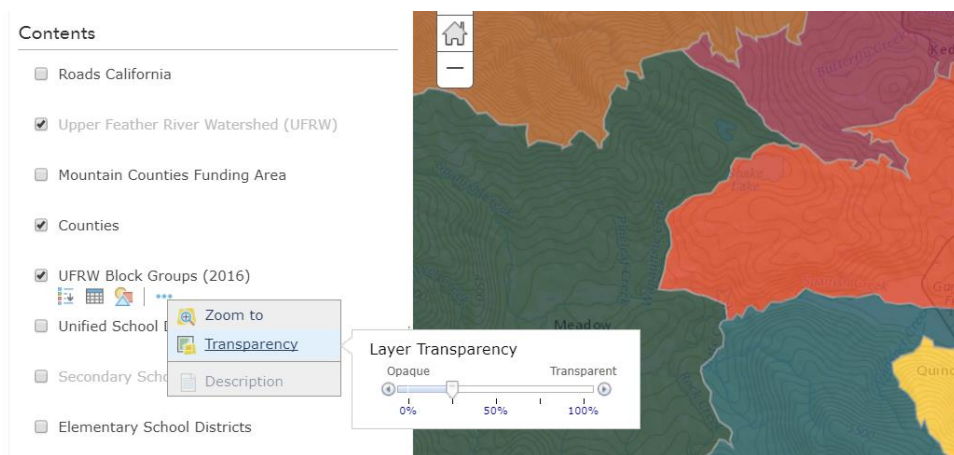


You can see that some of the block groups extend beyond the boundary of the watershed.

4. Zoom in to the area in the center of the map that looks like this:

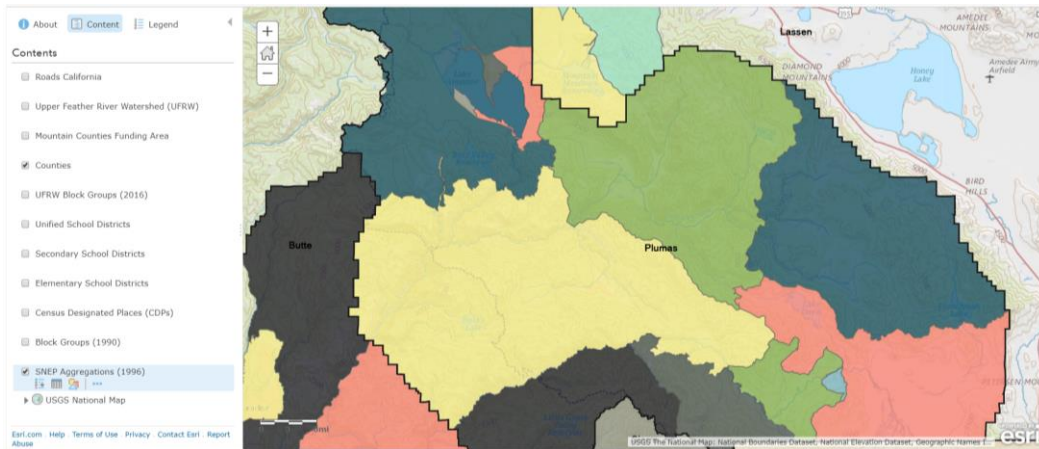


You can see that the block groups are somewhat transparent. Underneath this layer is a base layer that contains detailed reference information such as roads, water bodies, topography, and place names. Hover your mouse over the layer UFRW Block Groups (2016). Several icons will appear. Click the three dots and select “transparency.” Use the slider to adjust the transparency of the layer.



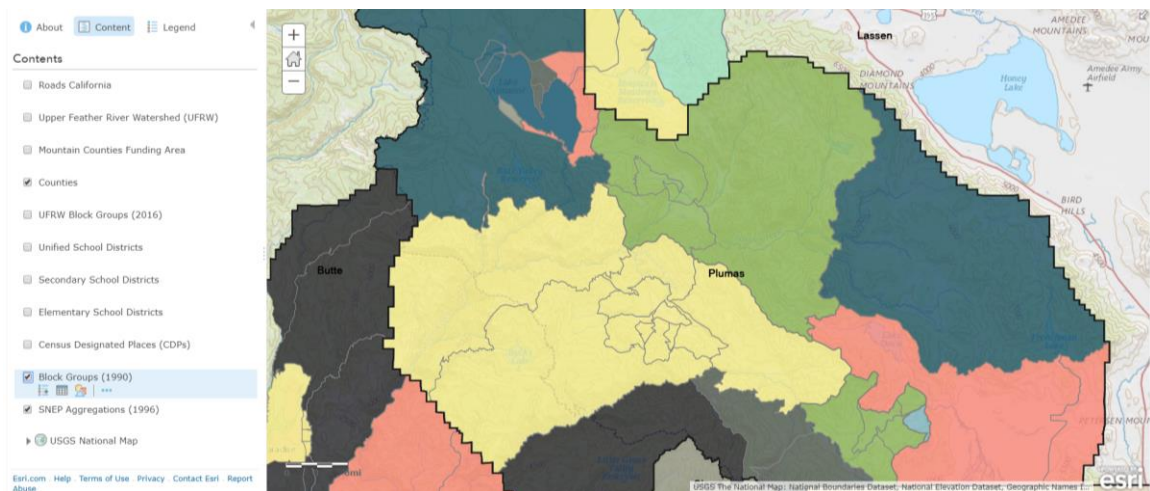
5. Zoom out.
6. Turn off the layer UFRW Block Groups (2016) by unclicking the box.

7. Turn on the layer SNEP Aggregations (1996). The map should now look like this:

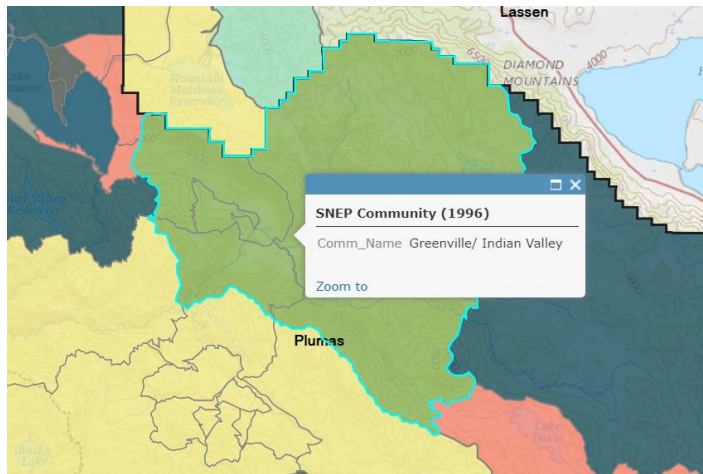


This layer shows the communities delineated by local experts who were involved in the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) in 1996. These communities were formed by combining adjacent block groups into communities based on a shared sense of place, common service centers, cultural characteristics and social interactions.

8. Turn on the layer Block Groups (1990). This layer shows the block groups as they were when the SNEP communities were drawn. Notice how several block groups were joined to create one community unit, while other communities were formed from a single block group.

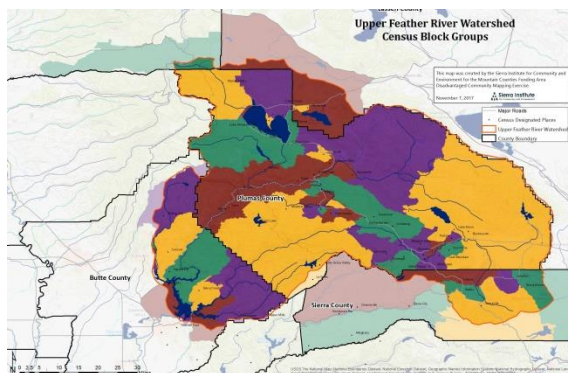


9. Click on any of the communities. A pop up will appear providing the name of the community.



10. Explore the other layers that are included in the map, such as school districts.

11. Find the 11x17 map in your printed materials that looks like this:



This map uses a different color scheme, but displays the layer UFRW Block Groups (2016) that you have been viewing online. Using the online map as a reference, determine which current census block groups form community units. These community units may resemble the SNEP communities, or they may not. Boundaries of many block groups have changed, and communities may have changed over the last 20 years.

12. Using your knowledge of the area, form communities by joining block groups. Keep in mind the following:

- Block groups must be adjacent.
- Communities can be comprised of a single block group.
- Communities can transcend county or watershed boundaries.
- One community can completely surround another. For example a population center might be one community while the area surrounding it might be socially and culturally distinct.
- Block groups can not be split into smaller units. If one block group encompasses multiple communities, its name can reflect that (i.e. "Dobbins/ Challenge/ Brownsville.")
- Every block group must be included or named.

13. Outline the communities that you have identified on the printed map using a black pen or marker.

14. Name each community. Write additional notes if necessary. Feel free to use the back of the map if you need more space for comments.

15. Send the completed map to:

Lauren Burton
Sierra Institute for Community and Environment
PO Box 11
Taylorsville, CA 95983

EVALUATION FOR PILOT STUDY:

1. Approximately how long did it take you to complete this exercise?
2. Was there anything that was unclear from the introduction to the project?
3. Was there anything that was unclear from the instructions for the exercise?
4. Did you have difficulty accessing or navigating the online map?
5. Is there any additional information that would help you complete this exercise?

**Upper Feather River
Integrated Regional Water Management
Regional Water Management Group Quarterly Meeting
January 19, 2018**

To: Upper Feather River Regional Water Management Group

From: Uma Hinman, Hinman & Associates Consulting

Subject: Upper Feather River IRWM Support Funding

INTRODUCTION

This item is a follow-up to the discussion of financial contributions from the three counties seated on the RWMG that occurred during the October 13, 2017 RWMG meeting. Direction from the RWMG was for each county representative to approach their boards for a one-time contribution as identified in the table below for fiscal year 2017-18. We will hear updates from each county RWMG member regarding the results of their discussions with their respective boards.

County	Geographic Area	
	Percentage of Plan Area ¹	Estimated Budget Contribution
Butte	15.9	\$ 3,975
Plumas	76.1	\$ 19,025
Sierra	8.0	\$ 2,000
Totals	100	\$ 25,000
<i>Note: The percentages were recalculated to exclude the areas of Lassen, Shasta, Tehama, and Yuba counties.</i>		

BACKGROUND

With the completion of the Proposition 84 Planning Grant that funded the 2016 update of the Upper Feather River IRWM Plan, funding that provided for IRWM Program support staff and consultants is no longer available. The RWMG has discussed financial support numerous times, noting that if the IRWM Plan is to be implemented, funding must be obtained to provide staff support and, ideally, an additional pool of funds set aside to assist other organizations with building their capacity.

The RWMG includes representatives from three counties that participate and benefit from the UFR IRWM Program. To date, the Plumas County Board of Supervisors has been the sole contributor, allocating funding from the County's general fund to pay for a consultant (Hinman & Associates Consulting) to continue providing support services to the RWMG. In fiscal year 2016-17, Plumas County funded \$10,000 for support services and for fiscal year 2017-18 a budget of \$25,000 was approved. However, future funding allocation is uncertain.

This issue was last discussed at the October 13, 2017 RWMG meeting, where the group discussed potential contributions by the three primary counties represented in the RWMG: Plumas, Sierra and Butte. Two options were discussed: basing contributions on percentage of population or geographic area included in the UFR IRWM Region. The RWMG favored an initial funding contribution based on geographic area within the Plan Area. In the future, as projects become funded, contributions could be reevaluated to assign greater financial responsibility to those counties receiving greater funding.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Discussion and direction to staff.

**Upper Feather River
Integrated Regional Water Management
Regional Water Management Group Quarterly Meeting
January 19, 2018**

To: Upper Feather River Regional Water Management Group
From: Uma Hinman, Hinman & Associates Consulting
Subject: Updating the Plan's Implementation Project List

The UFR IRWM Plan 2016 included 81 implementation projects, 5 of which have since acquired funding. Since the solicitation for implementation projects in early 2015 a number of entities have inquired about adding projects, many of them agencies that serve DACs.

The RWMG requested that staff look into simplifying the project application forms for the next solicitation process. Attached is a draft project application form, which is based on the form being utilized by the Upper Pit River IRWM group.

The following steps are a simplified approach to reviewing and considering the applications. Once a project is approved by the RWMG for inclusion in the Plan, the Plan Appendix 9 and Proposed Projects page of the website would be updated by staff.

- Projects are developed by the sponsor via an internal process with the sponsoring agency and/or within a collaborative process with other entities/agencies.
- An application is filled out that indicates whether the project is conceptual, partially ready, or ready-to-proceed.
- The sponsor submits the application to a designated project coordinator or project review committee. This review may result in requesting more information from the sponsor.
- The project coordinator/project review committee determines whether the project meets Plan objectives and its current status, and then recommends it to the RWMG for inclusion into the Plan.
- The RWMG considers all aspects of the project and either includes it in the Plan or makes recommendations for improvements.

To further open the project submittal process, the RWMG could make submittal of project applications available on a continuous basis. Rather than an annual call for projects, the application forms could be made available on the UFR IRWM website, submitted throughout the year and reviewed for consideration via the steps noted above on a quarterly basis to coincide with RWMG meetings.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Consider the Draft Project Application and steps noted above and provide direction to staff.

Attachments: Draft Step 1 Application Form

STEP 1 UPPER FEATHER RIVER IRWM PROJECT APPLICATION 2018

PROJECT NAME: *Make it descriptive.*

PROJECT SPONSOR(S):

Phone:

Email:

PROJECT TYPE:

Place an "x" next to the appropriate project type. If none of the provided categories are appropriate, please provide your own in the box called "other." If your project consists of more than 1 project type, please use a "1, 2, 3" mechanism to rank the types in order of importance or share of the budget.

	Agriculture
	Community
	Education
	Fire and Fuels
	Flooding
	Habitat and Environment
	Infrastructure
	Invasive Species
	Recreation
	Water Quality
	Water Supply
	Other – <i>please describe:</i>

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: *Provide the basic details of your project, including WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, HOW (No more than a single page, 250 words).*

PROJECT LOCATION: *Provide geographical location and lat/long.*

BRIEF PROJECT TIMELINE: *Include basic information regarding project milestones or deliverables with timeline.*

	Month	Month	Month	Month
Task 1:				
Task 2:				
Task 3:				
Task 4:				

COLLABORATORS/PARTNERS: *List partners in the appropriate columns below. Add more lines to table as needed.*

Potential Partners	Confirmed Partners

PROJECT STATUS

Design complete	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No (provide details below)
	<i>Details:</i>	
Engineering complete	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No (provide details below)
	<i>Details:</i>	
Project does not require technical design or engineering	<i>Provide details:</i>	
CEQA/NEPA complete	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No (provide details below)
	<i>Details:</i>	
No CEQA required	<i>Provide details:</i>	
No NEPA required	<i>Provide details:</i>	
Performance Measures identified ¹	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No (provide details below)
	<i>Details:</i>	
Monitoring Plan complete	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
	<input type="checkbox"/>	No (provide details below)
	<i>Details:</i>	

BUDGET

Total Project Budget:	Budget
Match	Amount:
	Source:
Match	Amount:
	Source:

¹ Performance measures are a required component of DWR-funded implementation projects, and can also be described as deliverables.

UPPER FEATHER RIVER IRWM PLAN OBJECTIVES ADDRESSED

Place an "x" next to all issues that your project deals with. If none of the provided categories are appropriate, please provide your own in the box called "other."

✓	Upper Feather River IRWM Objectives:	Brief explanation of project linkage to selected Objective
	Restore natural hydrologic functions.	
	Reduce potential for catastrophic wildland fires in the Region.	
	Build communication and collaboration among water resources stakeholders in the Region.	
	Work with DWR to develop strategies and actions for the management, operation, and control of SWP facilities in the Upper Feather River Watershed in order to increase water supply, recreational, and environmental benefits to the Region.	
	Encourage municipal service providers to participate in regional water management actions that improve water supply and water quality.	
	Continue to actively engage in FERC relicensing of hydroelectric facilities in the Region.	
	Address economic challenges of municipal service providers to serve customers.	
	Protect, restore, and enhance the quality of surface and groundwater resources for all beneficial uses, consistent with the RWQC Basin Plan.	
	Address water resources and wastewater needs of DACs and Native Americans.	
	Coordinate management of recharge areas and protect groundwater resources.	
	Improve coordination of land use and water resources planning.	
	Maximize agricultural, environmental and municipal water use efficiency.	
	Effectively address climate change adaptation and/or mitigation in water resources management.	
	Improve efficiency and reliability of water supply and other water-related infrastructure.	
	Enhance public awareness and understanding of water management issues and needs.	
	Address economic challenges of agricultural producers.	
	Work with counties/ communities/groups to make sure staff capacity exists for actual administration and implementation of grant funding.	
	<i>Other (please describe):</i>	

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES ADDRESSED

Place an "x" next to all resource management strategies that your project addresses.

✓	Resource Management Strategy
Reduce Water Demand	
	Agricultural Water Use Efficiency
	Urban water use efficiency
Improve Flood Management	
	Flood management
Improve Operational Efficiency and Transfers	
	Conveyance – regional/local
	System reoperation
	Water transfers
Increase Water Supply	
	Conjunctive management
	Precipitation Enhancement
	Municipal recycled water
	Surface storage – regional/local
Improve Water Quality	
	Drinking water treatment and distribution
	Groundwater remediation/aquifer remediation
	Matching water quality to water use
	Pollution prevention
	Salt and salinity management
	Urban storm water runoff management
Practice Resource Stewardship	
	Agricultural land stewardship
	Ecosystem restoration
	Forest management
	Land use planning and management
	Recharge area protection
	Sediment management
	Watershed management
People and Water	
	Economic incentives
	Outreach and engagement
	Water and culture
	Water-dependent recreation
	Wastewater/NPDES

MEASURABLE OUTCOMES

This may be simple, but it must be specific. It may include measures such as: "miles of fence laid", "number of stakeholders contacted", or "acres of forest treated".

LOCAL PLANNING DOCUMENTS

Are there any local planning documents that address and/or support your project? If so, explain.

**Upper Feather River
Integrated Regional Water Management
Regional Water Management Group Quarterly Meeting
January 19, 2018**

To: Upper Feather River Regional Water Management Group
From: Uma Hinman, Hinman & Associates Consulting
Subject: Grant Opportunities

INTRODUCTION

This agenda item includes information regarding current grant and loan opportunities and technical assistance opportunities.

State Water Resources Control Board

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has \$10 million in Proposition 1 funding to provide technical assistance to DACs. The SWRCB Prop 1 Technical Assistance is available to help small (less than 10,000 people) DAC entities develop, fund, and implement Prop 1-eligible drinking water, wastewater, storm water (limited), or groundwater capital projects. Technical Assistance may include project coordination and development, legal assistance, engineering and environmental analysis, and/or leak detection/water audits.

From the SWRCB website: Requests relating to one or more of the following will generally be given priority: systems that are out of compliance or experiencing insufficient water delivery capabilities, extension of service for drought/contamination impacted communities, consolidation projects, systems serving less than 200 connections, and applicants with small or relatively low cost needs that will enable an otherwise complete funding application to move forward.

At this time, this opportunity is scheduled to end in early 2019 if funding holds out. See the following link for more information:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1/tech_asst_funding.shtml.

Water Infrastructure, Planning, Construction and Technical Assistance:

- State Water Board website on the Prop 1 technical funding programs:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/proposition1.shtml
 - Drinking Water Fund:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/dwsrf/scoping_workshops.shtml

- Small Community Wastewater Program:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/small_community_wastewater_grant/projects.shtml
- Groundwater Quality Fund:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/gw_funding/
- Stormwater Fund:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/swgp/prop1/
- Water Recycling Fund:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/water_recycling/index.shtml
- Launch Site for all Applications to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (and instructions for how to apply, generally, for funding from the State Water Board):
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.shtml

Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) Grant Program – Post-fire recovery proposals. Applications for 2018 grant funds are due February 8, 2018:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/319grants.shtml.

- 1) Several application sections have been waived for post-fire recovery projects.
- 2) Funds are available for planning in and assessment of fire-impacted areas.
- 3) If applying for CWA 319 funds, applicants do not need to have a 9-element watershed-based plan, but they do need to have an alternative plan. The alternative plan requirements are described in the attached instructions. Applicants who use an alternative plan must complete a modified Attachment C (Watershed-Based Plan Verification Table), the template for which will also be posted by end of today. If applicants use a 9-element watershed-based plan, they must complete the original version of Attachment C as usual.
- 4) If applying for CWA 319 funds, the waterbody affected by work does not need to be 303(d)-listed, and a TMDL (or nearly-adopted TMDL) for the waterbody is not required.

USEPA Water Finance Clearinghouse

The Finance Clearinghouse provides a searchable database with more than \$10 billion in water funding sources and over 600 resources to support local water infrastructure projects. Communities across the nation have aging or inadequate water infrastructure. The Clearinghouse helps financing get where it's needed most by offering up-to-date finance information with the click of a button.

<https://www.epa.gov/waterfinancecenter>.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

California Climate Investments Forest Health Program - The Forest Health Program will fund the following activities: reforestation, fuel reduction, pest management, conservation (See Appendix A - Forest Legacy), and biomass utilization which are intended to increase forest health, restore watershed health and function, support biodiversity and wildlife adaptation to climate change, increase carbon storage in forests, reduce wildfire emissions and protect upper watersheds, where much of the State's water supply originates. Projects that implement a mix of these activities, with multiple partners will be given priority: Forest fuels reduction, pest management, reforestation, biomass utilization, research. Projects should focus on large landscapes that include State Responsibility Areas (SRA). Non-SRA lands may be included within project boundaries but project activities must provide a benefit to State

Responsibility Areas. Large landscapes will usually mean subwatersheds, fireheds, or larger logical management units. Concept Proposals due February 21, 2018.

http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_foresthealth_grants

CAL FIRE Urban & Community Forestry Program California Climate Investments – Urban and Community Forestry Program Grants. Concept Proposals due February 26, 2018.

http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry_grants

- Urban Forest Expansion and Improvement Concept Proposals
- Urban Forest Management Activities Concept Proposals
- Urban Wood and Biomass Utilization Concept Proposals

US Bureau of Reclamation

The Bureau of Reclamation has a 2018 funding opportunity for Phase I of the Cooperative Watershed Management Program has been announced. The funding opportunity seeks proposals for activities to develop a watershed group, complete watershed restoration planning activities, and to design watershed management projects.

- Proposals are due by Wednesday, January 31, 2018. Up to \$100,000 in federal funds may be awarded to an applicant per award, with no more than \$50,000 made available in a year for a period of up to two years.
- Eligible entities include states, tribes, local and special districts (e.g., irrigation and water districts), local government entities, interstate organizations, and non-profit organizations, including existing watershed groups, within the 17 western states.
- More information can be found on the Reclamation newsroom website:
<https://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/detail.cfm?RecordID=60844> and their Cooperative Watershed Management Program webpage:
<https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/cwmp/>

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

The SNC Funding Opportunities Newsletter for February- 2017 is attached.

Department of Water Resources Proposition 1

The IRWM Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) grant opportunity is currently in process (Round 1). The second round of Prop 1 IRWM funding for implementation projects is anticipated to be released by DWR in early 2018. While originally intended to be solely for DACs, the second round will likely be a mixture of DAC and non-DAC specific implementation funding. The intent for opening it up is to include some DAC-specific funding in the final round so as to incorporate projects identified and developed through the DACI (round 1) effort. No date has been released for the Prop 1 Implementation funding rounds; the DWR website says early 2018.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational.

Attachment: Sierra Nevada Conservancy Funding Opportunities Newsletter, February-March 2018



Sierra Nevada Conservancy
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES NEWSLETTER
February-March 2018

Upcoming Grants that Might be of Interest:

- The CA Department of Parks and Recreation [Recreational Boating Facility grants](#) (due February 1) assist with the development and improvement of marinas and boat launching facilities and associated parking areas, restrooms, and lighting.
- The [Clarence E. Heller Charitable Foundation grant](#) program (due February 1) includes a category for Environment and Health, which encourages regional planning integrating economic and social goals with sound environmental policies.
- The [CA State Parks Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) (due February 5) supports the acquisition or development of land to create new outdoor recreation opportunities for the health and wellness of Californians.
- [State Water Resources Control Board Nonpoint Source Grants](#) (due February 8) can fund projects to minimize degradation of water quality in areas that have been impacted by 2017 fires. Also included are riparian fuel management, fuel reduction and/or post fire rehabilitation.
- [The Bureau of Reclamation Water SMART program](#) (due February 13) supports projects that increase the reliability of water supplies; improve water management; and provide benefits for fish, wildlife, and the environment to mitigate impacts caused by drought.
- [Strong Foundation grants](#) (due February 15) fund environmental and conservation efforts, eco-spirituality, grassroots action, environmental education, capacity building, citizen participation, collaborative efforts, land acquisition, planning and training.
- The [Rose Foundation California Wildlands Grassroots Fund](#) (due February 15) provides funding to grassroots conservation organizations advocating for the permanent protection of intact wildlands to help preserve California's wilderness and native biological diversity.
- [CALFIRE CA Climate Investments: Forest Health Program](#) (pre-applications due February 21) fund a variety of practices such as fuel reduction, reforestation, etc.

which increase the carbon stored in living trees, and protect forests, fish and wildlife habitats, native plant species, and water across California

- [The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service \(USFWS\): North America Wetlands Conservation Act Standard or Small Grants Program](#) (due February 23) provides funding for long-term protection, restoration, or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitats for the benefit of wetlands-associated migratory birds.
- [The National Wildlife Federation Trees for Wildlife grant](#) (due February 23) provides native tree seedlings for restoration projects or community tree giveaway events.
- [The USDA Conservation Innovation Grants National Program](#) (due February 26) supports pilot projects, field testing, and on-farm research and demonstration, evaluation, or implementation of approaches to incentivizing conservation adoption and conservation technologies, practices, and systems.
- [The Joseph & Vera Long Foundation](#) grants (due February 26) fund projects that conserve the natural environment of Northern California, with a focus on habitat preservation, access to public lands, environmental education, and scientific research.
- [The Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grant Program](#) (due March 1) funds projects that preserve or enhance climbing access and opportunities, and conserve the climbing environment throughout the United States.
- [The Central Valley Project Conservation Program and CVPIA Habitat Restoration Programs](#) (due March 16) seek to improve habitats for species impacted by the Central Valley Project.
- [The North American Native Fishes Association Gerald C. Corcoran Educational Grants](#) (due March 31) fund projects to educate the general public about native North American fishes and their environment.
- The [Hind Foundation](#) (rolling) provides grants in the areas of plant and wildlife protection, land conservation, and ecosystem conservation.
- The [Wildlife Conservation Board's Forest Conservation Program](#) (rolling) supports the conservation, preservation, and restoration of productive managed forest lands, forest reserve areas, redwood forests, and other forest types, including the conservation of water resources and natural habitat for native fish, wildlife, and plants found on these lands.

Interested in other funding for fuel reduction, parks and trails, habitat preservation, or environmental education? Grant Research Memos on a variety of topics are available on the [SNC funding opportunities webpage](#).

Your SNC Area Representative can help you set up an individual consultation with the SNC Funding Team to get advice about specific funding opportunities or general fund development strategies. To take advantage of this resource, [contact your Area Representative](#).

Congratulations to the Maidu Summit Consortium and Conservancy for their Watershed Restoration planning grant from the Department of Fish and Wildlife to restore Tásmam Kojóm – Big Meadow.

Grant Writing Workshops are available to help build the capacity of organizations that serve the Sierra Nevada Region. If you are interested in organizing or attending a workshop, contact your [Area Representative](#).

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