

**PLUMAS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PLUMAS WATERSHED FORUM
COUNTY OF PLUMAS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**MEETING OF THE PLUMAS WATERSHED FORUM
HELD IN QUINCY ON OCTOBER 23, 2007**

1. Introductions

The Plumas Watershed Forum meeting convenes at 10:00 a.m. with Plumas County Flood Control and Water Conservation District board members Robert Meacher, Sharon Thrall, and Bill Powers. Members from the Department of Water Resources include Dwight Russell. Members from the State Water Contractors include David Okita and Tom Hurlbutt.

2. Public Comment

Holly George, University of California Cooperative Extension, reports that a meeting of the Upper Feather River Watershed Group is scheduled for November 15 to present the results of their water quality monitoring. The group is the local coalition for the Regional Water Quality Control Board's irrigated lands/ag waiver program.

Robert Meacher reports that the CalFED watershed program and its staff have been moved to the Department of Conservation and Resources Secretary Mike Chrisman has directed the Department of Conservation to create a statewide watershed program. An organizational meeting with representatives from around the state is scheduled for November 2. Mr. Meacher and Martha Davis from Inland Empire Utilities Agency will be co-chairing the advisory committee and spearheading public outreach.

Dwight Russell reports that the alternative representative for the Department of Water Resources at Forum meetings will be Rob Cooke, chief of the State Water Project Analysis Office.

David Okita reports that he is working with the Metropolitan Water District to appoint a representative to the Forum to replace Tim Quinn.

3. Monterey Plus EIR

Nancy Quan from the Department of Water Resources reports that a draft of the Monterey Plus EIR has been released for a 60-day public comment period and that a hearing to accept public comments is scheduled for the end of November in Quincy. The Department of Water Resources estimates it will take four to five months at least to respond to the public comments. Mr. Russell states that the actual length of time to respond to comments will depend on the volume of comments and the issues that may be raised.

4. Forum Website

Brian Morris from the Plumas County Flood Control District reports that Todd Hillaire from the Department of Water Resources had requested a discussion about updating project reports on the Forum web site. Mr. Morris states that the Forum web site was originally created with an individual web page for each project sponsored by the Forum, and that for a period of time each page was individually updated whenever there was any action, permitting, or expenditures related to a project. Mr. Hillaire states that the information available on the web site was helpful in monitoring project progress and ensuring transparency for the program. Mr. Morris states that he reviewed the web site architecture with the Plumas County Information Technology staff, and the design with so many separate pages is not conducive to effective updates. Mr. Morris suggests a monthly update of any project activity using a single document based on the format for project reports in the Annual Report, with updates highlighted. Mr. Russell requests that the update take place by a scheduled date each month. Following discussion, it is the consensus of the Forum that it is acceptable to post one file for completed projects and one file for ongoing projects in PDF format and that the update be posted by the first of each month.

5. Annual Report

Mr. Morris presents a draft of the annual report and provides an overview of the contents.

Mr. Russell requests that the overview and timeline be revised to include the release of the draft Monterey Plus EIR and that the timeline include the closing date for the request for proposals for the Watershed Forum Program Review.

Mr. Morris reviews the financial statements and proposed budget for 07-08. Mr. Hillaire notes that unspent funds from the Forest Service's Beckwourth road relocation project have been returned to the pool of uncommitted funds and requests a footnote stating as such.

Mr. Morris notes that the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District's project for Sierra Valley aquifer testing has not proceeded in consecutive years as originally set forth in the project proposal and funding agreement. Mr. Russell states that if the purpose of the testing is to determine aquifer characteristics, it does not necessarily matter if the testing occurs in consecutive years but it would be useful to test different locations each year. Holly George states that the information from the aquifer testing will be useful in supporting upcoming modeling work under the Prop. 50/IRWM grant. Following discussion, it is the consensus of the Forum to request that the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District be asked to explain the additional testing that will be conducted, with a rationale for re-testing the wells that were already tested or testing wells in new locations, and determine how any further testing will support the Prop. 50 modeling work. The district's response will be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee.

Mr. Russell states that he has raised questions in the past about reviewing the effectiveness of the Forum's funding for capacity building activities, particularly to the Feather River and Sierra Valley Resource Conservation Districts. Mr. Morris states that the capacity building activities will be evaluated as part of the program review.

Following discussion, upon a motion made by David Okita, seconded by Bill Powers, and unanimously carried, the Forum approves the budget for 07-08 as presented in the draft annual report.

Mr. Morris reports that project reports from Feather River College and the Forest Service's Ramelli ditch project are still forthcoming, and it is the consensus of the Forum that the Technical Advisory Committee can review the project reports before the annual report is finalized.

Gia Martynn from the Feather River Coordinated Resource Management Group presents the Forum with an educational map of the Upper Feather River Watershed that was prepared as part of an education and outreach project sponsored by the Forum. Mr. Russell requests that the map be distributed to Forum members as well as local legislators and the members of the State Water Resources Control Board.

Russell Reid from Feather River College reports that the college's Forum project has been completed and a great deal of water quality data has been collected. Mr. Reid would like to make the data available to anyone who would like to assist in analyzing it.

Upon a motion made by Dwight Russell, seconded by Robert Meacher, and unanimously carried, the Forum approves the Annual Report for fiscal year 2006-07, subject to inclusion of the final project reports and any technical revisions by the Technical Advisory Committee. If the Technical Advisory Committee determines a need for any substantive changes, the report will be brought back to the Forum for review and approval.

6. Plumas Watershed Forum Program Review

Mr. Morris reports a request for proposals to conduct the program review of the Watershed Forum was originally advertised in July, but the only technically acceptable proposal was submitted by Ecosystem Sciences Foundation. There was concern among the Technical Advisory Committee about retaining Ecosystem Sciences, since that was the organization that originally prepared the Feather River Watershed

Management Strategy for the Forum. The TAC decided to readvertise the RFP and try to obtain additional technically qualified proposals to consider, and the closing date for the readvertised RFP is November 16.

7. Lake Davis Water Treatment Plant

The Forum is in receipt of a letter from Bill Powers requesting that the Forum consider using the \$100,000 in unallocated Majority/A funds to supplement the funding that the Forum has already provided for construction of a new water treatment plant at Lake Davis. Mr. Okita notes that the Lake Davis project is not a restoration project and is not consistent with the Feather River Watershed Management Strategy and states that he is concerned about using additional Majority/A funds to support the project. Mr. Meacher suggests that the Forum provide the \$100,000 in Majority/A funding as an advance against the receipt of future Minority/B funds. Following discussion, upon a motion made by Dwight Russell, seconded by Bill Powers, and unanimously carried, the Forum approves an additional \$100,000 in Majority/A funds for the Lake Davis water treatment plant subject to the conditions that: (1) approval will sunset in three months if the project is not under contract within that timeframe; (2) the project sponsors will continue to seek other funding and return money to the Majority/A fund if additional funding is obtained; and (3) the Majority/A fund will be reimbursed fully upon the future receipt of additional Minority/B funds.

8. Integrated Regional Water Management

Mr. Morris provides an overview of IRWM activities as set forth in the IRWM section of the Annual Report.

9. Scheduling

The next meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. with a tour scheduled for May 27.

10. Adjournment

The Forum adjourns at 12:10 p.m. to meet again on May 28, 2008.