

## Upper Feather River IRWM Program

**To:** Upper Feather River Regional Water Management Group

**From:** Uma Hinman, Hinman & Associates Consulting, Inc.

**cc:** Tracey Ferguson, AICP, Plumas County Planning Director

**Date:** January 23, 2023

**Re:** Upper Feather River IRWM Quarterly Report (2022 Quarter 4)

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This Quarterly Report covers Quarter 4 of 2022 and provides an update to the Upper Feather River (UFR) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Group (RWMG) on activities associated with implementation of the UFR IRWM Plan and coordination with stakeholders and surrounding IRWM regions. The following is an update on coordination and implementation efforts during the last quarter.

### **Regional Water Management Group**

The last meeting of the RWMG was in March 2022, as a quorum was not met to hold an in-person meeting in the fall of 2022. To coordinate the next in-person meeting anticipated for March of 2023, please look for the doodle poll email coming soon and be sure to provide a timely response.

### **Prop 1 Round 1 Implementation Projects**

On April 6, 2021, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) executed a Grant Agreement with Plumas County under the Proposition 1 IRWM Round 1 Implementation Grant (P1R1) for the UFR Water Supply Reliability Project. The P1R1 grant includes two implementation projects: Sierraville Public Utilities District (SPUD) and Indian Valley Community Services District (IVCSD). In the latter half of 2022, coordination occurred with DWR to amend the P1R1 Grant Agreement to include the Urban Multi-Benefit Drought DAC Set Aside funding of \$525,000, including Grant Administration by Plumas County (\$20,000) and additional funding for Project 1 under SPUD (\$505,000). An Agreement Amendment has been approved by DWR and Plumas County.

#### Project 1 – Sierraville Public Utilities District (revised budget of \$1,132,660)

The Sierraville Public Utilities District (SPUD) Project 1 is underway and approximately 20% has been invoiced to date. The contracting process was completed, and a contractor was selected for construction of the project. Site work and winterization were completed during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

SPUD is looking forward to starting construction as soon as weather and site conditions are favorable.

### Project 2 – Indian Valley Community Services District (\$304,000)

Reprogramming of the Indian Valley Community Services District's (IVCSD) Project 2 was approved by DWR and executed by Plumas County and DWR under a Grant Agreement amendment. The North Main Water Use Efficiency Project will replace approximately 250 feet of water main and install 2 new hydrants. The project will connect with other pipeline replacement projects funded under separate grants (including the Prop 1 Round 2 Implementation Project noted below) in the overall effort to upgrade aging and damaged infrastructure that will support the rebuilding of Greenville. Plumas County is in the process of developing a Funding Agreement with IVCSD for disbursement of the grant funds. Project construction will begin in 2023.

### **Prop 1 Round 2 Implementation Project**

The Upper Feather River IRWM application for its remaining share of Mountain Counties Funding Area Prop 1 grant funds (\$143,697) under Round 2 (P1R2) was submitted by Plumas County on behalf of IVCSD for its North Main Extension Water Use Efficiency Project. The project replaces approximately 270 feet of pipeline and 60 feet of laterals and install 1 new hydrant. The project will connect with other pipeline replacement projects funded under separate grants (including the P1R1 Implementation Project noted above) in the overall effort to upgrade aging and damaged infrastructure that will support the rebuilding of Greenville. The P1R2 Grant Agreement is under review by DWR and Plumas County. Project construction will begin in 2023.

### **IRWM Roundtable of Regions**

UFR continues to participate in the [IRWM Roundtable of Regions](https://www.roundtableofregions.org/) bi-monthly meetings as well as the Disadvantaged Community Involvement (DACI) Working Group meetings, which are generally held quarterly. Roundtable of Regions activities and information can be found on their website: <https://www.roundtableofregions.org/>.

### **Plumas Watershed Forum**

The Plumas Watershed Forum was formed in 2003 as a result of the Monterey Settlement Agreement. The Forum's purpose is to implement watershed management and restoration activities in the Feather River Watershed for the mutual benefit of Plumas County and the State Water Project (SWP).

The goals of the Forum are to:

1. Improve water retention for baseflow in streams
2. Improve water quality and streambank protection
3. Improve upland vegetation management
4. Improve groundwater retention and storage in major aquifers

The Monterey Settlement Agreement provided funding to the Forum in the amount of \$1 million dollars per year from 2003 until 2006 (\$4 million dollars total). The money was spent on a variety of projects and programs in the Feather River region. For more information see: <https://www.plumascounty.us/2354/PlumasWatershed-Forum>.

In 2010, a new environmental impact report was completed to consider the environmental impacts of the Monterey Amendments and the additional actions set forth by the Monterey Settlement Agreement. The environmental impact report was the subject of three lawsuits in Sacramento County Superior Court (Central Delta I, Central Delta II, and Rosedale-Rio Bravo). The appeals on the litigation ended when the State Supreme Court declined to hear arguments in January 2022. With the appeals exhausted, the final four years of funding (\$4 million dollars total) to the Forum began, with a first payment of \$1 million dollars received in March 2022. Additional annual payments of \$1 million dollars will be made over the next three years (from 2023 until 2025).

The Forum currently anticipates directing \$1.74 million dollars toward projects within the watershed that meet the Forum's goals, with the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) in January 2023. In the first stage of the RFP process, project proponents are advised to submit a concept document that the Watershed Forum Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) would review for merit based on the priorities described in the Feather River Watershed Management Strategy. If the project fits the priorities and criteria and is economically feasible, the TAC may invite the project proponents to submit a full proposal for additional consideration. Multiyear projects will be considered with expected approval in October 2023 and notice to proceed occurring in January 2024. UFR staff are attending the Forum meetings and will be sharing the RFP, once released, with the list of stakeholders in the Region.

### **FY2022-23 Financial Summary**

Hinman & Associates Consulting, Inc.'s contract with Plumas County to provide support services to the UFR IRWM Plan Program runs with the fiscal year (FY). The FY2022-23 contract budget is \$25,000, which includes support labor as well as website hosting costs. Following is a summary as of 12/31/2022:

<b>Tasks/Expenses</b>	<b>Amount (\$)</b>
Strangecode Web Hosting Service	276.00
Domain Renewal (GoDaddy)	21.17
<i>UFR IRWM Plan Program Support Services</i>	
Coordinator Activities	7,947.17
<b>Total to Date</b>	<b>7,947.17</b>
Remaining Budget	17,052.83

Much of UFR staff efforts during FY2022-23 was focused on coordination and development of the Proposition 1 Round 2 grant application in the first half of the fiscal year. Additionally, staff worked with DWR and Sierra Institute staff to amend the P1R1 Grant Agreement to include the Urban Multi-Benefit Drought DAC Set Aside funding of \$525,000.

Staff coordinated distribution of funding opportunities to the Region's stakeholders and maintained the UFR IRWM Plan implementation project list, identifying potential funding connections and connecting local project sponsors.

Staff also continue to participate in local and regional watershed and IRWM coordination efforts including the Plumas Watershed Forum meetings and the Roundtable of Regions general and technical advisory meetings.

Additional routine tasks included stakeholder email list maintenance, website updates, and regular coordination meetings with Tracey Ferguson, Plumas County Planning Director.

### **Action Items from March 11, 2022 UFR IRWM RWMG Meeting**

The following summarizes the action items from the last meeting of the RWMG and current status (January 2023):

- **IN PROCESS:** Staff was directed to develop recommendations for the vacant public member seat for discussion at the next RWMG meeting.

The public member seat was established to include representation from the Almanor Basin of the UFR Region and has been vacant since 2020. Staff is coordinating with Plumas County Supervisor for District 3 Tom McGowan to develop recommendations for a new public member to represent the Almanor Basin.

- **IN PROCESS:** Staff was directed to advocate with the Roundtable of Regions for water storage and headwaters funding and projects.

Staff will relay the UFR Region's support for water storage in general and funding for storage and headwaters project at the next quarterly Roundtable of Regions' meetings scheduled for February 8 and 15, 2023.

- **IN PROCESS:** Staff was directed to assist with disseminating information regarding the Plumas Watershed Forum to IRWM regional stakeholders.

Staff has been coordinating with Rob Thorman, Plumas County Public Works Department Assistant Director and Coordinator for the Plumas Watershed Forum, and has assisted with distributing Watershed Forum meeting notices and invitations, and has solicited interest with participation in the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Forum, in addition to sharing the Watershed Forum Concept Proposal RFP, once released.

- COMPLETE: Staff will assist IVCSO in preparing and submitting the P1R2 grant application.

As noted above, staff assisted IVCSO with the P1R2 grant application, which was successfully submitted on August 18, 2022 and awarded on December 12, 2022 in the amount of \$143,697.

- COMPLETE: Staff will file and post the Plan Performance Annual Report on the Upper Feather River IRWM website.

The Upper Feather Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Performance Annual Report 2016-2021 has been posted to the IRWM website at <http://featherriver.org/plan-performance-reports/>.

### **Next RWMG Meeting**

UFR staff will be working with RWMG members to establish a March 2023 date for the next in-person meeting. Staff will continue to keep the RWMG Chair (Paul Roen, representing Sierra County Board of Supervisors) and Vice Chair (Trina Cunningham, representing Maidu Summit Consortium) apprised of any pressing issues that arise.

Please contact Uma Hinman, UFR staff, at [uhinman@comcast.net](mailto:uhinman@comcast.net) or (916) 813-0818 with any questions.