



## Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting, January 18, 2018

### FOLLOW-UP ITEMS WAC:

1. Discussion of project priorities, how projects align, and which objectives lack sufficient projects, to include storm water projects
2. Provide a presentation/discussion on stormwater issues within the region
3. Develop additional press releases as project implementation progresses
4. Complete tasks in Section 6 of the Storm Water Chapter

### FOLLOW-UP ITEMS JPA:

1. Complete the remainder of the DWR required data management tasks.
2. Develop storm water infrastructure inventory with values.
3. Task the WAC with developing storm water project concepts that include beneficial use of captured water.

### HOMEWORK:

1. Review materials sent in advance of the meeting and bring copies with you to the meeting.

### MEETING GOALS:

1. Develop recommendations for consideration by the JPA board

**\*\*FINALIZED MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLINE\*\***

<http://tstan-irwma.org/>

### SUMMARY

#### 1. Opening Remarks and Approval of November Meeting

**Summary:** Ms. Carolyn Lott opened the meeting and introductions were made.

**Agreement:** There was agreement to accept the November 15, 2017 WAC meeting summary.

#### 2. Standing Items:

Round 2 and Drought –

A handout was shared that included an invoicing update for both grants. The Round 2 grant has four outstanding invoices. DWR will not pay an invoice until the one before it has been cleared and paid. Invoice #3 has undergone numerous DWR-requested changes so invoices #4, #5, and #6 are held up waiting for #3 to clear.

For Drought, all three submitted invoices have been paid. Invoice #4 will be prepared and submitted soon.

Potential Funding Opportunities – see website

External Communication –

Sierra Institute (SI) has begun the DACI work. They are analyzing DAC block groups. They are arranging to speak with planners in each area to understand, more specifically, where the DACs

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are located aside from the general locations the census showed. They want to look at outlying areas, as well. Mr. Trott asked for planners' names and contact information to be submitted to him.

Representatives from SI will come to a T-Stan meeting, in the next couple of months, and do a mapping exercise with the group. Next, they will go into communities. The DAC CC is meeting quarterly with SI. The timeline to get to where there are projects outlined is 1.5 years. The Needs Assessment will push the list of final projects. All needed/desired DAC projects may not come out of this process.

Ms. Lott reported on a meeting of the Roundtable of Regions (R of R) and a conference call of the R of R. She noted at the meeting, the head of DWR expressed strong support for IRWMs. However, this person has been replaced. During the conference call it was learned the Prop One process for DAC projects is delayed. The draft PSP will be out sometime in the next few months, with the application process likely not starting until early 2019.

Ms. Lott also noted the IRWMA attorney has clarified if JPA board alternates are participating in a WAC meeting as a WAC member, they do not count for purposes of a board quorum.

YSS –

Mr. John Buckley and Ms. Liz Peterson spoke about the recent Master Stewardship Agreement (MSA) recently signed by the T.C. BOS and the FS. It is a 10-year agreement with the FS which is specific to the SNF in TC. It gives the county authority, in collaboration with YSS, to do FS approved projects on FS land. The county is subcontracting with TRT to manage projects. Through the MSA, projects can be implemented by subcontractors. The MSA was signed by Regional Forester Randy Moore last Thursday. The county is currently working on the agreement with TRT. There are a lot of Rim Fire projects to put forward, as well as, things such as biomass removal. Mr. Buckley said this matters to the IRWMA, because everyone is looking for funding for collaborative projects and this process is looking for different pots of money for the watershed that benefit the same goals as the T-Stan. The Cornerstone Collaborative covers the SNF in CC.

Mr. Buckley also shared for six years the county, TRT, and CSERC have been involved in the Don Pedro FERC process for the Lower Tuolumne River. Funding for upgrading Wards Ferry, for example, may be helped though revenue from licensees. The final proposal by MID and TID has been filed.

Mr. Buckley mentioned the Substitute Environmental Document Phase 1 Plan by the State Water Board has proposed there be an increase in amount of water left in water bodies. There is a lot of opposition from commercial users.

TUD and CSERC are participating in the Phoenix FERC relicensing. This process could take five years or more. Ms. Peterson has also been participating on behalf of the county.

IRWMP Update – no news yet

### **3. Public Comment:**

None was offered.

**4. 303d Presentation:**

Mr. Jay Simi, CVRWQB, provided a presentation. It can be found at: <https://tstan-irwma.org/library/documents/>

A member asked regarding the accuracy of data submitted from private entities. It was noted the required protocol for sampling is extremely detailed and the samples must be taken to a certified independent laboratory. There is a lower number of samples required for toxicant pollutants than for conventional pollutants.

Regarding whether pollutants found in a large body of water cause the entire body to be listed, Mr. Simi said larger water bodies are segmented. For example, the Sacramento River would not be considered as one water body for impairment purposes. Weight of evidence allows some discretion to build a scientific case different than what the data seems to be pointing at.

When asked what areas in the T-Stan region are listed, Mr. Simi named the main stem of the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and San Joaquin Rivers and some new water bodies on FS lands.

It was noted Twain Heart, Sullivan and Woods Creeks are listed. Sampling has identified the likely source is pollutants from septic systems.

When questioned about what is being done regarding cannabis grows, Mr. Simi said there needs to be supporting documentation to identify where the pollutants are coming from. He added there is a cannabis regulatory unit coming on line soon.

**5. State Water Board Funding Presentation:**

Ms. Megan Tosney, SWB, provided the presentation. It can be found at: <https://tstan-irwma.org/library/documents/>

Ms. Tosney responded, when asked about funding septic tank issues, that CWSRF can finance connection of septic to sewer. There is also a Small Community Wastewater Program which provides 100% funding for up to \$500,000 for planning. For septic to sewer projects, one would apply for loan funds first and the Department of Financial Assistance will decide what grant funds to apply to the application.

**6. Septic Assessment Opportunity/Request for Volunteers:**

Ms. Lott reminded the group of the interest garnered, during a brainstorming exercise, for developing a project to address septic tank failure issues. Ms. Lott asked Ms. Zaira Lopez for a contact who might be able to assist. She provided the contact information for Ms. Jennifer Toney who oversees potential funding for a project like this. Ms. Lott has been in touch with her and asked for WAC volunteers who would be interested in developing a site-specific location in TC and CC for an application for assessment. Volunteers included: Mr. Buckley, Mr. Tom Parrington, Ms. Bailey Hunter, Mr. Trott, and Mr. Erik Johnson. (Chair Strange volunteered Mr. Peter Martin during the JPA board meeting.) Staff will organize the group and determine what materials they need.

**7. Updated Agricultural Maps:**

Mr. Seth Connolly shared GIS maps that have already been developed for the T-Stan Data Management System. He said he needed clarity on what would be useful to add to the new agricultural maps. It was also suggested it might be useful to know where the irrigated agricultural lands are.

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Regarding other layers, it was noted all the IRWMP projects, including completed projects, should be located with a short description in a layer that could overlay DAC layers. It should be indicated whether they are completed or not. Additionally, it would be useful to have sewer lines mapped to help understand which failing septic systems are near existing sewer lines. Finally, the location of storm water problems should be mapped to help better understand where the main issues are located (Tuolumne City, City of Sonora, and Twain Harte were called out). These layers would be useful to reference in a funding application. Mr. Connolly said he could come back with this in two months, which would be the March WAC meeting.

### **8. Workplan Discussion:**

It was suggested presentations from both counties on their General Plans would be useful. Ms. Liz Peterson said she would let Ms. Lott know the timing on having a presentation by Quincy Yates from the Community Resources Agency.

Another suggestion was to have each of the agencies give a short verbal overview regarding their water-related needs and opportunities to determine high priorities for funding. A workshop setting would be used to develop multiple agency and multiple benefit project concepts.

Mr. Joe Bors said he would like to explore a project concept that includes home level water testing.

If one or more water bonds pass, it would be good to invite SNC to speak on watershed health funding opportunities through their new grant process.

Ms. Peterson volunteered to get Mr. Rob Kostlivi to speak. A potential project could be a comprehensive cataloging of well location, depth, etc. such as done in Calaveras County.

A final suggestion was to look at high priority objectives and near term measurable targets and use that to help determine desired speakers and potential projects.

### **9. Other Water News:**

None offered.

### **10. Wrap-Up and Adjournment:**

CSERC volunteered to bring refreshments in February.

### **Next WAC and JPA Meetings:**

The next WAC meeting will be held on February 21, 2018. The next JPA meeting will be March 21, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 pm.

### **Submitted by:**

Ms. Carolyn Lott

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

**Watershed Advisory Committee Members**

Joe Bors	Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency	Present
Shelly Hance	ATCAA/Alternate	
Peter Martin	Calaveras County Water District	
Dave Eggerton	CCWD/Alternate	
Joel Metzger	CCWD/Alternate	
Tom Parrington	Central Sierra Audubon	Present
Tom Harrington	CSA/Alternate	Present
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	Present
Meg Layhee	CSERC/Alternate	Present
David Meyers	City of Angels Camp	
Aaron Randi	CAC/Alternate	Present
Connie Williams	City of Sonora	Present
George Segarini	CS/Alternate	
Jon Sterling	Groveland Community Services District	
Jennifer Flores	GCSD/Alternate	
Cindy Secada	Murphys Sanitary District	
Joseph Fontana	MSD/Alternate	
Brian Langlely	MSD/Alternate	
Adam Coyan	Pinecrest Permittees Assoc.	Present
Tim Fisher	PPA/Alternate	
Bailey Hunter	TB of Me-Wuk Indians	Present
Willie Dutra	TBMWI/Alternate	
Daniel Richardson	Tuolumne County	
Liz Peterson	TC/Alternate	Present
Dick Pland	Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources & Environment	Present
Melinda Fleming	TuCARE/Alternate	
Kirk Ford	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	Present
Kevin Rice	Tuolumne Group Sierra Club	Present
Jon M. Sturtevant	TGSC/Alternate	
Patrick Koepele	Tuolumne River Trust	
Seth Connolly	TRT/Alternate	Present
Lisa Westbrook	Tuolumne Utilities District	Present
Erik Johnson	TUD/Alternate	Present
Tom Haglund	TUD/Alternate	

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Tom Trott	Twain Harte Community Services District	Present
Robb Perry	THCSD/Alternate	
	U.S. Forest Service – Stanislaus National Forest	
Lucas Wilkinson	USFS/Alternate	
Ann Denton	USFS/Alternate	
Michael Minkler	Utica Water & Power Authority	
Karen Rojas	UWPA/Alternate	
Lori Karnes	UWPA/Alternate	Present

**IRWMA Staff**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Carolyn Lott	Carlson Consulting	Present
Lindsay Mattos	TCRCD	

**Other Interested Parties Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Ron Ringen	TUD Ratepayer
Ariel Bohr	TRT Watershed Education
Zara Lopez	Regional Water Board
Ellyse Varone	TRT Wildfire Restoration
Barbara Balen	TUD
Jay Simi	CVRWQCB
Megan Tosney	State Waterboard DFA