



Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting, November 28, 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. 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, Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items, and Standing Items:

Ms. Carolyn Lott opened the meeting and introductions were made.

The meeting summary was accepted for October 17, 2018.

2. Standing Items:

Grant Update — For the Round Two Grant, the 3rd quarter invoices of the year have been submitted and comments are being submitted back. The Drought Grant amendment to extend to 2021 has been submitted

Members in Good Standing – Ms. Lott reported most members are in good standing. City of Angels is going through a transition and TRT has not yet paid

YSS – Mr. John Buckley provided background on YSS. He noted Tuolumne County, the USFS, TRT, and YSS are jointly working on projects through a Master Stewardship Agreement. He suggested Mr. Seth Connolly present information on water-related projects.

3. Public Comment: Ms. Lott opened the public comment period. No comments were offered.

4. New Project Presentations:

Three new projects were submitted for consideration for inclusion in the IRWMP. The scoring committee has scored the projects.

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All three projects have been put together in conjunction with Regina Hirsch from the Watershed Progressive. Two projects are put forward by the TCRCD, the Landowner Resiliency Project and the Groveland Rainwater Project. The third project is put forward by THCS is Stormwater Planning.

Twain Harte Storm Water Project: The project includes developing a stormwater resource plan for the Twain Harte area, completing a Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) Self Certification Checklist and identifying and prioritizing projects. They are looking at the hydrologic belt (map distributed). The goal is to implement Low Impact Development (LID) projects through a mix of partnerships that still need to form. The plan moves from private/commercial property to state school property to parks and golf course and finally into a private recreational lake. The concept is to develop a catalog of projects that would be itemized and prioritized and incorporate multi-benefits. (Icing is considered a new benefit.) Storm water can also be reused at schools now for toilet flushing.

The project budget includes inventorying and prioritizing projects, spatial analysis, project cooperative analysis, developing a catalog of project and quantitative results, project site conceptual design, project site 60% designs, draft permitting/project descriptions, project engineering, and final permitting. Ms. Lisa Westbrook noted this will provide a huge benefit for TUD as there is such an influx of storm water during rain events. Mr. Ron Ringen said a big issue is the huge parking lot at the shopping center. The lot is salted for the ice and the salt eats out the culverts. He also emphasized the importance of fire catchment basins.

TCRCD Water Resiliency Project for Landowners: This would be an expansion of a program currently being implemented. It includes volunteer labor and rebates with professional design services to provide design and build services including free consultation, planning technical expertise, construction guidance, educational presentations, and material sourcing and delivery. This is for rainwater, stormwater, native plant landscaping, and greywater. This project would be pulled out of the current grant and made its own project that covers all of Tuolumne County and the T-Stan part of Calaveras County. The project is scalable, so the budget could be scaled up or down. The tank rebate is the price for gallons stored (\$.55 per gallon) and less for barrels. It is a little more than ½ the cost of the tanks. The project has built-in match.

TCRCD Groveland Rainwater Big Oak Water Storage Project: Groveland had a large water event last year. The project concept is to build community resources through encouraging installation of rain tanks and provide education for other LID best management practices (BMP) into the future. The project will create a backup water suppression supply, a strategic network of supply for fire preparedness, reduce demand on local water supplies and groundwater reserves. The budget is \$2,272,000. The project buys tanks for the whole community, training for installation, a verification process, and a 20% match from the tank company. The participant match is the conveyance plumbing/tank costs.

Mr. Buckley said the challenge is the project identifies 1,500 individual sites will take a rainwater tank. He does not think it is realistic that 100% of the sites will implement the project. He suggested to make a more realistic goal such as phase one with, perhaps, 300 tanks. Ms. Hirsch said, in planning, they were concerned about the equality issue that everyone would have access if funded at 100% and most properties need more than one tank to get off the water grid. Mr. Kirk Ford said they will discuss this with funders and determine the scale based on funding opportunities.

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Mr. Joe Fontana asked if there might be any pushback from downstream users. Ms. Hirsch said if you are capturing off impervious surfaces it is better to slow down the water flow and use it during a drier period.

The scores sheets were distributed. Ms. Connie Williams, Mr. John Buckley, Ms. Cindy Secada, Mr. Joe Bors, and Mr. Peter Martin participated in the scoring committee.

Agreement: Recommend to the JPA board the projects be added into the IRWMP and then have scoring committee meet in person in January to re-score the storm water scoring section.

5. Summary of T-Stan Capacity Issues:

The Sierra Institute report on the T-Stan community capacity was emailed out prior to the meeting. It was noted there were defined areas, that SI called communities, that are not true communities. Cedar Ridge was combined with Big Hills and Jupiter and they are two very different communities. The result was a statistical number that might not really represent the true capacity to take on projects.

It was suggested the numbers be ground truthed using the RCD map. The goal is to determine which communities have the capacity to represent themselves.

6. DACI Update:

A list of questions was given to Mr. Trott to ask during the DACI workshop. As he could not be present, he sent the answers:

- Is loan interest reimbursable? Do not know at this time.
- When does CEQA need to be completed? Within 6 months of the grant award and before signing grant agreement, except for DAC projects
- Do all projects in the application have to meet Climate Change & Water Resiliency goals? Just one project must meet that within the suite of projects
- Do all IRWMs within the region have updated plans? No, but targeting 2019
- Is there consensus on a Funding Area approach with one theme? No. The CABY region plans to submit their own application. DWR is highly encouraging collaboration.

7. Sonora Energy Plan:

Ms. Williams said the purpose of the plan is to provide energy cost effectiveness. Mr. Charles Segerstrom, from the Sierra Business Council (SBC), was involved in the development and his organization represents the entire Sierra Nevada Region. The funding from the SBC is from the PUC through the public goods charge and it funds energy conservation measures. SBC is trying to make sure money comes back to the region. It is the state's policy to double the energy efficiency goals through 2035. There is a water/energy nexus. The SBC provided a toilet rebate for Strawberry as Strawberry was getting emergency water from Pinecrest and every gallon used was a gallon that did not go to make energy.

The roadmap plans energy efficiency for residential and non-residential properties. A survey was completed, and they have a working group led by an SBC fellow. They participated in Back-to-School nights to supply information about how to save dollars at home and at businesses. TUD, RCD, Sonora and SBC participated. They will be going back to Sonora High. The key is educating people about available programs.

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An example of what the plan could lead to is Goal 3 – the water/energy nexus. The public needs to understand the difference between efficiencies and conservation. Water audits and leak detection are some of the activities that can be taken on. The city could put in electric vehicle chargers, solar projects, a merchant green program, and Title 24 training so all builders are up-to-date on energy efficiency standards.

8. Tuolumne County General Plan Discussion:

January 3rd the board will approve the EIR. It comes before the TC Planning Commission on Dec. 19th.

Mr. Buckley said the Dept. of Finance makes predictions regarding expected growth for the planning period. Both counties have expectations for growth of 9-10 x the Dept. of Finance. The plan puts forward planning for higher growth than the past has shown or is predicted by Dept. of Finance. Policies or implementation measures have nebulous wording such as “encourage developers” which does not provide clarity of intent. Mr. Buckley said hook up to utilities when available should be required, not encouraged. New industrial development should be located where water and sewer are available. Currently, there is special commercial where there are no public services wherever beneficial. Extending lines are growth inducing.

Mr. Tom Parrington commented in drafting water and utility element TUD was not consulted. TUD had to supply comments in the normal timeframe and was denied an extension to comment. Connecting to water and sewer is encouraged, but not required. Septic is allowed with two residential units per one acre sharing a septic. A well is allowed for one residence per two acres. He wondered what happens when a septic requires replacement and owners are unable to pay. The county already has three listed streams. He said the county should require connections whenever feasible. He also believes special commercial areas encourage sprawl. The county encourages development within identified communities, but boundaries are extended quite far without consideration of fire risk. For example, Stent is identified as a community, and that is not where one would encourage growth. 85% of the areas of expansion are high fire areas.

Mr. Adam Coyan said in Alpine County when you choose to build with a well, they require an underground tank or lake for fire protection. That should be required here. There should also be a requirement for pre-treatment before water gets to TUD.

Mr. Ringen said, as of yesterday, the county had not responded to the recommendations submitted by the TUD ad hoc committee, which were ratified unanimously by the TUD board.

Mr. Kevin Rice noted it is stunning how the language from the previous plan to the current plan has been changed to be vague.

The vote on the plan will be prior to seating of the new board. The water policy committee may be revising the water element. This is also true for the utility element. The schedule is to update in the next two years.

Mr. Ford said, from a procedural standpoint, there will be written responses to comments the county received. The Planning Commission needs to make a recommendation to the board. If there are additional comments, the place to do that is at the PC meeting. Because there is usually a limited time period for comments, one should present comments in writing.

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Reminder: There is an opportunity to submit new projects, especially for the storm water grant. The project submission worksheet is open.

9. Other Water News:

Ms. Lisa Westbrook said the Lyons project to protect the flume is ongoing. Handwork is being done on H-J flumes.

Mr. Buckley said the State Water Board Bay Delta River Plan has been extended for 30 days in response to requests by valley irrigation districts. The settlement process continues with a deadline of December 12th. If approved, it will result in increased minimum flows below the reservoirs.

10. Wrap-Up and Adjournment:

Ms. Secada offered to bring snacks.

Next WAC and JPA Meetings:

The next WAC & JPA Meetings: January 16, 2019

Submitted by:

Ms. Carolyn Lott

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Watershed Advisory Committee Members

Joe Bors	Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency	
Raj Rambob	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	
Colette Such	City of Sonora	Present
Connie Williams	CS/Alternate	Present
Cindy Secada	Murphys Sanitary District	Present
Joseph Fontana	MSD/Alternate	Present
Brian Langley	MSD/Alternate	
Adam Coyan	Pinecrest Permittees Assoc.	Present
Tim Fisher	PPA/Alternate	
Dore Bietz	TB of Me-Wuk Indians	
Doug Roberson	TBMWI/Alternate	Present

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Vicki Stone	TBMWI/Alternate	
Daniel Richardson	Tuolumne County	
Liz Peterson	TC/Alternate	Present
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
Makayla Dillon	TUD/Alternate	Present
Erik Johnson	TUD/Alternate	
Tom Trott	Twain Harte Community Services District	
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	

IRWMA Staff

Name	Organization	Attendance
Carolyn Lott	Carlson Consulting	Present
Lindsay Mattos	TCRCD	Present

Other Interested Parties Present

Name	Organization
Ron Ringen	TUD
Marcus Long	TRT
Ellyse Varone	TRT
Max Stecher	TRT
Charles Segerstrom	Sierra Business Council