

**Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management
Authority Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting**

May 20, 2020

Video Conference



HOMEWORK:

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

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

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

SUMMARY

1. Opening Remarks:

Ms. Carolyn Lott opened the WAC meeting. Attendance was taken.

Meeting Summary:

WAC Agreement: Members accepted the distributed meeting summary as the summary of record for February 19, 2020.

2. Public Comment:

The public comment period was opened by Ms. Lott and no comments were heard. Ms. Lott closed the public comment period.

3. Standing Items:

Ms. Mattos shared the Prop One application was recommended for funding with no changes. It is approximately \$850,000. There is a 30-day public comment period. Contracting will take 2-3 months. The project includes a communications tower for Utica, the Tuolumne Band's Westside Dam project and updating emergency equipment for GCSD.

Mr. John Buckley said he would provide an update on the Bridge Project next month.

4. CCWD Customer Assistance Program (CAP) & State Requirements:

Mr. Joel Metzger provided a presentation. He said the state has declared water as a basic human right. The state has further said water providers need to accommodate income challenges. Mr. Metzger said the statewide rate assistance program has four tiers. The funding source is up in the air. It will take \$600M to run this program. Basically, one's rate is reduced to whatever level is "affordable."

CCWD decided to act prior to the requirements being put in place. This decision came out of 2018 rate increase as Mr. Metzger heard a lot of stories during the rate increase campaign on how rates were affecting individuals. The board decided staff should craft a program that would help those who need it most.

The district has an annual budget of \$22M. They have 13,080 water connections and 4,808 sewer connections. Staff designed a customer assistance program around the policy framework. The program launched on 1/1/2019 and is limited to 200 water customers and 200

Summary: T-S IRWM WAC Meeting

wastewater customers. The budget is limited to \$60,000 per fiscal year. If you are on the PG&E CARE program that is sufficient to prove need. There is a partnership with the local food bank so they can also verify need. Renters need to bring in a rental agreement. One must be a fulltime resident with an account in good standing. The applicant must be the property owner or have permission from the property owner and have a poverty level at or below 200% of the median as determined by the Dept of Human Health and Development.

The application must be complete and include proof of participation in the CARE Program or income verification. All participants must reapply each year. The program is established at the discretion of the Board of Directors and can be changed or terminated at any time. The District has found this program to yield more positive public relations than anything else done to date. Mr. Metzger said this program does true good in the lives of people. The wait list is about 150.

Prop 218 prohibits water and sewer rate revenues from being used to subsidize certain customer classes. Prop 218 is why most districts do not have Customer Assistance Programs (CAPs). The loophole is you can use non-rate revenues general fund money such as property taxes, hydropower revenue, investment interest, late fees, property leases, and community contributions.

ATCAA requested Mr. Metzger send a flier to them to share with clients.

6. TUD Presentation Sierra Pines:

Mr. Erik Johnson provided the presentation. He explained the site is adjacent to the ditch where disc golf used to be. Currently the site sits vacant. The project is needed because the district's infrastructure is disproportionately large in relationship to the customer base. This is not fiscally sustainable for the ratepayers and many of the components have met the end of their service life and some are old enough that they do not meet current standards. This project provides a way to phase in replacement so as not to overburden ratepayers.

Aside from the Sonora/Jamestown system, the systems are exceedingly small which compounds the cost. On most of TUD's systems the cost of production is about \$1000 per acre foot. Mr. Johnson shared a slide depicting the Ponderosa WTP showing vulnerability to wildfire and said it is made up of many components of varying materials and is difficult to maintain.

Mr. Johnson showed a slide of Crystal Falls WTP and Cedar Ridge WTP. He highlighted the old filter technology and steep slope where the plants are located. In the Cedar Ridge facility, they cannot fit any more equipment, the tanks are deteriorating, and the building is rotting. Upper Basin WTP is undersized and is challenged during the summer. This would be the first one to be consolidated in the new plant. Scenic View WTP is another facility for consolidation.

The Sierra Pines site was acquired in 2008. It is situated to take advantage of hydrology and gravity flow and is 26 acres so it can accommodate needed equipment. It would serve up to Sugar Pine and Me-Wuk and down to Phoenix Lake. There are two areas on the site for developing a water treatment facility and raw water reservoir. The Tuolumne main canal and flume cross the site. The objective is to consolidate 7 SWTPs, replace aging infrastructure, and increase capacity to 3 mgd initially, with 5 mgd the ultimate capacity.

The project would increase water supply resiliency and improve treatment and storage and reduced O & M. It also will minimize the use of the raw water canal. The site would be designed to accommodate some of the loading from upstream if there was a fire. It contains a raw water

Summary: T-S IRWM WAC Meeting

reservoir of about 30-acre feet. The raw water quality starts out relatively good but degrades as it travels down the system. They will use UV disinfection.

The TUD board has approved a preliminary design report. There will also be a stormwater detention pond. The lagoons will take the backwash waste from the plant and will take residual waste to the landfill. The liquid portion will recycle back through the facility to avoid waste of water. The cost is \$30M. Compared to replacing the 7 facilities individually this is a lesser priced project. The O& M will be less on the new plant than the 7 individual facilities.

Wetland delineation has been completed. The CEQA process will begin in the fall. Landscape architecture and recreational planning will start this summer. Geotechnical investigations also begin this summer. Low impact recreation is what is being considered, at least in the first phase.

A member asked about solar. Mr. Johnson said solar could occur when developing operations and maintenance. USDA does fund solar.

Another member mentioned the significant cost of the project and asked if there is funding available that makes the project feasible. Mr. Johnson said USDA funding is going to be the primary funding program they will look at. The District really needs a \$10M grant from somewhere and they will fund the rest through a low interest loan. A \$15M loan from USDA is under half a million in debt service annually. Mr. Johnson said that is doable for TUD.

7. Develop Draft Questions for ATCAA DAC Water Survey:

Ms. Mattos reviewed the most common questions submitted by members. These mainly focused on individuals' water sources and the cost of service or self-provision through wells and septic tanks. Some included whether the respondent notices any problems with their septic system, whether they purchase bottled water, if they have a water purification filter on the kitchen faucet, if the well water quality been tested by a licensed testing service, if they are on a well or district supplied water, and if they have sewer service provided by a district.

Mr. Joe Bors said he want to consider adding a couple of questions such as what are the top concerns about water service or your well? Would you like to have someone test your well water? Do you own or rent? Mr. Bors said he will review the questions and get back to Ms. Mattos by the end of the week. Then they will go to the MAC and back to the WAC.

8. SPIT Phase Two Proposal:

Miss Mattos shared the JPA agreed to fund the Stormwater Project Identification Tool (SPIT) Phase 2. This will include incorporating updated parcel data for Calaveras County and will improve speed of model runs. They will also ground truth some of the models using SNAPS to assist. The goal is to build a model that is usable for members as they develop projects and to provide objective data support for project need to potential funders.

9. Other Water News:

None offered.

Next WAC and JPA Meetings:

The next WAC meeting is June 17, 2020. The next JPA meeting is June 17, 2020.

Submitted by:

Ms. Carolyn Lott

Summary: T-S IRWM WAC Meeting

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Watershed Advisory Committee Members

Astrid Torres	Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency	Present
Joe Bors	ATCAA/Alternate	Present
	Calaveras County Water District	
Joel Metzger	CCWD/Alternate	Present
Tom Parrington	Central Sierra Audubon	Present
Tom Harrington	CSA/Alternate	Present
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	Present
	CSERC/Alternate	
Melissa Eads	City of Angels Camp	
Chris O'Flinn	CAC/Alternate	Present
Colette Such	City of Sonora	Present
	CC/Alternate	
Spencer Edwards	Groveland Community Services	Present
Pete Kampa	GCSD/Alternate	
Luis Melchor	GCSD/Alternate	
Rebecca Miller-Cripps	Jamestown Sanitary District	Present
Patti Ingalls	JSD/Alternate	
Cindy Secada	Murphys Sanitary District	Present
Dan Murphy	MSD/Alternate	
Clay Onstad	MSD/Alternate	
Brian Barclay	Pinecrest Permittees Assoc.	
Tim Fisher	PPA/Alternate	
Dore Bietz	TB of Me-Wuk Indians	
Doug Roberson	TBMWI/Alternate	
Natalie Rizzi	Tuolumne County	Present
Denise Zitnik	TC/Alternate	Present
Kirk Ford	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	Present
Kevin Rice	Tuolumne Group Sierra Club	Present
	TGSC/Alternate	
Patrick Koepele	Tuolumne River Trust	
Seth Connolly	TRT/Alternate	Present
Lisa Westbrook	Tuolumne Utilities District	Present
Makayla Dillon	TUD/Alternate	
Ed Pattison	TUD/Alternate	
Tom Trott	Twain Harte Community Services District	Present

Summary: T-S IRWM WAC Meeting

Robb Perry	THCSD/Alternate	
	U.S. Forest Service – Stanislaus National Forest	
Lucas Wilkinson	USFS/Alternate	Present
	USFS/Alternate	
Lori Karnes	Utica Water & Power Authority	Present
Karlee Karnes	UWPA/Alternate	

IRWMA Staff

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

Other Interested Parties Present

Name	Organization
Erik Johnson	TUD
Ron Ringen	TUD
Bruce Miller	MSD