



**Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water  
Management Authority Watershed Advisory  
Committee Meeting Summary  
October 20, 2021**

**HOMEWORK:**

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

**MEETING GOALS:**

1. Hear close-out presentations for DWR funded projects
2. Review worksheet for project admission into IRWMP
3. Learn about Climate Resiliency Grant proposal submitted

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

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

**SUMMARY**

**1. Opening Remarks and Consideration of Meeting Summary:**

Ms. Carolyn Lott called the meeting to order. She asked if there were any edits to the meeting summary for August 18, 2021. None were offered.

**Agreement:** There was agreement to accept the WAC meeting summary of August 18, 2021, as the summary of record.

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

**3. Standing Items:**

Grant Update – Ms. Lindsay Mattos submitted to DWR three close-outs, amendments on Drought grants, and Prop One invoices.

Members in Good Standing – Ms. Lott noted most members had already paid their invoices for the 2021-2022 fiscal year and reminders had been sent to those who still need to pay.

YSS – Mr. John Buckley reported TRT is the fiscal agent and partner in management and administration for a huge number of projects within the MSA. The SERAL alternatives should be out to the public mid-November.

**4. Update on the DACI Project:**

Ms. Holly Alpert said this project is part of the DACI Prop One grant. She has administered an online survey over several months. She is almost done with the draft of the final report.

Almost 1,700 surveys were completed, and Ms. Lott was instrumental in outreach. Most came from Tuolumne County. Responses were received from various income categories. Most DACI respondents are customers on water systems.

Themes of project comments include increased water conservation motivated through incentives, enforcement of restrictions for watering roads and sidewalks, issues around renters

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not motivated to conserve as they do not pay for water, desire for a water waste hotline, more leak detection tools, and exploring the possibility of reusing water from fire hydrant testing.

By far, the most comments were around rates, education on how rates and costs are calculated, assistance grants to low-income customers, and moving to monthly billing at TUD.

Regarding Infrastructure, there were complaints about smell, water pressure, and taste. It was suggested there should be education on who is responsible for what – utility district versus homeowner responsibilities. There were also comments about upgrading the ditch system and gaining more local control over water.

Surveys from the homeless noted there is nowhere to fill water bottles. They need water filling stations.

30% of DAC water system customers feel the water is unsafe to drink. 48% use home purification and 40% buy bottled water for drinking water needs. There needs to be more education around what goes into sampling and testing.

Concerns related to drought included lack of backup water supplies, backup power supplies, and adequate fire flow.

For wastewater, there were suggestions about metering wastewater, concerns about rates, the desire to convert septic to sewer, education about what should not go into sewer system, and smell.

The process for completing the report is to send the draft out for comment with a return pre-Thanksgiving.

Ms. Alpert noted SI is working to add funding onto the current grant agreement for implementation funds.

### **5. Close-Out Presentation on ATCAA Project:**

Mr. Craig Case said ATCAA has recently received \$1.6M of funding to help address issues where people are in arrears on water bills. Utility districts can contact him for further information.

The DWR grants were Round 2 and Drought grants for a program ATCAA called Home-Level Water Conservation. For the DAC Round 2 grant, they provided assessments of water usage and installed cost-effective conservation measures in 192 homes. Very few people wanted changes to landscaping so ATCAA did not include that piece in the Drought Round. The average cost was \$979 per home.

They documented savings of over 232,845 gallons of water per month. They exceed their goals on the Round 2 project. The Drought Round served 395 homes instead of 500 because of complications from the pandemic.

Both presentations are available here: <https://tstan-irwma.org/projects/>

### **6. CA Resilience Challenge Grant Proposal:**

Ms. Mattos submitted the proposal the first week of September. The application is for \$200,000 for the community of Groveland. The first \$80,000 is to complete the next phase of the Resiliency Strategy Tool Kit. The product will show where there is a stormwater problem and

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where water could be utilized. The grant will line out projects that could be done mostly in the downtown area. \$30,000 would fund the county to conduct an infrastructure study on culverts and other infrastructure for stormwater control. At the end of the project, a full list of projects for Groveland would be developed. The IRWMA is the lead applicant.

### **7. Close-Out Presentation on TUD Phoenix Lake Project:**

Gaddeil DeMattei was the project manager. TUD put a lot of time and effort into educating the board, the public, and other stakeholders. Phoenix Lake is an 88-acre water storage reservoir and the primary water source for over 10,000 customers. The primary goal of the project was capacity increase. It is an emergency supply, as well as part of the water delivery system. Another main goal was to improve water quality.

Indigeny Reserve and the Summer Family accepted the sediment for reuse. The project is still open although the grant is closing out. \$1.6M was received through the RCD Grant and had funding for design, environmental work, permitting and removal of sediment. \$3.5M was from Drought funding through the IRWMA and the TUD contribution was \$1.3M.

Challenges: The cost estimate was \$12M in 2012. There was a \$7.9M shortfall in today's costs. They used value engineering which means to build what you can with the money you have. The project was put out to bid in March 2020 when the pandemic hit. There were over 78 distinct environmental requirements. Wetland conservation was required on a 1:1 ratio and the wetlands had to be dedicated to a third party. Dewatering was a challenge. A bypass had to be constructed to keep the project area dry. The East Pool was still extremely wet even after dewatering. They could not resolve this issue within the timeline of when it had to be filled back up, so they had to abandon this portion. Another challenge was erosion control.

Accomplishments: Storage capacity was increased as they removed over 160,000 cubic yards of sludge increasing 113-acre feet in capacity. Water quality was improved through deeper water, cooler water, and clearer water. They established a water quality control berm to help with the water quality of the East Pool. They Invoiced \$5M and have received \$2.7M. Outstanding for reimbursement is still \$2.3M.

They removed all the weeds allowed by the Army Corp of Engineers without having to provide additional wetlands. They constructed the North, West and Central Pools. The East Pool could not get dry enough. There was no funding for the South Pool. They cannot make more improvements without additional funding.

Long Term Monitoring: 123 trees were planted and will be irrigated for 3 years. They will monitor the North Pool sediment buildup for the next 5 years and provide annual reports to various agencies for 5 years. Monitoring costs are not covered by these grants.

The full presentation is available here: <https://tstan-irwma.org/projects/>

### **8. Review of IRWMP Project Inclusion Worksheet & Call for Projects:**

Mr. Buckley said the 2016 Guidelines are referenced in #8. This needs to be updated. He will send in suggested wording. He noted #22-23 and questioned whether Prop One is still the pot of funding.

**Agreement:** There was agreement to recommend that the JPA Board open the "Call for Projects" with a close date of January 14, 2021.

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**Next WAC and Board Meetings: November 17, 2021.**

**Submitted by:**  
Ms. Carolyn Lott

**MEETING ATTENDANCE  
Watershed Advisory Committee Members**

Craig Case	Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency	Present
Joe Bors	ATCAA/Alternate	
Brad Arnold	Calaveras County Water District	
	CCWD/Alternate	
Tom Parrington	Central Sierra Audubon	Present
	CSA/Alternate	
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	Present
	CSERC/Alternate	
Caroline Schirato	City of Angels Camp	Present
Isabel Moncada	CAC/Alternate	
Chris O'Flinn	CAC/Alternate	
Colette Such	City of Sonora	Present
	CS/Alternate	
Spencer Edwards	Groveland Community Services	Present
Pete Kampa	GCSD/Alternate	
Luis Melchor	GCSD/Alternate	
Rebecca Miller-Cripps	Jamestown Sanitary District	Present
Patricia Ingalls	JSD/Alternate	
Cindy Secada	Murphys Sanitary District	
Dan Murphy	MSD/Alternate	
Clay Onstad	MSD/Alternate	
Brian Barclay	Pinecrest Permittees Assoc.	Present
Chris Barth	PPA/Alternate	
Diana Beasley	TB of Me-Wuk Indians	
Eric Junker	TBMWI/Alternate	
Natalie Rizzi	Tuolumne County	
Denise Zitnik	TC/Alternate	Present
Kirk Ford	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	Present
	Tuolumne Group Sierra Club	
Jim Bearden	TGSC/Alternate	Present

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Byron Kremple	Tuolumne River Trust	Present
Patrick Koepele	TRT/Alternate	
Lisa Westbrook	Tuolumne Utilities District	Present
	TUD/Alternate	
Tom Trott	Twain Harte Community Services District	Present
Lewis Giambruno	THCSD/Alternate	
Tracy Weddle	U.S. Forest Service – Stanislaus National Forest	Present
Lucas Wilkinson	USFS/Alternate	
Lori Karnes	Utica Water & Power Authority	
Karlee Karnes	UWPA/Alternate	Present

**IRWMA Staff**

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

**Other Interested Parties Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Charles Segerstrom	City of Sonora Energy Committee
Don Perkins	Tuolumne Utilities District
Lisa Murphy	TUD
Ron Ringen	TUD
Holly Alpert	Sierra Institute
Gaddiel DeMattei	TUD
Erik Johnson	TUD
Jaron Brandon	Tuolumne County
Bruce Miller	Murphy Sanitary District