



**Tuolumne-Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water  
Management Authority Watershed Advisory  
Committee Meeting Summary  
September 21, 2022**

**HOMEWORK:**

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

**MEETING GOALS:**

1. Come to consensus on the project/s to fund with the DAC Drinking Water grant award

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

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

**SUMMARY**

**1. Opening Remarks and Consideration of Resolution 2022-05:**

Ms. Carolyn Lott called the meeting to order. Ms. Lott asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-05 - A Resolution of the Watershed Advisory Committee of the Tuolumne Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority to Proclaim and Authorize Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Watershed Advisory Committee for 30 Days Pursuant to AB361 Brown Act Provisions.

**Agreement:** Mr. Andy Merrill moved, and Mr. Tom Parrington seconded, a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-05.

**2. Consideration of August 17, 2022, Meeting Summary**

Ms. Lott asked if there were any edits to the meeting summary for June 15, 2022. None were offered.

**Agreement:** There was agreement to accept the WAC meeting summary of August 17, 2022, as the summary of record.

**3. Public Comment:**

Ms. Lott opened the public comment period. No comments were offered. Ms. Lott closed the public comment period.

**4. Standing Items:**

Grant Updates

Ms. Mattos reported she is in the process of preparing an amendment to the Prop Round One grant, which includes the Groveland and UTICA projects. The amendment adds the Westside Dam project into the contract.

Invoicing for current grants is up to date for the Urban/Multi-Benefit grant which includes the Tribe's and TWCSA's tanks and water line rehabilitation for The Tribe.

The DAC Drinking Water grant will go through the Sierra Institute, and she is waiting for a contract from SI.

## Summary: T-S IRWM WAC Meeting

Drought retention funds have not yet been received but were approved the beginning of July.

Members in Good Standing – Ms. Lott noted the Tuolumne Group of the Sierra Club is working on getting back into good standing. The USFS assured her they would have people appointed to represent them before the next meeting.

Roundtable of Regions Report/Outreach Committee – Mr. Brad Arnold said the Roundtable of Regions hired a consultant to help staff the Roundtable. There are no updates from the Outreach Subcommittee.

YSS Update: Ms. Tatiana Altman reported YSS, and Tuolumne County, continue to partner with the FS on forest reforestation, road repairs, forest management, and thinning logging/timber sales. They are also exploring with Columbia College how to build a larger workforce to focus on treatment. The fuelbreak project is in process.

### **5. Discussion to Prioritize DAC Drinking Water Reliability Projects and Determine Which Project/s to Fund with the Current Award:**

Ms. Mattos provided some background. She said the grant application was put together about one year ago. The focus is on water reliability. The application projects came out of the DAC area survey done two years ago. Technical assistance funds were used to perform a survey of DACs. The focus of the grant is to help assure water consumers who are not served by water agencies have access to a clean and safe water supply and to prepare for natural disaster impacts that affect the watershed and water resources.

Two projects were included, water filling stations and a private well testing program. The award was \$525,000. However, since the grant application was submitted there has been a lot of new information obtained through research.

The initial projects were proposed to address DAC survey results. People had concerns about the cost of water but that is not something the IRWMA can address. They were also concerned about quality of water which for agencies was generated by the smell rather than test results. Most of the respondents were on a water system not a private well.

Fifty-four out of 574 survey respondents were DAC respondents on a private well. 37% thought their water is not safe to drink. 60% would like to have their well tested.

Since the application was submitted, Tuolumne County has declared a State of Emergency for drought. TC OES is documenting and mapping well failures within TC. According to Mr. Arnold, well failures in Calaveras County are located outside the T-Stan boundaries.

Well drillers in TC have seen two main causes for well failures, pumps that need to be replaced and wells that need to be deepened. Hooking up to TUD is only an option if the property has an existing metered connection available. Connecting is quite expensive. Regarding fill stations, TUD cannot supply free water or take on liability.

Regarding water quality, Aqualabs reports the typical quality issues in TC are high nitrates or arsenic. Less than half the wells tested are found to have traces of these contaminants and these wells are not deemed unsafe/nonpotable. Sierra Village and Jamestown tend to have high arsenic with Jamestown also showing nitrates. The water from these wells that have above allowable contaminant levels can be filtered to be made potable. The cost of the test for bacteria, arsenic, and nitrates is \$160.

## Summary: T-S IRWM WAC Meeting

The TC Safe Stay site, the proposed site to house homeless, has plans to provide 33 shelters. TC estimates there are as many 1,000 homeless in TC. The planned site will have utilities to include potable water. The current location is below Jamestown on High School Road.

Water fill stations are installed in Calaveras County with additional ones planned. The fill stations CC is using cost \$150,000 and are enclosed in a steel box and use a card swipe process to access water. Utica and CC use a Release of Liability that customers of the filling stations must sign before receiving a card. The filling stations can support large container water purchases. TC would potentially be the project proponent for a filling station in TC and would help with appropriate location choices.

Well testing by Aqualabs is \$160 per test to cover the common local contaminants. A waiver of liability is also proposed with this project. Some grant money could also be set aside to help with remediation. TC potentially could be the project proponent or the RCD. ATCAA could potentially be a partner in this project. Ms. Mattos reminded the group the projects where work is done with individuals require more paperwork which results in higher administration costs.

Well rehabilitation is another potential project. TC OES has intake forms for community members with failing wells who have not been able to correct the issues. OES can share the data with a project proponent or potentially could be the project proponent. Most failing wells have one of two issues as stated above. A new pump costs approximately \$8,000. Deepening a well can cost anywhere from \$8,00-\$25,000. The water would also need to be tested for an additional \$160. Currently, there are 34 reported failed wells. It was mentioned owners should be DAC verified prior to repairs being done.

After the presentation, Ms. Lott facilitated a group discussion.

The group arrived at some “filters” to use for determining which project to take on and who could benefit from the projects.

- Prefer long-term benefit vs short-term
- Access to water through a water fill station could be available to everyone, free for income qualified and for-purchase to others
- Projects should benefit those who don't have access to utility water
- Properties should be DAC qualified owners
- Consideration should be given to number served
- “Lessons learned” should be tracked to benefit future projects or expanded projects

**Agreement:** There was agreement to explore a fill station at a projected cost of \$175,000 and put approximately \$225,000 towards well water quality tests (approximately \$75,000) focused on Jamestown and Sierra Village (need to check with CC on needs there), and \$150,000 on remediation prioritized as follows: 1) well water filter, 2) utility connection fee, 3) well rehab. The remainder of the funds would be for administration of projects and of the grant itself.

Ms. Mattos will work with Ms. Dore Bietz (TC OES) to determine identity of project proponent(s), project descriptions, and project budgets. The goal is to return with presentations at the October meeting.

### **6. Other Water News:**

The November 7-10 conference on Localizing CA Waters was announced and will be held at Evergreen Lodge.

Summary: T-S IRWM WAC Meeting

**Next WAC and Board Meetings: October 19, 2022.** Ms. Ann Segerstrom volunteered to bring snacks.

**Submitted by:**  
Ms. Carolyn Lott

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**  
**Watershed Advisory Committee Members**

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

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Jim Phelan	TCRCD/Alternate	
Jim Bearden	Tuolumne Group Sierra Club	Present
Ron Ringen	Tuolumne Utilities District	Present
Lisa Murphy	TUD/Alternate	
Tom Trott	Twain Harte Community Services District	
Lewis Giambruno	THCSD/Alternate	Present
Zachary Croyle	U.S. Forest Service – Stanislaus National Forest	
Tracy Weddle	USFS/Alternate	
Lori Karnes	Utica Water & Power Authority	
Joel Metzger	UWPA/Alternate	
Emily Dondero	UWPA/Alternate	

**IRWMA Staff**

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

**Other Interested Parties Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Emily Long	TUD
Walt Kruse	Central Sierra Audubon
Dore Bietz	Tuolumne County