
Chapter 4 Coordination

4.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on both describing the coordination activities that occurred during the Plan Update process and on assuring that this high level of coordination and communication continues into the future. Coordination within the region, with adjacent IRWM regions, and between the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) and individual entities with federal and state agencies are described in this section. Agency coordination includes consideration of both project development and regulatory compliance.

4.1 Coordination and Communication – Local Agencies and Stakeholders

By June 2013, a total of 81 stakeholders had been identified and contacted. These groups or entities included 41 agencies, jurisdictions, or departments; 12 non-governmental organizations; 18 Tribal entities; 4 Hispanic community groups; and 3 Hmong community groups. Chapter 3 *Stakeholder Involvement* includes a complete list of all entities that were recruited to participate in the Plan Update process, as well as the ultimate level of involvement of each contacted group.

As part of the circuit-riding activities described in Chapter 3 *Stakeholder Involvement*, local issues identified as precipitating project development were identified by all contacted entities. This issues list not only informed the development of the IRWMP issues section, Chapter 12 *Goals, Objectives, Issues, and Conflicts*, but also was provided to all agencies and stakeholders to ensure that the genesis of each project was fully understood from the earliest stages. The project development process described in Chapter 14 *Project Application, Development, and Review* was designed specifically to ensure coordination between local agencies and stakeholders during project development.

Each subsequent round of project development resulted in draft project materials being both posted on the web and emailed directly to the full stakeholder distribution list. Conflicts, linkages, and synergies between individual projects were identified during the review of project materials. If possible, project-related conflicts were identified, then either individual stakeholders collaborated directly to address potential conflicts, or members of the project team were requested to facilitate discussion. As a result of this purposeful and intensive effort, the final set of Plan projects were voted into the Plan unanimously with no dissenting opinions. The project integration process further served to identify potential synergies and efficiencies both within and between identified projects. In several cases project descriptions or components were modified or refined to accommodate discussions and collaboration that resulted from this integration process.

4.2 Adjacent IRWM Coordination and Communication Efforts

4.2.1 Identification of Adjacent IRWM Efforts

Using the official Department of Water Resources (DWR) IRWM funding area and IRWM region area maps, the IRWM regions which share a boundary with Yuba County were identified as American River Basin, North

Sacramento Valley Four County Group, Upper Feather River Watershed, and Cosumnes American Bear Yuba/CABY. All of these IRWMP regions are within the Sacramento River Funding Area.

4.2.2 Coordination and Communication with Adjacent IRWM Efforts

The RWMG decided to limit coordination with adjacent areas to informal contacts until such time as the group had finalized the issues list, prepared goals and objectives, completed development of the list of projects, and completed the project review based on the criteria “A-L” as stipulated by the guidelines. In this way, the outreach would be based on known factors, and the discussions could be based on concrete findings rather than speculation. Following completion of these initial activities, the RWMG implemented a systematic outreach to adjacent IRWMPs.

At the RWMG meeting in April 2014, stakeholders volunteered to outreach to the adjacent IRWM regions, including CABY, Upper Feather, North Sacramento Valley, and American River Basin (ARB). Scott Matyac of Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) contacted the North Sacramento Valley Four County Group and ARB; Jim Brobeck of AquAlliance contacted North Sacramento Valley Four County Group; and Rachel Hutchinson of South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) approached CABY, the Upper Feather River Watershed, and the Mokelumne Amador Calaveras. The outcome of these meetings is presented in **Appendix 4-1**.

All of the initial outreach activities were conducted by phone. Ongoing coordination with adjacent IRWM regions will continue using the same contact people with an annual phone call, at minimum, to ensure inter-regional communication.

Additionally, it is important to note that informal coordination has occurred in a variety of ways since the initiation of the Plan Update in early 2013: 1) attendance and conversations at the Sierra Water Work Group conference in Lake Tahoe by RWMG members and project team members (2013 and 2014); 2) attendance and conversations at the Association of California Water Agencies/ACWA conferences, special topic summits and regional forums (Region 2, to which Yuba belongs, as well as immediately adjacent Regions 3 and 4) by RWMG members (2013, 2014); and 3) attendance at DWR-sponsored strategic planning workshops in Sacramento and Redding by RWMG members and project members (April and November 2013).

No interregional conflicts were identified during the outreach conversations or during the many informal meetings between RWMG members and stakeholders in other regions. Instead, the conversations focused on opportunities to collaborate in project development or addressing issues of mutual concern, such as the following:

- equity of funding between IRWM regions within the same funding area;
- discussion of conjunctive use and water banking between regions, as well as issues associated with groundwater management;
- opportunities to coordinate flood control responses and projects;
- watershed management (e.g., forests/fuels/fire, climate change adaptability, riparian and fishery habitat); and
- fisheries (particularly anadromous).

In all cases, the next steps included a set of actions that would support long-term collaboration: attendance at meetings of adjacent RWMGs, formal (via RWMG meetings) and informal (such as opportunistic use of attendance at events) conversations to identify projects that could be multi-IRWM regional (within the Sacramento Region Funding Area), ongoing participation in the Round Table of Regions group, and forwarding

of project lists and updates to adjacent regions to spark discussions about collaborative project design or coordination.

4.3 Coordination with State and/or Federal Agencies

A variety of state and federal agencies were identified as being integral to ongoing IRWM activities. In some cases these agencies maintain regulatory responsibility for potential project implementation. In other cases these agencies have plans or policies which will impact achieving Plan goals and objectives. A list of relevant state and federal agencies follows:

4.3.1 State Water Resources Control Board

Meetings were held in May and August of 2013 with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) coordinator for the region to identify options for coordination during the Plan update. At the initial meeting the following issues/options were discussed:

1. Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-term Sustainability (CV-SALTS): These are regionally based processes looking at limits to the salts entering Central Valley waterways. If a recycled water project were to go forward through the IRWMP, it would be expected that a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) would be developed in coordination with the CV-SALTS program.
2. Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP): The California Rice Coalition does monitoring in compliance with this program; outcomes/data might be integrated into the IRWM process.
3. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs): There are nine water bodies in the Yuba County IRWMP region on the 2010 list; these should be integrated into the Plan with possible actions identified, or at least the timeline discussed.
4. Dairy Program: There are four dairies in the region; this may be important to discuss depending on the size and relative effects of the dairies.
5. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program: The NPDES Program regulates outflow from wastewater treatment plants, among other sources. Identifying the permits in the region would be helpful in knowing pollutant sources.
6. MS-4 Storm Water Program: This program is part of the NPDES Program, and focuses on topics like minimizing or eliminating discharge in times of high flow. This would include low-impact development (LID).
7. Septic Program: Septic systems can be a problem in concentrated areas or when they are too close to water supply sources/systems (including wells). Nevada County has identified this as an issue, as has the Yuba County Planning Department.

The second meeting in August was a follow-up to the initial outreach meeting on May 3, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to increase coordination and review the CV-SALTS program in more detail. The Board Executive Officer has given specific direction to staff to ensure that water quality is consistently and persistently referenced throughout IRWM planning; this includes the CV-SALTS program, as well as the TMDL and 303(d) work done by the Board.

The Regional Board contact for the Yuba County Region IRWM process indicated that she would participate regularly to ensure that water quality is a consideration for all applicable issues. In addition, a staffer working with CV-SALTS, including the SNMP for the Central Valley, attended the meeting.

Staff described the CV-SALTS program as a regionally based program that aims to limit the salts entering Central Valley waterways. It was initiated in 2006 as a result of impaired water in the Central Valley. Certain IRWMP projects, namely those entailing recycled water, may be required to have an SNMP, which would be developed in coordination with the CV-SALTS program. Key points from the second meeting are summarized as follows:

- There is currently no SNMP for Yuba County.
- The Central Valley (CV) Salinity Coalition spearheaded the CV-SALTS program to address the issue.
- The Coalition has a tiered strategy and work plan which provides the overall framework with management plans for specific areas.
- All recycled water projects must be approved by letter from the CV-SALTS program.
- The initial conceptual report will include maps that will determine whether Yuba County is a high priority area.

In addition, the following points were discussed and noted for incorporation into the IRWMP Update:

- Kings County, Sonoma, Pajaro, and Mojave IRWMPs addressed CV-SALTS in their IRWMP;
- addition of a table to the Plan that lists the type of regional agricultural uses (if relevant) and the type of SNMP needed should be considered;
- the document library should include SWRCB Resolution No. 5-2010-0024 which requires preparation of an SNMP, and the 2009 State Recycled Water Policy (Resolution No. 2009-0011); and
- the CV Salinity Coalition membership brochure directly addresses the connection to IRWM planning, as follows: *“Groups preparing Integrated Regional Water Management Plans involving Central Valley Waters will be required to manage salinity and document their efforts. The best opportunities to manage salinity exist at the regional scale so coordination is essential. In the Central Valley, coordination with other stakeholders and the Regional Board is best achieved through CVSC. IRWM groups therefore need to join the Coalition. Cities or districts that are planning or implementing a recycled water project or any project that may increase salts or nitrates in the Central Valley need to be a Coalition Member and active participation in CV-SALTS. Irrigated Lands Coalitions operating under Regional Board waivers of waste discharge requirements also need to join the coalition. Any facility that is a WDR or NPDES permit holder that has or could have salinity or nitrogen restrictions in their permit(s) needs to join the Coalition.”*

The results of these meetings were conveyed to the RWMG and ongoing discussions informed both the regional description as well as the issues identification chapter. Ongoing participation in the CV-SALTS effort is included in Plan implementation actions identified in Chapter 17 *Plan Performance and Monitoring*.

4.3.2 US Forest Service

Coordination with the US Forest Service (USFS) was accomplished via staff attendance at the RWMG meetings, USFS staff review of documents, and ongoing meetings between USFS staff and a variety of IRWM members in other venues and on projects on which there is existing collaboration.

4.3.3 Feather River Region – Regional Flood Management Plan

The May 2014 Draft Regional Flood Management Plan states:

“The Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA), Three Rivers Levee Improvement Authority (TRLIA), Marysville Levee Commission (MLC), and Sutter Butte Flood Control Agency (SBFCA) have partnered with the State of California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to develop this Feather River Regional Flood Management Plan (“RFMP” or “Plan”). This Plan reflects the flood management priorities of the Feather River Region while at the same time aligning with the recently adopted 2012 Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP) to the extent feasible. By clearly establishing regional flood management priorities, this Plan will facilitate future funding and implementation of much-needed flood risk reduction projects.

Although funded by DWR, the intent of all five partnering agencies (YCWA, TRLIA, MLC, SBFCA, and DWR) is to facilitate the development of a broadly supported Plan and embrace the FloodSAFE vision....

The regional goals and objectives are to improve flood risk management in the region while advancing the supporting goals of improving operations and maintenance, promoting ecosystem functions, improving institutional support, and promoting multi-objective projects. These objectives of the regional planning process are founded on, and consistent with, the goals of the CVFPP as described in the 2012 Plan.”

YCWA served as a liaison with the larger four-agency effort. In addition, TRLIA participated in several of the project development activities to ensure that their projects were afforded consideration and also informed the development of other projects.

4.3.4 Levee Improvement Projects

Yuba County and Reclamation District (RD) 784 work together as the TRLIA to address levee improvement projects on the Feather and Bear Rivers. TRLIA has worked closely for several years with the California Reclamation Board (part of DWR) and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to address the flood protection needs of RD 784. This work resulted in projects that include the planning, design, and construction of setback levees on the Bear and Feather Rivers.

4.3.5 Forecast-Coordinated Operations of Lake Oroville and New Bullards Bar Reservoir

The Forecast-Coordinated Operations of Lake Oroville and New Bullards Bar Reservoir (F-CO) is a multi-agency regional flood management program to improve flood operations along the Yuba and Feather Rivers and downstream. F-CO is a partnership program that includes the following:

- USACE
- YCWA
- DWR
- National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) – National Weather Service-River Forecast Center

F-CO is a multi-year project that includes F-CO Design (Phase 1) and Implementation (Phase 2). Half of Phase 1 is funded with in-kind services from DWR, NOAA, and the Corps, with the remaining half funded by the Costa-

Machado Water Act of 2000. Phase 2 (estimated cost of about \$1.6 million) is funded with 30 percent provided by YCWA and 70 percent by grant funds. In addition, in-kind services from DWR, NOAA, USACE, and the State Water Project (SWP) will supplement program implementation.

4.3.6 Lower Yuba River Accord

The Lower Yuba River Accord, described in more detail in Chapter 6 *Region Description* was formulated by a broad coalition of 17 agricultural, environmental, and fisheries interests, including state and federal agencies and YCWA.

The Lower Yuba River Accord (Yuba Accord) enables the YCWA to successfully operate the Yuba River Development Project (FERC 2246, 362 MW) for hydropower, irrigation, flood control, recreation, and fisheries benefits. As a settlement agreement, the Yuba Accord is the final product of nearly three years of intense negotiations among 17 stakeholders, including local irrigation districts, state and federal resource agencies, and conservation groups. Based upon the success of two one-year pilot programs (2006/2007), the State of California approved the agreement in 2008, and it is now fully operational. The Yuba Accord is unprecedented in that it combines increased in-stream fisheries flows – for wild, native salmon and steelhead – with increased supplemental water supplies for California cities and farms, while preserving all of the project’s clean, renewable hydropower generation capacity. The Yuba Accord also reaffirms the water rights of the YCWA and its member irrigation districts. The Yuba Accord represents a nexus of smart engineering, collaborative partnership, and strategy development in the pursuit of a sustainable solution to a complex controversy.

The Accord stipulates creation of a Resource Management Team (RMT). The RMT is composed of a Planning and Operations group tasked with implementing a detailed monitoring and evaluation study program for the Lower Yuba River as specified in the Lower Yuba River Accord. The RMT membership is limited to signatories of the Yuba Accord, including YCWA, California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL), The Bay Institute (TBI), Friends of the River (FOR), Trout Unlimited (TU), Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), and DWR.

The IRWMP Update project team attended the 2013 and 2014 Symposiums to inform the agencies present of the status of the Yuba County IRWMP and to ensure coordination between the Lower Yuba River Accord RMT and the Yuba County IRWMP. In addition, several of the RMT members are Yuba County IRWM stakeholders and participated closely on issue identification, development of Plan goals and objectives, and ongoing conversations to inform project development.

Participants and stakeholders in the process include:

- American Rivers
- Bear Yuba Land Trust
- CBEC Consultants
- Foothills Water Network
- Gold Country Flyfishers
- HDR Consultants
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Pacific Gas and Electric
- Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission
- South Yuba River Citizens League
- State Water Resources Control Board
- Teichert Aggregates
- The Bay Institute
- Trout Unlimited
- University of California Davis
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- US Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest
- US Fish and Wildlife Service-AFRP
- Yuba County Water Agency

4.3.7 Groundwater Management and Monitoring

YCWA has prepared and adopted an SB 1938-compliant Groundwater Management Plan (GMP). This GMP was prepared by YCWA in cooperation with the local groundwater users and DWR. The agency continues to work and collaborate with DWR staff and with Member Units to implement an enhanced groundwater monitoring program.