**NOTES**

**REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING**

**Yuba County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan Update**

**May 20, 2020**

**9:00 am – 9:30 am**

**Location: Conference Call/Web Conference**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

1. **Announcements**
   * Both the MCFA and SRFA received full funding recommendations from DWR for the IRWM Implementation program funding requests. These recommendations are out for public comment.
   * Yuba Water Agency was the applicant and fiscal agent for both applications.
   * The PowerPoint presentation included a table summary of each application.
   * The Yuba region is in two funding areas: upper area is Mountain Counties Funding Area and lower area is Sacramento River Funding Area.
   * In Mountain Counties, the only project that fit the guidelines was the North Yuba Water District’s Fire and Drinking Water project. That funding area also had very little money available, so part of the project discussion revolved around funding.
   * In Sacramento River Funding Area, there were five projects in addition to the grant administration “project.” These included OPUD’s water meter installation and water distribution projects, a water system upgrade project from Wheatland, a wastewater system upgrade project from Linda County Water District, and a pump station upgrade project from RD 784.
   * Yuba Water provided significant cost share for both proposals (MCFA and SRFA).
   * It is our understanding that at the end of the month, after the public comment period is over, that DWR will send letters establishing that the applications have been funded. Yuba Water will likely receive this information as the formal applicant.
   * The contracting process will begin after that. It is very likely to be four to six months before funding becomes available.
   * If you have questions regarding process or timing, reach out to JoAnna or Keri Rinne, both of whom are in touch with DWR staff.
2. **Yuba IRWM Project Readiness for expected stimulus money**
   * It is expected that federal and state stimulus money may become available in the coming months for “shovel-ready” projects.
   * It is expected that the roll-out will be similar to the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009) funding process, and is expected due to economic impacts resulting from COVID. The team does not have any additional information but is continually tracking funding opportunities and announcements.
   * In order to prepare for this future funding, the team asks that IRWMP stakeholders provide any new or updated project detail for projects included in the IRWM plan via the short form process. Updates include project status, any changes to scope and budget, updates regarding funding requests submitted, etc. In additional, if you receive any quotes or engineering reports please send them to Elizabeth Herrera and copy JoAnna. The team keeps project information, which helps to focus and inform funding research and requests—not just stimulus-related but also more generally.
   * The short form is also being edited to encourage applicants to provide more detail. For any short forms or project updates you provide, stakeholders should include: more clarity on tasks under planning phase and implementation phase. A task list for the project overall along with a general timeline, and if possible, a general breakdown of budget for each task.
   * Additionally, let the team know if particular projects are top priority for your agency or organization. That is very helpful, as is the detail for the scope and budget, because it helps guide the funding analyses the team does for projects.
   * Email JoAnna and Elizabeth if you have questions about whether your projects are accepted or not.
3. **Update on funding requests made to Yuba Water Agency**
   * Yuba Water has indicated a desire to get as many projects to shovel-ready status as possible, so those types of requests should be directed now to the online grant portal. Jim Mitrisin at Yuba Water will then vet it through the their review process.
   * The new online grant portal should be used for all general grant requests to Yuba Water, as well as Bill Shaw grant requests.
   * The online form is accessible at <https://www.yubawater.org/233/Apply-for-a-Grant>.
   * JoAnna suggests including your project short form as an attachment and a letter noting that the project has been accepted into the IRWM plan. (You’ll know that the project has been accepted because JoAnna has, or will, tell you that it’s accepted.)
     + A reminder that the process for project acceptance is to: complete a short form and send it to JoAnna and Elizabeth (request review from Keri Rinne first, if desired). JoAnna will send out short forms to the RWMG for approval, and inform project representatives once projects are approved for IRWMP inclusion.
   * Comment from Patrick Meagher of RD 784: online portal is very user-friendly.
   * Jim Mitrisin: The proposal process hasn’t changed beyond the addition of the online portal. It’s a way to avoid relying solely on email and ensuring continuity in the agency’s review process.

**5. Review of Final Yuba IRWM Goals and Objectives Section Proposed Update**

* + Susan Robinson supported the process of updating the IRWMP Goals and Objectives section. She led this portion of the call.
  + The purpose of updating the section was to ensure they’re consistent with the Yuba Water Agency Strategic Plan and also support the County-wide Project Development Process while also being concise and clear.
  + The RWMG reviewed the draft update in October 2019.
  + Goals and Objectives that have been modified show changes in red (this information was also provided as an attachment with meeting materials):
    - Goal 1: Ensure adequate and reliable water supply that meets the diverse needs of the region
      1. 1.1 Protect, maintain, and enhance surface water and ground water supplies for the region’s multiple uses, including drinking water, agricultural, environmental, and recreational uses – (consolidates several objectives)
      2. 1.4 Promote disaster preparedness and conservation planning efforts to ensure sufficient water supplies in the event of drought, fire, earthquake, or other disaster.
    - Goal 2: Protect, restore, and enhance water quality for water users and in support of healthy watersheds
      1. 2.3 Promote recreational activities and programs that minimize or have no impacts to water quality
      2. 2.4 Promote healthy, forested watersheds to protect and improve water quality
      3. 2.5 Maintain and improve water quality required to protect and restore freshwater ecosystems, fisheries, and groundwater-dependent habitat
    - Goal 3: Preserve and restore watershed health and promote environmental stewardship
      1. 3.1 Steward healthy forests through fire and fuels management, erosion control measures, and wetland restoration to reduce the threat of wildfire and improve watershed health.
      2. 3.6 Support environmental protections to ensure the sustainability of economically, ecologically, and culturally significant species, ecosystems, and communities
    - Goal 4: Enhance regional economic development
      1. 4.1 Promote regional collaboration to support a strong, diversified Yuba County economy and improve the well-being of Yuba county residents. (New objective)
      2. 4.4 Create river recreational corridor linkages wile enhancing migration corridors for plants and animals
    - Goal 5: Support efforts to improve public safety (more broad language)
      1. 5.1 Promote regional and interregional collaboration and planning to improve emergency preparedness and emergency response for drought, wildfire, flood, and other disaster events.
      2. 5.2 Support integrated flood management to protect public safety and provide other benefits, such as improved floodplain functionality, habitat protection, recreation, and economic development.
      3. 5.3 New – Support efforts to improve Yuba County levees to achieve the state’s Urban Level of Flood Protection (ULOP) requirement to provide 200-year levees to urban areas
      4. 5.4 (new) Reduce flood risk in rural/agricultural areas through a combination of structural and nonstructural actions
      5. 5.5 Support healthy forest initiatives to reduce the threat of wildfire
      6. 5.6 Support collaborative efforts with the Yuba County Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council and other entities to increase wildfire protection levels and promote watershed health
    - Goal 6: Protect public safety through emergency and drought preparedness and integrated flood management - No changes
    - Goal 7: Promote equitable distribution of resources to disadvantaged communities and Tribes across the region
      1. Remove Objective 7.3: Foster partnerships to build the capacity of DACs and Tribes throughout the region to manage their own recreational amenities.
  + Objective 1.1 is new, and it basically summarizes three of the former objectives that were previously there
  + Objective 1.4 added text to link disaster preparedness specifically to water supply
  + Under Goal 2: Water Quality, change to “or have no” was to clarify the meaning.
  + The intent of 2.4 was to improve forested watersheds to improve water quality.
  + 2.5 adds “and restore” to clarify the text.
  + Goal 3, objective 3.1 added the concept of wildfire and watershed health – the purpose of this is to link the language more closely to Yuba Water Agency’s Strategic Priority #6.
  + Objective 3.6 changed to “ensure the sustainability of” instead of “extinction of” and added ecosystems.
  + Goal 4: economic development goal. Changed the language of objective 4.1 to make it more inclusive and broadly stated as supporting economy
  + Goal 5: public safety had a lot of changes. Most of these changes were to make them more closely aligned with the agency’s strategic priorities (wildfire, levees, flood management, etc.).
  + No changes to Goal 6.
  + Goal 7 had one small change to remove an objective related to Hard Rock Casino construction, which is no longer relevant.

**6. Next Meeting-4th quarter 2020**

* + The team will keep everyone fully in the loop regarding any opportunities for projects and updates to funding
  + Feel free to reach out with any questions about your projects or anything related to the IRWMP.
  + Susan Robinson is completing funding memos in an ongoing way, so stakeholders should reach out with questions about those.
  + JoAnna tried to capture everyone who logged in. There are quite a few phone numbers with no names attached, so please email JoAnna with your attendance so it can be logged.

MEETING CLOSE

Attendees:

1. Christopher Oliver
2. Mattipohto Siltanen
3. Susan Robinson
4. Elizabeth Herrera
5. Jackie Sillman
6. Keri Rinne
7. Kaitlyn Chow
8. Jim Mitrisin
9. Scott Matyac
10. Patrick Meager
11. Laurie Loaiza
12. Katie Burdick
13. Richard Dickard
14. Lindsey Nitta
15. Craig Platt
16. Ashley Overhouse
17. Leona Harris
18. Charles Johnck
19. Joanna Lessard
20. Dan Peterson
21. Creig Marcus
22. Barbara Vlamis