

REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING
Yuba County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

November 18, 2020

9:00 – 11:00 am

Location: Conference Call/Web Conference

NOTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Public Announcements

3. Update on Yuba Water Grant and Loan Program

- Yuba Water Agency Community Impact Grant and Loan Program Policy
- Program Summary and submission windows
- All grant requests must be submitted via online form accessible at <https://www.yubawater.org/233/Apply-for-a-Grant>.
- All General Grants submittals must include a letter stating that the project has been accepted into the Yuba IRWM Plan and include the IRWM Project Short Form as an attachment
 - Clarifying how this will be administered
 - Previously there were two grant programs and those have been combined
 - Next window will be March/April period in 2021
 - Guidelines are being refined and will be available online and will be sent out to IRWMP group via email
 - Jim Mitrison will be Program Administrator and can answer questions (JoAnna will be the co-Program Administrator and Technical Lead and is also available for questions)
 - YWA POD committee will review projects and make recommendations to the board
 - Policy was approved by the YWA board, they make all final grant or loan decisions
 - Details how to link project with programmatic goals and objectives
 - Must be local gov't agency, tribe or non-profit to be eligible
 - Financially feasible and economically justified
 - Projects need to be accepted into the IRWMP plan (and document this)
 - Preference for grants and loans strongly aligned with agency's mission and program area goals
 - Criteria for awarding grants includes
 - Submit project to IRWM plan is first step. Projects can be submitted at any time (at least six weeks prior to external grant deadline is preferred if you're looking for cost-share from the agency)
 - Board will consider projects as a group to determine the best mix for funding
 - Applications must be submitted through the YWA website
 - Suggested funding maximums are not hard and fast rules but suggestions
 - Assistance from grant writing experts is possible. This is a training exercise and would be a capacity-building grant.
 - Describing your need for capacity building support from YWA is important
 - Bill Shaw—up to 10 per year for \$10,000 each
 - Grants for one-off, small projects available too for \$50,000 each

Question: RD 784 wants to apply for another grant through the Agency. Can he go ahead and apply, starting with short form? Do we have to wait until March? Or does the application just sit there?

Answer: Once it's accepted into the plan, Susan and Keri do a funding analysis to see what other grants might help pay for the project. Then figure out what type of grant you would apply for. If Susan does funding memo, and finds no grant source, then you would demonstrate the need for YWA grant. That would be the argument for coming to the agency. If funding memo finds that implementation grants are available but not planning, then YWA could potentially support planning. If you want the agency to

consider paying for the entire project, you have to wait for open window unless it's an emergency although fiscal year grant budget has been spent so there isn't any money until June 2021 anyway

Patrick: Submitting short form to IRWMP consultants is first step anyway?

Answer: Yes. All of you should consider the project development process because YWA wants to see as many projects as possible funded, so linking it to the fundraising strategy helps to leverage external grants and YWA funds as much as possible.

4. Yuba IRWM Project Development Circuit Ride

- Circuit Ride calls being planned with Katie and Keri
- Please feel free to email Keri (keri.rinne@gmail.com) to request a call
 - Circuit rides are different this year---setting up phone or zoom calls
 - We want to be sure that we keep the project-development process going
 - There are new grants coming out that we want to see if your projects fit with them or work with you to refine or develop projects that meet your needs and match emerging funding
 - Prior to our circuit ride with all of you, we're hoping that you will send us short forms for new or updated projects
 - Helpful to have as much detail as possible (tasks, status, budgets, etc.)
 - As much detail as possible in the forms, the better
 - Keri and Katie are together on the call—confirming existing projects, making note of changes and enhancements, brainstorming options for new projects
 - Susan does funding memos to help with fundraising strategies
 - Not required to have short forms completed but it's helpful

5. IRWM Plan Updates

- RWMG Resolutions to Adopt 2018 IRWMP Update
 - Requirement for new grant funding
 - Please submit resolutions to Elizabeth prior to January 1, 2021
 - 1. no new projects will be accepted into the IRWMP without an updated resolution after January 2021
 - Please also re-affirm RWMG voting member and IRWM representative
 - Plan was updated to be consistent with DWR requirements
 - All entities in the Prop 1 grant have done this because it was a requirement for that grant
 - Important to reaffirm membership and who your representatives are
 - We do from time to time do voting and voting is dependent on adoption of the Plan
 - JoAnna sent out blank resolutions that can be used
 - Please get it done as soon as you can—if there's a problem and you can't make it by January, please let JoAnna know when you plan to consider adopting the resolution
- 2020 IRWM Plan Consistency Updates
 - IRWMP updates for consistency
 - Susan Robinson did those updates and they were approved at a prior IRWMP meeting
 - She's updated the chapters that reference the goals and objectives for consistency
 - All of this is on the website
 - Susan has track changes versions if people are interested

Question: How often is IRWMP updated?

Answer: DWR usually updates IRWMP requirements in advance of implementation grants and guidelines. This last update also took into account consistency with YWA strategic plan. New projects being added to the plan is not considered an update.

6. Project Highlights/Updates

- SRFA/MCFA IRWM Implementation Grant Awards (Keri Rinne)
- In the fall of last year, with Yuba Water Agency as the fiscal agent, the Yuba IRWMP consultant team worked with Yuba IRWMP stakeholders to submit two proposals to the Department of Water Resources Proposition 1 IRWMP Implementation Grant Program
- The proposals included a total of eight projects requesting just under \$5 million
- Both proposals received full funding and have been combined into one grant.
- We are now in the process of finalizing the grant agreement with DWR
- DWR required that we submit two proposals because the award maximums were determined by funding areas, and the Yuba IRWMP region falls within two different funding areas – Sac River and Mountain Counties
- The projects that will be funded by the grant include those listed below.
- Projects will provide a suite of benefits, including supporting disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities

Grant Administration:

- Yuba Water Agency is the fiscal agent for the grant
- The agency is providing support for contracting, invoicing and reporting as cost-share.

North Yuba Water Agency's Fire and Drinking Water Storage Improvement

- This project will increase the reliability of fire-fighting and drinking water supply in the unincorporated Challenge-Brownsville area, which includes four severely disadvantaged communities
- The project involves
 - Replacing the Challenge Tank
 - a 100,000-gallon wooden tank built in 1966
 - It provides water to about 230 households
 - Tank is made of redwood and will be replaced with a bolted steel tank
 - Lining the Rackerby Tank
 - a 100,000-gallon bolted steel tank built in 1978 that provides water to approximately 70 households
 - it's been repaired with 80 bolt plugs over the years and with this project will be lined, which will prevent leaks and extend the life of the tank considerably
 - Lining the Forbestown Tank
 - a 100,000-gallon bolted steel tank built in 1967 that provides water to approximately 700 households
 - it's been repaired with 50 bolt plugs in the past and as with Rackerby tank it will be lined

Improving Flood Protection

- Reclamation District 174's project will upgrade the transmitters and communications systems of three pumping stations
- Old "Farmer" style probes, which are not always reliable for ensuring pumps will turn on automatically and also not practical to repair during a major storm, will be upgraded with supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems and other related components to make them more reliable and reduce RD784's response time to any problems that arise
- The project improves flood protection because it increases the RD's ability to reliably manage high flows during large storms

Wastewater System Improvement & Energy Efficiency

- The project is geared toward innovative and energy-efficient improvements to the district's wastewater processing that will increase the longevity of the plant while also increasing the amount of wastewater the plant can process
 - This is important because in 2018, the district began receiving wastewater from the city of Marysville
 - In the past few years, the district has seen substantial increases in wet-weather-related flows.

The plant's current capacity is approximately 10 million gallons per day. In recent years, 12 million gallon per day wet weather events have occurred multiple times each year.

- Facility improvements include:
 - upgrading the plant's aeration system, which is part of sludge processing
 - investigating possible grit removal solutions--sand, gravel, cinder, or other heavy solid materials that are "heavier" than the organic biodegradable solids in the wastewater
 - constructing and installing polymer injection facility to reduce solids drying time
 - improving the plant's ability to manage high and variable flows by constructing additional flow equalization and emergency storage

Wheatland's Comprehensive Drinking Water Project

- This project has both water system reliability and conservation and efficiency elements
- Three primary upgrades to Wheatland's water supply system:
 - 100-year-old elevated storage tower cannot be fully used as it does not meet seismic requirements. The tower will be removed from service and structurally rehabilitated.
 - Six groundwater wells that currently supply water to the City's storage tanks are controlled by a SCADA system, which is deficient and no longer working properly—this project will replace the SCADA system
 - Water meters are currently read manually and the project will automate the meter network
- Help the city detect leaks and share data with Yuba Water Agency, the groundwater monitoring entity for the basin
- The upgraded system will also avoid unnecessary pumping of groundwater to achieve required system pressure (as system pressure will not be dependent on elevated water storage).

- The last two projects are both Olivehurst Public Utilities District projects
- The first is the Water Distribution System Improvement, which will replace 14,000 feet of steel water main with PVC pipe, as well as replace fire hydrants, valves and tie-in locations to existing water main lines.
- The project will prevent loss of 78 million gallons of water through system leaks and inefficiencies
- OPUD serves 10,000 residents of a disadvantaged community

- OPUD's water meter replacement project includes installing water meters on households that are still on an outdated flat-rate system.
- The project will help OPUD manage droughts in the future by encouraging customers to use less water, identifying leaks earlier, and helping customers track their water usage.

River Parkway Project (Doug Svensson)

- Yuba County Three Rivers Parkway
- Works with Lon Hatamiya
- Create a multi-use recreational asset as well as improved environmental considerations and agriculture as well
- Working group has been meeting for nearly a year—membership is quite varied
 - YWA, Yuba County, Marysville, Wheatland, River Partners, SYRCL, TRLIA, RD 784, Yuba Sutter Lodging Assoc, Yuba County Chamber of Commerce
- YWA has sponsored it and organizing effort
- Extends along Yuba, Feather, and Bear—tie areas together and has an economic and business development component
- Multi-use recreation facility
- Benefits in terms of groundwater and environmental management (having additional funds to manage resources in the floodway)
 - Trying to establish that improves water management as well as enviro considerations
- Economic benefits
 - Hotel trade in Yuba County is heavily oriented to business travel during the weekdays

- Not as much recreational tourism
- Bringing in additional outside visitors will help balance the market a bit and create more efficiency for motel and hotel properties
- Looking to increase eating place, brew pubs, etc. in the area as well
- Elevating quality of life and create an asset that can be marketed outside the county and create a benefit for residents as well
- Effort is building on a number of plans
 - Yuba County Parks Master Plan
 - TRLIA Public Access Study
 - TRLIA Land Management Plan for the Feather River Levee Setback Project
 - Yuba County Bikeway Master Plan
 - SACOG Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Trails Master Plan
- Feather River Setback Project will be Phase 1
 - Building on planning TRLIA has conducted recently
- Working Group has been meeting for last year and has developed 10-page concept paper outlining goals and preliminary tasks
- Members are working with their respective boards to adopt the plan
- Working with county to develop more detailed operations and maintenance for the project
- Preliminary cost estimate has been completed
- Looking at Prop 68 funding, but the county will need to develop a plan for operations and maintenance and secure plans for funding that before the group can move forward with seeking implementation funding
- Lisa Linman with new Yuba RCD is interested in learning more. JoAnna asked for email and will help connect
- Vance Russel question: How this will contribute to local communities in terms of health and well-being?
 - Developing cost-benefit analysis
 - Looked at health benefits and also economic development elements
 - There are costs involved with developing and building it so they group is looking at tradeoffs

Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Grant (Joanna Lessard)

- CalFire grant under CCI program
- Collaborative project with NFs, Fire Safe Council, and private land owners
- Project includes a vast matrix of management types
- Includes significant thinning around areas that are previously thinned/treated areas
- They have a zone in which they expect to reduce wildfire risk (more than 71k acres, more than 2,700 structures)
- The project is being managed by Steve Andrews of Fire Safe Council
- JoAnna helping to coordinate project
- Some commercially associated thinning treatments are already underway or completed
- Non-commercial treatments are covered by a new CEQA document checklist that's under the 2019 CalFire impact report (CalVTP-PSA checklist)
 - This is the first project to use this CEQA coverage
 - Goal is to increase pace
- Remaining treatments will be carried out over next two years
- Steve Andrews:
 - Most work to-date has been associated with biomass thinning
- Pushing CalFire along to help keep this project going
- It's quite large (acreage and number of partners)
- CalFire has provided support for the plan
- CEQA includes greenhouse gas measurement
- Have run into delays for operators (North Complex Fire)
- Tremendous amount of chipped materials is being generated from Camp Fire area, which is

- now being mobilized
- It will negatively impact ability to market the chips from this project
- Good start and several landowners will go ahead with mastication, herbicides, handsaw thinning of younger plantations primarily (were waiting for CEQA for that element)
- Between this project area and past treatment areas, there is a large mosaic of treatment areas
- Challenge-Brownsville area and other areas will be much safer in terms of fire conditions

Vance: If you didn't have the VTP, how long would CEQA have taken? Is this project going to allow you to scale and apply similar projects at a more rapid rate?

Steve: Not sure about CEQA but would guess about twice as long. I think this will help us in the future. Part of the process for this specific analysis was not all of the area in the project was included in the original EIR so an addendum has been filed to include additional acres, which are now included in the EIR. We're having conversations with Fire Safe Council and Ascent for another PSA related to roadside treatments.

This project will definitely make it easier on the subsequent project

JoAnna: We benefited because Ascent developed the VTP so they were familiar with what and why it was First step to do this collaboratively across so many partners has been complicated and we will now know ahead of time what to tell partners and make it smoother in future

Carrie Monohan (TSF): Helping Yuba Water Agency to include hydraulic mines as part of the forest health projects

Would really like to talk with Steve how to include denuded mine areas (biochar and chips) to reduce sediment coming off of the sites

JoAnna will set up a call

7. New Initiatives (if time allows)

- Land-use Competition
 - Yuba County Land Use Design Competition
 - Burdick & Co, Doug Svensson, Lon Hatamiya, and Yuba Water Agency staff
 - Looking at strategies to bring energy and implementation options to Doug and Lon's economic development strategic plan
 - One aspect of the plan is that Yuba County will need to offer innovative, cutting-edge solutions to become competitive in the long range to support economic opportunity within the county
 - Long-standing strategy to get input on land-use strategies
 - Competition opens up to the national community of architects, land-use planners, non-profits, wide variety of others
 - Essentially look at a generic site (no one's property in this case) to ask participants to look at the county general plan (which has wide-ranging policies and imperatives for this sort of development)
 - Asks competitors get into real solutions
 - Finalizing a competition that will probably launch in January
 - Working to select a jury that's representative of diverse elements of Yuba County and architectural and land-use planning community (in the county and outside of it)
 - A goal is to give future developers a real vision and push and sense of support and engagement for looking at ways to make Yuba County cutting edge in development to support a diverse economy while honoring the existing one
 - We will report out as it progresses and inviting engagement and feedback on designs
 - Expect the competition will be open for approximately 4 months
 - Prize money will be involved

8. Next Meeting-1st quarter 2021