

## Yuba IRWMP Meeting

2/17/21

9 – 10:40 a.m.

### Reminder Overview of Yuba Water Agency Grant Program

- All grant requests have to fall within the YWA goals
- There are multiple grant types
- Projects must be in the IRWMP in order to be eligible for YWA grants
- Once projects are included in the plan, then the IRWMP team does a funding analysis to help develop a funding strategy (funding memo)
- The funding memo then can help you see what kind of funding you need from Yuba Water and what your project might be eligible for in terms of external grants
- You're much more likely to get a grant from YWA if you can show that you're leveraging external funding
- Grant windows are around fiscal year (March – April, Sept – Oct) – these are for projects for which you're asking for full funding from YWA. Full funding for projects won't be considered outside of these windows.
- If you're asking for cost-share to leverage a grant that has a different deadline, then you can come to the agency at any time
- There's a lot more information available on the Yuba Water website

### Project Circuit Ride

- Katie Burdick and Keri Rinne are continuing to offer project development calls or video meetings
- Short forms should be sent to Keri

### IRWMP Adoption

- Be sure to adopt the latest version of the IRWMP (2018)
- Reach out to Keri or JoAnna with questions or to get a copy of the resolution

### Forest Biomass Business Center Presentation

- 1.5 MW could be used for co-located businesses
- Hoping to break ground this year
- Final steps are big ones (including financing), but CCP is confident they will move forward

April Sawyer with cbec, Hallwood side-channel project

- Phase 1 construction was the focus of the update
- Monitoring is showing success, including spawning (redds found in riffles)
- Phase 2 construction is in initiation phase

#### Financing to Deliver Water Projects

- JoAnna: compares this work to Forest Resiliency Bond. The purpose of this to not have to wait to rely on grant funds for everything, but to create a more fluid source of financing. The Forest Resiliency Bond is helping fund forest health work through an environmental resilience bond.
- Jeff Odefey of American Rivers presented about alternative ways to fund projects outside of a typical grant cycle and increase the pace and scale of work. This presentation provides an overview of different funding models. Jeff works for a national group with a large portfolio of work but his work focuses on urban water.
- Vance Russell, conservation consultant, has worked for National Forest Foundation and also Audubon. Forest ecologist by background and training but a financial person by necessity— trying to figure out how to do forest health and stormwater projects at scale
- Particular interest is on DACs
- Private investments for public benefits (Blue Forest is a model for how this can work)
- Collaborative finance approaches that can help get away from single-source funding (like state grants)
- Examples:
  - North Yuba Forest Partnership work
  - Yuba County Three Rivers Parkway
  - Baileys Trail System EIB (similar to Yuba County's Three Rivers Parkway project) --- this is in Appalachia, in Ohio
    - \$5 million bond created to produce \$7 million in recreation revenues over 10 years
- Who is benefiting? Are DACs benefiting or just businesses? These are key questions.
- Lower Yuba County can be a focus and anyone is encouraged to bring a project forward for consideration within an environmental impact bond
- Susan Rainier: Think like a watershed. We should be doing this kind of work more and more.

Next meeting May 19, 9 to 11