



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

UMRWA Regular Governing Board Meeting

Agenda

Friday, October 04, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.
Pardee Lodge, Pardee Center, Valley Springs, CA 95252

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT: When responding to a matter not on the agenda, state law limits a Board member to providing a brief response, asking clarifying questions, and/or referring it to staff.

AUTHORITY BUSINESS:

	<u>Recommended Action</u>
1. Board Regular Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2019	Approve by Motion
2. Treasurer's Report – Fourth Quarter 2019	Accept for Filing
3. UMRWA Forest Projects Report	Approve by Motion
4. CHIPS Partnership Project: Upper Mokelumne River Habitat Restoration and Defense Project	Approve by Motion
5. Legislative Issues Update	Discussion/Possible Action

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

6. Board Member Comments

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT:

7. Executive Officer's Oral Report

ADJOURNMENT:

- Next Regular Board Meeting: January 24, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. (McLean Hall, Pardee Center)

Requests for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made to Lisa Stuart at 209.772.8261 or lisa.stuart@ebmud.com no later than 24 hours before the meeting.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **1**

Meeting Date: October 04, 2019

Title:

Regular Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2019

Recommended Action:

Approve the regular meeting minutes of July 26, 2019.

Summary:

The summary minutes of the July 26, 2019 regular meeting are included for Board review and approval.

Friday, July 26, 2019 – 9:30 a.m.
Governing Board Regular Meeting
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
Calaveras Ranger District Office, 5519 Highway 4, Hathaway Pines CA 95223

Summary Minutes

ROLL CALL

Directors John Coleman, Terry Woodrow, Richard Farrington, Jack Garamendi, Richard Blood, and Richard Brand were present. Also present were Executive Officer Richard Sykes, Authority Counsel Greg Gillott, Authority Secretary Lisa Stuart, and 9 visitors and presenters.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Director Farrington provided the Board with a handout from Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency titled “Status of 2016 Water-Energy Grant in the MAC UMRWA” regarding ATCAA grant information.

AUTHORITY BUSINESS

1. UMRWA Governing Board - Forest Health Tour

The Board participated in a tour of the Black Springs and Pumpkin Hollow areas where UMRWA has current and planned projects.

2. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2019

Motion 12-19 to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 26, 2019 was made by Director Woodrow, seconded by Director Farrington and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

3. Treasurers Reports

Motion 13-19 to accept the Treasurer’s Reports for filing was made by Director Woodrow, seconded by Director Brand and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

4. Black Springs Restoration Project

At the April 26, 2019 UMRWA Board meeting, the Board approved a \$1 million grant agreement with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and authorized the release of Requests for Proposals for the general services work funded by that grant agreement and tentatively described and authorized in a draft Black Springs Restoration Project SPA (Specific Project Agreement). Previously (in 2018) the Board also approved the Hemlock Project CEQA documents that also address the Black Springs project.

One of the proposers, Mr. Farkas, was invited to speak to the Board about his bid protest of RFP 19-01. He expressed concerns about the scoring of his proposal. The EO described how UMRWA shares information with bidders and its desire for transparency relating to the awards of the bids. He noted UMRWA could improve communication in future bid processes. Pat Ferrell spoke to the methods the selection committee uses to award bids. Counsel provided a process outline in order for the Board to understand their options.

Motion 14-19 to: (1) authorize the Executive Officer to sign the Black Springs Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) and (2) approve and authorize the Executive

Officer to sign General Service Agreements with Ronwright Logging (RFP 19-01), Sierra Nevada Forestry Service (RFP 19-02) and GVCC was made by Director Garamendi, seconded by Director Woodrow and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

5. Fore Restoration Project

Contractor bids for Cabbage Patch mechanical and hand treatment RFPs came in lower than originally estimated and budgeted in the 2018 SNC grant agreement #1033 to treat the 316-acre Cabbage Patch Restoration Project. Staff estimates about \$186,000 of uncommitted Cabbage Patch Project budget potentially available for treatments on additional acreage. Staff has been working closely with the Stanislaus National Forest to identify the next Hemlock Project priority treatment areas that are within the NEPA and CEQA to which the remaining funds may be redirected.

The Board was provided with a Hemlock Project area map, where the Fore Project Restoration Area – within the larger project area – has been identified as the next location where vegetation treatments are most needed. Based on a detailed and coordinated review of the Hemlock Project area with USFS staff, UMRWA staff initiated the RFP 19-03 process for mastication contractors to mechanically treat units 70, 71 and 604 (totaling approximately 130 acres of scenic corridor). In the event additional unspent SNC funds remain after awarding a contract for 19-03, staff (in coordination with SNC), may propose additional treatments on the 360 remaining untreated acres in the Fore Project area.

Mr. Farkas also provided his comments to the Board about his protest of RFP 19-03. He expressed concerns about awarding of this contract to Ronwright Logging. He noted his inability to get the bid information as well as his concerns regarding traffic safety for this particular project where the project is located so close to the highway. Pat Ferrell said that Caltrans had been contacted regarding this project and they did not require any traffic control measures be instituted. She also stated that the chosen bidder did provide for roadway safety measures in their proposal.

Motion 15-19 to (1) approve and authorize the Executive Officer to sign the General Service Agreement with Ronwright Logging Lumber Construction, Inc. and (2) authorize the Executive Officer to sign an Amendment to the Cabbage Patch Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) to increase the total number of acres to be treated was made by Director Garamendi, seconded by Director Farrington and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

6. UMRWA Forest Projects Report

SNC continues the Props 1 and 68 Healthy Watersheds grant program it initiated last year. This is the program that is providing funding to UMRWA for the Black Springs Restoration Project. UMRWA and USFS staffs have collaborated in recent weeks to identify other potential forest restoration projects and have determined the West Calaveras Thin/Bailey Plantation Health Project is the next best project to seek SNC funding for in order to complete critical treatments. Additionally, staff has identified possible forest health partnership opportunities it would like to explore with CHIPS (Calaveras Healthy Impact Solutions) and the Mule Deer Foundation (MDF). The EO noted that the number of the resolution included in the agenda packet was incorrectly listed 2019-1 and should actually be 2019-2. Lastly, the status of ongoing Authority forest projects (at Pumpkin Hollow and Cabbage Patch) was summarized for Board information and discussion.

Motion 16-19 to (1) authorize staff to complete and submit SNC Healthy Watersheds grant application, in collaboration with the USFS, for West Calaveras Thin/Bailey Plantation Health Project, (2) approve Resolution No. 2019-2 authorizing the Executive Officer to submit the SNC grant application, and (3) authorize staff to explore partnership opportunities with CHIPS and the Mule Deer Foundation that could potentially enhance the efficiency and scope of UMRWA's forest health program was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Garamendi and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

7. Proposed Fiscal Year 2020 UMRWA Budget

At the UMRWA meeting held on April 26, the Board reviewed the proposed FY 2020 Budget and directed staff to transmit the proposed budget to Member Agencies for review and comment. A memorandum presenting the proposed FY 2020 budget and Member Agency assessment amounts was sent on May 8 to Member Agency General Managers and County Administrative Officers with copies to each Member Agency's UMRWA Board director. Comments supportive of the proposed budget were received from Amador Water Agency and EBMUD staff.

The proposed FY 2020 budget was presented to the Board showing that the total member-supported portion of the proposed budget, including in-kind, is \$320,000. This amount is \$46,500 less than the current year amount of \$366,500.

Also provided to the Board were the member-funding offsets, which include member in-kind credits and other income (from indirect charges paid by USFS and administration fees per SNC grants), and the resulting Member Agency funding allocations and estimated assessment amounts.

Motion 17-19 to approve the FY 2020 budget was made by Director Garamendi, seconded by Director Woodrow and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

8. UMRWA Budget Reserves Policy and Procedure

On April 26, the Board directed staff to develop a Board policy for administering the Authority's budget reserve. The Board was provided with an amendment to the UMRWA Budget Policy and Procedure that prescribes how unspent and retained member funds and related incomes are to be accounted for in calculating the annual Budget Reserve amount.

The text of the proposed budget reserve Policy, which is recommended to be incorporated into the Board's Budget Policy and Procedure, is as follows:

Policy - *Maintain an operating budget reserve sufficient to provide ongoing working capital and cover any unsettled financial obligations.*

For purposes of ensuring the Authority's budgeted reserves are sufficient to provide ongoing working capital each fiscal year the proposed Procedure for annually determining the proper reserve amount for each budget year is presented below:

Procedure - *The annual target for the budgeted reserve will first be the sum of 50% of the prior 3-year average Member Funds expenditures, plus the sum of 10% of the prior 3-year average Grant Funds expenditures. Secondly, the sum of any unsettled financial*

obligation(s) will then to be added to determine the total budget reserve amount for that fiscal year.

The Board directed staff to get final disposition of UMRWA's financial obligation to the State for the Mokelumne Wild & Scenic study.

Motion 18-19 to approve the UMRWA Budget Reserves Policy and Procedure was made by Director Brand, seconded by Director Blood and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

9. NFWF Grant Application for Power Fire Culvert Improvement & Erosion Control Project

At the January 25 UMRWA meeting, the Board authorized the preparation and submittal of a NFWF Grant Application for the Power Fire Culvert Improvement & Erosion Control Project with UMRWA providing a cost share not to exceed \$50,000. UMRWA on February 25th submitted an application to NFWF for \$1.8 million in project funding.

In response to initial review comments and recommendations by NFWF staff, the UMRWA grant application was revised in June to focus on a smaller geographic area at a lower cost (about \$1.2 million). The amended application is presently undergoing a public review process. NFWF is expected to announce grant award decisions in August 2019. Funded work must be completed by 2021.

10. MAC Region Prop 1 IRWM Grant Applications

As reported at the April Board meeting, the Department of Water Resources, the agency that administers the IRWM program and the associated Prop 1 funding, had finalized and released the Prop 1 grant Guidelines on April 22, 2019. The 2019 Guidelines and the companion Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) govern how the Prop1 implementation grant funds will be awarded. Of Prop 1's \$510 million in IRWM funding, \$13 million is earmarked for Mountain Counties. Of that amount \$9.4 million is available for implementation grant awards to the nine regions that comprise the Mountain Counties funding area. At its last meeting, the Board asked staff to recommend a project for the Board to approve for a Prop 1 grant application at this meeting.

The first step in the grant application process is submittal by participating regions of an implementation project pre-application. The date for submittal of Mountain Counties' pre-applications is not yet certain but could be as early as August. It is expected DWR will hold a Mountain Counties workshop, perhaps in October, with final applications due about 8 weeks later in December.

In anticipation of this Board item staff conducted a conference call with the MAC Regional Participants Committee (RPC) on June 4 to discuss and rank MAC Plan DAC projects for potential Prop 1 funding. After reviewing the potential grant competitiveness of several DAC-benefiting projects, the RPC endorsed CCWD's West Point Water Treatment Plant Drinking Water Compliance Project as UMRWA's candidate project for this round of Prop 1 funding. The second most preferred project was AWA's Lake Camanche Water Service Replacement Project – Phase IV.

With an unused balance of \$30,142 in Woodard & Curran's 2018 contract to complete the MAC Plan update, the Executive Officer approved several task modifications to facilitate W&C's work to coordinate with CCWD, assemble information and timely develop application materials in response to DWR's Prop 1 PSP.

Technical Assistance Grant:

The Sierra Institute is coordinating the Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program (DACTIP) for the Mountain Counties Funding Area. One of the preliminary activities of DACTIP is to identify disadvantaged communities by assessing income and by utilizing multiple socioeconomic and community capacity indicators to address water-related challenges. The primary Sierra Institute program is conducting needs assessments of communities throughout the region to determine specific challenges in each community, project priorities and the tools necessary to build capacity. The Sierra Institute also has limited technical assistance grant funding for regional capacity building and other activities identified by the communities. Sierra Institute has recently announced a program offering about \$40,000 in technical assistance funding to each of the nine Mountain County IRWM regions.

Based on discussions with AWA and CCWD representatives, UMRWA staff is proposing to create a MAC Region DAC initiative whereby Sierra Institute Technical Assistance grant funding will be used to support the formulation of a MAC Region DAC initiative to be conducted by AWA and CCWD. The approximately \$40,000 in grant funding is available to each region upon submittal and approval of a Technical Assistance proposal application process administered by the Sierra Institute.

The EO noted that the deadline for the Technical Assistance Grant is next week. It was decided that he would work with Michael Minkler (CCWD) and Gene Mancebo (AWA) on Monday to complete the application in order to meet the Wednesday deadline.

Motion 19-19 to (1) authorize the submittal of a Prop 1 IRWM grant application for CCWD's West Point Water Treatment Plant Drinking Water Improvement Project (or AWA's Lake Camanche Water Service Replacement – Phase IV if the CCWD project is deemed ineligible), (2) ratify the Executive Officer's scope of work modifications to Woodard & Curran's 2018 agreement that will facilitate development and submittal of UMRWA's Prop 1 IRWM implementation grant application using unspent budgeted dollars, and (3) Authorize the Executive Officer to enter into a Technical Assistance grant agreement with the Sierra Institute based on the formulation of a MAC Region DAC initiative to be conducted by AWA and CCWD using Technical Assistance pass-through grant funds was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Blood and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain – 0.

11. Legislative Issues Update

Several bills have recently been signed or are pending that are of potential impact to UMRWA. Two bills, AB 74 and SB 200, will assist disadvantaged communities in gaining access to safe drinking water. The bills will provide funding for disadvantaged communities using monies from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The State Water Board will oversee a future program following from these bills. Two bills, AB 1054 and AB 111, address the issue of wildfire safety and liability related to electrical utility operations. While not directly affecting UMRWA these bills are likely to lead to more investment in preventing the types of wildfires causes by electrical distribution and transmission facilities. A description of these bills prepared by EBMUD was provided to the Board members.

Board Member Comments: Director Coleman thanked staff for providing the tour prior to the meeting.

Executive Officer Comments: The EO thanked USFS District Ranger Ray Cablayan and USFS staff for use of the facilities. He also noted the upcoming September 4, 2019 SNC tour – Richard will provide the agenda for Board.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Coleman adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on October 4, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at Pardee Center’s Pardee Lodge.

SUBMITTED BY:

Lisa Stuart, Authority Secretary

John Coleman, Chair of the Board
APPROVED: October 4, 2019



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **2**

Meeting Date: October 4, 2019

Title:

Treasurer's Report – Fourth Quarter 2019

Recommended Action:

Accept for filing

Summary:

The Treasurer's Report for the Fourth Quarter of fiscal year 2019, which will be compiled following the September 30 fiscal year end, will be distributed and presented at the Board meeting.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **3**

Meeting Date: October 4, 2019

Title:

UMRWA Forest Projects Report

Recommended Actions:

- (1) Authorize the EO to sign the NFWF grant agreement.
- (2) Authorize staff to explore partnership opportunities with the CalAm Forest Team that could potentially address forest health including resource concerns in the Butte Fire burn area.

Summary:

Progress has been made on a variety of UMRWA's forest initiatives since the Board's last meeting on July 26. These initiatives include participation in a September 4 SNC Board tour to the Upper Mokelumne, a scheduled meeting with Jason Kuiken, Supervisor, Stanislaus National Forest (NF), grant award from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for National Forest drainage improvements in the Upper Mokelumne River watershed, an SNC grant application preparation for West Calaveras Thin/Bailey Plantation Health Project funding, and a potential partnership with the CalAm Forest Team. This agenda report concludes with the status of ongoing Authority forest projects.

September 4 SNC Board tour to the Upper Mokelumne:

The SNC Board of Directors conducted a tour of forest-related project sites in the Upper Mokelumne River watershed. UMRWA staff was invited to participate in the tour and present information regarding UMRWA's forest health program.

Partners Meeting Sept. 30 with Jason Kuiken, Supervisor, Stanislaus NF:

A meeting between UMRWA's forest projects staff and Jason Kuiken and his Stanislaus National Forest staff is scheduled on September 30. Topics to be discussed include project planning, administration of SPA agreements, project implementation and operations coordination, and enhanced efficiencies. An oral report of the highlights of this meeting will be provided at the Board meeting.

NFWF Grant Award for the Culvert and Water Control Structures Replacement Project (Eldorado National Forest - Power Fire Burn Area):

On August 27 the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced its award of \$3.5 million to fourteen projects funded under the Northern California Forests and Watersheds Program. This program targets lands and watersheds degraded from the influences of past wildfire events as well as other Sierra Nevada meadow and forest restoration objectives.

UMRWA was awarded \$1,286,610 to address drainage and erosion issues along sixty miles of roads in the Eldorado National Forests (ENF). The project proposes to replace or reconstruct existing culverts and water control structures (e.g. water bars, graded dips, berms) and to perform maintenance work on other existing culverts on about 35 miles of roads affected by the Power Fire. The project will address culverts on NF system roads located within the Panther Creek, Bear River, and Cole Creek sub-watersheds.

SNC Grant Application for West Calaveras Thin/Bailey Plantation Health Project:

The Board on July 26 authorized a grant application to SNC for funding the West Calaveras Thin/Bailey Plantation Health Project. Staff submitted the required SNC pre-application prior to the August 5 deadline and SNC, USFS and UMRWA representatives conducted a site visit September 10. UMRWA’s final application is due October 14.

The proposed West Calaveras Thin/Bailey Plantation Health Project will reduce fuel loads, increase ecological diversity, and improve forest and riparian habitat conditions in on USFS lands and contribute substantially towards improving an existing cooperative fuel break along Winton Road. CalFire has identified this fuel break as critical for prevention and suppression efforts in the area. These locations are unnaturally dense and represent significant fire risk. The potential project area is between 400 and 500 acres in size and is just north the Hemlock Project area. The USFS in coordination with the ACCG completed NEPA for this project in 2014.

CalAm Forest Team:

The CalAm Forest Team has reached out to UMRWA staff to explore potential project opportunities that address resource issues including areas within the Butte Fire burn area. A collaboration with the CalAm Forest Team has the potential to develop and implement projects that would otherwise not occur.

Ongoing UMRWA Forest Projects:

UMRWA FOREST PROJECTS & CONTRACTS

RFP #	Contractor	Contract Date	Amount	Scheduled Completion	Actual Completion	Total Acres
PUMPKIN HOLLOW						
17-01	TSU Inc.	July 2017	\$272,460	Dec. 2019		239
17-02	J&R Logging	July 2017	\$178,405	Dec. 2018	Oct. 2018	21
17-03	Summitt Forests	July 2017	\$130,183	Dec. 2018	June 2018	393
18-01	GTS Forestry	July 2018	\$139,597	Dec. 2019		87
18-02	Ronwright	July 2019	\$119,000	Dec. 2019		147
N/A	GVCC	July 2017	\$66,000	Dec. 2018	Oct. 2018	40.5
						927.5
CABBAGE PATCH						
18-03	GTS Forestry	July 2018	\$74,375	Dec. 2019		174.5
18-04	D. Watt Industries	July 2018	\$105,840	Dec. 2019		132.3
N/A	GVCC	July 2018	\$10,800	Dec. 2019		7.2
						314
BLACK SPRINGS						

19-01	Ronwright	July 2019	\$144,020	Dec. 2021	151.6
19-02	Sierra Nevada Forestry	July 2019	\$297,616	Dec. 2021	812.2
N/A	GVCC	July 2019	\$ 32,962	Dec. 2021	12.8
					976.6
FORE					
19-03	Ronwright	July 2019	\$ 149,664	Dec. 2021	130



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: 4

Meeting Date: October 4, 2019

Title:

CHIPS Partnership Project: Upper Mokelumne River Habitat Restoration and Defense Project

Recommended Action:

- 1) Authorize staff to proceed with CEQA documentation for the Upper Mokelumne River Habitat Restoration and Defense Project.
- 2) Include certification of the CEQA documentation and approval of the project on the agenda for UMRWA's January 2020 board meeting.

Summary:

The California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) administers the Forest Conservation Program that supports planning, implementation and acquisition projects within the Sierra Nevada and Cascade Mountains in California. Priority projects include meadow restoration, post-fire habitat recovery, and aspen stand restoration as well as acquisitions that protect meadows, migration corridors, or habitat connectivity. The Forest Conservation Program utilizes funding provided under Proposition 84 (2006) and Proposition 68 (2018). CHIPS approached UMRWA earlier this year regarding collaboration on a grant application to WCB and at its last meeting UMRWA directed staff to proceed with this collaboration. On September 13, CHIPS submitted a grant application to WCB that includes UMRWA as a project partner.

Discussion:

The Upper Mokelumne River Habitat Restoration and Defense Project will repair wildfire damage and reduce risk of future fires in an effort to protect remaining critical habitat. The Eldorado National Forest developed this project with the ACCG to address habitat and forests damaged by the Power Fire. The proposed scope of work includes:

- 1) Post fire reforestation of 300 acres through tree planting and inter-planting in groups and individually, utilizing local microsite conditions to increase heterogeneity
- 2) Thinning of 900 acres of post fire natural stands and young mixed conifer plantings to speed post fire recovery by decreasing competition and increasing growth rates
- 3) Post fire reforestation thinning of 400 acres of natural stands comprised of small trees located along strategic roads within the Power Fire scar, to accelerate habitat recovery and development of old-forest characteristics
- 4) Restoration of up to 12 acres of aspen stands to prevent damage from browsing animals, support sapling vigor and age class diversification, and creating valuable wildlife habitat

- 5) Fuels reduction of 303 acres along roads adjacent to Power Fire area to protect existing high-value habitat and facilitate fire management

The requested grant amount is \$1.93 million. UMRWA has offered up to \$12,500 contribution in kind services to the project which will include staff and board time to conduct the CEQA work and be lead agency for the project. Additionally, since UMRWA's NFWF grant is for complementary work in the same area it has been incorporated as an element in the project to restore the Power Fire area. This greatly increases contributing project funding thereby making the grant application more attractive to WCB. The UMRWA board would be scheduled to certify the CEQA documentation and approve the project at its January 2020 meeting.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **5**

Meeting Date: October 4, 2019

Title:

Legislative Issues Update

Recommended Actions:

For discussion and possible action – legislative matters discussed by the Board

Discussion:

The legislative season is just ending and staff from UMRWA agencies are just now reviewing state actions. No legislative report is included in this agenda package; however, the EO will summarize input from those agencies and provide a report at the meeting. Additionally, Board directors and/or agency staff may have particular legislation of interest and this agenda item is intended to facilitate discussion of it.