



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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## UMRWA Regular Governing Board Meeting

### **Agenda**

Friday, January 22, 2021 – 1:30 p.m.  
EBMUD Mokelumne Watershed Headquarters  
15083 Camanche Parkway South, Valley Springs, CA 95252

**NOTE: Meeting will be held via WebEx**

#### 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 Special Meeting Minutes of October 29, 2020	Approve by Motion
2. Treasurer's Report – Fourth Quarter FY 2020	Accept for Filing
3. Blue Forest Conservation Presentation	Discussion/Possible Action
4. Forest Projects Report	Discussion/Possible Action
5. Mother Lode Land Trust Agreement Extension	Discussion/Possible Action
6. Legislative Issues Update	Discussion/Possible Action

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

7. Board Member Comments

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT:

8. Executive Officer's Oral Report

#### ADJOURNMENT:

- Next Regular Board Meeting: April 23, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. (location TBD)

**Members of the public may attend** the meeting electronically via WebEx by request (or via telephone for audio only). To attend, email or call Lisa Stuart at 209.772.8261 or [lisa.stuart@ebmud.com](mailto:lisa.stuart@ebmud.com) no later than 24 hours before the meeting.



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: **1**

Meeting Date: January 22, 2021

Title:

Meeting Minutes of October 23, 2020

Recommended Action:

Approve the special meeting minutes of October 23, 2020.

Summary:

The summary minutes of the October 23, 2020 meeting are included for Board review and approval.

Thursday, October 29, 2020 – 3:30 p.m.  
Governing Board Special Meeting  
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority  
via WebEx and at the Mokelumne Watershed Office,  
15083 Camanche Parkway South, Valley Springs, CA 95252

*Summary Minutes*

**ROLL CALL**

Directors John Coleman, Terry Woodrow, Richard Farrington, Donna Leatherman, and Ed Gonzales were present. Brian Oneto joined the meeting at 3:44 p.m. Absent were: Jack Garamendi, Calaveras County and Jeff Davidson, Calaveras County Water District. Also present were Executive Officer Richard Sykes, Administrative Officer Rob Alcott, Authority Counsel Greg Gillott, Authority Secretary Lisa Stuart, and 16 visitors and presenters. (EO Richard Sykes and Authority Secretary Lisa Stuart were the only ones present in person at the Mokelumne Watershed Office.)

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – none.

**AUTHORITY BUSINESS**

**1. Regular Meeting Minutes of July 24, 2020**

**Motion 27-20** to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 24, 2020 was made by Director Woodrow, seconded by Director Farrington and carried by roll call vote: Yea 5 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

**2. Forest Projects Report**

The Executive Officer provided an update to the UMRWA Board on the NFWF Culvert Project work occurring in Amador County. Included in the agenda packet was information on the Collaborative Forest Projects Plan. In consultation with Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) staff, grant funding to support creation of a large landscape plan (minimum of 10,000 acres) may be available using Prop 1 funding. UMRWA staff is evaluating this potential funding as a means for supporting UMRWA's lead role in developing a Collaborative Forest Projects Plan. This funding would supplement the SNC funding that has supported the soon-to-be completed GIS-based Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program. UMRWA staff may submit pre-application materials to SNC to facilitate a future grant application.

**Motion 28-20** to authorize the Executive Office to submit pre-application materials and a full grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to help fund planning and NEPA work on a Collaborative Forest Projects Plan was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Gonzalez and carried by roll call vote: Yea 5 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

Director Oneto joined the meeting at 3:44 p.m. changing the vote count to six (6).

**3. Proposition 1 Grant Award**

The Department of Water Resources on July 7, informed UMRWA that the Mokelumne-Amador-Calaveras Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Application has been awarded \$556,447. Funding from this grant will be largely passed through to Calaveras County Water District for the West Point Water Supply Reliability Project. About five percent of the grant will be applied to UMRWA grant administration costs. With CCWD having demonstrated that it has

fulfilled grant eligibility requirements, UMRWA staff recommended the Board approve the four actions as described in the agenda packet which are necessary to secure the grant and establish the requisite administrative support. The Board requested the motion be edited to include the resolution number.

**Motion 29-20** to (1) approve by resolution number 2020-1, the DWR – UMRWA Proposition 1 Grant agreement and authorize the Executive Officer to represent UMRWA and sign the agreement, including the use of e-signatures as requested by the DWR, (2) approve the Grant Implementation Agreement with Calaveras County Water District (CCWD) and authorize the Executive Officer to sign, (3) approve an amendment to the existing contract with Woodard & Curran to implement the proposal for grant administration support services in the amount of \$24,972 and authorize the Executive Officer to sign, and (4) authorize staff to charge up to \$4,000 to the Prop 1 grant for services associated with grant administration and invoice processing was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Blood and carried by roll call vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

#### **4. Youth Watershed Stewardship Program 2021 Agreement**

Since 2006, UMRWA has annually provided funds to support the local public schools' Youth Watershed Stewardship Program (YWSP). The program is facilitated under an agreement between UMRWA and the Mother Lode Land Trust (MLLT), which sponsors the YWSP in partnership with Stewards Through Education (STE). An agreement with MLLT to conduct the YWSP for calendar year 2021 was presented for the Board's approval. The \$16,500 funding for the agreement was included in the FY2021 budget approved by the Board on July 24. The terms of the recommended agreement are comparable to prior year agreements, including a recently added provision acknowledging COVID-19 uncertainties and how they may impact public schools.

**Motion 30-20** to approve the agreement with the Mother Lode Land Trust for the year ending December 31, 2021 and authorize the Executive Officer to execute the agreement was made by Director Oneto, seconded by Director Gonzalez and carried by roll call vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

#### **5. Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group Memorandum of Agreement**

The ACCG is an informal, community-based group of diverse stakeholders that works to create fire-safe communities, healthy forests and watersheds, and sustainable local economies. Its members include state and federal agencies, business owners, nonprofit organizations, elected officials and private individuals. The group focuses on a triple-bottom-line approach to environmental, economic and community issues. It makes decisions by consensus and works primarily in the upper Mokelumne River and Calaveras River watersheds east of Highway 49. The ACCG has been a key player in forest health initiative in the Mokelumne Watershed and close coordination with them will be essential to a successful Forest Projects Plan.

Recently, UMRWA was approached about joining the ACCG as a member by signing onto the group's MOA. UMRWA was also asked to participate in the ACCG Administrative and Funding Work Groups. UMRWA Board member Director Farrington has regularly attended ACCG meetings with UMRWA staff periodically participating, but this would formalize UMRWA's role as a member and commit it to participating on an on-going basis. There is no financial commitment associated with signing the MOU other than paying for staff participation which can be accommodated within UMRWA's existing budget.

**Motion 31-20** to authorize the Executive Officer to sign the Amador-Calaveras Consensus

Group (ACCG) Memorandum of Agreement was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Woodrow and carried by roll call vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

## 6. Legislative Issues Update

At the last UMRWA Board Meeting, staff was directed to prepare legislative support letters for AB 2421 (Quirk) and SB 1348 (Stern). The Quirk bill was signed by the Governor on September 29, and will expedite permitting of backup generators for cell towers. The Stern bill failed this year as it was not taken up on the Assembly floor. A brief summary of the Quirk bill and two budget bills of interest were provided to the Board for review.

Director Farrington noted that the cap and trade bill didn't include any money for fuel reduction/fuel breaks or for reduction of fuels in the forests.

Director Coleman requested staff add an agenda item to the January meeting to allow for the Board members to have a discussion about recent bills that have been supported by their respective agencies.

Director Oneto requested that the group also look at different/more proactive ways of managing the forest instead of trying to clean up the forest after fire events. He noted that we need to find a legislative champion that can lead a bi-partisan effort on forest health.

Director Farrington would like to have a discussion regarding the possibility of support for SB 4431 (Feinstein) in January.

Public Comment: Katherine Evatt thanked UMRWA for its support in working to keep the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp open.

**Board Member Comments:** Director Farrington attended a virtual ACWA conference on sustainable forest management recently and reported that the Yuba Water Agency is utilizing the Blue Forest Resilience Bond as part of its forest management program. Director Farrington suggested this as a potential funding stream for local forest project work. Director Coleman suggested a presentation at the January meeting exploring the bond process. It was noted that Regine Miller worked on this effort for YWA.

**Executive Officer Comments:** The Executive Officer noted that he is currently working with Larry McKenney of Amador Water Agency on the DAC Needs Assessment and that he needs a Calaveras County Water District representative to assist in this process. The RFQ is expected to be completed soon and the project should be completed by late spring. Also, IRWM MAC plan project list update has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and will be completed in 2021 since there are no pending DWR grant funding opportunities.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Director Coleman adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on January 22, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. (video conference meeting at EBMUD Mokelumne Watershed Headquarters, Camanche Parkway South, Valley Springs.)

### **SUBMITTED BY:**

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Lisa Stuart, Authority Secretary

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John Coleman, Chair of the Board  
APPROVED: January 22, 2021

Title:

Treasurer's Report – Fourth Quarter FY 2020

Recommended Actions:

Accept for filing

Summary:

A copy of the Treasurer's Report for the Fourth Quarter of fiscal year 2020, which ended September 30, 2020, is attached and will be presented at the Board meeting.

**UMRWA TREASURER'S REPORT - PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

<i>Fiscal Year 2020 (begining Oct. 1, 2019)</i>	Assessment, Grants & USFS	Budget FY 2020	Actual		
			Current Quarter	YTD	YTD %
<b><u>General Assessments &amp; Operating Revenue</u></b>					
Amador Agencies Funding	51,500	51,500	-	51,500	100%
Calaveras Agencies Funding	59,000	59,000	-	59,000	100%
EBMUD Funding	151,000	151,000	-	151,000	100%
Prior Year Unspent/Carry forward	38,440	38,440	-	-	0%
USFS indirect/overhead fees (FY20 budget assumed \$10,000)	10,000	10,000	-	15,127	151%
SNC indirect/overhead fees (FY20 budget assumed \$15,000)	15,000	15,000	-	95,773	638%
NFWF indirect fees (FY budget assumes \$0)	-	-	-	41,379	
Interest/Misc income	1,000	1,000	233	1,250	125%
Operating Reserve (Bal. \$307,003)	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total Assessments &amp; Operations Funding</b>	<b>325,940</b>	<b>325,940</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>415,029</b>	<b>127%</b>
<b><u>IRWM Grant Funding</u></b>					
Prop 1 - Technical Assistance Grant	40,000	40,000	-	-	0%
Prop 1 - CCWD West Point WTP	500,000	500,000	-	-	0%
<b><u>Forestry/Watershed Funding</u></b>					
US Forest Service (Pumpkin Hollow)	141,997	141,997	-	144,230	102%
US Forest Service (Cabbage Patch)	13,297	13,297	1,246	13,298	100%
US Forest Service (West Calaveras Thin)	120,000	120,000	-	4,694	4%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant 1 (Pumpkin Hollow)	268,347	268,347	-	260,196	97%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant 2 (Cabbage Patch)	333,128	333,128	63,792	313,224	94%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant 3 (Black Springs w/ West Calaveras)	867,895	867,895	27,734	400,349	46%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Mapping Tool Grant	49,500	49,500	7,600	28,995	59%
NFWF (Eldorado NF Culvert Upgrades)	1,346,610	1,346,610	48,140	694,152	52%
<b>Total Grants and Other Funding</b>	<b>3,680,774</b>	<b>3,680,774</b>	<b>148,511</b>	<b>1,859,139</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES &amp; FUNDING</b>	<b>4,006,714</b>	<b>4,006,714</b>	<b>148,744</b>	<b>2,274,168</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b><u>ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES</u></b>					
<b><u>General Assessment (Administration)</u></b>					
Executive Officer		50,000	8,164	46,039	92%
Administrative Officer		50,000	14,105	48,793	98%
MAC Data & Website Support (Woodard & Curran) (incl. \$10,000 carry forward)		30,000	5,000	11,700	39%
<b><u>General Assessment (Operations)</u></b>					
MLLT - School Watershed STE Program (incl. \$16,500 carry forward)		33,000	-	16,500	50%
Forest agency liaison & Board reporting (LEI, Inc)		25,000	135	3,605	14%
Forest-related Grant Applications/Project Development		100,000	10,312	37,340	37%
IRWM Grant Application/Project Development		25,000	-	-	0%
MAC Plan Update 2018 (Woodard & Curran) (incl. \$11,940 carry forward)		11,940	-	15,111	127%
<b>TOTAL ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>324,940</b>	<b>37,716</b>	<b>179,088</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b><u>GRANT and FORESTRY/WATERSHED FUNDING EXPENDITURES</u></b>					
<b><u>DWR Prop 1 Implementation Grant</u></b>					
CCWD - West Point WTP		470,840	-	-	0%
Woodard & Curran - invoicing & reporting		23,760	-	-	0%
WRA - agreement administration		5,400	-	-	0%
<b><u>DWR Prop 1 Technical Assistance Grant</u></b>					
Tuolumne County RCD disbursements		40,000	-	-	0%
<b><u>Pumpkin Hollow Restoration Project</u></b>					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		79,260	-	22,718	29%
Ronwright Logging Lumber Inc. (RFP 18-02)		65,170	-	64,658	99%
<b><u>Cabbage Patch Restoration Project</u></b>					
GTS Forestry		3,953	-	3,953	100%
Landmark Environmental Inc.		2,833	11,717	34,168	1206%
Greater Valley Conservation Corp		10,800	-	10,800	100%
D. Watt Industries (RFP 18-04)		40,580	-	31,520	78%
Ronwright Logging Lumber Inc. FORE (RFP 19-03)		147,045	62,417	139,869	95%
<b><u>Black Springs Restoration Project</u></b>					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		113,913	13,713	53,182	47%
Ronwright Logging Lumber Inc. (RFP 19-01)		144,020	7,410	55,385	38%
Greater Valley Conservation Corp		32,962	-	-	0%
Sierra Nevada Forestry Service		297,616	-	154,509	52%
<b><u>NFWF - Culvert Upgrade Project</u></b>					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		142,467	77,114	148,611	104%
KW Emerson, Inc.		1,126,622	147,699	518,264	46%
<b><u>West Calaveras Thin/Bailey Project</u></b>					
Tanner Logging, Inc.		380,500	143,000	215,150	57%
Landmark Environmental, Inc.		10,000	-	4,104	41%
<b><u>SNC - Mapping Tool Project</u></b>					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		45,000	21,393	38,735	86%
<b>TOTAL GRANT EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>3,182,741</b>	<b>484,464</b>	<b>1,495,625</b>	<b>47%</b>
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>		<b>3,507,681</b>	<b>522,180</b>	<b>1,674,712</b>	<b>48%</b>



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: **3**

Meeting Date: January 22, 2021

Title:

Blue Forest Conservation Presentation

Recommended Action:

Begin preparation of a Memorandum of Understanding with Blue Forest Conservation for a Feasibility Study of a Forest Resilience Bond to finance forest health projects in the Mokelumne Watershed. Authorize UMRWA staff to begin working with Blue Forest on the Feasibility Study while the MOU is prepared for board consideration at the April 2021 UMRWA board meeting.

Summary:

In 2015, a group of graduate students at UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business identified a lack of financing as a primary barrier to adequate forest restoration in California and across the U.S. Concerned about the detrimental effects of wildfires to communities and wildlife, the group developed an innovative financial model that would utilize sources of financing from private and philanthropic investors to fund forest restoration activities.

With this financial model, the group entered the Kellogg-Morgan Stanley Sustainable Investment Challenge, a global competition for innovative finance vehicles that seek positive environmental or social impact and competitive financial returns. Out of 129 teams from around the world, the early version of Blue Forest's *Forest Resilience Bond* won first place.

Blue Forest, a 501c3 non-profit organization and MOU partner of the US Forest Service, successfully launched its first Forest Resilience Bond (FRB) project in 2018 for the Yuba Project. The Yuba Project FRB provides \$4 million in private capital to finance critical restoration treatments across 15,000 acres of the Tahoe National Forest, working in partnership with World Resources Institute, the USDA Forest Service and various partners that provide research, evaluation, legal and implementation expertise. The Yuba Project's first work season was completed in 2019.

Blue Forest and its partners continue to make progress on the Yuba Project and are in the early development stages of a second and 300 percent larger project on the Tahoe National Forest. The development team is looking to expand across California and the Western U.S., developing FRB projects to help increase the pace and scale of forest restoration in the West.

UMRWA staff has met with Blue Forest to discuss an FRB for the Mokelumne. Blue Forest has indicated it has sufficient grant funding to prepare a Feasibility Study for a

Mokelumne Watershed FRB and does not need funding from UMRWA. UMRWA expenses would only be for staff time to provide information, engage other potential partners such as PG&E, and assist with review and preparation of the Study. Given UMRWA's recent initiation of an effort to prepare a Forest Projects Plan the timing is appropriate to begin consideration of future funding approaches to implement that Plan.

Blue Forest will be making a presentation at the January 22, 2021 board meeting to discuss its current work and how an FRB might work for the Mokelumne Watershed. The presentation is attached to this board agenda package.



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: **4**

Meeting Date: January 22, 2021

Title:

Forest Projects Report

Recommended Actions:

For discussion and possible action.

Summary:

With the onset of winter weather the forest work being performed this past season by UMRWA's contractors has been concluded. The status of each of UMRWA's forest projects as of the end of 2020 is shown in the table on the next page.

Two recent Authority forest project initiatives – to secure Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grant funding to complete Phase 1 (NEPA/CEQA) of the Upper Mokelumne Watershed Stewardship Project, and an Operator Survey of UMRWA forest contractors – are summarized below. This agenda item concludes with the status of ongoing Authority forest projects.

Phase 1 (NEPA/CEQA) of the Upper Mokelumne Watershed Stewardship Project:

At the October 29 meeting the Board authorized the Executive Officer to submit pre-application materials (i.e. Concept Proposal) and a full grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to help fund planning and NEPA/CEQA work on a Collaborative Forest Projects Plan. A completed Concept Proposal was submitted to SNC on November 23. Following SNC staff review of the Concept Proposal, UMRWA was invited, on December 16, to submit a full proposal for \$150,000 funding under SNC's Forest and Watershed Health Grant Program. The SNC Board of Directors may consider full proposals submitted by February 1 for award in June 2021.

Following consultations with Calaveras Ranger District and the Amador Ranger District staff, and members of the ACCG Strategic Landscape Assessment Work Group, the Concept Proposal identified a 27,685-acre potential project area. The overall goal of the project is to complete the NEPA/CEQA process in order to accomplish on-the-ground fuels treatments as quickly as possible. This initial Phase 1 of the project (for which SNC funding is now being sought) will involve consultation with the ACCG and its member agencies and detailed analyses using the Mapping Tool Project. This project will be designed to include forest restoration and understory fuels management treatments such as fuel breaks, mastication, prescribed burns, forest thinning and hand treatments. The work to be completed in Phase 1 (surveying and flagging unit boundaries, and completing

ecological and related field studies and analyses) will serve as the foundational elements of Phase 2 (the actual completion of NEPA/CEQA processes).

Operator Survey:

In October, UMRWA staff (an Intern hired through Landmark Environmental, Inc.) solicited forest contractor input on UMRWA's fuels treatment efforts. The Operator Survey included questions about procurement and field operations and solicited feedback that contractors believed would be helpful to UMRWA's program. Twenty-five companies on UMRWA's bidder's list were contacted by telephone and email and requested to complete the survey. Seven operators replied with completed surveys (Tanner Brothers, Greater Valley CCC, Sierra Nevada Forestry Service, J&R Logging, TSU/Tree Service Unlimited, Inc., Summit Forests, Inc., and C.H.I.P.S). Generally, contractors expressed satisfaction with UMRWA's overall performance with the highest marks awarded for the quality of UMRWA's RFPs, pre-bid meetings, and invoice processing and payments. Five of the seven respondents suggested UMRWA could reduce the typical 30-day RFP response time to 21 days or less.

Forest Projects Status:

<b>UMRWA FOREST PROJECTS &amp; CONTRACTS</b>						
RFP #	Contractor	Contract Date	Amount	Scheduled Completion	Actual Completion	Total Acres
<b>PUMPKIN HOLLOW – COMPLETED and CLOSED OUT</b>						
Various	Six (6) contractors	2017/2018	\$905,645	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2019	<b>927.5</b>
<b>CABBAGE PATCH - COMPLETED and CLOSED OUT (as of Dec. 31, 2020)</b>						
18-03	GTS Forestry	July 2018	\$78,327	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2019	183.8
18-04	D. Watt Industries	July 2018	\$96,880	Dec. 2019	Nov. 2019	120.2
N/A	GVCC	July 2018	\$10,800	Dec. 2019	Oct. 2019	3.5
						<b>307.5</b>
<b>BLACK SPRINGS</b>						
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
						<b>976.6</b>
<b>FORE</b>						
19-03	Ronwright	July 2019	\$ 180,907	Nov. 2020	Nov. 2020	<b>131.3</b>
<b>WEST CALAVERAS THIN/BAILEY</b>						
20-03	Tanner Logging	August 2020	\$407,410	Dec. 2021	Dec. 2020	<b>259.5</b>
<b>PROJECT TOTALS</b>			<b>\$2,154,567</b>			<b>2,592.4</b>



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: **5**

Meeting Date: January 22, 2021

Title:

Mother Lode Land Trust Agreement Extension

Recommended Actions:

Approve and authorize the Executive Officer to sign Amendment 1 to extend the end date for the 2020 Mother Lode Land Trust (MLLT) agreement for the Youth Watershed Stewardship Program.

Summary:

The Authority entered into an agreement with MLLT in July 2020 to continue the Youth Watershed Stewardship Program (YWSP) in 2020. Under the agreement MLLT agreed to complete the program by December 31, 2020. While MLLT has made significant progress in completing the 2020 scope of work in spite of Covid-19 challenges, approximately \$2,100 remains unspent. The recommended amendment will authorize this work to be completed by June 30, 2021, overlapping the 2021 MLLT agreement.



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: **6**

Meeting Date: January 22, 2021

Title:

Legislative Issues Update

Recommended Action:

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

Summary:

No legislative report is included in this agenda package. The EO will summarize any relevant legislative information that may be obtained prior to the Board meeting. Additionally, Board directors and/or agency staff may have particular legislation of interest and this agenda item is intended to facilitate discussion.