



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Governing Board Meeting

Agenda

Friday,
January 27, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

Pardee Center, Valley Springs, CA 95252

(There will be NO virtual option for this meeting)

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:

Recommended Action

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Board Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2022 | Approve by Motion |
| 2. Treasurer's Report – Fourth Quarter FY 2022 | Accept for Filing |
| 3. Forest Projects Plan – Phase 1 Project Approval | Approve by Motion |
| 4. Forest Projects Report | Approve by Motion |
| 5. DWR and CPUD Implementation Grant Agreements | Approve by Motion |
| 6. Website Support Agreement with Woodard & Curran | Approve by Motion |
| 7. Third Amended Joint Powers Agreement | Approve by Motion |
| 8. Legislative Issues Update | Discussion/Possible Action |

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

9. Board Member Comments

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT:

10. Executive Officer's Oral Report

ADJOURNMENT:

- Next Regular Board Meeting: April 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Pardee Center, Valley Springs

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



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **1**

Meeting Date: January 27, 2023

Title:

Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2022

Recommended Action:

Approve the meeting minutes of October 7, 2022.

Summary:

The summary minutes of the October 7, 2022 meeting are included for Board review and approval.

Friday, October 7, 2022 – 10:04 a.m.
Governing Board Regular Meeting
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
Pardee Lodge, Pardee Center, Valley Springs, CA 95252

Summary Minutes

ROLL CALL

Directors Terry Woodrow, Vice-chair, Jack Garamendi, Ed Gonzalez, Richard Farrington, Richard Blood, and Bill Patterson (EBMUD Alternate) were present. Director Brian Oneto joined the meeting at 10:10. Absent: John Coleman, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and Jeff Davidson, Calaveras County Water District. Also present were Executive Officer (EO) Richard Sykes, Authority Counsel Greg Gillott, Authority Secretary Lisa Gualco, Lorna Barfield, East Bay Municipal Utility District, and 10 visitors and presenters.

PUBLIC COMMENT – EBMUD’s Director Mellon bid good-bye to the UMRWA Board as he has decided not to run for reelection when his term ends December 31, 2022 and thanked the UMRWA Board members for the years of dedicated collaboration.

Calaveras County Water District’s General Manager Michael Minkler invited the UMRWA Board members to attend the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) event, ACWA Region 3: Water, Wildfire & Wine, taking place in Murphys, CA on October 20, 2022. The presentations and discussion will focus on wildfire/biomass projects and drought and wildfire impacts on the wine industry. Those wishing to attend can register on ACWA’s website.

AUTHORITY BUSINESS

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2022

The summary minutes of the July 22, 2022 meeting were provided to the Board for review.

Motion 17-22 to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 22, 2022 was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Gonzalez, and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

2. Treasurer’s Report – Third Quarter FY 2022

A copy of the Treasurer’s Report for the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2022, which ended June 30, 2022, was presented to the Board.

Motion 18-22 to accept the Treasurer’s Report for filing was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Blood, and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

Director Oneto joined the meeting at 10:10, changing the vote count to 7 for the remainder of the meeting.

3. Patrick Wright Presentation

Mr. Wright, the Director of the Governor’s Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force was invited to attend this meeting to discuss the Task Force’s goals regarding fuel reduction in the region and the CEQA exemption that expires December 31, 2022. He provided the UMRWA Board with an update on the Task Force’s recent activities and answered questions from the Board. There was significant discussion of the many barriers to implementation of large-scale forest health actions including, lack of strategic planning and coordination, the lack of facilities to process wood and biomass, and long-term funding. Mr. Wright noted that block grants may be implemented by the state to help regions move more quickly on projects. He commended UMRWA for its work to date.

4. Forest Projects Report

The EO provided the Board with an update on the Authority's Forest Projects Plan initiative, Phases 1 and 2. Also presented were updates related to the Aspen Meadow Restoration Project and CalFire's \$5 million grant to UMRWA. The report concluded with a summary of UMRWA Forest Project Grants which have been awarded or are proposed.

Motion 19-22 to adopt Resolution 2022-02 related to preparing and submitting a full Forest and Watershed Health grant proposal to Sierra Nevada Conservancy for FPP Phase 2 planning funds, was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Gonzalez, and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

5. Proposed Joint Powers Agreement Amendments

The current UMRWA Joint Powers Agreement (the Second Amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement) was established on June 6, 2008. At the April 2022 meeting the Board established an Ad Hoc committee to review the UMRWA Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to determine if updates are needed. The committee identified amendments which are reflected in the Third Amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement provided to the Board in the agenda packet. The EO described the changes suggested by the Ad Hoc Committee and the committee's recommendation to send the current draft to the UMRWA agencies for staff review to update member interest statements, project lists, and contacts.

Motion 20-22 to endorse the draft Third Amended Joint Powers Authority agreement and authorize staff to transmit the proposed agreement to Member Agencies for review and comment by December 1, 2022, was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Oneto, and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

6. Legislative Issues Update

The Board was updated on the status of AB 1717 which the Board had voted to oppose at its July meeting. On August 2, 2022, the Executive Officer transmitted oppose letters as instructed. On September 28, 2022, Governor Newsom vetoed AB 1717 indicating that it would slow down high priority work to protect vulnerable communities in the state.

The EO provided an update on AB 211, a budget trailer bill that includes language to extend the SB 901 CEQA exemption for specified forest health work. The Governor signed this bill on September 27, 2022. The CEQA exemption will extend another three years until December 31, 2025.

There was also discussion on HR 8168 (McCarthy) which was added at the request of Director Farrington during the July meeting. The Save Our Sequoias Bill was introduced on June 22, 2022, and the text has not yet been modified or amended. Michael Minkler noted that the CCWD board voted to support this legislation.

Motion 21-22 to endorse HR 8168 (McCarthy) and authorize the EO to submit a letter of support to the author, was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Garamendi, and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

Board Member Comments:

Director Farrington provided an update to the Board on his recent research into the 2004 Power Fire recovery funding and projects within the fire boundaries that could be accomplished under the FPP Phase 1. He indicated that some of this funding remains to be used but it is unclear how or if the Forest Service will allocate it to this portion of the watershed. He will continue his research.

Executive Officer Comments:

The Executive Officer updated the board on the status of the Blue Forest Conservation (BFC) Feasibility Study for a Forest Resilience Bond. BFC is working with EBMUD and PG&E to identify benefits to these organizations and their willingness to participate in a bond. The EO will bring BFC staff back for another presentation to the UMRWA Board after further progress occurs. He also provided the information that CPUD's Prop 1 Round 2 IRWM grant application for their backwash recycle project was submitted to DWR in September. He also brought the Board up to date on the DAC Drought set-aside to assist AWA in conservation activities and Foothill Conservancy with customer work.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Woodrow adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on January 27, 2023 at Pardee Center.

SUBMITTED BY:

Lisa Gualco, Authority Secretary

John Coleman, Chair of the Board
APPROVED: January 27, 2023



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **2**

Meeting Date: January 27, 2023

Title:

Treasurer's Report – Fourth Quarter FY 2022

Recommended Actions:

Accept for filing.

Summary:

The attached copy of the Treasurer's Report for the Fourth Quarter of Fiscal Year 2022, which ended September 30, 2022, will be presented at the Board meeting.

**UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER WATERSHED AUTHORITY
TREASURER'S REPORT
STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022**

Fiscal Year 2022 (begining Oct. 1, 2021)	Assessment, Grants & USFS	Budget FY 2022	Actual		
			Current Quarter	YTD	YTD %
General Assessments & Operating Revenue					
Amador Agencies Funding	51,044	51,044	-	51,044	100%
Calaveras Agencies Funding	57,546	57,546	-	57,546	100%
EBMUD Funding	129,910	129,910	-	129,910	100%
Member Agencies Contribution	238,500	238,500	-	238,500	100%
Prior Year Unspent/Carry forward	81,815	81,815	-	-	0%
Indirect Fee Revenues (Collected FY2021)	15,000	15,000	-	-	0%
Interest/Misc income	-	-	334	441	
Operating Reserve (Bal. \$453,826)	100,000	100,000	-	-	0%
Misc Revenue	196,815	196,815	334	441	0%
Total Assessments & Operations Funding	435,315	435,315	334	238,941	55%
IRWM Grant Funding					
CCWD - West Point WTP (Prop 1)	554,562	554,562	82,179	153,788	28%
Forestry/Watershed Funding					
US Forest Service (West Calaveras Thin)	21,718	21,718	940	3,528	16%
US Forest Service (Cabbage Patch)	1,919	1,919	-	1,495	78%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant 2 (Cabbage Patch)	-	-	-	49,892	
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant 3 (Black Springs w/ WCT)	76,963	76,963	-	169,252	220%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Mapping Tool Grant	-	-	-	10,780	
Sierra Nevada Conservancy - Forest Projects Plan (#1280)	181,508	181,508	56,398	159,283	88%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy - RFFCP (#969)	354,944	354,944	134,815	134,815	38%
NFWF (Eldorado NF Culvert Upgrades)	116,594	116,594	-	116,594	100%
Wildlife Conservation Board -	649,400	649,400	8,188	8,188	1%
Total Grants and Other Funding	1,957,608	1,957,608	282,520	807,615	41%
TOTAL REVENUES & FUNDING	2,392,923	2,392,923	282,854	1,046,556	44%
ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES					
General Assessment (Administration)					
Executive Officer		50,000	20,792	59,658	119%
Administrative Officer		50,000	24,068	57,892	116%
Website Support (Woodard & Curran) (w/\$9,700 carry forward)		21,700	3,503	10,504	48%
General Assessment (Operations)					
Plumas Corp - Mattley Meadow (w/\$10,000 carry-forward)		10,000	10,000	10,000	100%
MLLT - STE Watershed Program CY 2021/22 (w/\$8,663 carry forward)		25,163	8,731	17,394	69%
Inter-agency Liaison & Board Support (LEI, Inc)		5,000	2,283	5,665	113%
Forest-related Grant Applications/Project Development (LEI, Inc)		50,000	6,273	53,461	107%
Forest Projects Plan (LEI, Inc) (w/\$40,770 carry forward)		121,290	-	-	0%
Forest Projects Plan - Phase 2 Work Plan (Cardno)		49,480	4,521	4,521	9%
Forest Projects Plan - Preliminary Phase 2 Work (LEI)		15,000	9,051	10,652	71%
IRWM Grant Application/Project Development		25,000	11,321	11,321	45%
MAC Projects Update 2020 (Woodard & Curran) (w/\$12,682 carry forward)		12,682	515	12,097	95%
TOTAL ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES		435,315	101,058	253,165	58%
GRANT and FORESTRY/WATERSHED FUNDING EXPENDITURES					
DWR Prop 1 Implementation Grant					
CCWD - West Point WTP		527,287	156,804	156,804	30%
Woodard & Curran - invoicing & reporting		20,892	2,314	6,023	29%
WRA - agreement administration		4,000	-	-	0%
Cabbage Patch Restoration Project					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		1,919	-	11,574	603%
Black Springs Restoration Project					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		2,181	-	21,830	1001%
Contractor (incl GV Conservation Corp)		65,069	-	56,252	86%
NFWF - Culvert Upgrade Project					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		16,513	-	16,513	100%
West Calaveras Thin/Bailey Project					
Landmark Environmental, Inc.		1,000	822	3,084	308%
Contactior		20,718	-	-	0%
SNC - RFFCP					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		180,051	96,131	96,131	53%
InContext (RFP 22-01)		141,949	137,880	137,880	97%
WCB - Aspen Restoration Project					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		252,401	2,148	2,148	1%
Institute For Bird Populations		221,099	16,048	16,048	7%
Reserved for technical field work		139,500	-	-	0%
SNC - Forest Projects Plan					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		181,508	8,158	129,341	71%
TOTAL GRANT EXPENDITURES		1,776,087	420,305	653,628	37%
Total Project Expenses		2,211,402	521,363	906,793	41%



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **3**

Meeting Date: January 27, 2023

Title:

Forest Projects Plan – Phase 1 Project Approval

Recommended Actions:

- (1) Approve the Forest Projects Plan – Phase 1.
- (2) Confirm staff's determination the Project is exempt from CEQA and authorize staff to file a Notice of Exemption with the CA Office of Planning and Research and Amador County, El Dorado County and Calaveras County Clerks.

Background:

At its special October 1, 2021 Planning Session the Board authorized staff to proceed with the Forest Projects Plan (FPP) initiative and appropriated \$100,000 from Authority reserve funds to begin the multi-year effort. This effort was initiated to address the dearth of NEPA/CEQA eligible treatment projects for implementation on USFS lands within the watershed. Essential additional funding from grants awarded to UMRWA by SNC and CalFire has facilitated completion of this Phase 1 plan.

Due to the acute ongoing threats from wildfires, and the critical need for continuing forest fuel treatments, it was decided a two-phased approach to completing the FPP would be pursued. Phase 1 has focused on ladder and related fuels treatment actions that are supported by the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG). The recently initiated Phase 2 will incorporate the Calaveras Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest into the project area and will include additional forest management actions such as commercial thinning. Phase 2 will require a more comprehensive planning document and is expected to take approximately two years to complete.

UMRWA's central role in the FPP is facilitated under a Master Stewardship Agreement between the Forest Service and UMRWA, signed May 18, 2016. The Forest Service acts as the lead NEPA agency and UMRWA the lead CEQA agency. The NEPA process recently concluded with the Eldorado National Forest, Amador District Ranger signing the project Decision Memo on November 23, 2022.

Lands within the Phase 1 project area are primarily situated in Amador County north and south of the Highway 88 corridor. Smaller areas within El Dorado and Calaveras Counties are also affected. The project area is surrounded by lands burned by recent wildfires including the Caldor Fire to the north (2021), the Tamarack Fire to the east (2021), the Rim Fire to the south (2013) and the Butte Fire to the west (2015).

Discussion:

The Forest Projects Plan - Phase 1 (the Project) is a 25,671-acre landscape-level timber stand and wildlife habitat improvement and protection project located on U.S. Forest Service lands, primarily within the upper Mokelumne River watershed. The project is designed to help prevent high-intensity, large-scale wildfires, improve forest conditions,

and protect communities and important wildlife habitat and other resources. A map of the general project area is attached.

In Phase 1, non-commercial vegetation treatments and prescribed burning activities will enhance and protect a variety of habitats including three ecosystems that provide essential components of wildlife habitat: late seral/old forest ecosystems, aquatic ecosystems, and aspen stands. The treatments will enhance forest health by reducing competition for resources (water, sunlight, and nutrients) within forested stands that are overly dense and in habitats that have been diminished due to conifer encroachment from lack of fire (aquatic systems, aspen stands). Table 1 lists the estimated number of acres of each type of fuel treatment activity.

Table 1: Treatment Areas

Treatment Activity	Estimated Acreage
Mechanical Fuels Reduction	14,537
Mechanical Fuels Reduction Plus Prescribed Burning	4,715
Prescribed Burning	1,888
Aspen Restoration	172
Aspen Restoration Plus Prescribed Burning	22
Hand Thinning Only	4,337
Total Acreage	25,671

Environmental Review:

The Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. An exemption from CEQA for prescribed fire, reforestation, habitat restoration, thinning and fuel reduction projects initially established in 2019 was recently extended by AB 211 which was signed by the Governor on September 27, 2022. This exemption applies to projects undertaken on federal lands to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire that have been reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Under NEPA, the Forest Projects Plan – Phase 1 actions have been determined by the US Forest Service to be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA). This determination was made because the project treatments are designed to reduce fuel build-up and fire hazard through the removal of surface and ladder fuel. Removal of surface and ladder fuels will slow the spread and reduce the intensity of future fires, thus protect forested wildlife habitat and timber stands from loss due to large, high severity wildfire, both within the treatment areas and the adjacent lands. The applicable US Forest Service Decision Memo was signed on November 23, 2022.

Forest Projects Plan (FPP), Phase 1

Eldorado National Forest -- Amador Ranger District

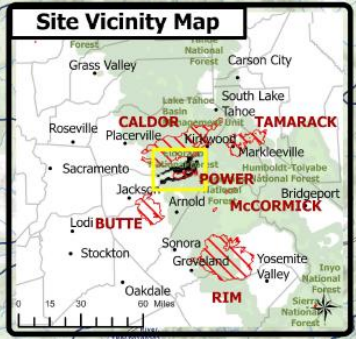
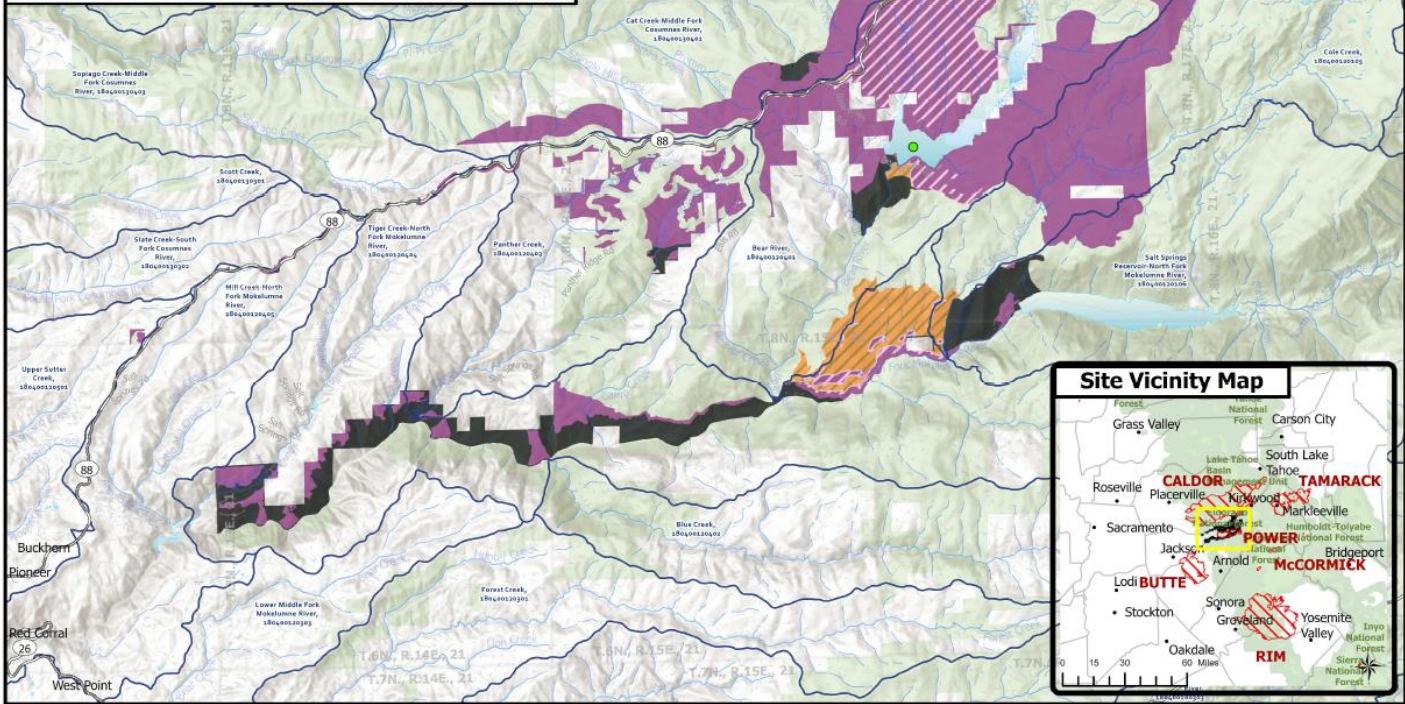
Map 1: Treatment Area Map (FPP Phase 1)



Legend

- Aspen Restoration
- Aspen Restoration, Prescribed Burning
- Hand Thinning Only
- Mechanical Fuels Reduction
- Mechanical Fuels Reduction, Prescribed Burning
- Prescribed Burning
- National Forest
- Non-National Forest
- HUC12 subwatershed
- Perennial stream
- Intermittent stream
- Waterbody
- Highway

Scale: 1:150,000
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Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: 4

Meeting Date: January 27, 2023

Title:

Forest Projects Report

Recommended Actions:

- (1) Adopt Resolution No. 2023-01 authorizing an application for a Cal Fire Forest Health Program grant for FPP – Phase 1 implementation.
- (2) Adopt Resolution No. 2023-02 authorizing an application for a Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Program grant for FPP – Phase 1 implementation.
- (3) Adopt Resolution No. 2023-03 authorizing an application for a Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention Program grant for FPP – Phase 2 planning and environmental review.
- (4) Authorize the Executive Officer to execute Amendment 1 to the agreement with Stantec (formerly Cardno) for FPP Phase 2 planning to:
 - a. recognize the change in contractor name from Cardno to Stantec,
 - b. increase the authorized agreement cost ceiling by \$125,000 to a maximum of \$175,000, and
 - c. add the following items to the authorized scope of work
 - i. continued Project Management
 - ii. continued Outreach and Communication
 - iii. Tribal Engagement
 - iv. NEPA and Planning tasks
 - v. Regulatory Agency Consultations
 - vi. Support for Grant Applications

Summary:

This Forest Projects Report presents updates on the Authority's Forest Projects Plan (FPP), Phases 1 and 2. Also included is a brief update regarding the Aspen Meadow Restoration Project. The report concludes with a table entitled 'UMRWA Forest Project Grants' which summarizes grants awarded, not awarded, and proposed.

Forest Projects Plan – Phase 1:

With the Board's approval of the FPP - Phase 1 Project, the planning and environmental review portions of the project are essentially complete. To implement Phase 1 treatment actions UMRWA must secure a Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) with El Dorado National Forest (ENF) for FPP work within ENF boundaries, complete an FPP-1 Implementation Plan (which prioritizes and strategically organizes the treatment work that will span more than 25,000 acres), and secure grant funding.

UMRWA staff has met several times with ENF staff and Acting Forest Supervisor Aaron Mayville in our ongoing effort to obtain a Supplemental Project Agreement with ENF. The

SPA is a necessary step in securing grant funding and for performing treatment work on ENF lands. Communications in early December between UMRWA and ENF staff regarding the SPA were encouraging. UMRWA hopes to execute an SPA in February 2023.

The process to complete the FPP-1 Implementation Plan were initiated in early January. This UMRWA staff effort will systematically organize and order 25,671 acres of Phase 1 treatments into discrete projects. The scope and nature of these projects will consider location, community risk exposure, treatment type, equipment requirements, and contractor capacity limitations. This implementation plan will be used to guide the Authority's grant-seeking and contracting-out activities.

UMRWA staff are initiating a procurement process for botanical field survey services to support Phase 1 implementation. A contract for these services will be recommended for award at the April 28, 2023, UMRWA board meeting.

Grant opportunities to fund FPP - Phase 1 fuel treatments have been identified with two recommended for full applications.

Cal Fire Forest Health Program – This would be UMRWA's application for a second Forest Health Program grant. (UMRWA was awarded a nearly \$5 million Forest Health grant in 2022 to complete the Phase 1 plan and perform fuel reduction treatments on 3,000 acres.) With the Board's approval today of the FPP Phase 1 project, additional funding is needed to continue Phase 1 fuel treatment work. Cal Fire has \$120 million (from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund) available for Forest Health Program funding this fiscal year. Applications are due February 28, 2023. A Board resolution authorizing the preparation and submittal of the Cal Fire grant application is recommended for approval. Resolution No. 2023-01 is included.

SNC Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Program – The Authority submitted a Concept Proposal for Phase 1 treatment funding (\$4.5 million) in July 2022. The proposal targeted funding to complete fuels treatment work on up to 3,000 acres of lands covered by the Phase 1 plus restoration of the Bloods Ridge Fuel Break. While SNC staff endorsed UMRWA's proposal, they recommended UMRWA delay submitting a full application until after Phase 1 NEPA/CEQA approvals were finalized. While SNC has not yet specified when the next round of grant applications will be accepted, UMRWA staff recommends the Board approve Resolution No. 2023-02 (included) in case the solicitation period opens and closes prior to the April 28, 2023, UMRWA board meeting.

UMRWA and the USFS were contacted by SNC regarding their Landscape Grant Pilot Program. An UMRWA/USFS team was interviewed by SNC regarding a possible grant award on January 11 and expects to hear back soon on this opportunity for up to several million dollars in funding for the FPP over a period of up to 10 years.

Forest Projects Plan - Phase 2:

The landscape-level Phase 2 FPP will address forest health issues on up to 220,000 acres of Stanislaus and Eldorado NF lands within and flanking the Mokelumne Watershed. In addition to the far larger scale, the second phase of the FPP process will consider forestry activities not included in Phase 1 due to potentially more significant environmental impacts. For comparison, it is expected to be similar in scope and complexity to the Stanislaus NF's SERAL Project. Phase 2 lands within the Stanislaus NF are covered under a SPA with the SNF executed by UMRWA for the FPP project in July 2021.

In August 2022, UMRWA completed the selection process for a consultant to perform project management and environmental planning for Phase 2. Late that month, staff executed an agreement with Cardno, Inc. (now called Stantec) to initiate project work

under a \$50,000 contract with the expectation that subsequent amendments would be executed as additional grant funding became available. Stantec has done a very good job in performing the initial scope of work including developing the detailed project work plan for the completion of NEPA and CEQA, creating stakeholder and technical advisory groups, initiating the UMRWA/USFS partnership team meetings, and beginning to collect existing information. A first amendment to the agreement with Stantec is needed to fund continued work through spring 2023. The funding for this amendment will come from an existing SNC grant (\$75,000) and UMRWA funds already approved by the board for the FPP (\$50,000). The amendment is also needed to reflect the name change from Cardno to Stantec (who recently acquired Cardno) and to add to the authorized scope of work to include continued project management, continued outreach and communication, initiation of tribal engagement, specified NEPA and planning tasks (project initiation letter, draft purpose and need, determination of NEPA approach with USFS), initiation of communication with regulatory agencies regarding listed species, and support for grant applications.

A grant application to SNC for funding the Phase 2 Scope of Work was not recommended (SNC communicated this to staff in December). In evaluating other possible funding sources staff has identified CalFire's Wildfire Prevention Program as a potentially suitable option. Accordingly, staff recommends UMRWA apply for Cal Fire for Wildfire Prevention Program to help fund Phase 2 of the Forest Projects Plan. Cal Fire has \$120 million of funding available (also from the GGR Fund) this fiscal year. Applications are due March 15, 2023. Resolution No. 2203-03 is included. UMRWA staff will pursue multiple funding opportunities to complete Phase 2. As noted above, the effort is currently being funded by existing SNC grants and UMRWA funds.

Aspen Meadow Restoration Project:

The Board approved an UMRWA application for Wildlife Conservation Board grant funding in July 2021 and a \$649,400 WCB grant agreement was fully executed in June 2022.

The scope of work funded by WCB requires UMRWA to plan, design, and permit the project for an effective and comprehensive plan for aspen restoration on lands within the Stanislaus and Eldorado National Forests, and provide the NEPA/CEQA clearance needed for implementation. The project includes mapping and assessing existing aspen stand conditions and completing NEPA for 300 acres of prioritized aspen stand restoration work.

The WCB funded work will be completed by Landmark Environmental Inc. (LEI) and Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) under UMRWA contracts approved by the Board in July 2022. The work will be completed over the next three years.

UMRWA Forest Project Grants:

UMRWA has two active SNC grants, one active Wildlife Conservation Board grant, and one active CalFire Forest Health Grant. In December a SNC Wildfire Recovery and Resilience grant application was not approved. Two new grant applications to implement Phase 1 treatments are recommended. These grants are summarized in the table below.

UMRWA FOREST PROJECT GRANTS

Approved	Not Approved	Proposed
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Grant	By	Amount	Tasks/Deliverables	Key Dates
Forest & Watershed Health (# 1280)	SNC	\$200,000 (13% indirect)	- FPP Phase 1 Plan - NEPA/CEQA documentation	Execute: 6/22/21 Complete: 2/15/27
WIP Capacity Program – Early Action (# 969-RFFCP)	SNC	\$354,944 (10% indirect)	- NEPA documents - ACCG consultation/Tribal - Decision Memo	Execute: 5/23/22 Complete: 12/1/24
WCB– Prop 68 (# WC-2262CR)	WCB	\$649,400 (5.6% indirect)	- Aspen inventory/design options - Prioritization/design plan - Environmental compliance	Execute: 6/10/22 Complete: 3/31/25
Forest Health Program (GGRF)	CalFire	\$4,999,967 (10% indirect)	- NEPA/CEQA clearance - Fuel treatments >2,255 acres	Execute: 7/25/22 Complete: 3/31/26
Wildfire Recovery & Forest Resilience (<i>Planning</i>)	SNC	\$967,534	- Develop FPP Phase 2 Plan - NEPA/CEQA documentation	Concept: 7/29/22 Full Ap: 10/28/22 Reject: Dec. 2022
Wildfire Recovery & Forest Resilience (<i>Implementation</i>)	SNC	Invited to submit full application (\$4,500,000)	- Implement FPP-1 fuel treatments on ~ 3,000 acres - Drop FPP1 Implement Plan	Concept: July 2022 Full Ap: TBD Awards: TBD
Forest Health Program (GGRF)	CalFire	Up to \$5M	- Implement FPP-1 treatments	Full Ap: 2/28/23 Awards: 2023
Wildfire Prevention Program	CalFire	Up to \$5M	- FPP Phase 2 planning and environmental documentation	Full Ap: 3/15/23 Awards: 2023

UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER WATERSHED AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2023-01

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FOR FUNDING FROM THE FOREST HEALTH GRANT PROGRAM AS PROVIDED THROUGH CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California in cooperation with the California State Legislature has enacted State of California Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding, which provides funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for Forest Health programs; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary procedures governing application by local agencies and non-profit organizations under the program, and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection require the applicant to certify by resolution the approval of application before submission of said application to the State; and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out a Forest Health project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) Board of Directors:

1. Approves the filing of an application for Forest Health grant program funds; and
2. Certifies that applicant UMRWA has sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and,
3. Certifies that funds under the jurisdiction of this Board of Directors are available to begin the project, and
4. Certifies that said applicant will complete grant-related activities and expend grant funds prior to March 31, 2029, and
5. Appoints the UMRWA Executive Officer, or his designee, as agent of the UMRWA Board of Directors to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Approved and adopted by unanimous vote this 27th day of January 2023.

John Coleman, Board Chair

ATTEST:

Lisa Gualco, Authority Secretary

UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER WATERSHED AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION 2023-02

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGARDING A SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
WILDFIRE RECOVERY and FOREST RESILIENCE GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) is a Joint Powers Agency formed in 2000 to address water quality, forest health, water supply and environmental matters. UMRWA is comprised by Amador Water Agency, Calaveras County Water District, Calaveras Public Utility District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Jackson Valley Irrigation District, Alpine County Water Agency and the counties of Amador, Calaveras and Alpine; and,

WHEREAS, at its January 27, 2023, regular meeting the UMRWA Board of Directors authorized staff to apply for a Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant application for funding to implement fuels treatments in the Forest Projects Plan – Phase 1 project area and Blood’s Ridge Fuels Break Restoration Project; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Executive Officer of the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority to prepare and submit a full Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for funding in support of UMRWA’s Forest Projects Plan – Phase 1 and Bloods Ridge Fuel Break Restoration Project.

Approved and adopted by unanimous vote this 27th day of January 2023.

John Coleman, Board Chair

ATTEST:

Lisa Gualco, Authority Secretary

UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER WATERSHED AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2023-03

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FOR FUNDING FROM THE CAL FIRE WILDFIRE PREVENTION
GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Governor of the State of California in cooperation with the California State Legislature has enacted State of California Climate Investment, which provides funds to the State of California and its political subdivisions for fire prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) has been delegated the responsibility for the administration of the program within the State, setting up necessary procedures governing application by local agencies, non-profit organizations, and others under the program, and

WHEREAS, the applicant will enter into an agreement with the State of California to carry out a wild fire prevention project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) Board of Directors:

1. Approves the filing of an application for “California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants Program”, and
2. Certifies that applicant UMRWA has sufficient funds to operate and maintain the project; and,
3. Certifies that funds under the jurisdiction of this Board of Directors are available to begin the project, and
4. Certifies that UMRWA will expend grant funds by the date identified in the executed grant agreement, and
5. Appoints the UMRWA Executive Officer, or his designee, as agent of the UMRWA Board of Directors to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

Approved and adopted by unanimous vote this 27th day of January 2023.

John Coleman, Board Chair

Attest:

Lisa Gualco, Authority Secretary



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **5**

Meeting Date: January 27, 2023

Title:

DWR and CPUD Implementation Grant Agreements

Recommended Action:

1. Approve the DWR – UMRWA Proposition 1 Grant agreement in the amount of \$589,785 and authorize the Executive Officer to sign the agreement.
2. Approve the Grant Implementation Agreement with Calaveras Public Utility District and authorize the Executive Officer to sign the agreement.
3. Adopt Resolution No. 2023-04 authorizing the Executive Officer, or designee, to execute the DWR grant agreement and any amendments thereto, and perform any and all work required to fulfill Prop 1 – Round 2 grant requirements.

Summary:

On December 12 the Department of Water Resources (DWR) informed UMRWA it was being awarded a \$589,785 Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant. A total of \$566,225 from this grant will be passed through to Calaveras Public Utility District (CPUD) for costs to build the Jeff Davis Water Treatment Plant Backwash Recycle Project. The remaining balance (4 percent) will fund UMRWA grant administration costs (including grant support by Woodard & Curran). The two agreements needed for UMRWA to secure the Prop 1 grant, and to describe UMRWA's pass-through arrangement with CPUD, are recommended for Board approval today. These two agreements are summarized below.

DWR Proposition 1 Grant Agreement:

This grant agreement obligates the state to provide \$589,785 of Prop 1 Implementation Grant funding to UMRWA. These funds are then to be used for construction of CPUD's Jeff Davis Water Treatment Plant Backwash Recycle Project and associated UMRWA grant administration expenses. The agreement also obligates UMRWA to ensure CPUD's project is carried out consistent with the terms of the grant agreement. This grant agreement is very similar to prior agreements with DWR for MAC Region implementation projects.

CPUD Grant Implementation Agreement:

The UMRWA – CPUD agreement describes the roles and obligations of UMRWA and CCWD as the grant recipient and project sponsor, respectively. Many of UMRWA's obligations contained in the Proposition 1 Grant agreement are assigned to CCWD as the project owner.

Copies of the recommended DWR Grant Agreement and the UMRWA - CPUD agreement are included in the Supplemental Agenda Materials Packet - January 27, 2023.

UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER WATERSHED AUTHORITY

RESOLUTION 2023-04

REGARDING PROPOSITION 1 - ROUND 2 - IRWM GRANT APPLICATION AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S AUTHORITIES RELATED THERETO

WHEREAS, the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) is a regional water management group as defined by the California Water Code. A Joint Powers Agency formed in 2000 to address water quality, water supply and environmental matters, UMRWA is comprised by Amador Water Agency, Calaveras County Water District, Calaveras Public Utility District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Jackson Valley Irrigation District, Alpine County Water Agency and the counties of Amador, Calaveras and Alpine; and

WHEREAS, at its January 28, 2022 regular meeting the Board of Directors reviewed and approved the Updated Mokelumne-Amador-Calaveras (MAC) IRWM Plan Projects List; and

WHEREAS, the UMRWA Board of Directors approved the selection of Calaveras Public Utility District's (CPUD) Jeff Davis WTP Recycle Project for inclusion in the Authority's Round 2 IRWM grant application to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) pursuant to the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (Water Code § 79700 et seq.); and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2022 the Department of Water Resources (DWR) notified UMRWA of its intent to award a \$589,785 Prop 1 Round 2 grant to UMRWA for CPUD's Jeff Davis WTP Backwash Water Recycle Project; and

WHEREAS, the UMRWA Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Executive Officer, or designee, to execute the DWR grant agreement and any amendments thereto, and perform any and all work associated therewith.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority Board of Directors authorizes the Executive Officer, or designee, to execute the DWR grant agreement and any amendments thereto, and perform any and all work required to fulfill Prop 1 – Round 2 grant requirements.

Approved and adopted by unanimous vote this 27th day of January 2023.

John Coleman, Board Chairperson

Attest:

Lisa Gualco, Authority Secretary



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **6**

Meeting Date: January 27, 2023

Title:

Web Support Agreement with Woodard & Curran

Recommended Action:

Approve the agreement with Woodard & Curran and authorize the Executive Officer to sign the agreement.

Summary:

UMRWA's website is supported and maintained by Woodard & Curran (W&C). The website has become an essential tool in carrying out UMRWA's contracting out activities and will continue to serve as a primary means for sharing Board agenda materials. It has also served as the primary means for communicating and sharing MAC Plan update documents with the stakeholder Regional Participants Committee. The website also serves as a resource for the public to familiarize themselves with UMRWA, as it does interested contractors, funding agencies, and others. Going forward, the website will be heavily relied upon as UMRWA expands its forest health programs.

In addition to needing website support, UMRWA requires assistance in establishing an effective and efficient means for maintaining its business files. A plan and mechanism for consolidating UMRWA's business files, storing them, and providing retrieval options, is needed. It is recommended W&C be tasked with developing file hosting and sharing options and assist UMRWA staff in selecting and making operational the most suitable option.

The recommended agreement with Woodard & Curran will continue website support services for 2 years at a cost of \$10,000 per year (Task 1). The agreement also tasks W&C with guiding UMRWA through a process for formulating and implementing a plan to create a file storage and sharing system (Task 2). The not-to-exceed cost for this task is \$23,520.

Funding for ongoing web support (Task 1) is included in the Authority's annual budget. The funding for Task 2 costs (up to \$23,520) is not specifically provided in the current budget, but based on prior annual expenditure patterns staff anticipates a sufficient year-end balance will be available to meet this expense. Otherwise, staff will recommend the Board authorize use of budgeted reserves for any then unfunded balance.

A copy of the recommended Consulting Services Agreement with Woodard & Curran is included in the Supplemental Agenda Materials Packet - January 27, 2023.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **7**

Meeting Date: January 27, 2023

Title:

Third Amended Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)

Recommended Action:

Approve the Third Amended Joint Powers Agreement for transmittal to Member Agencies for their approval and signature.

Summary:

At the October 7, 2022, meeting the Board endorsed the draft Third Amended Joint Powers Authority agreement and directed staff to transmit the proposed agreement to Member Agencies for review and comment by December 1. No Member comments, either suggesting modifications or questioning proposed changes, were received. Amador Water Agency has communicated that their Board of Directors reviewed and approved the Third Amended JPA on October 27, 2022 (provided no material changes are subsequently made).

Discussion:

The final step in the process to amend the UMRWA joint powers agreement is to secure the approval and signature of each Member Agency. With the Board's approval of the above Recommended Action staff will transmit the Third Amended Joint Powers Agreement with a request that Member agencies approve and return signed agreements to the Authority Secretary by March 15, 2023.

A copy of the Third Amended Joint Powers Agreement is included in Supplemental Agenda Materials Packet – January 27, 2023.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **8**

Meeting Date: January 27, 2023

Title:

Legislative Issues Update

Recommended Action:

For discussion and possible action.

Summary:

UMRWA staff will discuss legislative matters of interest for discussion and possible action by the Board.