



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Governing Board Meeting

Agenda

Friday, April 28, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

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:

Recommended Action

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Board Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2023 | Approve by Motion |
| 2. Treasurer's Report – First Quarter FY 2023 | Accept for Filing |
| 3. Forest Projects Report | Approve by Motion |
| 4. Status Update on IRWM Grants | Discussion/Possible Action |
| 5. Fiscal Year 2024 Budget | Approve by Motion |
| 6. Basic Financial Statements – Fiscal Years 2022 & 2021 | Accept for Filing |
| 7. UMRWA website | Discussion/Possible Action |
| 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: July 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 Lorna Barfield at 209.772.8261 or lorna.barfield@ebmud.com no later than 24 hours before the meeting.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **1**

Meeting Date: April 28, 2023

Title:

Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2023

Recommended Action:

Approve the meeting minutes of January 27, 2023.

Summary:

The summary minutes of the January 27, 2023 meeting are included for Board review and approval.

Friday, January 27, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.
Governing Board Regular Meeting
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
Pardee Lodge, Pardee Center, Valley Springs, CA 95252

Summary Minutes

ROLL CALL

Directors John Coleman, Chair, Terry Woodrow, Vice-chair, Jack Garamendi, Ed Gonzalez, Richard Farrington, and Richard Blood were present. Absent: Brian Oneto, Amador County, 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 13 visitors.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

AUTHORITY BUSINESS

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2022

The summary minutes of the October 7, 2022, meeting were provided to the Board for review.

Motion 01-23 to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 7, 2022, was made by Director Farrington seconded by Director Woodrow and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

2. Treasurer’s Report – Fourth Quarter FY 2022

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

Motion 02-23 to accept the Treasurer’s Report for filing was made by Director Gonzales seconded by Director Blood and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

3. Forest Projects Plan – Phase 1 Project Approval

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. This is accomplished with non-commercial vegetation treatments and prescribed burning activities which 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).

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).

Motion 03-23 to (1) approve the Forest Projects Plan - Phase 1 and (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 was made by Director Farrington seconded by Director Woodrow and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

4. Forest Projects Report

The EO provided the Board with an update on the Authority's Forest Projects Plan (FPP) initiative, Phases 1 and 2. Also presented were updates related to the Aspen Meadow Restoration Project. The report concluded with a summary of UMRWA Forest Project Grants which have been awarded, not awarded, or are proposed. 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.) Additional funding is needed to continue Phase 1 fuel treatment work and Cal Fire has \$120 million (from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund) available for Forest Health Program funding this fiscal year.

SNC Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Program – The Authority submitted a Concept Proposal for Phase 1 treatment funding (\$4.5 million) in July 2022 and 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 recommended the Board approve Resolution No. 2023-02 in case the solicitation period occurs prior to the April 28, 2023, UMRWA board meeting.

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. SNC staff has identified Cal Fire's Wildfire Prevention Program as a potentially suitable option and recommends UMRWA apply for Cal Fire for Wildfire Prevention Program to help fund Phase 2 of the Forest Projects Plan.

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. An 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.

Motion 04-23 to (1) adopt Resolution 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 and (4) Authorize the Executive Officer to execute Amendment 1 to the agreement with Stantec (formerly Cardno) for FPP – Phase

2 planning was made by Director Farrington seconded by Director Garamendi and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

5. DWR and CPUD Implementation Grant Agreements

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, were recommended for Board approval.

Motion 05-23 to (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 and (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 was made by Director Blood seconded by Director Garamendi and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

6. Website Support Agreement with Woodard & Curran

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.

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.

Motion 06-23 to approve the agreement with Woodard & Curran and authorize the Executive Officer to sign the agreement was made by Director Farrington seconded by Director Woodrow and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

7. Third Amended Joint Powers Agreement

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).

Motion 07-23 to approve the Third Amended Joint Powers Agreement for transmittal to Member Agencies for their approval and signature, was made by Director Blood seconded by Director Garamendi and carried by voice vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

8. Legislative Issues Update

Executive Officer Richard Sykes shared information regarding bill SB39 which modifies the SNC mission, better organizes subregions of the area and adds climate change activities to grant funding. Amador Water Agency has reviewed the bill and saw no reason to oppose. The board requested that SB39 be added to the April agenda for discussion and possible action.

Board Member Comments:

Richard Farrington attended the last ACCG meeting and shared concern regarding the Power Fire restoration funds, of which, 40% of the of \$45 million had not been spent in the burn area. He would like the discussion of forming an UMRWA Ad Hoc committee to support the research and return of these funds be added to the April meeting agenda.

Director Gonzales expressed concern about the PG&E Blue Lake dam rehabilitation project.

Director Garamendi had questions on the status of the Mokelumne Water Battery Project.

John Coleman thanked Vice-chair Woodrow for chairing the October 7 meeting as he was unable to attend.

Executive Officer Comments:

The Executive Officer discussed correspondence received from EBMUD's David Briggs regarding PG&E's formation of Pacific Generation. The board requested this item be added to the April agenda for discussion and possible action.

The EO reminded the board of the filing requirements for the FPPC Form 700. He also provided information on the DWR grant awarded via Sierra Institute to Amador Water Agency and Foothill Conservancy covering conservation projects. Sierra Institute will contract directly with the organizations and not through UMRWA. He continued to share that Blue Forest Conservation is meeting with EBMUD and PG&E regarding a forest resilience fund.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Coleman adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on April 28, 2023, at Pardee Center.

SUBMITTED BY:

Lorna Barfield, Authority Secretary

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



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **2**

Meeting Date: April 28, 2023

Title:

Treasurer's Report – First Quarter FY 2023

Recommended Actions:

Accept for filing.

Summary:

A copy of the Treasurer's Report for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2023, which ended December 31, 2022, is included here and will be presented at the Board meeting.

**UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER WATERSHED AUTHORITY
TREASURER'S REPORT
STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2022**

Fiscal Year 2023 (beginning Oct. 1, 2022)	Assessment, Grants & USFS	Budget FY 2023	Actual		
			Current Quarter	YTD	YTD %
General Assessments & Operating Revenue					
Amador Agencies Funding	39,537	39,537	39,537	39,537	100%
Calaveras Agencies Funding	46,035	46,035	46,035	46,035	100%
EBMUD Funding	86,122	86,122	86,122	86,122	100%
Member Agencies Contribution	171,694	171,694	171,694	171,694	100%
Prior Year Unspent/Carry forward	182,150	182,150	-	-	0%
Applied Indirect Fee Revenues	15,000	15,000	-	-	0%
Interest/Misc income	-	-	10	10	
Applied Operating Reserve (Adjusted Bal. \$428,217)	66,806	66,806	-	-	0%
Misc Revenue	263,956	263,956	10	10	0%
Total Assessments & Operations Funding	435,650	435,650	171,704	171,704	39%
IRWM Grant Funding					
CCWD - West Point WTP (Prop 1)	390,129	390,129	-	-	0%
CPUD - Jeff Davis WTP	TBD	TBD	-	-	
Forestry/Watershed Funding					
Sierra Nevada Conservancy - Forest Projects Plan (#1280)	16,239	16,239	9,464	9,464	58%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy - RFFCP (#969)	178,017	178,017	24,419	24,419	14%
CalFire Grant	4,999,967	4,999,967	-	-	0%
Wildlife Conservation Board -	627,317	627,317	11,686	11,686	2%
Total Grants and Other Funding	6,211,669	6,211,669	45,569	45,569	1%
TOTAL REVENUES & FUNDING	6,647,319	6,647,319	217,273	217,273	3%
ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES					
General Assessment (Administration)					
Executive Officer		50,000	10,675	10,675	21%
Administrative Officer		50,000	10,200	10,200	20%
Website Support (Woodard & Curran) (w/\$8,000 carry forward)		20,000	-	-	0%
General Assessment (Operations)					
MLLT - STE Watershed Program CY 2021/22 (w/\$7,769 carry forward)		24,269	-	-	0%
Inter-agency Liaison & Board Support (LEI, Inc)		5,000	378	378	8%
Forest-related Grant Applications/Project Development (LEI, Inc)		50,000	9,125	9,125	18%
Phase 1 FPP Completion (LEI, Inc) (w/\$10,000 carry forward)		20,000	-	-	0%
FPP-1 Implementation Plan (LEI, Inc)		20,000	-	-	0%
Forest Projects Plan - Phase 2 Reserved (w/\$111,422 carry forward)		111,422	-	-	0%
Forest Projects Plan - Phase 2 Support (Regine/LEI)		15,000	1,295	1,295	9%
Forest Projects Plan - Phase 2 (Cardno) (w/\$44,959 carry forward)		44,959	4,034	4,034	9%
IRWM Grant Application/Project Development		17,160	-	-	0%
DWR Grant Support (Woodard & Curran)		7,840	-	-	0%
TOTAL ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES		435,650	35,707	35,707	8%
GRANT and FORESTRY/WATERSHED FUNDING EXPENDITURES					
DWR Prop 1 Implementation Grant					
CCWD - West Point WTP		TBD	-	-	
Woodard & Curran - invoicing & reporting		14,869	-	-	0%
WRA - agreement administration		4,000	-	-	0%
DWR Prop 1 Grant - Round 2					
CPUD - Jeff Davis WTP		TBD	-	-	
Woodard & Curran - invoicing & reporting		17,160	-	-	0%
WRA - agreement administration		TBD	-	-	
SNC - RFFCP					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		107,674	30,344	30,344	28%
InContext (RFP 22-01)		52,541	23,488	23,488	45%
WCB - Aspen Restoration Project					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		252,401	5,068	5,068	2%
Institute For Bird Populations		221,099	4,715	4,715	2%
Reserved for technical field work		139,500	-	-	0%
SNC - Forest Projects Plan					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		16,239	8,230	8,230	51%
CalFire Grant					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		4,999,967	-	-	0%
Reserved for Contractors		TBD	-	-	
TOTAL GRANT EXPENDITURES		5,825,450	71,845	71,845	1%
Total Project Expenses		6,261,100	107,552	107,552	2%



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **3**

Meeting Date: April 28, 2023

Title:

Forest Projects Report

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Approve Consulting Services Agreement Amendment 3 with the firm InContext for Forest Projects Plan Phase 1 unit flagging with a not-to-exceed fee of \$40,000.
- 2) Approve Consulting Services Agreement with Pyramid Botanical Consulting for Forest Projects Plan Phase 1 botanical surveys with a not-to-exceed fee of \$70,000.
- 3) Authorize release of Requests for Proposals for Forest Projects Plan Phase 1 Mechanical and Hand Treatments.
- 4) Reserve 10:00 a.m. August 25, 2023, for Special Board meeting.
- 5) Adopt Resolution No. 2023-04 authorizing a Sierra Nevada Conservancy Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Program grant application for FPP – Phase 2 planning.
- 6) Authorize the Executive Officer to submit a pre-application and full application to the Wildlife Conservation Board to fund implementation of Phase 1 and continuation of the Phase 2 planning effort.

Summary

This Forest Projects Report presents updates on the Authority's Forest Projects Plan (FPP) Phase 1 Implementation and Phase 2 Planning. Also included are brief updates regarding the Mattley Meadow and Aspen Meadow Restoration Projects. The report concludes with a table titled 'UMRWA Forest Project Grants' which summarizes grants awarded, not awarded, and pending.

Forest Projects Plan – Phase 1 Implementation

With NEPA and CEQA requirements fulfilled in January 2023, and with the \$5M Cal Fire grant in hand, UMRWA will now begin Phase 1 implementation. Under the Cal Fire grant UMRWA must perform fuel reduction treatments (mechanical and hand) on up to 3,000 acres of Forest Service lands addressed in the FPP-Phase 1 plan and associated NEPA/CEQA documents (which cover a total of 25,671 acres). Before contracted field treatments may begin several preliminary tasks must be completed as summarized below.

Supplemental Project Agreement with Eldorado NF: Under the May 2016 USFS – UMRWA Master Stewardship Agreement (MSA) mutually agreed upon stewardship projects are to be documented through Supplemental Project Agreements (SPA). For the Forest Projects Plan project, which addresses planning and implementation activities spanning two national forests, two SPAs are required. The Stanislaus National Forest (SNF) SPA was executed in 2021. Completion of the SPA with the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) was delayed first by the Caldor Fire and then by changes in ENF administration. The ENF SPA was recently finalized and is being processed by the NF Grants and Agreements Division. UMRWA expects to execute the SPA within 30 days.

Pre-treatment Tasks: Before treatment work actively begins two tasks must first be completed; field locating and flagging known archeological sites, and botanical field surveys.

Field flagging Archeological Sites – The firm InContext, which performed archeological survey work associated with completion of FPP-1 NEPA and CEQA reviews, has agreed to field locate and flag previously located sites. This task must be performed prior to contractor mobilization and implementation of mechanical treatments. It is recommended that the UMRWA board authorize the Executive Officer to enter into an Amendment to the InContext agreement in the amount of up to \$40,000 for the flagging services. *A copy of Amendment 3 to the InContext Agreement is included in the Supplemental April 28, 2023 Agenda Materials Packet.*

Botanical Surveys of Treatment Areas – As a NEPA/CEQA requirement of the approved FPP-Phase 1 project, botanical field surveys must be performed prior to implementation of approved treatments. On March 1, 2023, staff released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for qualified Botanical consulting firms. One Proposal was received from Pyramid Botanical Consulting. Following the Authority's procurement procedure, a selection committee was formed to review and rate the proposal and check references. The committee determined Pyramid Botanical Consulting qualified to complete this work. A contract in the amount of \$36,580, with the authorized contract ceiling of \$70,000 (for costs for Pyramid to perform surveys on additional Phase 1 acres as requested by UMRWA), with Pyramid Botanical Consulting is recommended for approval. *A copy of Pyramid Botanical Consulting Agreement is included in the Supplemental April 28, 2023 Agenda Materials Packet.*

RFPs for Forest Treatment Contractors: Two RFPs are planned to implement the Cal Fire Grant work, one for a mechanical treatment contractor and the other for a hand treatment contractor. The current procurement schedule anticipates RFPs will be released about June 1, contractor proposals (preceded by site visits) submitted by end of June, selection committee process completed by July 10, with contracts awarded at the July 28 Board meeting. In the event snow conditions do not permit June contractor site visits the back-up schedule delays the entire contracting process by about one month. Accordingly, staff recommends the Board reserve August 25, 2023, for a possible special Board meeting to consider forest treatment contract awards.

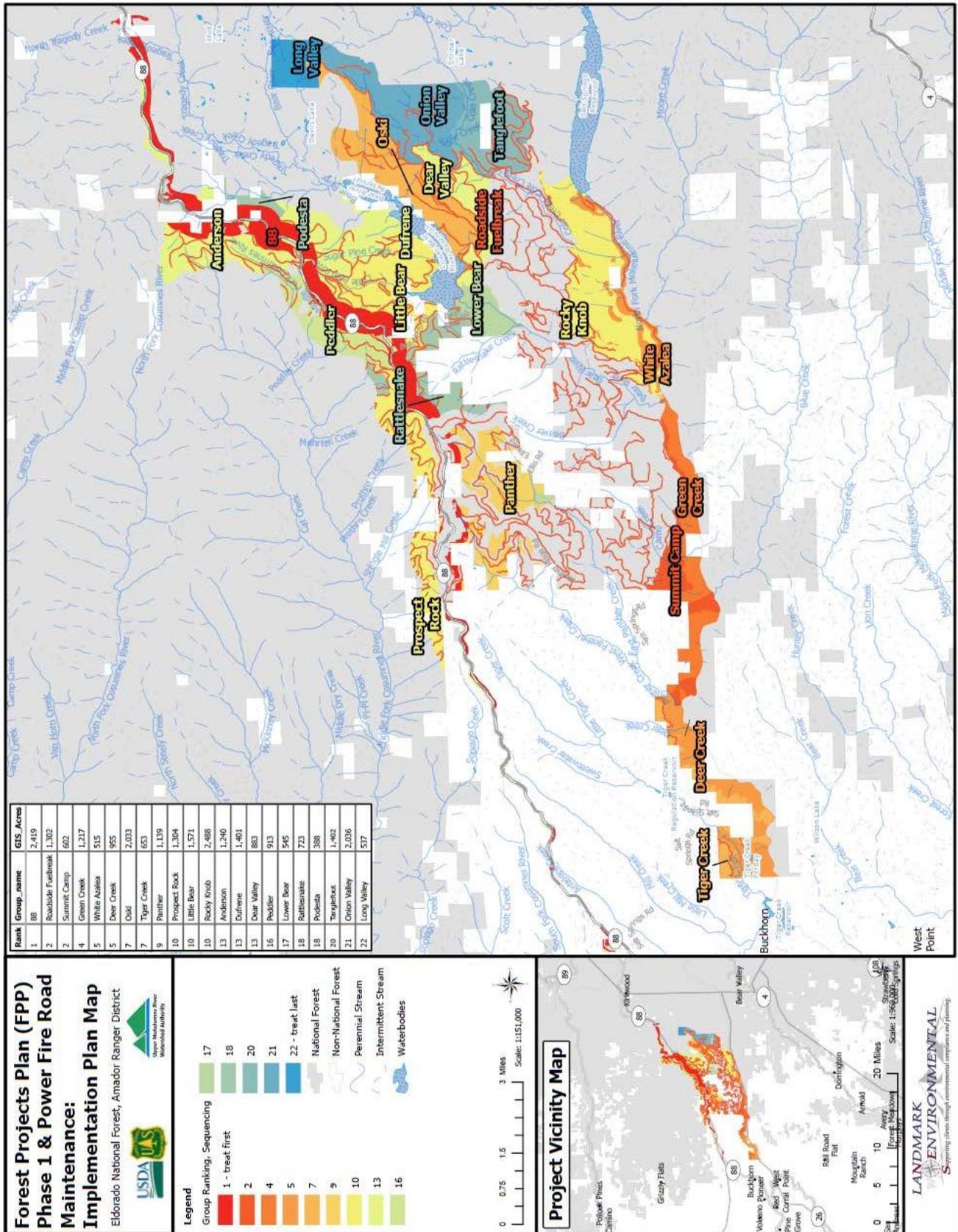
UMRWA Phase 1 Implementation Work Plan: The FPP-1 Implementation Work Plan was completed by staff and our USFS partners in February. The plan is comprised of explanatory text, a spreadsheet and a corresponding map which displays prioritized fuel treatment areas within the FPP-1 plan area (25,671 acres) plus adjacent USFS priority fuel-break zones (607 acres of Power Fire Road areas). A summary table and map (Table 1 and Figure 1, included) display the groups and relative priority rankings, and general locations, respectively.

The Implementation Work Plan was developed as a ranking process for sequencing implementation of 22 groups of geographically delineated work areas. The group rankings are based on each group's total score applying prioritization criteria which included: Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) defense zone, WUI threat zone, protected activity centers (PACs), critical infrastructure, connectivity (adjacent treated areas), wildlife centers, water quality, and wildfire risk.

Table 1: Summary of 22 implementation groups by project, acreage, and treatment sequencing ranking

Group number	Group name	Confirmed (or conceptual*) <u>projects</u> (i.e., names & funding sources)	GIS acres	Overall ranking/treatment sequencing (1-treat first, 22-treat last)	Percent covered for follow-up prescribed fire under FPP Phase 1 CE**
1	88	Forest Projects Plan, Phase 1 (Funding source: CAL FIRE Forest Health #8GG21607)	2,420	1	53
2	Roadside Fuelbreak	Forest Projects Plan, Phase 1A (Funding source: CAL FIRE Forest Health grant application submitted in Feb. 2023)	1,314	2	13
3	Summit Camp		602	2	0
4	Green Creek		1,217	4	0
5	White Azalea		515	5	56
6	Deer Creek	Forest Projects Plan, Phase 1B (Funding source: unknown)	955	5	0
7	Oski		2,033	7	0
8	Tiger Creek		653	7	0
9	Panther	Forest Projects Plan, Phase 1C (Funding source: unknown)	1,139	9	0
10	Prospect Rock		1,304	10	2
11	Little Bear	Forest Projects Plan, Phase 1D (Funding source: unknown)	1,571	10	78
12	Rocky Knob		2,488	10	66
13	Anderson	Forest Projects Plan, Phase 1E (Funding source: unknown)	1,240	13	12
14	Dufrene		1,401	13	93
15	Dear <u>Valley</u>		883	13	30
16	Peddler	Forest Projects Plan, Phase 1F (Funding source: unknown)	912	16	4
17	Lower Bear		545	17	14
18	Rattlesnake		723	18	1
19	Podesta		388	18	35
20	Tanglefoot	Forest Projects Plan, Phase 1G (Funding source: unknown)	1,402	20	0
21	Onion Valley		2,036	21	0
22	Long Valley		537	22	0
Implementation work plan total acreage			26,278		

Figure 1: Implementation Plan Groups by Sequencing Ranking



Implementation Work Plan next steps: Grant funding had already been awarded to URMWA to execute treatments in Group 1 through the \$5M Cal Fire Forest Health grant. In February 2023, a second Cal Fire Forest Health grant application was submitted by UMRWA proposing \$7M in funding to implement fuels reduction within Groups 2, 3 and 4 (Roadside Fuelbreak, Summit Camp and Green Creek). In April, UMRWA staff contacted the Wildlife Conservation Board regarding the possibility of funding Phase 1 implementation and Phase 2 planning. They encouraged staff to submit a pre-application.

As new funding opportunities become available, the plan will be utilized to identify the next set of implementation groups for which to pursue funding. Although the specific group and number of the next implementation groups that would be in a forthcoming grant application will ultimately depend on several factors, including the funding source and funding amounts.

Forest Projects Plan - Phase 2 Planning:

The landscape-level Phase 2 FPP initiative began September 2022. The planning and associated environmental process will address forest health issues on up to 225,000 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.

UMRWA engaged Stantec in August 2022 to perform project management and environmental planning for the Phase 2 program. The initial Stantec agreement was in the amount of \$50,000 with the expectation that subsequent amendments would be executed as additional grant funding became available. At the January meeting the Board approved a first amendment to the agreement to facilitate Stantec's continuing Phase 2 work through spring 2023. Funding for the \$125,000 amendment was split between an existing SNC grant (\$75,000) and UMRWA funds already approved by the board for the FPP (\$50,000).

Stantec performed major elements of the initial scope of work including developing the detailed project work plan for completion of NEPA and CEQA, creating stakeholder and technical advisory groups, and initiating UMRWA/USFS partnership team meetings. Stantec work authorized by the first amendment included continued project management, outreach, initiation of tribal engagement, specified NEPA/CEQA 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. While that work continues, funding to complete the several year process to complete the NEPA/CEQA compliant Phase 2 Plan must still be secured.

SNC will soon be inviting Concept Proposals for the next round of Forest Health grant funding. Another UMRWA grant proposal is recommended for additional funding needed to support UMRWA's Phase 2 planning and associated NEPA/CEQA documentation effort. The Board's authorization to submit the SNC grant proposal is required. The included Resolution 2023-04 authorizing the SNC application is recommended for Board adoption.

Mattley Meadow:

The meadow restoration work was implemented in September and October 2022. The Forest Service District aquatic biologist (Steven Holdeman) and hydrologist (Zac Croyle) were both on site every day during construction to monitor for the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog. Due to wildfires and weather, the California Conservation Corps (CCC) crew was unable to install required fencing but are scheduled to perform that work this

June. The project was seeded with local native seed and mulched with on-site material/slash. Some willows were collected and left soaking on-site for staking by the CCC. Plumas Corp plans to deploy two wildlife cameras to document meadow response to the restoration work.

Aspen Meadow Restoration Project:

The scope of work funded by the \$649,400 Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant requires UMRWA to develop, 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. Project work is being completed by Landmark Environmental Inc. and Institute for Bird Populations under UMRWA contracts approved in July 2022. The work will be completed in 2025.

UMRWA Forest Project Grants:

UMRWA submitted a second Cal Fire Forest Health Program grant proposal in February. This is the Authority’s second Forest Health Program grant request (the first being the awarded \$5 million Forest Health grant for Phase 1 treatments discussed above). This second request asks for \$7M to continue implementing Phase 1 treatments.

UMRWA has two active SNC grants, one active Wildlife Conservation Board grant, and one active Cal Fire Forest Health Grant. In February, a new \$7M Cal Fire grant application to implement Phase 1 treatments was submitted. These grants are summarized below.

UMRWA FOREST PROJECT GRANTS

Approved	Not Approved	Pending
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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)	Cal Fire	\$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
Forest Health Program (GGRF)	Cal Fire	\$7M	- Implement FPP-1 treatments on minimum 3,133 acres	Full Ap: 2/28/23 Awards: 2023

RESOLUTION 2023-04

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 April 28, 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 support Forest Projects Plan – Phase 2 planning and associated NEPA/CEQA review and documentation efforts; 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 2 planning and associated NEPA/CEQA review and documentation efforts.

Approved and adopted by unanimous vote this 28th day of April 2023.

John Coleman, Board Chair

ATTEST:

Lorna Barfield, Authority Secretary



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: 4

Meeting Date: April 28, 2023

Title:

Status Update on IRWM Grants

Recommended Action:

For discussion/possible action

Summary:

UMRWA has two active Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grants with the Department of Water Resources. Both grants provide implementation funding for water infrastructure projects, CCWD's West Point project, and CPUD's Jeff Davis project. The status of each is summarized below. Also presented below is a brief update regarding the drought set-aside project status between the Sierra Institute and Amador Water Agency.

CCWD's West Point Water Supply Reliability Project:

This \$556,447 grant provides funding to upgrade the West Point water treatment plant by replacing the filter media with a redundant, online filtration system that matches the existing system's capacity when off-line for maintenance and will reduce the filtration loading rate during normal operations. The primary project benefit is increased potable water system efficiency by approximately 177 acre-feet per year (AFY). An additional benefit is an expected increase in backwash water efficiency of at least 9 AFY through the replacement of existing filter media and the addition of a secondary filter.

Project work is proceeding on schedule. As of January 1, UMRWA has invoiced and received from DWR \$252,556 of the total \$556,447 grant amount (45%). Project completion is scheduled for no later than December 2023.

CPUD's Jeff Davis Water Treatment Plant Backwash Recycle Project:

The second grant provides \$589,785 in funding to construct a pump station and force main pipeline from the backwash ponds to the Jeff Davis Reservoir and other measures to improve the efficiency of the backwash ponds. The project will facilitate recycling approximately 28 million gallons per year of filter backwash at the Jeff Davis Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and provide water quality benefits to the Mokelumne River and the downstream community of El Portal, which is classified as a disadvantaged community.

The grant agreement was executed on March 13, 2023. Project completion is scheduled no later than December 2024.

Drought Funding Program:

UMRWA is coordinating the Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program (DACTIP) for the Mountain Counties Funding Area (MCFA), a region that includes nine Regional Water Management Groups (RWMGs) covering most of the Sierra Nevada. Sierra Institute is working directly with Foothill Conservancy and Amador Water Agency to implement water conservation related grant agreements and UMRWA will not be involved in administration of these efforts.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: 5

Meeting Date: April 28, 2023

Title:

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget

Recommended Action:

Endorse the proposed FY 2024 UMRWA budget for review purposes, and authorize staff to transmit the proposed budget for Member Agency review and comment.

Summary:

The proposed FY 2024 budget is presented in Table 1. The total member-supported portion of the proposed budget is \$322,486 (up from \$311,986 in the current fiscal year budget). Presented in Table 2 are member funding offsets. These are in-kind Member contributions and an apportionment of accumulated Reserve funds. Resulting Member Agency funding allocations and resulting assessment amounts are shown in Table 3.

The budget is organized into the Authority's two primary revenue sources, Member funding and non-Member funding (grant, USFS and other funding). The Authority's work activities planned for FY 2024 are summarized below.

For the Member-funded portion of the proposed FY 2024 budget the following activities and associated funding requirements are assumed:

- 1) Increase the funding level for Board and Authority administration to \$122,500 (from \$112,000). This includes an additional \$10,000 in funding each for the Executive Officer and Administrative Officer positions plus costs for a cloud based UMRWA documents/file storage and retrieval system. It also reflects \$10,800 savings for migrating the umrwa.org website to the Streamline platform.
- 2) Maintain (unchanged) the annual funding support for the local school watershed education program at \$16,500.
- 3) Maintain (unchanged) at \$100,000 the funding level for costs associated with the forest health implementation and planning grant proposals, plus funding for UMRWA's Forest Projects Plan – Phase 2 activities not covered by grants.
- 4) Maintain (unchanged) at \$25,000 the funding for IRWM-related tasks requiring Member funding (e.g., possible Prop 1 Implementation Grant application).

For the non-Member funded portions of the budget, grant and other funding associated with SNC, Cal Fire, USFS and other potential sources for FY 2024 will be determined in September 2023, the final month of UMRWA's current fiscal year. Awarded but uncollected FY 2023 funds will be carried forward to FY 2024. Those amounts will be determined based on the September 30, 2023, end of fiscal year Treasurer's Report.

Surplus Reserve Funding will be available to off-set costs in FY 2024. This surplus and its potential use to both off-set FY 2024 costs and to position Members for a spike in the Reserves target over the following several fiscal years is discussed immediately below.

Budget Reserves Analysis:

The Authority’s Budget Reserve Policy provides the following guidance with respect to annually resetting the Reserve balance: *The annual target for the budgeted reserve will first be the sum of 50% of the prior 3-year average Member Fund expenditures, plus the sum of 10% of the prior 3-year average Grant Fund expenditures.*

For fiscal year 2024 the Reserve target is calculated at \$205,099 (see table below). The current Reserve Balance is \$428,217. This balance exceeds the calculated FY 2024 target amount by \$223,118. It is recommended that half the excess (\$111,559) be applied to offset the Member supported budget in FY 2024 and retain the other half in Reserves to be evaluated next fiscal year. This recommendation is based on the following:

- This would continue a past practice; the Board applied a 50% allocation from Reserves to offset Member assessments in this current Fiscal Year 2023 budget.
- UMRWA’s expenditure of the \$5M Cal Fire grant beginning this year and continuing for several years will significantly increase future Reserve target calculations over that period.
- It is prudent to supplement Reserves this year in anticipation of future potential Member assessment increases to fully fund an increased Reserves target.

Fiscal Year	Member \$ Expended	Grant \$ Expended
2022	253,165	653,628
2021	167,680	1,004,065
2020	179,088	1,495,625
3-year average	199,978	1,051,106
Percent per Policy	50%	10%
Sums for FY 2023	99,989	105,110
Total Sum FY 2023	205,099	
Unsettled Obligations	None	
FY23 Policy Target	205,099	
Recommended Reserve	316,658	

Indirect Revenue Projection:

Under the terms of its grant agreements with SNC and others, and its SPA agreements with the USFS, the Authority charges and receives funding for indirect costs. Over the past few years UMRWA budgets have included an estimate of that next year’s indirect revenues, but the accuracy of those projections have been highly variable given the uncertainty of when planned work will actually be performed and reimbursed by the funding agency. Consequently, staff is proposing that rather than include *projected* indirect revenues in the forthcoming fiscal year’s budget that instead *actual* collected indirect revenues be factored at the conclusion of the fiscal year. As these indirect revenues are effectively supplemental Member funds they will be applied as offsets to Member assessments calculated based on the forthcoming year’s budget.

Table 1 – PROPOSED FY 2024 MEMBER FUNDED BUDGET

Programs	Categories	Member Funds	Other Funds (DWR, USFS, SNC)	Total Member Funded Program Budgets
Board and Authority Admin.	Executive Officer	60,000		122,500
	Administrative Officer	60,000		
	Webpage and File Hosting	2,500		
Watershed Ed.	Public school program (STE)	16,500		16,500
Forest Health	Forest Projects Plan – Phase 1	0		100,000
	Forest Projects Plan – Phase 2	50,000		
	Forest-related Grant Applications	40,000		
	Inter-agency liaison & Board support	10,000		
IRWM	Grant applications	25,000		25,000
Grant Pass-through	Jeff Davis WTP Backwash Project	0	TBD	0
	UMRWA administration	0	TBD	
TOTAL BUDGET		\$264,000	Carry forward	\$264,000

Actual carry forward amounts to be determined at end of fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2023

Table 2 – FY 2024 MEMBER AGENCY FUNDING OFFSETS

Member assessments	As required by the above Proposed Fiscal Year Budget	\$264,000
Off budget <i>In-kind</i> contributions*	Authority Legal Counsel \$6,500 (Amador County) Accounting (\$28,746), annual audit (\$5,240) and Authority Secretary (\$18,000) (EBMUD)	\$58,486*
	TOTAL MEMBER SUPPORTED BUDGET =	\$322,486
Reserves	Credit 50% surplus Reserves balance as budget off-set	(\$111,559)
	TOTAL REQUIRED MEMBER FUNDING =	\$210,927

* In-kind labor costs are Member-provided estimates of prior year work performed in support of UMRWA.

Table 3 – FY 2024 MEMBER FUNDING ALLOCATIONS & ASSESSMENTS

Formula % Share	Member Agency %	Proposed FY23 Allocation	In-Kind Credit	Proposed FY 2024 Assessment	Actual FY 2023 Assessment
Amador Entities 20%	Amador County – 9.2%	19,405	(6,500)	12,905	13,825
	Amador Water Agency – 9.2%	19,405	0	19,405	20,325
	Jackson Valley ID – 1.6%	3,375	0	3,375	3,535
Calaveras Entities 20%	Calaveras County – 6.0%	12,656	0	12,656	13,255
	Calaveras County WD – 9.6%	20,250	0	20,250	21,208
	Calaveras PUD – 4.4%	9,280	0	9,280	9,720
EBMUD	EBMUD – 60%	126,556	(51,986)	74,570	89,826
TOTAL		\$210,927	\$58,486	\$152,441	\$171,694



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **6**

Meeting Date: April 28, 2023

Title:

Basic Financial Statements for the Years Ending September 30, 2022 and 2021

Recommended Action:

Accept for Filing

Discussion:

East Bay Municipal Utility District, whose Finance Director serves as the Authority's Treasurer, maintains the Authority's financial records. The Authority's financial records for the year ending September 30, 2022 have been audited by the independent accounting firm Lance, Soll & Lunghard, LLP. This year's audit is presented in the document titled *Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority Basic Financial Statements - Fiscal Years Ending September 30, 2022 and 2021*.

The financial statements present an independent overview of the Authority's finances, demonstrates the Authority's accountability of the monies it manages, and provides general information related to the preparation of the audit for the Authority's Governing Board and management. The audit reports neither find nor describe any financial problems or irregularities.

A copy of the Basic Financial Statements report is included in the Supplemental April 28, 2023 Agenda Materials Packet.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **7**

Meeting Date: April 28, 2023

Title:

UMRWA.org website

Recommended Action:

For discussion and possible action.

Summary:

A new platform for UMRWA's website has been obtained. The new host is the Sacramento based firm Streamline. While the company specializes in website hosting and support for California special districts, the Streamline web platform is generally well suited to small local government applications as well. UMRWA members CPUD and JVID are existing subscribers.

Staff had sought out alternative website host and support options following the January Board discussion concerning the Authority's ongoing web and document management needs. The switch to Streamline, which after nominal set up expenses will cost \$1,080 annually, will result in a savings of about \$9,400 per year over the prior host and support arrangement.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **8**

Meeting Date: April 28, 2023

Title:

Legislative Issues Update

Recommended Action:

For discussion and possible action.

Summary:

There are several state bills of interest to UMRWA including SB 338 which is very similar to last year's AB 1717 which was opposed by UMRWA and vetoed by the Governor in the previous legislative session. SB 338 would make specified forest health work subject to California prevailing wage law, potentially resulting in a substantial increase in cost for this type of work. This bill is authored by Assembly member Aguilar-Curry. The Rural County Representatives of California opposed this bill in February 2023.

There are several bond bills that would provide forest health and infrastructure funding which would benefit UMRWA and its member agencies. AB 1567 would enact the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparation, Flood Protection, Extreme Heat Mitigation, and Workforce Development Bond Act of 2024, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$15.1B to finance projects for safe drinking water, wildfire prevention, drought preparation, flood protection, extreme heat mitigation, and workforce development programs. This bill would go to the voters for approval at the March 5, 2024, state primary election.

SB 638, the Climate Resiliency and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2024 would authorize \$6B in bonds mostly for flood control measures in the Central Valley but \$1B is earmarked to help local agencies fund dam repairs and improvements.

SB 867 would enact the Drought and Water Resilience, Wildfire and Forest Resilience, Coastal Resilience, Extreme Heat Mitigation, Biodiversity and Nature-Based Climate Solutions, Climate Smart Agriculture, and Park Creation and Outdoor Access Bond Act of 2023, which, if approved by the voters, would authorize the issuance of bonds in an unspecified amount pursuant to the State General Obligation Bond Law to finance projects for drought and water resilience, wildfire and forest resilience, coastal resilience, extreme heat mitigation, biodiversity and nature-based climate solutions, climate smart agriculture, and park creation and outdoor access programs. The bill does not yet specify the amount of the future bond or the allocation among priorities listed in the legislation.

UMRWA staff will provide additional information on legislative matters of interest as appropriate at the board meeting.