



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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## Governing Board Meeting

### Agenda

Friday, April 22, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

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

15083 Camanche Parkway South, 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 28, 2022         | Approve by Motion          |
| 2. Treasurer's Report – First Quarter FY 2022        | Accept for Filing          |
| 3. Patrick Wright Presentation                       | Discussion/Possible Action |
| 4. Blue Forest Finance Presentation                  | Discussion/Possible Action |
| 5. John Buckley Presentation                         | Discussion/Possible Action |
| 6. Forest Projects Report                            | Approve by Motion          |
| 7. Status of IRWM Grant Applications                 | Discussion/Possible Action |
| 8. Fiscal Year 2023 Budget                           | Approve by Motion          |
| 9. Ad Hoc Committee to Review Joint Powers Agreement | Approve by Motion          |
| 10. Mattley Meadows Restoration Project              | Approve by Motion          |
| 11. Legislative Issues Update                        | Discussion/Possible Action |

#### BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

12. Board Member Comments

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT:

13. Executive Officer's Oral Report

#### ADJOURNMENT:

- Next Regular Board Meeting: July 22, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. (Location: TBD)

*Requests for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, or to attend the meeting in person at a physical location, may be made to 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: April 22, 2022

Title:

Meeting Minutes of January 28, 2022

Recommended Action:

Approve the meeting minutes of January 28, 2022.

Summary:

The summary minutes of the January 28, 2022 meeting are included for Board review and approval.

*Summary Minutes*

**ROLL CALL**

Directors John Coleman, Terry Woodrow, Jack Garamendi, Richard Farrington, Richard Blood, and Ed Gonzalez were present at the meeting. Director Oneto arrived after agenda item 3. Absent: Director Jeff Davidson. Also present were Executive Officer (EO) Richard Sykes, Administrative Officer Rob Alcott, Authority Secretary Lisa (Stuart) Gualco, and 17 visitors and presenters.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – none.

**AUTHORITY BUSINESS**

**1. Special Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2021**

**Motion 01-22** to approve the special meeting minutes of October 1, 2021, was made by Director Woodrow, seconded by Director Farrington and carried by roll call vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

**2. Treasurer’s Report –Fourth Quarter FY 2021**

A copy of the Treasurer’s Report for the Fourth Quarter of fiscal year 2021, which ended September 30, 2021, was presented to the Board.

**Motion 02-22** to accept the Treasurer’s Report for filing was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Garamendi and carried by roll call vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

**3. Forest Projects Report**

This Forest Projects Report included a status update on the Authority’s Forest Projects Plan (FPP) initiative. The EO noted that the FPP the final boundary of the FPP area as not been finalized yet as staff are still working with the El Dorado and Stanislaus National Forest staff to determine what constitutes an appropriate buffer around the Mokelumne Watershed. The EO discussed meetings with USFS, SNC and others that identified that there are significant gaps in forest health planning on the USFS immediately north and south of the Mokelumne Watershed. The Board agreed that it is important that the FPP include areas beyond the Mokelumne Watershed boundary as this makes sense to protect the watershed and the local communities. The EO noted that the boundary may be the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group coverage area, or the USNF appropriate Potential Operational Delineation (POD) boundary or planned or future fire/fuel breaks. Maps will be provided at the next Board meeting. The EO provided an update on forest project grant opportunities. The EO also gave a brief summary of CalFire’s Wildfire Prevention Planning Grant program and its potential application to addressing wildfire risks to area water and wastewater infrastructure. The report concluded with what constitutes the final report on UMRWA’s just-completed forest treatment work.

Board members requested that the EO confirm with UMRWA counsel that it can spend money on the FPP and/or other forest health work outside of the UMRWA boundary when that work furthers the interests of UMRWA. The EO will provide this information at the April meeting.

**Motion 03-22** to authorize staff to submit grant applications for the FPP and forest health project implementation under CalFire’s Fire Prevention and Forest Health Grant Programs,

and under SNC's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program was made by Director Farrington seconded by Director Woodrow and carried by roll call vote: Yea 6 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

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

#### **4. MAC Plan Update: Project List and Grant Opportunities**

The Mokelumne-Amador-Calaveras (MAC) Plan was last updated in 2018. A primary purpose for that update was to bring the plan into conformance with revised state standards and thus be eligible for future Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program grant funding opportunities. Also performed at that time was a streamlined review by the stakeholder Regional Participants Committee (RPC) of the MAC Plan Project List.

As authorized by the Board on January 24, 2020, a process administered by Woodard & Curran to update the MAC Plan implementation projects list has just been completed. The update process, which was guided by the Regional Participants Committee (the RPC is the MAC Plan stakeholder group) involved a series of steps including: a call for projects, an analysis of project readiness and benefits, the scoring and ranking of projects, and preparing an updated project list incorporating the new projects. The RPC met in October and December 2021 and January 2022 to perform this work and recommend projects for funding under DWR's IRWM Round 2 Grant solicitation and DWR's Multi-benefit Drought Funding Solicitation. Approximately \$500,000 is available to the MAC region under each of these funding opportunities.

During the discussion of this item Director Farrington requested that the EO investigate the ranking of Project 18 to determine if it should have a higher priority ranking. The current ranking is "medium" priority. The Board requested that the EO invite Patrick Wright, Chair of the California Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force, to attend the next UMRWA meeting regarding their actions to address the forest health challenge.

**Motion 04-22** to approve the updated MAC Plan Project list as an addendum to the MAC Plan and to authorize staff to develop and submit applications for funding for 1) the Calaveras Public Utility District Jeff Davis Water Treatment Plant Backwash Recycle Project (with the Amador Water Agency Ione Canal Water Conservation Project as the back-up project) for the IRWM Round 2 Grant solicitation, and 2) the AWA Lake Camanche Water Service Replacement Phase IV and the Foothill Conservancy (FC) Amador Household Water Efficiency Project for the Multi-benefit Drought Funding Program was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Garamendi and carried by roll call vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

#### **5. Mokelumne Watershed Routine Maintenance Project (Presentation)**

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) routinely performs maintenance activities within the Mokelumne Watershed. These routine maintenance activities are subject to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) jurisdiction under Fish and Game Code Section 1602. Accordingly, the District must periodically obtain a new Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA) for continuation of maintenance work performed within CDFW jurisdictional areas. Completion of CEQA is required as a condition for receiving a new RMA. On November 23, 2021, the EBMUD Board of Directors adopted the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Mokelumne Watershed Routine Maintenance Project. Michelle Workman, EBMUD's Manager of Fisheries and Wildlife, provided a presentation on the RMA to the UMRWA Board.

#### **6. Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Review**

At the invitation of UMRWA Director Gonzalez, staff made a presentation on November 17th to the Calaveras-Amador Mokelumne River Association (CAMRA) on the history of UMRWA and the Authority's recent and ongoing projects. During the discussion following

the presentation, UMRWA staff was asked by Director Gonzalez and fellow Director (and CAMRA board member) Garamendi to include an UMRWA January Board meeting agenda item that allows discussion of the current JPA agreement.

UMRWA Board members expressed an interest in reviewing the JPA to determine if an update is needed. It was last updated in 2008, to reflect then current issues and areas of concern such as the new Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and irrigation supply considerations by some agencies such as JVID. It was noted that the current JPA is available on UMRWA's website ([www.umrwa.org](http://www.umrwa.org)) and requested that a link be included in the April agenda packet. Directors Coleman, Garamendi and Gonzalez volunteered to form an ad hoc committee to review and recommend updates to the JPA and requested that the item be added to the April agenda to formalize the committee. The Board requested that the EO obtain clarification from UMRWA counsel regarding 1) the maximum number of board members that can be on an ad hoc committee, and 2) can UMRWA perform or fund work outside of the UMRWA boundary for UMRWA related work. The Board noted that the General Managers of the UMRWA agencies should be involved in the JPA update.

## **7. Legislative Issues Update**

Last year UMRWA supported three bills and recommended that Governor Newsom veto one bill. In October 2021, staff submitted a memo the board on the fate of each of those bills. There are about 1,500 bills still active in the current state legislative session and an expected 2,000 bills to be newly introduced this year. UMRWA staff are awaiting the deadline for new bills to perform a review of what might be of interest for UMRWA. Certainly, an area of key interest will be funding for UMRWA's programs that might be available in upcoming state and federal budgets.

SB 901 (Dodd) which passed in 2018 provided a CEQA exemption for specified forest fuels management work on federal lands if that work had undergone NEPA review. That exemption expires at the end of 2022. This exemption has been utilized for several UMRWA projects which has allowed these projects to proceed more quickly and at less cost. UMRWA staff have determined that Senator Dodd is not planning to introduce new legislation to extend that exemption. Staff are exploring whether other legislators have an interest in authoring legislation to extend the exemption. Director Coleman noted that Senator Glazer might be a possible exemption bill sponsor.

The Board requested that Patrick Wright be invited to the April UMRWA meeting to discuss his goals regarding fuel reduction in the region and the CEQA exemption that has been helpful to UMRWA and others.

### **Board Member Comments:**

Director Gonzalez wanted to acknowledge the completed meadow restoration work he saw recently in Onion Valley, but also expressed his concerns regarding access to watershed areas mainly via forest service roads. Citing windfall and culvert damage that has left some roads barely negotiable by foot, he feels that access should be made a higher priority. Director Oneto echoed these concerns, since cleaning up roads and culverts is critical for access for fighting fires where access becomes crucial. He included an example of roads shown on maps were completely inaccessible when fire staff needed to use them to fight fire and build fire lines.

Director Farrington thanked the EO and staff for aggressively going after grants. He also shared that UMRWA is developing a good reputation regarding the project work that's been completed to date and expressed his appreciation.

It was confirmed that the UMRWA Board members prefer the earlier start time of 10:00 a.m. over the previous 1:30 p.m. and going forward, all meetings will begin at 10:00 a.m.

**Executive Officer Comments:**

The EO provided an update on the DAC needs assessment report which was received and forwarded to the steering committee – Larry McKinney and Brad Arnold – and he will report on this at the April meeting. The EO also extended his thanks and appreciate to all the staff for their hard work since the October UMRWA meeting, as well as to Richard Farrington and Chuck Iley of Amador County.

He updated the Board on UMRWA’s COI policy which was just updated to include UMRWA Administrative Officer position, reminded Board members that UMRWA Form 700’s were going to be due at the end of March and that anyone leaving their positions, also need to complete an UMRWA Form 700 Leaving Office statement.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Director Coleman adjourned the meeting at 11:43 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on April 22, 2022, with the location to be determined.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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Lisa Stuart, Authority Secretary

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John Coleman, Chair of the Board  
APPROVED: April 22, 2022



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: **2**

Meeting Date: April 22, 2022

Title:

Treasurer's Report – First Quarter FY 2022

Recommended Actions:

Accept for filing.

Summary:

A copy of the Treasurer's Report for the First Quarter of fiscal year 2022, which ended December 31, 2021, 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, 2021**

Fiscal Year 2022 (beginning Oct. 1, 2021)	Assessment, Grants & USFS	Budget FY 2022	Actual		
			Current Quarter	YTD	YTD %
<b>General Assessments &amp; Operating Revenue</b>					
Amador Agencies Funding	51,044	51,044	46,440	46,440	91%
Calaveras Agencies Funding	57,546	57,546	57,546	57,546	100%
EBMUD Funding	129,910	129,910	129,910	129,910	100%
Member Agencies Contribution	238,500	238,500	233,896	233,896	98%
Prior Year Unspent/Carry forward	81,815	81,815	-	-	0%
Indirect Fee Revenues (Collected FY2021)	15,000	15,000	-	-	0%
Interest/Misc income	-	-	39	4	
Operating Reserve (Bal. \$453,826)	100,000	100,000	-	-	
Misc Revenue	196,815	196,815	39	4	0%
<b>Total Assessments &amp; Operations Funding</b>	<b>435,315</b>	<b>435,315</b>	<b>233,935</b>	<b>233,900</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>IRWM Grant Funding</b>					
CCWD - West Point WTP (Prop 1)	554,562	554,562	19,519	(49,526)	-9%
<b>Forestry/Watershed Funding</b>					
US Forest Service (West Calaveras Thin)	21,718	21,718	3,780	2,588	12%
US Forest Service (Cabbage Patch)	1,919	1,919	2,576	1,495	78%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant 2 (Cabbage Patch)	-	-	75,570	49,891	
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant 3 (Black Springs w/ WCT)	76,963	76,963	2,877	-	0%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy - Forest Projects Plan	181,508	181,508	16,642	10,541	6%
NFWF (Eldorado NF Culvert Upgrades)	116,594	116,594	120,854	-	0%
<b>Total Grants and Other Funding</b>	<b>953,264</b>	<b>953,264</b>	<b>241,818</b>	<b>14,989</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUES &amp; FUNDING</b>	<b>1,388,579</b>	<b>1,388,579</b>	<b>475,753</b>	<b>248,889</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES</b>					
<b>General Assessment (Administration)</b>					
Executive Officer		50,000	12,795	7,958	16%
Administrative Officer		50,000	16,239	9,391	19%
Website Support (Woodard & Curran) (w/\$9,700 carry forward)		21,700	7,000	-	0%
<b>General Assessment (Operations)</b>					
Plumas Corp - Mattley Meadow (w/\$10,000 carry-forward)		10,000	-	-	0%
MLLT - STE Watershed Program CY 2021/22 (w/\$8,663 carry forward)		25,163	7,837	-	0%
Inter-agency Liaison & Board Support (LEI, Inc)		10,000	7,583	2,309	23%
Forest-related Grant Applications/Project Development (LEI, Inc)		40,000	6,010	5,996	15%
Forest Projects Plan (LEI, Inc) (w/\$40,770 carry forward)		190,770	9,230	-	0%
IRWM Grant Application/Project Development		25,000	-	-	0%
MAC Projects Update 2020 (Woodard & Curran) (w/\$12,682 carry forward)		12,682	1,013	-	0%
<b>TOTAL ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>435,315</b>	<b>67,707</b>	<b>25,654</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>GRANT and FORESTRY/WATERSHED FUNDING EXPENDITURES</b>					
<b>DWR Prop 1 Implementation Grant</b>					
CCWD - West Point WTP		527,287	-	-	0%
Woodard & Curran - invoicing & reporting		20,892	929	-	0%
WRA - agreement administration		4,000	-	-	0%
<b>Cabbage Patch Restoration Project</b>					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		1,919	4,290	1,360	71%
<b>Black Springs Restoration Project</b>					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		2,181	6,868	4,353	200%
Contractor (incl GV Conservation Corp)		65,069	23,560	23,560	36%
<b>NFWF - Culvert Upgrade Project</b>					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		16,513	16,513	16,513	100%
<b>West Calaveras Thin/Bailey Project</b>					
Landmark Environmental, Inc.		1,000	3,304	2,262	226%
Contactior		20,718	-	-	0%
<b>SNC - Mapping Tool Project</b>					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		-	355	-	
<b>SNC - Forest Projects Plan</b>					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		181,508	21,928	7,456	4%
<b>TOTAL GRANT EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>841,087</b>	<b>77,747</b>	<b>55,504</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Total Project Expenses</b>		<b>1,276,402</b>	<b>145,454</b>	<b>81,158</b>	<b>6%</b>





# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: **3**

Meeting Date: April 22, 2022

Title:

Patrick Wright Presentation

Recommended Actions:

Discussion/Possible Action

Summary:

At the January 2022 meeting the Board requested that Patrick Wright be invited to this meeting to discuss the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force goals regarding fuel reduction in the region and the CEQA exemption that expires December 31, 2022, that has been helpful to UMRWA and others working to protect forested lands.

Mr. Wright is the Director of the Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. Mr. Wright has previously served as Executive Director at the Tahoe Conservancy and Executive Director of the California Bay-Delta Authority.



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: **4**

Meeting Date: April 22, 2022

Title:

Blue Forest Finance Presentation

Recommended Actions:

Discussion/Possible Action

Summary:

At the April 2021 meeting the Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Blue Forest Finance. The MOU anticipates the preparation of a Forest Resilience Bond (FRB) Feasibility Study that explores options for financing forest health projects in the Upper Mokelumne River watershed.

Blue Forest Finance's Nick Wobbrock will present information regarding potential projects, partners and project benefits that have been identified in conjunction with the preparation of the draft Feasibility Study.



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: **5**

Meeting Date: April 22, 2022

Title:

John Buckley Presentation

Recommended Action:

Discussion/Possible action

Summary:

Mr. Buckley, Executive Director of the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, has been invited to share his insights regarding the recent process to complete the Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) project for the Stanislaus National Forest. The draft Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the project was released for public review and comment in February 2022. The goals and scope of the SERAL Project are viewed to be very similar to the Forest Projects Plan – Phase 2 that UMRWA will soon pursue in collaboration with the Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests, the ACCG and others.

The SERAL Project has been years in the making. The project is intended to restore forest resilience within a portion of the Stanislaus NF and reduce the landscape's ecological and community vulnerability to natural disturbances. The project was developed in collaboration with Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions (YSS) and other key organizations in that region.



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: **6**

Meeting Date: April 22, 2022

Title:

Forest Projects Report

Recommended Action:

- 1) Authorize staff to retain a qualified consultant or consulting firm to lead the FPP – Phase 2 planning effort and authorize the Executive Officer to execute an agreement for these services for an amount up to \$20,000 to initiate the planning process.
- 2) Authorize the Executive Officer to execute the Wildlife Conservation Board’s awarded Forest Conservation Program grant agreement in the amount of approximately \$650,000.
- 3) Authorize the Executive Officer to execute the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program grant agreement in the amount of approximately \$355,000.
- 4) Authorize the Executive Officer to execute the CalFire Forest Health Program grant, if awarded, in an amount up to \$5 million.
- 5) Authorize staff to identify, evaluate, select, and retain a qualified consultant for archeological surveys and reporting as required for the FPP – Phase 1 effort, and authorize the Executive Officer to execute an agreement for these services for an amount up to \$110,000.

Summary:

This Forest Projects Report includes an update on the Authority’s Forest Projects Plan initiative, Phases 1 and 2. In addition, a summary status of each of the Authority’s three pending grant applications is presented. The report concludes with a table under the heading Status of Forest Project Related Grants. This table lists and summarizes awarded and executed grants, along with grants UMRWA has applied for and others of potential interest.

Forest Projects Plan:

UMRWA is leading the development of a Forest Projects Plan (FPP) for a large area of the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed. This major planning initiative is being conducted in two phases: Phase 1 is focused on broadly acceptable ladder fuels treatments and forest management actions in the Eldorado NF that are supported by the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG). Coverage for Phase 1 will be in the range of 25,000 acres and will address all required NEPA/CEQA actions. Phase 2 will address a much larger landscape (potentially up to 200,000 acres) and include Stanislaus and Eldorado NF lands within and adjacent to the Mokelumne Watershed. In addition to the far larger scale, this second phase will consider forestry activities that are not included in Phase 1 due to their potential for more significant environmental impact. Summaries on the status of each of the two phases are provided below.

*FPP – Phase 1:* Significant progress has been made on the Phase 1 plan. Over the past 3 months the Authority’s FPP Team, in collaboration with Eldorado NF staff, has developed a series of treatment area planning maps, treatment types and supplemental activities, and priority treatment mapping scenarios. These have been reviewed in two meetings with the ACCG Planning Work Group and in one meeting with the full ACCG. Through this process, a proposed 25,529-acre project area has been identified for Phase 1 treatments. A large portion of the project area is proposed for mechanical fuels reduction, and nearly a quarter of the project area is proposed for prescribed burning treatments. Together, mechanical fuels treatment and prescribed burning will most effectively and quickly make a difference across the landscape, in terms of fuels reduction and habitat and community protection.

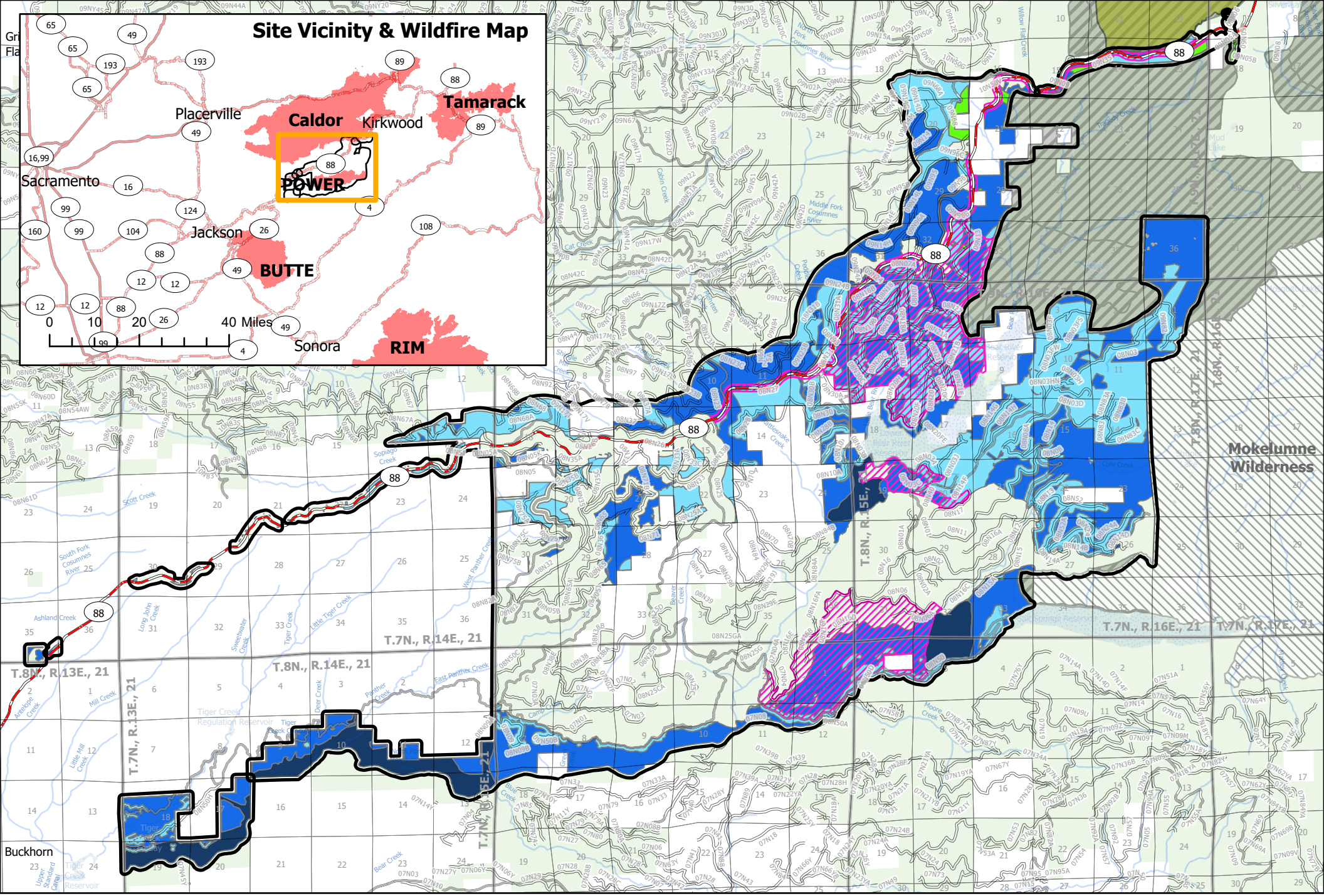
**Table 1 – FPP Phase 1 Treatment Types and Supplemental Activities**

<b>Treatment Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Treatment Details</b>
Mechanical Fuels Reduction	Mastication, chipping/grinding or crushing ladder and surface fuels. Equipment typically consists of larger horsepower, low ground pressure track laying equipment, similar in some cases to excavators or tractors.	Mastication/Pruning only treatments.
Hand Thinning Brush and Small Trees	Cutting, bucking, lopping, scattering and/or piling of smaller trees (dbh < 10 inches) and brush using chainsaws.	Hand thinning treatments only where other treatments are infeasible
Prescribed Burning	Burning involves ground based or aerial ignition methods to reduce understory fuels.	Fire lines constructed as needed. Natural barriers and roads would be utilized wherever possible.
Aspen Restoration	Remove encroaching conifers less than 12” diameter and shrubs to reestablish the historic aspen stand edge, enhance stand function, increase the diversity of age classes, and promote aspen growth.	
<b>Supplemental Activities</b>		
Pruning	Pruning tree limbs would occur in conjunction with mechanical fuels reduction and hand thinning.	Severing limbs to height of 8’ to 12’ on the bole, while retaining a min. 50% of total height.
Hazard Tree Felling and Removal	Weak and high- risk trees of all sizes (both dead and unstable live trees) identified as an imminent hazard to the implementation of proposed project activities.	Only hazard trees that pose a risk to project activities.

A map displaying the FPP – Phase 1 project area is provided below.

The FPP – Phase 1 is currently undergoing public scoping and comments received over the next month may further modify the proposed activities and project area. UMRWA and the USFS hope to complete the NEPA and CEQA documentation this year so that implementation can proceed as soon as funding is secured. Proceeding on this schedule will require that field surveys are conducted as soon as possible. Landmark Environmental will be retaining the necessary botanical and biological consultants through their agreement for Phase 1 work with UMRWA; however, they have asked that UMRWA contract directly with the archeological consultants. The archeological scope of work is to conduct the field surveys necessary for determining the existence and location of archeological sites that could be impacted by Phase 1 work, and preparation of maps and reports documenting these sites so that they can be protected. It is estimated that over 1,000 acres will be surveyed under the consultant services contract. UMRWA hopes to retain a consultant in June and begin surveys in July. Therefore, staff are recommending that the

Board authorize staff to proceed with procurement and execution of a contract at the April Board meeting instead of waiting until the July Board meeting. Staff will follow the applicable provisions in UMRWA's Procurement Policy in selecting a consultant for this work. That Policy requires board approval for professional services contracts above \$25,000.



**A-1. Forest Projects Plan (Phase 1) - Project Area Map**

Mechanical Fuels Reduction (confirmed) Prescribed Burning Designated national wilderness FS Lands  
 Mechanical Fuels Reduction (pending) Aspen Restoration Inventoried roadless areas  
 Hand Thinning Project boundary Proposed wilderness

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

*FPP – Phase 2:* The Phase 2 effort, which will evaluate and identify treatments for up to 200,000 acres spanning two national forests, will be a major endeavor requiring significant funding, forestry expertise and time. It is expected to be comparable in scope and complexity to the Stanislaus NF’s SERAL (Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape) Project.

Landmark Environmental which is leading the Phase 1 effort as well as managing forest health grant applications and follow-on implementation projects does not have capacity to lead Phase 2. Both the Stanislaus and El Dorado NFs have indicated a desire to proceed with Phase 2 now. To effectively initiate Phase 2 project, staff recommends the identification, evaluation, selection and retention of a qualified lead consultant or consulting firm as soon as possible. Funding for the initial project development is available with a combination of existing UMRWA and grant funding. With the Board’s authorization, staff will follow UMRWA consultant procurement policies and proceed with an initial contract of approximately \$20,000 to initiate Phase 2 planning. The scope of work for this effort will include:

- Review existing similar efforts including scope, schedule, cost, challenges, etc.
- Assemble (with UMRWA guidance) the technical advisory committee and list of potential stakeholders
- Determine proposed project area, goals, objectives, and preliminary work plan
- Estimate cost and develop a project schedule

Funding needs for Phase 2 will be substantial and UMRWA staff will be working with the FS and others to identify and apply for grants and other funding sources such that the work can proceed as quickly as possible. The Calaveras Ranger District (CRD) has already identified approximately \$280,000 of FS funding for the effort. Additionally, the CRD and the Amador Ranger District expect to add staff who can work on this project. As with Phase 1, this Phase 2 work will be done in close collaboration with FS staff.

#### Status of Pending Grant Applications

*CalFire Forest Health Grant:* An application for \$5 million in funding to complete elements of the FPP - Phase 1, and to implement forest fuel reduction treatments on a minimum 3,000 acres in areas of the Highway 88 corridor not treated by other projects was submitted to CalFire on March 4. CalFire has not made any funding recommendations to date.

*SNC Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant:* UMRWA submitted a \$5.5 million grant application at the end of January for the Power Fire Roadside Hazard Tree Removal Project. Unfortunately, SNC staff is not recommending this grant application for funding. SNC’s evaluation process, involving SNC staff and subject matter experts, environmental consultants, and a registered professional forester, concluded UMRWA’s proposed project would yield fewer fire recovery benefits than other submitted projects and was thus not a priority project in this funding cycle. The SNC Evaluation Team expressly noted: “...the proven, great work this partner/applicant (UMRWA) has demonstrated over the years with various projects.” It is anticipated that the work in the FPP Phase 1 will be more competitive than this grant application which only performed hazard tree removal and did not address needed ladder fuel treatments within the same boundary due to lack of completed NEPA/CEQA work. FPP Phase 1 addresses this lack.

*Cal OES/FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant:* In March, staff worked with Amador County and other member agencies in an effort to assemble a Cal OES sub-application for federal assistance under an annual FEMA Hazard Mitigation grant program. After several weeks of work to collect the necessary plans and environmental documents to complete the application it was decided that we would not move forward with the grant application at



this time. That choice was based on staff's assessment that there were too many project-related unknowns and too much risk of not having a competitive grant proposal.

Amador County was acting as the prime CalOES applicant but due to lack of staff resources the county had to withdraw its own projects from the application. As a result, most of the remaining project areas were in Calaveras County. This substantially reduced the required cost share which would have come from the Amador County's existing hazard tree removal project. The federal grant application for this program is complex and requires extensive documentation and it has a very tight schedule for development and submittal. Staff concluded the time and cost for completing the federal application was an unwise choice given other grant opportunities better suited to UMRWA's circumstances. UMRWA and its members may reconsider the merits and risks of pursuing this funding option in next year's federal grant cycle. Additionally, the information assembled as part of this effort will be used in future funding options. Special thanks to Regine Miller, Amador County Administrator Chuck Iley and the member agency staff who worked to collect and develop pertinent information for this application.

Status of Forest Project Related Grants:

Funder	Name of Program	FY Funding	Amount Applied for or Available	Status or Deadline
<b>AWARDED AND EXECUTED GRANT OPPORTUNITIES</b>				
WCB (Wildlife Conservation Board)	Forest Conservation Program	Proposition 68	\$649,400	<b>Recommended for Funding.</b> (WCB Board meets May 26.)
SNC	Forest Health Grant Program	Final round June 2022. Up to \$25 million.	\$200,000	Agreement executed June 19, 2021.
SNC	Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP)	Funding available in various amounts	\$354,944	Verbal pre-approval by E. Brown November 21, 2021. <b>Agreement in Process</b>
<b>GRANTS APPLIED FOR and OTHER POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>				
CALFIRE	Fire Prevention Grants	2022; up to \$120M	No Maximum	February 2022 (annual cycle)
CALFIRE	Forest Health Grants	2022; up to \$120M	Min \$750,000 Max \$5 million	March 4, 2020 <b>(UMRWA application filed; see above)</b>
SNC	Forest Health Grant Program	SNC anticipates \$3 million available for awards in 2021–2022 cycle.	Not Specified	Concept Papers considered on quarterly basis.
SNC	Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program	Final round June/July 2022. Up to \$25 million.	Not Specified	January 31, 2022 <b>(UMRWA application not recommended for award)</b>
WCB	Forest Conservation Program	Various Propositions. Ongoing application process.	No cap. Projects less than \$250K more desirable. Those less	Continuous application

			than \$100K most desirable.	
WCB	Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Program	Ongoing application process.	No firm maximum or minimum established.	Continuous application



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: **7**

Meeting Date: April 22, 2022

Title:

Status of IRWM Grant Applications

Recommended Action:

For discussion/possible action

Summary:

The Board on January 28, authorized submittal of grants under two DWR programs. The programs and projects under each program are listed below:

- IRWM Proposition 1 Round 2 Funding Program – The Calaveras Public Utility District (CPUD) Jeff Davis Water Treatment Plant Backwash Recycle Project.
- 2022 Multi-benefit Drought Funding Program – The AWA Lake Camanche Water Service Replacement Phase IV and the Foothill Conservancy (FC) Amador Household Water Efficiency Project were both selected. Grant share percentages are to be worked out by AWA and FC.

In January, DWR solicited comments on the Round 2 grant guidelines and in February UMRWA submitted a comment letter suggesting several areas where the guidelines could be clarified or made more efficient. DWR has not yet stated when Round 2 solicitation will open, but it is likely to occur later this spring or early summer. UMRWA staff and consultants are poised to work with CPUD to submit the application for the Jeff Davis Water Treatment Plant Backwash Recycle Project during this upcoming solicitation. The CPUD project will save an estimated 28 million gallons of water per year and improve the quality of water discharged from the Jeff Davis plant to nearby receiving waters.

UMRWA will be a sub-grantee to the Sierra Institute (SI) who is the prime grantee with DWR for the Multi-benefit Drought Funding Program. UMRWA, working with AWA and FC, has submitted all required information to SI and is awaiting a draft subgrantee agreement from them. The AWA project will replace approximately 90 water service laterals in the Lake Camanche Village area which have been identified as faulty or failing and save both water and expenses as the planned replacement will prevent leaks and catastrophic failure which can create property damage and require a more costly replacement. The FC project will perform surveys and aid customers of AWA to identify and implement water conservation measures such as water fixture or landscape replacement, saving both water and expenses for DAC households.



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: 8

Meeting Date: April 22, 2022

Title:

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

Recommended Action:

Endorse the proposed FY 2023 UMRWA budget for review purposes and authorize staff to transmit the proposed budget for Member Agency review and comment.

Summary:

The proposed FY 2023 budget is presented in Table 1. The total member-supported portion of the proposed budget is \$302,725 (identical to the current fiscal year budget). Presented in Table 2 are member funding offsets. These are largely indirect revenues associated with USFS payments and SNC grant reimbursements. 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 2023 are summarized below.

**For the Member-funded portion** of the proposed FY 2023 budget the following activities and associated funding requirements are assumed:

- 1) Maintain (unchanged) the funding level for Board and Authority administration (\$112,000). This includes funding for the Executive Officer and Administrative Officer positions and the Woodard & Curran contract for website technical support.
- 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 program, including funds for UMRWA's Forest Projects Plan – Phase 2.
- 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, USFS and other potential sources for FY 2023 will be determined in September 2022, the final month of UMRWA's fiscal year. Awarded but uncollected FY 2022 funds will be carried forward to FY 2023. Those amounts will be determined based on the September 30, 2022, end of fiscal year Treasurer's Report.

**Surplus Reserve Funding** will be available to off-set costs in FY 2023. This surplus and its potential use to both off-set FY 2023 costs and to position Members for a spike in the Reserves target over the following two fiscal years is discussed immediately below.

Budget Reserves Analysis:

The Authority's Budget Reserve Policy states: *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. Secondly, the sum of any unsettled financial obligation(s) will then to be added to determine the total budget reserve amount for that fiscal year.*

For fiscal year 2023 the budget reserve target is calculated at \$320,213 (see table below). The current Reserve Balance is \$453,826. This balance exceeds the calculated FY 2023 target amount by \$133,613. It is recommended that half the excess (\$66,806) be applied to offset the Member supported budget and retain the other half in Reserves to be evaluated next fiscal year. This recommendation is based on the following:

- It is appropriate to share UMRWA's fiscal successes/gains with Members
- UMRWA's potential for receiving large forest project grants in the next two years will significantly increase future Reserve target calculations over that period
- It is prudent to supplement Reserves this year in anticipation of future Member assessment increases to fully fund an increased Reserves target.

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Member \$ Expended</b>	<b>Grant \$ Expended</b>
2021	167,680	1,004,065
2020	179,088	1,495,625
2019	234,006	4,202,817
3-year average	193,591	2,334,169
Percent per Policy	50%	10%
Amounts for FY 2023	96,796	223,417
Combined Amount FY 2023	320,213	
Unsettled Obligations	None	
<b>FY 23 Reserve Target</b>	<b>320,213</b>	

Indirect Revenue Projection:

Under the terms of its grant agreements with SNC and its SPA agreements with the USFS, the Authority charges and receives funding for indirect/overhead costs. The table below displays a rough estimate of the indirect fees UMRWA is projected to receive in FY 2023. Additional indirect revenues may be secured with new grant awards, but those revenues are presently uncertain.

<b>Indirect Revenue Funding Source</b>	<b>\$ Amount</b>
SNC (2 Forest Projects Plan grants)	12,250
USFS (West Calaveras Thin, Forest Projects Plan Phase 1)	2,750
<b>Estimated Indirect Revenues FY 2022</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>

**Table 1 – PROPOSED FY 2023 BUDGET**

Programs	Categories	Member Funds	Other Funds (DWR, USFS, SNC)	Total Member Funded Program Budgets
Board and Authority Admin.	Executive Officer	50,000		112,000
	Administrative Officer	50,000		
	Web technical support	12,000		
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	West Point Water Reliability Project	0	\$527,287	0
	UMRWA administration	0	\$29,160	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>		<b>\$253,500</b>	Carry forward*	<b>\$253,500</b>

\*Actual carry forward amounts to be determined at end of fiscal year, Sept. 30, 2022

**Table 2 – FY 2023 MEMBER AGENCY FUNDING OFFSETS**

Member assessments	As required by the above Proposed Fiscal Year Budget	\$253,500
Off budget <i>In-kind</i> contributions*	Authority Legal Counsel \$6,500 (Amador County) Accounting (\$25,725), annual audit (\$5,240) and Authority Secretary (\$11,760) (EBMUD)	\$49,225*
	<b>TOTAL MEMBER SUPPORTED BUDGET =</b>	<b>\$302,725</b>
Indirect Fees	Estimated SNC and USFS indirect revenues	(\$15,000)
Reserves	Credit 50% surplus Reserves balance as budget off-set	(\$66,806)
	<b>TOTAL REQUIRED MEMBER FUNDING =</b>	<b>\$220,919</b>

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

**Table 3 – FY 2023 MEMBER FUNDING ALLOCATIONS & ASSESSMENTS**

Formula % Share	Member Agency %	Proposed FY 2023 Allocation	In-Kind Credit	Proposed FY 2023 Assessment	Actual FY 2022 Assessment
Amador Entities 20%	Amador County – 9.2%	20,325	(6,500)	13,825	19,970
	Amador Water Agency – 9.2%	20,325	0	20,325	26,470
	Jackson Valley ID – 1.6%	3,535	0	3,535	4,604
Calaveras Entities 20%	Calaveras County – 6.0%	13,255	0	13,255	17,264
	Calaveras County WD – 9.6%	21,208	0	21,208	27,622
	Calaveras PUD – 4.4%	9,720	0	9,720	12,660
EBMUD	EBMUD – 60%	132,551	(42,725)	89,826	129,910
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$220,919</b>	<b>\$49,225</b>	<b>\$171,694</b>	<b>\$238,500</b>



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: 9

Meeting Date: April 22, 2022

Title:

Ad Hoc Committee to Review Joint Powers Agreement

Recommended Action:

- Approve creation of an ad hoc committee to review the UMRWA joint powers agreement (JPA) and report the committee's findings and any recommended amendments at the October 2022 Board meeting.
- Select and appoint up to four Directors to serve on the Ad Hoc JPA Review Committee

Summary:

At the January 2022 meeting Board members expressed an interest in reviewing the JPA to determine if an update is needed. The agreement was last updated in 2008. Directors Coleman, Garamendi and Gonzalez volunteered to form an ad hoc committee to review and recommend updates to the JPA and requested an item be included on this meeting agenda to create such a committee. The Board also requested that staff obtain clarification from UMRWA counsel regarding 1) the maximum number of board members that can be on an ad hoc committee, and 2) whether UMRWA may perform or fund work outside of the UMRWA boundary for UMRWA related work.

The current joint powers agreement (the Second Amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement dated June 6, 2008) is available on UMRWA's website ([www.umerwa.org](http://www.umerwa.org)).

Discussion:

Authority Counsel advises the Board: The JPA defines UMRWA's general purpose as the enhancement of the Mokelumne River water supply and the protecting of water quality and the environment. Its specific purposes are connected to carrying out Watershed Projects and/or Water Supply Projects listed in an attachment to the JPA (which is a non-exclusive list of example projects). UMRWA is not necessarily limited to things within the watershed boundary, but the boundary is an important factor in determining whether UMRWA's actions are consistent with the purposes for which it was created. If there is a sufficient factual basis to show how activities outside the watershed boundary are consistent with UMRWA's goals and further UMRWA's interests, those activities would be permissible.

Also, with respect to establishing an ad hoc Board committee to review the JPA and recommend updates as may be warranted, up to 4 members may serve on that committee. The Board also noted during its January meeting discussion that the General Managers of UMRWA Member agencies should also be involved in the JPA review.



# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: **10**

Meeting Date: April 22, 2022

Title:

Mattley Meadows Restoration Project – UMRWA Cost Share Agreement with Plumas Corporation

Recommended Action:

Authorize the Executive Officer to execute an agreement with Plumas Corporation to facilitate UMRWA's \$10,000 cost share contribution for the Mattley Meadows Restoration Project.

Summary:

At its July 23, 2021 meeting, the UMRWA Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve a \$10,000 cost share contribution to the Mattley Meadows Restoration Project to support the Plumas Corporation's grant application to the Wildlife Conservation Board. The WCB awarded the grant to Plumas Corporation and project is proceeding. The UMRWA contribution will allow planning to be completed and construction initiated. The proposed agreement includes provisions for UMRWA payments, contract term, and standard language for hold harmless, non-discrimination and assignment.





# Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

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Agenda No: **11**

Meeting Date: April 22, 2022

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 legislative issues of Board interest and this agenda item is intended to facilitate discussion of those matters.