

270-Day Sufficiency Report for Upper American River Watershed Program R22AP00022

El Dorado County Water Agency

Background

El Dorado County Water Agency (Agency) entered into a Financial Assistance Agreement (Agreement) with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) on December 14, 2021, pursuant to Section 6002 of the Cooperative Watershed Management Act, Subtitle A of Title VI of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, P.L. 111-11 (42 USC 10364) (Act). Under this Agreement the Agency was awarded \$98,000. However, in accordance with the requirements set forth in the Act, only first year funding in the amount of \$49,900.00 is available until Reclamation makes a determination on whether the Recipient has made sufficient progress on its project during the first year to justify any additional funding. So that this determination can be made, the Agency developed this Sufficiency Report that describes the progress made on the Upper American River Watershed Program from the effective date of the Agreement through August 31, 2022.

Scope of Work and Schedule

Under this Agreement, the Agency is establishing a new cooperative, self-sustaining watershed group (Watershed Group). The Watershed Group is comprised of a diverse set of stakeholders that will work collaboratively to identify, evaluate, and resolve water quantity and quality issues within the Upper American River Watershed in California. To establish and further develop the Watershed Group, the Agency identified the following two tasks in the Agreement:

- Task A – Watershed Group Development.
- Task B – Watershed Restoration Planning

The milestones for completion are presented in the table below.

Milestone / Task / Activity	Planned Start Date	Planned Completion Date
Conduct Outreach	January 2022	July 2022
Convene Watershed Group	January 2022	May 2022
Develop Charter and Work Plan	May 2022	August 2022
Develop Watershed Restoration Plan Outline	June 2022	September 2022
Submit 270-day Sufficiency Report	August 2022	September 2022
Define Watershed Conditions	August 2022	November 2022
Identify Projects	November 2022	February 2023
Evaluate and Prioritize Projects	February 2023	June 2023

Progress to Date

The project is on schedule and budget. The Agency has met all identified milestones set forth by the agreement. Consistent with the schedule shown above, the Agency has completed the first four milestone activities prior to August 31, 2022. The following provides a brief description of progress for the four activities. This below information is provided to help Reclamation with their determined on whether the Agency has made sufficient progress on the project during the first year to justify the additional funding.

Conduct Outreach

Under this task, the Agency is conducting outreach activities to promote awareness about the Watershed Group and encourage participation of a diverse range of stakeholders in the Watershed Group.

The Agency presented and discussed the Upper American River Watershed Group's planned efforts during the El Dorado Countywide Plenary for Water on April 26th, 2022. Press releases on the event, including an overview of the watershed effort, were released on May 13th, 2022 and May 18th, 2022 by the Agency and Mountain Democrats, respectively. The Agency also presented on this project during their public Board of Directors meeting on August 10th, 2022.

To further support broad-based public and stakeholder outreach, the Agency developed materials describing the Watershed Group's intended purpose, objectives, geographic scope, and how interested parties can get involved. These materials were distributed on June 29th, 2022 to invite stakeholders to participate in the Watershed Group.

Another important aspect of developing the Watershed Plan is conduct outreach outside of the watershed to learn from previous successful watershed efforts. As such, the Agency performed outreach to University of California, Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Sonoma County Ag + Open Space; Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District; Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority to gain insight on incorporating a working landscape framework into watershed planning. Specifically, the following outreach was made:

- Called University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) on May 31 regarding working landscapes concept and applicability to this watershed.
- Communicated with UCANR on June 22 regarding update to 2019 Working Landscape Study. Performed additional coordination on extracting the El Dorado County specific data from the 2019 Working Landscapes Study for use in this Watershed Plan.
- Held call on June 29 with Sonoma County Ag + Open Space and Santa Cruz Resource Conservation District regarding lessons learned from the Healthy Lands and Healthy Economies Initiative and suggestions for incorporation into the Watershed Plan.
- Held call on July 28 with Santa Clara Open Space Authority regarding the Healthy Lands and Healthy Economies Initiative to explore potential relevancy to El Dorado County and gain insights on lessons learned and successes.

Convene Watershed Group

This task convened the Watershed Group and provided planning and facilitation resources to support up to one kick-off and two additional Watershed Group meetings. The meetings served as a forum for

stakeholders and interested members of the public to discuss key issues related to the Upper American River Watershed and coordinate watershed management actions and projects.

Under this activity, the Agency performed the following:

- Announced the convening of the Watershed Group and provided an overview of the goals and objectives at the El Dorado Countywide Plenary for Water on April 26th, 2022 (see attachment).
- Held individual calls with potential Watershed Group members to provide an overview of the project and confirm commitment to participating.
- Convened the first Watershed Group Meeting on August 9th, 2022. Prepared meeting materials and coordinated meeting logistics (see attachment). The objectives of the meeting were as follows:
 - Common understanding of purpose and anticipated outcomes for the Upper American River Watershed Plan
 - Common understanding of approach, process, and milestones for plan development
 - Common understanding of the charge and the expectation of the PAG
- Continued communication with Watershed Group members in between meetings to collect data needed to inform the Watershed Plan.
- Will hold the next Watershed Group meeting on September 30, 2022 to continue development of Watershed Plan. The objectives of the meeting are as follows:
 - Common understanding regarding the progress and direction of plan development
 - Receive feedback on the current content of the draft plan.

Develop Charter and Work Plan

In close coordination with the Watershed Group members, a group charter and work plan were developed. The Watershed Group charter (see attachment) established the guidelines within which the group members will operate, carry out their respective roles, and make decisions. The charter identified the group's mission, goals, objectives, governance structure, membership, roles and responsibilities, decision-making process, and the meeting schedule. A workplan was drafted including a schedule of activities for establishing the long-term financial support of the Watershed Group and implementation of the prioritized projects.

The goals of the Watershed Group are to:

1. Provide information to populate the Watershed Plan.
2. Provide clear, constructive, and relevant feedback to further the development of the Watershed Plan.
3. Foster collaboration amongst agencies to address watershed level challenges of the region.

The content of the charter and work plan were discussed and fully developed through facilitated discussions with the Watershed Group. Input on the group charter was solicited from the Watershed Group during the Watershed kick-off meeting on August 9th, 2022 and incorporated into the charter.

Watershed Group membership was established in the charter and includes participation from a broad-based and diverse group of stakeholders in the Upper American River Watershed:

Core Group

County Representatives

1. El Dorado County Water Agency
 - a. Representative(s): General Manager
2. County of El Dorado Representatives:
 - a. Director, Agriculture Department
 - b. Director, Planning and Building Department
 - c. Director, Environmental Management Department

Resource & Stewardship

3. U.S. Forest Service
 - a. Representative(s): District Ranger
4. American River Conservancy
 - a. Representative(s): Executive Director
5. El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts
 - a. Representative(s): District Manager

Utilities

6. El Dorado Irrigation District
 - a. Representative(s): General Manager
7. Sacramento Municipal Utility District
 - a. Representative(s): Originator, Energy Trading & Contracts

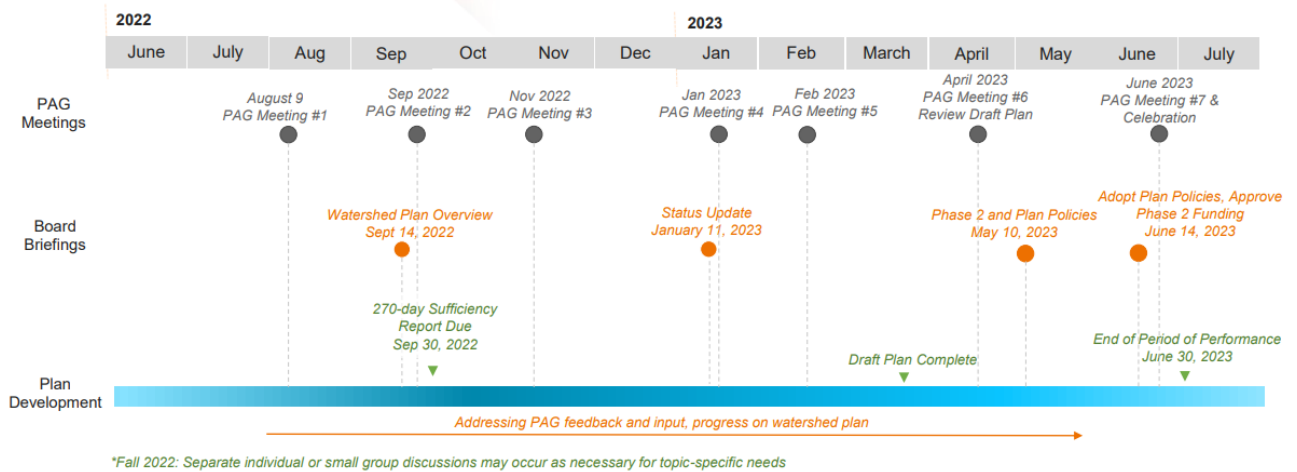
Tribal

8. Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
 - a. Representative(s): Tribal Administrator

Advisory Members (as designated by individual agencies)

9. City of Placerville
10. Placer County Water Agency
11. Regional Water Authority
12. University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources
13. Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
14. El Dorado County Farm Bureau
15. Sierra Nevada Conservancy
16. U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation

The workplan also established the following schedule of activities to accomplish the goals and objectives of the Watershed Group:



Key: PAG = Watershed Plan Advisory Group

Input on the workplan schedule of activities was solicited during the Watershed Group kick-off meeting, and the workplan schedule was agreed upon during the meeting. The workplan development strategies were also agreed upon during the meeting to address schedule challenges:

- Build on the 2019 Water Resources Development and Management Plan.
- Watershed Group reviews the draft plan as developed, making the meetings count.
- Keep the Agency's board informed with scheduled updates.
- Engage Watershed Group members for information gathering to characterize the conditions of the watershed.
- Identify projects through information collection from existing plans.
- Share data and information through the Agency's online mapping and data portal.
- Complete the Watershed Restoration Plan by June 2023 including prioritized projects, as per the WaterSMART grant requirements

Develop Watershed Plan Outline

The Watershed Group drafted an annotated outline for the Watershed Plan. The objectives, issues of concern, and key topics identified in the outline were discussed at the August Watershed Group meeting. To inform this discussion, the Agency created a MindMap to outline all of topics that should be considered. It is anticipated that the discussed content of the Watershed Plan will be refined based on feedback from the Watershed Group members and other stakeholders during planned Watershed Group Meetings.

Below is a high-level overview of the drafted outline:

- Section 1. Background – describes the needs, goal, objectives, planning principles, and involved stakeholders of the Watershed Plan.
- Section 2. Current Watershed Management – describes current watershed management structure, authorities, and responsibilities for the Upper American River Watershed.
- Section 3. Challenges – characterizes vulnerability and risk for current and future conditions in the Upper American River Watershed.

- Section 4. Resource Management Strategies – establishes strategies, major actions, and primary implementation agency(ies) of the described resource management strategies.
- Section 5. Project Identification and Prioritization – identifies projects for implementing actions under the established resource management strategies and their prioritization.
- Section 6. Implementation – describes implantation policy and guidance, financing strategy and performance measures.

Project details will be compiled in an appendix or a separate document that is incorporated by reference. Projects are collected from past planning efforts and through plan development with Watershed Group and stakeholder input.

Define Watershed Conditions

The Agency has also been collecting data and performing research to define baseline conditions in the Upper American River Watershed. The Agency will gather information about issues and needs related to water quality and quantity with the watershed using existing publicly available studies and reports. This information will be augmented by information provided by the Watershed Group members. This task will then define baseline conditions and identify needs and challenges in the watershed. The following lists the data collected to date.

Data Collected to Date to Define Watershed Conditions

Conservation
Environmentally Protected Lands – Williamson Act, Biological Corridors, Ecological Preserve
California Protected Areas
California Conservation Easements
Rare Plants and Animals (status, location)
Rare Vegetation Types
Valley Oak Woodland & Wildlife Habitat
Infrastructure & Facilities
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Regulated Facilities
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Water Quality Certification Sites
Solid Waste Collection Facilities
Wastewater Treatment Plants
Stormwater Drain Outfalls
West Slope Stormwater Project Locations
Septic Systems
Water Treatment Plants
Cleanup Sites
Transmission Lines
Major Highways
Airport Locations

Reservoir Ownership
El Dorado County Water Systems
Major Raw Water Infrastructure Ownership
Georgetown Divide Public Utility District Mainline, Conveyance Canal
El Dorado Irrigation District Pipelines, Conveyance Canal
Small Public Water Systems Map
Points of Diversion
Management
Disadvantaged & Severely Disadvantaged Community Map
Land Use
Land Ownership Map
Water Use Planning Zone
Water Purveyor Service Areas
Community Services Districts
Water Districts in El Dorado County
Integrated Regional Water Management Boundaries
SWRP Stormwater Management Planning Areas
South Fork American River Cohesive Strategy Boundary
CA Service Area Boundaries
Drinking Water Service Areas
Direct Protection Areas
Water Security
500-Year Flood Plain Map
Reported Flood Hotspots
Bulletin 118 Groundwater Basin
303d Impaired Streams and Water Bodies
Cleanup Sites
Auburn Lake Trails Wastewater Zone
Well Completion Reports
Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) Stations
Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP) Bioassessment
Climate Change Expected Monthly Runoff
Demand Projection Data
Upper American River Regional Drought Contingency Plan Area
Public Water Systems Exceedance Compliance
Fully Appropriated Stream Systems (FASS) Watersheds
Sediment Sensitive Watersheds
Watershed Based Plans
Water Quality Monitoring & Control - Pathogens
Water Quality Monitoring & Control - Fish Advisories

Water Quality Monitoring & Control - CBI Projects
Priority Pesticides
Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Projects
Flow Ecology Stream Classes
Wildfire
Fire Threat
Historic Fire Perimeters (2000-2021)
Fire Hazard Severity Map
Percent Tree Canopy Cover
Wildfire Risk to Potential Structures
Burn Probability, Wildfire Likelihood
Wildfire Exposure Type
Wildfire Conditional Risk to Potential Structures, Wildfire Consequence
Wildfire Conditional Flame Length
Wildfire Flame Length Exceedence Probability - 4 ft, 8 ft
Wildfire Hazard Potential
Wildfire Housing Unit Impact
Wildfire Housing Unit Risk
Housing Unit Density, Population Density
Urban Wildland Interface Map
Mosquito Fire - Building Damage Survey
Mosquito Fire Boundary
El Dorado County Fire Safe Councils Boundaries
Agriculture, Working Landscapes
Agricultural Districts
USFS Range Pasture in El Dorado County
Open Rangeland
Crop Group Land Use