

Upper American River Watershed Plan

Plan Advisory Group (PAG)

Meeting #2 Summary

September 30, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
El Dorado County (Conference Room D)
330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667

Meeting Objectives:

- Common understanding regarding the progress and direction of plan development
- Receive feedback on the current content of the draft plan

Attendees: See attachment on last page for list of meeting participants.

Action Items:

#	Item	Owner	Timeframe
1	Send out meeting slides, summary	Stantec	October 7
2	Follow-up on data solicitations	Stantec	October 7
3	Provide GIS data that should be considered in the Watershed Plan to Stantec	PAG members	October 18
4	Provide drafted sections of the Watershed Plan to the PAG for review	Stantec	By November 11

Presentation Materials: See attached PowerPoint slide deck

Meeting Summary:

1. Welcome and Introductions

- All attendees provided self-introductions.

2. Upper American River Basin Watershed Plan Recap and Project Overview

- A review of the Watershed Plan goals, objectives, planning principals and schedule were presented.
- The area of study under the WaterSMART grant includes the Upper American River Watershed (El Dorado County, portions of Placer County) as well as the Cosumnes River watershed area in El Dorado County.

3. Review Watershed Plan Outline

- A review of the draft watershed plan outline was presented, noting that the outline had not changed significantly since the previous PAG meeting.
- The group discussed frameworks to characterize conditions and challenges specific to the Upper American River Watershed, including aligning frameworks with other agencies' parallel efforts. Specific attention was brought to water security, data availability, and funding availability.

4. Updated Data Inventory

Data collected to date was shared with the PAG and further data was solicited from the group. Meeting participants discussed the following:

- Infrastructure and facilities
 - Data on road accessibility should be included.
- Working landscapes
 - American River Conservancy (ARC) has data on lands that they manage.
 - University of California Berkeley offered their data on historical grazing in the central Sierra region.
- Recreation

- County Parks and Recreation may have information as due to permitting.
- American White Water may have information on the various whitewater businesses.
- Bureau of Land Management has information on public trails.
- ARC has trail data for privately-owned lands, public access points.
- Other recreation that should be considered is skiing, climbing, off-road motorcycles, mountain biking, and future planned trails.
- Tribal
 - A question was raised whether any information on Tribal cultural practices could be provided. This will be up to the discretion of tribal representatives.
- Conservation
 - Participants suggested looking at data from Cal Flora, the El Dorado County Noxious Weed Program, Native Plants Society of El Dorado County, El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts (RCD), and Pine Hill Preserve.
 - Placer County Water Agency stated that they have information on conservation from their FERC relicensing efforts (e.g., Rubicon area)
 - A participant asked whether any additional species data was available beyond that in the CNDDDB.
- Stormwater and flooding
 - It was noted that most flooding in El Dorado County is localized due to stormwater events. County staff identified hot spots for localized flooding. Similar information is missing in Placer County.

5. Selected Topics Discussion

a. Watershed Management Responsibility and Coverage

- The group discussed that the focus of the Watershed Plan should be on agencies and organizations with authority for implementation.
- It was suggested that ancestral homelands should also be considered in watershed management responsibilities and coverage.

b. Wildfire

- Utility fire threat, fire hazard, and historic fire trends were discussed by the group.
- Information was solicited on completed fuel management projects. RCD stated they were in the process of making this data publicly available.
- The PAG expressed interest in seeing the impact of fuel management, treatment projects, and grazing on fire behavior (e.g., burn severity) over time.
- It was suggested that the Watershed Plan include information related to post-fire studies (e.g., sedimentation analysis). The group discussed these efforts being done in the region, noting access to this information may be difficult given the proposed timeline of the Watershed Plan development.
- It was mentioned that Placer RCD focuses more on private lands.
- The group agreed that the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council should be added to the PAG.

6. Next Steps

- Moving forward, PAG meetings will occur on Friday mornings, from approximately 10:30 am – 12:30 pm on the months for which there are meetings.
- Participants agreed on their availability for PAG Meeting #3 to be held on Friday November 18 at 10:30 am, at the County building.

7. Adjourn

- With no further business, the group adjourned at 12:30 pm.

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Meeting Participants

* = virtual participant

Meeting Participant	Agency (in alphabetical order by agency)
Core Group Members	
Elena DeLacy	American River Conservancy
LeeAnne Mila	County of El Dorado, Agriculture Department
Karen Garner	County of El Dorado, Planning and Building
*Mark Egbert	El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts
Ken Payne	El Dorado Water Agency
Kyle Ericson	El Dorado Water Agency
Darin Reintjes	Place County Water Agency
*Ansel Lundberg	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Kara Perry	Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
Additional Group Members	
Lew Moeller	Department of Water Resources
*Barb Kildow	El Dorado County Farm Bureau
Alexis Elliot	Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
Nicholas Schneider	Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
Michelle Banonis	Regional Water Authority
Bradley Hubbard	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Lee Mao	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
*Lynn Huntsinger	University of California, Berkeley
Technical Support	
Rebecca Guo	Stantec
Yung-Hsin Sun	Stantec
Sam Price	Stantec
Bridget Childs	Stantec