

**Upper American River Watershed Program** 

# Programmatic Watershed Plan (PWP) Plan Advisory Group (PAG) Meeting #4

January 20th, 2023

### **Meeting Objectives**

- Provide updates on the development of PWP
- Review, refine, and confirm the identified watershed-level challenges
- Identify watershed Resource Management Strategies (RMS) and associated management actions





### Agenda

TIME	AGENDA ITEM
10:30 AM	Welcome and Agenda Review
10:40 AM	Recap Timeline Programmatic Watershed Plan review process (Chapters 1 and 2) Main comments
10:50 AM	High Level Review of Current Content of Draft Programmatic Watershed Plan
11:10 AM	Discussion - Watershed Resource Management Strategies
12:25 PM	Next Steps
12:30 PM	Adjourn



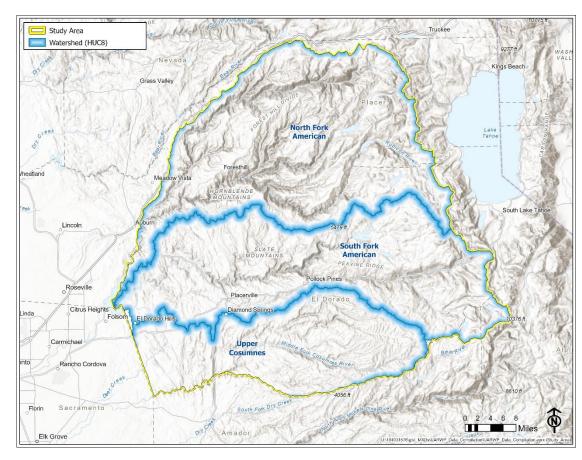


### Recap



### [Reminder: Programmatic Watershed Plan]

- EDWA was awarded a 2021 Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grant for forming an Upper American River watershed group and starting watershed planning and action/project development.
- EDWA acts as a convenor of the watershed group.
- EDWA expanded the region to cover the remaining West Slope in the Cosumnes River watershed.



Key: NHD = National Hydrography Dataset; HUC = Hydrologic Unit Codes

#### Study Area



### **Watershed Plan Goal**

To create a resilient watershed in the Upper American River Watershed that can fulfill the ecological, economic, and social needs of the watershed through implementable, collaborative, and integrated strategies.





## **Envision the Upper American River Watershed Plan: Shared and Progressive Implementation**

The watershed plan will:

- Be a concise policy plan with recommendations that complements with the WRDMP.
- Refine characterization of watershed issues and climate challenges/vulnerability.
- Build on the WRDMP, which is based on integrated water management principles.
- **Include actions** that supplement and refine those under relevant Resource Management strategies (RMS) in the WRDMP.
- Identify new RMS with actions if warranted.
- Clarify the role and responsibility for collective implementation of identified actions.
- Be subject to an update every 5 years.



### **Draft Programmatic Watershed Plan Outline**

Chapter		Content	
1	Introduction	Needs, goal, objectives, planning principles, and stakeholders	
2	Current Watershed Management	Current management structure, authorities, and responsibilities within the watershed	
3 Challenges Vu		Vulnerability and risk characterization for current and future conditions	
4	Watershed Resource Management Strategies	Strategies, major actions, and primary implementation agency(ies)	
5	Project Identification and Prioritization	Identified projects for implementing actions and their prioritization	
6	Implementation	Implementation policy and guidance, financing strategy, and performance measures	

<sup>\*</sup>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 PAG and stakeholder input.



### **Draft Watershed Plan Development Timeline**



Addressing PAG feedback and input, progress on watershed plan



<sup>\*</sup>Fall/Winter 2022: Separate individual or small group discussions may occur as necessary for topic-specific needs

### **PAG Meeting #3 Comments**

Chapter		Comments		
1	Introduction Needs, goal, objectives, planning principles, and stakeholders	<ol> <li>Include efficiency and sustainability in the objectives.</li> <li>Emphasize the environmental and ecological priorities of the plan.</li> <li>As part of the plan principles, encourage participating agencies to use their existing authorities in an innovative and collaborative way.</li> </ol>		
2	Current Watershed Management Current management structure, authorities, and responsibilities within the watershed	<ol> <li>Updating maps for overall clarity (removing highlights, unnecessary borders, etc.)</li> <li>Update recreation map (include municipal and community parks, golf courses, and river access points)</li> <li>Federal Responsibility Areas be broken out into their respective federal agencies.</li> <li>Check USFS and BLM for fire risk maps.</li> <li>Update infrastructure section to include underground transmission lines.</li> <li>Include Placer County Farm Bureau, water supply purveyors' responsibility to manage the vegetation in their easements, and Georgetown Divide Public Utility District's power infrastructure in roles/responsibilities discussion.</li> </ol>		
3	Challenges Vulnerability and risk characterization for current and future conditions	<ol> <li>Include flood risk map.</li> <li>Add information on topography and slope.</li> <li>Include existing agriculture and potential fire fuels, and healthy lands for agricultural purposes.</li> <li>Discuss vulnerabilities to climate change.</li> <li>Discuss Wildland-Urban Interface related to wildfire risk.</li> <li>Include biomass ad wood processing facilities.</li> </ol>		





## Review Current Content of Draft Programmatic Watershed Plan

## Section 3. Challenges: Climate Change

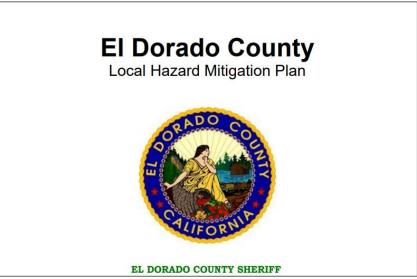
Introductory information to frame watershed-specific challenges discussion

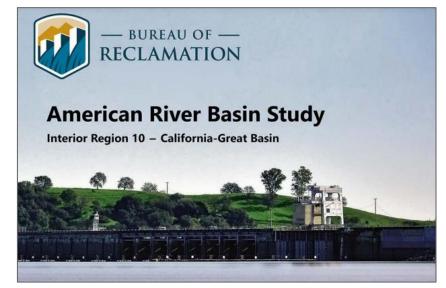
**Trends** – California Fourth Climate Change Assessment

- Statewide Trends
- Regional Trends

Climate Change Vulnerabilities – American River Basin Study, Local Hazard Management Plans











### **Management Actions and RMS**

- Resource Management Strategies (RMS): address identified watershed resource-related challenges. Each RMS is used to represent what needs to be done on a broad, strategic level as well as who is (or are) primarily responsible for making it a reality.
- The WRDMP outlined issues that need to be addressed on a watershed-level but focused on water resource-related topics
  - Stormwater as a resource
  - Water quality management
  - Headwaters meadow restoration
  - Environmental protection
  - Forest management (a broad topic)
  - Biomass utilization (large quantity and community capacity). More is needed from the viewpoint of a healthy, sustainable, and resilient watershed.



### Discussion: Resources Management Strategies

Water Resources Management Challenges in El Dorado County

- Long-Term Water CI Supply Demand Imbalance
- Vulnerability **During Droughts**
- Loss of Water Supply Due to Other Resource Management Practices
- Long-Term Water Quality Impacts Due to Wildfires
- Water Quality Impacts Due to Stormwater Runoff
- Limited C6 Groundwater Resources
- Vulnerability **C7** to Flooding

Secure Surface Water Supply Entitlements

Develop and Implement Demand Management

Implement Sustainable Groundwater Management

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES Increase Water Reuse

Secure Water Infrastructure

Manage Stormwater as a Resource

Improve Drought Preparedness and Responses

Ensure All Residents Have Water Accessibility and Affordable Water

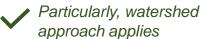
Improve Watershed Management for Water Resource-Related Benefits

Prevent Contamination of Surface Water and Groundwater Resources

Reduce the Risk of Flooding in Communities

[Figure from 2019 WRDMP]









### Discussion: Watershed Resources Management Strategies

C1	Environmental conservation including species protection, etc. (climate change resulting in habitat loss)	RMS 1
C2	Vulnerability to Flooding (address localized flooding, protect lower watershed from downstream flooding)	RMS 2
C3	Inadequate management of forestlands and fire hazard	RMS 3
C4	Current landscape not resilient for drought and other disasters	RMS 4
C5	Lack of watershed approach to support agricultural economic development	RMS 5
C6	?	RMS 6

invasive species actions

use watershed approach; update EDC stormwater design manual using new hydrology and approaches; coordinate with SAFCA

forest thinning, invasive species actions find ways to consume fire hazards (e.g., build biomass facilities), more access roads, wildfire recovery Separate short-term recovery vs. long-term resiliency planning create a drought resilient landscape, ag water use efficiency







**Next Steps** 



### **Anticipated Progress**

Continued development of upfront plan sections and data collection



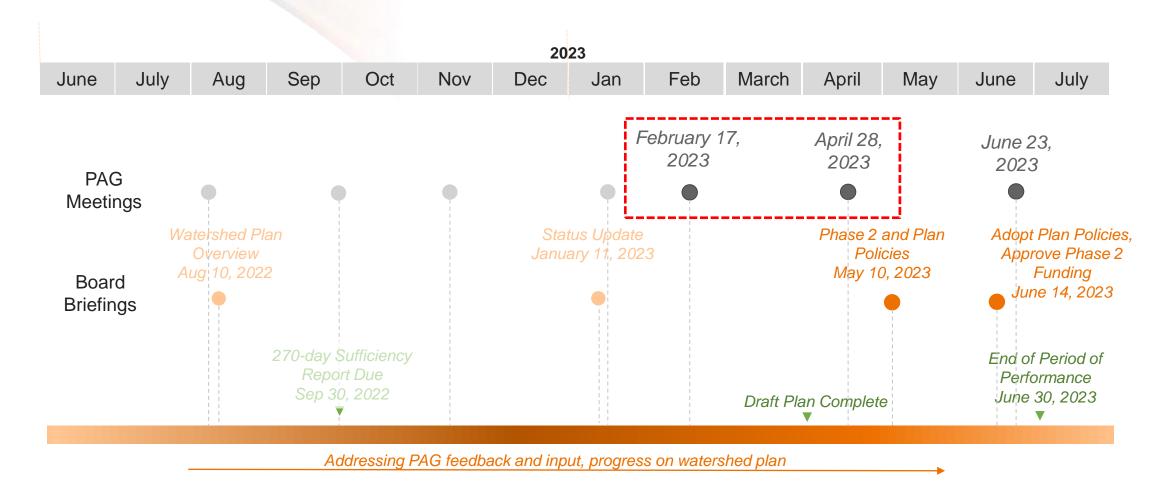
Section 5, 6
Implementation



Provide draft watershed plan sections for review at the next PAG Meeting



### **Confirm Standing Meeting Dates**



<sup>\*</sup>Fall/Winter 2022: Separate individual or small group discussions may occur as necessary for topic-specific needs

### **Contact Us**

#### **Feedback on Content**

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- Mali Karamigolbaghi (Stantec), Maliheh.Karamigolbaghi@stantec.com

#### **Feedback on Group and Procedures**

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