

SIERRA WATER WORKGROUP AGENDA

Tuesday Jan. 13

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Office

11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205, Auburn, CA 95603.

CALL IN OPTION: Dial 877-494-5165, pass code 389716

- 10-10:15 Welcome and Introductions
Kansas McGahon, Placer County
Steve Rothert
Kim Carr
Pete Kampa
Steve Frisch
Brian Morris
Joan Clayburgh
Marion Gee
Marie Davis, PCWA
Don Wight, NID
Mark Drew,
Liz Mansfield, EID
Bill Hetland, El Dorado County Water Agency
- 10:15-10:20 Brief Review of the history of the Sierra Water Workgroup (formerly known as the Western Sierra Workgroup) started as group of water managers brainstorming about how to get irwmps represented at state level in terms of awareness, getting funding opps, get sierra info into state water plan.
- 10:20-10:30 Review Nov. 4 Conference Call
- a. Geographic Boundaries Decision- We should be umbrella group and we should include the entire Sierra region as defined by the SNC boundaries with Tahoe area, future coordination with Nevada
 - Sac River Area dividing up
 - b. Membership Decision- Membership/voting body should consist of representatives from IRWMs and regional groups with an interest in water.
 - ID other groups to bring in
 - Northern Sierra folks (Mark Steffek, Todd Sloat)
 - Region 5 Forest Service

- PG&E? (head of hydro wing)- Steve Bennett, regional hydro manager (Pete Kampa has contact), Wendy Pauling head of environmental programs (Steve Frisch has contact)
- Park Service
- What is a regional group? One that brings in information, clout and/or funding (that also crosses IRWM lines)
- BLM and DFG, National Parks Conservation Association included through IRWMS but not regional rep at SWW- perhaps invite them later. What about SPI?
 - Or could frame these could be potential partners on certain issues. We should articulate clear purpose, vision, workplan

10:30-10:40 Approve Final Preamble and Mission [ACTION ITEM]

- Make sure of the source of the statistics (Elizabeth Betancourt)

10:40-11:40 California Budget Discussion- Implications for Sierra IRWMPs, water agencies, watershed groups...

- Money Investment Board order to stop work on bund funded contracts- they will be meeting next week, SNC will give updates
- May be politics holding up selling bonds, state could use leverage to get money from feds
- Timing will be thrown off, agencies waiting for state to pay- could be 4-6 weeks to get money
- SoCal water agencies contemplating legal action
- Inyo Mono relying on CalTrout grant match
- Mariposa has not yet started, money frozen, on hold
- S. Sierra was relying on SNC grant as well
- CABY ok agency funded
- Tuol-Stan has money (agency) until get planning grant ,
- Tahoe-Sierra piece meal money supposed to be funded by CTC but funds have been pulled (bulk of money from local and fed agencies, TRPA may give some money) may just postpone based on state timeframe
- Important to apply for RAP now (to help Mariposa, S. Sierra, Inyo-Mono)
- Land conservation work in watershed also suspended- WCB meeting canceled, so any projects

pushed to May meeting -> cascading impacts of bond freeze

- What happens in next budget? How do you get 42 billion out of the hole. This group should make statements on the next budget next June, make statement now on current budget situation.
- Perhaps join up with social agencies in their litigation? Since voter approved bond monies (find out from MET)

11:40-12:40 Identify Short Term Goals and Projects of the Sierra Water Workgroup (Working Lunch)

- a. Identify shared issues of concern and short and long-term activities for the group
 - Map of Sierra IRWMs and area of the Sierra Water Workgroup – should have by Feb. 15
 - Show crosshatched areas for overlap and different gaps – in legend indicate how groups are working on those discrepancies
 - Perhaps detailed maps of population centers and disadvantaged communities (many not tracked in census) jurisdictional boundaries, population centers, hydrologic boundaries, prop. 84 boundaries
 - Other layers: public/private lands,
 - Sac River Watershed program has GIS program for northern cal- could tap into their database- potential model for SNC GIS program
 - Stewardship council has DACs for northern cal, CABY has DAC info – this could be ongoing, living document
 - Will send out ftp site info to access jpg and gis layers
 - ACTION: email/call to get any missing files, send instructions for legend?
 - Help IRWMs through RAP
 - Drafting letter about impact of budget freeze on people, economy, water agencies (create position for standing to advocate in June)- sign on letter, project and economic impact of state budget freeze, and a couple of stories, and plea for rapid resolution. Simple letter, not state that we think tax is necessary, just statement of impact, get us on their radar -> beginning of broader communication agenda (value of headwaters, importance of local

economy) watershed coordinators could be interesting case or study – funding stopped for water conservation in drought year, also maybe stories about projects where lots invested but had to stop and cost more in long run- have them hear from an organized Sierra of unintended and cascading effects and waste of past dollars -> to everyone → should be IRWMs that sign on (with list of those involved in each IRWM)

- What about Sierra Water Workgroup letterhead with each IRWM listed with those in each IRWM that sign on – who in their irwmp is signing on will be listed
- Steve would take first cut at letter.
- If budget passes first, then turn it into a thank you letter

b. Is there an issue around which this group can create a shared action at this time? [ACTION ITEM]

12:40-1:30 Discuss Decision Making Structure of Sierra Water Workgroup

1:30-2:00 Schedule next meeting and Determine Next Steps
Mid March meeting.