

## Sierra Water Workgroup

Quarterly Meeting | Tuesday, October 16, 2012 | ED County Water Agency, Shingle Springs, CA

### 10:00am – Introductions

---

- Attending in person: Liz Mansfield (SWWG), Kirk Taylor (Apple Hill Growers), Elizabeth Betancourt (Upper Pit, CABY), Neil Favor (Alliance), Gavin Feiger (Alliance), Kristin Honeycutt (DWR), Bob Dean (MAC, T-Stan), Dave Eggerton (El Dorado Water Agency)
- Attending on phone: Pat Garcia (Mariposa), John Shelton (Madera, Southern Sierra), Mary Randal (DWR), Angela Avery (SNC), Lynn Nolan (Tahoe-Sierra), Mark Drew and Holly Alpert (Inyo-Mono), Gia Martin (Upper Feather), Leah Wills (Upper Feather)

### 10:15am – Updates from IRWMPs

---

- CABY (Elizabeth) = draft IRWMP in November
  - Taking diff approach to CC – didn't get money from DWR so doing lit review and using DWR CC handbook – found list of adaptation considerations helpful
- Upper Pit (Elizabeth) = December, putting out parts of NEW IRWMP sections as public draft
  - Fill in the blank" water assessment for water providers because no urban water management plans because all purveyors are less than 3,000 connections
- MAC (Bob) = will be submitting some projects, but 2 other main topics
  - CARWM (Comanche area regional water management) – addressing historic overdraft (incl. groundwater) and inconsistent flows.
  - Interregional effort with GBA and Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMWRA) (next step from Mokelumne Forum)
    - Put together a plan, but afraid it will be cast in concrete.
- T-Stan (Bob) = had trouble defining governance, regional acceptance process, etc. there are some people involved (enviros?) who are very concerned about water and development rights (need some more details on this) – basically harmed consensus and made it almost impossible to reach agreements. Maybe almost too large of a region, too many interests, sidebar conversations between specific interests with pre-determined positions. Only takes one person to sidetrack everything.
  - Will be proposing implementation projects
- Mariposa (Pat) = just starting, reviewing application for DWR planning grant contract, starting to look at potential implementation projects.
  - CCP changing from Sarah Rubin to Jodi Monahan
  - Getting GIS help from DWR on existing water wells
  - Still working out stakeholders and looking at governance structure, have subcommittees set up
- Madera (John) = meeting yesterday to review projects for next implementation grant.
  - Also working on governance – working on ability to have associate members (no ability to pay, i.e. Fed and state agencies).
  - Big item was how to handle DACs – give them a voice by letting them have a vote even if they don't pay the fee.
  - The MOU changed from "pay to play" model. Fee was to cover people who were running meetings and to help write grants (~\$50/month per organization).
  - Also had Sarah Rubin, who is leaving CCP
- Southern Sierra (John) = changed bylaws/MOU a tiny bit

## Sierra Water Workgroup

Quarterly Meeting | Tuesday, October 16, 2012 | ED County Water Agency, Shingle Springs, CA

- Basically trying to get more stakeholders and have them represent an organization (but do not have to in order to be involved)
- Janet and Heather from Inyo-Mono went down for a meeting last month and were very helpful
- Subcommittee looking at projects, looking for a grantee (hopefully major organization like Springville PUD)
  - Springville is concerned about liability, frustrated with working with the state because of historically long grant timeline (upgrade to water treatment and water supply grant from Health dept. or something), but DWR is reassuring them that it won't be so hard.
- Inyo-Mono (Mark and Holly) = continuing to implement DAC grant from DWR (indicators for DWR and documentary about water/rural/headwater communities)
  - Meetings with Upper Pit last week (Burney, Alturas) – a lot of small infrastructure needs, but unlike areas in Eastern Sierra, they have a lot of high quality, spring flow water so supply was not a huge deal and quality is less of a big deal than some other places, but some specific issues.
  - Scope of movie is to be determined, but focus on Inyo-Mono region as an example of rural/headwater communities. But depending on budget, may look at broader Sierra/Cascade.
  - Holly and Heather similarly meeting with Yosemite-Mariposa and Madera tomorrow.
  - Final goal to bring Sierra DAC issues to forefront and even consider 4 other DAC funded projects in state (North Coast, Greater LA, Kern, ?1 other?)

### → DAC side note

- Bob Dean brings up the fact that many DACs are not actually in a “community” in the sierra – widespread people with water needs that will not be able to be served by water utilities.
- Mark Drew talking about maybe a legislative or policy recommendation will come out of their DAC work, but they have not looked into legal issues much yet.
- Talk about AB 685, recently passed, may not address issues that are not in “communities.”

### 10:50 – funding request from DWR for Liz and SWWG

---

- Liz funded by DWR through CCP.
- Application approved, thanks to Kristin Honeycutt!!
- So, we are funded for 2013, but hopefully we can keep it going.
  - SO, in future planning grants hopefully IRWMPs can put in some money for SWWG support
- For 2012, quite a few task items:
  - 1-4: Outreach and education = quarterly meetings and calls, annual conference, Liz meeting with each IRWM
  - Task 5 – tours similar to Water Education Foundation
    - SWWG would work with IRWMs to set up field trips, tours, talks, lodging, transportation and the attendees would pay. This application is just planning of tours (or at least one to get started).
    - John Shelton, re:tours – for \$500-600/person (water foundation)
      - Maybe just work through them and get grant to cover them

## Sierra Water Workgroup

Quarterly Meeting | Tuesday, October 16, 2012 | ED County Water Agency, Shingle Springs, CA

- Liz – great idea, will work on that but want to make sure IRWMPs get *real* input on location and format
- Angie (SNC) – please include us and ask for support
- Tracking legislation – Angie already does some of this and is willing to help/provide it
- **This is going to be a lot of work, Liz cannot do it alone. Needs help from stakeholders to implement this application. Need assurance that IRWMPs will support this effort. And both ways, really wants stakeholders/ reps to bring information back from SWWG to IRWMPs.**
  - John from Southern Sierra is in and appreciates SWWG and ability to call in, but what about convening meetings in different locations.
  - Some groups have potential issues with funding for travel and time
  - Lynn with Tahoe-Sierra has SWWG on IRWMP agenda
  - Liz – if I show up in your region, you better be there! And bring stakeholders.
  - Action – are we going to accept grant?
    - Lynn Nolan – yes
    - John – yes
    - Dave Eggerton – yes
      - Form workgroups for each task
    - Bob Dean – yes
      - Get stakeholders engaged, give us tasks
  - **Action** – email Liz with what tasks you would like to work on, especially **tours** and **summit** from grant and **area of origin** strategies (trying to codify or constitutionalize area of origin laws/rights), and help **create clearing house exchanging information** and probably distribute through website
  - **Action** – resurrect Coordinating Committee – need representation from IRWMPs

### 11:30am – 2013 Summit – June 11-12 (Tues-Wed) in King's Beach, CA (Tahoe)

---

- Working with CA State Bar (legal) and they will help cover some of the costs, especially the legal aspect.
- Inyo-Mono would also like to have a DAC summit during the summit
- HOW to put panels and schedule together to get all legal, DAC, and general water covered without too many competing panels/workshops
  - Tracks instead of
- Gavin read list of Liz's brainstormed potential topics, other topics?
  - Financial
  - Tribal
    - Especially how to get more participation without DWR able to work directly with them in some cases due to tribal sovereignty
    - Get funding for tribal members to come to the summit
    - Huge needs for Native Americans that are not officially part of a tribe
    - Make sure not to lump together with DACs
  - Coordinating and collaboration among multiple interests (i.e. behavior of National Forests) – water comes from the forest, not from the streams.
  - Not enough farming and agricultural interests

## Sierra Water Workgroup

Quarterly Meeting | Tuesday, October 16, 2012 | ED County Water Agency, Shingle Springs, CA

- Kirk – irrigated lands regulatory program and impacts of groundwater component (i.e. nitrates in central valley). How to justify this in fractured rock groundwater regions. Coordinate east/west side and farming vs. ranching (i.e. central valley vs. Lahontan).
- Kristin – “aligning regional planning” someone from ranching, water, forest service, planning, etc.
- Dave – we have very distinct agricultural issues and relationships than the central valley and we are being regulated in the same manner in many cases.
- Relationship between science and policy
  - Bob – science in central valley does not work for the Sierra
- Energy component – not all going to happen in FERC, we should discuss
  - Hydro and biomass
  - Need experts
  - Revenue for IRWMPs – small hydro, leasing land to 3<sup>rd</sup> party for solar
  - Maybe get some legal expertise from Bar
- Forest management plans (Mark) (3 early adopters in Sierra – Inyo, Sequoia, Sierra) – how to engage in or coordinate with forest service.
  - Happens once every 2 decades, and a huge opportunity to influence management on a large scale.
  - John – Sierra has been pretty good, trying to engage water people but Sequoia has not (part of that might be the Sequoia Monument management plan) = good comparison/contrast.
- Local schools – colleges, junior colleges to get help organizing and add an educational component.
- Conflicts/working between NGOs and agencies
- Panel on Sierra Nevada Research Institute – non-political and non-partisan, have the trust of decision-makers.
- 2 days?
  - Yes, longer days though (start earlier)
  - John – maybe 3 days with one intense day for (DAC), middle day combo, and third intense day (Legal)
  - Bob – do day/afternoon beforehand for specific issue
    - Or set up forums/discussion groups at nearby venues or over lunch/reception

### 1:00pm – SWWG Task Items and Strategic Planning

---

- Liz will
- Leg tracking – this is not in the 2013 grant for SWWG/Liz tasks
  - Angie - SNC already does this and has a person (Theresa) and a software package and is willing to work with Liz and give her information for SWWG.
  - PCL has software that we might be able to use – just tracking
  - Gavin will help get this on the SWWG website and disseminate
  - Maybe Liz can help take the leg tracking and explain how proposed legislation will affect IRWMPs.

## Sierra Water Workgroup

Quarterly Meeting | Tuesday, October 16, 2012 | ED County Water Agency, Shingle Springs, CA

- Look beyond just water and agencies to land use, ecosystem, energy, resource committees, committee hearings
- Sierra lobbying day?
  - SNC maybe use March board meeting, but no real plans
  - New legislators coming in and need to be educated
- Federal legislation
  - Need to find a fed employee to track this
    - Someone with BLM?
  - AQUA?
  - RCRC?
- Administrative forums
  - State board
- Area of origin strategies
  - Dave explains – was extremely powerful for rural counties when it was enacted – leg vote was based on *counties*, not *individuals*.
    - Reserve the right for water for our communities to grow.
    - Court and case interpretation has diminished scope of law.
    - Big question – is it even strong enough to protect water now.
    - Really about our future and regional self-sufficiency
  - NOT just a water agency issue, the entire Sierra will be affected by this.
  - Bob – doesn't think water rights are really all that strong of an argument, if the water is taken, we are unlikely to get it back by filing for area of origin rights.
  - Expand to include seniority rights
    - What about areas that have no water rights (i.e. Tuolumne has no water rights)?
  - Leah Wills – Upper Feather – looking at projects that marry public trust, seniority, tribal, etc. water rights and prioritizing these projects = coalition of rights
    - i.e. thinning project that increases flow to area with endangered species and with water rights that owners have agreed to leave in stream = everyone likes these projects
    - downstream and junior users also benefit
  - How to approach:
    - Get back into constitution
    - SoCal could be persuaded to go along with this because it is their headwaters (would take a lot of work though)
    - Need the long-term certainty of water supply, like Bay Delta
    - Nested/bundled water rights - make a coalition of water rights – seniority, area of origin, tribal
  - **Action** – make a subcommittee, already got a number of volunteers: Liz, Joan Clayburgh, Leah Wills, Dave Eggerton...missed a few....
- Regional tours
  - [from above, 10:50] Task 5 – tours similar to Water Education Foundation

## Sierra Water Workgroup

Quarterly Meeting | Tuesday, October 16, 2012 | ED County Water Agency, Shingle Springs, CA

- SWWG would work with IRWMs to set up field trips, tours, talks, lodging, transportation and the attendees would pay. This application is just planning of tours (or at least one to get started).
- John Shelton, re:tours – for \$500-600/person (water foundation)
  - Maybe just work through them and get grant to cover them
  - Liz – great idea, will work on that but want to make sure IRWMPs get *real* input on location and format
  - Angie (SNC) – please include us and ask for support
- Nothing else added/discussed on this one. Big picture is to make sure IRWMPs are represented, help plan and coordinate, and get their message across.
- Other Coordination efforts
  - Federal coordination – there is none and we need at least some, especially in the Sierra
    - This group is the right size and coordination
    - Start with the regional forester – Randy Moore, Chris Nota, Mike Chapel (sorry about spelling, names from Bob and Dave)
    - **Action** – as SWWG, send letter to USFS or otherwise engage them to let them know what IRWMPs are let them know what a resource we can be in their forest management plans. Ask that they engage each Sierra IRWMP.

### 2:45pm - Liz Summary

---

- Work with Kristin on DWR application for Liz's time and related tasks.
- Go ahead with collaboration with State Bar and Inyo-Mono (DAC) for 2013 summit June 11-12 in Tahoe
  - **Subcommittee** to help plan summit
  - Also include specific DAC component, working with Inyo-Mono IRWMP
  - We have a ton of ideas for workshops and times and formats already
- Task items from summit
  - Liz will go to each IRWM and give presentation on SWWG
  - Create clearinghouse for exchange of information through SWWG website
    - Establish **subcommittee**
- Legislative Tracking
  - Liz and Gavin will meet with SNC (Angie and Theresa) and see what we can do with other efforts
- Reinstate Coordinating **Committee**
- Area of origin, seniority water rights issues
  - Establish **subcommittee** (already some volunteers, see above)
- Regional Tours
  - Talk to WEF, AQUA
  - Establish **Subcommittee**