



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Governing Board Meeting

Agenda

Friday,
October 7, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.

NOTE: Meeting location will be Pardee Lodge,
Pardee Center, Valley Springs, CA 95252

(There will be NO virtual option for this meeting.)

ROLL CALL

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT: When responding to a matter not on the agenda, state law limits a Board member to providing a brief response, asking clarifying questions, and/or referring it to staff.

AUTHORITY BUSINESS:

1. Board Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2022
2. Treasurer's Report – Third Quarter FY 2022
3. Patrick Wright Presentation
4. Forest Projects Report
5. Proposed Joint Powers Agreement Amendments
6. Legislative Issues Update

Recommended Action

- Approve by Motion
Accept for Filing
Discussion/Possible Action
Approve by Motion
Approve by Motion
Discussion/Possible Action

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

7. Board Member Comments

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT:

8. Executive Officer's Oral Report

ADJOURNMENT:

- Next Regular Board Meeting: January 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Pardee Lodge, Pardee Center

Requests for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made to Lisa (Stuart) Gualco at 209.772.8261 or lisa.gualco@ebmud.com no later than 24 hours before the meeting.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **1**

Meeting Date: October 7, 2022

Title:

Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2022

Recommended Action:

Approve the meeting minutes of July 22, 2022.

Summary:

The summary minutes of the July 22, 2022 meeting are included for Board review and approval.

Friday, July 22, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
Governing Board Regular Meeting
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
McLean Hall, Pardee Center, Valley Springs, CA 95252
with a virtual (Zoom) option

Summary Minutes

ROLL CALL

Directors John Coleman, Chair, Terry Woodrow, Vice-chair, Jack Garamendi, Ed Gonzalez, Richard Farrington (via Zoom), Richard Blood (via Zoom) and Jeff Davidson (via Zoom) were present. Absent: Brian Oneto, Amador County. Also present were Executive Officer (EO) Richard Sykes, Administrative Officer Rob Alcott, Authority Counsel Greg Gillott, Authority Secretary Lisa (Stuart) Gualco, 4 in-person and 6 online visitors and presenters.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Meredith Sierra requested an update on the Electra Fire along with clean-up efforts and how it might affect their Foothill Conservancy River Cleanup event held every fall. It was confirmed that this was part of the Executive Officer's planned oral report at the end of the meeting.

AUTHORITY BUSINESS

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 22, 2022

The summary minutes of the April 22, 2022 meeting were provided to the Board for review.

Motion 11-22 to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 22, 2022 was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Gonzalez and carried by roll call vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

2. Treasurer's Report – Second Quarter FY 2022

A copy of the Treasurer's Report for the Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2022, which ended March 31, 2022, was presented to the Board.

Motion 12-22 to accept the Treasurer's Report for filing was made by Director Woodrow, seconded by Director Garamendi and carried by roll call vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

3. Pardee Reservoir Water Quality Monitoring

At the last meeting, the Board requested a presentation on water quality monitoring performed by East Bay Municipal Utility District at Pardee Reservoir. Mr. Roberto Cortez, P.E., Manager of Water Supply at EBMUD, presented an overview of the District's monitoring program at this meeting and responded to questions.

4. Forest Projects Report

This Forest Projects Report included an update on Phases 1 and 2 of the Authority's Forest Projects Plan initiative, as well as updates and recommended actions related to Cal Fire's \$5 million grant to UMRWA, completing an additional 2,795 acres of archeological surveys on Phase 1 lands, and the preparation and submittal of two new SNC grant concept proposals. The report concluded with a summary of all grants awarded, pending, and proposed.

Motion 13-22 to 1) increase to \$50,000 the amount the Executive Officer is authorized to obligate when executing the consulting services agreement with the firm selected to lead the FPP - Phase 2 planning effort, 2) approve and authorize the Executive Officer to

execute agreements with Landmark Environmental Inc. and the Institute for Bird Populations for Aspen Meadow Restoration work funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board, 3) adopt Resolution 2022-01 related to Cal Fire's award of the \$5 million Forest Health Grant awarded to UMRWA, 4) approve Amendment 1 to the agreement with InContext Cultural Resource Solutions to perform additional archeological surveys on approximately 2,795 acres of Phase 1 lands and increase the maximum contract amount from \$110,000 to \$160,000, and 5) authorize staff to submit two grant concept proposals to Sierra Nevada Conservancy, one to fund Phase 1 implementation projects (plus other small treatment areas outside of the Phase 1 boundary); the second for Phase 2 planning funds, was made by Director Woodrow, seconded by Director Farrington and carried by roll call vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

5. Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

The Board reviewed the proposed FY 2023 budget at their April 22 meeting and directed staff to transmit the proposed budget to Member Agencies for review and comment. A memorandum presenting the proposed FY 2023 budget and agency assessments was sent in May to Member Agency General Managers and County Administrative Officers with copies to each Member Agency's UMRWA Board director. EBMUD commented favorably on the proposed budget; no other comments were received.

Motion 14-22 to approve the FY 2023 UMRWA budget and authorize staff to transmit invoices to Member Agencies requesting payment of FY 2023 assessments by October 31, 2022, was made by Director Garamendi, seconded by Director Davidson and carried by roll call vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

6. Consulting Agreements for UMRWA Support Personnel

The recommended agreements with Richard Sykes and Rob Alcott for the continuation of Executive Officer and Administrative Officer services for the two-year period beginning October 1, 2022 and were provided to the Board for review.

Motion 15-22 to 1) approve an agreement with Richard Sykes to serve as the Authority's Executive Officer for the period October 1, 2022 through October 31, 2024; and authorize the Board Chair to sign the agreement, 2) waive the standard 'additional insured' automobile insurance requirement and approve an agreement with Rob Alcott to serve as Authority Administrative Officer for the period October 1, 2022 through October 31, 2024; and authorize the Executive Officer to sign the agreement, and 3) waive the standard 'additional insured' automobile insurance requirement and approve the consulting services agreement with Landmark Environmental Inc. to provide services for the period October 1, 2022 through October 31, 2024 and authorize the Executive Officer to sign the agreement, was made by Director Woodrow, seconded by Director Farrington and carried by roll call vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

7. Status of IRWM Grant Applications

At its January meeting, the Board authorized staff to develop and submit applications for DWR Prop 1 funding for 1) the Calaveras Public Utility District Jeff Davis Water Treatment Plant Backwash Recycle Project for the IRWM Round 2 Grant solicitation, and 2) the AWA Lake Camanche Water Service Replacement Phase IV and the Foothill Conservancy (FC) Amador Household Water Efficiency Project for the Small Community Drought Funding Program. The Executive Officer provided status updates on these applications to the Board.

8. Ad Hoc Committee to Review Joint Powers Agreement

The current UMRWA joint powers agreement (the Second Amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement) was established on June 6, 2008. At the April 2022 meeting, the Board

established an Ad Hoc committee to review the UMRWA Joint Powers Agreement to determine if updates are needed. Directors Coleman, Garamendi, Gonzalez and Farrington were appointed to serve on that committee.

During a July 6 Zoom meeting, the committee discussed the UMRWA boundary map, additions and revisions to the Authority's goal and purpose provisions, clarification of the Authority's broader interest in water supplies beyond just domestic supply and simplifying the current references to potential interests in PG&E's Project 137. The Ad Hoc Committee plans to meet again in September and will report again to the full Board at the October 7 meeting.

9. Legislative Issues Update

The following legislative matters that may be of potential interest to UMRWA were presented to the Board: HR 6903 McClintock, AB 1717 Aguiar-Curry, and AB 267 Valladres which would extend the SB 901 exemption from CEQA to January 1, 2026. It was noted during discussion that the Calaveras County Water District and Amador Water Agency Boards of Directors have already taken positions opposed to AB 1717.

Motion 16-22 to oppose AB 1717 and authorize the Executive Officer to submit position opposed letter(s) to the author, Governor, Senate Appropriations Committee, Cal Fire and Resources Agency was made by Director Gonzalez, seconded by Director Woodrow and carried by roll call vote: Yea 7– Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

Board Member Comments:

Richard Farrington asked that the HR 8168 McCarthy SOS Bill be added to the agenda for the October meeting. Director Coleman reminded the Board that the October 7 meeting will be held outdoors and that electronics/screens will not be available; therefore, the meeting will be held in-person only.

Executive Officer Comments:

The Executive Officer provided the Board with Cal Fire's update on the Electra Fire. JVID Board member requested information on the easement on the Ponderosa Road/Mokelumne River area of Amador County. The board chair expressed an interest in having UMRWA initiatives highlighted during the presentations at the Pardee BBQ on October 7.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Coleman adjourned the meeting at 12:28 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on October 7, 2022, at Pardee Lodge.

SUBMITTED BY:

Lisa Stuart, Authority Secretary

John Coleman, Chair of the Board
APPROVED: October 7, 2022



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **2**

Meeting Date: October 7, 2022

Title:

Treasurer's Report – Third Quarter FY 2022

Recommended Actions:

Accept for filing.

Summary:

A copy of the Treasurer's Report for the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2022, which ended June 30, 2022, is included here and will be presented at the Board meeting.

**UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER WATERSHED AUTHORITY
TREASURER'S REPORT
STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2022**

<i>Fiscal Year 2022 (begining Oct. 1, 2021)</i>	Assessment, Grants & USFS	Budget FY 2022	Actual		
			Current Quarter	YTD	YTD %
General Assessments & Operating Revenue					
Amador Agencies Funding	51,044	51,044	-	51,044	100%
Calaveras Agencies Funding	57,546	57,546	-	57,546	100%
EBMUD Funding	129,910	129,910	-	129,910	100%
Member Agencies Contribution	238,500	238,500	-	238,500	100%
Prior Year Unspent/Carry forward	81,815	81,815	-	-	0%
Indirect Fee Revenues (Collected FY2021)	15,000	15,000	-	-	0%
Interest/Misc income	-	-	65	107	
Operating Reserve (Bal. \$453,826)	100,000	100,000	-	-	0%
Misc Revenue	196,815	196,815	65	107	0%
Total Assessments & Operations Funding	435,315	435,315	65	238,607	55%
IRWM Grant Funding					
CCWD - West Point WTP (Prop 1)	554,562	554,562	73,401	71,609	13%
Forestry/Watershed Funding					
US Forest Service (West Calaveras Thin)	21,718	21,718	-	2,588	12%
US Forest Service (Cabbage Patch)	1,919	1,919	-	1,496	78%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant 2 (Cabbage Patch)	-	-	-	49,892	
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant 3 (Black Springs w/ WCT)	76,963	76,963	-	169,251	220%
Sierra Nevada Conservancy Mapping Tool Grant	-	-	-	10,780	
Sierra Nevada Conservancy - Forest Projects Plan	181,508	181,508	79,606	102,884	57%
NFWF (Eldorado NF Culvert Upgrades)	116,594	116,594	-	116,594	100%
Total Grants and Other Funding	953,264	953,264	153,007	525,094	55%
TOTAL REVENUES & FUNDING	1,388,579	1,388,579	153,072	763,701	55%
ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES					
General Assessment (Administration)					
Executive Officer		50,000	20,175	38,866	78%
Administrative Officer		50,000	10,783	33,824	68%
Website Support (Woodard & Curran) (w/\$9,700 carry forward)		21,700	5,251	7,001	32%
General Assessment (Operations)					
Plumas Corp - Mattley Meadow (w/\$10,000 carry-forward)		10,000	-	-	0%
MLLT - STE Watershed Program CY 2021/22 (w/\$8,663 carry forward)		25,163	8,663	8,663	34%
Inter-agency Liaison & Board Support (LEI, Inc)		5,000	863	3,382	68%
Forest-related Grant Applications/Project Development (LEI, Inc)		50,000	20,331	47,188	94%
Forest Projects Plan (LEI, Inc) (w/\$40,770 carry forward)		170,770	-	-	0%
Forest Projects Plan - Preliminary Phase 2 Work (LEI)		15,000	1,601	1,601	11%
IRWM Grant Application/Project Development		25,000	-	-	0%
MAC Projects Update 2020 (Woodard & Curran) (w/\$12,682 carry forward)		12,682	4,167	11,582	91%
TOTAL ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES		435,315	71,834	152,107	35%
GRANT and FORESTRY/WATERSHED FUNDING EXPENDITURES					
DWR Prop 1 Implementation Grant					
CCWD - West Point WTP		527,287	-	-	0%
Woodard & Curran - invoicing & reporting		20,892	1,691	3,709	18%
WRA - agreement administration		4,000	-	-	0%
Cabbage Patch Restoration Project					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		1,919	-	11,574	603%
Black Springs Restoration Project					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		2,181	11,921	21,830	1001%
Contractor (incl GV Conservation Corp)		65,069	-	56,252	86%
NFWF - Culvert Upgrade Project					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		16,513	-	16,513	100%
West Calaveras Thin/Bailey Project					
Landmark Environmental, Inc.		1,000	-	2,262	226%
Contactior		20,718	-	-	0%
SNC - Mapping Tool Project					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		-	-	-	
SNC - Forest Projects Plan					
Landmark Environmental Inc.		181,508	95,514	121,183	67%
TOTAL GRANT EXPENDITURES		841,087	109,126	233,323	28%
Total Project Expenses		1,276,402	180,960	385,430	30%



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **3**

Meeting Date: October 7, 2022

Title:

Patrick Wright Presentation

Recommended Actions:

Discussion/Possible Action

Summary:

The Board requested at a prior meeting that Patrick Wright be invited to attend an UMRWA Board meeting to discuss the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force goals regarding fuel reduction in the region and the CEQA exemption that expires December 31, 2022, that has been helpful to UMRWA and others working to protect forested lands.

Mr. Wright is the Director of the Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. Mr. Wright has previously served as Executive Director at the Tahoe Conservancy and Executive Director of the California Bay-Delta Authority.

Meeting Date: October 7, 2022

Title:

Forest Projects Report (FPP)

Recommended Actions:

Adopt Resolution 2022-02 related to preparing and submitting a full Forest and Watershed Health grant proposal to Sierra Nevada Conservancy for FPP Phase 2 planning funds.

Summary:

This Forest Projects Report includes an update on the Authority's Forest Projects Plan initiative, Phases 1 and 2. Also presented are updates related to the Aspen Meadow Restoration Project and CalFire's \$5 million grant to UMRWA. The report concludes with a table titled "UMRWA Forest Project Grants" which summarizes grants awarded and grants proposed.

Forest Projects Plan:

UMRWA is leading the development of a Forest Projects Plan for a large area of the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed. This major planning initiative is being conducted in two phases. Phase 1, which is nearing completion, is focused on broadly acceptable ladder fuels treatments and forest management actions in the Eldorado National Forest that are supported by the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG). Coverage for Phase 1 will be approximately 25,500 acres and will address all required NEPA/CEQA actions. The recently initiated Phase 2 plan is expected to cover about 220,000 acres and will take approximately two years to complete the plan and associated NEPA/CEQA documentation.

UMRWA staff has met twice recently with Eldorado National Forest (ENF) managers to review progress and concerns on FPP - Phases 1 and 2. The increasingly urgent need for a Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) with ENF has been expressed; Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grant awards are conditioned on UMRWA having a land tenure agreement (a SPA agreement meets SNC's requirement) assuring access for project implementation and SNC access for a minimum of 10 years after project completion. FPP Phase 2 project area, within the Calaveras National Forest, is covered under a SPA that UMRWA executed for the FPP project in late 2021.

Phase 1 Status –

FPP - Phase 1 Plan Public Scoping period concluded in May and biological and archeological field work and associated report-writing will be completed soon. The NEPA proposed action remains at about 25,500 acres of mechanical treatments, prescribed burning, and hand treatments. UMRWA is on track, on schedule and on budget for execution the NEPA Decision Memo by the end of the year. Status highlights follow.

- The process of completing all draft NEPA Project Record reports for Forest Service review is nearing completion. UMRWA's team of biologists is completing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service consultation for required wildlife and botanical evaluations, and

the team of archaeologists is wrapping up field surveys on some 2,800 acres of lands included in the Phase 1 Plan.

- All final reports will be presented to the ACCG Planning Work Group on October 21, 2022 and full ACCG support is expected to be conferred on November 16, 2022.
- An executed Decision Memo by the USFS is expected by the first week of December and CEQA certified at the January UMRWA Board meeting.
- SNC has accepted UMRWA's concept proposal requesting funding to implement Phase 1 fuels treatment activities. However, in discussing the application's competitiveness with SNC staff, UMRWA has been advised to not submit a full application until all NEPA and CEQA obligations have been completed. Consequently, rather than submit a full proposal to SNC by October 28, the application will be submitted in SNC's March 2023 grant round.

Phase 2 Status –

FPP - Phase 2 will address a much larger landscape of up to 220,000 acres and include Stanislaus and Eldorado National Forest lands within and adjacent to the Mokelumne Watershed. In addition to the far larger scale, the second phase will consider forestry activities that are not included in Phase 1 due to potentially more significant environmental impact. For comparison, it is expected to be similar in scope and complexity to the Stanislaus NF's SERAL Project.

- As authorized by the Board, staff has retained Cardno, a consulting firm experienced in forest project planning and environmental review to lead the FPP – Phase 2. Cardno is actively performing the scope of work including the formation of the Technical Advisory Committee and Stakeholder Group in late 2022 and initiating meetings in early 2023.
- On September 7, UMRWA conducted an FPP Phase 2 kick-off meeting with the Eldorado NF, Amador Ranger District and the Stanislaus NF, Calaveras Ranger District to review Cardno's scope of work, confirm team members, and begin to identify potential Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Stakeholder Group participants.
- On September 13, the Phase 1 team held a meet-and-greet with Karl Goodwin, the recently appointed Acting Amador District Ranger, to inform him about Phase 1 and Phase 2.
- SNC has approved UMRWA's concept proposal requesting funding to support Phase 2 planning. Staff has since met with SNC to solicit feedback, and are beginning work with Cardno to refine the proposed scope and budget based on Cardno's work plan under their contract with UMRWA. A completed full proposal will be submitted to SNC by October 28; the attached Resolution 2202-02 will be included with the proposal.

Aspen Meadow Restoration Project:

The Board approved an UMRWA application for Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) grant funding in July 2021 and authorized the Executive Officer to execute a grant agreement with the WCB at the April 22, 2022 meeting. The \$649,400 WCB grant agreement was fully executed on June 10.

The scope of work funded by WCB requires UMRWA to plan, design, and permit the project for an effective and comprehensive plan for aspen restoration on lands within the Stanislaus and Eldorado National Forests, and provide the NEPA/CEQA clearance needed for implementation. The project includes mapping and assessing existing aspen stand conditions, completing NEPA for 300 acres of prioritized aspen stand restoration work, and implementing restoration treatments on those 300 acres.

The WCB funded work will be completed by Landmark Environmental Inc. (LEI) and Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) under UMRWA contracts approved by the Board on July 22, 2022. The work will be completed over the next three years.

CalFire Grant:

On July 25, UMRWA executed a CalFire grant agreement for \$4,999,967 to complete biological and archeological field surveys, and a minimum of 3,000 acres of fuel reduction treatments included in the FPP - Phase 1. UMRWA is currently performing archeological surveys and other planning work in preparation for soliciting bids next year. The mechanical and hand fuel reduction treatments will occur in areas along the Highway 88 corridor within the Amador Ranger District.

Blood's Ridge Project:

On September 13, 2022, the EO participated in a meeting with USFS, Alpine County representatives and other stakeholders regarding a potential 154-acre fuel break project at Blood's Ridge, located immediately west of Bear Valley. UMRWA believes that this project can be included in its next implementation grant if NEPA work is completed. To this end, UMRWA staff have amended the Archeological Services agreement for Phase 1 to include surveys and reports necessary for NEPA. Staff will continue to work with the Stanislaus National Forest staff to complete remaining NEPA tasks prior to the Spring 2023 SNC grant solicitation.

UMRWA Forest Project Grants:

UMRWA presently has two active SNC grants, one active Wildlife Conservation Board grant, and one active CalFire Forest Health Grant. Additionally, two Concept Proposals submitted July 29 were favorably received by SNC; staff is now completing and will submit full applications by October 28. These grants are summarized in the table below.

UMRWA FOREST PROJECT GRANTS

		Approved	Proposed	
Grant	By	Amount	Tasks/Deliverables	Key Dates
Forest and Watershed Health (# 1280)	SNC	\$200,000 (w/13% indirect, \$26,000)	- FPP Phase 1 – NEPA analysis - CEQA analysis - NEPA/CEQA documents	Execute: 6/22/21 Complete: 2/15/27 Expire: 5/1/27
WIP Capacity Program – Early Action Subgrant (# 969-RFFCP)	SNC	\$354,944 (w/10% indirect, \$32,268)	- NEPA documents >10k acres - Non- and Tribal outreach - ACCG consultation - Decision Memo	Execute: 5/23/22 Complete: 12/1/24 Expire: 2/15/25
Wildlife Conservation Board – Prop 68 (# WC-2262CR)	WCB	\$649,400 (w/5.6% indirect, \$36,400)	- Aspen inventory/Assess design - Restoration design priorities - Prioritization/design plan - Environmental compliance	Execute: 6/10/22 Complete: 3/31/25 Expire: Unspecified
State Greenhouse Gas Reduction	CalFire	\$4,999,967	- NEPA/CEQA clearance - Fuel treatments >2,255 acres	Execute: 7/25/22 Complete: 3/31/26 Expire: Unspecified
Wildfire Recovery & Forest Resilience (<i>Implementation</i>)	SNC	Invited to submit full application (Target – \$4.6 M)	Develop FPP Phase 1 Projects Implementation Plan and implement fuels treatments on ~ 2,500 acres	Concept: July 29 Full Ap: Mar 2023 Awards: > Jul 2023
Wildfire Recovery & Forest Resilience (<i>Planning</i>)	SNC	Invited to submit full application (Target - \$700k)	Develop FPP Phase 2 including NEPA/CEQA documentation	Concept: July 29 Full Ap: Oct 28 Awards: > Feb 2023

UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER WATERSHED AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION 2022-02

REGARDING SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY
FOREST and WATERSHED HEALTH GRANT APPLICATION
AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S AUTHORITY TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT SAID
APPLICATION TO THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

WHEREAS, the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) is a Joint Powers Agency formed in 2000 to address water quality, water supply and environmental matters. UMRWA is comprised by Amador Water Agency, Calaveras County Water District, Calaveras Public Utility District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Jackson Valley Irrigation District, Alpine County Water Agency and the counties of Amador, Calaveras and Alpine; and

WHEREAS, at its July 22, 2022 regular meeting, the UMRWA Board of Directors authorized staff to submit two concept proposals to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to help fund planning, NEPA/CEQA documentation and related field surveys, and fuels treatment implementation projects work in furtherance of the UMRWA Forest Projects Plan for the Upper Mokelumne River watershed; and

WHEREAS, at its October 7, 2022 regular meeting, the UMRWA Board of Directors authorized the Executive Officer to prepare and submit a full grant application to Sierra Nevada Conservancy for Planning funds to advance the Authority's Forest Projects Plan Phase 2; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Board of Directors hereby authorizes the Executive Officer of the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority to prepare and submit a Forest and Watershed Health full grant application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for funding in support of the UMRWA's Forest Projects Plan Phase 2.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this October 7, 2022 by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

John Coleman, Board Chair

ATTEST:

Lisa Gualco, Authority Secretary



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: 5

Meeting Date: October 7, 2022

Title:

Proposed Joint Powers Agreement Amendments

Recommended Action:

Endorse the draft Third Amended Joint Powers Authority agreement and authorize staff to transmit the proposed agreement to Member Agencies for review and comment by December 1, 2022.

Summary:

The current UMRWA Joint Powers Agreement (the Second Amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement) was established on June 6, 2008. At the April 2022 meeting the Board established an Ad Hoc committee to review the UMRWA Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to determine if updates are needed. Directors Coleman, Garamendi, Gonzalez, and Farrington were appointed to serve on that committee. The committee conducted a Zoom meeting on July 6 at which initial amendments were identified. Additional committee review comments of an updated draft JPA agreement were subsequently submitted by email and are reflected in the Third Amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement provided with this agenda packet.

Discussion:

The draft amended JPA agreement includes a variety of proposed changes as summarized below:

- Regarding the question 'what is an appropriate map?', it is recommended to leave the existing map as is. As previously advised by Counsel, the JPA map does not constrain UMRWA from working beyond the watershed boundaries. And with at least three (3) options for a single map (current map, the MAC Region map, and a map designed to include adjacent areas UMRWA may or may not have a future interest in), it was concluded that the following provision should instead be added to Section 6.1: *(a) To exercise jointly the common powers of its Member Entities in studying, planning and implementing water and watershed projects benefiting the inhabitants and customers of the respective Member Entities, including projects located outside the Upper Mokelumne River watershed that the Board may determine are consistent with UMRWA's goals and further its purposes and interests.*
- Additions and revisions to the Authority's goal and purpose provisions
- Clarification of the Authority's broader interest in water supplies beyond just domestic supply
- Add 'Raise Upper Bear' to Appendix B, Potential Watershed and Water Supply Projects
- Simplify current references to potential interests in PG&E's Project 137, but retain Section 7.4, Payments in Lieu of Property Taxes
- Several proposed edits to conform the agreement to actual practices (e.g., delete the provision in Section 5.4 that requires the Chair to sign all agreements, since the

Board specifically and regularly authorizes the EO to sign). Other proposed edits delete redundant and/or never used provisions.

Authority Counsel has reviewed the amended agreement and has no concerns with the proposed changes.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **6**

Meeting Date: October 7, 2022

Title:

Legislative Issues Update

Recommended Action:

For discussion and possible action.

Summary:

The Board, on July 22, voted to oppose AB 1717 and authorized the Executive Officer to communicate UMRWA's oppose position to the author, Governor, Senate Appropriations Committee, Cal Fire and Resources Agency. The EO transmitted oppose letters signed by the UMRWA chair on August 2, 2022. The bill was presented to the Governor for his signature on September 12, 2022. As of September 23, 2022 the Governor had not signed or vetoed the bill. If the bill becomes law, UMRWA will need to comply with this bill for forest health implementation work beginning January 1, 2024. It is not clear how this will affect the cost of future work as the bill is limited to "work that falls within an apprenticeable occupation in the building and construction trades for which an apprenticeship program has been approved". On September 28, 2022, Governor Newsom vetoed AB 1717 indicating that it would slow down high priority work to protect vulnerable communities in the state.

AB 211 is a budget trailer bill that includes language to extend to January 1, 2028, the SB 901 CEQA exemption for specified forest health work. The Governor signed this bill on September 28, 2022.

At the July 22, 2022 Board Meeting, Director Farrington asked that HR 8168 (McCarthy), the Save Our Sequoias Bill, be added to the agenda for the October meeting. This bill was introduced on June 22, 2022 and the text has not yet been modified or amended. Key provisions of the bill include:

- create a shared stewardship agreement between the State of California, the US Departments of Interior and Agriculture and the Tule River Indian Tribe to assess, protect, restore, and rehabilitate defined giant Sequoia groves on state, BLM, USFS and National Park lands in California
- create a coalition of the above agencies and others to prioritize actions for the protection and enhancement of these groves
- declares that an emergency exists thus allowing priority projects to proceed in advance of NEPA review and completion
- create a Reforestation and Rehabilitation Strategy to inform assessments and projects
- establish Strike Teams to aid in the assessment of conditions and implementation of projects, and it would create a grant program to support projects
- authorize \$10M for work in 2024, \$25M in 2025 and \$290M in 2026-2033