



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Regular Governing Board Meeting

Agenda

Friday, January 23, 2026 – 10:00 a.m.
McLean Hall, Pardee Center, Valley Springs, CA 95252

**Zoom option available (see bottom of page for information)*

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:

Recommended Action

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Board Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2025 | Approve by Motion |
| 2. Treasurer’s Report (Q4 FY 2025) and Budget Reserve Policy | Approve by Motion |
| 3. Phase 1 - Forest Projects Plan Implementation Report | Approve by Motion |
| 4. Phase 2 - MAC Forest Health and Resilience Project Report | Approve by Motion |
| 5. Report on Mokelumne Pumped Storage Project | Discussion/Possible Action |
| 6. Legislative Issues Update | Discussion/Possible Action |

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

7. Board Member Comments

EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT:

8. Executive Officer’s Oral Report

ADJOURNMENT:

- Next Regular Board Meeting: April 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (Pardee Center, Valley Springs, CA, 95252)

*Jan 23, 2026, 10:00 AM - Click link to join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/94344992577?pwd=axdtKRUIO9UQ0eOI1fC9j1xQNFG2Ob.1>

Meeting ID: 943 4499 2577

Passcode: 188309

Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made to Lorna Barfield at 209.772.8286 or lorna.barfield@ebmud.com no later than 48 hours before the meeting.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **1**

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026

Title:

Board Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2025

Recommended Action:

Approve the meeting minutes of October 3, 2025.

Summary:

The summary minutes of the October 3, 2025, Board meeting are included here for Board review and approval.

Friday, October 3, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
Governing Board Meeting
Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
Pardee Lodge, Pardee Center, Valley Springs, CA 95252

Summary Minutes

ROLL CALL

Directors Terry Woodrow, Chair, Richard Farrington, Autumn Andahl, Jeff Davidson, Mathew Roberts, Brian Oneto, and Kiley Windley were present at roll call. Also present were Executive Officer (EO) Richard Sykes, Authority Council Greg Gillott, Authority Treasurer David Glasser, Authority Secretary Lorna Barfield, and 10 visitors.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Foothill Conservancy's Craig Baracco requested UMRWA consider the Mokelumne Pumped Storage project as a future board meeting discussion item, as it could have a profound implication for the upper watershed. The Board supported receiving a general overview report on this item from UMRWA staff at the next meeting.

AUTHORITY BUSINESS

1. Regular Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2025

Motion 20-25 to approve the meeting minutes with modification of July 25, 2025, was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Farrington, and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

2. Treasurer's Report - Third Quarter FY 2025

Motion 21-25 to accept the Treasurer's Report for filing was made by Director Davidson, seconded by Director Farrington, and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

3. Highest Qualified Contractors List

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process was initiated in June for the purpose of establishing a ranked list of contractors from which UMRWA may solicit proposals for providing fuels treatment services for the remaining Forest Projects Plan - Phase 1 (FPP-1) projects over the next 3 to 5 years. The EO presented Table 1 - Highest Qualified Contractors, Table 2 - Qualified Contractors, and Table 3 - Minimally Qualified Contractors to the Board. The Executive Officer also discussed the rating criteria used, experience with the contractors from the current season, and communication with firms that did not make the Highest Qualified Contractors List. He noted that three local firms are on the Highest Qualified Contractors List.

Motion 22-25 to approve the list of Highest Qualified contractors was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Oneto, and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

4. Phase 1 - Forest Projects Plan Implementation Report

Executive Officer Richard Sykes shared the Phase 1 - Forest Projects Plan (FPP-1) Implementation Report, which included an agreement with the Washoe Tribe for hand treatments to reduce fuels on a 9.3-acre unit within the Hwy 88 East project, and a

brief status update of the FPP Phase 1 program. The report concluded with Table 1 - Projects Underway and Programmed and Table 2 - FPP-1 Acres Treated in 2025.

Washoe Tribe – Hwy 88 Project: A general services agreement with the Washoe Tribe of NV and CA was recommended for Board approval. The proposed agreement, which is fully funded by SNC grant agreement #1636, is responsive to grant award criteria that favors agencies that provide forest work training opportunities for tribes and tribal members. The recommended agreement provides funding for the treatment of 9.3 acres within the Hwy 88 East project footprint.

FPP – Phase 1 Status

In spring 2023, USFS and UMRWA developed the FPP-1 Implementation Work Plan (IWP), which was updated in March 2025 to recognize active treatment projects and funding secured to treat nearly 11,000 acres. Over the program's first two years, UMRWA contractors are projected to have treated more than 7,000 acres, including 5,000 acres this year.

Director Farrington requested that *Table 2 - FPP-1 Acres Treated* also show a column for accumulative totals, including past years, to compare with acres awarded, and to eliminate the Q1 column. UMRWA staff will modify the Table for future reports. Director Farrington also asked about the funding remaining after contracted treatment work is complete. The EO explained that any additional funding is used to expand acreages to projects and is used towards subsequent contracts. The EO cited this year's Redding Tree Growers Contract as an example of using excess funds when bids come in less than expected.

UMRWA and Blue Forest Conservation continue to pursue opportunities to expand funding for UMRWA's Phase 1 program. A jointly planned field tour held on July 25 by Blue Forest and UMRWA drew approximately 30 persons, including several UMRWA board members and agency staff, Blue Forest staff, representatives from the Washoe Tribe, Eldorado Band of Miwok Indians, CHIPS, National Forest Foundation, UMRWA contractor BurnBot, and others. Blue Forest has also been in discussions with Amazon to potentially develop a \$5M contribution to the Phase 1 implementation effort. A decision by Amazon is expected in mid-October.

**A copy of the general services agreement with the Washoe Tribe of NV and CA was included in the Supplemental Materials Packet.*

Motion 23-25 to approve and authorize the Executive Officer to sign a General Services Agreement with the Washoe Tribe of NV and CA of up to \$80,175 to perform the Hwy 88 East - Washoe fuels treatment project was made by Director Farrington, seconded by Director Windley, and carried by voice vote: Yea 7 – Nay 0 – Abstain 0.

5. Phase 2 - MAC Forest Health and Resilience Project Report

The EO and UMRWA Project Manager Megan Layhee, provided the Board with the status of UMRWA's Mokelumne Amador Calaveras Forest Health and Resilience Project (MAC Project) as it advances toward its expected completion in late 2025 or early 2026 and several key program elements and the status of each. The report concluded with the MAC Project Proposed Action map.

The MAC Project Notice of Intent (NOI) was published on September 26, 2024, followed by a 30-day comment period. Nineteen letters with over 170 individual comments were received and are being used to inform the development of the proposed action.

Director Oneto asked about the public comments received on the old-growth forest topic and recommended that treatment in these areas also include removing lower duff from the base of the trees to resist girdling and help them survive wildfires. The EO stated that UMRWA's goal is to have the MAC project receive consensus support from the ACCG as this would signal broad support from diverse stakeholders. The EO noted that ACCG support is also essential to continued funding from state agencies which has allowed implementation of Phase 1 and the planning work for MAC. The board indicated strong support for this goal.

The team has completed final modeling to identify priority treatment areas within the 250,000-acre MAC Project area. Roughly half of the project area is proposed for forest health treatments including approximately 79,000 acres of forest thinning, 43,000 acres of fuels reduction, and prescribed fire across the entire area. Additionally, about 22,000 acres of fuel break construction/maintenance are proposed. Fire behavior and vegetation modeling will be used to assess treatment impacts on forest structure and potential wildfire risk.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is underway and is anticipated to be finalized by fall 2025, and decisions signed in early 2026. The team is utilizing the USDA Secretary's recent Emergency Authority Determination and a more streamlined comment opportunity for regulatory agencies, tribes and other key stakeholders. Chapters 1-2 of the DEIS, including the purpose and need and proposed action, were circulated for public review from Sept. 10 to Sept. 24, 2025. Input from that comment period will be used to finalize and circulate the full DEIS package. UMRWA is committed to ensuring that this streamlined process will still provide sufficient opportunity for input from stakeholders.

6. Legislative Issues Update

The Board was updated on several items of interest and Director Farrington confirmed that SB 88 has been submitted to the governor's office. There were no additional Board member comments on this update.

Board Member Comments:

Director Davidson highlighted the need to issue press releases after project completion to share successes and recognize partners. Director Farrington suggested including before-and-after photos to better show project results.

Director Farrington reported that he and Director Andahl recently participated in a GreenGen tour. Senator Alvarado-Gil's office has requested comments from UMRWA regarding this opportunity to discuss water rights. The Executive Officer will prepare a summary of the project and report back to the Board on its potential implications for UMRWA's interests.

Executive Officer (EO) Comments:

The EO informed the Board that UMRWA Project Manager Megan Layhee presented on the MAC project at the Calaveras County Chamber of Commerce event on September 11, 2025. He also shared that the Stewardship Agreement with Stanislaus National Forest has been completed and provides additional forest health funding.

The Executive Officer reported his involvement in the Amador County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and noted that he is sharing information related to UMRWA's MAC Plan. He also announced that the EBMUD Pardee BBQ is scheduled for May 2026, which will result in the UMRWA Board meeting returning to the fourth Friday in October.

ADJOURNMENT: Director Woodrow adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. The next regular meeting will be held on January 23, 2026, at McLean Hall, Pardee Center, Valley Springs.

SUBMITTED BY:

Lorna Barfield, Authority Secretary

Terry Woodrow, Chair of the Board
APPROVED: January 23, 2026



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **2**

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026

Title:

Treasurer's Report (Q4 FY 2025) and Budget Reserve Policy

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Accept Treasurer's Report for filing.
- 2) Approve the revised Budget Reserve Policy to address recent changes in annual indirect fee revenues.

Summary:

A copy of the Treasurer's Report for the 4th Quarter of fiscal year 2025, which ended September 30, 2025, will be presented at the Board meeting.

Also presented below is a recommended change to the UMRWA Budget Reserve Policy to improve reserve fund administration.

Budget Reserve Policy:

With a substantial increase in indirect fee revenues collected by UMRWA in conjunction with its administration of awarded forest health grants, staff is recommending the Board update the Budget Reserve Policy that was established in 2019.

Policy refinements are appropriate at this time, given the significant increase in indirect revenues recently collected by UMRWA. Nearly all grants awarded to UMRWA to fund its forest work include fees paid to UMRWA to subsidize its indirect costs. These fees are based on a percentage of the grant award amount, typically about 10%. Up until and including FY 2023, annual indirect revenue amounts averaged about \$50,000. With the major uptick in UMRWA's forest work experienced in FYs 2024 and 2025, the Authority's annual indirect revenue amounts have increased substantially (to over \$269,000 and \$955,000 in FY24 and FY25).

Existing policy governing Reserve fund budgeting is largely based on ensuring UMRWA has sufficient cash flow to sustain its programs and associated operations in the case of temporarily reduced member agency funding and to pay any unsettled financial obligations. There are no longer any unsettled financial obligations, and the Blue Forest zero-percent interest line of credit satisfies UMRWA's need for cash reserves to pay contractors prior to being reimbursed by grantors. UMRWA now has five years' experience managing this reserve and has worked with the board during the budget process to apply surplus funds to items such as offsetting a portion of the Member Agency annual assessments and funding Forest Health Program activities that have not been funded by grants or member agency assessments.

Given UMRWA's Reserve fund balance of \$1.3M, and the diminished risk for unforeseen cash flow contingencies, it is recommended that the Budget Reserve policy be simplified to provide a minimum reserve amount of \$500,000 and to engage the board during the

annual budget process regarding the appropriate use of any surplus funds. Note that the current policy would result in a higher reserve balance (approximately \$650,000) due to the current provision to include in the target the value of 10% of the previous 3 years of grant expenditures. This provision alone could soon require a reserve above \$1M if the forest program continues at its current pace. This level of reserve is not required.

The existing and recommended revised Budget Reserve Policies are presented below.

Existing Budget Reserve Policy:

The annual target for the budgeted reserve will first be the sum of 50% of the prior 3-year average Member Funds expenditures, plus the sum of 10% of the prior 3-year average Grant Funds expenditures. Second, the sum of any unsettled financial obligation(s) is then to be added to determine the total budget reserve amount for that fiscal year.

Recommended revised Budget Reserve Policy:

The annual target amount for the budgeted Reserve fund will be set at no less than \$500,000 each year in conjunction with the Authority's annual budgeting process. Required funding for the annual budget will generally be apportioned to Member agency assessments for that fiscal year, with a Reserve fund appropriation as needed to achieve a balanced annual budget. In determining the use of Reserve funds which exceed the \$500,000 minimum, the following factors will be considered: cash flow sufficiency, unsettled financial obligations, Member agency annual assessment offsets, and initiation or continuation of priority programs.



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **3**

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026

Title:

Phase 1 - Forest Projects Plan Implementation Report

Recommended Actions:

- 1) Approve and authorize the Executive Officer to sign a General Services Agreement in the amount of \$1,394,073 with Thompson Land Management to perform the Cedar North fuels treatment project.
- 2) Approve and authorize the Executive Officer to sign a General Services Agreement in the amount of \$1,346,510 with GTS Forestry to perform the Cedar South fuels treatment project.
- 3) Approve and authorize the Executive Officer to sign a Consulting Services Agreement with Pyramid Botanical Consultants, Inc. in the amount of \$179,157 for botanical surveys of the Dogwood (Central, South, North, and West), Amador Aspen Restoration, Grove and Hemlock Projects.
- 4) Approve and authorize the Executive Officer to sign a Consulting Services Agreement in the amount of \$242,108 with Stewardship West for Dogwood Project Implementation Support.

Summary:

This Phase 1 Implementation Report presents two general services agreements for two fuels treatment projects, and two consulting services agreements for associated botanical and project management services, for Board approval. Also presented is a brief update on the progress being made to fully implement the Phase 1 - Forest Projects Plan (FPP-1) program, including recent developments to enhance the financial potential of the Mokelumne FRB (Forest Resilience Bond).

Fuels Treatment Contracts for Cedar North and Cedar South Projects:

Two general services agreements are recommended for Board approval. The \$1,394,073 Thompson Land Management agreement will execute prescribed treatments in the 614-acre Cedar North Project. The \$1,346,510 GTS Forestry agreement will accomplish fuels treatments to the 744-acre Cedar South Project. Both projects are fully funded by Cal Fire grant agreement #3.

The two recommended contractors were among the most highly qualified group of eight contractors as determined by the UMRWA RFQ process completed in 2025. Five of those eight short-listed contractors submitted cost and schedule proposals for the Cedar North and South Projects. Thompson Land Management and GTS Forestry were the best qualified to perform the Cedar Project treatments based on cost and schedule.

Pyramid Botanical – Dogwood, Grove, and Hemlock Projects:

A \$179,157 consulting services agreement with Pyramid Botanical Consultants is recommended for botanical services required for the next seven prioritized treatment projects (Dogwood Central, South, North, and West, along with the Amador Aspen

Restoration, Grove, and Hemlock Projects). Pyramid was the top-rated botanical consultant from the RFQ process administered by UMRWA in 2024. Pyramid's fees will be paid by grants awarded to UMRWA.

Stewardship West Agreement:

Also recommended for approval is a consulting services agreement with Stewardship West (SW) to participate in managing the Dogwood project contractor. SW has provided similar services to UMRWA in carrying out the Birch and Hwy 88 East projects. For Dogwood, these services include monitoring the treatment contractor's field operations, inspecting and accepting the contractor's completed work, and associated invoicing and reporting tasks. The maximum fee is \$242,108, with all SW costs to be reimbursed with funding from UMRWA's Cal Fire #3 grant.

Copies of the Thompson Land Management, GTS Forestry, Pyramid Botanical Consultants, and Stewardship West agreements are included in the Supplemental Materials Packet.

Mokelumne FRB (Forest Resilience Bond):

There have been two recent developments that impact the financial potential of the Mokelumne FRB. The first is that the Amador Water Agency Board of Directors voted to approve a \$10,000 commitment to the Upper Mokelumne FRB. With this contribution, AWA is taking advantage of EBMUD's matched funding opportunity.

The second development is Blue Forest's ongoing negotiation with a major US corporation for a significant contribution to the Mokelumne FRB. This corporation is seeking investment opportunities to demonstrate its efforts to partially offset its water resource demands. Investing in fuels treatment projects that serve to reduce the volume of water lost to forest evapotranspiration represents one of the potential mitigation investment opportunities being considered by the corporation. If Blue Forest successfully negotiates an agreement with this corporation for a contribution to the Mokelumne FRB, then UMRWA will likely need to execute an amended or new agreement with Blue Forest, which would direct how those funds would be used for forest health work.

FPP – Phase 1 Implementation Status

The Board's January 2023 approval of the 26,000-acre Forest Projects Plan - Phase 1 (FPP-1) marked the beginning of UMRWA's current forest fuels treatment program. Shortly thereafter, UMRWA staff, in coordination with Eldorado NF representatives, developed the FPP-1 Implementation Work Plan (IWP). The IWP established a process for delineating, ranking, and sequencing mechanical and hand fuels reduction treatment projects across the Phase 1 footprint. The IWP was updated in March 2025 to recognize treatment projects then underway and to reflect UMRWA having secured funding to treat nearly half of the total FPP-1 project area. [See Table 1 – FPP Phase 1 Projects]

In the program's first two full years (through the end of the 2025 work season), UMRWA contractors have treated more than 6,600 of those acres, with 4,588 acres treated in 2025. In November, the 2,348-acre Hwy 88 project, which was UMRWA's first FPP-1 implementation project, was completed. [See Table 2 – FPP Phase 1 Acres Treated]

Looking ahead to the 2026 season, UMRWA has the following projects programmed.

| Project | Contractor(s) | Acres | Status |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Arbor | Markit! <i>and</i> GTS | 1,707 | Under contract |
| Birch | GTS Forestry and Washoe Tribe | 153 | Under contract |
| Cedar | Thompson Land <i>and</i> GTS | 1,358 | Award 1/23/2026 |
| Dogwood Central & South | TBD | 1,386 | Award 4/24/2026 |
| | | 4,604 | Total Acres |

Table 1 – FPP Phase 1 Projects

| FPP-1 PROJECTS | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| Project | Contractor | Treatment \$ (Contract or Grant) | Total Grant Award | Contract Expires | Acres | Funding (Expires) |
| Hwy 88 | Burnbot | \$3,672,000 | \$4,999,967 | 10/31/2025 | 2,348 | Cal Fire #1 (3/31/26) |
| Arbor 1 | Markit! | \$1,341,429 | \$6,999,934 | 11/15/2027 | 883 | Cal Fire #2 (3/30/29) |
| Arbor 2 | GTS Forestry | \$2,860,158 | " | 11/15/2027 | 1,483 | Cal Fire #2 (3/30/29) |
| Arbor 3 | GTS Forestry | \$682,541 | " | 11/15/2027 | 767 | Cal Fire #2 (3/30/29) |
| Birch 1 | Redding Tree | \$940,959 | \$4,739,056 | 11/15/2027 | 1,118 | SNC 1636 (1/1/28) |
| Birch 2 | GTS Forestry | \$718,551 | " | 11/15/2027 | 486 | SNC 1636 (1/1/28) |
| Hwy 88 East | Redding Tree | \$1,578,677 | " | 12/15/2026 | 1,447 | SNC 1636 (1/1/28) |
| Hwy 88 East | Washoe Tribe | \$46,500 | " | 12/15/2026 | 9.3 | SNC 1636 (1/1/28) |
| Cedar | Washoe Tribe | \$80,175 | \$3,986,000 | 12/15/2026 | 10.5 | WCB #2 (3/31/28) |
| Cedar - North | Thompson Land | \$1,394,073 | " | 11/15/2027 | 614 | WCB #2 (3/31/28) |
| Cedar - South | GTS Forestry | \$1,346,510 | " | 11/15/2027 | 744 | WCB #2 (3/31/28) |
| Cedar | CHIPS | \$85,250 | \$100,000 | 12/15/2026 | 15.5 | Blue Forest |
| Dogwood 1 | Tbd (Mech) | \$1,947,500 | \$4,293,399 | TBD | 779 | Cal Fire #3 (3/31/30) |
| Dogwood 2 | Tbd (Hand) | \$848,800 | " | TBD | 607 | Cal Fire #3 (3/31/30) |
| | | \$17,543,123 | \$25,118,356 | | 11311 | |

Table 2 – FPP Phase 1 Acres Treated

UMRWA FPP-1 ACRES TREATED

| Project | Contractor | Total 2024 Acres | Q1 2025 | Q2 2025 | Q3 2025 | Q4 2025 | Total 2025 Acres | Total Acres to Date | Acres Remaining |
|-------------|------------|------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Hwy 88 | BB | 1284.1 | 0 | 378.6 | 670.9 | 15.1 | 1064.6 | 2348.7 | 0 |
| Arbor 1 | Markit! | 0 | 0 | 19.7 | 84 | 54 | 157.7 | 157.7 | 655.1 |
| Arbor 2 (M) | GTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 755.4 | 308 | 1063.4 | 1063.4 | 419.7 |
| Arbor 3 (H) | GTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 98.6 | 35.9 | 134.5 | 134.5 | 632.4 |
| Birch 1 | RTG | 779 | 0 | 338.7 | Done | 0 | 338.7 | 1117.7 | 0 |
| Birch 2 | GTS | 0 | 0 | 199.2 | 142.7 | 0 | 341.9 | 341.9 | 144.1 |
| H 88 East | RTG | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1158.7 | 288.3 | 1447 | 1447.0 | 0 |
| Cedar | CHIPS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.3 | 11.2 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 0 |
| Cedar | Washoe | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 0 |
| | | 2063.1 | 0 | 936.2 | 2914.6 | 723 | 4573.8 | 6636.9 | 1851.3 |



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **4**

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026

Title:

Phase 2 - MAC Forest Health and Resilience Project Report

Recommendation:

Approve the Seventh Amendment to the Consulting Services Agreement with Stantec to increase the maximum cost ceiling by \$150,000 and extend the term from March 31, 2026, until December 31, 2026, and authorize the Executive Officer to sign.

Summary:

UMRWA's landscape-level planning and environmental compliance initiative, Mokelumne Amador Calaveras Forest Health and Resilience Project (MAC Project), is nearing completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The project spans Stanislaus and Eldorado NF lands within and flanking the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed. Initiated in September 2022 as a partnership between UMRWA, the two National Forests, and the ACCG, and heavily supported by Stantec (the consulting firm engaged by UMRWA), the process for finalizing the NEPA process and associated plan documents is closing. Summarized below is the project status as it advances toward its expected completion later this year. Also presented below is the basis for the recommended Seventh Amendment to the Stantec agreement.

MAC Forest Project Status:

The MAC Project Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the Federal Register on September 26, 2024, followed by a 30-day comment period. Nineteen comment letters were received during the 30 days, totaling over 170 individual comments. The MAC team utilized these comments to inform the development of the proposed action.

The team has completed the final modeling work to assist in identifying priority areas for treatments within the approximately 250,000-acre MAC Project analysis area. The proposed actions include approximately 67,000 acres of forest thinning, 50,000 acres of fuels reduction, 22,000 acres of fuel break construction and prescribed fire proposed across the 250,000-acre project area. The team is using fire behavior and vegetation simulation modeling to assess impacts of treatments to forest structure and predict future potential wildfire risk.

The development of the DEIS is nearing completion and anticipated to be finalized by early February 2026 when public review would begin. Eldorado NF and Stanislaus NF project decisions are expected to be signed in spring 2026.

The USFS is utilizing new NEPA regulations that allow for a more streamlined comment opportunity for regulatory agencies, tribes, the public and other key stakeholders, instead of the previous standard formal 45-day public comment period. Chapters 1 and 2 of the DEIS, including the purpose and need and proposed action, were circulated for public review from September 10 to September 24, 2025. Input from that comment period is being used to finalize the full DEIS package. That package will include updated Chapters 1

and 2, as well as the effects analysis, and specialist and resource reports. These are anticipated to be completed and go out for public review for a 14-day period in February 2026. UMRWA is committed to ensuring that this streamlined process will still provide sufficient opportunity for input from stakeholders.

In order to allow for future MAC forest thinning work to be conducted as soon as possible, UMRWA will be soliciting bids for MAC pre-implementation bird survey work in 2026 and 2027 within the Mokelumne River watershed in both the Amador (ENF) Ranger District and the Calaveras (SNF) Ranger District, including in and around Bear Valley, and along Hwy 88 and Hwy 4. Two-year surveys must be conducted prior to thinning so starting this work in 2026 will allow for thinning to occur as soon as 2028. Survey work will be funded by the USFS through existing UMRWA Stewardship Agreements with ENF and SNF. Timing of this work is such that the Executive Officer may need to execute a start-up contract under his authority with the selected vendor(s) prior to board approval of the primary contract(s). This is because field work may need to commence as early as mid-April about one week prior to the April 24 UMRWA Board meeting, when the approval of the contract(s) will be considered.

Stantec – Seventh Amendment:

The Stantec contract has been funded through several grants and amended as needed to complete the environmental documentation when funding is available. Stantec's current contract cost ceiling is \$1,549,400 and has been funded primarily by state grants. Stantec has expended approximately \$1.47M as of early December. An additional \$150,000 is needed to finish up the Draft EIS and support preparation of the Final EIS once the public comments are received. This funding is available and identified in the Cal Fire #3 Grant Agreement. The contract termination date will also be extended from March 31, 2026, to July 31, 2026. The Seventh Amendment is included below.

SEVENTH AMENDMENT TO CONSULTING SERVICES
AGREEMENT FOREST PROJECTS PLAN – PHASE 2
(Project Planning and Environmental Planning Services)

THIS SEVENTH (7TH) AMENDMENT TO CONSULTING SERVICES AGREEMENT (“Agreement”) is made as of January 23, 2026 by and between the UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER WATERSHED AUTHORITY; a joint powers agency formed pursuant to the laws of the State of California (“Authority”) and STANTEC, Inc. (“Contractor”).

RECITALS

A. AUTHORITY and CONTRACTOR executed an agreement (the “Original Agreement”) dated August 29, 2022, whereby CONTRACTOR agreed to provide professional services related to environmental planning services for projects within the Forest Projects Plan.

B. AUTHORITY and CONTRACTOR executed Amendment 1 to the Original Agreement on February 23, 2023, to increase the maximum cost ceiling and update the Scope of Work;

C. AUTHORITY and CONTRACTOR executed Amendment 2 to the Original Agreement on October 6, 2023, to increase the maximum cost ceiling and update the Scope of Work;

D. AUTHORITY and CONTRACTOR executed Amendment 3 to the Original Agreement on November 17, 2023, to extend the term of the original agreement by one year to December 31, 2024;

E. AUTHORITY and CONTRACTOR executed Amendment 4 to the Original Agreement on June 1, 2024, to further increase the maximum cost ceiling, update the Scope of Work and extend the term of the original agreement to December 31, 2025;

F. AUTHORITY and CONTRACTOR executed Amendment 5 to the original Agreement on June 19, 2025, to further increase the maximum cost ceiling, update the Scope of Work and extend the term of the original agreement to March 31, 2026;

G. AUTHORITY AND CONTRACTOR executed Amendment 6 to the original Agreement on October 23, 2025, to further increase the maximum cost ceiling and update the Scope of Work;

H. and AUTHORITY and CONTRACTOR desire to execute Amendment 7 to the original Agreement to further increase the maximum cost ceiling and extend the term;

I. AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS authorized this amendment and the Executive Officer’s execution thereof at its January 23, 2026, regular meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. The total compensation for completion of the work is hereby increased in the amount of \$150,000 and shall not exceed \$1,699,400.
2. The Agreement termination date is extended from March 31, 2026 to December 31, 2026.
3. Except as set forth in this Amendment, the Original Agreement and Amendments 1

through 6 shall remain unmodified and in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Seventh Amendment as of the date first set forth above.

UPPER MOKELUMNE RIVER WATERSHED AUTHORITY:

Richard Syke, UMRWA date

Katie Ross-Smith, STANTEC, Inc. date

EXHIBIT B – Budget

| Task Name | Amendment #1 | Amendment #2 | Amendment #4 | Amendment #5 | Amendment #6 | Amendment #7 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Task 1 Project Management, Coordination, Outreach, and Meetings | \$143,980 | \$120,000 | \$194,260 | \$55,000 | | \$40,000 |
| Task 2 Focused Field Surveys and Studies | | \$78,000 | \$77,050 | | \$109,000 | |
| Task 3 NEPA Process, Planning and Modeling | \$30,500 | \$162,000 | \$271,374 | \$245,000 | | \$85,000 |
| Task 4 T&E Species Agency Consultation | - | \$40,000 | \$23,236 | | | \$25,000 |
| | | | | | | |
| Sub-total | \$174,480 | \$400,000 | \$565,920 | \$300,000 | \$109,000 | \$150,000 |
| Total | | | | | | \$1,699,400 |



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **5**

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026

Title:

Report on Mokelumne Pumped Storage Project

Recommendation:

Receive Report

Summary:

At the October 3, 2025 meeting, the Board requested that staff provide a presentation on the Mokelumne Pumped Storage Project being developed by GreenGenStorage LLC. This project would produce 400 MW of renewable electric energy by generating hydroelectric power through a series of tunnels connecting Lower Bear River Reservoir with Salt Springs Reservoir. The generation station and connection to the existing electric power transmission system would be at Salt Springs Reservoir. The project would pump water from Salt Springs Reservoir to Lower Bear Reservoir when there is excess power generation in the State's electric energy grid and generate power by releasing those flows back to Lower Bear Reservoir during periods when there is a deficit in generation (e.g. nighttime when there is no generation from solar power projects) and power costs are high. The project is currently in the permitting phase with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the State Water Resources Control Board. The total estimated cost for the project is \$1.8B. Details of the project are provided below. Staff will provide a presentation on the project at the January 23 Board meeting.

Project Description:

The Mokelumne Pumped Storage Project (also called the Mokelumne Water Battery Project) proposes a new 400-megawatt (MW) pumped storage hydroelectric facility located near the city of Jackson in Amador and Calaveras Counties. The Project would utilize the existing Salt Springs Reservoir (SSR) (located on the North Fork Mokelumne River) and the Lower Bear River Reservoir (LBRR) (located on the Bear River). SSR and LBRR are owned and operated as part of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's (PG&E's) Mokelumne River Hydroelectric Project. The Project would generate power by conveying water from LBRR to generation facilities near SSR, where the water would be released. The Project would store energy by pumping water from SSR to LBRR. The Project would encompass 75.3 acres of land owned by the Eldorado National Forest and PG&E. Only a very small fraction of this land would have above-ground facilities.

The Project would consist of:

- A submerged intake/outlet (I/O) riser lake tap within LBRR.
- A gate shaft and gatehouse located approximately 1,700 ft (0.3 miles) southeast of the LBRR lake tap, sited within a rock outcrop alongside the shore of LBRR. The gate shaft would be 40-ft diameter and have a depth of 280 ft to Tunnel No. 1. The gatehouse containing the hydraulic cylinder and gate operating equipment would be located 30 feet below grade.
- A low-pressure 22-foot-diameter tunnel (Tunnel No. 1) extending 10,700 feet from the intake to the pressure shaft, which would contain a fixed wheel gate valve.

- A 22-foot-diameter, 1560-foot-long pressure shaft with a 30-foot-diameter, 550-foot-long surge shaft daylighting on the surface.
- A pressurized 22-foot-diameter tunnel (Tunnel No. 2) extending 4,700 feet from the pressure shaft to the subterranean powerhouse.
- A subterranean powerhouse cavern containing two identical variable-speed Francis-type reversible pump-turbines, each coupled with a 200 MW synchronous motor-generator; and a spare bay for the potential installation of a third unit in the future. This facility would be approximately 50 feet by 275 feet.
- A tailrace tunnel (Tunnel No. 3) connects the draft tubes of each pump-turbine to the I/O lake tap within SSR which would contain an isolation valve cavern.
- A 230-kilovolt (kV) switchyard serving as the point of interconnection with the existing Salt Springs substation.
- A 30-foot-diameter, 3,900-foot-long access tunnel to the powerhouse cavern, the upper and lower gate shafts, and the surge shaft facilities.
- An 18-foot-diameter, 4,100-foot-long utility tunnel to transmit power to and from the surface switchyard providing a secondary exit from the facility and ventilation.

Project Owner:

The project owner is GreenGenStorage, LLC. Tallgrass Energy, an energy/pipeline company based in Colorado, is the primary funder and member of this LLC.

Project Benefits:

- 400 MW (up to 3200 MWH of production daily) of on-demand renewable electrical energy
- 100s of construction jobs
- Up to 40 permanent jobs
- Tax revenue during construction is estimated at \$8.6M for Amador Co. and \$6.4M for Calaveras Co.

Key Issues/Concerns:

- Water Quality (temperature)
- Water Rights
- Impacts to existing water and power project operations
- Recreation impacts during construction and operation
- Environmental impacts (in reservoirs, Bear River)
- Tunnel excavation spoils disposal

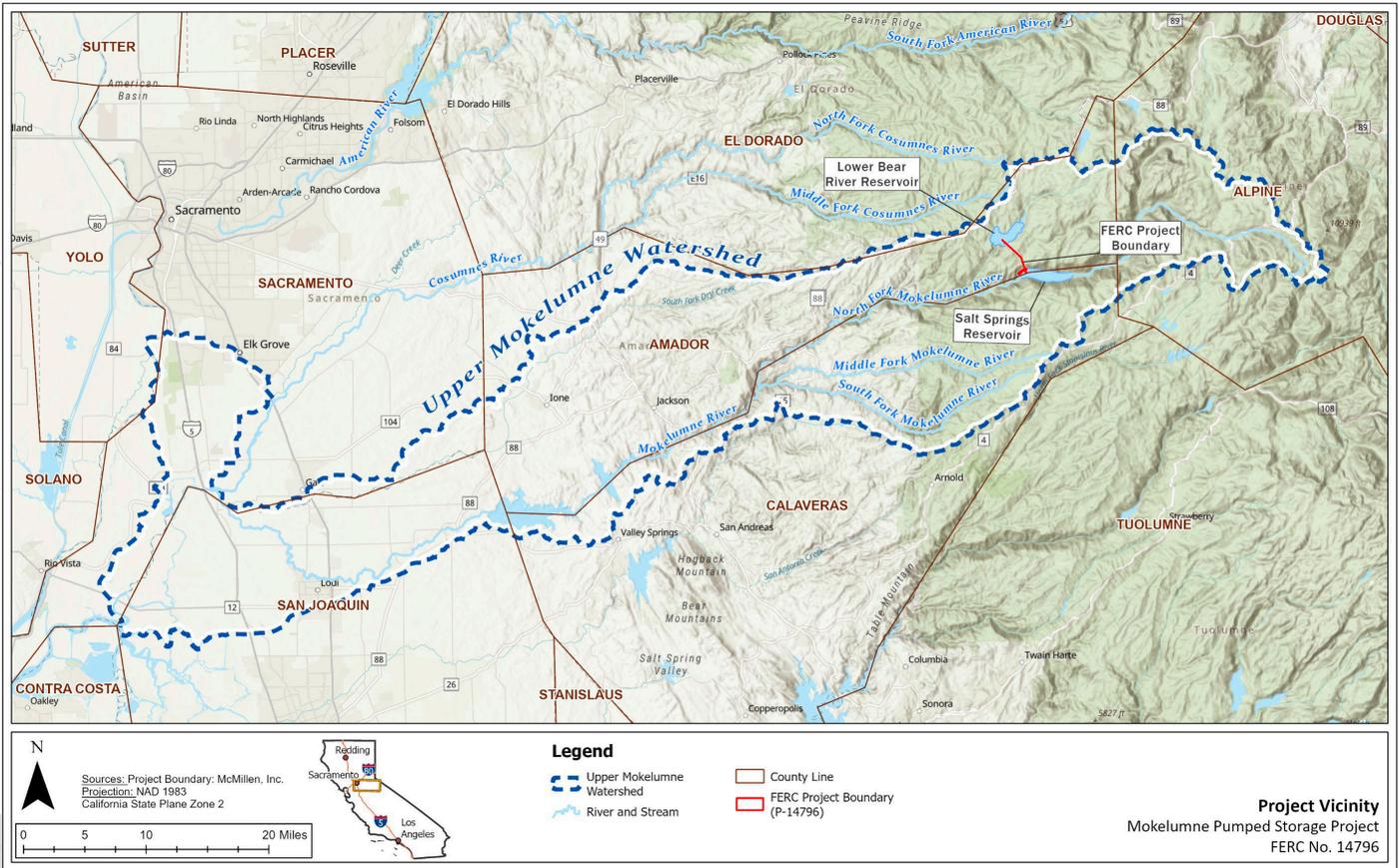
Outreach:

- Ongoing outreach is occurring with Tribes and public
- Foothill Conservancy and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance oppose the project

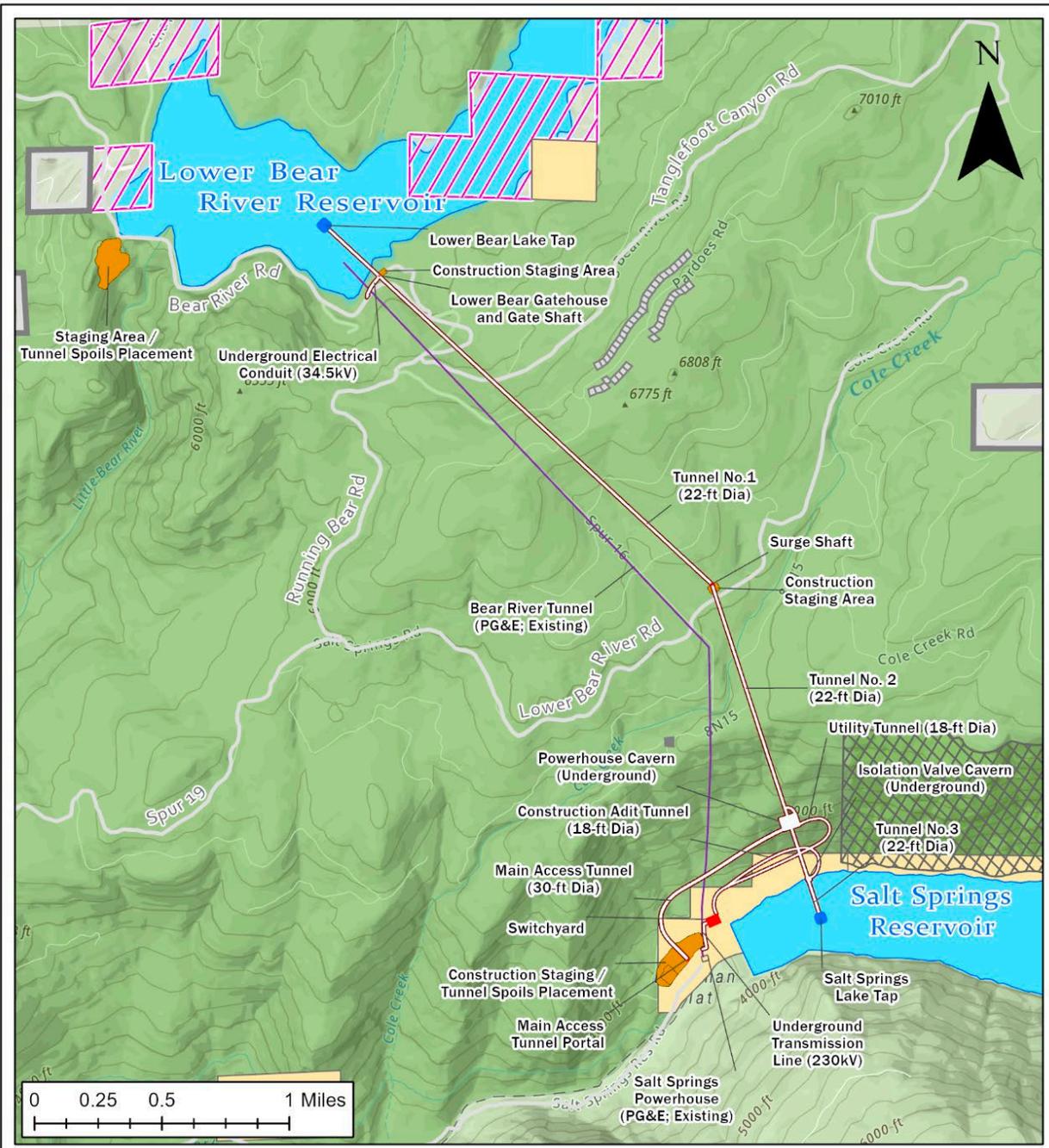
Key Steps/Schedule:

- FERC Final Permit Application – submitted in 2025
- 10% Design – complete
- Requests for Proposals for Power Purchase Agreements (capacity and energy). This step may happen in 2026 and is essential for moving forward with the project.
- Complete Design – in 2026 following successful PPA proposals
- Complete NEPA (FERC lead agency) and CEQA (SWRCB lead agency) – 2027
- Construction – begin 2028 with a 4.5-year duration

Estimated Cost of Project: \$1.8B



Background: Esri, CGIAR, USGS, California State Parks, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SateGraph, FAO, METNUSA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USFWS



Proposed Project Layout
 Mokelumne Pumped
 Storage Project
 FERC No. 14796

- Legend**
- Primary Project Access Road
 - Existing Tunnel Alignment (PG&E P-137)
 - Aboveground
 - Submerged
 - Underground
 - Construction Staging Area
- Land Ownership**
- Mother Lode Land Trust Conservation Easement
 - PG&E
 - Private
 - Mokelumne Wilderness Area
 - Eldorado National Forest
 - Stanislaus National Forest



PROJECT LAYOUT: GIBBONS AND ASSOCIATES, INC. OWNERSHIP: CALIFORNIA FIRE



Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

Agenda No: **6**

Meeting Date: January 23, 2026

Title:

Legislative Issues Update

Recommendation:

For discussion and possible action – legislative matters discussed by the Board

Summary:

No specific legislative matters are included in this staff report. At the Board meeting the EO may orally summarize any relevant legislative information that may be obtained prior to the Board meeting. Additionally, Board directors and/or agency staff may have legislation of interest and this agenda item is intended to facilitate discussion of it.