

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