

**WaterSMART
Cooperative Watershed Management Program
Phase I Grants**

Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F003

PROPOSAL

**Upper American River
Watershed Program**

Applicant:

El Dorado County Water Agency
4330 Golden Center Drive, Suite C
Placerville, CA 95667



**El Dorado
Water Agency**

January 19, 2021

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TECHNICAL PROPOSAL AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

(1) Executive Summary

Name of Project

Date: January 19, 2021
Applicant: El Dorado County Water Agency
City, County, State: Placerville, El Dorado County, California

Proposal Summary

Led by the El Dorado County Water Agency (Agency), the Upper American River Watershed Program (UARWP) will form a new watershed group with the goal of addressing critical issues in the Upper American River Watershed, located in Northern California approximately 20 miles northeast of Sacramento. This watershed provides water to Folsom Reservoir, a critical piece of the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Central Valley Project (CVP) with a significant portion of National Forest lands. Municipal, industrial, and agricultural water users in the greater Sacramento region and throughout California rely on the Upper American River Watershed for water supplies and hydroelectricity, as well as abundant wilderness and recreation opportunities. The snowpack and cold-water resources in the upper watershed are critical for Reclamation's river temperature management in the lower American River for endangered fishery species. Variables such as population growth, climate change, and reduced snowpack threaten the watershed's capacity to provide reliable water supply with pristine water quality to support human consumption and environmental needs. Recent devastating wildfires with increasing frequency and severity, exposed the weaknesses of current passive forest management and overall headwater management that are critical to public safety and climate resiliency. These compounded and interconnected issues in the Upper American River Watershed cannot be effectively addressed without a watershed approach that ties land use, resource management, and economic development for sustainable outcomes. A successful watershed management program will improve long-term water supply reliability to Reclamation at Folsom Dam and Reservoir to meet all authorized purposes for the CVP – part of the adaptation strategies developed in the recent Reclamation's American River Basin Study (ARBS) in collaboration with American River Basin partners including the Agency. The proposed UARWP will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, including local land use authorities, water purveyors, resource conservation districts, non-governmental organizations, Tribal Governments, and Federal agencies, to develop a restoration plan to address the identified threats, creating benefits to local communities, and potentially statewide. If funded, activities conducted under this grant will include forming a new watershed group, conducting an assessment of baseline watershed conditions, and identifying and prioritizing projects to manage the watershed.

Estimated Duration and Completion Date

The proposed UARWP activities under this grant (refer to as Phase I Grant) are anticipated to kick-off in July 2021 and continue for two years (Phase I Grant Duration), through June 2023.

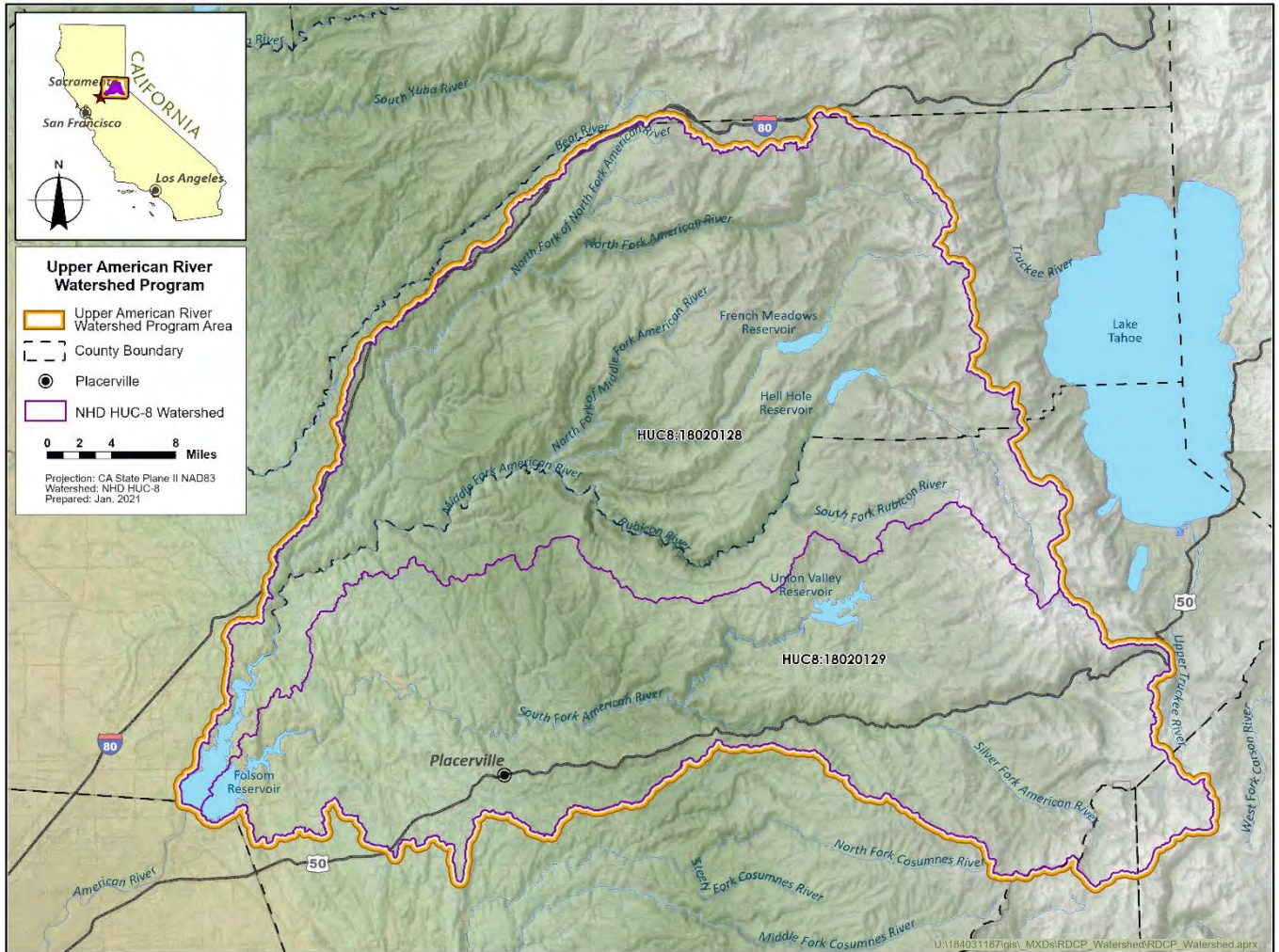
Reclamation Facilities Addressed by the Project

Reclamation's CVP American River Unit, including Folsom Dam and Reservoir, is the main Reclamation facility to be addressed by the UARWP. Through the operation of Folsom Dam and Reservoir, the project benefits would expand to the remaining CVP facility downstream in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and south of the Delta for all authorized purposes of the CVP.

(2) Project Location

The UARWP will encompass watershed issues in the Upper American River Watershed, shown in **Figure 1**. The Upper American River Watershed is in Northern California approximately 20 miles northeast of the City of Sacramento. It consists of the U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Codes (HUC) 18020128 and 18020129 (HUC 8 level watersheds). The watershed spans from the Sierra Nevada to the east and Folsom Dam and Reservoir to the west, encompassing 1,863 square miles of headwaters with mostly Nation Forests and rural-agricultural communities. It includes the City of Placerville and portions of El Dorado and Placer Counties, including many unincorporated communities like El Dorado Hills, Georgetown, Coloma, Cameron Park, Grizzly Flats and Pollock Pines in the Gold Country.

The Upper American River Watershed includes many streams, lakes, and reservoirs. The American River is the primary water body in the watershed and has three forks: North, Middle, and South. Folsom Dam and Reservoir, with a capacity of 977,000 acre-feet, is located downstream from the confluence of the North Fork American River and South Fork American River and is at the most downstream portion of the Upper American River Watershed. This watershed also includes many regulating reservoirs such as Ice House, Union Valley, Hell Hole, and French Meadows Reservoirs, which are managed by local entities and used for water supply, power generation, and recreational purposes.



Key: NHD = National Hydrography Dataset; HUC = Hydrologic Unit Codes

Figure 1. Geographic Location of Upper American River Watershed

(3) Technical Project Description

Applicant Background and Eligibility

The Agency is a special district established under the 1959 El Dorado County Water Agency Act for water resource development and management in El Dorado County with authority to engage Federal, state, and other agencies for resource management within and outside of El Dorado County. Leveraging its authority and partnership with the County of El Dorado, water purveyors, resource managers, economic interests, and the public, the Agency recently created a common vision for integrated water management in El Dorado County in its 2019 Water Resources Development and Management Plan¹ (2019 WRDMP). The 2019 WRDMP identifies five Agency-led implementation programs, one of which is to expand watershed management to support its primary water security program through recognition that overall watershed health is the foundation for sustainable water management in the county and throughout the state. This program was further affirmed in the Agency's recently-completed 2021-2025 Strategic Plan (SP 25+). As such, the Agency is facilitating formation of the UARWP. The UARWP will help expand and elevate current ongoing watershed planning efforts in the Upper American River Watershed to improve both efficiency and effectiveness. Through this grant, several key activities, including formation of a **new** watershed group (Watershed Group), will be performed to support the UARWP are described further below. The Agency will be responsible for convening and facilitating the **new** Watershed Group, in addition to collaboratively developing and delivering the other below-proposed activities using this Phase I Grant.

Applicant Category

The Agency is seeking funding to support the formation of a new Watershed Group. There are existing groups that touch on watershed issues in the Upper American River Watershed; however, from the Agency's discussions with these groups and other stakeholders, these existing groups are either limited to a small portion of a watershed (e.g., South Fork American River [SOFAR] Cohesive Strategy) or too broad for focused actions (e.g. Cosumnes, American, Bear and Yuba [CABY] Integrated Regional Water Management Group). Hence a new watershed-specific group dedicated to the entire Upper American River Watershed is imperative for focused planning and consistent implementation. This Watershed Group will develop and implement specific and tangible projects to improve and sustain this watershed which is of statewide importance.

Approach and Goals

As stated above, the Agency will be responsible for delivering, overseeing, and facilitating these proposed activities for this Phase I Grant. The activities fall under the following two Task Areas identified in *Section C.3.1. Eligible Projects* of the Federal Opportunity Announcement:

- **Task Area A: Watershed Group Development** – Perform activities to support formation of the broad-based collaborative Watershed Group which will bring together a diverse group of stakeholders, including local municipalities, water purveyors, non-governmental organizations, Tribal Governments, and Federal agencies. This includes developing a work plan to address watershed-related issues in the Upper American River Watershed, collecting relevant information on the watershed, conducting pre-planning activities, and developing the group charter and related public outreach materials.

¹ EDWA. 2019. Water Resources Development and Management Plan.

- **Task Area B: Watershed Restoration Planning** – Perform planning activities in collaboration with the Watershed Group. Includes developing a Watershed Restoration Plan for the Upper American River Watershed (refer to as the Watershed Plan) outline, defining existing Upper American River Watershed conditions, and identifying and prioritizing specific actions or projects to improve watershed conditions.

Note that the proposed activities to be conducted under this Phase I Grant are only a component of the overall UARWP. **Figure 2** shows the overall UARWP and the portion to be completed through the Phase I Grant. The Agency and many stakeholders consider the needs of a coordinated development and implementation of the UARWMP and associated Watershed Group functions are long-term for intended purposes. This Phase I Grant is critical for establishing a positive first step toward long-term sustainable watershed management.

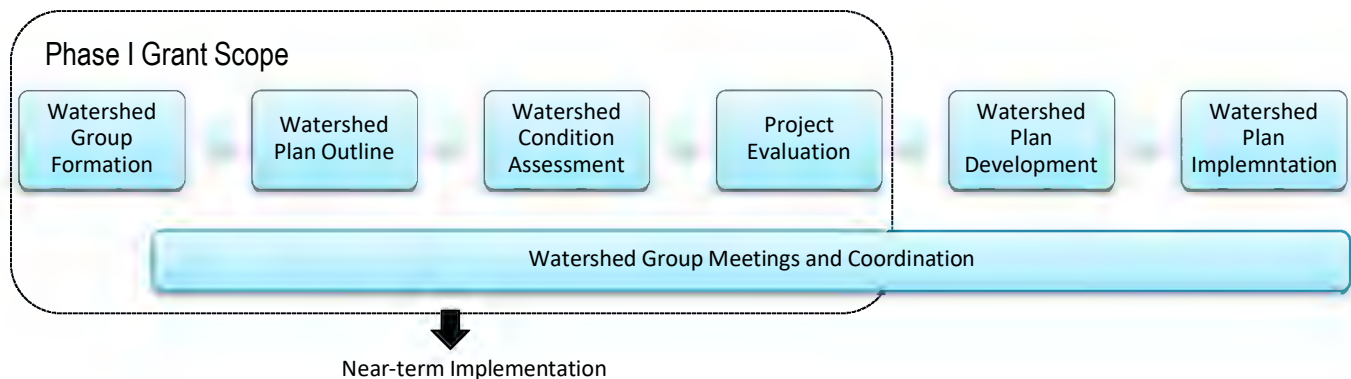


Figure 2. Upper American River Watershed Program Overview

As proposed, the Agency’s goals and objectives of activities within the UARWP during the Phase I Grant are to:

- **Establish a diverse and active stakeholder group** (i.e., Watershed Group). The Watershed Group’s goal are to address critical issues in the Upper American River Watershed, while leveraging available talents and expertise of different government entities in a collaborative and cooperative manner to maximize efficiency.
- **Define baseline watershed conditions** including identifying critical issues and needs using input from the Watershed Group in conjunction with available data, plans, information, and references.
- **Identify and prioritize potential projects** for implementation by partners of the Watershed Group to promote a multi-benefit approach to watershed management for healthy ecosystem functions, fire risk reduction, and integrity of headwaters for water resiliency.

The following provides additional detailed descriptions about these activities to be performed in the two-year period of this Phase I Grant. The Agency expects that consulting services would be required to support the activities and where appropriate, are included below task description and associated budget.

Task Area A: Watershed Group Development

A1 – Conduct Outreach

Under this task, the Agency will conduct outreach activities to promote awareness about the UARWP and encourage the participation of diverse stakeholders in the Watershed Group. To support broad-based public and stakeholder outreach, the Agency will develop an informational fact sheet, flyers, and/or other collaterals describing the UARWP's intended purpose, objectives, geographic scope, and how interested parties can get involved. These materials will be distributed utilizing the Agency's and participating stakeholders' mailing lists, social media accounts, and newsletters. In addition, the Agency will develop template email and social media language for participating partners to use during outreach. The outreach materials, and future UARWP documents, will be stored on a dedicated project webpage on the Agency's existing website at <http://www.edwateragency.org/>.

Deliverable(s): Fact sheet, flyer, template website and social media text

A2 – Establish and Convene Watershed Group

The Agency will work with stakeholders and partners to establish and convene the watershed group in the first year of the Phase I Grant Duration.

A2.1 – Convene Watershed Group

The Agency will convene the Watershed Group and provide planning and facilitation to support up to one kick-off and two additional Watershed Group meetings. The meetings will serve as a forum for stakeholders and interested members of the public to discuss key issues related to the Upper American River Watershed and coordinate watershed management actions and projects. The meetings funded under this grant will be used to establish the Watershed Group and support development of the deliverables identified under Subtask A2.2 and Tasks B1, B2, and B3.

The Agency will be responsible for scheduling Watershed Group meetings and coordinating with the Watershed Group members. With the support of a professional facilitator, the Agency will also develop the meeting agendas, materials, and post-meeting summaries.

Deliverable(s): Watershed Group membership and contact database; agendas, summaries, and supporting materials for up to four (4) Watershed Group meetings.

A2.2 – Develop Charter and Work Plan

In close coordination with the Watershed Group members, the Agency will develop a group charter and work plan. The Watershed Group charter will establish the guidelines within which the group members will operate, carry out their respective roles, and make decisions. The charter will identify the group's mission, goals, objectives, governance structure, membership, roles and responsibilities, decision-making process, and the meeting schedule.

In collaboration with the Watershed Group, the Agency will develop a work plan for the near-term activities the Watershed Group would like to accomplish. The work plan will include a schedule and activities for establishing the long-term financial support of the UARWP and implementation of the prioritized projects identified under Task B3. To assist the recruitment, the Agency will prepare initial draft mission, goals, and objectives for the charter, and initial draft work plan. The content of the charter and work plan will be discussed and fully developed through facilitated discussions as the Watershed Group is formally convened to receive direct input from the group members.

Deliverable(s): Charter, Work Plan and Schedule

A3 – Hold Project Team Meetings

Under this task, the Agency will hold monthly calls throughout the Phase I Grant Duration with consultant's support to keep the project and deliverables on schedule. Meeting topics may include but are not limited to, brainstorming initial ideas for stakeholder outreach, drafting agendas and materials for Watershed Group meetings, and topic-specific discussions to develop task deliverables. Topic-specific subject matter experts may be included in the calls as appropriate.

Deliverable(s): None. Materials developed for or during these calls are included as part of other task's deliverables.

Task Area B: Watershed Restoration Planning

B1 – Develop Watershed Plan Outline

The Agency will collaborate with the Watershed Group to develop an annotated outline for the Watershed Plan for the Upper American River Watershed. The objectives, issues of concern, and key topics identified in the outline will be discussed at a Watershed Group meeting and refined based on feedback from the Watershed Group members and other stakeholders. The outline will be further refined based on the results of the desktop assessment conducted under Task B2 and watershed management project evaluation conducted under Task B3. The outline developed under this task will be used to develop the Watershed Plan, will be completed using funds not covered under the proposed activities for this Phase I Grant.

Deliverable(s): Watershed Plan outline

B2 – Define Watershed Conditions

The Agency will gather information and conduct a desktop assessment on available information to define baseline conditions in the Upper American River Watershed. The Agency will gather information about issues and needs related to water quality and quantity with the watershed using existing publicly available studies and reports. This information will be augmented by information provided by the Watershed Group members. The Agency will then define baseline conditions and identify needs and challenges in the watershed. The results of the desktop assessment will be summarized in a technical memo and presented to the Watershed Group. The assessment results will be used to refine the Watershed Plan outline developed under Task B1, inform the project evaluation and prioritization method developed under Task B3, and inform the content the full Plan which will be developed outside the scope of this grant.

Deliverable(s): Technical memo on initial watershed condition assessment and potential data gaps

B3 – Evaluate Watershed Management Projects

After the Upper American River Watershed conditions are defined, the Agency, in coordination with the Watershed Group, will evaluate various watershed management projects to promote watershed restoration.

B3.1 – Identify Projects

The Agency will coordinate with the Watershed Group members to develop a list of multi-objective watershed management projects that may address the issues and needs identified in Task B2. Leveraging the available information on projects and activities, this list may include projects, programs, or administrative actions that provide direct benefits to the Upper American River Watershed. The intended benefits and scope of these projects will be

provided by each project proponent. It is assumed that the Agency will not perform detailed technical analyses for these identified projects; however, initial screening for consistency to the mission, goals and objectives of the Watershed Group and the vision of the resulting Watershed Plan would be conducted with consultant's support.

The Agency will compile an initial list of projects based on publicly available local and regional planning documents. The list of projects will be presented and confirmed by the Watershed Group and incorporated into the Watershed Plan, which will be developed outside the scope of this Phase I Grant. The potential gaps for projects and actions to fulfill the goals and objectives of the UARWP would be identified.

Deliverable(s): Final list of watershed management projects

B3.2 – Evaluate and Prioritize Projects

Once the projects are identified, the Agency will facilitate a project prioritization process. In close coordination with the Watershed Group, the Agency will develop evaluation criteria and metrics to evaluate the projects. Projects may be evaluated based on criteria such as benefits to the watershed, economic efficiency, implementation complexity, public support, social equity, and ecological sustainability. The draft evaluation criteria will be reviewed and confirmed by the Watershed Group members. The Agency will then prioritize projects based on information provided by each project proponent. A technical memo describing the prioritization criteria and the final list of prioritized projects will be developed as part of this subtask. The technical memo will be incorporated into the Watershed Plan, which will be developed outside the scope of this grant.

Deliverable(s): Technical memo on project evaluation including the list of prioritized projects

Administrative Task – Project Management

If the Agency is awarded an Agreement, the Agency will submit the following required reports during the period of performance of the Agreement.

Admin 1 – Financial Reports

The Agency will complete and submit form SF-425 Federal Financial Report on at a least a quarterly basis and with the final performance report.

Deliverable(s): Federal Financial Report forms

Admin 2 – Interim Performance Reports

The Agency will complete and submit interim performance reports on at a least a quarterly basis.

Deliverable(s): Interim performance reports

Admin 3 – Final Performance Report

The Agency will complete and submit a final performance report encompassing the entire period of performance at the end of the two-year period of performance.

Deliverable(s): Final performance report

Admin 4 – Sufficiency Report

The Agency will complete and submit a report describing the progress the Agency has made on the program since the effective date of the Phase I Grant Agreement after the award.

Deliverable(s): Sufficiency report

(4) Evaluation Criteria

Evaluation Criterion A — Watershed Group Diversity and Geographic Scope

A1. Watershed Group Diversity

The Agency's goal is to ensure that the Watershed Group includes participation from a broad-based and diverse group of stakeholders in the Upper American River Watershed. The Agency anticipates that the Watershed Group will include members representing land use, water, energy, economic development, public safety, agriculture, municipal and industrial, environmental, recreational, Tribal Governments, forest management, and timber interests.

To promote awareness of the UARWP and recruit stakeholders to the Watershed Group, the Agency will leverage outreach tools, strategies, and relationships proven successful in related efforts (2019 WRDMP, West Slope Stormwater Resources Plan², and Upper American River Basin Regional Drought Contingency Plan [UARBRDCP]³). **Table 1** identifies the potential stakeholders for the Watershed Group, showing their diverse organization purposes, responsibilities and interests. All of them have participated in or supported major regional planning efforts that involved or were led by the Agency, and many have provided written support of the UARWP and this Phase I Grant proposal (see **Appendix A** of this application for more information). It is anticipated that the Watershed Group members may be further expanded through active recruiting process as described in Task Area A1.

As described in Task A1 (Conduct Outreach), the Agency will develop an informational fact sheet and flyer describing the UARWP's intended purpose, objectives, geographic scope, and how interested parties can get involved. These materials will be distributed using the Agency's existing communication platforms (e.g., email list, social media accounts, website), as well the membership and mailing lists of participating agencies and regional planning groups. By leveraging existing channels, the Agency will be able to reach a wide and diverse audience as well as promote cohesion and efficiencies among the various ongoing collaborative efforts.

Agency staff will provide presentations on the UARWP at regional planning and other public meetings to promote awareness and encourage participation. In particular, the Agency will make a concerted effort to recruit membership from organizations representing disadvantaged communities and Tribal Governments. To achieve the intended diversity, the Agency will evaluate stakeholder representation and identify targeted entities for recruitment, as necessary.

After the Watershed Group is convened, the Agency will develop and maintain a contact database of parties and individuals interested in UARWP activities. The Agency will send emails to the contact database to notify interested parties of upcoming Watershed Group meetings, release of key documents, and other news of interest. All Watershed Group meetings will be open to the public and noticed on the group webpage. The webpage will also include Watershed Group governing information, technical documents, and meeting materials. Additional outreach activities may be conducted as defined by the Watershed Group members; any additional outreach will not be covered under the scope of this Phase I Grant Duration.

² EDWA, County of El Dorado, and City of Placerville. 2018. West Slope Stormwater Resource Plan

³ Reclamation and EDWA. (expected in 2022). Upper American River Basin Regional Drought Contingency Plan. In Progress.

Table 1. Proposed Stakeholder Involvement for Upper American River Watershed Program Planning Efforts

Proposed Watershed Group Members (subject to expansion through further recruitment)	Organization Type or Member Composition							Responsibility or Interest											Existing or Past Collaboration with Agency					
	Local/Regional	State	Federal	Tribal	Academic	NGO	Private	Land Use	Water	Energy	Economic Development	Public Safety	Agriculture	M&I	Environment	Recreation	Forest Management	Timber	2019 WRMP	West Slope SWRP	UARB RDCP	CABY	SOFAR	ARBS
El Dorado County Water Agency (Applicant)	X								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		-1	-1	-1	-1	-1	-1
County of El Dorado ²	X							X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X	X			X
El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts ²		X													X	X	X		X	X	X		X	
City of Placerville ²	X							X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Placer County Water Agency	X								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X		X
Regional Water Authority ²	X								X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			X
Sacramento Municipal Utility District ²	X								X	X	X	X			X	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
SOFAR	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X			X		X						X	
CABY	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X		X		
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians				X				X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X			X
University of California Merced/Berkeley					X			X	X						X		X	X	X					
El Dorado Irrigation District ²	X								X	X			X	X		X			X		X		X	X
Georgetown Divide Public Utility District ²	X								X				X	X			X		X	X	X	X		
El Dorado County Farm Bureau						X			X	X	X		X		X		X		X		X			X
American River Conservancy ²						X		X	X						X	X	X				X	X	X	
Sierra Nevada Conservancy		X						X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X					X	
U.S. Forest Service ²			X					X	X			X			X	X	X	X		X	X		X	
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation			X						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X				X

Key: ARBS = American River Basin Study; CABY IRWMP = Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba Integrated Regional Water Management Plan; M&I = Municipal and Industrial; NGO = Non-governmental organization; SOFAR = South Fork American River; UARB RDCP = Upper American River Basin Regional Drought Contingency Plan ; 2019 WRDMP = 2019 Water Resources Development and Management Plan

Notes: ¹Collaborative efforts in the Upper American River Watershed Program Area that the Agency led or participated as a chartered member, a committee member or a major cost-share partner. ²Stakeholders that provided a letter of support for Agency’s application for this Phase I Grant.

A2. Geographic Scope

The proposed UARWP covers the entire geographic extent of the Upper American River Watershed (HUCs 18020128 and 18020129), shown in **Figure 1**. The Agency and Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) are two major water resource managers in this watershed covering the El Dorado and Placer Counties with a significant history of collaboration.

The majority of the watershed (71 percent) is Federally-owned land, including Eldorado National Forest and Tahoe National Forest. As such, participation from Federal agencies is essential. Federal participation will be represented by the U.S. Forest Service (confirmed) and Reclamation (proposed). To complement the Federal resources management agencies, several state and local agencies will be involved as well including El Dorado County, Placer County, and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. With the participation from these stakeholders, the complete geographic scope of the watershed will be covered.

Geographic diversity is only part of the Watershed Group's strength. The diverse interests and perspectives of the Watershed Group are essential for successful watershed planning and implementation. Within the Upper American River Watershed, there are Tribal Governments such as the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians. Although tribal trust lands accounts for a small fraction of the watershed, their participation will be critical to reflecting and preserving the cultural and historical significance of the watershed. In addition to the Tribal Governments, representatives from three groups—Regional Water Authority, SOFAR, and CABY—will bring regional representation to the UARWP. These groups also have members from Federal, state, local and tribal entities with different interests that will contribute to the robustness of the Watershed Group.

The participation of water and energy entities like the public water purveyors and Sacramento Municipal Utility District add another critical dimension to the Watershed Group. They leverage the river system and resources to provide needed water and energy services for economic development, community benefits, river environmental protection, and recreation in the watershed. It is also important to emphasize that the Agency represents the rural agriculture communities and individual homesteads that are not served by public water purveyors, including areas with several disadvantaged communities, small public water systems, and individual self-suppliers; all of which will be important voices to bring to the Watershed Group.

Evaluation Criterion B — Addressing Critical Watershed Needs

B1. Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

The Upper American River Watershed significantly contributes to local economic prosperity, environmental biodiversity, and more importantly, to statewide water supply reliability and endangered species protection below Folsom Dam and Reservoir. However, variables such as population growth, climate change, prevailing wildfires, and reduced snowpack threaten the watershed's capacity to provide reliable water supply with pristine water quality to support human consumption and environmental needs. As part of the UARWP, the Agency and collaborating partners will form a **new** Watershed Group, conduct an assessment, and identify projects to better understand and begin addressing these critical watershed issues.

The water in the Upper American River Watershed originates as snowpack in the Sierra Nevada, herein referred as "the headwaters" where meadows, forests, and wilderness form a natural infrastructure for water storage. Snowmelt runoff from the headwaters feeds the watershed's extensive network of rivers, streams, lakes, and reservoirs. This includes the North, Middle, and South forks of the American River that serve a vital source of water supplies for

water users, hydropower production, and the environment both in the watershed and throughout California, as well as abundant wilderness and recreation opportunities. Reaches of the North Fork American River were designated a National Wild and Scenic River status. Recent studies show that the expansive forests play a critical role in the overall water yield and timing of runoff from the headwaters.

The steep terrains and foothill environment make the service expansion of major public water purveyors more challenging and significantly more expensive comparing with the like approach to water reliability in the valley floor. The elevation of the watershed ranges from about the peaks of nearly 10,000 feet above sea level in the Desolation Wilderness area to a 480-feet at Folsom Dam and Reservoir. As a result, many rural areas in the watershed are served by groundwater wells from the underlying fractured rock aquifers by either small private water companies or are self-supplied. The meadows and forest management would directly affect the water availability in the fractured rock formation although the availability is generally of low yield and unreliable. Effectively, the water supplies to the residents and businesses in the watershed rely solely on the surface water from the American River, creating a significant and unique climate vulnerability for these communities.

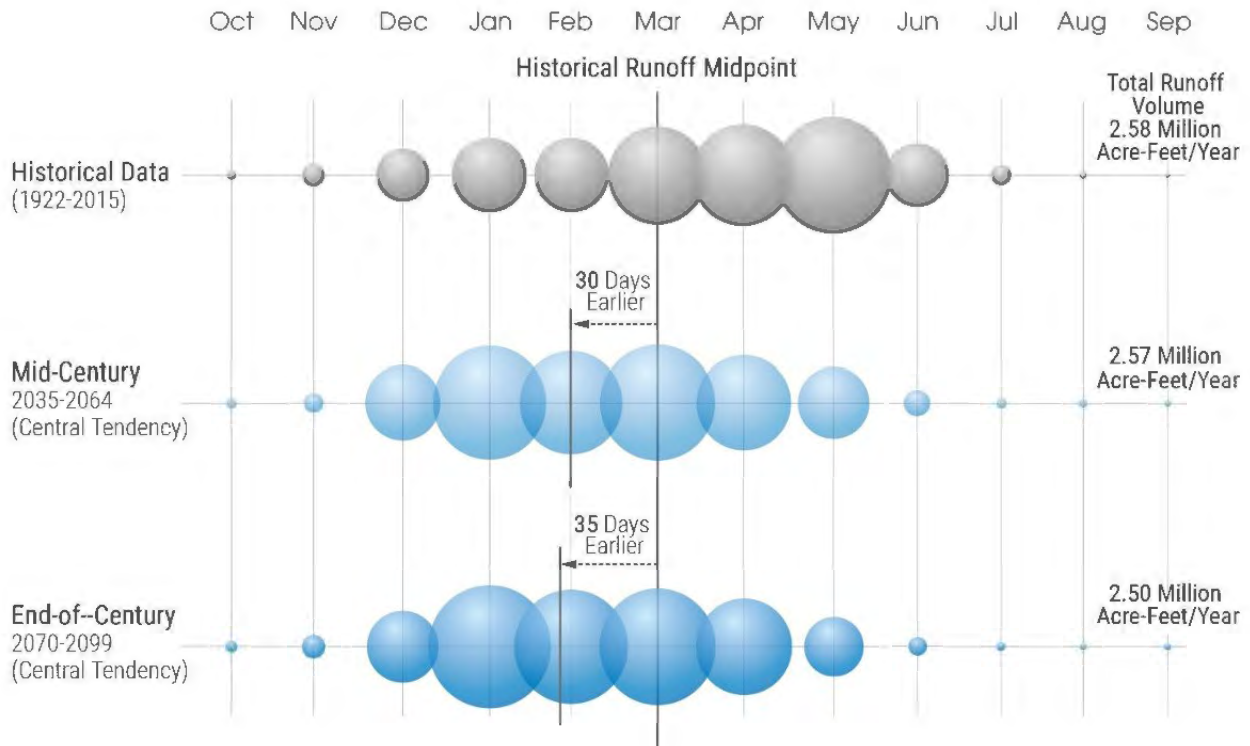
Folsom Dam and Reservoir, with a capacity of 977,000 acre-feet, is located downstream from the confluence of the North and South forks of the American River. Folsom Reservoir is the primary regulating reservoir for the watershed. This reservoir is a key piece of the CVP, which allows the CVP to provide an annual average of 5 million acre-feet of water for farms; 600,000 acre-feet of water for municipal and industrial uses; and water for wildlife refuges and maintaining water quality in the Delta. Through Reclamation's operation of Folsom Dam and Reservoir as part of the CVP, the watershed contributes to California's overall water supply reliability and ecosystem health.

Snowpack and cold-water resources withheld in the natural and man-made infrastructures in the upper watershed are critical for Reclamation's river temperature management for fishery species in the Lower American River. The Lower American River is home to 43 fish species, including Federally-listed threatened Central Valley Steelhead and fall-run Chinook salmon, a Species of Concern under the federal Endangered Species Act. Because of the pristine water quality produced from the Upper American River Watershed and the watershed's close vicinity to the Delta, Folsom Dam and Reservoir is a critical facility for Reclamation to meet Delta flow and water quality standards and the requirements for fishery species protection. In other words, predominant benefits from a well-managed headwaters in the Upper American River Watershed will be realized outside of the watershed. Therefore, the UARWP and the proposed activities under this Phase I Grant are of statewide significance.

Given the critical importance of the Upper American River Watershed, critical issues threatening the watershed include:

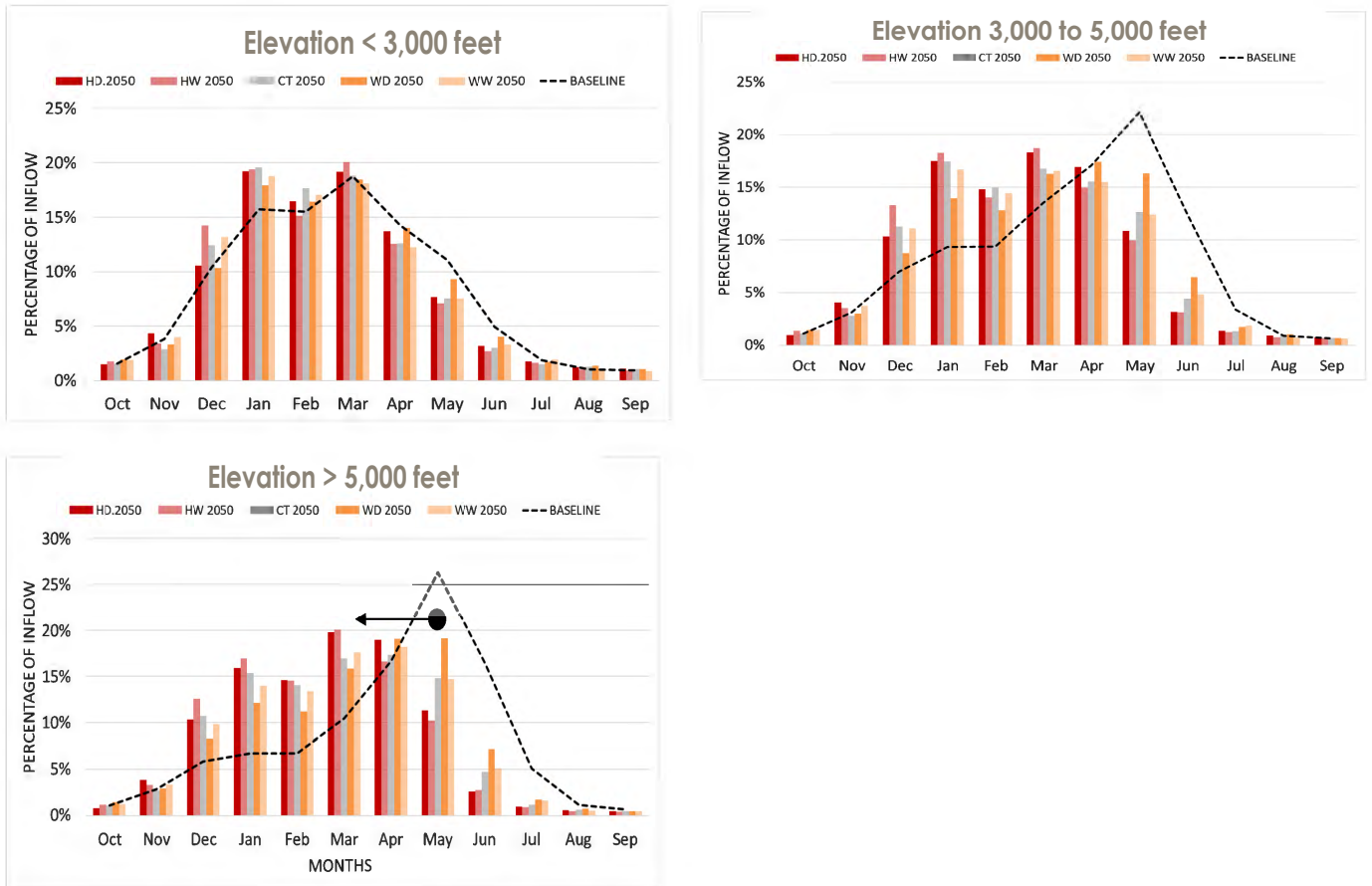
- **Long-term water supply-demand imbalance:** The data and findings from the ARBS confirm that the Upper American River Watershed will experience an increase in demands for local economic prosperity and environmental protection, but have less reliable supplies due to diminishing snowpack and increasing flashy hydrology in the watershed. **Figure 3** shows changing hydrology under climate change with increased runoff during winter months and reduced snowmelt in spring months for water supply. **Figure 4** shows detailed impacts on hydrology at different elevations due to the retrieving snowline in this historically snow-dominated basin. Existing facilities are aging with significant needs of repair and rehabilitation. More importantly, they were designed and operated based on historical hydrology and will be overwhelmed and unable to provide

adequate flood protection or water supply for all beneficial uses. The ARBS projected that the water supply-demand imbalance in the Upper American River Watershed will average around 79,000 acre-feet per year with a range of 94,000 to 54,000 acre-feet under the central tendency of projected climate change conditions. Additional water supply-demand imbalance in the lower watershed and effects on native and endangered fishery species are also projected.



Source: American River Basin Study

Figure 3. Changing Trends of Unimpaired Hydrology in the Upper American River Watershed Projected by the American River Basin Study (Central Tendency)



Key: HD = Hot-dry Tendency; HW = Hot-wet Tendency; CT = Central Tendency; WD = Wet-dry Tendency; WW = Warm-wet Tendency
 Source: American River Basin Study

Figure 4. Changing Trends of Unimpaired Hydrology in 2050 at Different Elevations of the Upper American River Watershed Projected by the American River Basin Study

- Vulnerability during droughts:** Only shallow groundwater supplies are available in the watershed, leaving the overall water supply vulnerable due to reliance on a single source of water (surface water from the American River). Most water purveyors have either a drought plan or drought ordinance to manage water supply shortages during droughts. However, it is estimated that more than half of the land under the County General Plans in this watershed are not served by a major water purveyor. Significant population and local economy rely on small water systems or self-supplied wells are most vulnerable during droughts.
- Vulnerability during floods:** The changing hydrology and increasing flashier system result in additional flood risks for local communities. However, the major vulnerability is downstream of Folsom Dam and Reservoir because the Folsom Dam and Reservoir does not have sufficient capacities to accommodate the changing flood conditions. The additional flood risks and slope erosion that result from wildfires are additional contributing factors to downstream flood risks.
- Multi-faced impacts from inadequate forest management:** Both the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and California Public Utilities Commission identified the forests and rangeland areas in the Upper American River Watershed as having significant wildfire risks from a long history of inadequate forest management, tree mortality from recent 2012-2016 drought impacts and beetle infestation, and utility-related hazards. Despite the efforts of local entities and state and Federal funding support, the issues are massive

and impossible without a collaborative approach that vertically aligns different layers of government, defines long-term responsibilities and effective management strategies, and integrates considerations of local economic and community well-being. The increasingly devastating wildfires in headwater areas like the Upper American River Watershed are a symptom of a wide range of impacts; however, they are also deep-rooted in the inadequate forest management. Therefore, this will be a significant focus of the Watershed Group and the UARWP. The following provides a summary of the major impacts from wildfires (i.e., inadequate forest management) beyond the immediate human life loss, property damages, and economic impacts.

- **Impacts on long-term water supply reliability:** Dense forests resulting from improper forest management do not only increase fire risks, but the extensive canopy also prevents snow from reaching the ground for water retention and more gradual runoffs when melting. According to the *2011 Forests and Water in the Sierra Nevada: Sierra Nevada Watershed Ecosystem Enhancement Project*, first-order estimates based on average climate information suggest that reducing forest cover by 40 percent of the maximum levels across a watershed can potentially increase water yields by 9 percent. The health of the headwaters could directly affect water supplies in the UARWP area, especially in communities relying on local minor streams or springs and could have subsequent effects on statewide water supply.
- **Impacts on local conveyance and infrastructure for water management:** The water infrastructure in the watershed can be expensive in order to provide water and energy services to rural communities spreading across steep terrains and the foothill environment. Many major conveyances are from the Gold Rush era and those wooden flumes are susceptible to destruction by wildfires. Additional infrastructural damages or reduction in capacity could be from the indirect effects of wildfires such as debris and sediments from burned sites. The further loss of capacity and accessibility of water conveyance and infrastructure would have a profound effect to the communities, especially in the rural-agricultural areas.
- **Long-term water quality impacts:** The increase in erosion from the scarred landscape after wildfires pose significant water quality threats to the river systems and downstream beneficial uses. In addition, recent research also shows the chemicals used in firefighting could have long-term water quality impacts to drinking water systems and aquifers, posing different and potentially persistent threats to communities and the ecosystem.
- **Increasing water quality impacts due to increasing recreation and traffic through the Upper American River Watershed:** Localized water quality concerns can trace back from the history of mining activities and naturally occurring contaminants. Erosion from land use from past and present activities, roads, and recreational use contribute to instream sediment problems and additional water quality impacts. Certain sections and water bodies along the American River are on the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list of impaired water bodies. These localized impairments are projected to worsen from the increasing agritourism and recreational uses in the abundant wilderness, lakes, and forests. Traffic loads along major transportation corridors like Highways 80 and 50 pose significant threats on water quality on nearby local water bodies.

As described further in **Evaluation Criterion B2**, while there are existing groups that touch on these issues, the existing groups are either limited to a small portion of a watershed or too broad for focused actions. The proposed Watershed Group will serve as a collaborative venue for stakeholders to discuss these issues and identify projects to address their potential short- and long-term impacts to the watershed. In addition, the work conducted under the

Phase I Grant will lay the foundation for a full Watershed Plan, which will provide a framework to restoring and protecting the health of the headwaters. Properly managed headwaters with forest management and meadow restoration will improve regional and statewide water supply reliability, public safety, and environmental conditions in the watershed, Lower American River, and the Delta.

B2. Developing Strategies to Address Critical Watershed Needs or Issues

Under **Task Area A**, the Agency will form a Watershed Group that represents a broad range of interests, expertise, and knowledge in the Upper American River Watershed, including groups with land use, conservation, water purveyor, and environmental interests. This wide-spanning membership is intentional to promote advocating for balanced stewardship and use of public lands. The established Watershed Group will provide a venue whereby a diverse range of stakeholders can come together to collectively define current watershed conditions, identify critical issues and challenges, and evaluate potential solutions to address these issues.

While there are existing groups that touch on watershed issues in the Upper American River Watershed, from the Agency's discussions with these groups and other stakeholders, it is apparent that the existing groups are either limited to a small portion of a watershed (e.g., SOFAR) or too broad for focused actions (e.g., CABY). Also, the management strategies of each group are specific to its goals and could have gaps in actions or stakeholder inclusion to coordinate and collaborate toward a common vision for watershed restoration planning and implementation. The Agency's intent is to leverage the success of these groups and create a watershed-specific group dedicated to the entire Upper American River Watershed that focuses on implementing specific and tangible projects to improve and sustain this watershed. Formation of the Watershed Group is proposed for that purpose, and these existing collaborative venues and their information and products will be leveraged in the subsequent plan development and implementation. Therefore, participants from these groups are also supportive to develop this watershed-specific group for making positive progress in watershed management.

Under **Task Area B**, the Agency will outline the Watershed Plan, define baseline watershed conditions, and evaluate watershed management projects. The Watershed Plan outline will define the goals and objectives of the overall UARWP, and provide scope, direction, and focus of the Watershed Plan and its individual sections.

The goal of the overall UARWP is to establish a collaborative program that understands the entire Upper American River Watershed conditions, identifies actionable solutions to restore the watershed, and lays out a strategy for implementing the solutions. The UARWP, which will be driven by the Watershed Group, aligns with local general plans, which recognizes the importance of protecting natural resources contained in the Williamson Act,⁴ Biological Corridors, and Ecological Preserves for long-term environmental protection and ecological needs, adding to those managed by state and Federal agencies. The UARWP is intended to be a long-standing program that adapts to changing conditions whether due to climate change, changing regulations, or other factors, that will continue to be spearheaded by the Agency well beyond this grant's 2-year timeframe.

The Agency has past successful experience in developing innovative, implementable, and widely supported plans. For example, the Agency's 2019 WRDMP is a county water plan for integrated water management that evaluates

⁴ Enacted in 1965, this state law enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners to restrict specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments that are much lower than normal.

present and future water resource-related challenges under climate change, identifies 11 inter-related resource management strategies for collective implementation, and describes the Agency's specific action plan for implementation. This modernized approach, with an emphasis on partnerships and transparency, received significant all-around support. The Agency will leverage this past experience to develop the proposed activities that will ultimately be incorporated into the Watershed Plan.

Defining baseline watershed conditions, with the help of the Watershed Group's diverse members, will comprehensively identify critical watershed issues and needs. It is imperative to understand the existing condition of the watershed while also considering near- and long-term reasonably foreseeable changes to the watershed in order to develop a plan for watershed restoration. This comprehensive understanding will provide focus to the Watershed Group in laying out potential solutions and ultimately a strategy for implementation.

Using the watershed condition information, potential solutions (both structural and institutional actions or programs) will be identified, evaluated, and prioritized based on their ability to promote watershed restoration and address critical watershed issues and needs. Projects will incorporate best practices to manage land and water resources and be adaptable to changes in the environment. These projects will be identified through a variety of methods including reviewing publicly available plans and reports, and brainstorming solutions during a Watershed Group meeting whose members include variety of Federal, state, and local agencies and interests. The potential solutions or projects will include information such as the lead agency (i.e., project proponent, agency responsible for overseeing implementation), which critical needs are addressed, the degree of consistency with best practices to manage land and water resources, and its ability to improve adaptation to changes in the environment. Once the projects are identified, the Agency will facilitate a project prioritization process using the information gathered. In close coordination with the Watershed Group, the Agency will develop evaluation criteria and metrics to evaluate the projects. Projects will be evaluated based on criteria such as benefits to the watershed, economic efficiency, implementation complexity, public support, social equity, and ecological sustainability.

Evaluation Criterion C — Implementation and Results

C1. Project Implementation

The project will follow the tasks as detailed in the **Technical Project Description**, including the principles of transparency, collaboration and respect of roles and responsibilities of each partner. To ensure the successful execution of the proposed activities under this Phase I Grant, the Agency plans to acquire supports from qualified professional consultants as later described in **Project Budget**. The proposed tasks will be completed within the required two-year timeframe as shown in **Figure 5** below. Note that the assumed start date of Quarter 3 of 2021 will vary pending award of the grant, but the overall two-year duration for executing the proposed activities after the fully executed grant agreement will remain the same.

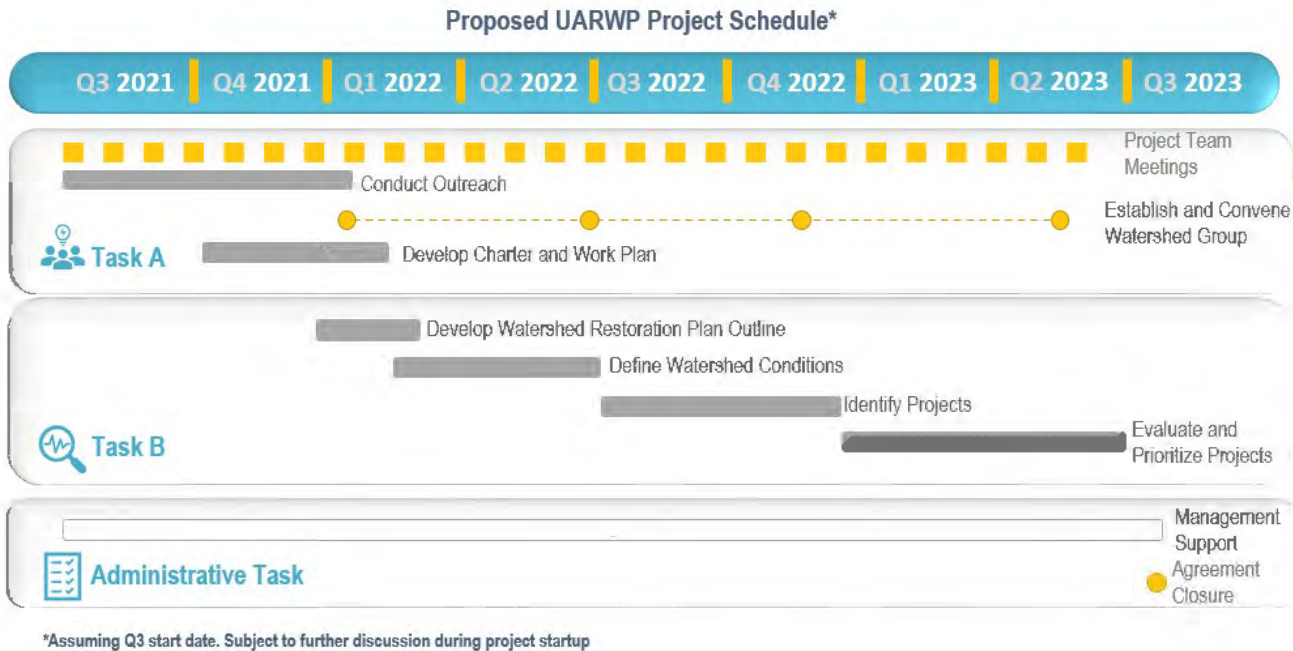


Figure 5. Proposed Project Schedule

C2. Building on Relevant Federal, State, or Regional Planning Efforts

Watershed and environmental stewardship agencies and organizations in the Upper American River Watershed have a long history of successful, collaborative planning efforts. These efforts, and how they relate to the UARWP, are described in the bulleted list below.

- **2019 WRDMP.** The 2019 WRDMP lays the groundwork to identify resource management strategies to counter the threats to El Dorado County. Through collective implementation by participating partners, these resource management strategies will proactively address changing water resources needs, regulatory requirements, and climate variability. The focused and defined role and responsibility in implementing actions for advancing these strategies would ensure effectiveness and efficiency in achieving anticipated outcomes. As stated in the **Technical Project Description**, the UARWP is a direct outcome from the 2019 WRDMP, tying into one of the implementation programs, Watershed Management Program.
- **Sierra Nevada Conservancy Water Improvement Program.** Sierra Nevada Conservancy is a state agency that leads California’s efforts to restore and enhance the extraordinary natural resources and communities of the Sierra Nevada while protecting them from wildfire and a changing climate. One of their primary programs is the Watershed Improvement Program, a large-scale restoration program designed to restore the health of California’s primary watershed and create resilient Sierra Nevada communities. It is recognized by state policy and planning documents as a model program for addressing the growing challenges facing the Sierra Nevada Region in a changing climate. The UARWP will draw from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy’s relationships, knowledge, and experience to develop the Watershed Plan.
- **CABY Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).** The CABY IRWMP is a planning document that identifies broadly-supported goals, objectives, strategies, actions, and projects within the Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba regions to address long-term water supply needs, protection of water quality, and

enhancement of environmental and habitat resources. The IRWMP and the UARWP share a similar set of goals and objectives and have overlapping geographies. The distinction between these two efforts is the scale and resolution; the CABY IRWMP covers four large watersheds and has a diverse set of needs whereas the proposed UARMP will focus on the unique conditions of the Upper American River Watershed with locally implementable solutions. Where relevant, the UARWP will pull from the CABY IRWMP when developing the Watershed Plan.

- **SOFAR Cohesive Strategy and National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy (National Cohesive Strategy).** SOFAR Cohesive Strategy is an all-land wildfire management strategy with three goals: (1) resilient landscapes; (2) fire adapted communities; and (3) safe and effective wildfire response. Its planning area includes portions of the Eldorado National Forest and the South Fork American River watershed. SOFAR is a local effort to match the National Cohesive Strategy led by US Forest Services and consistent with the National Cohesive Strategy for reducing fire threats to the communities and improve overall forest health. To date, there are three project focus areas: Chili Bar to Georgetown, Headwaters, and Camino-Pollock Pines. The UARWP is expected to expand the SOFAR Cohesive Strategy to the rest of the Upper American River Watershed with further incorporation of relevant strategies and approach from the efforts stemming from the *August 2020 Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California's Forest and Rangelands between the State of California and the USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region*.
- **American River Basin Study (ARBS).** The ARBS is a collaboration under the WaterSMART program between Reclamation and American River Basin non-federal sponsors, including the Agency, PCWA, and other local and regional agencies. Its purpose is to develop common tools and data to understand and evaluate the potential water supply-demand imbalance and other impacts from climate change, and to identify basin-wide climate adaptation strategies to create mutual benefits and improve water resilience for Reclamation and local agencies. The draft recommendations from the ARBS are currently under Reclamation's policy review. The ARBS study area includes both the upper watershed and lower watershed. Therefore, the suite of data, tools, analyses, and climate change adaptation strategies are directly applicable for developing the Watershed Plan, an intended outcome of the ARBS planning. In particular, the UARWP will build on the recommended climate adaptation portfolios including forest management, headwater management strategies, upper-lower basin collaboration in water banking and exchange, and high altitude reservoirs to serve as a functional-equivalent facility to disappearing snowpack.
- **Upper American River Basin (UARB) Regional Drought Contingency Plan (RDCP).** The UARB RDCP, led by the Agency, is a collaborative project under the WaterSMART program among water purveyors and stakeholders of the Upper American River Watershed and a portion of the Cosumnes River watershed in El Dorado County. The study is to address drought-related risks, build resilience, and create coordinated drought contingency plans with the lower basin, the North American River Basin RDCP. The UARB RDCP is currently under development and has a similar geographic extent to the proposed UARWP, along with many common stakeholders including Reclamation and Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians. In addition to the partnership, the UARB RDCP will develop drought indicators and a set of drought mitigation and response actions. This information will be leveraged in the UARWP for integrating with other hazard mitigation and management strategies to enhance both natural and man-made infrastructures. In particular, the UARWP will further the identified mitigation actions associated with improving forest management for public safety, ecosystem health, and water retention and reliability.

- **West Slope Stormwater Resources Plan.** The West Slope Stormwater Resources Plan was a collaboration among the Agency, County of El Dorado, and the City of Placerville to implement the state policy for incorporating stormwater in water supply portfolio. Most of the El Dorado County West Slope is within the Upper American River Watershed. Using a watershed approach, the West Slope Stormwater Resources Plan includes multi-purpose infrastructural improvements, water quality management, watershed actions, and outreach and education. The concept of watershed planning is consistent with the proposed UARWP and identified multi-purpose projects form a solid basis for the UARWP project identification. The UARWP will further expand the geographic coverage and diversity of projects by additional partnership in the Watershed Group.

Evaluation Criterion D — Department of the Interior and Bureau of Reclamation Priorities

The successful implementation of the UARWP in the headwaters would significantly contribute to many priorities of the Department of the Interior and Reclamation, as described below.

Department of the Interior's Priorities

- **Creating a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.** Through formation of the Watershed Group and collaborative development of the Watershed Plan, the UARWP will bring together diverse perspectives to support resource management in the Upper American River Watershed. This will foster the relationship and build trust and cooperation among the local governments, private entities, business interests, water users and energy producers with regional conservation organizations, such as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and the El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts, and the U.S. Forest Service. The resulting vertical integration among different levels of entities and responsibilities will be key to making meaningful progress to conserve, protect, and manage public and private lands in this pristine watershed and headwaters for statewide water supply.
- **Utilizing our natural resources.** The UARWP will form a new group and develop a Watershed Plan to better manage the headwaters that are responsible for providing a majority of the surface water available for the watershed and statewide water supplies through Folsom Dam and Reservoir. Under the Phase I Grant, the Watershed Group will identify and prioritize projects to improve the forest management and restore and conserve natural resources the watershed, building on projects such as the *Leek Springs Meadow Restoration Planning and Assessment Project* that the Agency is participating in collaboration with the American River Conservancy. The proposed activities under this Phase I Grant are critical to support subsequent development of a full Watershed Plan development. Improvements to the health of the headwaters resulting from the UARWP could also lead to improved environmental conditions for local resident fishery species and for anadromous and endangered fishery species in the Lower American River, as well as improved flow and water quality conditions in the Delta through Reclamation's operation of the Folsom Reservoir as part of the CVP.
- **Modernizing our infrastructure.** Water infrastructure in the watershed is susceptible to destruction by wildfires resulting from improper forest management or landslides resulting from wildfires. As described in **Evaluation Criterion B**, the Upper American River Watershed has wooden flumes from the Gold Rush era and other delivery structures that are particularly vulnerable to direct and indirect impacts resulting from wildfires. The UARWP will help protect infrastructure that is susceptible to wildfires through identifying projects

and strategies to improve forest management and improving long-term water reliability.

Reclamation's Priorities

- **Increase Water Supplies, Storage, and Reliability under WIIN and other Authorities to Benefit Farms, Families, Businesses, and Fish and Wildlife.** The UARWP activities conducted under this grant will create the foundation for a Watershed Plan to restore and manage the headwaters of the Upper American River Watershed. As described in **Evaluation Criterion B**, Folsom Dam and Reservoir, a critical piece of the CVP's American River Division, is located downstream from the confluence of the North and South forks of the American River. Reclamation stores and conveys CVP contract water supplies and water right diversions to many local water agencies through the Folsom facilities. The total contract quantity for all CVP American River Division water service contracts is 180,750 acre-feet per year (excluding East Bay Municipal Utility District). Reclamation has additional operational agreements with the City of Sacramento, Placer County Water Agency, and other water rights holders. As an integrated feature of the CVP, Folsom Dam and Reservoir also serves a critical role in managing water quality in the Delta and management of Federally-listed species in the Lower American River. Snowpack and cold-water resources from the upper watershed are critical for Reclamation's river temperature management fishery in the Lower American River. As the nearest CVP facility to the Delta and with its superior water quality, Folsom Dam and Reservoir provided a rapid response to Delta outflow and water quality needs. Therefore, by improving the health of the headwater, the UARWP will also support water supply reliability for farms, families, businesses, and fish and wildlife in the Lower American River and throughout California.
- **Address Ongoing Drought.** The Upper American River Watershed is a critical headwater area for statewide water supply. The preservation of the watershed's capacity in snow retention and water supply yield under climate change is monumentally important. The activities to be completed under the Phase I Grant will create a solid foundation for the Watershed Plan, which will include identified projects, actions, and strategies to protect and secure water resources to improve water reliability and drought resilience in the watershed and statewide, including proper forest management and headwater meadow restoration. The UARWP and the Watershed Plan provide a much enhanced framework to support the sustaining outcomes from implementing the mitigation and response actions in the UARB RDCP described under **Evaluation Criterion C** to benefit all rural-agricultural communities in the watershed including disadvantaged communities and tribes.
- **Improve Water Supplies for Tribal and Rural Communities.** Proper headwaters management resulting from the UARWP will assure that local streams, springs, and shallow groundwater wells are dependent for water users in the watershed, including rural communities and Tribal Governments. As described in **Project Location**, a large portion of the watershed is rural-agricultural communities and National Forests. A significant portion of those areas are not served by a major water purveyor. The small water systems and shallow groundwater wells in fractured rock formation are extremely vulnerable in droughts. With long history of protecting and preserving the natural resources in the watershed the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians and other tribes in the Watershed Group are served by El Dorado Irrigation District and PCWA, using the water from the Upper American River Watershed. Tribal Governments and rural communities are often overlooked in traditional planning processes. When forming the Watershed Group, the Agency will recruit membership from these groups. The Watershed Plan will directly benefit these communities.

PROJECT BUDGET

(1) Budget Proposal

The total program cost is estimated at **\$113,082.00** with **\$99,800.00** to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding under the Phase I Grant. Table 2 provides the total project cost. Table 4 provides the budget proposal, including salaries and wage, fringe benefits, and contractor costs. Table 5 provides the cost by task.

Table 2. Total Program Cost

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Costs to be reimbursed with the requested Federal funding	\$ 99,800.00
Costs to be paid by the applicant	\$ 13,282.08
Value of third-party contributions	\$ 0.00
TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$ 113,082.00

Table 3. Budget Proposal

BUDGET ITEM DESCRIPTION	COMPUTATION		Quantity Type	TOTAL COST
	\$/Unit	Quantity		
Salaries and Wages				\$10,715.00
Executive Director, El Dorado County Water Agency	\$96.15/hour	100	hour	\$9,615.00
Financial Analyst, El Dorado County Water Agency	\$55.00/hour	20	hour	\$1,100.00
Fringe Benefits				\$2,567.00
Executive Director, El Dorado Water County Agency	\$21.02/hour	100	hour	\$2,102.00
Financial Analyst, El Dorado Water County Agency	\$23.25/hour	20	hour	\$465.00
Travel				\$0.00
Equipment				\$0.00
Supplies and Materials				\$0.00
Contractual Cost				\$99,800.00
Contractor for planning and facilitation services	\$84,145/unit	1	unit	\$99,800.00
Other				\$0.00
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS				\$113,082.00
Indirect Costs				\$0.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS				\$113,082.00

Table 4. Hours and Cost by Task

	TASK	BUDGET			STAFF TIME (PAID BY APPLICANT)				CONTRACTOR	
		YEAR 1	YEAR 2	TOTAL	EDWA - Executive Director		EDWA - Financial Analyst			
		Cost	Cost	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost
Task A	Task A1 - Conduct Outreach	\$ 13,071.70	\$ -	\$ 13,071.70	10.0	\$ 1,171.70	0	\$ -	62	\$ 11,900.00
	Subtask A1.1 - Conduct Outreach	\$ 13,071.70	\$ -	\$ 13,071.70	10.0	\$ 1,171.70	0	\$ -	62	\$ 11,900.00
	Task A2 - Convene Watershed Group	\$ 18,200.68	\$ 10,246.15	\$ 28,446.83	24.0	\$ 2,812.08	3	\$ 234.75	130	\$ 25,400.00
	Subtask A2.1 - Convene Watershed Group	\$ 10,246.15	\$ 10,246.15	\$ 20,492.30	15.0	\$ 1,757.55	3	\$ 234.75	90	\$ 18,500.00
	Subtask A2.2 - Develop Charter and Work	\$ 7,954.53	\$ -	\$ 7,954.53	9.0	\$ 1,054.53	0	\$ -	40	\$ 6,900.00
	Task A3 - Project Team Meetings	\$ 7,556.04	\$ 7,556.04	\$ 15,112.08	24.0	\$ 2,812.08	0	\$ -	48	\$ 12,300.00
	Subtask A3 - Project Team Meetings	\$ 7,556.04	\$ 7,556.04	\$ 15,112.08	24.0	\$ 2,812.08	0	\$ -	48	\$ 12,300.00
Task B	Task B1 - Develop Watershed Restoration Plan Outline	\$ 6,437.36	\$ -	\$ 6,437.36	8.0	\$ 937.36	0	\$ -	26	\$ 5,500.00
	Task B1 - Develop Watershed Restoration Plan Outline	\$ 6,437.36	\$ -	\$ 6,437.36	8.0	\$ 937.36	0	\$ -	26	\$ 5,500.00
	Task B2 - Define Watershed Conditions	\$ 11,606.70	\$ -	\$ 11,606.70	10.0	\$ 1,171.70	0	\$ -	53	\$ 10,500.00
	Task B2 - Define Watershed Conditions	\$ 11,606.70	\$ -	\$ 11,606.70	10.0	\$ 1,171.70	0	\$ -	53	\$ 10,500.00
	Task B3 - Evaluate Watershed Management Projects	\$ -	\$ 36,374.06	\$ 36,374.06	18.0	\$ 2,109.06	0	\$ -	180	\$ 34,200.00
	Task B3.1 - Identify Projects	\$ -	\$ 13,650.85	\$ 13,650.85	5.0	\$ 585.85	0	\$ -	65	\$ 13,000.00
	Task B3.2 - Evaluate and Prioritize Projects	\$ -	\$ 22,723.21	\$ 22,723.21	13.0	\$ 1,523.21	0	\$ -	115	\$ 21,200.00
Administrative	Administrative Tasks - Project Management	\$ 1,016.64	\$ 1,016.64	\$ 2,033.27	6.0	\$ 703.02	17	\$ 1,330.25	0	\$ -
	Admin Subtask 1 - Financial Reports	\$ 430.17	\$ 430.17	\$ 860.34	2.0	\$ 234.34	8	\$ 626.00	0	\$ -
	Admin Subtask 2 - Interim Performance	\$ 391.05	\$ 391.05	\$ 782.09	2.0	\$ 234.34	7	\$ 547.75	0	\$ -
	Admin Subtask 3 - Final Performance Report	\$ -	\$ 195.42	\$ 195.42	1.0	\$ 117.17	1	\$ 78.25	0	\$ -
	Admin Subtask 4 - Sufficiency Report	\$ 195.42	\$ -	\$ 195.42	1.0	\$ 117.17	1	\$ 78.25	0	\$ -
		\$ 57,889.12	\$ 55,192.89	\$ 113,082.00	100.0	\$ 11,717.00	20	\$ 1,565.00	499	\$ 99,800.00

(2) Budget Narrative

Salaries and Wages

Salaries and wages are included for Agency staff. Only the names of key personnel are provided. The Agency does not anticipate the need to institute salary increases over the duration of the project. For each position, the primary role of each staff person is described with respect to the primary tasks list above. Salaries and wages are calculated in **Table 3** above. Proposed hours and costs for each task are calculated in **Table 4** above.

Executive Director, El Dorado County Water Agency, Mr. Ken Payne will serve as both the project manager for formation of the Program and project manager for the Agreement with Reclamation. Mr. Payne will lead formation of the Watershed Group and planning and facilitation for Watershed Group meetings under Task A and supervise contractor work conducted under Tasks A and B. Mr. Payne and his staff are also responsible for project management and reporting tasks.

Financial Analyst, El Dorado County Water Agency, Ms. Tami Scowcroft will assist Mr. Payne with project management tasks related to invoicing; reporting; and communications with Reclamation and contractor staff. Ms. Scowcroft will primarily work on the administrative tasks.

Fringe Benefits

Fringe benefits for full time permanent employees and their families include medical insurance, vision insurance, dental insurance, PERS retirement contributions, workers compensation, and a limited life insurance policy in some

instances. The value of hourly fringe benefit will vary by the employee. The actual calculation for the hourly fringe benefit rate for each assigned employee is shown in the detail in **Table 3** above.

Travel

No travel is assumed necessary for the program.

Equipment

No travel is assumed necessary for the program.

Materials and Supplies

No travel is assumed necessary for the program.

Contractual

The Agency expects the majority of the proposed work under this Phase I Grant to be supported by contracted professional services from a highly experienced water resources consulting firm with experience coordinating and facilitating collaborative stakeholder groups and conducting strategic planning projects on a watershed scale. Proposed hours for contractor staff are calculated in **Table 4** above. The Agency will be responsible for procuring qualified contractors and overseeing contractor work.

At this time, no contractor has been selected. In accordance with the Funding Opportunity Announcement, all procurements with an anticipated aggregate value that exceeds the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (\$10,000) will undergo a competitive procurement method.

Based on past experience working with contracted professional services to conduct similar tasks as those proposed in this application, it is estimated that \$99,800 in contractor support will be required to support this regional effort.

Third-Party In-Kind Contributions

There are no third-party in-kind contributions identified for this project at this time.

Environmental and Regulatory Compliance Costs

The proposed activities under the Phase I Grant focus on collaboration group development and planning efforts. Therefore, there is no assumed environmental and regulatory compliance costs.

Indirect Costs

There are no assumed indirect costs for the project.

Total Costs

The total cost for the project activities proposed under the Phase I Grant is \$113,082.00.

REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS

If awarded, activities funded under this grant would include formation of a new Watershed Group, conduct of an assessment to evaluate baseline conditions, and identification and prioritization of projects to address critical watershed issues. These tasks will not require physical actions involving measurement, monitoring, or field work or changes to facility operations and maintenance. Therefore, permits or approvals are not anticipated at this time. Any future infrastructure improvement projects or changes in facility operations and maintenance resulting from UARWP efforts are not covered under this application scope and will require permits and/or approvals independent from the proposed program.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE

As stated under “Required Permits and Approvals”, the tasks and activities conducted under this grant, if awarded, will not require physical actions involving measurement, monitoring, or field work or changes to facility operations and maintenance. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the UARWP will affect environmental or cultural resources in the Project area.

Will the proposed Project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.

It is not anticipated that the UARWP will have a direct impact on the surrounding environment.

Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed Project?

Federal threatened or endangered species known to be found in the Upper American River Watershed include naturally spawning fall-run Chinook salmon (a Federally-listed species of concern) and steelhead (a federally-listed threatened species under the Endangered Species Act). These species are not anticipated to be affected by any activities associated with the UARWP.

Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the Project boundaries that potentially fall under Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction as “Waters of the United States?” If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.

Within the Upper American River Watershed, there are many wetlands and surface waters that fall under Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction as “Waters of the United States”. These waters are not anticipated to be affected by any activities associated with the UARWP.

When was the water delivery system constructed?

The water systems in the Upper American River Basin were first constructed in the Gold Rush era, and many of the conveyances are still in use. The irrigation canals, water diversions and distribution systems, and related reservoir and storage facilities were gradually developed since early 1900s throughout the 20th Century for water supply and hydropower generation, including the Sacramento Municipal Utility District’s Upper American River Project in the 60s and 70s, other hydropower facilities owned by Pacific Gas and Electric through several decades, and PCWA’s Middle Fork Project in 1967. The major federal infrastructure in the Upper American River watershed, the Folsom Dam and Reservoir, was completed in 1956 as part of the CVP’s Folsom and Sly Park Units. Note that the Sly Park Unit was transferred to El Dorado Irrigation District in 2003. The CVP’s Auburn-Folsom South Unit was not completed because the Auburn Dam on the North Fork American River was not constructed.

Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to, individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.

It is not anticipated that the UARWP will result in the modification to individual features of an irrigation system.

Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places?

There are buildings, structures, or features in the Upper American River watershed listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is anticipated that these places will be unaffected by the UARWP.

Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed area?

There are no known archeological sites in the Upper American River Watershed.

Will the proposed Project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?

It is not anticipated that the UARWP will have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. On the contrary, the UARWP intends to bring in low income and minority populations into the planning process.

Will the proposed Project limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on tribal lands?

It is not anticipated that the UARWP will limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result in other impact on tribal lands.

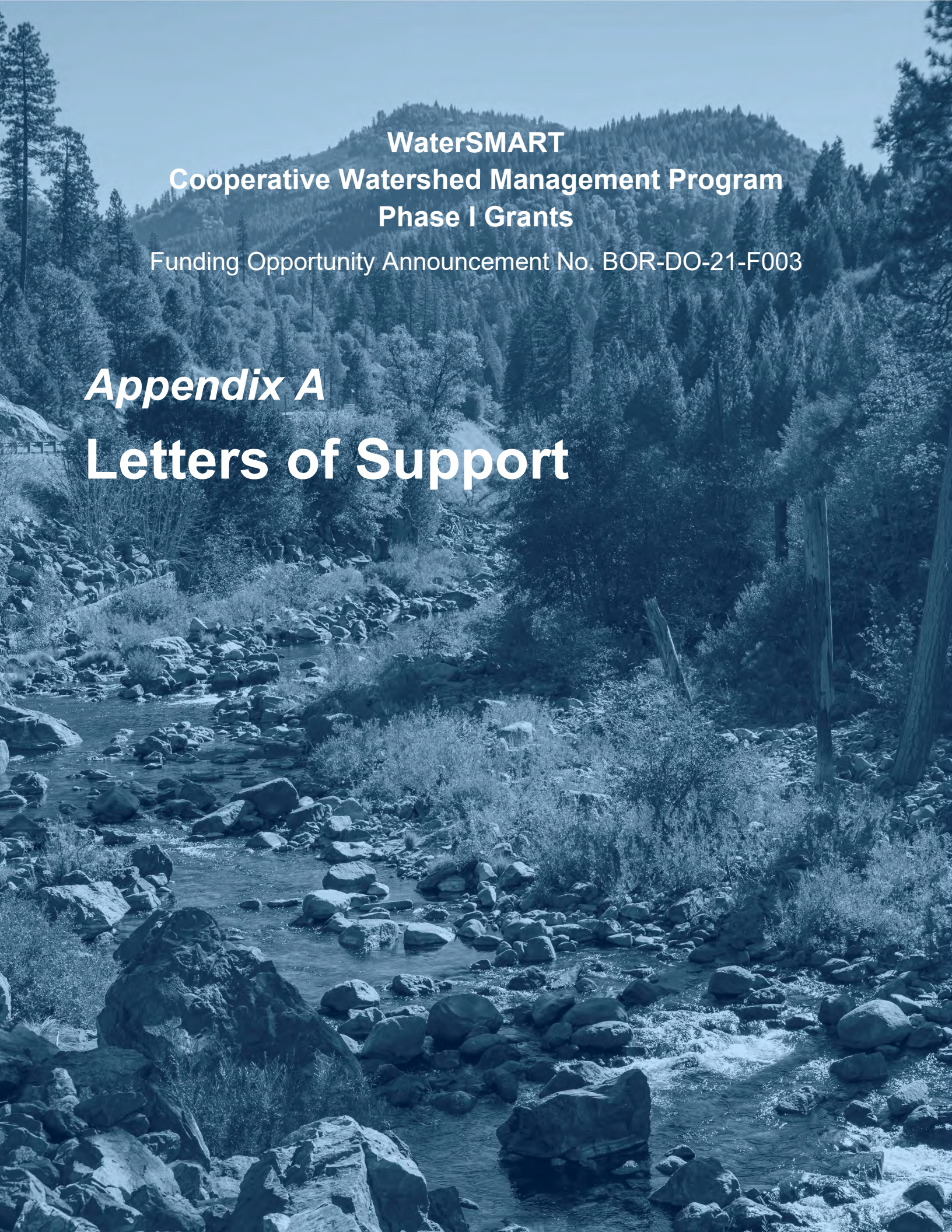
Will the proposed Project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?

It is not anticipated that the UARWP will contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the Upper American River Watershed.

APPENDIX A: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The proposed Upper American River Watershed Program and the activities under the Phase I Grant have received broad supports from the entities listed below, in alphabetic order. Many entities have broad authorities and responsibilities in the watershed. Please refer to **Table 1** in **Evaluation Criterion A** for their corresponding representation and interests. There are additional entities in the lower American River Basin also provide support, and their representation in the Watershed Group will be through the Regional Water Authority.

- American River Conservancy
- City of Folsom
- City of Placerville
- County of El Dorado – Planning and Building
- County of El Dorado- Department of Agriculture, Weights, & Measures
- El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts
- El Dorado Irrigation District
- Georgetown Public Utility District
- Regional Water Authority
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District
- U.S. Forest Service-Eldorado National Forest



**WaterSMART
Cooperative Watershed Management Program
Phase I Grants**

Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F003

Appendix A

Letters of Support



January 11, 2021

Mr. Kenneth Payne
El Dorado County Water Agency
4330 Golden Center Drive, Suite C
Placerville, CA 95667

Subject: Support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program:
Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F003

Dear Ken:

I am writing on behalf of American River Conservancy to express support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants application. We understand that that El Dorado County Water Agency (Agency) is acting as the lead grant applicant in this collective effort to seek assistance for the proposed program.

We look forward to being an involved stakeholder and advocate the importance of establishing a collaborative watershed management program that includes a diverse range of interests and sectors. This program will enable the region to develop a comprehensive plan to address current and future critical issues in the watershed, including changing water resources needs, water quality impacts due to wildfires and stormwater runoff, climate change, and other water supply vulnerabilities. The Agency is the proper vehicle to accomplish this.

We believe that the Upper American River Watershed Management Program will contribute to the resolution of statewide water conflicts and water supply sustainability for our stakeholders and region. American River Conservancy's participation in this program furthers our mission of ensuring healthy ecosystems in the Upper American River and Upper Cosumnes River watersheds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Elena DeLacy'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elena DeLacy
Executive Director
elena@arconservancy.org



The County of El Dorado

Agriculture, Weights & Measures

311 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667-4197

Charlene Carveth
Agricultural Commissioner,
Sealer of Weights &
Measures

Phone (530) 621-5520
Fax (530) 626-4756
charlene.carveth@edcgov.us

January 8, 2021

Mr. Kenneth Payne
El Dorado County Water Agency
4330 Golden Center Drive, Suite C
Placerville, CA 95667

Subject: Support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program:
Dear Ken: Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F003

I am writing on behalf of the El Dorado County Agriculture Department, I'm writing to support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants application. We understand that that El Dorado County Water Agency (Agency) is acting as the lead grant applicant in our collective effort to seek assistance for the proposed program.

We look forward to being an involved stakeholder and advocate the importance of establishing a collaborative watershed management program that includes a diverse range of interests and sectors. This program will enable the region to develop a comprehensive plan to address current and future critical issues in the watershed, including changing water resources needs, water quality impacts due to wildfires and stormwater runoff, climate variability, and other water supply vulnerabilities. The Agency is the proper vehicle to accomplish this.

We believe that the Upper American River Watershed Management Program will greatly contribute to the resolution of statewide water conflicts as well as water supply sustainability for our stakeholders and region. Collaborative watershed management is important to agriculture and is crucial to ensure sustainability for all stakeholders into the future.

Sincerely,

Charlene Carveth
Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

Pat Dwyer – *President*
Division 2

George Osborne – *Director*
Division 1

Alan Day – *Director*
Division 5

Brian D. Poulsen, Jr.
General Counsel



Lori Anzini – *Vice President*
Division 4

Brian K. Veerkamp – *Director*
Division 3

Jim Abercrombie
General Manager

In reply refer to M0121-002

First Class Mail and Email

January 14, 2021

Mr. Kenneth Payne
El Dorado County Water Agency
4330 Golden Center Drive, Suite C
Placerville, CA 95667
ken.payne@edcgov.us

Subject: Support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program:
Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F003


Dear Mr. Payne:

I am writing on behalf of the El Dorado Irrigation District (District) to express support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants application. We understand that that El Dorado County Water Agency (EDCWA) is acting as the lead grant applicant in a collective effort to seek assistance for the proposed program.

The District understands the importance of establishing collaborative watershed management programs that include a diverse range of stakeholders and supports efforts to facilitate programs that seek to encourage such endeavors. The District is active participant in other watershed management efforts including the successful South Fork of the American River Cohesive Strategy group, which is led by the U.S. Forest Service with the objectives to build resilient landscapes, develop fire-adapted communities, and provide safe and effective wildfire response in the South Fork American River watershed. The District understands the EDCWA's proposed program could enable regions within the upper American River watershed that do not currently have watershed management initiatives in place to develop a comprehensive plan to address current and future critical issues in the watershed, including changing water resources needs, water quality impacts due to wildfires and stormwater runoff, climate variability, and other water supply vulnerabilities.

The District believes that the Upper American River Watershed Management Program will greatly contribute to watershed planning efforts in the Upper American River watershed. The District supports collaborative watershed management as a mechanism for ensuring a safe and reliable water supply for the future.

Sincerely,


Jim Abercrombie
General Manager



January 07, 2021

Mr. Kenneth Payne
El Dorado County Water Agency
4330 Golden Center Drive, Suite C
Placerville, CA 95667

Subject: Support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program:
Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F003

Dear Ken:

I am writing on behalf of the El Dorado Resource Conservation District and the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District (Districts) to express support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants application. We understand that that El Dorado County Water Agency (Agency) is acting as the lead grant applicant in our collective effort to seek assistance for the proposed program.

We look forward to being an involved stakeholder and advocate the importance of establishing a collaborative watershed management program that includes a diverse range of interests and sectors. This program will enable the region to develop a comprehensive plan to address current and future critical issues in the watershed, including changing water resources needs, water quality impacts due to wildfires and stormwater runoff, climate variability, and other water supply vulnerabilities. The Agency is the proper vehicle to accomplish this.

We believe that the Upper American River Watershed Management Program will greatly contribute to the resolution of statewide water conflicts as well as water supply sustainability for our stakeholders and region. The Districts are a key partner in watershed management through implementation of forest health projects consistent with local, regional and statewide priorities. These projects aims to protect the many values at risk threatened by complex fire issues associated with drought, climate change, fuel loading, insects and disease. Communities, infrastructure, private timber, water, power, recreation, protected species, and fire frequency. These are all reasons that this watershed is a high priority for collaborative action. The values to be protected in this watershed are critical to the local and regional economy and to ecosystem health.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Egbert
District Manager
El Dorado & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts
100 Forni Road, Suite A
Placerville, CA 95667
Mark.Egbert@ca.usda.gov
(●) 530-303-5328. (cell) 530-957-3472
www.eldoradorcd.org
www.georgetowndividdercd.org



PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

www.edcgov.us

PLACERVILLE OFFICE:

2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667

BUILDING

(530) 621-5315 / (530) 622-1708 Fax

bldgdept@edcgov.us

PLANNING

(530) 621-5355 / (530) 642-0508 Fax

planning@edcgov.us

LAKE TAHOE OFFICE:

924 B Emerald Bay Rd

South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

(530) 573-3330

(530) 542-9082 Fax

January 13, 2021

Mr. Kenneth Payne
El Dorado County Water Agency
4330 Golden Center Drive, Suite C
Placerville, CA 95667

Subject: Support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program:
Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F003

Dear Mr. Payne:

I am writing on behalf of El Dorado County to express support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants application. We understand that the El Dorado County Water Agency (Agency) is acting as the lead grant applicant in our collective effort to seek assistance for the proposed program.

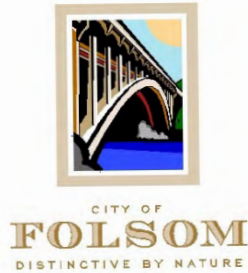
We look forward to being an involved stakeholder to advocate the importance of establishing a collaborative watershed management program that includes a diverse range of interests and sectors. This program will enable the region to develop a comprehensive plan to address current and future critical issues in the watershed, including changing water resources needs, water quality impacts due to wildfires and stormwater runoff, climate variability, and other water supply vulnerabilities. The Agency is the proper vehicle to accomplish this.

We believe that the Upper American River Watershed Management Program will greatly contribute to the resolution of statewide water conflicts as well as water supply sustainability for our stakeholders and region. Pursuit of this program meets two of the goals in our Strategic Plan - Healthy Communities and Infrastructure. Cooperative Watershed Management also fits in line with the County's Storm Water Resource Plan and our mission to protect water resources.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Schmid
Director, Planning and Building Department

cc: Don Ashton, Chief Administrative Officer



January 11, 2021

Mr. Kenneth Payne
El Dorado County Water Agency
4330 Golden Center Drive, Suite C
Placerville, CA 95667

Subject: Support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program:
Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F003

Dear Ken:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Folsom to express support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants application. We understand that that El Dorado County Water Agency (Agency) is acting as the lead grant applicant in our collective effort to seek assistance for the proposed program.

We look forward to being an involved stakeholder and advocate the importance of establishing a collaborative watershed management program that includes a diverse range of interests and sectors. This program will enable the region to develop a comprehensive plan to address current and future critical issues in the watershed, including changing water resources needs, water quality impacts due to wildfires and stormwater runoff, climate variability, and other water supply vulnerabilities. The Agency is the proper vehicle to accomplish this.

We believe that the Upper American River Watershed Management Program will greatly contribute to the resolution of statewide water conflicts as well as water supply sustainability for our stakeholders and region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marcus Yasutake".

Marcus Yasutake
City of Folsom
Environmental and Water Resources Director



GEORGETOWN DIVIDE
Public Utility District

P.O. BOX 4240

PHONE (530) 333-4356

GEORGETOWN, CALIFORNIA 95634-4240

FAX (530) 333-9442

gd-pud.org

January 8, 2021

Mr. Kenneth Payne
El Dorado County Water Agency
4330 Golden Center Drive, Suite C
Placerville, CA 95667

Subject: Support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program:
Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F003

Dear Ken:

I am writing on behalf of the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District to express support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants application. We understand that that El Dorado County Water Agency (Agency) is acting as the lead grant applicant in our collective effort to seek assistance for the proposed program.

We look forward to being an involved stakeholder and advocate the importance of establishing a collaborative watershed management program that includes a diverse range of interests and sectors. This program will enable the region to develop a comprehensive plan to address current and future critical issues in the watershed, including changing water resources needs, water quality impacts due to wildfires and stormwater runoff, climate variability, and other water supply vulnerabilities. The Agency is the proper vehicle to accomplish this.

We believe that the Upper American River Watershed Management Program will greatly contribute to the resolution of statewide water conflicts as well as water supply sustainability for our stakeholders and region. Furthermore, the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District relies on the upper American River as sole source of supply. The collaborative watershed management program is important to meet Georgetown Divide Public Utility District objective to ensure long-term watershed viability and sustainability.

Sincerely,

Jeff Nelson
General Manger



City of Placerville
3101 Center Street
Placerville, California 95667
(530) 642-5200, Fax: (530) 642-5538

January 12, 2021

Mr. Kenneth Payne
El Dorado County Water Agency
4330 Golden Center Drive, Suite C
Placerville, CA 95667

Subject: Support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program:
Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F003

Dear Ken:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Placerville to express support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants application. We understand that that El Dorado County Water Agency (Agency) is acting as the lead grant applicant in our collective effort to seek assistance for the proposed program.

We look forward to being an involved stakeholder and advocate the importance of establishing a collaborative watershed management program that includes a diverse range of interests and sectors. This program will enable the region to develop a comprehensive plan to address current and future critical issues in the watershed, including changing water resources needs, water quality impacts due to wildfires and stormwater runoff, climate variability, and other water supply vulnerabilities. The Agency is the proper vehicle to accomplish this.

We believe that the Upper American River Watershed Management Program will greatly contribute to the resolution of statewide water conflicts as well as water supply sustainability for our stakeholders and region. This program will assist and continue the City's goals to promote safe and sustainable water supply to the City of Placerville into the future.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

M. Cleve Morris
City Manager
City of Placerville



January 14, 2021

Kerry Schmitz, Chair
Sean Bigley, Vice Chair

Mr. Kenneth Payne
El Dorado County Water Agency
4330 Golden Center Drive, Suite C
Placerville, CA 95667

Members

California American Water
Carmichael Water District
Citrus Heights Water District
Del Paso Manor Water District
El Dorado Irrigation District
Elk Grove Water District
Fair Oaks Water District
Folsom, City of
Golden State Water Company
Lincoln, City of
Orange Vale Water Company
Placer County Water Agency
Rancho Murieta Community Services District
Roseville, City of
Sacramento, City of
Sacramento County Water Agency
Sacramento Suburban Water District
San Juan Water District
West Sacramento, City of
Yuba City, City of

Subject: Support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program: Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F003

Dear Ken:

I am writing on behalf of the Regional Water Authority to express support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants application. We understand that that El Dorado County Water Agency (Agency) is acting as the lead grant applicant in our collective effort to seek assistance for the proposed program.

We look forward to being an involved stakeholder and advocate the importance of establishing a collaborative watershed management program that includes a diverse range of interests and sectors. This program will enable the region to develop a comprehensive plan to address current and future critical issues in the watershed, including changing water resources needs, water quality impacts due to wildfires and stormwater runoff, climate variability, and other water supply vulnerabilities. The Agency is the proper vehicle to accomplish this.

We believe that the Upper American River Watershed Management Program will greatly contribute to the resolution of statewide water conflicts as well as water supply sustainability for our stakeholders and region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Peifer', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

James Peifer
Executive Director

Associates

County of Placer
El Dorado County Water Agency
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

File Code: 6000
Date: January 14, 2021

Mr. Kenneth Payne
El Dorado County Water Agency
4330 Golden Center Drive, Suite C
Placerville, CA 95667

Support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program:
Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F003

Dear Mr. Kenneth Payne:

I am writing on behalf of the Eldorado National Forest to express support for the Upper American River Watershed Management Program WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants application. We understand that that El Dorado County Water Agency (Agency) is acting as the lead grant applicant in our collective effort to seek assistance for the proposed program.

We look forward to being an involved stakeholder and advocate the importance of establishing a collaborative watershed management program that includes a diverse range of interests and sectors. This program will enable the region to develop a comprehensive plan to address current and future critical issues in the watershed, including changing water resources needs, water quality impacts due to wildfires and stormwater runoff, climate variability, and other water supply vulnerabilities. The Agency is the proper vehicle to accomplish this.

We believe that the Upper American River Watershed Management Program will greatly contribute to the resolution of statewide water conflicts as well as water supply sustainability for our stakeholders and region.

Sincerely,



JEFF MARSOLAIS
Forest Supervisor



January 14, 2021
ET&C 21-001

Kenneth V. Payne, P.E., General Manager
El Dorado County Water Agency
4330 Golden Center Drive, Suite C
Placerville, California 95667

Subject: Support for the Upper American River Watershed Management
Program: Funding Opportunity Announcement No. BOR-DO-21-F003

Dear Mr. Payne:

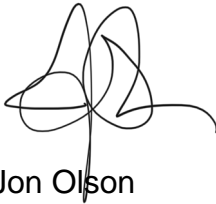
On behalf of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), I am writing to confirm our commitment and support of the Upper American River Watershed Management Program WaterSMART Cooperative Watershed Management Program Phase I Grants application. We understand that the El Dorado County Water Agency (Agency) is acting as the lead grant applicant in our collective effort to seek assistance for the proposed program.

We believe that the Upper American River Watershed Management Program will greatly contribute to the resolution of statewide water conflicts as well as water supply sustainability for our stakeholders and region.

To support the project and ensure its outcome is of real value to water purveyors relying on water from the Upper American River Watershed, SMUD looks forward to participating as an active member of the project's stakeholder working group. As an interested stakeholder, we understand SMUD will be requested to provide input and feedback on the parameters of the data collected, on the reliability and accuracy of the data collected, and on the design and usefulness of the platform that will host and display the data collected.

SMUD looks forward to being an involved stakeholder and advocates the importance of establishing a collaborative watershed management program that includes a diverse range of interests and sectors. This program will enable the region to develop a comprehensive plan to address current and future critical issues in the watershed, including changing water resources needs, water quality impacts due to wildfires and stormwater runoff, climate variability, and other water supply vulnerabilities. The Agency is the proper vehicle to accomplish this.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jon Olson
Director, Energy Trading & Contracts
Sacramento Municipal Utility District