



Countywide Plenary for Water Workbook

Fall 2024

ABOUT THE PLENARY

The Countywide Plenary for Water (Plenary) promotes a shared understanding of water resource challenges and opportunities in El Dorado County and surrounding watersheds through collaborative discussions. Participants discuss how to improve management of our interrelated resources and provide updates on accomplishments or emergent issues.

The Agency convenes the Plenary at least once per year in accordance with the policy approved by the Agency's Board for the Water Resources Development and Management Plan 2024 update (WRDMP24), which states:

“The Agency shall convene a chartered Countywide Plenary for Water to foster collaboration on the water resources development and management in El Dorado County. The Agency shall convene the Plenary at least once per year with representation from, at a minimum, the County's planning department, cities, water purveyors, and other water-resource related resource management entities.”

The Agency took a bold step in 2019 to transform its WRDMP into a true countywide water plan with clear goals, strategies, and implementation programs. It became the cornerstone document for the Agency to fulfill its charges provided by the 1959 El Dorado County Water Agency Act. The WRDMP24 affirmed the Agency's cautious optimism about our water future with the same forward-thinking and collaborative approach to align and encourage mutual support among partners in El Dorado County and beyond. This includes the continued convening of the Plenary as a critical implementation element.

Since its inaugural event in 2020, the Plenary has convened water and energy utilities; state, local, Tribes, and federal governments; watershed managers; and business and community organizations and leaders. The Plenary is a critical venue for supporting collaboration among partners throughout the County and beyond for economic prosperity, watershed health, and community resilience. The Agency facilitates each gathering around themes that are timely for water resource management in El Dorado County and statewide, to provide opportunities to converge on management strategies and focus for continued collaboration for progress.

Several ad-hoc or long-term topic-specific subgroups were also established under the Plenary for consistency and efficiency in governance and collaboration. This includes the Upper American River Watershed Group for collaborative watershed planning and management which resulted in the completion of the Programmatic Watershed Plan (UARWG, November 2023). Another subgroup is the El Dorado County Drought and Water Shortage Task Force, which facilitates countywide drought and water shortage preparedness, in accordance with Senate Bill 552. For more information about the Plenary, please see the Agency's webpage at <https://www.eldoradocounty.ca.gov/edwateragency/Programs-Projects/Communication-Advocacy>.

Fall 2024 Plenary Team:

- *El Dorado Water Agency: Rebecca Guo, Hannah Romero, Kyle Ericson, Tami Scowcroft*
- *Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.: Kari Shively, Emily Finnegan, Marisa Perez-Reyes, Katie Hardaker, and Marina Deligiannis*
- *Sunzi Consulting LLC: Yung-Hsin Sun*
- *Dynamic Geospatial Solutions LLC: Samuel Price*

Cover Image: Union Valley Reservoir, courtesy of Yung-Hsin Sun (copyright reserved)

PLENARY AGENDA

Countywide Plenary for Water – Fall 2024

Watershed Collaboration in Action: Securing Funding and Implementing Landscape-Scale Projects

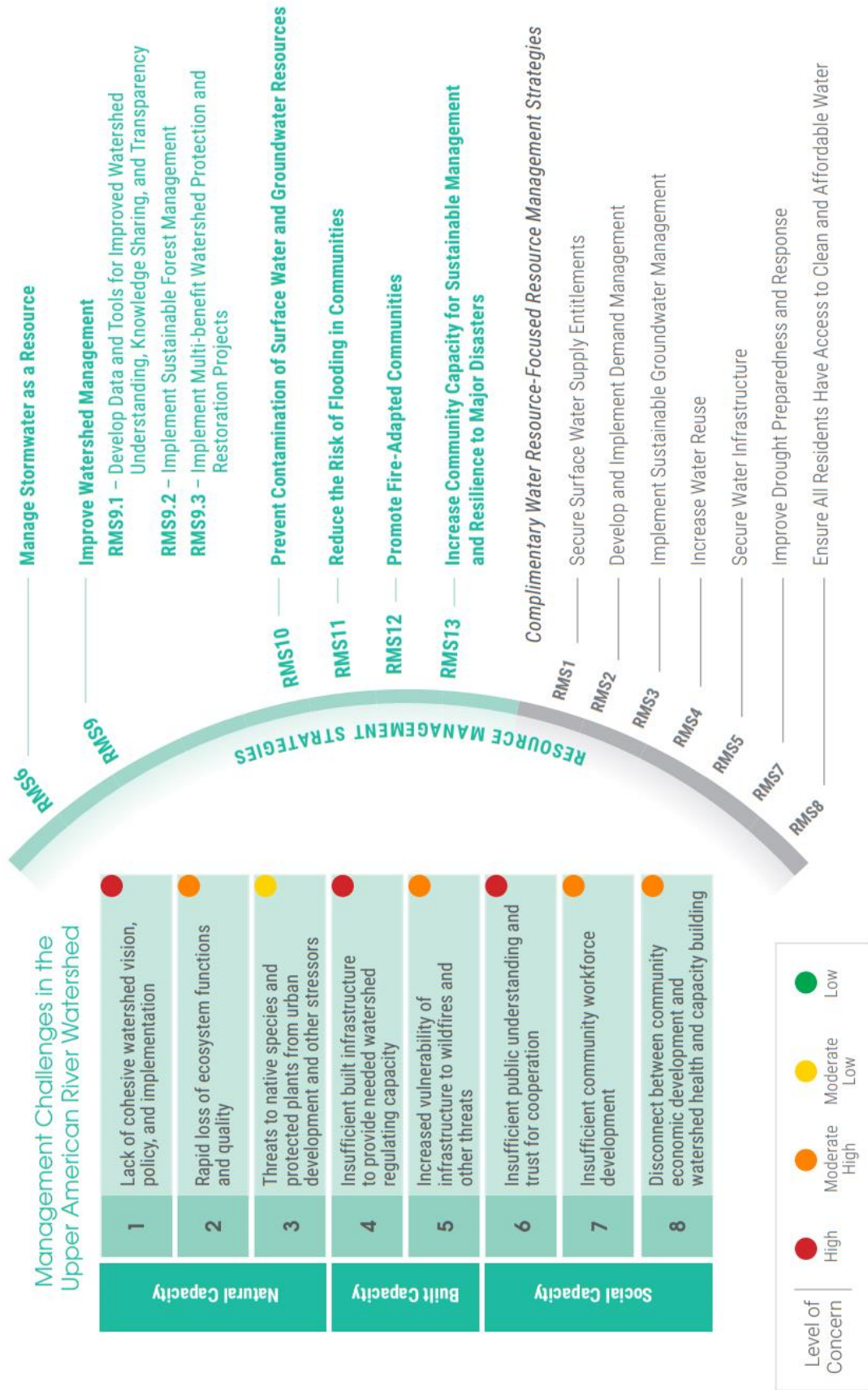
Wednesday October 23, 2024; 9 AM – 1 PM
El Dorado Water Agency
1101 Investment Blvd, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

- 8:30 AM REGISTRATION AND COFFEE
- 9:00 AM PLENARY WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS
Lori Parlin, County of El Dorado District IV Supervisor and Chair of the Agency Board
- 9:10 AM SMALL GROUPS: GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS
Emily Finnegan, Lead Facilitator, Stantec
- 9:15 AM OVERVIEW: ADVANCING A LANDSCAPE-SCALE APPROACH TO MEET THE GOALS OF THE PROGRAMMATIC WATERSHED PLAN
Rebecca Guo, General Manager, El Dorado Water Agency
Rae Dunstan, Project and Data Management Associate, Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative
- 9:40 AM BREAKOUT EXERCISE: IDENTIFYING BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTING LANDSCAPE-SCALE PROJECTS
Emily Finnegan, Lead Facilitator, Stantec
- 10:10 AM PANEL DISCUSSION: CLEVER IDEAS FOR SUCCESSFULLY FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTING LANDSCAPE-SCALE PROJECTS
Kathleen McIntyre, Environmental Improvement Program Director, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
JoAnna Lessard, Watershed Manager, Yuba Water Agency
Elena DeLacy, Executive Director, American River Conservancy
Mark Egbert, District Manager, El Dorado & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts
- 10:45 AM BREAK
- 10:55 AM BREAKOUT GROUP DISCUSSION
- 11:35 AM REPORT-OUTS AND FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS FOR PANELISTS
Moderated by **Emily Finnegan**, Lead Facilitator, Stantec
- 12:00 PM WORKING LUNCH
- 12:45 PM PLENARY WRAP-UP AND CLOSING REMARKS
Rebecca Guo, General Manager, El Dorado Water Agency
- 1:00 PM ADJOURN

SUPPORTING FIGURES

The following figures from the Programmatic Watershed Plan for the upper American River watershed are provided to supplement the presentation by Rebecca Guo, General Manager of El Dorado Water Agency, and as a point of reference for the *Identifying Barriers to Implementing Landscape-scale Projects* activity.





PANEL OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION WORKSHEET

Following the Agency's presentation and the speed breakout exercise to identify barriers to implementation, Plenary participants will explore the topics in greater depth by hearing from a panel of experts, holding discussions in breakout groups, and posing follow-up questions to the panelists:

- **Panel** (35 minutes) will provide an overview of different partnerships and collaboratives advancing landscape-scale multi-benefit projects and respond to brief questions to prime Plenary participants for discussion.
- **Breakout Groups** (40 minutes) will delve into discussion questions based on the preceding panel and morning presentation. The panelists will circulate among the breakout group tables to listen in on the discussions. Each group will report out **one key takeaway** from their discussion and pose **one question for the panelists** to respond to during Q&A.
- **Q&A with Panelists** (25 minutes) will provide the opportunity for Plenary participants to ask questions of panelists based on their breakout group discussions.

Plenary participants are encouraged to use this workbook to take notes and capture discussion points.

Clever Ideas for Successfully Funding and Implementing Landscape-Scale Projects

Instructions: Please review and discuss the following questions with your group. After the breakout discussions, the Panel will reconvene, and each group will be asked to share one key takeaway and pose one question to the Panel.

1. Reflecting on the exercise this morning, select one barrier to project implementation that the group would like to focus on.	10:55 AM 5 min
Notes:	

2. Reflecting on the panel discussion, what strategies or approaches could be applied to overcome this barrier? Are there other strategies or approaches that should be considered?	11:00 AM 15 min
Notes:	
3. What agencies or organizations would need to be involved in advancing these strategies and approaches? Who should lead this effort?	11:15 AM 15 min
Notes:	
<i>Prepare for Q&A with Panelists:</i> Identify 1 key takeaway from your breakout group's discussion and prepare 1 follow-up question for the Panel to respond to.	11:30 AM 5 min

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES LISTED IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE



Lori Parlin, Board Chair of El Dorado Water Agency and County of El Dorado Supervisor, District IV

Lori Parlin moved to El Dorado County with her family at the age of four. She spent several years of her childhood in Camino and then later moved to Pollock Pines. Following college and residing in the Sacramento region, Lori and her husband returned to the County to raise their family, settling in Shingle Springs. Incompatible development projects prompted Lori's journey to becoming an advocate for protecting community character in her neighborhood and throughout the county. She was elected to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors in 2018 and was sworn in on January 7, 2019. In addition to collaborating with and empowering community groups, Lori participates in commissions and committees that lead efforts among rural counties to improve forest health, fire resiliency, broadband, and tourism impacts. Lori continues to support work toward creating community identity pursuant to Goal 2.4 of the El Dorado County General Plan. In December 2017 the Board of Supervisors approved funding for the creation of design standards in several communities throughout the county to preserve the unique character and lifestyle that residents enjoy. Lori holds a B.S. in Business Administration, with a concentration in Management Information Systems, from California State University, Sacramento. She has also held positions with Ponderosa High School and the Forestry Challenge.



Emily Finnegan, Lead Facilitator, Stantec

Emily Finnegan brings nearly a decade of facilitation and project management experience, including providing oversight for implementation of communication and engagement activities on behalf of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in over ten basins statewide. She specializes in designing and facilitating collaborative planning processes, helping to expand public agency engagement of environmentally and economically stressed communities, and executing large-scale in-person and virtual events. Emily has served as a facilitator for state and local agencies, including the California Department of Water Resources, the California State Water Resources Control Board, the California Water Commission, San Joaquin County, and Siskiyou County. Prior to joining Stantec, Emily led the sustainable groundwater management program and integrated watershed management program at Local Government Commission (now CivicWell).



Rebecca Guo, General Manager, El Dorado Water Agency

Rebecca Guo has over 16 years of experience leading, managing, and supporting projects addressing a broad range of water resources issues throughout California. Prior to joining the water agency last year, she supported the agency since 2016 on various projects including planning for stormwater resources, drought contingency, small water system reliability and watershed management, Caldor Fire recovery, and grant application development, among others. She has facilitated various stakeholder meetings and forums to promote integrated water management and collaborative implementation of the Water Resources Development and Management Plan to achieve long-term water resilience and economic prosperity. She received her B.S. in civil engineering from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and M.S. in civil and environmental engineering from Stanford University.



Rae Dunstan, Project Manager, Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative

Rae Dunstan is the Project Management & GIS Specialist for the Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI), a partnership focused on restoring resilience to 2.4 million acres of Sierra Nevada forested watersheds through innovation and collaboration across landownerships. Since joining the initiative in September 2023, Rae has led key projects, including the development of the Tahoe-Central Sierra Project Tracker, a comprehensive tool for tracking project accomplishments, expenditures, and funding. Rae also supports TCSI's Enabling Forest Infrastructure workgroup which addresses biomass utilization challenges in the Sierra. She holds a bachelor's degree in Conservation Biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse, NY.



Kathleen McIntyre, Environmental Improvement Program Director, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

Dr. Kathleen McIntyre is the forest health and Environmental Improvement Program Department Director for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. She holds a Ph.D. in forest sciences and collaborative governance from Colorado State University. She served on the federal Wildland Fire Management and Mitigation Commission and helped develop recommendations on how best to solve the wildfire crisis. She currently serves as the Vice President of the Tahoe Resource Conservation District Board of Directors.



JoAnna Lessard, Watershed Manager, Yuba Water

Yuba Water's watershed manager, Joanna Lessard, leads the agency's Watershed Resilience Program and the Integrated Regional Water Management Program and supports other large projects across the agency. Through these roles, she works to develop collaborative projects to increase the pace, scale and multiple benefits of forest health and wildfire risk reduction projects, as well as collaborative water supply development and water conservation projects. She represents Yuba Water Agency within the North Yuba Forest Partnership, a flagship forest health and watershed restoration effort, working to plan and implement key treatments across the entire 275,000-acre North Yuba River watershed. Lessard also manages the 5,400-acre Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Cal Fire Grant that is funding needed forest thinning on public and private lands in the Yuba County foothills. She brings a broad background in technical natural resource research and management, funding strategy development and project coordination to these and other key agency programs.



Elena DeLacy, Executive Director, American River Conservancy

While Elena DeLacy has served in the role of Executive Director at American River Conservancy (ARC) for five years, she has been with the organization since 2003. As Executive Director, Elena is involved in the development of the organization's strategic plan, develops and manages an average annual budget of \$2,000,000 and a staff of 14. Ms. DeLacy directs the organization's overall fundraising and grant strategy, which has brought over \$22 million in conservation-related investments to the Upper American River and Upper Cosumnes River watersheds since 2019. As an advocate for landscape-scale habitat conservation and restoration, watershed health, and Sierra-wide resource management issues at the California State Capitol, Elena is well-versed in the complexities of watershed management in our region. Ms. DeLacy has previously held the titles of Associate Director, Stewardship Director, and Conservation Project Coordinator at ARC. She graduated from UC Davis with a degree in Environmental Biology and Management, with a focus on Conservation Biology. Ms. DeLacy resides in Placerville with her three daughters and enjoys hiking on local trails, foraging for native foods, and performing as a violinist/ fiddler/ vocalist in a folk ensemble.



Mark Egbert, District Manager, El Dorado & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts

Mark Egbert is a Project Management Professional and currently holds the position of District Manager for the El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts. Serving at the will of the duly elected Board of Directors, he is responsible for the governmental operations and contractual obligations of both Districts. With more than 20 years of experience, Mark has developed a resume with extensive program management experience within both the private and public sectors. As a proven leader in Fire Prevention and Forest Management, Mark's accomplishments include leveraging resources to El Dorado County which has resulted in local job creation, community awareness and advocacy, resilient forests, and reliable water supply protection. As a native of El Dorado County, Mark understands that actions taken now have long-lasting impacts for the future of El Dorado County and its residents.