

## **2024 Water Resources Development and Management Plan Update**

### **PLAN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #2**

Thursday, August 8, 2024, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Raley's, 166 Placerville Dr., Placerville, CA 95667

### **Meeting Summary**

Meeting Objective: This is the second in a series of Plan Advisory Group (PAG) meetings to support the 2024 Water Resources Development and Management Plan (WRDMP or Plan) Update process. The focus of the meeting was the review and solicitation of PAG feedback on the first three sections of the 2024 WRDMP draft which include:

- Section 1 – Introduction
- Section 2 – Current Water Management
- Section 3 – Challenges Ahead

The following is a summary of comments and questions that were provided by PAG members and addressed by El Dorado Water Agency (EDWA) staff and consultants. All comments and suggested edits refer to WRDMP v. 08.06.24.

### **Opening Remarks and Introduction of WRDMP**

Rebecca Guo, General Manager, EDWA reviewed the schedule for the 2024 WRDMP update development to meet the anticipated date for EDWA Board adoption in October (November the latest). During and after each PAG meeting, members are encouraged to review and continue to provide feedback on the developing sections of the Plan.

PAG Comments and Questions: None provided.

### **Summary Update of 2024 WRDMP Activities and Document Review Process**

Yung-Hsin Sun, Senior Principal Consultant, Sunzi Consulting provided additional information about the Plan's development and review process. The 2024 update follows the 2019 WRDMP structure and is meant to be a high-level policy document for coordination (Section 4). The Plan is meant to be actionable and flexible. It is important to acknowledge accomplishments and progress since the 2019 WRDMP was adopted. We also face new challenges that need to be considered as part of the update. The last section of the Plan highlights specific EDWA actions.

In addition to the PAG review of the draft plan, EDWA staff and consultants met with PAG Subgroup Water Supply-Demand Imbalance (SDI) to review the approach for updating 2019 information and preparation of the water supply-demand imbalance assessment (Section 3).

PAG Comments and Questions: None provided.

### **WRDMP Review and Discussion: Section 1 - Introduction**

Yung-Hsin Sun reviewed Section 1 which describes the context, purpose, and goals for the WRDMP and lists participating agencies. Changes identified in Sections 2 and 3 are meant to directly address and link to natural disasters and emergencies as described in the graphics on the WRDMP page 18.

PAG Comments and Questions:

- Add a 'forest conditions' label to graphics on Page 18 – 6<sup>th</sup> line.

**WRDMP Review and Discussion: Section 2 – Current Water Management**

Yung-Hsin Sun reviewed Section 2 which provides a description of current water management practice, roles and responsibilities, and existing major infrastructure. Specifically, PAG members were asked to review the listed local agencies' roles and responsibilities.

Consistent with the General Plan, the WRDMP delineates the West Slope from the Tahoe Basin. For planning purposes, the WRDMP continues to use the 2019 designations for urban and rural-agricultural water use planning zones which will be updated per General Plan updates. A follow-up meeting with County Planning is scheduled to confirm identified minor changes.

PAG Comments and Questions:

West Slope- Water Use Planning Zones diagram (Page 21)

- How do you estimate the urban and agricultural water uses when they are described as adjoining uses?  
Response: The delineation of water use planning zones is the first step. Based on the General Plan policies and guidance, we combined the potential areas for agricultural development in the urban water use planning zone (for adjacent use) and in the rural-agricultural water planning zone (primary use). Note the existing agricultural use land was recognized and excluded from the opportunity assessment. This combined area went through the physical suitability analysis for agricultural development, and then economic analysis for placement of five types of crops that are economically advantageous for potential cultivation. This generates agricultural demands that is beyond the existing agricultural use. The urban/domestic demands in the rural-agricultural water use planning zone is hinged upon the lands with existing agricultural use or opportunities for development identified above to account for needs for workers or caretakers. However, the overall aggregated population from the urban water need assessments would need to conform to the General Plan's limits in population density. We want to make sure that for future General Plan updates, we can have a consistent process and avoid reinventing the wheel.
- When considering total demand that includes both urban and agriculture components – is that in the urban water use or agriculture water use buckets?  
Response: When doing the water supply-demand imbalance analysis, we look at both recognizing that a parcel might have both components, but it is important to delineate primary from adjoint water uses for their reasons for inclusion. They are subject to different specifications in use, efficiency, and water shortage practices.

Roles and Responsibilities Table (Page 26)

- Flood Management category - Explain the description and qualification for this role. The County of El Dorado has a Flood Manager. Karen Garner will review and provide input.
- Water Quality Management Category – Does this category apply to drinking water or watershed? There is not intended for drinking water quality but a sa consideration on watershed level.

- Stormwater Resources management – Add to El Dorado Irrigation District
- South Tahoe PUD – Remove Agricultural Water supply. Limited to Alpine County.
- Confirmed table reflects roles and responsibilities – EDWA, El Dorado Irrigation District, Georgetown Divide PUD, Grizzly Flats CSD, South Tahoe PUD
- Federal and State Agencies – Listed on table for consideration, seeking the PAG’s opinion to include. It may create confusion in a locally driven planning and document.
- NGO and Local Groups – Similar to federal and state agencies, they are not only in the county or they have different organization charges. While we have worked with the American River Conservancy in the county, there are others that may or may not hold lands.

Roles and Responsibilities Figure (Page 27)

- EDWA – Add number 6 for Watershed Management.

### **WRDMP Review and Discussion: Section 3 - Challenges Ahead**

Yung-Hsin Sun reviewed Section 3 which describes challenges related to water supply, water quality, and public safety, the 2019 WRDMP designations, making a distinction between the West Slope and the Tahoe Basin. Key challenges in these two regions are ranked by level of concern and are summarized in tables on pages 34-35. PAG members were asked to weigh in on the ranking.

#### PAG Comments and Questions:

Water resource related challenges in the West Slope and Tahoe Basin

- South Tahoe PUD – For water quality, there are concerns about naturally occurring arsenic and uranium and emerging PFAS rules.
- Grizzly Flats CSD – For water quality, turbidity and temperature lead to algae problems post fire.
  - Folsom Lake experiences similar problems.
- Georgetown Divide PUD – Following the Mosquito Fire, drainage went into the canal resulting in increased sediments and turbidity and impacting our Reservoir. No increase in algae growth.
- El Dorado Irrigation District – Following the Caldor Fire, turbidity has caused operational issues. Confirmed both on turbidity and algae.
- County of El Dorado – Raised an issue with questionable agricultural well permit applications. Residents with existing services from a public water purveyor have sought to add wells for non-commercial “agricultural” use (e.g., home gardens and landscaping). Agricultural Commissioner stated that the justification for an agricultural well is not sound. This will require a separate conversation to review land use designation and agricultural well permitting process.
- County of El Dorado – Overall the table looks good recognizing that each year, with fires, things change. Septic tanks have not presented any significant water quality issues.

Water supply – demand imbalance

- Agricultural water use – does the analysis consider all crops?  
Response: Five different representative crop types are used in the analysis.
- South Tahoe PUD is embarking on a Water Supply Plan for the next 50 years that will consider the use of surface water in addition to groundwater. They have an ongoing water rights

application for TROA settlement. They are working on a Recycled Water Strategic Plan that will consider recycled water use in Alpine County and potentially Nevada.

- El Dorado Irrigation District confirmed that recycled water was captured correctly, but no expansion is expected. They just completed their Recycled Water Plan.
- Fire hazard severity zone (Page 53) - The state's definition of these zones does not apply to federal lands.
  - County of El Dorado – Confirming if the latest severity zone map published in April 2024 was used. Confirmed.
  - Marking all federal land as very high fire hazard severity will not be appropriate although used in the Programmatic Watershed Plan (PWP) for the upper American River watershed. The team will explore information on fire hazards in federal lands, recognizing that we have missing equivalent information that is important. .

#### **Section 4 – Resource Management Strategies (RMS)**

Yung-Hsin Sun described Section 4, which will be the focus of the next PAG meeting. Section 4 provides a listing of strategies that can be used collectively to address identified challenges (Section 3). The list of strategies is a combination of strategies identified in the 2019 WRDMP (designated in orange) as well as strategies identified in the PWP (Designated in teal). The RMS is a policy direction; each identified management action can be a combination of multiple projects and should be developed with advocacy and funding opportunities in mind.

#### **Section 5 – Implementation**

Yung-Hsin Sun mentioned that Section 5 is part of the plan and describes EDWA's work and implementation of the plan. PAG members do not need to provide feedback on this section.

#### **Action Items and Next Steps**

- PAG members to provide additional input on Sections 1 -3:
  - Section 1 - Introduction
    - Karen Garner (County) offered to provide alternative language to Section 1.2 Goals
    - Karen Garner (County) will provide input on the flood management component
  - Section 2 – Current Water Management
    - Review and confirm roles and responsibilities for each agency (Page 26)
    - How should the table best reflect the roles and responsibilities of other local, state, and federal agencies if appropriate and needed for this plan? (Page 26)
    - Does the map properly capture major built infrastructure? (Page 30)
  - Section 3 – Challenges Ahead
    - Review and provide input on the water resource related challenges in the West Slope and Tahoe Basin (Page 34-35)
    - Domestic wells - County will review and confirm domestic well information (page 50)
    - County will review the subsection for impacts of wildfires (Page 53)
    - Flooding map (Page 60) - County will help identify flood hotspot areas for the South Lake Tahoe Region

- Review and provide additional input on the maps describing risks and challenges
  - Septic Tank System map (Page 47) - Georgetown Divide PUD can provide additional information for Auburn Lake Trails On-site Wastewater Disposal Zone.
- EDWA to generate a map showing the potential agricultural opportunity lands that are outside of the existing purveyor's service areas per Michael Ranalli's (Farm Bureau) request.
  - Next PAG meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2024, 2pm – 4pm. Meeting materials and agenda will be sent out ahead of the meeting.

**Participation**

Organization	Name
PAG Members	
Georgetown Divide Public Utility District	Adam Brown, Operations Manager
County of El Dorado	Jeffrey Warren, Director, Environmental Management Department Karen Garner, Director, Planning and Building Department LeeAnne Mila, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures Thomas Meyer, Program Manager, Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience
El Dorado County Farm Bureau	Michael Ranalli, President
El Dorado Irrigation District	Brian Mueller, Director of Engineering Jon Money, Senior Civil Engineer
El Dorado Water Agency	Kyle Ericson, Water Resources Principal Rebecca Guo, General Manager Hannah Romero, Water Resources Principal
Grizzly Flats Community Service District	Kim Gustafson, General Manager
South Tahoe Public Utility District	Adrian Combes, Senior Engineer
UC Agriculture and Natural Resources	Hardeep Singh, Local Food Systems Advisor, Central Sierra Cooperative Extension
Consultants	
Sunzi Consulting	Yung-Hsin Sun, Senior Principal Consultant
Facilitator	Orit Kalman, Facilitator
Khadam Consulting	Ibrahim Khadam, Principal Engineer

**Additional Invited PAG Members**

Organization	Name
PAG Members	
Tahoe City Public Utility District	Sean Barclay, General Manager
County of El Dorado	Carla Haas, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

Organization	Name
	Rafael Martinez, Director, Department of Transportation
City of Placerville	Pierre Rivas, Director, Development Service Department
El Dorado Wine Grape Growers Association	Charles Mansfield, President
American River Conservancy	Elena DeLacy, Executive Director
El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District	Mark Egbert, District Manager
El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission	Shiva Frentzen, Executive Director
City of South Lake Tahoe	
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians	