

Agricultural Advisory Group MeetingEDCWA 2019 WRDMP / 184031081

Date/Time: December 13, 2018 / 2:00 PM
Place: EDCWA; 4330 Golden Center Dr, Suite C, Placerville, CA 95667
Next Meeting: TBD
Attendees: El Dorado County Water Agency: Ken Payne
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors: Brian Veerkamp
Boeger Winery; El Dorado Wine Grape Growers Association: Greg Boeger
Walker Vineyard; El Dorado Wine Grape Growers Association: Lloyd Walker
El Dorado Irrigation District: Brian Mueller
Citizens for Water; El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce: Doug Leisz
El Dorado County Farm Bureau: Merv de Haas
El Dorado County Department of Agriculture: LeeAnne Mila
Rainbow Orchards; El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce: Tom Heflin
Georgetown Divide Public Utility District: Mike Saunders
El Dorado Agricultural Water Quality Management Corporation: Dedrian Kobervig
Stantec: Yung-Hsin Sun, Raymond Hoang, Maritza Flores Marquez
EN2: Rick Lind
ERA: Duncan MacEwan
Davids Engineering: Grant Davids
Prosio Communications: Lindsay Pangburn

Not Present: El Dorado County Department of Agriculture: Charlene Carveth
Geosyntec: Steve Maculay
Georgetown Divide Public Utility District: Steve Palmer
El Dorado County Farm Bureau: Dave Pratt
Rainbow Orchards; El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce: Christa Campbell
Grizzly Flats Community Services District: Jodi Lauther
El Dorado Irrigation District: Jim Abercrombie

The purpose of the meeting is to initiate an Agricultural Advisory Group (Group) to assist the agricultural economic development study (Study) for El Dorado County with a focus on the West Slope. The Study will provide input to El Dorado County Water Agency's (EDCWA) 2019 Water Resources Development and Management Plan (WRDMP) and contribute to the basis of many ongoing project-specific efforts.

Notes:

- West Slope Agricultural Development Feasibility Assessment
 - Task 2: The Group will identify unique features of West Slope agriculture and support grower interviews.
 - ERA and Davids Engineering shared their existing data sources:
 - 2009 El Dorado County Survey from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR)

- 2014-2018 Land IQ remote-sensing techniques
 - Spatial evapotranspiration (ET) data
 - Irrigation Management Service (IMS) data
 - El Dorado County crop reports
 - Additional data sources were suggested by the Group:
 - The Pesticide Use Report
 - El Dorado County Wine Grape Surveys
 - El Dorado County Annual Crop Reports
 - LeeAnne Mila indicated that additional agriculture parcel data was available, though sensitive data would need to be redacted
 - There was general concern regarding the validity of existing datasets, and how recent trends may not have been captured.
 - EDCWA will help streamline the interviews. Interviews will occur in the EDCWA office.
- Task 3: The Group will identify irrigation methods, applied water records, and production practices provided in grower interviews.
 - The Group suggested that frost protection for orchards, stone fruit and vineyards be considered for the applied water estimates. It was stated that majority of farmers use overhead sprinklers for frost protection, with frost protection occurring during February through April.
 - Frost protection data can be obtained directly from growers.
 - Spray applications should be considered for applied water estimates.
 - El Dorado Irrigation (EID) or Rick Lind from EN2 may have additional IMS data available.
 - Group stated that current agriculture trends have significantly differed from the past, this has been seen in row crops. This means that recent data will become valuable for the demand projections.
 - Applied water records could possibly be obtained from EID, if not information may be obtained directly from growers.
 - Vineyard irrigation is done with overhead sprinklers or drip irrigation with the newest vineyards irrigated with drip irrigation.
 - Greg Boeger indicated that there was a California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) station on his property, and there was potential to utilize it to validate alternative datasets (i.e. from remote sensing).
- Task 4: The Group will refine agriculture practices and input costs through grower interviews and advise on the value of direct to consumer markets and agritourism activities.
 - The Group suggested that a survey be created for the wine industry to collect information on its retail details.
 - Residents are more cognizant of where their food comes from (i.e. emphasis on organic and certified producers).

- The Chamber of Commerce could be a source that contains information on the retail value of wine produced in El Dorado County. Laurel Brent-Bumb is a possible contact.
- 40% of what is produced in El Dorado County stays in El Dorado County whereas the remaining 60% is exported out.
 - There is significant Farmers Market participation in El Dorado County and outside El Dorado County, such as San Francisco.
 - Reno, Carson and Linden are markets that will continue to grow and purchase products from El Dorado County.
- Task 5: The final assessment will reflect all of the Group input under the initial phases of the project.
- Additional individuals/agencies that should be included in the Group:
 - El Dorado County Growers Association
 - El Dorado County Christmas Tree Growers Association
 - El Dorado County Wine Grape Growers Association
 - Goldbud Farms
 - Madrone Tree Hill
 - Big growers from Georgetown

Action Items:

- Stantec will send out meeting notes.
- ERA and Davids Engineering to complete the following items:
 - Possibly schedule a tour of the West Slope in 2018
 - Continue to compile baseline historical data
 - Continue to prepare baseline applied water data and economic market analysis data
 - Schedule a data review/validation session before conducting grower interviews. A map with all acquired data would be projected and used for discussion. Some form of spatial representation would be useful for growers to identify validity of existing datasets.
 - Schedule grower interviews during early 2019
 - Grant Davids will follow up with LeeAnne Mila to obtain additional agriculture data available for El Dorado County
 - Grant Davids will follow up with Rick Lind on the availability of IMS data for El Dorado County
- Contact Yung-Hsin Sun from Stantec via email (yung-hsin.sun@stantec.com) with the contact information of anyone else that should be included in the Agricultural Advisory Group.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM