



**AGENDA REQUEST
Regular Meeting, June 12, 2019**

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Kenneth V. Payne, P.E., General Manager

DATE: June 5, 2019

SUBJECT: Informational Presentation Regarding the El Dorado County Water Agency's Water Resources Development and Management Plan

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Agency's Water Resources Development and Management Plan (WRDMP) is being developed to support the County of El Dorado's implementation of the General Plan by identifying resource management strategies in response to identified water resource-related challenges, and to formulate the Agency's implementation programs to be consistent with its authority and priorities. The presentation will provide an update to the WRDMP development and the participating efforts to-date amongst the Agency, County, water purveyors and county interest groups.

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KVP/jvl

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the Board receive and file the presentation.

ACTION OF AGENCY ON:

VOTE:

Unanimous _____ or

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered into the minutes of the Board of Directors, El Dorado County Water Agency.

Date _____

Attest:

By _____

Background

The Agency is developing a comprehensive plan to provide direction for future investments in water resource development and management that will enhance the benefits for the County, as a whole, while still conforming with the roles and responsibilities of the Agency. Through the plan update effort, the Agency expects to accomplish the following goals:

- Facilitate implementation of the County's General Plan for countywide economic development and resource stewardship.
- Address changed conditions in the County related to water needs and other resource management strategies.
- Reflect the improved understanding of effects of climate change.
- Reflect the understanding of effects to changes in California law, regulations, policies, and practices related to water resource management after the historic drought from 2012-2016.
- Promote dialogue and mutual understanding among local government entities, stakeholders, and the public regarding Agency's priorities and focus of water resources development and management.
- Institute a 5-year update cycle for the WRDMP to promote adaptive management and continued review of the County's General Plan implementation,
- Streamline the preparation of the countywide water plan to support the County's near-term land use decisions.

The Agency recently adopted a 2016-2020 Strategic Plan¹ to outline the near-term focus in fulfilling the Agency's charge and responsibilities; and to provide elevated services for long-term benefits to the communities, water purveyors, and residents. The Strategic Plan calls for an efficient, cost-effective, transparent and adaptive organization with better defined functions for the Agency to lead and support different aspects of countywide or cross-water purveyor water resource planning, management and stewardship in a fiscally responsible manner.

Based on its authority and Strategic Plan, the Agency seeks balance in taking on leading and supporting roles among the many water resources planning and project implementation activities to conform with its role as a county agency with resource management responsibility while also exercising respect to the role and responsibilities of established water purveyors and other local agencies.

Since the adoption of the Strategic Plan, the Agency has facilitated discussions for collaborating with the Federal and State agencies on countywide issues that have long-term opportunities and benefits, including:

- Negotiation of the long-term water supply service contracts with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation per Public Law 101-514;
- Support groundwater management in the Tahoe Basin with STPUD to meet requirements of the California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act;
- Investigate, in collaboration with Reclamation and regional water purveyors, water management studies such as the American River Basin Study, Regional Drought Contingency Plan, Water Marketing Strategy Project, and Alder Creek Water Storage and Conservation Project.

¹ https://edcgov.us/Water/Pages/strategic_plan.aspx

- Complete the El Dorado County Stormwater Resource Plan in 2018 to provide an integrated tool for stormwater elements that are customized for the County and to provide the foundation for continued support to the County and Placerville, as well as stakeholders and non-profit organizations (NGOs) for implementation.

The two previous WRDMP versions were intended for very different purposes that were focused on summarizing water supply needs. As part of the strategy to develop this recent version of the WRDMP, the Agency reflected on the evolving nature of its role within the County, and the Agency's priorities as allowed under the broad authority provided in the 1959 El Dorado County Water Agency Act². Thus, for the 2019 WRDMP Update, the Agency has made changes in content and focused to better align with the Agency's overall mission and charges.

The presentation by Stantec, the Agency's consultant facilitating the development of the WRDMP, outlines the mutually supportive strategies used to develop the WRDMP in an efficient and purposeful manner, and provides an overview of the Plan.

² https://edcgov.us/Water/documents/Chapter_96.pdf