




AGENDA REQUEST
Regular Meeting, October 9, 2019

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Kenneth V. Payne, P.E., General Manager 
DATE: October 4, 2019
SUBJECT: Water Resources Development and Management Plan Policy (E-1001)

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Water Resources Development and Management Plan (WRDMP) documents the Agency's progress toward long-term water resources planning. The WRDMP provides a renewed focus on advancing countywide water management to realize the vision of the General Plan as adopted by the County of El Dorado for economic development, environmental protection and quality of life for all residents. The proposed policy provides guidelines to allow the Agency staff to implement elements of the WRDMP.

(Attached: Water Resources Development and Management Plan Policy E-1001; Resolution WA-6-2019)
KVP/jvl

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board: 1) Determine that the Water Resources Development and Management Plan Policy (E-1001) is consistent with the Agency's mission and authority provided by the 1959 El Dorado County Water Act; 2) Adopt Resolution WA-6-2019, which approves the Water Resources Development and Management Plan Policy E-1001; and 3) Authorize the Board Chair to sign the resolution.

ACTION OF AGENCY ON: The Board: 1) Determined that the Water Resources Development and Management Plan Policy (E-1001) is consistent with the Agency's mission and authority provided by the 1959 El Dorado County Water Act; 2) Adopted Resolution WA-6-1001; which approves the Water Resources Development and Management Policy E-1001; and 3) Authorized the Board Chair to sign the resolution.

VOTE:

Unanimous _____ or

Ayes: Frentzen, Parlin, Osborne, Veerkamp

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Sheehan

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 10/09/2019

Attest:
By 
Clerk of the Agency

Background:

The 1959 El Dorado County Water Agency Act (Act), the El Dorado County Water Agency's (EDCWA or Agency) mission is to ensure that El Dorado County has adequate water for today and in the future. The Agency's responsible area covers the entire El Dorado County, on both sides of the Sierra Nevada in the Tahoe Basin as well as the West Slope foothill area (West Slope). This diverse landscape has headwaters and national forests with some urbanization and general rural-agricultural surroundings. The Act provides authority for the Agency to address broad powers that include:

- §96-11 Water Supply – any/every lawful act to ensure sufficient water is available for the present and future beneficial use within the Agency
- §96-12 Power – construct, operate and maintain hydropower projects and contracts
- §96-13 Flood Control – control flood and storm waters and conserve such waters
- §96-14 Storage of Water – store water in surface or groundwater basins within or outside the County; and prevent contamination/pollution of such waters
- §96-15 Waterworks – acquire water works within or outside the County
- §96-17 Investigations – Carry out technical and other investigations, analyses, studies and inspections pertaining to water supplies or flood/storm waters for water within or entering the County
- §96-23 Sale/Lease of water or rights to Use Water – sale, lease or otherwise transfer water to a member unit of the Agency for use within or outside the County. A “member unit” is any district which enters into a contract within the Agency.

Previous versions of the WRDMP, as adopted in 2007 and 2014, focused on the water supply and demand analyses that was largely based on the water supply evaluations prepared by the water purveyors within the County. The objective of these plans was to serve as a basis to comply with Ordinance No. 4325 that was adopted in 1995. This ordinance required the Agency and County to (1) collect water supply and demand data; (2) public review of the water supply and demand data and associated public hearings; (3) prepare a long-term public water plan to be updated annually; (4) compile an inventory of the projects and parcels, processed by the County, showing existing and unserved parcels and projects within each public water district and the associated estimates of potential water supply needs; and (5) a statement regarding water availability for planned development projects.

In December 2018, the County and Agency executed a memorandum of understanding and adopted revisions to ordinances that recognized State legislative actions that have since fulfilled the requirements of Ordinance No. 4235. The requirements under the previous ordinance was redundant with the State legislation enacted after 1995 that include:

- Urban Water Management Plans: updated every 5 years or sooner if necessary;
- SB610/SB221: Public review of water supply/demand data; preparation of a long-term water supply plan; and a Water Availability Assessment for 20-year projection; and
- Water Code §525-529.7: Preparation of a long-term water supply plan and water meters on new connections.

2019 WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The 2019 update of the Water Resources Development and Management Plan (“WRDMP” or “Plan”) seeks to redefine the Agency’s water resources role and responsibilities within El Dorado County. This update reflects the Agency’s progression toward countywide long-term water security and a renewed focus on advancing integrated water management to realize the vision of the General Plan adopted by the County for economic development, environmental protection, and quality of life for all residents.

Events, such as the recent drought from 2012 through 2016 and the devastating wildfire in the County exposed the weaknesses of passive forest and headwaters management that are critical to climate resiliency in El Dorado County. These types of events served as a wake-up call for local, state and federal entities to recognize and plan for the severe vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities are occurring as the County continues to experience planned growth in population. Increasing regulatory requirements and rapidly manifesting consequences of hydrologic and hydrology changes exasperate concerns over long-term water supply reliability, climate resiliency, and the County’s overall economy and way of life.

The Agency can use its authority to support the implementation of the County General Plan, which lays out a vision that encourages a strong economy and preserves the rural-agricultural way of life. Imbedded in that vision is the protection of El Dorado County’s rich natural resources for future generations.

The complexity and interrelationship of water resource-related challenges require a more integrated and collaborative approach. Future investments by many local, regional, and federal entities must continue to be coordinated and leveraged to create broader and long-lasting benefits for all communities countywide. Thus, the Agency seeks to establish and document a basis for integrated water resources management through a dynamic document, which is the WDRMP.

Approach for Implementation

The approach for implementation of the WRDMP is fairly straightforward and allows the Agency to be flexible to adapt to changes in regulations or needs within the County. The Agency’s challenges, in accordance with the authorities provided by the Act, can be focused on Water Supply, Drought Planning and Groundwater Management, Water Quality, Flood/Storm Waters, and Watershed management. Building upon these challenges, staff is recommending the Board adopt policies that support actions and the role to execute activities to address the County’s water resource challenges. The policies currently identified include:

- WRDMP-01: The WRDMP shall be the countywide water plan to support the realization of the vision established in the County General Plan.
- WRDMP-02: The WRDMP shall include resource management strategies to improve water resources management in El Dorado County, with anticipated economic and public benefits accrued in all communities throughout El Dorado County.

- WRDMP-03: The WRDMP shall identify and prioritize the Agency's implementation actions and priorities consistent with the authority and roles provided by the Act.
- WRDMP-04: The implementation of the WRDMP shall be based on collaborative principles for developing partnership with regional, state, and federal agencies who share resource management responsibilities and cooperate in creating mutual benefits.
- WRDMP-05: The WRDMP shall be updated every 5 years by June 30 in years ending in 4 and 9 to address changed conditions, assess progress of implementation, and realign priorities of the Agency's actions.

To facilitate implementation, guidance statements are also indemnified and include:

- Guidance WRDMP-01: The Agency shall convene a chartered Countywide Plenary for Water (Plenary) to foster collaboration on the water resources development and management in El Dorado County. The Agency shall convene the Plenary twice per year with representation from, at a minimum, the County's planning department, cities, water purveyors, and other water-resource related resource management entities.
- Guidance WRDMP-02: The Agency shall develop alternative revenue sources to support incentives and innovations to improve countywide water management.
- Guidance WRDMP-03: The Agency shall maximize available state and federal technical and financial assistances in implementation actions, where feasible.
- Guidance WRDMP-04: The Agency shall allocate cost of project development and implementation fairly among beneficiaries.
- Guidance WRDMP-05: The Agency shall leverage significant opportunities for hydropower generation in El Dorado County in its project development, where feasible, as a cost-offset mechanism.
- Guidance WRDMP-06: The Agency shall consider regional and statewide water market transfers in its project development, where appropriate, as a cost-offset mechanism. No water market transfers can result in water supply impacts within El Dorado County.

With these policies, the WRDMP contains resources management strategies (RMS) and directives that can be adjusted, modified and updated in a manner the remains consistent with the proposed Board polices, as adopted, and with the state and federal regulations. Adoption of policies and guidance statements, to support the WRDMP, allows the Agency staff to proceed to develop and implement actions for long-term water security, and advance integrated water management.

Fiscal Impacts

Current and planned activities are already imbedded within the RMSs identified. Current activities are included in the adopted FY2019-20 Budget. Future activities will be based on the adoption of subsequent budgets by the Board.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board: 1) Determine that the Water Resources Development and Management Plan Policy (E-1001) is consistent with the Agency's mission and authority provided by the 1959 El Dorado County Water Act; 2) Adopt Resolution WA-6-2019, which approves the Water Resources Development and Management Plan Policy E-1001; and 3) Authorize the Board Chair to sign the resolution.