

Upper American River Watershed Group

Programmatic Watershed Plan Meeting #8

October 27, 2023; 10:30 to 12:00 via MS Teams





Meeting Objectives

- Establish shared understanding for the final revision of the Programmatic Watershed Plan and schedule for finalization.
- Provide an example of agency-specific implementation considerations and process for approval.
- Solicit input on future engagement for continued plan refinements and implementation.





TIME	AGENDA ITEM
10:30 AM	Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review
10:35 AM	Programmatic Watershed Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Summary of the revision- Example of agency-specific implementation- Schedule
11:35 AM	Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Continued engagement of the UARWG- Engagement input (listening session)
12:00 PM	Adjourn





Programmatic Watershed Plan

- *Summary of the revision*
- *Example of agency-specific implementation*
- *Schedule*



Final Draft PWP

After reviewing the comments received on the previous draft and from internal review, the project team realized that certain structure and content changes were required to:

- Position this PWP consistent with goals and intent
- Improve the connection between the identified challenges and RMS
- Clarify initial project evaluation and setup for durable use of the established approach and process
- Clarify implementation considerations and expectations for partners



EDWA-Specific Implementation

A separate document was prepared to support the EDWA's implementation and to communicate with their Board for policy adoption

- Why did the EDWA do this?
- How did the EDWA do this?
- What are the outcomes?
- What is expected from EDWA during implementation?
- What are the policy and guidance for EDWA's continued involvement?
- What is the near-term focus for EDWA ?



Draft: EDWA Policies/Guidance

Implementation Policy and Guidance

Related to PWP implementation, the Agency's Board adopted the following policies to affirm the objectives of the Agency's participation in the continued collaboration in the UARWG and associated implementation of the PWP, including any needed adaptive management to address changing conditions, to realize the long-term benefits to El Dorado County.

- **Policy UARWP-01:** The PWP shall support the implementation of the Agency's WRDMP to fulfill Agency's charge and provided by the Act.
- **Policy UARWP-02:** The Agency shall implement the RMS identified in the PWP consistent with the authority provided by the Act and roles and responsibilities as described in the Agency's WRDMP.
- **Policy UARWP-03:** The Agency shall implement the RMS identified in the PWP based on collaborative principles for developing partnership with regional, state, and federal agencies who share watershed management responsibilities and cooperate in creating mutual benefits and improving project efficiency and effectiveness.
- **Policy UARWP-04:** For implementation of any land-based actions, the Agency shall closely coordinate and collaborate with land use authorities including counties and state and federal land management agencies, recognizing the significant EGS provided by the upper American River watershed are land-based.

- **Policy UARWP-05:** The Agency shall incorporate RMS and management actions identified in the PWP, where appropriate and applicable, into the subsequent WRDMP updates for consistency, mutual support, and efficiency in recursive updates of these two strategic plans.

The Board also adopted the following guidance for the Agency's continued convening and participation in the UARWG and implementation of the PWP.

- **Guidance UARWP-01:** The Agency shall convene the UARWG based on the principles of collaboration, mutual respect, and transparency to facilitate continued improvement of the cohesive approach to address change conditions, and cooperative implementation among partners.
- **Guidance UARWP-02:** The Agency shall leverage the Plenary to facilitate efficient collaboration of the UARWG and subsequent PWP updates in years ending in 3 and 8.
- **Guidance UARWP-03:** The Agency shall advocate and form partnerships for the continued and coordinated development of natural, built, and social capacities for sustainable watershed management and resilient communities.
- **Guidance UARWP-04:** The Agency shall advocate and establish a cooperative partnership with the County for the continued capacity development for natural, built, and social capacities for sustainable watershed management and resilient communities.
- **Guidance UARWP-05:** The Agency shall collaborate with subject matter experts and regional, state, and federal partners to explore approaches and strategies to develop equitable and sustainable financial mechanisms that recognize the value and contribution of

headwaters like the upper American River watershed and the disproportional burdens of headwater communities currently carry for managing headwaters.

Near-Term (2023-2025) Priority Actions for Implementation

The Agency is scheduled for an WRDMP update in 2024 and a strategic plan update in 2025. Therefore, the following provides the priority actions for near-term implementation:

- Develop a continued engagement plan for the UARWG and PWP maintenance.
- Incorporate RMS and management actions identified in the PWP, where appropriate and applicable, into the 2024 WRDMP update. This includes the initial development of performance measures for assessing plan effectiveness and areas of improvement.
- Complete the EGS studies and coordinate partners in information dissemination and advocacy.
- Continue collaboration with the County on expanding the data portal and its use to facilitate information sharing and transparency.
- Engage SAFCA and other regional, state, and federal partners to explore developing a watershed-scale application of forecast-informed reservoir operation that integrate nature-based solutions and built infrastructure improvements to benefit the communities and water management in the upper American River watershed, as well as provide benefits for areas downstream of Folsom Reservoir.
- Develop strategies and action plans to further enhance collaboration with the County for consistent planning and policy implementation, and for efficiency of resource sharing and mutual support.



PWP Schedule (and more)

Date	Milestone
October 13	The final draft to the group for review
October 27	Meeting #8 and comments due
November 3	The PWP to Reclamation's WaterSMART grant program for acceptance
November 3	The PWP and accompanied EDWA-specific implementation document ready for EDWA Board's consideration
November 8	EDWA Board workshop on the PWP, EDWA-specific implementation, and policy adoption
Late Nov*	Draft Ecosystem Goods and Services (EGS) Valuation Report
Mid/late Dec*	Initial economic assessment for outdoor recreation
Early 2024*	Discussion paper on wildfire economic impacts based on EGS Discussion paper on EGS valuation for water
Spring 2024*	(pending) ACWA session presentation

* Subject to change



Comments and Discussion

- Comments on the PWP
- Questions on Agency-specific implementation information (serving as an example)





Next Steps

- *Continued group engagement*
- *Group Discussion: future engagement*



Proposed Continued Engagement

(subject to group discussion)

- EDWA willing to continue serving as the convener for this group for stability
- Periodic **communication and supplemental products**, as needed
- Periodic **group meetings**: frequency TBD
- **Workshop**
 - In-depth project list review: To improve project formulation consistent with the PWP to provide long-term watershed-wide benefits
- **Topic-specific subgroup(s)** for specific product development and focus
 - Performance measures
 - Others, as identified



Continued Engagement



EDWA Board of Directors Workshop

November 8, 2023, 10-11AM

In-Person at EDWA's Office

1107 Investment Blvd, Suite 240

El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Immediately followed by EDWA Board Meeting (in-person and virtual) to consider PWP-related policy adoption



Group Discussion: Future Engagement

- What should we pay attention to?
- How would you like to be engaged?
- What activities and formats we should considered?
- How may you help?
 - Volunteer to lead/support specific items: EDWA's proposed implementation is subject to our Board approval and available resources, thus, volunteers are welcome
 - Commitments to incorporate activities into your existing process and activities





Closing Remarks and Adjourn

Thank you for your continued support and contribution.

