

Upper American River Watershed Plan

Plan Advisory Group (PAG)

Meeting 1 Summary

August 9, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
El Dorado County (Conference Room D)
330 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667

Meeting Objectives:

- Common understanding of purpose and anticipated outcomes for the Upper American River Watershed Plan
- Common understanding of approach, process, and milestones for plan development
- Common understanding of the charge and the expectation of the PAG

Attendees – See attachment on last page for list of meeting participants.

Action Items:

#	Item	Owner	Timeframe
1.	Send Meeting Summary, PowerPoint slides, and Draft Charter to PAG.	Stantec	ASAP
2.	Review Draft Charter and provide comments.	PAG members	By PAG meeting #2
3.	Provide GIS data that should be considered in the Watershed Plan to Stantec.	PAG members	By September 7

Order of Business:

1. Welcome and Introductions

- All attendees provided self-introductions.
- Opening remarks were made, emphasizing the function of this Plan Advisory Group in maximizing the efforts of agencies across the watershed.

2. Upper American River Basin Watershed Plan: Background, Purposes, and Anticipated Outcomes

- Background information on the Watershed Plan was presented, see attached PowerPoint presentation.
 - The Watershed Plan will: be a concise policy plan, build on the 2019 Water Resources Development and Management Plan (WRDMP), refine characterization of watershed issues, include actions that supplement the Resource Management Strategies (RMS) in the WRDMP, identify new RMS with actions if warranted, and clarify the role and responsibility for collective implementation of identified actions. The Plan will be subject to update every five years.
 - It was clarified that there are other watershed management groups active in California, acting through the WaterSMART grant.
 - The area of study under the WaterSMART grant includes the Cosumnes River watershed area in El Dorado County.
- Feedback was solicited on the “working landscape” approach.
 - Participants expressed appreciation for the emphasis on productivity across sectors. The county is growing, and productivity loss is a concern. It was noted that the Caldor Fire, in particular, affected the productivity of the county significantly.
 - The need to work collaboratively on existing planning work was discussed (e.g., countywide resilience planning effort, the State’s integrated watershed planning approach).
 - The value of coproduction of ecosystem services and finding synergies was addressed by the group. The pilot project on grazing is an example of planning for multiple benefits. Part of the plan development will be maximizing synergies and minimizing conflicts.

- The group discussed various funding opportunities available across the federal, state, and local levels. It was identified that various grants cover various different goals, so there is a need for coordinating coverage of those grants and their associated services across the watershed.

3. Watershed Plan Development: Plan and Process

- The group reviewed the plan and process for developing the Watershed Plan, including details about the Plan outline and schedule to meet the grant deadline of June 2023 (see attached PowerPoint slides). There were no comments or questions about the plan or schedule.
- The PAG reviewed current information sources and needs.
- Potential data sources were identified, including the California Protected Areas Database (CPAD), Bureau of Land Management Data, California Department of Conservation mapped farmlands, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), California Department of Fish and Wildlife Timberland Production Zones (TPZ), and Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Data.

4. Plan Advisory Group Charter Review

- Next steps for the PAG were discussed, which will include seven, 2-to-3-hour meetings.
- The group reviewed the participants that will be involved and briefly touched on their expected roles and responsibilities.
- Due to time limitations, the group did not review the Draft Charter, though it will be distributed following the meeting.

5. Next Steps

- Stantec will send a copy of the slides and the Draft Charter to the PAG after the meeting.
- Moving forward, PAG meetings will be held on Friday mornings, from approximately 10:00 am – 1:00 pm on the months for which there are meetings.
- Participants agreed on their availability for PAG Meeting #2 to be held on Friday September 23 at 10:00 am, at the County building. The meeting date has since been changed to Friday September 30 at 10:00 am due to scheduling conflicts.

6. Adjourn

- With no further business, the group adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Meeting Participants

* = virtual participant

Meeting Participant	Agency (in alphabetical order by agency)
Core Group Members	
Elena DeLacy	American River Conservancy
Charlene Carveth	County of El Dorado, Agriculture Department
Karen Garner	County of El Dorado, Planning and Building
Mark Egbert	El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts
Brian Deason	El Dorado Irrigation District
Ken Payne	El Dorado Water Agency
Kyle Ericson	El Dorado Water Agency
Ansel Lundberg	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
*James Sarmento	Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
Additional Group Members	
Lew Moeller	Department of Water Resources
*Barb Kildow	El Dorado County Farm Bureau
Adam Brown	Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
Alexis Elliot	Georgetown Divide Public Utility District
Michelle Banonis	Regional Water Authority
*Bradley Hubbard	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
*Lee Mao	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
*Melissa Vignau	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
*Lynn Huntsinger	University of California, Berkeley
Technical Support	
Rebecca Guo	Stantec
Yung-Hsin Sun	Stantec
Marisa Perez-Reyes	Stantec
*Bridget Childs	Stantec