

MINUTES of Technical Committee (TC) Meeting
Water Resources Association of Yolo County
August 6, 2020, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
GoToMeeting Teleconference

Committee Members:

Elisa Sabatini, Yolo County, TC Chair	Matt Cohen, City of Woodland
Jeanette Wrynski, Yolo County RCD	Heather Brown, City of Davis
Kristin Sicke, YCFC&WCD	Bill Vanderwaal, Dunnigan WD/RD 108
Leo Refsland, Madison Community Serv Dist.	Max Stevenson, YCFC&WCD
Donna Gentile, WRA	Craig Locke, City of Woodland

Other Attendees:

Kimberly Villa, Yolo County	Jianman Huang, Yolo County
Lachi Richards	

Member Agencies Absent:

RD 2035	City of West Sacramento
City of Winters	UC Davis

- 1. CALL TO ORDER & Introductions** at 9:00 a.m. by Elisa Sabatini, Chair.
- 2. APPROVAL AGENDA & Adding Items to Posted Agenda:** The agenda was approved.
- 3. APPROVE TC MEETING MINUTES:** Previous meeting minutes were emailed to the TC for review with today's agenda. Comments on the draft 11/6/19 minutes are due by 8/7/20 and will be approved by consensus.
- 4. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Jeanette Wrynski expressed that she appreciates and misses a forum to discuss and collaborate on a broader spectrum of water topics. The current YSGA forums focus primarily on groundwater. There is a need to discuss water issues beyond groundwater. She asked, where can water purveyors, water users and the general public go to discuss broader water topics? This is the role that the WRA's venues provided. Elisa also shares Jeanette's concerns not only as the WRA Technical Committee chair but as a Yolo County representative. She affirmed to re-establish a regular meeting schedule for the WRA's Technical Committee.
- 5. PRESENTATION: Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Drinking Water,** Itzel Vasquez-Rodriquez and Beti Girma, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Itzel is with the Office of Public Participation (www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/). Their work supports providing marginalized indigenous and small community populations that are experiencing economic, environmental, and social disadvantages with clean, safe drinking water. Itzel gave an overview of the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund that was established by SB 200 in 2019. This is the first year of the SAFER program. The Program will distribute up to \$130 million annually to the SWRCB for the next 10 years. Applications for funding will be on a rolling deadline based on funding year. The SAFER Fund will address funding gaps and provide short and long-term drinking water solutions to ensure all Californians have access to safe, affordable drinking water. Itzel explained that the Fund Expenditure Policy and Expenditure Plan guides how the program will be developed, implemented and funds spent. Both the Policy and Plan documents are available in English and Spanish here: (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/sustainable_water_solutions/safer.html). The SAFER program is administered by four different Divisions of the SWRCB and collaborates with some outside agencies. The Office of Public Participation (OPP) is responsible for public engagement and meeting facilitate on services.

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SB 200 required the creation of the SAFER Advisory Group; a consultative body that provides constructive advice and feedback on the Fund Expenditure Plan and other key policies. The Advisory Group is composed of 19 representatives from 6 categories as defined in SB 200. Those 6 categories are: public water systems, technical assistance providers, local agencies, non-governmental organizations, the public, and residents served by community water systems in disadvantaged communities, state small water systems and domestic wells. They are currently accepting applications from candidates in these categories until September 30, 2020 for 10 openings to participate in next year's Advisory Group.

Itzel reviewed other complimentary funding that is part of the SAFER Program besides SB 200's \$130 million allocation. She illustrated these other Funds in her PowerPoint presentation that can be viewed here: http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_technical.html. When applying for assistance, the SWRCB will match the project to the appropriate funding program based on whether the project meets the funding priorities and requirements. Itzel outlined the upcoming SAFER 2020 timeline from June to September 2020. The OPP will hold a virtual public workshop on August 27th on how to apply for the SAFER Advisory Group. The next virtual Advisory Group meeting will be held in September. Itzel and Beti answered questions. Any additional questions can be directed to safer@waterboards.ca.gov.

6. FUNDING UPDATES:

- Jeanette Wrynski reported that the Yolo County Resource Conservation District was awarded a \$2.7 million implementation grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board's Stream Flow Enhancement Program for the Putah-Cache Watershed Arundo Eradication Program. Jeanette discussed details about the project and shared a Phase 1 Project map of the work area that Donna will email to the TC after the meeting. Color coding represents the different agencies/partners working on the project. Landowner cooperation is required, which is the most challenging aspect of the project. This will be a 10-year effort to eradicate this very invasive and water-greedy species.
- Max Stevenson informed that all work and invoicing is completed for drought emergency projects in Yolo and Lake Counties funded to Westside IRWM through a DWR Drought Emergency Grant (2014-2015). They are just waiting to receive their retention funding. These projects represented about \$15 million worth of work with \$7 million provided in grant funding.
- Jeanette informed that Lake County Special Districts was awarded \$4.7 million in IRWM funding (through the Westside-Sacramento IRWM) for water infrastructure improvement projects in Disadvantaged Communities throughout the County. There are six projects under this grant that will be implemented.
- Bill Vanderwaal informed that the Settlement Contractors are waiting to hear about proposed grant funding for side channel and spawning gravel restoration projects in the Upper Sacramento River through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). If both proposals are funded, it would represent 14-16 projects over the next 5 years.
- Bill also reported that RD 108 is doing a Cypress Island side channel project in the Redding area this fall also with CVPIA funds.
- RD 108 is also repairing the Knights Landing Outfall Gates that prevents adult salmon from straying and going upsteam to the Colusa Basin Drain through the Outfall Gates. Funded by DWR and the Bureau of Reclamation.
- Elisa Sabatini reported Yolo County was awarded \$1.5 million from DWR for implementation of the Knights Landing Flood Risk Reduction Project. A component of this project would include

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100% design and engineering of an internal drainage solution for Knights Landing. They will be working with the local Community Services District to determine how to detain storm water in addition to flood risk improvements.

7. WATER LEGISLATION, REGULATORY ISSUES & DELTA UPDATES:

- The California Water Resiliency Portfolio was released last week. If there is interest a presentation could be arranged for a future TC meeting on the contents of the Portfolio and what that might mean for Yolo County. Yes!
- The Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) will be hosting a series of fall workshops on updating components of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan. The Plan was last updated in 2017 and must be updated every 5 years. At every CVFPB meeting they are discussing different issues in conjunction with the 2022 Plan update. One item under discussion is consideration of reviving the old San Joaquin Drainage District and a feasibility study is underway. Yolo County and the Yolo County Farm Bureau are tracking this topic. Elisa will forward a one-page informational memo about the Drainage District that she created for the Farm Bureau for Donna to share with the TC.
- Also in October the CVFPB will be hosting a workshop on the Yolo Bypass Cache Creek Partnership which is geographically pertinent to many agencies in the County. Elisa will forward meeting notifications on these items to Donna to send out to the TC when available.
- Bill Vanderwaal was asked about an update on the status of the Voluntary Agreements, but he did feel he was the best person to ask and did not have an update. Kristin shared that at the recent ACWA conference discussions suggested that Voluntary Agreements are the best way to proceed.

8. REGIONAL PROJECT UPDATES:

- a) *Westside-Sacramento IRWM Activities, Jeanette Wrynski:* The Westside continues its work on the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant. They have been communicating with the entire Sacramento Area region. The technical, financial and managerial needs assessments conducted in this final grant year can best be addressed with online workshops under the current COVID-19 situation. She is collaborating outreach with the Rural Community Assistance Corp. to make the right connections. She also continues to maintain a current grant funding opportunities spreadsheet that is available on the Westside's website: <https://www.westsideirwm.com/funding/>.
- b) *Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Update, Kristin Sicke:* The Working Group met in May and transitioned to a quarterly rather than monthly meeting schedule. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was established to work with the GSP consultants and begin work on sustainable management criteria analysis. Three of the six sustainability indicators have been reviewed: groundwater elevation and storage, groundwater quality and groundwater-surface water interaction. The first two TAC meetings focused on the first two indicators and the third indicator will be discussed at a TAC meeting at the end of this month. The TAC will present this information to the Working Group in early September and a summary will also be provided to the YSGA Board during their September 21st meeting. Public stakeholder meetings have been on hold in hopes that a physical workshop could take place, but we may need to determine how to hold a larger virtual group gathering instead.

9. MEMBER INFORMATION & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Bill Vanderwaal reported that the Sites Reservoir has undergone some significant changes in the last few months. Jerry Brown, former general manager for Contra Costa Water District, has been named Executive Director of the project. The project also underwent a value planning process on

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how to save costs on the entire project. One change was the elimination of a 14-mile pipeline from the area near Maxwell to the Sacramento River. The Project will now discharge into the Tehama Colusa Canal (TCC). A pipeline will be installed from the end of the TCC to the Colusa Basin Drain in the Dunnigan area. A Project EIR/EIS will be re-circulated over the next year and a half with this change. Elisa asked Bill if he could provide a new alignment map of these changes. He will forward one to Donna for distribution to the TC.

- Jeanette informed that the NRCS office door is locked, but they are available by appointment. They just hired a new soil conservationist, Rexie Harrist, rexie.harrist@usda.gov .

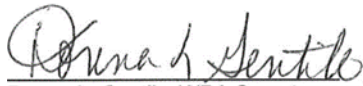
Future Agenda Items Suggested:

- Sites Reservoir Project Update
- Putah-Cache Watershed Arundo Eradication Program Update
- SEI Update on WEAP Model
- RD 2035 Sacramento River Joint Intake facility tour
- DWR/CVFPP Projects identified in Yolo County

10. NEXT TC MEETING DATE: October 1, 2020, 2019, 9:00 a.m., Yolo County Flood Control & WCD via GoToMeeting teleconference (information will be provided on the agenda.)

11. ADJOURN at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Gentile, WRA Secretary and Administrative Coordinator