

AUTHORIZATION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Attachment 1: Authorization and Eligibility Requirements

Authorizing Documentation

Attached

Eligible Applicant Documentation

The Tahoe Regional Planning Agency is a regional governing body guided by the Tahoe Regional Planning Document (P.L. 96-551, 94 Stat3233) that provides the framework for the development and implementation of the Regional Plan. Article VIII of this TRPA Compact establishes guidelines for funding of TRPA by the State of California and the State of Nevada and authorizes TRPA to receive grants. It has the legal authority to enter into any funding contracts with the State of California.

As lead agency representing the Tahoe Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management partnership, TRPA would hold an Intergovernmental Agreement with each sub-contracting agency that is a legally binding document entered into and adopted by each agency. The Intergovernmental Agreement describes the programmatic and fiscal responsibilities of each partner and the consequences of failure to meet them.

GWMP Compliance

The Tahoe Sierra IRWM proposal of a suite of 9 projects does claim indirect groundwater benefits from these projects, but does not include a project with direct impact on groundwater. Groundwater management plans have been adopted for the water purveyors, as required by state law.

Progress on Meeting Current IRWM Plan Standards

The Tahoe Sierra IRWM received a Department of Water Resources IRWM Planning Grant in 2012/13 and has hired Kennedy Jenks Consultants to update our current, adopted (prior to September 30, 2008) IRWM plan to meet the IRWM Plan Standards contained in Appendix C of the 2012 IRWM Guidelines.

The Work Plan/Scope of Work developed for the team of Kennedy Jenks Consultants demonstrates that the revised Tahoe Sierra IRWMP will meet the new Plan Standards and is described below:

Governance: The Consultant Team will identify and aggregate governance elements within the prior Plan. This information will be verified and supplemented through discussion with the Partnership in order to document actual decision-making practices. Additional governance strategies will be defined as needed to address Proposition 84 requirements.

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The governance section of the Plan will describe the internal workings of the Partnership, outreach processes for interaction with the public, and the Partnership's relationships with adjoining IRWM regions, state and Federal agencies that have interests in the Region, including the Nevada agencies. Key approaches are highlighted below.

Tahoe Sierra Partnership Governance. Formal communication and decision-making strategies used by the Partnership will be documented. This will include a set of meeting facilitation procedures that will be used to ensure that Partnership discussions are balanced and inclusive. It will outline conditions in which sub-committees may be formed to address special topics that require further discussion in another forum. Specific procedures that the Partnership will employ to update the IRWM objectives will be identified, as this step is critical to producing an updated Plan that is widely supported throughout the Region. This section will also provide a conceptual schedule for long-term tracking and updating the Plan through either formal re-adoption or informal revision, based on specific criteria.

The roles and responsibilities of Partnership leaders and partner agencies will be described, including their specific areas of interest in the planning process. Partners will have an opportunity to provide updated information about their organizations for inclusion in the Plan. Criteria for inclusion of new members will be developed.

Public Outreach. Procedures to promote public outreach and involvement will be documented. This element will be critical to successfully gathering and incorporating diverse public opinion, including the perspectives from DACs, Native American Tribes, and other under-represented populations.

Regional Communication. Plans will be documented for ongoing communication with neighboring IRWM regional groups, state agencies in both California and Nevada, and Federal agencies. These entities may not have time or adequate funding for regular participation in the Tahoe Sierra Partnership, but need to collaborate with the Partnership on a number of regional issues, including flood control, nutrient and sediment controls, and climate change responses.

Region Description: This section of the Plan will provide a detailed update of current and anticipated future environmental and socio-political conditions in the Region. This description will provide a comprehensive basis for subsequent re-evaluation and prioritization of IRWM objectives and projects. To update the Regional Description, the Consultant Team will leverage extensive existing information provided by members of the Partnership as well as the Consultant Team and its subconsultants in recent reports for agencies within the Region. The Region Description will include discussion of the relevant agencies of Sierra County that joined the Partnership after the last Plan update.

A description of the six neighboring IRWM regions, including activities and projects that may be overlapping during the IRWMP period and an approach to future coordination, cooperation, and building relationships between these regions will be prepared. The Consultant Team is working on the IRWMP for the Upper Feather River and Tuolumne-Stanislus IRWM Groups, and this will facilitate continuous information exchange. The Consultant Team will provide direct updates to the regions that we are working with, and will be reviewing materials (*e.g.* meeting minutes and newsletters) for the other regions to track activities and identify opportunities for collaboration.

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The updated description will incorporate the full scope of regional details required by the Proposition 84 Guidelines, including climate change considerations. The Consultant Team will collaborate with the Partnership to identify and analyze significant local and regional water management issues, including resource deficiencies or conflicts. For example, current issues meriting particular attention will likely include water quality protection and enhancement, habitat and species protection and enhancement in stream zones, nutrient and sediment loading, urban forest fire prevention, flooding, land use planning, and recreation and tourism impacts related to water.

A clear understanding of the challenges in the region is imperative to assisting the IRWM with measurable objectives to best serve the Region, and in turn, defining water management strategies and specific projects to meet these objectives. The updated regional description narrative will be accompanied by maps illustrating regional boundary and key features. Additional on-line geographic information system (GIS) mapping services to contribute to the Region Description and to be available to the Partnership and stakeholders will also be developed and stored on the new Tahoe Sierra IRWM website.

Objectives: The original IRWMP reflected significant efforts to define regional objectives. This task will allow the Partnership to confirm these objectives, develop a means to measure and assess progress upon implementation, and prioritize the objectives.

For each primary objective and its subordinate implementing objectives in the original Plan, the Consultant Team will identify potential metrics for discussion with the Partnership. Metrics will be evaluated and selected using a variety of criteria including cost, access, technical feasibility, reproducibility, public acceptance, and other factors. After identifying metrics, the specific monitoring outcomes will be identified, if possible, that will be considered to satisfy the associated objective for agreement by the Partnership. Through further collaboration with the Partnership, the Consultant Team will develop an initial understanding from the Partnership on prioritization of the objectives. We will then provide additional background, analysis, and justification for a proposed set of prioritized objectives, or specific rationale for the deferring prioritization of one or more objectives. Through a closely facilitated process, the Partnership will seek broad agreement on the proposed priorities. The outcome of this process will be summarized in the updated Plan.

Resource Management Strategies: To update the discussion of water resource strategies in the existing Plan, the Consultant Team will review and evaluate all 27 Resource Management Strategies (RMS) cited in the 2009 California Water Plan (CWP) update. The applicability of each RMS to the Region will be determined in consultation with the Partnership and confirmed with DWR staff.

Each applicable RMS will then be described in the Plan, building on corresponding water resource strategies of the latest Plan, when available. For each RMS that is considered not applicable to the Region, the rationale for this conclusion will be presented. Water management strategies that were part of the latest Plan, but are not listed as RMS in the CWP update (Environmental and Habitat Protection and Improvement, and Wetlands Enhancement and Protection) will be evaluated separately and included at the discretion of the Partnership if they remain applicable. As a supplement to the assessment of groundwater management strategies in this section, a task to evaluate the need for a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan (SNMP) for the Tahoe Sierra Region is found below. This task is necessary given the unique regulatory climate in the Lake Tahoe basin

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where by wastewater and/or wastewater effluent is exported from Lake Tahoe to either the Truckee River or Carson River basins. Some salt and nutrient studies have been conducted but it is not known whether they meet the current SNMP standards.

Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Need Determination

As a supplement to the assessment of groundwater management strategies, this task includes a summary of current salt and nutrient planning efforts in the study area to assess the need for a more comprehensive salt and nutrient planning effort.

In 2009, the State Water Resources Control Board Policy issued a Policy on Recycled Water (Policy) that requires preparation of a SNMP for each groundwater basin or sub-basin in the state within five years (by 2014). The Policy does specify that the intent of the SNMP provision can be satisfied through other regional studies.

The following are a few examples of existing regional conditions and/or studies which

- The discharge of wastewater is prohibited in the Tahoe Basin (through the enactment of the Porter-Cologne Act, and an Executive Order by the Governor of Nevada dated January 27, 1971), thus recycled water is not used in the Tahoe or the Truckee River basins.
- Groundwater in the Tahoe Valley South Sub-basin has low dissolved solids content and excellent chemical quality suitable for domestic use and public water supply (SFPUC Groundwater Management Plan). Groundwater monitoring plans are in place to protect against other more problematic contaminants, such as MTBE and arsenic.
- There are numerous established Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the Tahoe Sierra region to control non-point source pollution into receiving bodies, such as the retirement of all septic tank systems in the early 1970s and a push for stormwater treatment through stream enhancement and wetland mitigation.
- A Nutrient Management Plan was conducted for the Diamond Valley Ranch (located in Alpine County and owned by STPUD, this ranch is utilized as a wastewater storage facility) in 2009 to determine the best combination of crop and irrigation method to maximize recycled water reuse and nutrient uptake while also protecting groundwater and surface water resources.

To ascertain whether sufficient prior work has been conducted to address the Policy, the Consultant proposes to arrange a meeting with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) staff to discuss their specific expectations for Tahoe-Sierra Region under this Policy and the need for this special management plan.

This subtask will provide a high-level assessment on the applicability of the development of a SNMP for the Tahoe-Sierra region and the need for future studies to address unresolved salt and nutrient management issues based on direction received from the RWQCB. If recommended, a future SNMP study could be added as a project to be rated and ranked against other potential projects with the IRWMP stakeholders.

Integration: The current adopted Tahoe Sierra IRWM Plan is believed to adequately comply with the integration requirements. This section will be reviewed for consistency with other Plan

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elements, for integration of project elements, and will be updated to reflect the evolution of the partnership, as necessary.

Project Review Process: The Consultant Team will develop a detailed description, flow chart, and tabular listing of the project review and selection process that has been successfully used by the Partnership. The description will integrate: (1) a description of effective procedures that are currently in use obtained through discussions with the Partnership, (2) pertinent sections of the latest Plan, and (3) new considerations, as required by the Guidelines. Key new elements will include accounting for environment justice concerns that may be linked to each project, and assessing the potential for each project to contribute to climate change adaptation and/or reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, relative to other options. Some metrics to be used to evaluate and review projects will likely include:

- Contribution to achieving the regional objectives
- Relationship to RMS
- Technical feasibility
- General impacts and benefits
- Specific benefits to critical DAC water issues
- Specific benefits to critical water issues of Native American communities
- Environmental Justice considerations
- Project costs and financing
- Economic feasibility
- Project status

To promote consensus-building during project review and selection, the Consultant Team can recommend procedures that have been tested and refined over time in other IRWM regions where we have facilitated a similar process.

Technical Analysis: The summary of available data sets presented in the prior Plan will be updated, and additional information used in the planning process (e.g. resources identified in the Region Description, from the Partnership, and stakeholders) will be incorporated. The technical analysis to be documented in the IRWMP will include items such as:

- Identification of the data (e.g., population, water demand projections, ecological studies, FERC licensing documents) that quantify water supply needs.
- Description of hydrologic, operations, and other modeling that describes the quantity of water and frequency of availability in the watershed.
- Description of existing water quality data and conclusions that can be drawn from the data and identified data gaps that would improve the analysis.
- Description of ecological/environmental/habitat information that describe the environmental needs in the Region.

In particular, additions to the summary table will include climate change data that were not previously considered. The Consultant Team's Technical Resource Team will draw from its extensive knowledge of relevant datasets during the planning process, and this will be reflected in

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the Technical Analysis section. Sources of data will be summarized in a table for quick reference, and links to publicly accessible online databases will be provided.

References available electronically will be included in the Tahoe Sierra IRWM website. It is anticipated that during the evaluation of the technical data and review of projects, data gaps will be identified. This portion of the IRWMP will also describe how the data gaps will be filled, including, but not limited to additional field monitoring and evaluation, special studies and reports, and preliminary project work. A narrative will be developed for this IRWMP section to describe the above, and other related technical items.

Relation to Local Water Planning: This section of the Plan will highlight recent or concurrent water planning studies (e.g. Urban Water Management Plans and other local water plans), specific ways they are consistent with and/or complementary to the updated IRWMP, the overlay of local agencies timelines for related work, and relationships among the implementing agencies. Key water policies implemented since the last Plan are the Lake Tahoe Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA), the multi-agency vehicle for apportioning the Truckee River, Carson River, and Lake Tahoe water. Other policy elements, such as the total mass daily loads (TMDLs) for other impaired water bodies in the region, will also be examined for consistency with the Plan. Other water planning information will be identified through research, discussions with the Partnership, and other local agencies, as needed. The Consultant Team will also leverage relationships with agencies that are not actively involved in the Partnership, which may yield valuable opportunities for collaboration. The task will produce an updated list of concurrent partners, planning efforts and specific elements that inform the Tahoe Sierra IRWMP. It will also describe the nature of agency relationships to affirm that the Plan contributes to integrated regional efforts.

The relation of IRWM to Local Water Planning will be the topic of discussion in several meetings, which will be valuable to understand how individual agencies/entities may need to adapt and modify their water planning to meet the range of water needs, consistent with the IRWM objectives. Meeting discussions will include how water management/climate change is being addressed in local plans. In addition, limits (e.g., water supply and/or water quality) and management tools/criteria for water management in local plans will be reviewed during these meetings for applicability and inclusion to the IRWMP. It is anticipated that through these meetings, the Partnership will collaborate/integrate their individual local water planning efforts to develop a regionalized water management plan as part of the Tahoe-Sierra Region's IRWMP preparation. The results of the meeting discussions will form part of the basis for the narrative of this section of the IRWMP.

Relation to Local Land Use Planning: The Consultant Team will compile pertinent information on local land use planning such as general and specific plans and redevelopment organizations that have specific interests that dovetail with, or directly include water management elements. Current relationships and communication channels between these entities and IRWM partners will be identified. Some organizations may already be participating in the IRWM process, such that planning efforts are aligned. The latest information regarding Sierra, Alpine, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada and Sierra Counties' General Plan processes will be evaluated as it relates to water resources and land use in the region.

After establishing the nature of current interconnections, the Consultant Team will brainstorm with the Partnership in scheduled meetings for ways to improve communication and collaboration

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with these entities for the benefit of all parties. With concurrence of the Partnership, our team's own contacts in the Region and greater vicinity (e.g., nearby Nevada agencies) may be useful for achieving closer ties.

The narrative in this section will describe updates to existing General Plans and Specific Plans, and whether they are consistent with or in conflict with IRWM Planning efforts, as well as, any water elements within the General Plans and Specific Plans. As appropriate, the IRWMP update will make suggestion on how water agencies can further collaborate with Land Use Plans and Planning Agencies. In addition, the General Plans and Specific Plans process offer a venue for topics such as safety including fire and flood hazards as described in Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plans and the need to maintain watersheds and implement forest management, such as by the USFS, to protect water systems from fire. Enhanced communication procedures and other tactics agreed upon by the Partnership will also be summarized in the Plan, along with a possible backup approaches to (1) more actively track concurrent planning activities using published information sources and (2) to push information out to these organizations that describes ongoing IRWM activities.

Relation to Local Land Use Planning is a RMS as defined in the State Water Plan and is included as a "systemic" element of the Tahoe-Sierra Region's IRWMP. This RMS will be a key factor in establishing the need to integrate flood management, as relevant, into the IRWMP considering that some land management agencies and transportation agencies may influence runoff and flood management. Possible impacts of new onsite wastewater management regulations promulgated under AB885 may also have water quality benefits and land use impacts in the Carson River portion of the region.

Stakeholder Involvement: With the goal of providing an open, inclusive, IRWM Planning process during revision of the Plan and beyond, the Consultant Team will define and implement a set of strategies for outreach that encourage diverse stakeholder involvement as implemented in Task 2. The outreach approach and updated Plan will meet the requirements of the Proposition 84 Guidelines, and equally important, will contribute to delivering a widely accepted Plan update. The public process will build on prior successes engaging the stakeholder community. The stakeholder involvement, participation procedures, and accomplishments during preparation of the Plan all of which are critically important will be documented in the update. The history of stakeholder involvement, including prior processes for stakeholder inclusion will also be included. Overall, the update will demonstrate that the Partnership sought and valued broad community participation, considering geography, socio-economic factors, and other factors.

To promote involvement, the Consultant Team and local sub-consultants will employ a variety of methods and media, with emphasis on connecting with DAC and Native American Tribe residents. An initial step will be to review and expand on existing public outreach lists of targeted participants and groups. An informational website will be created as a hub for communications, including meeting announcements, meetings minutes and progress updates. There will be information describing the decision-making processes to stakeholders, how objectives are set and projects are selected, the roles of stakeholders and committees, how to get more involved, and how competing interests are balanced through collaborative processes, regardless of a participant's ability or interest in providing financial support for the process. The website will be publicized by each Partnership member website providing a link to the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM website and reciprocal links to other community sites will be sought.

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As described above, there will be regularly scheduled Partnership meetings that will be open to the public and quarterly stakeholder meetings. Outreach will also include two Tribal outreach meetings and three meetings specifically addressing DAC concerns. In addition, a door-to-door survey, as used in other outreach efforts by our DAC outreach specialist, Emilio Vaca with Vaca Consulting will be conducted.

To interact with the adjacent IRWM regions, the Consultant Team and partnership will review their meeting agendas, determine any topics that may interest the Partnership, and obtain meeting notes from those pertinent meetings. The other IRWM leaders will be contacted, as appropriate, to determine if there is an opportunity to discuss integration on a topic or project between the regions.

This Task will also include preparation of narrative documenting the stakeholder involvement efforts during the IRWMP update.

Coordination: In this task, the Consultant Team will describe the coordination activities that the members of the Partnership use to promote ongoing information exchange, interaction, and collaboration with other agencies, stakeholders and regions that have diverse interests, projects, and activities. This task will overlap with efforts for Stakeholder Outreach, Relations with Local Land Use Planning efforts and Data Management.

The Consultant Team will gather updated information on key local, state and federal organizations, and examine the nature of existing relationships within and external to the Partnership. In particular, the objectives and status of six neighboring IRWM regions (Lahontan, Upper Feather, Cosumnes-American-Bear-Yuba, Mokelumne-Amador-Calaveras, Tuolumne-Stanislaus, and Inyo-Mono) will be reviewed. GIS will be used to provide maps illustrating overlapping interests, such as locations of communities relative to a shared streamflow within the region. Based on the initial compilation of organizations and their activities, a set of coordination activities that may benefit the Region will be identified. For example, designated partners may need to begin attending regular meetings of certain organizations, or representatives from those entities may be encouraged to provide a presentation at a Partnership meeting. The goals of this information exchange will include avoiding duplication of efforts on planning studies, identifying opportunities where partnering could be more efficient for both entities, and learning from any mistakes to avoid similar errors.

A second major component of this task will entail providing information on Partnership activities to other organizations to meet their needs. This will be accomplished primarily using the website as described above. This Task will also include preparation of narrative documenting the coordination efforts during the IRWMP update.

Climate Change: The Consultant Team will develop a new climate change section for the Plan update for both planning and implementation grants that addresses the Proposition 84 requirements, to the extent data are available and feasible. The Consultant Team will rely on readily available climate change analyses that are specific to the Region, the recently released DWR Handbook, use of data from www.climate-adapt.org, and our local knowledge of regional water resource management to develop this new Plan section. Key elements include:

- Discussion of the potential effects of climate change on the Region, with an evaluation of the Region's vulnerabilities to climate change (including changes in the amount, intensity, timing, quality, and variability of runoff and recharge), and

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potential adaptation responses to those vulnerabilities. The qualitative check list in the DWR Climate Change Handbook will be used and vulnerabilities prioritized in consultation with the Partnership. It is anticipated that warming will result in water quality changes that affect the nutrient concentrations and clarity of Lake Tahoe. Shifts in the type and amounts of precipitation could result in more intense flooding and longer periods of droughts, which will impact environmental habitat, species, recreation, and tourism.

- A process to consider GHG emissions when choosing between project alternatives will be outlined. A framework for developing regional GHG emission inventories and criteria for evaluating GHG emissions for water resources management projects will be prepared.
- An inventory of data gaps that the Region would need to address as well as a plan to address the data gaps to provide a more comprehensive analysis of the prioritized vulnerabilities to climate change impacts will be prepared.
- In addition, policies and procedures that promote adaptive management to climate change will be considered, and recommendations will be provided for next steps for future IRWMP updates.

This Task will also include preparation of narrative documenting the Climate Change evaluation in the appropriate sections of the IRWMP update.

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Resolved by Executive Director of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency that application be made to the California Department of Water Resources to obtain an Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Costal Protection Bond Act of 2006(Public Resource Code Section 75001et seq.) and to enter into an agreement to receive a grant for the Tahoe Sierra IRWM. TRPA staff are authorized to prepare the necessary data, file such application, and execute a grant agreement with the California Department of Water Resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne Marchetta".

Joanne Marchetta
Executive Director

3-28-13

Date