

Yosemite-Mariposa IRWM Proposition 84 Planning Grant Proposal **Attachment 6: Program Preferences**

The proposed Yosemite-Mariposa IRWM work plan will result in an IRWM Plan that addresses the statewide program preferences as follows:

1. Include regional projects or programs

- a. RWMG MOU (found in appendix B to Attachment 3 – Work Plan) already indicates commitment to regional programs in the following sections:

MOU Section 6. Intentions: The members of the RWMG ...

- acknowledge each other’s local and regional interests in water management and planning;
- commit to seeking to mitigate competing interests or conflicting policies among members at least so that those issues do not interfere with progress in integrated water planning and management.

MOU Section 7. Goal # 4: Integrated actions are implemented to: increase water supply reliability, use water more efficiently, protect water quality, improve flood protection, enhance forest management, prepare for flooding, and promote environmental stewardship considering and adapting to change, growth, and potential catastrophic events.

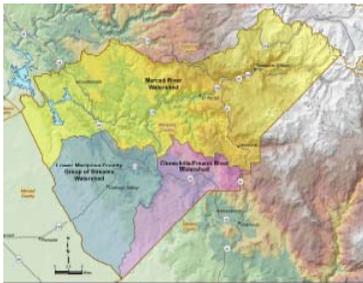
- b. The Attachment 3 -Work Plan includes sections that, when implemented, will support the development of regional projects or programs include:

- i. Implementation of a sustainable, effective regional data management strategy that will compile existing and new data and reports on regional conditions and make them available to stakeholders for planning and

project development (both within and outside IRWM Planning activities). [see Task 4.1].

- ii. Integration of individual water planning efforts by RWMG participants into regionalized water management plan. The planning process will include review and evaluation of the wide range of local water planning documents and will hold meetings with these participants to discuss integration of these plans into a regionalized water management plan. [see Task 4.3-M]
- iii. Identification and recommendation of region-wide, collaborative water supply assessment and verification methodologies. [see Task 4.3-N].
- iv. Establishment of a interregional and DWR subcommittee (see Task 3.5) that will be responsible for coordinating and collaborating across regional boundaries to achieve common goals and support the development of regional projects and programs. It is also anticipated through continued coordination and participation that DWR would be able to guide the Yosemite-Mariposa RWMG as applicable towards aligning with state initiatives and broader state goals where possible.

- 2. Effectively integrate water management programs and projects within a hydrologic region identified in the California Water Plan; the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) region or subdivision; or other region or sub-region specifically identified by DWR



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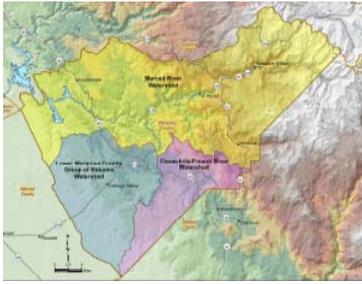
- a. Since the Yosemite-Mariposa region has been accepted through the RAP process, the IRWMP process will integrate water management programs/projects within this region which has been identified by DWR.
 - b. The IRWM planning process includes a significant commitment to communication and coordination among nearby IRWM regions, including the adjoining Tuolumne-Stanislaus, East Stanislaus, Madera, and Merced. This constitutes the southern half of the DWR ‘San Joaquin River’ funding area, as well as the Water Plan’s San Joaquin River hydrologic region. [see Task 3.5.b.] This communication will further the integration of water management programs and projects within the larger San Joaquin River funding region.
3. Effectively resolve significant water-related conflicts within or between regions

The planning effort will include the identification of water-related conflicts between regions. [see Task 3.5.b.] This will also take place during the pre-planning work funded through the Facilitation Support Services grant. [see Appendix C to Attachment 3 - Work Plan] Since the Yosemite-Mariposa IRWMP along with surrounding IRWMP efforts are in initial stages of development, the planning effort includes tasks for further developing relationships with neighboring regions. It is anticipated through this process (see Task 3.5) that specific water-related conflicts, if any, can be identified along with accompanying solutions that can be worked through and implemented across regions.

- 4. Contribute to attainment of one or more of the objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program

The Yosemite-Mariposa Region contains the headwaters of the Merced River, a major tributary to the San Joaquin River, which in turn is a significant tributary river to the San Francisco-Bay Delta. In order to restore the Delta, it is essential to maximize all water resources within the broader Delta ecosystem (which includes the ecosystem of the Delta tributaries). To accomplish this it is critical to invest in RMSs in those tributary watersheds that are effective and are sustainable. To make wise investments and implement adaptive management requires a platform to both make decisions and to resolve conflicts, and the Yosemite-Mariposa Region’s Plan will provide such a platform. Additionally, a sustainable data gathering system, coupled with an analysis and reporting system, can guide future investments so as to implement those RMS most effective in furthering the regional and Cal-Fed objectives. The planning effort will include coordination with entities that have water rights and infrastructure within the region but export water from the region, which is also critical to attaining Cal Fed objectives.

In addition, IRWM planning efforts to restore the natural functions of the watersheds in a sustainable manner (such as the restoration of meadows) will be important within the Region, as well as downstream in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. As upstream efficiencies are achieved there are anticipated watershed-wide benefits, including those areas downstream such as those described in the Cal Fed program in the Delta and its primary tributaries. The development of an IRWM



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Plan will provide a regional context for information, projects, and actions to improve conditions within the Delta tributaries within this region.

5. Address critical water supply or water quality needs of disadvantaged communities within the region.

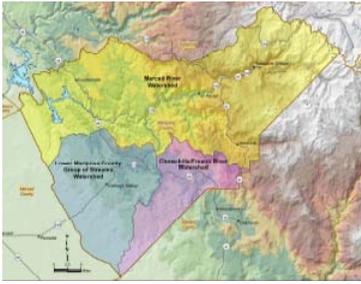
Although the entire region meets the definition of a DAC, there are specific communities that are particularly disadvantaged, both because of their demographic makeup and because they lack organizational capacity to address their critical water supply and quality issues and to fund and develop necessary infrastructure. The work plan includes resources to work closely with these communities, including outreach, specific meetings to identify local issues and concerns, and assistance in developing project proposals. [See Task 3.3.] This assistance will include project planning, initial feasibility assessment, and assistance in negotiating partnerships between the DAC and the region's higher capacity agencies to assist with project funding and implementation. These activities will further the inclusion of the DACs in the regional IRWM process, as well as the development and implementation of projects that address the critical water supply and quality issues of these regions.

6. Effectively integrate water management with land use planning
 - a. Work Plan Task 4.3-N provides resources for the coordination of the RWMG and land use planning agencies. This work will include an analysis of existing General and Specific plans and whether they are consistent with or in conflict with IRWM planning efforts. In response to this analysis, the Plan will

make suggestions on how water agencies can further collaborate with Land Use Plans and Planning agencies, specifically regarding the issues of:

- i. Water supply assessment and verification for new developments
 - ii. Impact of watershed and forest management on flood and fire hazards
 - b. Influence of development standards and transportation systems on runoff and flood management. The most important relationship of the Yosemite-Mariposa IRWMP to land use planning is simply gaining an understanding of available groundwater for potable supply. In addition, the region-wide well studies found in Attachment 3 – Section 3 will provide information to land use planning agencies on overall distribution and quality of groundwater supplies which serves as the potable supply for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Yosemite-Mariposa IRWM Region's residents. The information derived from these studies will assist in effective integration of land use planning with water management.
7. Address Statewide priorities
 - a. Drought Preparedness

The Yosemite-Mariposa Region's planning process will address efficient use of the water throughout the hydrologic system, including watershed management (meadow restoration, forest management), [Task 4.3-E] coordination of land-use planning policies with available water resources [Task 4.3-M and the groundwater technical and quality studies scoped in Attachment 3-Work Plan Section 3], and water use efficiency as a RMS [Task 4.3-E.]. Through



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effectively addressing such issues the Region can reduce the impact of drought by maximizing available water supplies and maintaining a proper balance between water use and water availability.

b. Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently

The Plan will address water efficiency as a RMS [Task 4.3-E.] This portion of the work plan in conjunction with Task 4.2C includes the development of projects which address these strategies. These projects will be evaluated for inclusion in the IRWMP and for eventual implementation.

c. Climate Change Response Actions

During the development of the application to Round 1 IRWMP grants the regional stakeholders completed an initial prioritization of projects for the Region. Appendix A to Attachment 3- Work Plan describes some prioritized initial project concepts developed by the Yosemite-Mariposa RWMG. During the development of the actual IRWM Plan these projects will need to be vetted through the project review process that is developed as part of Task 4.2. However, it is clear from this initial list that watershed restoration and enhancement are definite priorities for the region. This includes the enhancement and protection of upper watershed forests and meadow systems. Such restoration activities are important climate change response actions, since they promote the storage and slow release of water from the upper watersheds, protect forests from severe wildfires, and maintain habitat connectivity. Specific projects (such as meadow restoration) will be developed through Tasks 4.2 (Project Development) and 4.3-E (Resource Management Strategies) and will be vetted and put forward for funding and

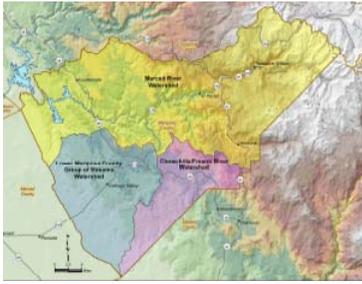
implementation during the development and implementation of the Plan.

d. Expand Environmental Stewardship

As noted in the previous section, the initial prioritization of projects for the Region as found in Appendix A Attachment 3 – Work Plan demonstrated that the stakeholders are seriously interested in planning and projects related to environmental stewardship, including soil protection, surface water protection, invasive plant management, protection of native fisheries, forest restoration, and overall improved watershed management. Specific environmental stewardship projects will be developed through Tasks 4.2 (Project Development Process) and 4.3-E (Resource Management Strategies) and will be vetted and put forward for funding and implementation during the development and implementation of the Plan.

e. Practice Integrated Flood Management

The Work Plan includes coordination with local planning agencies to review existing land use planning documents, identify areas of consistency or conflict with IRWM planning efforts, and develop suggestions on regional coordination on appropriate issues [Task 4.3-N]. One of the topics to be discussed is the development of integrated flood management. This will include not only an assessment of flood hazard risks, especially as they may relate hydrologic variability associated with Climate Change but also the development of mitigation measures, including floodplain ecosystem enhancement, land and transportation development policies that minimize hazardous run-off, and other flood protection measures. These flood management projects will be vetted and put



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forward for funding and implementation during the development and implementation of the Plan.

f. Protect Surface Water and Groundwater Quality

The initial prioritization of projects for the Region demonstrated a concern with protection of surface water and groundwater from impacts due to stormwater runoff, unpaved private roads, development-related erosion and management of septic systems [Appendix A to Attachment 3- Work Plan]. These concerns will be developed into policies through coordination of water and land-use planning agencies [Task 4.3-M and 4.3-N] and projects that will be vetted and put forward for funding and implementation during the development and implementation of the Plan [Task 4.2].

g. Improve Tribal Water and Natural Resources

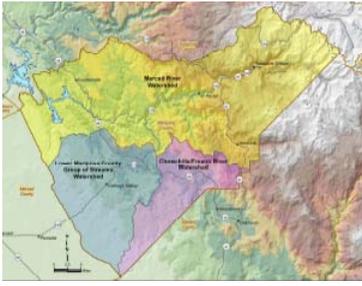
The proposed Work Plan includes specific outreach to the two primary entities that represent Native American tribes in the Region: The Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation and the North County American Indian Veterans Association. Initial contact and participation in the IRWM Plan development process has begun with both entities and will be expanded during the IRWM planning effort. This will include use of the consultant team to identify water and natural resource-related issues and concerns as well as potential opportunities for addressing these issues. The consultant team will work with tribal leadership to prioritize project opportunities and to develop them for inclusion in the plan and for consideration in the RWMG's project vetting, funding and implementation processes [see Task 3.4]. These activities

will have a beneficial impact on tribal water and natural resources by improving local knowledge, integration of these stakeholders into the regional planning process, providing assistance in project development, and promotion of projects for possible funding.

h. Ensure Equitable Distribution of Benefits

The proposed Work Plan will ensure equitable distribution of benefits by increasing the participation of small and disadvantaged communities in the IRWM process. This will be done through specific DAC outreach, specific meetings to identify local issues and concerns, and assistance in developing project proposals. [See Task 3.3.] This assistance will include project planning, initial feasibility assessment, and assistance in negotiating partnerships between the DAC and the region's higher capacity agencies to assist with project funding and implementation. Some potential projects related to safe drinking water in the Region's DACs (for example, Coulterville) have already been identified and are expected to receive technical assistance for project development and inclusion in the IRWMP.

In addition, the planning activities will address critical tribal water needs. This will include use of the consultant team to identify water and natural resource-related issues and concerns as well as potential opportunities for addressing these issues. The consultant team will work with tribal leadership to prioritize project opportunities and to develop them for inclusion in the plan and for consideration in the RWMG's project vetting, funding and implementation processes [see Task 3.4].



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The above activities are necessary to assure the effective participation of the region's DACs and Native American tribes in the benefits of the IRWM planning and plan implementation activities.