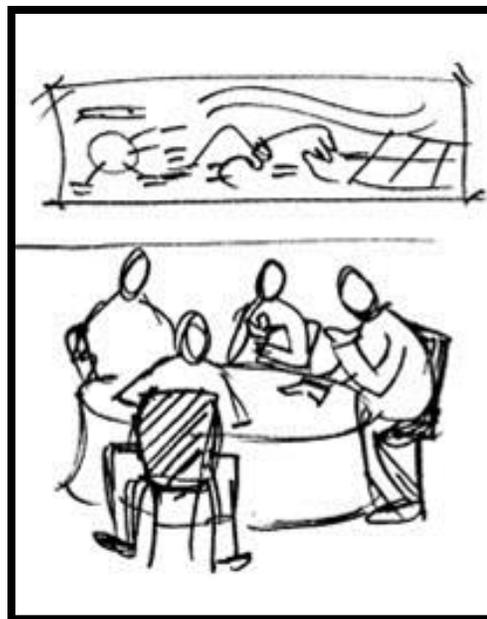


# Chapter 3

## Coordination

This chapter describes the processes CABY has put in place to ensure coordination between in-region stakeholders, adjacent IRWM regions, and the full spectrum of federal, State, and local agencies in both planning and implementation throughout the decision-making process. The intent of this section is to demonstrate how CABY has taken action to avoid overlap, duplication of effort, and integrated planning efforts at multiple levels with diverse stakeholders.



### **3.1 Coordination Within the CABY Region**

CABY's local members, project proponents, and stakeholders coordinate IRWM-related activities and efforts through a variety of means including: Planning Committee (PC) meetings, Coordinating Committee (CC) meetings, and posting proposed project-related and stakeholder meetings and activities on the CABY website. Substantive coordination is also achieved through the ongoing activities and meetings associated with stakeholder-driven Work Groups. The CABY Work Groups have been a key element of regional outreach since CABY's inception. These Work Groups bring together NGOs, federal agencies, local agencies, and water agencies to discuss project development and integration, implementation strategies, emerging issues, opportunities for collaboration between (and recruitment of) stakeholders not represented in individual Work Groups, and related activities. This coordination is designed to eliminate overlap and maximize the opportunity for stakeholders to combine activities and streamline efforts.

CABY has consistently made efforts to ensure that the representatives of the CABY member groups communicate with their agencies, groups, and organizations to ensure awareness of CABY activities, both at the overall planning level and the implementation level. CABY team members frequently make presentations to various boards and governance groups for the same purpose. Additionally, as part of CABY's ongoing recruitment process, new groups are identified and contacted based on the recommendations of existing members and stakeholders, as well as through ongoing outreach across the region.

CABY is a mature IRWM group, having been a solid working group since 2005. CABY has not lost any members during this time and has added new members at a rate of approximately two to four entities per year.

The PC meetings are widely attended and provide a venue for airing emerging issues and potential conflicts. Over the years, the PC has been the venue where 'early warning' about new questions, problems, and/or competing interests has occurred. The typical trajectory for addressing an emerging issue is as follows: An issue is either brought to a meeting and placed on the agenda, or is raised within an individual meeting. The group then discusses the issue with the goal of resolving it within the

meeting. If the issue is too complex or too volatile, or if there is simply not enough time, then the issue is typically referred to either the CC or a Work Group. Both the CC and the various Work Groups have developed specific policies, procedures, and protocols for dealing with conflicts that arise concerning facts or data, processes options, specific topical issues (e.g., mercury, dam removal or installation), project selection, and developing of criteria for evaluation.

It is important to note that substantial informal coordination also occurs between CABY members as many CABY stakeholders belong to similar organizations, attend professional gatherings, and are partners on a variety of projects. These informal conversations have led to the resolution of numerous issues over the years, with the outcomes reported back to the group.

Additionally, as discussed in Chapter 4, Governance, the governance structure specifically mandates a strong intraregional approach to project design and implementation. As stated previously, the internal structures which support consistent and coherent coordination at the project level include the PC, CC, and Work Group meetings. CABY organizes much of its activity and meeting agendas to address specific development of regional-scale projects integrated across issues, stakeholder interests, and geographic areas/watersheds. This project-level coordination optimizes cost savings, project efficiencies, and helps resolve conflicts. CABY often sets aside a portion of a PC meeting to discuss upcoming proposed projects and activities of interest to stakeholders. This strategy has formed the backbone of CABY membership interactions since 2006.

### **3.2 Coordination with Neighboring IRWM Regions**

Coordination with neighboring IRWM regions has taken two primary forms for CABY: formal boundary overlap discussions as part of the 2009 Regional Acceptance Process (RAP), and ongoing discussions amongst the IRWM regions on topics of mutual concern.

Adjacent regional IRWM planning efforts are:

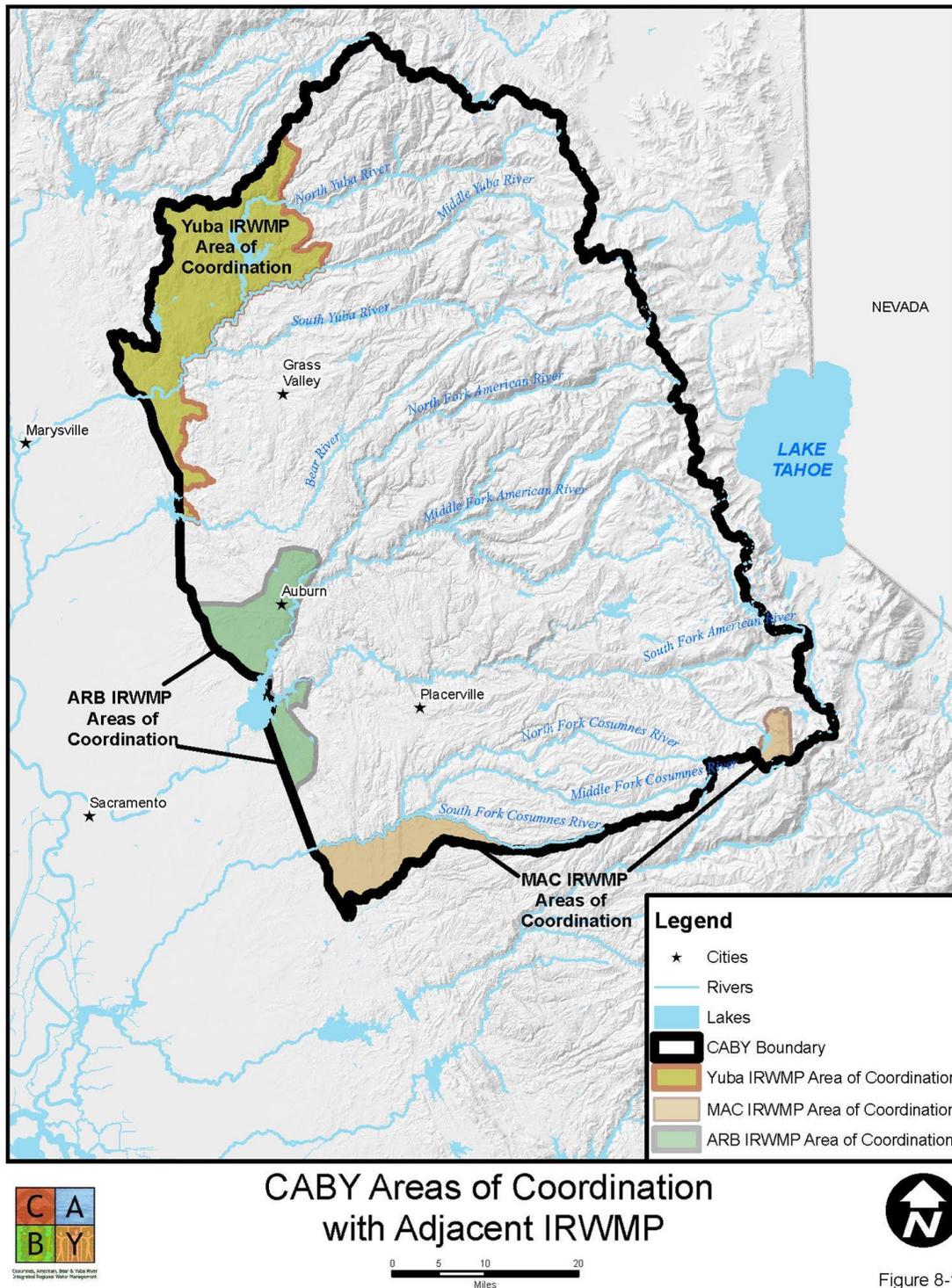
- Upper Feather River Watershed
- American River Basin
- Yuba IRWMP
- Mokelumne-Amador-Calaveras
- North Sacramento Valley Group
- Tahoe-Sierra

CABY has maintained both formal and informal contacts with each of these regions. The contacts range from regular and/or structured interactions to causal and opportunistic conversations or coordination. Further, these contacts are maintained by CABY members and stakeholders, as well as by formal CABY representatives.

#### **3.2.1 Collaboration with Adjacent IRWMPs – Boundary Overlap/2009 Regional Acceptance Process (RAP)**

As part of the 2009 RAP, the CABY Planning Committee directed a systematic review of the CABY boundaries with respect to watersheds and areas of overlap with adjacent IRWM regions. It was determined that the CABY region boundaries, as established in the 2007 IRWMP, overlapped with three adjacent planning areas. An initial review of existing boundaries indicated that CABY had an overlap to the northwest with the Yuba IRWM region, to the west with the American River Basin IRWM region, and to the south with the Mokelumne-Amador-Calaveras IRWM region (see Figure 3-1, Overlap with Adjacent IRWMPs).

Figure 3-1 - Overlap with Adjacent IRWMPs



GIS-based review of the northwest CABY boundary resulted in the determination that the original boundary had been extended outside of the Yuba River watershed into an area that drained primarily into the Feather River. This oversight was corrected through a revision to the northwest boundary with the Four-Counties IRWM region (now the North Sacramento Valley Group). Thus, CABY has a boundary overlap with three of the six adjacent IRWMPs.

As a part of the 2009 RAP process, CABY worked with each IRWMP to develop a consistent strategy for cooperation and coordination in areas where boundaries overlapped. CABY developed a two-part strategy that was applied to each of the overlap areas: 1) develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing a basis for ongoing collaboration; and 2) formalize a project development and review process for use in project development in each overlap area. The MOUs and project processes were identical for each region. Because of this, the areas of overlap are considered by CABY to be 'coordination areas.' The terms 'overlap' and 'coordination area' are interchangeable in CABY's view and thus are used interchangeably throughout this section. Please refer to the CABY RAP document on the CABY website ([www.cabyregion.org](http://www.cabyregion.org)).

### **3.2.1.1 Memorandum of Understanding**

CABY negotiated an MOU with each of the coordination areas. The MOU addresses issues of: participation of IRWMPs in the meetings and work sessions of the adjacent region; identification of mutual interests; coordination on both functionally based as well as regionally based projects; mutual support in fundraising efforts; options for joint preparation of projects; and sharing of technical information and data.

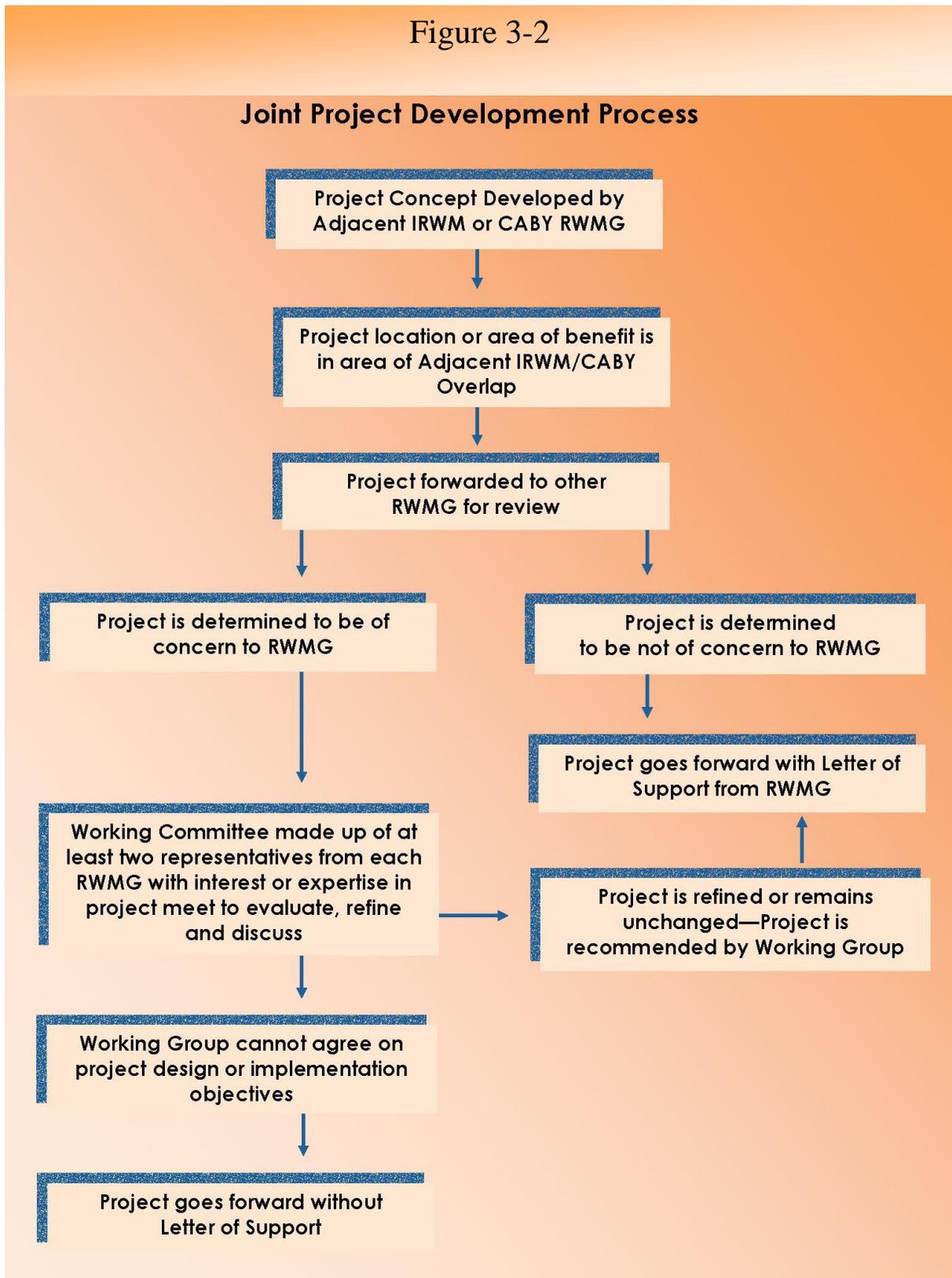
### **3.2.1.2 Joint Project Development Process**

CABY has negotiated a single project development process for each of the IRWMP overlap areas (see Figure 3-2, Joint Project Development Process). Basically, if either RWMG develops a project in the area of coordination, then the RWMG originating the project will arrange to present the project details to the other RWMG (or their designated entity, such as a coordinating committee or project committee or work group). If no issues or concerns are raised, then the project will move forward with a letter of support from the overlapping RWMG. If a concern or issue is raised, then a committee made up of at least two representatives from each RWMG with interests or expertise in the project will be formed to evaluate and refine the project. If the committee cannot agree on the project, then the project will go forward without a letter of support from the adjacent IRWMP. However, if the committee agrees on a final project description and identifies partners and benefits supportive of each IRWMP, then the project will move forward with a letter of support from the overlapping RWMG.

## **3.2.2 Ongoing Coordination with Adjacent IRWM Regions**

As discussed in Chapter 5, CABY's boundaries address the region's water management priorities, hydrological demands, water-related infrastructure, and issues of environmental stewardship. CABY's boundaries have also proven beneficial by prompting collaborations and discussions with adjacent IRWMPs, as well as within the Proposition 84 Sacramento Region Funding Area (SRFA). Coordinating with adjacent regional planning efforts is particularly important as the CABY region contributes water supplies to other IRWMP regions and may affect or be affected by water management decisions made in other areas.

Figure 3-2



As an example of cross-IRWM collaboration and outreach that occurs outside of formal DWR/IRWM-related venues, the Sierra source area IRWM groups are well represented in the Sierra Water Work Group (SWWG) effort. The Sierra Water Work Group's mission is to assist regional efforts to protect and enhance water quality, water supply, and watershed health; to develop cooperative regional responses; and to facilitate reinvestment in our watersheds and water resources by all beneficiaries. The group addresses water issues of concern to the Sierra by:

- coordinating amongst local and regional water plans;
- exchanging information and tools for water and watershed management amongst stakeholders in the region;
- serving as an information source regarding State and federal water policy issues for local governments, nonprofits, and other stakeholders;
- raising the profile of the Sierra to increase private, State, and federal funding opportunities; and
- advocating for Sierra water issues in State and federal legislative and administrative forums.

The Upper Feather, Mokelumne-Amador-Calaveras, Yuba County, and Tahoe-Sierra regions (all CABY neighbors), as well as seven other Sierra region IRWMs attend SWWG meetings and regularly interact with a variety of CABY stakeholders through, and in, this venue.

Interactions associated with specific projects or particular project types (e.g., mountain meadow restoration, fuel and fire management) also involve stakeholders and groups from several adjacent IRWM areas in meetings, workshops, seminars, and other activities that bring people to together to collaborate and problem-solve across IRWM boundary lines.

Finally, representatives from CABY have maintained direct contact with representatives of the Upper Feather River Watershed, American River Basin, Yuba, Mokelumne-Amador-Calaveras, and Tahoe-Sierra IRWM regions via annual 'circuit riding' and outreach that brings representatives together either at RWMG meetings, at the annual Sierra Nevada Alliance Conference, or in less formal venues to discuss emerging issues, responses to DWR guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) releases, identification of possible joint projects, and other similar topics.

### **3.2.3 Coordination with all IRWMPs in the Sacramento Region Funding Area (SRFA)**

In June 2008, CABY convened a meeting of representatives in the Proposition 84 SRFA from each of the seven IRWM regions either recognized and/or with adopted areas at that time: American River Basin, Cosumnes American Bear Yuba, North Sacramento Valley Group, Upper Feather River Watershed, Upper Sacramento-McCloud, Westside, and Yuba County. This group has met at least twice annually since June of 2008 to address: issues/topics of common concern, emerging issues, equity of implementation funding within the region, and mechanisms for intraregional project development and coordination. As the Upper Pit River moved through the RAP process in 2009, that region was also added to the participant list for the SRFA. SRFA activities provide an additional forum for collaboration, communication, coordination, and joint project development.

Ongoing meetings have also focused on several specific objectives that include:

- ensuring that adjacent or overlapping regions define an appropriate level of coordination;
- recognizing the need for additional planning, and the need for State funding to support it, in all of the independent regions;

- exploring the concept of an equitable implementation funding distribution among regions within the SRFA; and
- sending a common message that the SRFA, as the major source of water for much of the rest of the state, should receive a significant portion of the ‘interregional’ funds.

The various IRWMs in the SRFA have developed specific agreements or understandings with adjacent Plans with which they have a boundary overlap. Over the course of the SRFA meetings, the group has identified and articulated the specific planning needs of each IRWM area based on the evolution of events and emerging issues within the area in response to the DWR updated guidelines (November 2012). The group has met throughout 2011-2013 to continue discussions associated with the various IRWM regions’ updates of their IRWMP documents, identification of opportunities to develop projects of mutual benefit, and responses/applications to Round 1 and Round 2 of the Proposition 84 Implementation Grant funding cycle. The ongoing coordination throughout the SRFA is expected to continue indefinitely.

### **3.3 Agency Coordination**

CABY coordinates with State, federal, and local agencies through three levels of interaction, and each offers a platform for assistance in communicating and cooperating between and among stakeholders. The first involves direct communication, such as PC meetings and Work Groups wherein agencies participate directly with CABY members as meeting participants. At the PC level, topics are addressed on a ‘big-picture’ scale, whereas the Work Groups address topics in more detail. The second level of interaction involves CABY member outreach to agencies with mutual interests and whose missions overlap with CABY goals and objectives. Oftentimes CABY members are familiar with State personnel and they will outreach informally with these agencies. The third interaction is less direct and typically involves website research, informal meetings, and telephone discussions with agency staff regarding a specific task or question. In the aggregate, these three levels of outreach and coordination have resulted in thorough involvement between local federal agency staff and departments, and a wide variety of CABY members and governance structures/committees.

As discussed below, a variety of State, federal, and local agencies are important to the development of the CABY Plan and implementation of projects. Much of the agency involvement depends on staff availability, funding, and mutual interests.

#### **3.3.1 State Agencies**

The Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) was a key participant in the effort to update the IRWMP. The CABY watersheds and implementation actions defined in the CABY IRWMP are important to the management and protection of water quality in the region, not only for the CABY participants, but also for those areas of California that rely on water originating in the CABY region. The CABY Plan defines actions consistent with the RWQCB Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) and associated Watershed Management Initiatives.

CABY consistently coordinates efforts with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). The SNC attends CABY PC meetings and participates in CABY Work Groups. Through the project development effort, CABY communicated with SNC regarding regional projects submitted in 2012 to SNC for funding. Additionally, the CABY Performance Measures Work Group purposefully aligned CABY’s project-level performance measures with the SNC’s performance measures (see Chapter 13, Plan Performance and Monitoring) to

streamline reporting efforts and to ensure greater accuracy in measuring outcomes across the CABY region and Sierra-wide.

CABY currently works with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to address fish barrier removal, wildland management, endangered species, and areas of special biological significance. The Department of Fish and Wildlife participates in the Western Placer Creeks Work Group to address issues related to anadromous fish spawning and fish barriers.

CABY also works on miscellaneous tasks with State agencies such as the Public Health Department to implement DAC water quality standards, and the State Water Resources Control Board on issues involving irrigated lands, mercury, and total maximum daily loads.

### **3.3.2 Federal Agencies**

A large portion of lands within the CABY region are under federal jurisdiction; therefore, federal agencies played a key role in the development of the CABY IRWMP Update. The U.S. Forest Service and both Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests were critical to the planning effort. Representatives from these agencies offered extensive experience in forest management and water quality and habitat protection which was incorporated into the Plan. As discussed in Chapter 12, Project Review Process, both the Tahoe and Eldorado National Forests also put forward a number of environmental restoration projects in the upper watersheds, particularly helpful to addressing climate change. The Forest Service invested significant time in collaborating on the development of multi-stakeholder/multi-benefit regional, integrated projects, namely: Meadows, Mercury Abatement, and Forest Health (see Chapter 12, Project Review Process). Finally, Forest Service staff members have been dedicated and active participants in CABY PC meetings since its inception, and are represented on all of the major CABY Work Groups.

CABY also coordinates with the National Marine Fisheries Service as part of the Western Placer Creeks Work Group.

### **3.3.3 Local Agencies**

Local jurisdictions have statutory authority over local land use and water management and, as such, were involved in the planning process (see Table 2-1). This was important to address the critical linkages between planning processes and management actions related to local land use and water management. The CABY Planning Framework includes detailed evaluations of the city and county land use plans, and the CABY IRWMP seeks to be consistent with and complement these plans. CABY expanded its outreach efforts during this update process to include all local counties and municipalities within the region, and specifically rural, disadvantaged communities in Nevada and Sierra Counties. As a result, CABY's local agency participation in the planning process, as well as in project development, has grown significantly in the Yuba and Bear watersheds.

The local Environmental Health Departments typically do not participate in CABY directly. However, CABY coordinates with them as part of DAC outreach and project implementation. This can involve telephone interviews and in-person meetings depending on the task. CABY has and continues to recruit local communities to participate in the PC and Work Groups. As a result of this consistent outreach, three cities and two counties have adopted the CABY IRWMP and have become active CABY participants. The recruitment efforts continue and are expected to result in additional local adoptions of the Plan.