

**Southern Sierra
Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
REGIONAL ACCEPTANCE PROCESS SUBMITTAL**

Introduction

In March 2009, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) published guidelines concerning the Proposition 84 Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan (IRWMP) Region Acceptance Process (RAP). The guidelines address a variety of topics including: the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG), stakeholders, public involvement, governance, the rationale of regional boundaries, water management, and relationships with adjacent IRWMPs.

The Southern Sierra IRWM Group has prepared this region acceptance (RAP) document in response to DWR published guidelines for the Tulare Lake Funding Region. The Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Planning effort (SSIRWMP) was initiated through the actions of the Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT), Sierra Nevada Alliance (SNA) and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC). SNC provided a grant to fund a launch phase of the planning process to identify stakeholders, hold public meetings and write a grant to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). SRT accepted the role of fiscal agent and SNA and SRT organized the first meeting of stakeholders interested in an IRWM Program after constructing a stakeholder list. The first organizational meeting was held on May 21st, 2008. This meeting involved public agencies, non-profits and interested stakeholders that became the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) as specified in CWC §10539.

Following this initial meeting, the IRWM participants began aggressive public outreach and held monthly meetings. Outreach was conducted to numerous interest groups, federal, state and local agencies as well as non-governmental organizations (NGO).

The objective of the IRWMP early on was to establish an IRWMP group that could make necessary organizational decisions such as: identify and approve IRWMP boundaries, construct and approve a governance structure and function, identify and acquire funding mechanisms, and a public participation process. This group eventually worked, through a consensus based process, to adopt a governance structure (see Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Program Governance Principles, attached as Appendix A), a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU, Appendix B).

Since its initial session, this group has met once per month at the Tulare County Farm Bureau office in Visalia, California. All stakeholders were encouraged to participate in and all the meetings are open to the public. Meeting notes are published on the Sequoia Riverlands Trust's website (www.sequoiariverlands.org/news.html).

The Planning Committee approved region boundaries after numerous discussions and evaluations. The boundary of the SSIRWMP has a common northern border with the Madera IRWMP (MIRWMP), a common southern border with the Kern County IRWMP Program, boundaries at the crest of the San Joaquin, Kings, Kaweah, Tule, Deer Creek, Poso, White and Kern watersheds are shared by the Inyo – Mono IRWMP Program, and along the county lines that

generally divide the Sierra's west slope from the east slope. Boundaries for the SSIRWMP were decided in open public meetings with open participation. A map of the Southern Sierra IRWMP Map is provided with this submission in Appendix C.

1. Information on the submitting entity and the role of the regional water management group

The submitting entity is Sequoia Riverlands Trust. The decision to have SRT serve as the submitting agency was made by the Planning Committee (the decision-making body of the IRWM Program) on April 22, 2009 during a regular meeting.

Contact information for the submitting agency is:

Bobby Kamansky, Project Manager
Sequoia Riverlands Trust
427 S. Garden Street
Visalia, Calif. 93277
Voice: 559-287-3311
Fax:
E-mail: bobinator1@hotmail.com
Web site: <http://www.sequoiariverlands.org>

2. RWMG Composition

a. Our approach to the Regional Water Management Group

The South Sierra IRWMP effort (SSIRWMP) is initiating the regional planning process. In designing its initial governance structure over the past year, it has organized itself a little differently than the DWR model. The SSIRWMP governance structure has a Planning Committee that is the decision-making body during the SSIRWMP formation process. This Planning Committee oversees and approves major programmatic decisions such as funding applications and performance measures. Any qualifying entity which signs the MOU (see Appendix B) is a member of the Planning Committee.

In the case of the SSIRWMP, the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) functions as the official pass-through of the Planning Committee decisions. It consists of members which meet the statutory requirements for inclusion in an official RWMG. In the case of the SSIRWMP, the RWMG has no independent decision-making authority and follows the directives of the Planning Committee.

The current SSIRWMP Planning Committee consists of a large group of stakeholders represented by 20-30 organizations in the region, which meets regularly for planning meetings. The Planning Committee strives to ensure its membership represents a broad range of interests, including: water supply, water quality, environment/habitat, recreation, agriculture and ranching, resource management, hydropower, cities/counties, sanitation, other water resource management

areas, economically disadvantaged local communities and individual local stakeholders. Interests represented on the Planning Committee currently include:

- Resource Conservation Districts
- Resource Management Agencies
- Federal Land Management Agencies
- County governments and special districts
- Environmental stewardship organizations
- Landowner groups
- Native American Tribes
- Local water and utilities purveyors
- State Agencies (CDF&G)
- Disadvantaged Communities

b. Planning Committee members and other stakeholders

The following entities are included in the Planning Committee:

- Sequoia Riverlands Trust
- County of Tulare
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Sierra Resource Conservation District
- United States Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest
- National Park Service, Sequoia National Park
- Three Rivers Community Services District
- Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation and Development Council
- Revive the San Joaquin
- Desert and Mountain RC&D
- Sierra and Foothill Citizen's Alliance
- San Joaquin Valley Water Leadership Forum
- Springville Public Utilities District
- Tulare County Resource Conservation District

More information about these entities and their roles in the region is compiled in Appendix F: Planning Committee Membership

The following organizations have participated in Planning Committee meetings but have not yet taken steps to become official members of the Planning Committee:

- National Resource Conservation Service, Area 3
- California Water Institute
- Tule River Indian Reservation
- Tulare County Audubon Society
- Sierra Club – Tehipite Chapter
- Big Sandy Rancheria
- Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners

Buckeye Ranch
Tulare County Citizens for Responsible Growth
Tulare County Farm Bureau
USFS Pacific Southwest Research Station
Foothill Engineering/Dennison Ditch Company
Deer Creek-Tule River Authority
Inyo National Forest
Wildplaces

The following water, local government agency or other organizations have been invited to participate in the IRWM Program, but to date they have only passively followed the Program. They receive monthly information, meeting notice, and minutes.

Fresno County
Community Water Center
Self Help Enterprises
Sierra National Forest
Friant Water Users
Southern California Edison Company
Sustainable Conservation
Upper Kings River Forum
San Joaquin River Parkway and Trust
River Ridge
San Joaquin Valley RC&DC
Semitropic Water Storage District
Sierra Foothill Conservancy
North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians
Madera County
Picayune Rancheria of the Chuckchansi Indians
The Nature Conservancy
Tulare County Water Commission
Sierra Business Council
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Coarsegold RCD
Central Sierra Watershed Committee
Central Unified School District
Devils Postpile National Monument
Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District
Alta Irrigation District
Chumash Council of Bakersfield
Southern Sierra Miwok Nation
Chuckchansi Tribe
US Rep. Jim Costa
Calnatives Plant Nursery
Traditional Choinuymni Tribe

Friends of the South Fork of the Kings River
Kern County Supervisor, McQuisten
Sequoia Foothills Chamber of Commerce

c. Identifying Disadvantaged Communities

Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) are identified at this time based upon Census information provided by the Federal Government. The County of Tulare qualifies as a DAC with an average family income of less than 80% of the California average family income (2007 Census Data, U.S. Census Bureau). However, information will have to be refined through the planning process to better identify DAC priorities and needs. Through the IRWM planning process, additional outreach and refinement of data will identify specific areas of special needs in those community areas. The County of Fresno is not a DAC; however there are small communities and some areas that refined census data will probably help identify as DAC areas with the County. The Planning Committee and staff have been working to include representatives from Community Water Center, which represents many disadvantaged communities in the area.

d. Working Relationships of Identified Agencies and Stakeholders

The SSIRWMP is a relatively recent effort. In the short time we have been provided with resources to pursue regional planning, we have been very successful in soliciting the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders. We acknowledge the need to develop closer relationships with some of the larger stakeholders and will continue to make efforts towards that end. In addition, more work needs to be done to make it possible for Disadvantaged Communities to participate in the planning meetings. The SSIRWMP has submitted grant applications for further staff funding which would allow this concentrated outreach. It should be noted that although stakeholder participation could be increased, we are confident that we have made contact the vast majority of the relevant stakeholders in this region. These entities have been informed about the process and given an opportunity to participate. No entity has been shut out of the process and we are unaware of any entities that are purposefully boycotting the process or have serious concerns about our actions and decisions to date.

Those entities that have chosen to participate appear to have a good working relationship and have shared information on water management issues as the opportunities have arisen. Through the SSIRWMP process, we expect to further develop these relationships and lines of communication among the participating entities. Already, sharing of information among the program participants has allowed increased knowledge about the water resource conditions within the region as it relates to their particular areas of interest. It is anticipated this educational process will provide significant dividends through facilitating a more informed discussion venue and may encourage more participants to join the program.

3. Mechanisms for Stakeholder Participation

The Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Planning effort (SSIRWMP) was initiated through the actions of the Sequoia Riverlands Trust, Sierra Nevada Alliance, and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy provided a grant to fund a launch

phase of the planning process to identify stakeholders, hold public meetings and write a grant to the California Department of Water Resources. In preparation for the initial planning meeting, the Sierra Nevada Alliance prepared a list of stakeholder groups in the area, representing areas such as water supply, water quality, environment/habitat, recreation, agriculture and ranching, resource management, hydropower, cities/counties, sanitation, other water resource management areas, economically disadvantaged local communities and individual local stakeholders.

The IRWM Program makes consistent efforts to include more interest groups and the public in this process (see Appendix G, SSIRWMP email notification list). Additionally, meeting agendas and minutes are circulated to a broad and inclusive group of interests. These include local agencies with facilities within the region, public utilities, federal agencies, state agencies, local tribal interests, business groups, etc. The agenda and notice of the IRWM monthly meeting is posted on the SRT web page (www.sequoiariverlands.org) as well as in the SRT office approximately 5 to 6 days in advance of the monthly meetings.

An important priority since the inception of the IRWM Program has been to provide an open forum for participation in an inclusive structure. SRT, as the managing agency, used lists of interested parties from past water resource related matters, as well as recommendations from other agencies, the public, and NGOs, to solicit interest. Every attempt was made to facilitate stakeholder participation. Planning Committee membership remains open to any additional stakeholders who wish to join by executing the MOU and complying with its terms and conditions.

The SSIRWMP effort has, since its inception, dealt with the fundamental topics of organization that are necessary to any successful IRWM Program. Tasks were carried out with very limited fiscal resources from local and regional sources, supplemented by a strong core of volunteer support from non-governmental organizations and technical support from state and federal agencies. Using this combination of resources the Planning Committee – over the course of approximately one year – has reached a number of milestones.

The IRWM Program structure now covers a large geographic area including the entire upper watersheds of five major rivers and several smaller streams. The IRWM program area includes water resources of regional importance (the San Joaquin, Kings, Kaweah, Tule, Deer Creek, Poso, White and Kern). The IRWM participants list includes a compliment of local land use agencies, water resources agencies, federal and state agencies and a deeply committed group of non-governmental organization interests.

The Planning Committee is familiar with each other's responsibilities, capabilities, duties, interests and desired objectives. They have also jointly developed and executed an MOU with a supporting governance structure, and an IRWM boundary map. The Planning Committee has conducted a public outreach effort targeting a broad spectrum of interests. The Planning Committee has conducted agency and other interest briefings within its membership during its monthly meetings. These briefings have included comprehensive presentations by members of the Planning Committee about their agency or organization.

The Planning Committee has initiated discussion about the probable content of the IRWM Plan (to be developed with Proposition 84 funding) and maintained regular communications with the DWR through the Project Manager, Bobby Kamansky. The Planning Committee has continually updated DWR Program staff through regular email updates. The Planning Committee has reached out to adjoining or nearby IRWM Programs to assure coordination of newly emerging programs with those like the Southern Sierra such as the Madera IRWM to the north and the Inyo-Mono to the east.

4. Public Outreach

The Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Planning effort (SSIRWMP) was initiated through the actions of the Sequoia Riverlands Trust, Sierra Nevada Alliance, and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy provided a grant to fund a launch phase of the planning process to identify stakeholders, hold public meetings and write a grant to the California Department of Water Resources. In preparation for the initial planning meeting, the Sierra Nevada Alliance prepared a list of stakeholder groups in the area, representing areas such as water supply, water quality, environment/habitat, recreation, agriculture and ranching, resource management, hydropower, cities/counties, sanitation, other water resource management areas, economically disadvantaged local communities and individual local stakeholders.

The first organizational meeting was held on May 21st, 2008. It included 26 stakeholders representing 19 agencies. Following this initial meeting, the IRWM participants began aggressive public outreach and held monthly meetings. Outreach was conducted to numerous interest groups, federal, state and local agencies as well as non-governmental organizations (NGO).

As the Fiscal Agent and the organization providing been the organization that provides administrative and staff support to the Program, the Sequoia Riverlands Trust has coordinated outreach efforts. It provides the “portal” for through which stakeholders may contact the IRWM Program. By using the Trust’s web page, or by contacting Trust by telephone, letter, or e-mail, interested parties have access to current information about the IRWM Program. On the web page, the public may review minutes of meetings, agendas, and videos recorded of previous meetings.

The IRWM Program makes consistent efforts to include more interest groups and the public in this process (Appendix E, Program email notification list). Meeting agendas and minutes are circulated to a broad and inclusive group of interests, including those organizations that chose not to be represented on the Planning Committee. These include local agencies with facilities within the region, public utilities, federal agencies, state agencies, local tribal interests, business groups, etc. In addition, program staff duties include attending local agency meetings and making presentations regarding the IRWM Program in public sessions throughout the Region; some Planning Committee members made their own presentations to their Boards and constituencies about the IRWM Program.

The Southern Sierra IRWM Planning Committee envisions that a successful application for a Planning Grant would provide funding to the Program and allow additional public outreach. The

planning process would provide a forum to evaluate areas of commonalities of interest within the Planning Committee as well as identify conflicts. Disadvantaged Community areas would be inventoried with the cooperation of the Counties of Tulare and Fresno, and the Community Water Center. The Planning Committee will determine the most successful methods of public outreach and information to all of the stakeholders, particularly the identified Disadvantaged Communities.

5. RWMG Governance Structure

a. Background – How Governance Structure was Developed:

The Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Planning effort (SSIRWMP) was initiated through the actions of the Sequoia Riverlands Trust, Sierra Nevada Alliance, and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy provided a grant to fund a launch phase of the planning process to identify stakeholders, hold public meetings and write a grant to the California Department of Water Resources. The Sequoia Riverlands Trust accepted the role of fiscal agent and worked with the Sierra Nevada Alliance to identify stakeholders and organize the first meeting of stakeholders interested in an IRWM Program. The first organizational meeting was held on May 21st, 2008. This meeting involved public agencies, non-profits and interested stakeholders that became the Planning Committee, as defined below.

Following this initial meeting, the IRWM participants began aggressive public outreach and held monthly meetings. Outreach was conducted to numerous interest groups, federal, state and local agencies as well as non-governmental organizations.

The objective of the IRWMP early on was to establish an IRWMP group that could make necessary organizational decisions such as: identify and approve IRWMP boundaries, construct and approve a governance structure and function, identify and acquire funding mechanisms, and a public participation process. This group eventually worked, through a consensus based process, to adopt a governance structure (see Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Program Governance Principles, attached as Appendix A), a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU, see attached as Appendix B).

Since its initial session, this group has met regularly, once per month, except for a three month break during the state financial crisis at the Tulare County Farm Bureau office in Visalia, California. All participants encourage public involvement, and all the meetings have been open to the public. All attendees were allowed to participate in discussions. Meeting notes are published on the Sequoia Riverlands Trust's website (www.sequoiariverlands.org/news.html).

b. Governance Structure Overview:

i. Planning Committee: The Planning Committee is the decision-making body during the SSIRWMP formation process. In that context it will oversee and approve major programmatic decisions such as funding applications and performance measures. The Planning Committee will set the overall strategic direction for formation of the IRWMP. It oversees the program, directs actions by support staff and consultants, and provides

leadership to the program. Any qualifying entity which signs the MOU (see Appendix B) can become a member of the Planning Committee.

The Southern Sierra IRWMP effort consists of a large group of stakeholders represented by 20-30 organizations in the Planning Committee, which meets regularly for planning meetings. The Planning Committee strives to ensure its membership represents a broad range of interests, including: water supply, water quality, environment/habitat, recreation, agriculture and ranching, resource management, hydropower, cities/counties, sanitation, other water resource management areas, economically disadvantaged local communities and individual local stakeholders interested and willing to participate. The interests represented on the Planning Committee currently include:

- Resource Conservation Districts
- Resource Management Agencies
- Federal Land Management Agencies
- County governments and special districts
- Environmental stewardship organizations
- Landowner groups
- Native American Tribes
- Local water and utilities purveyors
- State Agencies (CDF&G)
- Disadvantaged Communities

ii. Coordinating Committee: The Coordinating Committee, appointed by the Planning Committee, is a smaller, representative group of the Planning Committee that meets between Planning Committee meetings to assist staff with process planning, recommendations for process modifications, communications, and other issues for which staff needs advice. The Coordinating Committee may also provide more consistent fiscal oversight in helping to manage the IRWMP with the fiscal sponsor. The Coordinating Committee may play a role in developing substantive proposals and policy, at the request and subject to the approval of the Planning Committee, but has no decision-making authority.

iii. Regional Water Management Group: The Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) consists of the Planning Committee members which meet the statutory requirements for inclusion in an official RWMG. In the case of the SSIRWMP, the RWMG has no independent decision-making authority but follows the directives of the Planning Committee.

c. How decisions are made

The members of the Planning Committee serve as the consensus based decision-making body for the Program. According to the agreed upon Principals of Governance, there is no traditional “voting” process. The Planning Committee strives for consensus (agreement among all

participants) in all of its decision-making. Working toward consensus is a fundamental principle of the Southern Sierra IRWM Program process.

In reaching consensus, some Planning Committee members may strongly endorse a particular proposal, while others may accept it as just “workable.” Others may be only able to “live with it.” Still others may choose to “stand aside” by verbally noting a disagreement, yet allowing the group to reach a consensus without them if the decision does not affect them or compromise their interests. Any of these actions still constitutes consensus.

Issues for decision are brought to the Planning Committee by any Committee member or by the project staff. They must be included on a meeting agenda (through contact with the Project Manager) in order to be considered as an ‘action item’. The consensus process is facilitated by the staff Facilitator, and the conclusions reached are clearly specified for inclusion in meeting minutes. As the SSIRWMP enters into the actual IRWMP development process, these procedures will be further formalized and documented as needed for efficiency and inclusion.

d. How the RWMG and other Governance Entities will Incorporate New Members

The IRWM Program makes consistent efforts to include more interest groups and the public in this process (see Appendix E, Program email notification list). Additionally, meeting agendas and minutes are circulated to a broad and inclusive group of interests. These include local agencies with facilities within the region, public utilities, federal agencies, state agencies, local tribal interests, business groups, etc. The agenda and notice of the IRWM monthly meeting is posted on the SRT web page (www.sequoiariverlands.org) as well as in the SRT office approximately 5 to 6 days in advance of the monthly meetings.

An important priority since the inception of the IRWM Program has been to provide an open forum for participation in an inclusive structure. SRT, as the managing agency, used lists of interested parties from past water resource related matters, as well as recommendations from other agencies, the public, and NGOs, to solicit interest. Every attempt was made to facilitate stakeholder participation. Planning Committee membership remains open to any additional stakeholders who wish to join by executing the MOU and complying with its terms and conditions.

Those participants that have executed the MOU are members of the Planning Committee and, if consistently active in the process, they may participate in the consensus-based governance of the Program. Other parties who attend meetings are also allowed to participate in general discussions and decisions.

e. How Governance structure will facilitate the development of a Single Collaborative Water Management Portfolio

The Southern Sierra IRWM Program is very new. The current focus has been on building a strong basis in shared agreement over governance, goals and issues. The MOU, signed by all Planning Committee members, includes a commitment that “The Parties will support the process

and tasks necessary to develop and submit a Proposition 84 IRWMP Planning Grant with the intention to ultimately work cooperatively on the development of a Southern Sierra IRWMP Plan as shown on Exhibit A attached.”

The process to prepare a comprehensive IRWM Plan for the region is expected to take approximately two years. The Planning Committee has been briefed on the time and dedication needed to complete a sustainable Plan for the region, which will provide for the integrated management of resources in a cost effective fashion, consistent with balanced resource management.

Through the combination of the consensus-based process, a broad and diverse set of interests, commitment by the Planning Committee, and support from other participants, The SSRWMG anticipates an orderly and equitably developed regional water management portfolio. All participants understand that there may be some activities and/or projects that will not be acceptable to the full Planning Committee, but which may be pursued outside the IRWM Program by individual agencies or interests.

6. Regional Boundary Description

a. Development of Regional Boundaries

The process for developing regional boundaries of the SSIRWMP was challenging, since it involved developing an internal rationale in parallel with coordination with neighboring IRWMP efforts. The Planning Committee started with the following internal rationale which is included in the MOU:

The Southern Sierra IRWMP boundaries will include the foothills and mountain headwaters regions of Kern, Tule, Kaweah, Kings, and San Joaquin watersheds. These watersheds cover the Sierra Nevada portion of Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kern Counties. This primary boundary includes the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) boundaries, but is adapted to sync with neighboring IRWMP efforts. Specific boundaries are defined as follows:

- To the east, the Southern Sierra IRWMP boundary is defined by the Sierra Nevada crest.
 - Rationale: Waters flowing to the west from the Sierra crest are source waters for foothill uses and management. Precipitation falling west of the crest drains the western slope of the mountain range and is connected hydrologically with the Tulare and San Joaquin basins.
- To the north, the Southern Sierra IRWMP is defined by the Upper San Joaquin watershed.
 - Rationale: The upper San Joaquin River basin is split between Fresno and Madera Counties, and the river is managed across counties. The issues on either side of the county line are similar, and contrast sharply with downstream users in intensive

agricultural areas outside of the Sierra Nevada Region. The San Joaquin watershed shares many of the same issues with watersheds further south in the region.

- To the west, the Southern Sierra IRWMP boundary includes the foothill areas of the region's watersheds.
 - Kings River Area, the SSIRWMP boundary extends the District boundaries of the Tri Valley, Orange Cove, and Hills Valley Water Districts east of the towns of Orange Cove, Orosi and East Orosi. East of the city of Fresno, the boundary extends to the boundaries of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, the International Water District and the Garfield Water District.
 - Rationale: This boundary was negotiated with the Upper Kings River Forum Regional Water Management Group to match UKRF boundaries.
 - Kaweah Delta area, the SSIRWMP boundary extends to the Kaweah reservoir or the 600-foot contour in the Kaweah River Drainage. Further, the boundary follows the RWQCB Irrigated Lands Program and generally follows surface water-ground water usage boundaries. In the aquaculture/Lewis/Avocado area, the boundary will be the 600' elevation contour and squared to section lines; the agriculture north of Elderwood will be in the KDRWMP.
 - Davis Valley, the Westside has small, irrigated lands while the east and the north are rangeland. The boundary will follow section lines in these areas.
 - Dry Creek, the boundary will follow land use: irrigated lands will be part of the KDWMG and grazing land will be in the SSIRWMP.
 - Mehrten Valley, the 600' contour will be the guide, most of the valley will be in KDRWMP.
 - Yokohl Valley, most of the western valley will be in the KDRWMP while the eastern portion of the valley will be in the SSIRWMP. In Round Valley, east of Lindsay, the KDRWMP will include a few small areas east of the ILP, the boundary will again be based on land use and squared to the section lines.
 - Rationale: This boundary was negotiated with the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District Regional Water Management Group to match KDWCD boundaries.
 - Tule River Area, the SSIRWMP boundary includes the Tule River Indian Reservation and down to approximately the 600-foot contour in all forks of the Tule and squared to section lines. The Deer Creek Tule River Authority planning area will follow irrigated lands while the SSIRWMP will follow rangeland.

- Rationale: This boundary was negotiated with the Deer Creek-Tule River Authority Regional Water Management Group to match that region's planning boundaries.
- To the south, the Southern Sierra IRWMP boundary is defined by the Tulare-Kern County line.
 - Rationale: the Kern watershed's water resources will be managed by both SSIRWMP and Kern County Water Agency IRWMP. The two entities will work collaboratively in the watershed across the county boundary.

Subsequent to the selection of the initial boundaries, the IRWMP efforts to the north and south made last-minute determinations regarding their shared boundaries with the SSIRWMP effort.

Any last modifications were approved by the Planning Committee in their meeting of April 22, 2009. All decisions regarding boundaries were all made in open public meetings with an opportunity for all in attendance to participate in discussions.

A current version of the Southern Sierra IRWMP Map is attached as Appendix C.

b. How Boundaries Maximize Integration of Water Management Activities:

In the Planning Committee's boundary discussions, consideration was given to a number of factors including, but not limited to: political boundaries, water agency service area boundaries, physical characteristics of the landscape, streams and watersheds, water related man-made infrastructure, agency service areas and major governmental ownership such as national forests and national parks. There was recognition the area under consideration did not have a defined groundwater table, or basin, and was predominantly one of fractured granite groundwater sources. Groundwater resources are difficult to quantify.

In the Sierra Nevada Mountains and foothills, watersheds dominate water resource management operations and future resource options. Watersheds are logical regions for planning purposes; however they can create challenges regarding management activities. The large geographic region with scattered sparse population limits access and creates travel boundaries. Therefore, consideration of watersheds as a boundary feature must be balanced with the potential for the functional participation of interests and travel times to meetings. In addition, the desires of the stakeholders in various areas must be respected regarding the region with which they wish to be associated.

There are significant man-made water resource facilities within the IRWM area that export water to other (downstream) areas for consumption. The San Joaquin River at Friant Dam is diverted for irrigation via the Friant-Kern Canal south as far as Kern County. Southern California Edison operates Edison, Florence, Huntington, Shaver and Redinger Lakes in the San Joaquin River watershed. Mammoth Pool reservoir. Pacific Gas and Electric operates two large, high elevation reservoirs in the Kings River Drainage: Courtwright and Wishon, while the US Army Corps of Engineers operates the Pine Flat Dam in the foothills. The Army Corps of Engineers operates dams on the Kaweah, Tule and Kern Rivers.

The SSIRWMP will focus on the integration water management activities involving watershed-related stewardship projects, man-made facilities, water quality, flood and fire hazard mitigation and other water-related areas. By having a large geographic area, we include a large number of these natural and man-made resources which can encourage the coordination of planning and management among numerous stakeholders. This is balanced by the need for reasonable access to coordination meetings, as well as the desires of the area stakeholders

7. Historical IRWM efforts in the Region

a. History of IRWM Efforts in the Region

This region has had no history of IRWM planning. The Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Planning effort (SSIRWMP) was initiated through the actions of the Sequoia Riverlands Trust, the Sierra Nevada Alliance and the Sierra Nevada Conservancy based on their respective concerns that the region was missing out on essential planning and management resources. With funds from a Sierra Nevada Conservancy ‘launch’ grant an initial organizational meeting was held on May 21st, 2008. This meeting involved public agencies, non-profits and interested stakeholders that became the Regional Water Management Group. Following this initial meeting, the IRWM participants began aggressive public outreach and held monthly meetings. Outreach was conducted to numerous interest groups, federal, state and local agencies as well as non-governmental organizations. Of course, the lack of specific IRWM planning efforts in the region does not mean planning has not taken place, however it has been done individually by agencies with responsibility over the region. In preparation for an IRWMP grant application, the Planning Group and project staff have compiled a list of current water-related plans and studies for the area and worked with various stakeholders to identify goals, objectives and specific projects that should be part of an IRWMP. This is truly the first ‘integrated’ planning effort that has taken place for the region.

b. Water Management Issues and Conflicts

It is not clear at this time what commonality of interests and/or conflicts in interests the Planning Committee may have among its members. The process in which that will be determined is the actual planning process still ahead of the Planning Committee. Future shared vision of regional goals and objectives have been identified, and more stakeholder outreach and inclusion is required to complete this process. Project identification and prioritization will result from the IRWM planning process itself. As this planning process is initiated, water-related conflicts will be further identified.

Water management issues for the region are broad and include water supply, water quality, flood management, environmental stewardship, water transfers, and infrastructure development. Many IRWM Planning Committee agencies and interest groups have participated in complex resource management programs and processes including but not limited to: Forest Land and Resources Management Plans, City and County General Plans, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission hydroelectric license processes, California Environmental Quality Act preparation and review, National Environmental Policy Act review and other administrative actions. These programs

have identified water management issues for the region, and these will be compiled as part of the IRWM Planning process. However, some issues that have already come to the surface include:

- The need to provide clean, sustainable and affordable water supply for the populations of the IRWM Program area.
- The presence of water rights holders whose customers are located outside of the Program area and the watersheds. These present a challenge common to many areas of California water resources where there is a disconnect between source waters and use of those waters chiefly for municipal and irrigation purposes.
- Development is guided by General Plans that were adopted by the land use planning agencies (local governments). Population growth in the IRWM region has generally exceeded the California average annual growth rate. This is predominately due to the migration of significant urban populations to these rural areas. The foothill and mountain communities in the Program area expect to continue to grow as provided for within the land use agency plans, which will provide additional stress on the environment and water supplies.

The members of the Planning Committee are experienced in public process, resource management and group collaborative efforts. Further, they bring to the process expertise in a number of critical resource areas of importance to integrated resource management. This “team” approach to resource management, combined with broad public participation, provides the opportunity for balanced and sustainable decisions through the IRWM process. This governance structure, representing a valid and committed “cross section” of water and other natural resource interests in this area, has the potential to provide community infrastructure for the IRWM region, which will allow for ongoing and sustainable resource management cooperation efforts beyond the funding grant cycle and well into the future.

c. Water related components of the Region

Within the Southern Sierra IRWM Region, water generally flows from the crest of the Sierra Nevada mountain range in the east towards the Tulare Basin in the west. The streams flow out of deeply incised watersheds with extensive coniferous forests in the mountains, to foothill regions with brush and annual grasslands. There are few population centers in the Southern Sierra; most of the population in the relevant counties is centered in the valley portions of the region.

Water for the IRWM area is primarily surface water that is delivered by a combination of open ditches and flumes and pipes. Local water agencies continue to evaluate improved methods to conserve water while preserving the rural and historic characteristics of their raw water delivery systems. Extensive end user water conservation efforts have also been implemented over the years.

The Planning Committee has recognized that within this region groundwater resources are scarce and generally not a reliable source of long-term significant water supplies. They can also be

subject to water quality problems. There are limited opportunities for water resource movement across landscapes due to the deeply incised canyons of the upper watersheds. Thus, some traditional water management options identified in Bulletin 160-05, such as water transfers and conjunctive use projects, are not possible within the boundaries of this region.

The Planning Committee understands some of the water agencies that provide major water supplies to the IRWM region have no water rights, but rather depend on contracts customers. Additionally, there are limited opportunities for new surface water developments due to the number of existing facilities and senior water rights holders. All of these factors tend to be significant factors which will likely emerge in the IRWM planning process.

8. Coordination with Adjacent Regions

At the time of the inception of the SSIRWMP launch effort, the only adjacent IRWM efforts were on the Valley floor and the Madera IRWMP to the north as well as the Inyo-Mono effort on the Eastern Sierra. The Madera IRWMP already had a plan and was looking to implement projects. This IRWMP covered a small northern portion of the San Joaquin River Watershed, which was also being considered for inclusion in the SSIRWMP Region. Upon analysis of the Madera IRWM Plan, the SSIRWMP Planning Committee determined that the issues emerging from the SSIRWMP Planning Committee meetings were different from the Madera IRWM Plan and that 'joint management' of the overlap area would be a feasible solution. The SSIRWMP Planning Committee initiated discussions with Madera County to approve the joint management of this overlap area. An initial conceptual agreement and following resolutions and a draft MOU (see Appendix E) regarding the overlap was drafted and presented to the Madera Water Advisory Commission and the County Board of Supervisors. This conceptual agreement was considered, and the Madera Water Advisory Commission appointed a member to be a liaison with SSIRWMP Planning Committee. Unfortunately, these early negotiations didn't prevent Madera from exploring other boundary options, such as including the entire San Joaquin River watershed without initial consultation with SSIRWMP. These last-minute actions, and the fact that little or no stakeholder outreach was conducted before exploring new boundaries, obviously concerned Southern Sierra stakeholders.

Subsequent to these actions, the Madera IRWMP and the forming Mariposa County IRWMP began negotiations about a potential merger to create a region that included the entire San Joaquin River Watershed. On April 6, 2009, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy facilitated a meeting between the affected IRWMP regions, with DWR attending. A tentative agreement was reached among the parties about regional boundaries and collaboration. Since the DWR representative discouraged the existing overlap proposal and representatives from the Madera IRWMP wished to remain active in the San Joaquin River Watershed, it was agreed to consider a potential combination of efforts of the Madera IRWMP and the Mariposa County IRWMP. In this case, the combined boundary would follow the San Joaquin River itself with the combined northern effort to the north of the river, while SSIRWMP would remain active south of the river in the SJRW. The agreement between the Mariposa County effort and the Madera effort has not yet been finalized as of this writing, however the SSIRWMP has taken the position that it will follow this guidance and use the San Joaquin River as the boundary. The only exception to this is a small portion of the upper San Joaquin River Watershed which is outside of Madera County, and which is not included in the Madera IRWMP region. In order to avoid a gap in coverage, the

SSIRWMP Planning Group has agreed to include this small area in their region. Madera's liaison attended the April 22 Planning Committee meeting and expressed future desire to work collaboratively in the watershed.

The Kern County Water Agency proposed in January, 2009 that the SSIRWM Planning Boundary stop at the Kern County line. Kern County Water Agency stated that it had done outreach in the Kern Valley and had numerous signatories to its MOU in the mountain areas. Eventually, the SSIRWMP invited Lauren Bauer, the KCWA representative, to speak during a Coordinating Committee call in April, after many SSIRWMP stakeholders objected to the boundary change. The boundary change was approved during the Planning Committee meeting on April 22, 2009, on the condition that an MOU be developed between SSIRWMP and the KCWA IRWMP with the following items:

- Collaborate across jurisdictional boundaries in watershed to ensure benefits across watersheds including water quality and quantity and source projects,
- the two IRWMPs will work collaboratively across jurisdictions, there will be project-specific consultation and specific cooperation,
- The Kern River Valley Revitalization group will need representation in the KCWA's mountain subregion committee as well as other groups such as native American groups,

If the groups in Kern Valley continue to feel as they do not have representation, they can notify the Planning Committee which will pursue resolution with the KCWA or Tulare Basin JPA.

Based on the above negotiations, as well as the original regional boundaries, there is no overlap between the SSIRWMP boundaries and neighboring regions. The Planning Committee has diligently monitored nearby existing and emerging IRWM efforts to avoid any additional boundary issues. The SSIRWM area is bounded on the north by the Madera IRWM and the forming Central California/Sierra Group. On the west, there are a number of valley floor interests: the Upper Kings River Forum, the Kaweah Delta IRWMP, the Deer Creek Tule River Authority IRWMP (in formation), the Poso Creek IRWMP and the Kern County Water Agency IRWMP. To the east, the crest of the Sierra Nevada provides an imposing and significant natural barrier that divides the Inyo-Mono IRWMP from SSIRWMP. Additionally, the eastern side of the Sierra is in a different hydrologic region (South Lahontan). Nonetheless, the Inyo – Mono IRWM Program has communicated with the SSIRWMP Program through contacts with Project Manager Bobby Kamansky to ensure that mutual boundaries are without gaps.

During boundary discussions, issues that transcend the planning boundaries of individual efforts were discussed and possible issue-based projects were identified. This is an example of the Southern Sierra IRWMP's view that issues transcend planning boundaries and that regional and interregional efforts need to integrate to address issues and serve stakeholders effectively.

In reviewing the DWR's current Proposition 84 IRWMP Tulare Basin Funding Area map, and through coordination with nearby IRWM Programs, there appear to be no boundary conflicts for the SSIRWM Program. Therefore, this Program would logically fit into the larger Tulare Basin Funding Area of Proposition 84.

9. Anticipated RAP Interview Participants

Bobby Kamansky, Sequoia Riverlands Trust (*Primary Spokesperson*)
Julie Allen, Sequoia Riverlands Trust
John Austin, National Park Service
Terry Kaplan-Henry US Forest Service
Elissa Brown, Consultant
Gary Temple, SRCD
Steve Haze, USJRF/SRCD

VIII. Conclusion

The SSIRWMP IRWM Program is currently a locally and regionally funded effort that has diligently and responsibly worked for the last year towards moving ahead with the development of an IRWM Plan for this region. To accomplish the ambitious planning effort, however, outside funding is essential. There are simply insufficient locally available fiscal resources to develop a comprehensive and sustainable IRWM Plan and Program at this time. The submission of this Regional Acceptance Process (RAP) information is one key step for the SSIRWMP Program in reaching recognition and gaining funding for the effort by the DWR.

This narrative and the attached appendices provide the requisite information required under the DWR RAP guidelines. We respectfully request that DWR recognize the sincere effort this group of collaborators demonstrated approve this IRWM Region without condition.

Attachments:

Appendix A: Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Program Governance Diagram

Appendix B: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Appendix C: Current Southern Sierra IRWMP Boundary Map

Appendix D: Details on specific boundaries of participating agencies (also see GIS shape files)

Appendix E: Early Conceptual Agreements regarding Joint Management of Overlap Area:
Madera IRWMP and SSIRWMP

Appendix F: Planning Committee Membership

Appendix G: SSIRWMP email notification list

Appendix H: Letter of Support from Sierra Nevada Alliance

Appendix A: Governance Diagram

Planning Committee (20-30 members)

- IRWMP decision-making body
- Membership: water agencies, resource agencies, conservation groups, Counties, Tribes, etc. from geographic scope of IRWMP (open to those interested in water resources management)
- Size: unlimited size
- Decision-making: consensus-based with a default for supermajority vote with representation from major interests.
- Meetings open to the public
- Frequency of Meetings: Meet once every other month during Planning Phase and thereafter, meet quarterly.

Coordinating Committee (8 - 10 members)

- Helps give guidance to IRWMP staff and consultants for managing IRWMP, preparation for meetings, drafting proposed policies, and planning tools
- Membership: representation from major interests and geographic area of IRWMP. Must also be members of Planning Committee.
- Size: Keep this Committee at a small workable number. Suggest 8.
- Frequency of Meetings: Meets every month during Planning stages and every other month thereafter.
- Decision-making: No decision-making authority. Proposes ideas to the Planning Committee for decision-making.
- Meetings are open to other Planning Committee members.

Fiscal Sponsor (1 entity)

(DWR eligibility: Non-profit or public institution)

- Administration of grants and funds including contracting, reporting, invoicing
- Liability for grants awarded to fiscal sponsor on behalf of the IRWMP
- Leader in region and for IRWMP
- Relationship with DWR

Regional Authority (3 entities)

(DWR criteria: 3 public agencies, 2 with authority over water.)

- One of three entities will be fiscal sponsor for DWR Planning Grant
- Members of Planning Committee
- Could be members of Coordinating Committee but all don't have to be.
- Decision-making: none, these entities will make consensus decisions as part of the Planning Committee.
- Frequency of meetings: none.

Memorandum of Understanding Southern Sierra Regional Entity (Date of Signing) 2009

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by and among the members of the Planning Committee with regard to the formation of the Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). The overarching vision of the IRWMP is to meet the integrated water needs of the people and watersheds of the South Sierra IRWMP region now and into the future. The IRWMP will be developed in three phases: 1) a formation (launch) phase to develop and submit an application to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for a Planning Grant; 2) a planning phase to develop the Southern Sierra IRWMP and; 3) an implementation phase to implement the plan. The Southern Sierra Regional Water Management Group (hereinafter referred to as the “Southern Sierra Planning Committee” or “Planning Committee”) will be realized through this MOU for the purpose of phases one and two of the IRWMP.

Purpose

This MOU is a statement of mutual understanding among the Planning Committee members to acknowledge the intentions of the parties and provide for cooperative action regarding:

- The roles and responsibilities of the parties in IRWMP formation, including the sources of funds and in-kind technical assistance
- The structure that will be used to exchange information with the Southern Sierra Planning Committee, Coordinating Committee, and other interested parties, and the public to provide for technical review and public support for formation of the IRWMP.
- The general work plan that Southern Sierra stakeholders will complete to form the IRWMP.

Duration of this Memorandum of Understanding

This MOU will remain in effect from the date of signing for 3 years or until replaced by another form of agreement by the Southern Sierra IRWMP Planning Committee.

Southern Sierra Preamble from the IRWMP

This IRWMP is not intended to, and it does not, impose legally binding requirements on the entities that adopt or participate in the IRWMP. The IRWMP’s purpose is to summarize the process and the plan developed by the Southern Sierra Region stakeholders to meet their common goals of achieving sustainable water supplies and uses, improved water quality, environmental stewardship, efficient urban development, protection of agriculture, and a strong economy.

Although the IRWMP refers to many legally binding statutory and regulatory provisions—such as general plans, zoning ordinances, water quality plans, and various permits, licenses, and approvals; its purpose in doing so is to ensure that the IRWMP is consistent and compatible with those existing legal obligations. Rather than adding to or modifying the present legal and regulatory environment, the IRWMP is intended to streamline and improve the stakeholders’ ability to operate and succeed within that environment. Thus, the IRWMP provides guidance to, but does not impose any mandates upon, the water agencies, land use agencies, local governments, watershed organizations and others who adopt the IRWMP.

Background

IRWMP Formation

The Southern Sierra Planning Committee intends to launch an IRWMP Planning process, which will culminate in submitting a Planning Grant Proposal to DWR soon after final guidelines are released.

IRWMP Adoption

Any organizations, agencies or individuals that support the Southern Sierra IRWM Plan may adopt it. These include such organizations as water agencies, conservation groups, agriculture representatives, businesses, tribal groups, land use entities, and local, state, federal agencies and private entities with an interest in the Southern Sierra.

Southern Sierra IRWMP Geographic Boundaries

The Southern Sierra IRWMP boundaries will include the foothills and mountain headwaters regions of the Kern, Tule, Kaweah, Kings, and San Joaquin watersheds. These watersheds cover the Sierra Nevada portion of Madera, Fresno, Tulare, and Kern Counties. The primary boundary includes the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) boundaries, but is adapted to sync with neighboring IRWMP efforts.

- To the east, the Southern Sierra IRWMP boundary is defined by the Sierra Nevada crest.
 - Rationale: Waters flowing to the west from the Sierra crest are source waters for foothill uses and management. Precipitation falling west of the crest drain the western slope of the mountain range and are connected hydrologically with the Tulare and San Joaquin basins.
- To the north, the Southern Sierra IRWMP is defined by the Upper San Joaquin watershed.
 - Rationale: The upper San Joaquin River basin is split between Fresno and Madera Counties, but the river is managed across counties. The issues on either side of the county line are similar, but contrast sharply with downstream users in intensive agricultural areas outside of the Sierra Nevada Region. The San Joaquin watershed shares many of the same issues with watersheds further south in the region.
- To the west, the Southern Sierra IRWMP is considering a boundary including the foothill areas of the region's watersheds.
 - In the Kings River Area, the SSIRWMP boundary extends the District boundaries of the Tri Valley, Orange Cove, Hills Valley Water Districts east of the towns of Orange Cove, Orosi and East Orosi. East of the City of Fresno, the boundary extends to the boundaries of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, the International Water District and the Garfield Water District.
 - Rationale: This boundary was negotiated with the Upper Kings River Forum Regional Water Management Group to match UKRF boundaries.
 - In the Kaweah Delta area, the SSIRWMP boundary extends to the Kaweah reservoir or the 600-foot contour in the Kaweah River Drainage. Further, the boundary follows the RWQCB Irrigated Lands Program and generally follows surface water-ground water usage boundaries. In the aquaculture/Lewis/Avocado area, the boundary will be the 600' elevation contour and squared to section lines; the agriculture north of Elderwood will be in the KDRWVG. In Davis Valley, the Westside has small, irrigated lands while the east and the north are rangeland. The boundary will follow section lines in these areas. In Dry Creek, the boundary will follow land use: irrigated lands will be part of the KDWVG and grazing land will be in the SSIRWMP. In Mehrten Valley, the 600' contour will be the guide, most of the valley will be in KDRWVG. In Yokohl Valley, most of the western valley will be in the KDRWVG while the eastern portion of the valley will be in the SSIRWMP. In Round Valley, east of Lindsay, the KDRWVG will include a few small areas east of the ILP, the boundary will again be based on land use and squared to the section lines.

- Rationale: This boundary was negotiated with the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District Regional Water Management Group to match KDWCD boundaries.
 - In the Tule River Area, the SSIRWMP boundary includes the Tule River Indian Reservation and down to approximately the 600-foot contour in all forks of the Tule and squared to section lines. The Deer Creek Tule River Authority planning area will follow irrigated lands while the SSIRWMP will follow rangeland.
 - Rationale: This boundary was negotiated with the Deer Creek-Tule River Authority Regional Water Management Group to match that region's planning boundaries.
- To the south, the Southern Sierra IRWMP boundary is defined by the Tulare-Kern County line.
 - Rationale: the Kern watershed's water resources will be managed by both SSIRWMP and Kern County Water Agency IRWMP. The two entities will work collaboratively in the watershed across the county boundary.

Planning Horizon

The Southern Sierra planning and implementation horizon is approximately thirty years into the future, in the range of 2038-2040. However, many Southern Sierra discussions and actions will be guided by a longer time horizon of up to fifty years into the future.

Joining and Leaving the Southern Sierra IRWMP Planning Committee

Any water stakeholder organization may join the Southern Sierra IRWMP as part of the Planning Committee (see below for description). Water stakeholders could include, but are not limited to such organizations as: water agencies, conservation groups, agriculture representatives, businesses, tribal groups, land use entities, and local, state, federal agencies and private entities with an interest in the Southern Sierra. A group who wants to join the Southern Sierra IRWMP should notify the Planning Committee of their intent to join and sign this MOU to signify their good faith effort to join.

Any entity who would like to discontinue their participation in the Southern Sierra IRWMP may do so at any time. This MOU is non-binding and non-regulatory. The Southern Sierra IRWMP Planning Committee only asks that any member who wants to leave, notify the rest of the Planning Committee at which point they will no longer be a member of the Planning Committee of the Southern Sierra IRWMP.

Program Management Structure

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee is the decision-making body during the SSIRWMP formation process. In that context it will oversee and approve major programmatic decisions such as funding applications and performance measures. The Planning Committee will set the overall strategic direction for formation of the IRWMP. During the planning phase, the Planning Committee or its designated Work Groups will meet at least every other month.

Membership

The first Planning Committee membership will be comprised of those who sign this Memorandum of Understanding. These members will commit to approximately three years on the Planning Committee or until the SSIRWMP is complete.

The Planning Committee strives to ensure its membership represents a broad range of interests, including: water supply, water quality, environment/habitat, recreation, agriculture and ranching, resource management, hydropower, cities/counties, sanitation, other water resource management areas, economically disadvantaged local communities and individual local stakeholders interested and willing to participate. In order to cover these interests, members may include, but are not limited to: water agencies, resource agencies, conservation groups, tribes, agricultural and

ranching interests, cities, counties, education organizations, disadvantaged community representatives, private landowners, and businesses.

Planning Committee membership will be comprised of those who sign this MOU before submission of the planning grant proposal. Planning Committee members must be committed to ensuring long-term ecosystem health of the areas watersheds, water supply, water quality, involvement of the local communities, especially disadvantaged communities; and the protection, preservation and restoration of natural resources of the Southern Sierra region; and agree to work constructively with others.

The Project Manager will check in with Planning Committee members on regular basis to reconfirm their intent to actively participate and their primary representative. This will not be binding or require the member to re-sign the MOU. This activity is merely intended to give the Project Manager and Planning Committee the most updated list of active Planning Committee members and primary and alternate representatives. Membership in the Planning Committee may change to accommodate evolving circumstances, such as changes in individual organizational capacity or participation.

Planning Committee members agree they will strive to support the Southern Sierra IRWMP through a variety of supporting activities, which may include in-kind contributions and/or funding.

Representation

Each member organization will identify their lead representative for the Planning Committee and will make their best effort to attend Planning Committee meetings to make decisions. Planning Committee members may choose to identify alternates but they are encouraged to have one representative attend the IRWMP Planning Committee meetings for consistency.

Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee, appointed by the Planning Committee, is a smaller, representative group of the Planning Committee that meets between Planning Committee meetings to assist staff with process planning, recommendations for process modifications, communications, and other issues for which staff needs advice. The Coordinating Committee may also provide more consistent fiscal oversight in helping to manage the IRWMP with the fiscal sponsor. Ultimate decision-making still resides with the Planning Committee. Membership in the Coordinating Committee may change to accommodate evolving circumstances (such as changes in individual organizational capacity or participation history) by consensus of the Planning Committee. The Coordinating Committee meets every month during planning stages and then every other month thereafter. This schedule could change again during implementation planning.

The Coordinating Committee may play a role in developing substantive proposals and policy, at the request and subject to the approval of the Planning Committee, but has no decision-making authority.

Formation Funding

Funding

Funding for the launch and planning phases will come from grants. Southern Sierra IRWMP anticipates that financial support for the regional entity will ultimately come from projects funded through the Southern Sierra IRWMP, but during the formation period (the formation period will end with a planning grant from DWR or other organization) will come from a portion of the launch and planning grants.

The Planning Committee agrees they will strive to support the Southern Sierra IRWMP through variety of supporting activities during the formation period.

Fiscal Agent

Fiscal Agent for IRWMP Launch

Sequoia Riverlands Trust shall serve as Fiscal Agent for the Southern Sierra IRWMP Launch phase. Duties include administering grant funds, coordinating meetings for the Coordinating Committee and Planning Committee, making meeting notes and notices publicly available, maintaining a webpage where IRWMP documents can be accessed.

Fiscal Agent for Planning Grant

The Planning Committee will choose a Fiscal Agent for the Southern Sierra Planning Grant Proposal to DWR and the Planning Phase. This entity will have custody and responsibility for administering all funds of the Southern Sierra regional entity, including without limitation deposit and disbursement of said funds and accounting of all business transactions of the regional entity. Fiscal oversight will still be performed by the Planning Committee and Coordinating Committee.

Any budget line item change over \$1,000 should be considered by the Coordinating Committee, as the fiscal oversight of the IRWMP.

Any budget line item change over \$10,000 must be reviewed and approved by the Planning Committee

Annual Financial Reporting

At the close of each calendar (or fiscal) year, the fiscal agent(s) and individual project partners shall provide a complete accounting of fiscal activity related to Southern Sierra IRWMP and associated projects to the Planning Committee.

Public Outreach and Participation

Planning Committee Meetings

The Planning Committee will meet at least every other month and schedule additional meetings if necessary to ensure effective planning of the SSIRWMP. All Planning Committee meetings are open to the public. Interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend to share concerns about the Plan and learn about the IRWMP. Highlights from the Planning Committee meetings shall be distributed to the Southern Sierra Planning Committee and posted on the web for public viewing.

Public Forum / Interested Parties

The public forum refers to the general public and broad range of organizations interested in the Southern Sierra process that seek information about Southern Sierra activities either by attendance at meetings or through other means of communication. The Southern Sierra IRWMP maintains an interested party or stakeholder email list. Email list participants receive notice of all Southern Sierra meetings and all other announcements about the Southern Sierra planning process.

Public Noticing and Transparency

Southern Sierra meetings are noticed via an inclusive email list discussed above. In addition, Southern Sierra IRWMP will begin sending meeting announcements to all the public agencies involved in the process and encourage them to post Southern Sierra Planning Committee meetings on their web pages and to announce through agency noticing procedures. Planning Committee member entities are not responsible for compliance by Southern Sierra with public agency noticing requirements. The Southern Sierra IRWMP shall maintain a publicly accessible website displaying a calendar of meetings, agendas, meeting notes, list of participants, and when appropriate, a brief description of accomplishments, partners and overall mission of the IRWMP.

In preparation for Planning Committee meetings, which will involve decision-making, the Planning Committee will be noticed that there is a decision-making meeting 2 weeks in advance of the meeting. This notice can be by email with the agenda if available at that time.

Briefings and Outreach

Southern Sierra IRWMP stakeholders representing their own organizations regularly conduct briefings with local elected officials and other organizations interested in Southern Sierra or in which Southern Sierra IRWMP would like to extend its reach. Southern Sierra IRWMP periodically prepares briefings materials and makes presentations at conferences and meetings. Only the Project Manager or a designated representative may make public statements on behalf of the Southern Sierra IRWMP as an entity.

Planning Committee Decision Making

Decision Making Rule

Consensus as the Fundamental Principle

The Planning Committee shall base its decision-making on consensus (agreement among all members) in all of its decision-making. Working toward consensus is a fundamental principle of the Southern Sierra IRWMP process.

Definition of “Consensus”

In reaching consensus, some Planning Committee members may strongly endorse a particular proposal while others may accept it as "workable." Others may be only able to “live with it.” Still others may choose to “stand aside” by verbally noting a disagreement, yet allowing the group to reach a consensus without them if the decision does not affect them or compromise their interests. Any of these actions still constitutes consensus.

Since the IRWMP has no regulatory authority, any decisions it makes cannot regulate or force another entity against its will to take an action not in its interest. All decisions and projects will be made and developed under the consensus rule except as noted in Section 6.1.1.2 below.

6.1.1.2 Workgroups

Workgroups give input and recommendations to the Planning Committee. But all decisions will be approved by the Planning Committee as a whole.

Less than 100% Consensus Decision Making

The Planning Committee shall not limit itself to strict consensus if 100% agreement among all participants cannot be reached after all interests and options have been thoroughly identified, explored, discussed and considered. Less-than-consensus decision-making shall not be undertaken lightly. If, after full exploration and discussion, the Planning Committee cannot come to 100% agreement, it will use the less-than-consensus decision-making protocols as described below. For proposals or the Plan to be endorsed by the Planning Committee, it must pass the test identified in (a) below.

a) Broad Support of the Planning Committee Membership

The Plan or proposal must be endorsed by 75% of the total number of *active* members of the Planning Committee. (In other words, the Plan cannot be opposed by more than 25% of the total number of *active* members of the Planning Committee.) *Active* participation is defined in Section 6.1.1.3.

Definition of Active Participation by Planning Committee Members

Active participation means regular attendance at Planning Committee meetings; regular participation in at least one Work Group or ensuring that a designee of the Planning Committee member’s organization participates in a Work Group under the Planning Committee member’s close guidance; and reviewing planning and other written documents before discussions or decisions will be made. It is understood that occasionally Planning Committee members may need to miss a Planning Committee or Work Group meeting, or both meetings. If there is a question

as to whether a Planning Committee member should be considered “active” for purposes of decision-making, the Coordinating Committee will make that determination by communicating with the member or determining whether the stakeholder is active or not based on recent participation.

Revisions to the MOU

Any revisions to this MOU must be made through the decision-making process outlined in the section above on decision-making.

Signature Page

Date: _____

Name (Signature) Print Name

Organization

Primary Representative:

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Alternative Representative:

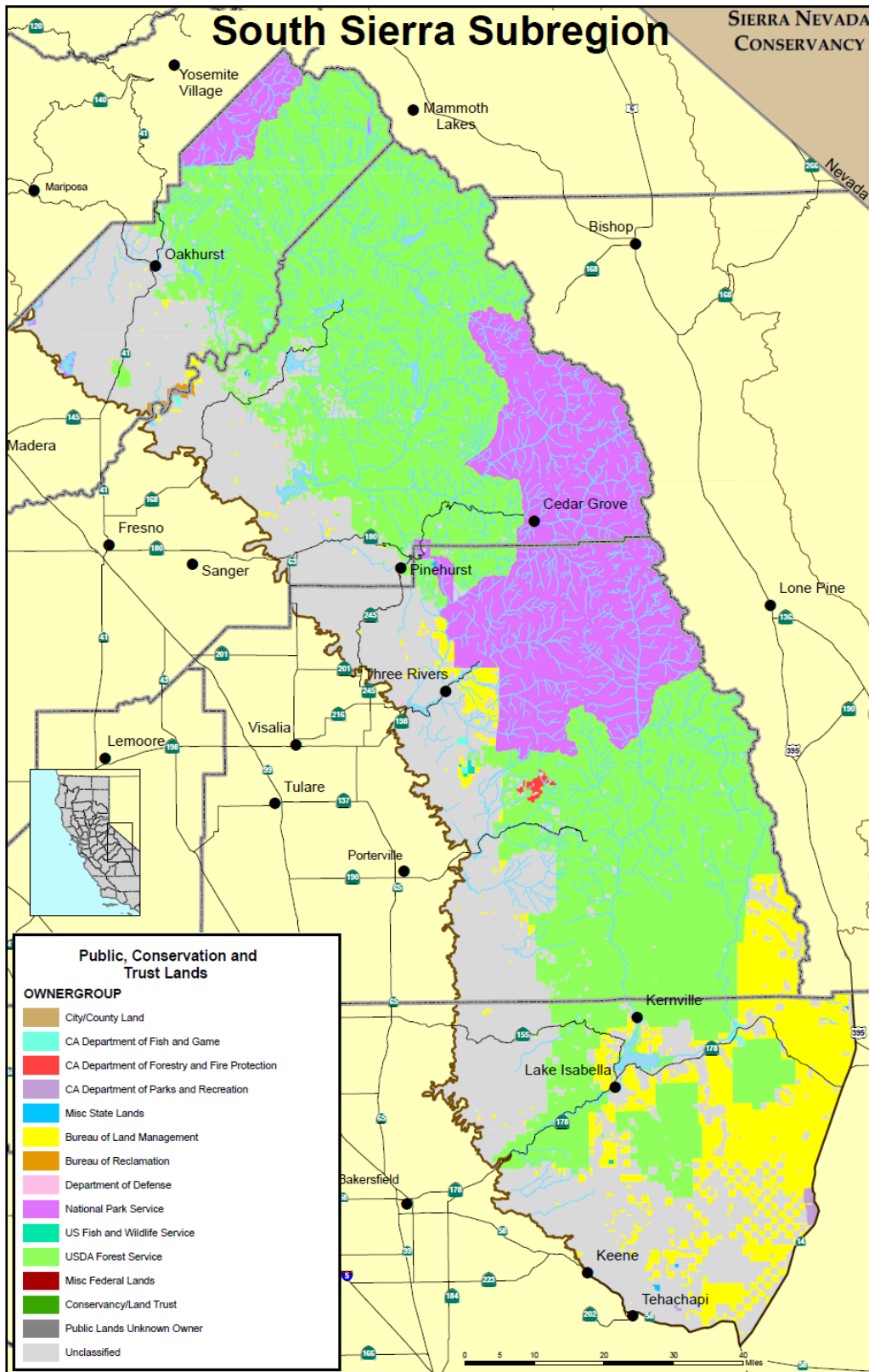
Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Appendix C: Boundary Map

Appendix D: Details on specific boundaries of participating agencies





Appendix E: Letters of Agreement with Madera County IRWM

2037 W. Cleveland Ave.
Madera, CA 93637-3593
(559) 661-6333
FAX (559) 675-7639
TDD (559) 675-8970

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

AGENCY

Rayburn Beach, Director

DATE: October 14, 2008
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Greg Farley, County Engineer
SUBJECT: Coordination with South Sierra IRWMP Planning Committee on 'Joint Madera-South Sierra IRWMP Overlap Area'

Recommendation: That your Board conceptually agree to support a 'Joint Madera – South Sierra IRWMP Overlap area' and appoint a representative to work with the South Sierra IRWMP Planning Committee.

In 2005 Madera County received a grant from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to create an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the County. This planning process has been completed, and the IRWMP was adopted by the Board of Supervisors last April. The 'region' covered by the plan is defined as the Madera County jurisdictional boundaries.

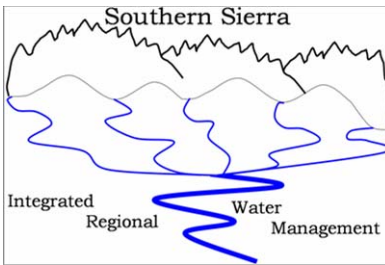
DWR will be funding a new round of IRWMP planning grants in the near future. The Southern Sierra foothill region has begun to prepare for this application process, under the auspices of the newly formed South Sierra IRWMP Planning Committee. The 'region' they are contemplating currently includes most of the foothill areas in Kern, Tulare and Fresno Counties. Because DWR is moving to a more 'watershed-based' approach, the Planning Committee would also like to include the San Joaquin River watershed in the regional boundaries, including the portions that are in Madera County. This would mean that the Madera County portion of the San Joaquin River watershed would be included in two IRWMPs – the Madera County IRWMP and the South Sierra IRWMP.

The Department of Water Resources has indicated that such IRWMP overlap is not a problem. In fact, for the cross-over area inclusion in both plans could be an advantage. For example, specific water management projects may be targeted as priorities in one plan but not the other. This will increase the options for funding for the cross-over area. There is also the possibility of having management projects that are agreed upon by the two IRWMP's, giving those issues greater credibility and funding chances.

The South Sierra IRWMP Planning Committee is requesting that Madera County conceptually agree to the IRWMP overlap in the Madera County portion of the San Joaquin River watershed. They have proposed that the overlapping area be termed the "Joint Madera – South Sierra IRWMP Collaboration Area". They also propose that the governance bodies of the two plans should enter into a conceptual agreement or MOU on how to handle projects and issues that arise in the joint area. This agreement would not bind or restrict either group but would set forth some suggestions on how to communicate and collaborate on plans and projects and how to handle any potential disputes or issues that might arise. They have requested that the Board of Supervisors appoint a representative to work with the South Sierra IRWMP in drafting the conceptual agreement or MOU on the joint area.

This request was considered and approved by the Water Advisory Commission in its meeting of September 18, 2008. It is recommended that the Board appoint one of the Commissioners as its representative to work with the South Sierra IRWMP.

Fiscal Impact: There will be no fiscal impact from this item.



427 Garden Street
Visalia, CA, 93277

DATE: November 14, 2008

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: The South Sierra IRWMP Planning Committee

SUBJECT: Coordination with South Sierra IRWMP Planning Committee on 'Joint Madera-South Sierra IRWMP Overlap Area'

Request: That the Madera County Board of Supervisors conceptually agree to support a 'Joint Madera – South Sierra IRWMP Overlap area' and appoint a representative to work with the South Sierra IRWMP Planning Committee.

In 2005 Madera County received a grant from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to create an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) for the County. This planning process has been completed, and the IRWMP was adopted by the Board of Supervisors last April. The 'region' covered by the plan is defined as the Madera County jurisdictional boundaries.

DWR will be funding a new round of IRWMP planning grants in the near future. The Southern Sierra foothill and mountain region has begun to prepare for this application process, under the auspices of the newly formed South Sierra IRWMP Planning Committee. The 'region' we are contemplating currently includes most of the foothill and mountain areas in Kern, Tulare and Fresno Counties. Because DWR is moving to a more 'watershed-based' approach, the Planning Committee would also like to include the San Joaquin River watershed in the regional boundaries, including the portions that are in Madera County. This would mean that the Madera County portion of the San Joaquin River watershed would be included in two IRWMPs – the Madera County IRWMP and the South Sierra IRWMP.

The Department of Water Resources has indicated that such IRWMP overlap is not a problem. In fact, for the cross-over area inclusion in both plans could be an advantage. For example, specific water management projects may be targeted as priorities in one plan but not the other. This will increase the options for funding for the cross-over area. There is also the possibility of having management projects that are agreed upon by the two IRWMP's, giving those issues greater credibility and funding chances.

The South Sierra IRWMP Planning Committee requests that the Madera County Board of Supervisors conceptually agree to the IRWMP overlap in the Madera County portion of the San Joaquin River watershed. We propose that the overlapping area be termed the "Joint Madera – South Sierra IRWMP Collaboration Area". We also propose that the governance bodies of the two plans should enter into a conceptual agreement or MOU on how to handle projects and issues that arise in the joint area. This agreement would not bind or restrict either group but would set forth some suggestions on how to communicate and collaborate on plans and projects and how to handle any potential disputes or issues that might arise. We request that the Board of Supervisors appoint a representative to work with the South Sierra IRWMP in drafting the conceptual agreement or MOU on the joint area.

This request was considered and approved by the Water Advisory Commission in its meeting of September 18, 2008. The Water Commission recommended that the Board appoint one of the Commissioners as its representative to work with the South Sierra IRWMP.

Fiscal Impact: There will be no fiscal impact from this item.

**Draft Conceptual Agreement/MOU regarding Joint Area Covered by the Madera County IRWMP and the
South Sierra IRWMP
Draft 9/12/08**

Recitals: Whereas

- Madera County has adopted an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) in which the 'region' is defined as the County's jurisdictional boundaries.
- A partnership in the South Sierra region is developing a South Sierra IRWMP (SSIRWMP) in which the regional boundaries are based on watersheds. The Upper San Joaquin River Watershed is included in the Plan's 'region'.
- The Upper San Joaquin River Watershed is partially in Madera County. This area will therefore be jointly covered by two IRWMPs, (the Joint Area).
- The South Sierra IRWMP Planning group and Madera County (hereafter 'Entities') wish to avoid disputes over management of this joint area and establish communication and collaboration procedures between the two Entities with the goal of maximizing effective water and watershed management.

Therefore, the Madera County Board of Supervisors and the South Sierra IRWMP Planning Committee enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) consisting of the following policies and procedures for planning and management of the Joint Area.

1. Communication – Within 90 days of executing this Agreement each Entity will select a planning/policy body to be actively involved in communication and collaboration with the other Entity regarding the Joint Area. Each planning/policy body will appoint a contact person to receive communications and requests from the other Entity and to take the necessary steps to assure that they are addressed.
2. Planning – Each Entity will make every reasonable effort to include the other Entity in the development and completion of plans which address or impact the Joint Area. Prior to the adoption of any such plan, each Entity will provide written notice to the other of the proposed plan's impact on the Joint Area and will provide sufficient time (a minimum of 90 days) for the other Entity to analyze and comment on the proposed plan. All such comments will be included in the final version of the proposed plan.
3. Requests for Funding and other Resources – When seeking resources (grant applications, technical assistance requests, etc.) for activities that address or impact the Joint Area, each Entity will make every reasonable effort to include the other Entity in the development of such applications and requests. Prior to the submission of any such request, each Entity will provide written notice to the other of the proposed request's impact on the Joint Area and will provide sufficient time (a minimum of 30 days) for the other Entity to analyze and comment on the proposed request. All such comments will be included in the final version of the proposed request.
4. Management Activities - Prior to initiating any management activities in the Joint Area, each Entity will inform the other of the proposed activity and provide sufficient time (a minimum of 45 days) for the other Entity to communicate concerns or suggestions. This process will not substitute for any CEQA, NEPA notification/comment process or any other notification otherwise required.

5. Disputes – If a dispute or serious disagreement arises between the Entities regarding water or watershed management of the Joint Area, the Entities will make every reasonable effort to engage in alternative dispute resolution, including mediation and/or arbitration, prior to taking legal action.

6. Sharing Data – Each Entity agrees to make all non-confidential studies, reports and data regarding the Joint Area available to the other Entity upon request.

7. Non-Interference - Nothing in this MOU will be construed to require modification of each Entity’s established decision-making or governance process.

Signed and Agreed:

Madera County

South Sierra IRWMP Planning Group

By Authorized Representatives:

Date: _____



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Devils Postpile National Monument
P. O. Box 3999
Mammoth Lakes, California 93546
760-934-2289



L317

March 9, 2009

Norman Shopay
Department of Water Resources
PO Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236

Subject : Devils Postpile National Monument within Madera, Southern Sierra, and Mono/Inyo IRWMP

Dear Mr. Shopay,

Thank you for the opportunity for inclusion of Devils Postpile (DEPO) into the Integrated Regional Management Groups process that is underway within California. The purpose of this letter is to inform Dept of Water Resources of an agreement between Madera, Southern Sierra, and Mono/Inyo IRWMPs to identify this as an area of shared interest and overlapping boundaries, and to request approval of this agreement to help facilitate the regional acceptance process.

Devils Postpile National Monument is located near the headwaters of the Upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin in Madera County, and can only be accessed by road from the Town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County CA. Devils Postpile is at the core of the glaciated river valley with abundant wetlands and wildlife, and as a National Park Service unit is a destination visited by many people that brings satisfaction to them and revenue to the local gateway communities in Mono County. The Monument which is along the Upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin in Madera County is interconnected to Mono County by the shared groundwater aquifer on Mammoth Mountain, migratory corridors for wildlife and shared biodiversity, and the ecotourism benefits to the gateway communities. By maintaining a healthy watershed, biodiversity and migratory corridors will be preserved, while there is a clean and sustainable water supply for downstream users. Additionally, visitors and gateway communities will benefit from the recreational and ecotourism benefits, and an intact watershed will reduce risk of catastrophic fires and eroded slopes that could cause flooding and siltation and have a negative impact on gateway communities sustainable tourism economy and downstream users. Another important aspect of insuring the watershed's integrity, is maintaining the resilience of the watershed and the ability to adapt to climate change scenarios that may significantly impact water resources.

IRWMPs share the goals of understanding the watershed resources, and making sound decisions. Through the discussions among the representatives of the Madera, Southern Sierra, and Inyo/Mono IRWMP, and DEPO, there is consensus that it is important to include DEPO in these IRWMPs and include each other in discussions that affect this shared area of interest. Thank you again for your consideration, and if any further information can be provided, please contact me.

Sincerely,
/s/ Deanna M. Dulen
Superintendent

**INYO-MONO INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLANNING
PROJECT**

TO: Mr. Svetich
State of California
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance

FROM: Dr. Mark Drew, Project Manager, Inyo-Mono IRWMP Launch Project

SUBJECT: Integrated Regional Water Management-Letter of Agreement on Regional Boundaries

DATE: 4/1/2009

CC: Tracie Billington, Department of Water Resources
Jim Lin, Department of Water Resources

Dear Mr. Svetich:

This Letter of Agreement establishes that the undersigned Regional Water Management Groups (RWMGs) accept a common shared boundary for purposes of defining their respective IRWM Regions, as set forth in the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) 2009 *Final IRWM Region Acceptance Process Guidelines*. The shared boundary between the South Sierra RWMG and the Inyo-Mono RWMG is defined in the paragraph below.

Shared Boundary Description:

The majority of the shared boundary between the South Sierra RWMG and the Inyo-Mono RWMG will follow the crest of the Sierra Nevada range, which also follows the Inyo and Mono County jurisdictional lines to the east and Tulare and Fresno County jurisdictional lines to the west. In Kern County, the South Sierra and Inyo-Mono RWMGs are separated by the Sierra Nevada crest, a watershed boundary.

On behalf of the South Sierra Regional Water Management Group:


Bobby Kamansky, South Sierra IRWMP Project Manager
Lead Agency: Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Contact: Mr. Bobby Kamansky
Phone number: (559) 298-3311

On behalf of the Inyo-Mono Regional Water Management Group:


Mark Drew, Inyo-Mono IRWMP Launch Project Manager
Lead Agency: California Trout
Contact: Dr. Mark Drew
Phone number: (760) 924-1008

Tule IRWMP Letter

TO: MR. SVETICH
State of California
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
Attn. Ralph Svetich
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

FROM: MR. BOBBY KAMANSKY, PROJECT MANAGER

SUBJECT: INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT-LETTER OF AGREEMENT ON REGIONAL BOUNDARIES

DATE: 5/28/2009

cc: Tracie Billington, Department of Water Resources
Jim Lin, Department of Water Resources

Dear Mr. Svetich:

This Letter of Agreement establishes that the undersigned Regional Water Management Groups (RWMGs) accept a common shared boundary for purposes of defining their respective IRWM Regions, as set forth in the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) 2009 *Final IRWM Region Acceptance Process Guidelines*. The shared boundary between the South Sierra RWMG and the Tule RWMG is defined in the paragraph below.

Shared Boundary Description:

In the Tule River Area, the SSIRWMP boundary includes the Tule River Indian Reservation and down to approximately the 600-foot contour in all forks of the Tule and squared to section lines. The Tule IRWMP planning area will follow irrigated lands while the SSIRWMP will follow rangeland in the mountains.

The parties will work to maintain communication and collaboration on a variety of watershed-based issues.

On behalf of the South Sierra Regional Water Management Group:

Lead Agency: Sequoia Riverlands Trust
Contact: Mr. Bobby Kamansky
Phone number: (559) 287-3311

On behalf of the Tule Regional Water Management Group:

Lead Agency:
Contact: David Hoffman
Phone number:

Appendix F: Planning Committee Membership

The local public agencies and non-profits listed below have all executed the MOU or are expected to as soon as possible. A basic description of their function and role is included where available (and where not otherwise apparent):

Sequoia Riverlands Trust

The Sequoia Riverlands Trust (SRT) is a community-based conservation organization, comprised of residents and partners who care about the southern Sierra Nevada and San Joaquin Valley. The Sequoia Riverlands Trust, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, was established in November 2000 as the Sierra Los Tulares Land Trust. The formation of SRT resulted from a decision to strengthen local conservation efforts by merging three Tulare County organizations: the Four Creeks (Visalia), Kaweah (Three Rivers), and Tule Oaks (Springville/Porterville) land trusts. These groups are now chapters of SRT.

Tulare County - The County has regulatory authority over groundwater resources, storm water runoff, and flood management systems. The County is also the land-planning agency that regulates land use activities for all privately owned lands in Tulare County outside the City limits.

Fresno County

The County has regulatory authority over groundwater resources, storm water runoff, and flood management systems. The County is also the land-planning agency that regulates land use activities for all privately owned lands in Tulare County outside the City limits.

Sierra Resource Conservation District – The SRCDD is a state special district The Sierra Resource Conservation District (SRCDD) was formed and ratified by Fresno County in May 1957. Federal Legislation authorized Resource Conservation Districts in 1937 under the Standards Act.. California adopted a compatible state provision in 1938 as expressed in Division 9 of the Public Resources Code Sections 9001 et seq. These provisions have been amended through the years to reflect changing needs and conditions. As of 1992, the primary purposes of a Resource Conservation District under Section 9001(a) is to secure "the adoption of conservation practices including but not limited to farm, range, open space, urban development, wildlife, recreation, watershed, water quality, and woodland; to save the basic resources, soil, water, and air of the state from unreasonable and economically preventable waste and destruction. " The RCD's are empowered under both Federal and state legislation. Agencies at all levels of government have responsibilities to provide expertise and to otherwise assist and cooperate with the RCD on natural resource projects. This is strengthened by additional inter-agency Memorandums of Understanding. The RCD is to provide local input and leadership and foster interagency cooperation and coordination on natural resource projects on both public and private lands. The mission and function of the SRCDD is to take available technical, financial and educational resources whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them at the local level to meet the present and future natural resource issues of the local land user. To accomplish this, SRCDD maintains working relationships with Federal, State and County agencies and Departments, non profit organizations, educational institutions that have natural resource duties and responsibilities under law, and with public and private landowners.

Tulare County Resource Conservation District The TCRCDD is a state special district covering the area of Tulare County.

Sierra and Foothill Citizen's Alliance

The Sierra and Foothill Citizens Alliance (SFCA) was created as a way to increase opportunities for involvement and local representation for residents in our mountain and foothill communities within the unincorporated areas of eastern Fresno County. SFCA will endeavor to inform and educate mountain and foothill residents regarding potential impacts of land use and water resource decisions in our communities, and actively address those concerns identified.

The prevention or mitigation of potentially adverse impacts due to land use decisions in the mountains and foothills of eastern Fresno County is the primary focus of SFCA. As an organization, SFCA's areas of interest include:

- Water quality and sustainability
- Waste treatment
- Traffic
- Air Quality

SFCA believes it is vitally important that land use decisions affecting eastern Fresno County be comprehensively reviewed for their potential impacts to water quality and sustainability, waste treatment and traffic. These reviews must be conducted not only by the various public agencies and representatives that have jurisdiction over such development, but must also include the communities that may be affected by those decisions.

San Joaquin Valley Water Leadership Forum

The San Joaquin Valley Water Leadership Forum is an organization that has evolved into existence over the last seven years as the debate over the management of our valley's precious water resources has intensified. Unfortunately lost in this protracted debate, is a way for all segments of our rural and urban communities to participate in water planning and decision-making. The wise use and sustainability of an ever-dwindling supply of high quality water for use by our farmers and cities – as well as for recreation and the environment – must become a priority for all San Joaquin Valley residents.

Sequoia National Park

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks protect a variety of landscapes, biological and cultural resources in the southern Sierra Nevada of California. They are two separate national parks that were created by acts of Congress fifty years apart. Today these parks are administered as a single unit. Established September 25, 1890, Sequoia National Park is the second oldest national park in the United States. The campaign to create the park – initiated and executed by San Joaquin Valley residents – focused on the scenic and inspirational values of the region's giant sequoia (California Big Tree, *Sequoiadendron giganteum*) groves. The park's original boundaries were drawn to protect what local supporters believed were the largest and best of the unclaimed sequoia groves remaining in the world. Because the two acts of 1890 established boundaries along section lines, Sequoia National Park included not only giant sequoia forestlands but also considerable tracts of both foothill and High Sierra. The October 1, 1890, act also created foursquare-mile General Grant National Park to protect the General Grant Tree and immediately

surrounding forest. Since 1890, Sequoia National Park has undergone two major enlargements, both of which added High Sierra lands to the park

Sequoia National Forest -The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands and meet the needs of present and future generations. The chief's recent emphasis areas focus around three themes in particular. They include: climate change; water issues; and the loss of a connection to nature, especially for kids. History will judge the conservation leaders of our age, including our own leadership in the Forest Service, by how well we respond to these challenges. The national forests were created in part for "securing favorable conditions of water flows," the importance of which has grown as populations have grown. The Forest Service can make a difference by managing vegetation to restore ecological processes and functions, including the recharging of streams and aquifers. The challenges associated with climate change and water will not be resolved in a few years. It will take generations. Kids must understand why forests are so valuable so they will grow into citizens who support conservation. Strong community relationships, partnerships, and collaborative work will be more important than ever in delivering the Forest Service Mission

California Department of Fish and Game

The Department of Fish and Game maintains native fish, wildlife, plant species and natural communities for their intrinsic and ecological value and their benefits to people. This includes habitat protection and maintenance in a sufficient amount and quality to ensure the survival of all species and natural communities. The department is also responsible for the diversified use of fish and wildlife including recreational, commercial, scientific and educational uses.

The Mission of the Department of Fish and Game is to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and for their use and enjoyment by the public.

Revive the San Joaquin

Mission: To promote a collective stewardship that sustains the economic, environmental, and recreational benefits of a healthy San Joaquin River, including adequate flows, habitat, and native fisheries. RSJ has developed include a list of five primary organizational goals that will guide decision-making and define organizational work products. Goal 1 is to promote stewardship and balanced management of the San Joaquin River that supports both restoration and economic activities related to the river. Goal 2 is to conserve and enhance the wildlife habitat and scenic values of the San Joaquin River and work toward restoration of the historic salmon fishery. Goal 3 is to promote the San Joaquin River as a vital source of clean drinking water and ground water recharge. Goal 4 is to raise public awareness about the importance of the San Joaquin River and the compatibility of restoration and a strong farming economy. Goal 5 is to encourage river recreation activities compatible with protection of wildlife.

Yosemite/Sequoia Resource Conservation & Development Council

The goals of the Yosemite Sequoia RC&D are to:

- Provide a forum whereby federal and state policy makers are given an opportunity to discuss, analyze, and appreciate local needs and plans for resource development as well as the laws, policies and regulations which support or impede that development and to provide the justification for amendments to those laws, policies, and regulations.

- Create a forum by all the people in the states of the urgency for orderly development and conservation of all the resources to meet local, state, and national needs.
- Elicit and publicize proven facts and truths in all matters pertinent to resource development and conservation within the states, individually and collectively.
- Serve as an association which, with voluntary membership, will support and assist the member councils as they assist in the development and completion of their own work plans and those of other organizations and agencies in their area and region.
- Elicit a broader base of support in securing the technical, financial, educational, and other assistance needed to develop and apply individual area work plans.
- Bring harmony and compromise out of divergent opinions and interests, and display the greater economic and ecological value of long range and properly planned development.
- Collect, coordinate and disseminate information relative to educational needs, interests or proposals of the member RC&D areas.

Springville Public Utilities District – SPUD is a Special District organized and existing under Title 12 (County Water District) of the California Water Code (CWC). All TUD customers and resources are located within the County of Tulare.

Three Rivers Community Services District – TRCSD is a Special District organized and existing under the California Government Code (CGC). All TRCSD customers and resources are located within the County of Tulare.

Desert and Mountain RC&D

Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) areas work to promote and protect economic, natural, and social resources at the local and regional level. They bring together people, needs, and concerns, opportunities, and solutions. The RC&D works on a variety of projects/programs that can benefit the entire community. By supporting the RC&D, you are helping your own community.

The RC&D council is the governing body of the RC&D Area and typically is composed of representatives from such organizations as:

- City/County Governments
- Resource Conservation districts
- Businesses
- Educational institutions
- Tribal Governments
- State & Local Agencies
- Environmental organizations
- Associations

The RC&D program supports the belief that the identification of needs and solutions are best accomplished by local communities dealing with these issues.

The following organizations are members of the Planning Committee, but have not indicated whether or not they will execute the MOU:

Tulare County Audubon

Sierra Club – Tehipite Chapter

Community Water Center

Appendix G: SSIRWMP email notification list

apeltzer@dhlaw.net

Augustine Ramirez – Fresno County

auramirez@co.fresno.ca.us

Larry Ballew – Madera County

ballew@sti.net

Brian Newton – Tulare County Audubon

bandj1407@yahoo.com

Britt Fussel – Tulare County

bfussel@co.tulare.ca.us

Betony Jones, Sierra Business Council

bjones@sbcouncil.org

bkamansky@sierranevadaconservancy.ca.gov

Sandy Wright

blondieright@hotmail.com

Brian Napier – Kern County

bnapier@kerncog.org

Bob Waterston

bob@bobwaterston.net

Britton Schwartz - Community Water Center

britton.schwartz@communitywatercenter.org

Bob Robinson – Desert and Mtn RC&D

brobinson@mchsi.com

(Carole Combs – Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners

ccombs@thegrid.net

Christi Hansard – North Fork Mono Indians

chansard@northforkrancheria-nsn.gov

Chris Acree – Revive the San Joaquin
chris.acree@revivethesanjoaquin.org

Chuck Peck – Sierra Foothill Conservancy
chuck.peck@sierrafoothill.org

Carolyn Hunsaker - USFS
chunsaker@fs.fed.us

Nancy Bruce – Springville PUD
circlej@ocsnet.net

cmk@altaid.org

Casey Prunchak – Tuolumne UD
cprunchak@tuolumneutilities.com

Chris Stewart – Sequoia Forest
csstewart@fs.fed.us

Dave Hoffman – Deer Creek-Tule River
Authority
dave93257@yahoo.com

Dave Cone Upper Kings River Forum
dccone@krcd.org

Deana Taylor- Ridgecrest CA, D&MRC&D
Deana.Taylor@ca.usda.gov

Kern County

Kern County BOS

dhildebrand@kerncog.org

district4@co.kern.ca.us

Dave Kaehler – San Joaquin River Parkway and
Trust
dkoehler@riverparkway.org

dmcandd@iwvisp.com

John Doffelmyer – Landowner
drycrik@hotmail.com

Eric Hong - DWR
ehong@water.ca.gov

Elissa Brown - Consultant
elissa.j.brown@gmail.com

Erin Lutrick – Inyo National Forest
elutrick@fs.fed.us

Elli Norris - Landowner
enorris@ocsnet.net

etijerina@wrime.com

foothill@ocsnet.net

Frances Tweed - Secretary
frances@sequoiariverlands.org

gnipp@bak.rr.com

Holly Alpert - Inyo-mono IRWMP
halpert@ucsc.edu

hart.holly@gmail.com

info@cfwatershed.org

Gary Adest - Landowner
info@river-ridge.net

Jeannette Tuitele – Sierra Foothill Conservancy
jeannette.tuitele@sierrafoothill.org

Jerry James – Madera County
jerald.james@madera-county.com

Jeff Forbes – Tulare County
jforbes@co.tulare.ca.us

jim@gordenag.com

Jim ver Steeg – Landowner, Buckeye Ranch
jimver@aol.com

K=Jim Lin - DWR
jllin@water.ca.gov

Jim May - Tulare County
jmay@co.tulare.ca.us

John Austin – Sequoia and Kings Canyon NP
john_t_austin@nps.gov

John Shelton - DFG
jshelton@dfg.ca.gov

Jeff Single - DFG
jsingle@dfg.ca.gov

Julie Allen - SRT
julallen@springvillewireless.com

Jim Whitfield USFS
jwhitfield@fs.fed.us

Joe Yun - DWR
jyun@water.ca.gov

Kern County Farm Bureau
kcfb@kerncfb.com

Krissy Gilbert – Sierra Business Council
kgilbert@sbccouncil.org

Kim Loeb
krloeb@mindspring.com

Laurel Firestone – Community Water Center
laurel.firestone@communitywatercenter.org

Lauren Bauer – Kern County Water Agenc

lbauer@kcwa.com

lcarter0i@comcast.net

Lynn Gorman - Fresno Co

lgorman@co.fresno.ca.us

Semitropic Water SD

mail@semitropic.com

Marion Gee – Sierra Nevada Alliance

marion@sierranevadaalliance.org

Jim Mathewson – Sequoia Riverlands Trust

mathewson333@yahoo.com

Max Norton

max@sierranevadaalliance.org

Mary Chislock – Sequoia Forest

mchislock@fs.fed.us

Mehmet McMillian - Wildplaces

mehmet@wildplaces.net

Mark Larsen – Kaweah Delta WCD

mlarsen@kdwcd.com

Michael Tharp – Shaffer Engineering

mtharp@rlsmap.com

Gary Temple – SAFCA/SRCD

mtntop@netptc.net

Norm Shopay - DWR

nshopay@water.ca.gov

Preston van Camp – Revive the San Joaquin

preston@revivethesanjoaquin.org

Rex Black – Three Rivers CSD
rblack@theworks.com

Big Sandy Rancheria
rc@bigsandyrancheria.com

rhoelzel@krcd.org

riverrich1509@aol.com

rlwenya@northforkrancheria-nsn.gov

Richard Moss – P&P Engineering
rmoss@ppeng.com

Robyn Smith – Yosemite/Sequoia RC&D
robyn.smith@ca.usda.gov

Richard Schaffer - Engineering
rschafer@rlsmap.com

Sandy Wright
sandy@sjvr.cd.org

sandyb@stcg.net

Susan Antenen - The Nature Conservancy
santenen@tnc.org

scairms@riverparkway.org

Steve Frisch – Sierra Business Council
sfrisch@sbcouncil.org

Sarah Campe – Tulare County Citizens for Resp.
Growth
sgcampe@gmail.com

Sarge Green - California Water Institute
sgreen@csufresno.edu

shaugen@kingsriverwater.org

Susan Kester – Sustainable Conservation
skester@suscon.org

Soapy Mullholland - SRT
soapy@sequoiariverlands.org

Steve Ottemoeler – Friant Water Users
sottemoeller@friantwater.org

sstarcher@kermantel.net

Steve Haze – San Joaquin Valley Water
Leadership Forum
stevehaze007@gmail.com

susanna.deanda@communitywatercenter.org

San Joaquin River Parkway and Trust
sweaver@riverparkway.org

Tulare County Farm Bureau
tcfb@tulcofb.org

Tim Frank – Sierra Club
tim.frank@sierraclub.org

Terry Kaplan-Henry – Sequoia Forest
tkaplanhenry@fs.fed.us

Tule River Indian Reservation
tuleriverenv@yahoo.com

wluce@friantwater.org

woodworthswalker@yahoo.com

Appendix H: Letter of Support from Sierra Nevada Alliance

April 16, 2009

Ms. Tracie Billington
Department of Water Resources
Division of Planning and Local Assistance
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001



SIERRA NEVADA ALLIANCE

Keeping light in the range.

Re: RAP application and Support of the Southern Sierra Integrated Water Management Planning Effort and its Regional Boundaries

Dear Ms. Billington:

Since 1993, the Sierra Nevada Alliance has been protecting and restoring Sierra lands, water, wildlife and communities. Last year, the Alliance helped launch the Southern Sierra Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (S. Sierra IRWMP) by providing project management and facilitation during the first four months and continues to provide support. The Sierra Nevada Alliance continues to participate in efforts to develop a planning grant application, and ultimately, an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for the foothills and mountain headwaters regions of the Kern, Tule, Kaweah, Kings, and San Joaquin watersheds. These watersheds cover the Sierra Nevada portion of Madera, Fresno, and Tulare counties.

We are writing to express our strong support for the S. Sierra IRWMP effort, its watershed-based regional boundaries and its' strong collaborative and consensus based governance structure. The staff dedicated to the IRWMP as well as members of the Planning Committee have made a tremendous effort to bring diverse stakeholders to the table, raise public awareness of and involvement in this process, and develop productive, working relationships in an area that has known its fair share of water conflicts. This pre-planning process has been a unique opportunity for stakeholders across the watersheds of the Southern Sierra to work together and we hope that the Department of Water Resources will continue to encourage and support this effort.

The members of the Southern Sierra Regional Water Management Group recognize the significance of integrated regional water planning and future implementation efforts that will improve water supply, water quality, and the environment locally and for the entire State of California. The S. Sierra IRWMP members are dedicated to this effort, which will not only secure critical funding for local projects, but will also develop and prioritize watershed management activities that will benefit both local and state water resources. We hope that you will support this important effort.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions about the Sierra Nevada Alliance or our involvement with the S. Sierra IRWMP.

Sincerely,

Marion Gee
Water & Climate Change Program Associate
Sierra Nevada Alliance