NOTES FROM SSIRWMP PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING 10/15/09

These are the flip chart notes from the portion of the meeting dealing specifically with developing our approach to planning, ie, to putting the "P" in IRWMP, as well as the follow-up canvas as to who is willing to spend time to do what. For complete minutes, see Frances T's notes.

1) "Entities" ----As used in MOU (?), these do not now exercise authority over distribution of water supply or flood control. Note (John Shelton): Local citizens DO have the ability to enforce the law dealing with water. For example: The DA's office will enforce a 1600 DFG permit where a citizen reports the violation.
2) The central question: How to develop a plan for SS region that gives the best value for /to water and watersheds.
    - How to overcome barriers to regional mgmt—need to build relationships. (My note: No one is advocating restructuring existing local gov't, but rather developing a regional collaborative approach to water issues.)
    - Need to identify data gaps and how to fill, eg, watershed capacity or foothill water availability.
    - Develop a data portal on the net.
    - Improve communication generally

3) Are we dealing with "resource" or "water" mgmt? Need to add soc/econ and educational component./dimension to ecosystem mgmt.
4) Basic function of SSIRWMP: as a source/resource document (eg, data and info), not a list of projects. Should include/consider including:
    - Overall watershed protection: How to reduce wildfire risk in foothills to prevent resulting high run-off, erosion, in-infilling of lakes, etc. Emphasize fire resistant materials, cluster development, drought tolerant landscaping, etc.
    - Agency capacity building: Agencies should take responsibility for facilitating collaborative process;provide forums for public discussion; generally educate the public re watershed mgmt (I INTERPOLATED HERE)
    - Data collection: synthesize interagency data bases from existing agency data sets, eg, SSGIC South Sierra Geographic Information Coop as possible base data set.
    - Optimize existing planning processes: Frame cumulative effects analyses—streamline and enhance the value of the analysis for everyone.
    - Construct data base showing all CEQA / NEPA documents in process. Emphasize/highlight scoping and draft review phases for public/stakeholder input. Follow example of USFS SOPA (Schedule of Proposed Actions)---THIS SHOULD BE A FREESTANDING, SEPARATE EFFORT IN MY HUMBLE OPINION—or an implementation action

- Define water/watershed/resource issues by general region. Picture a matrix with water/watershed issues as row heads and generalized geographic regions (eg, mountains, foothills, valley) as column heads. Must deal with each issue in each area strategically.

5) We then went around the circle asking who has time (10 hours to review material and 10 hours for mtgs)over the next 2-3 months to devote to developing our approach and application
    - Jeannie H.---Is already doing this in partnership , specifically data gathering in the Upper San Joaquin. Otherwise, no additional time.
    - Carole Clum--- yes, willing to deal with water supply and habitat issues
    - Nancy Bruce—time very limited
    - Keri ----- Unsure what tribe will decide. Tribal Council has not published/shared data re the reservation in past. Identifies issues as: hazardous waste, S.Fork Tule watershed, water quality, water storage, water rights
    - Carolyn Hunsaker--- above 4000 feet on public land is interested in surface water quality and quantity
    - Jim May --- interested in flood control
    - John Shelton ---- also interested in flood control
    - Gary Temple --- no time to take on additional work for SS; willing to share what he is already doing for other orgs
    - Larry Otter --- happy to help out, especially re foothill infrastructure and legal rights. (We started to appoint a subcommittee on water rights, but this was postponed)
    - Logan Page --- Sierra Foothill Conservancy --- water quality, watersheds, habitats, climate change
    - Bobby K --- whatever needed
    - Robyn ---- cultural resources, energy, power generation