**AGENDA | Regional Water Management Group Meeting**

***Southern Sierra IRWM Regional Water Management Group***

## Date: Thursday, September 15, 2016, 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Tulare Edison Energy Education Center, Sustainability Building, Learning Center A, 4175 South Lapsing Street, Tulare.

**Meeting Goals:**

* Discuss ongoing and new projects, progress, funding and next steps for RWMG;
* Discuss the project list and upcoming grants for project implementation for the Southern Sierra Region;
* Discuss Proposition 1 funding and planning grant application.
* Update on DAC inter-regional and sub-regional collaboration efforts.

 **Call in:**  605-475-2090 **Passcode:** 78530

| **TIME** | **AGENDA ITEM** | **PRESENTER(S)** |
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| 1:00 | **Welcome and Opening Remarks**Nancy Bruce, Lead Teacher, Circle J-Norris Ranch, Tulare Basin Wildlife PartnersBethany Soto, Regional Water Quality Control BoardJarrod Takemoto, Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control DistrictCarol Combs watershed initiativeRichard Garcia Sierra club Chair of Kern Kaweah water committeeSafeeq Mohammad UC MercedMary Beatie, Provost and Pritchard ConsultingJohn Shelton DFWStephanie Doria, Kamansky’s Ecological Consulting (taking notes)Nina Fisheries Biologist watershed coordinatorSoapy President and CEO, SRT Julie Allen, Board member SRTBobby Kamansky: intro to Dinkey and SFCC and Big Sandy Rancheria disadvantaged community project Leech field style treatment or sophisticated water treatment system: much more expensive than the leech field treatment | Bobby Kamansky, Kamansky’s Ecological Consulting |
| 1:05  | **Introductions, Agenda Review, goals and Ground Rules**Big Sandy Nation: important project on agenda, lots of funding, very disadvantaged communityJohn: No longer working on project, proposal solicitation is sent out, 120 proposals, more than what was available, in review process, special topics review panel for prioritizing topics, soon to be enter decision-making time. Some additional authority on funding. Defining high priority vs low priority. Legislation: green pass initiative, meadow restoration funding. Sequoia forest, cap and trade project. Nina: reported that big trucks leaving from meadow in southern sierras, many meadows in cap and trade project in the process of being restored. Comparison of restorative meadow vs previously self-sustaining meadows. Underway this summer. Bobby: message from Desiree about newsletter: watershed scale highlighted in watershed connections highlights newsletter. Watershed connections work group write review grants for projects. Downstream benefits for watershed project kings river. Watershed connections looking to assist and facilitate project. Climate change workshop September 29th two weeks from today 8 am to 12 pm. Climate change upper watershed talk by Bobby (15 minutes) about our projects and protecting vulnerable areas in sierras In SCE meeting room. Action: climate change flyer email to group to attend meeting later this month2 disadvantage communities Tulare county grantee proposal Tulare basin meeting next Thurs. 2 Springville projectspurple pipe project proposal John mountain counties association water group formed mountain county overlay (does not include much of our region) working with sierra water work group umbrella for IRWMs. How to move mountain, sierra IRWM moving forward? Sierras as area great region, presentations from MCA SNA? SWWG agency would set up governance: every IRWM has voice, we want to stay or not. Consensus to move to next step to help make decisions. Planning for disadvantaged communities. A lot of sierras have lots of disadvantaged communities. Similar and unique problems. Well -funded irrigation systems with IRWMs vs areas like us with lesser funding. Sierra water works proposal over mountain counties. Yuba valley floor group trying to combine and split focus. \*people on phone having trouble hearing | Facilitator |
| 1:10  | **Project Updates*** Collaborative update - inter-collaborative work (new standing agenda item):
	+ Dinkey Collaborative meetings/SFCC

Collaborative meeting this morning. Community capacity assessment workshop. Presentation cold springs Rancheria between big sandy and dunlap tribe. Priorities as tribe. How they could be engaged and participate in the collaborative. 135,000 acres where watershed flows into Kings river. Broader landscape, tree mortality substantial, role of fire, potential for catastrophic fires, mountain communities. Transition, what would be appropriate action to take. Socioeconomic monitoring, community interests, business interest. What are the challenges being faced? Gov. through FS able to engage in collaborative. More community involvement and expression of interests and concerns. Bobby: Safeeq’s proposal and data about drought. Relates back to Dinkey and can possibly be linked with the proposal and drought impact. Safeeq: Documentation? During assessment looking for forest management techniques and community involvement. Steve: resource constrainedBobby: analyze other group to include other groups and combine data from all different project in various groups to utilize information that may be integrated into others.Agenda: SNC Tulare county east slope relative to Fresno co Dinkey work. Nina and Sarah talking about collaborating and sharing informationAction: December: talk about collaborates among attendants and groups. Know status of LIDAR. Data syntheses and status of range of LIDAR.Bethany: regional water quality control board, funding opportunity through state at resource board for timber regulation and forest restoration fund grants. Recent funds partial out by clean water act. Sending money to timber reg and forest restoration projects. Takema county RTC. Decommissioning of roads. Project in southern sierra decommissioning roads. Geographic area and elevation: no concrete information about eligibility.Nina: millflat creek management green sticker funds applied for. Grant for overall road closures. Examining in nipa in travel plan. Resource damages on forest. Maryann: because tree mort and rough fire, delayed getting nipa done. Priority watershed. More funding received to assist them (riparian restoration). Fresno fly fishers, worked on big meadow by Hume lake. Now interested in taking on another meadow restoration project close to Fresno. Bethany: Deadline October 10th. Concept proposal deadline. Notice has all crucial dates and times. ACTIONGrand Bluff project, mastication * + Watershed Connections
* Outreach
	+ DAC proposals in Tulare Basin, Mountain Counties;
* Regional Water Quality Control Board Technical Assistance and Prop 1 funding
* Proposition 1 funding update
* Sequoia and Sierra National Forests Projects Update
* Big Sandy Rancheria Community Leech Field and (Water Supply Needs)

Bobby: showing map with shaded regionsSteve Hayes: Sierra resource conservation districtBobby: mapping exercise SWWG, MCR, P&P looking at relative proportion and abundance of disadvantaged communities. Economically distressed area (not meeting criteria for disadv), portion of Kaweah delta. Severely disadvantaged community (Springville community) asset to us because we can be more competitive in grant writing and proposals, lower cost share requirement. P&P over 50% region is disadv or severely disadv. Nancy: Bud paid self-help enterprises to do survey ($30,000).Action: distribute map with shaded portions to group. Methodology shared by Owen Cubit for map. National parks and employment, employees, lower income min wage, employment base is low income: is that consideration? How does low income apply?Bobby: economic destressed area is used to represent lower income. Malleable. Travel distance can be factor in economic distress qualification. Can make special cases depending on certain factors unique to areas. Quantify more factors that can apply to these specifications. National parks bring in a lot of revenue. Steve: people don’t meet criteria, can’t live in areas where they work. John: DWR focusing on regions, region gets something in the deadline is asap whenever it gets turned in. No final deadlines. Looking for 1 proposal from an area. Letter of support to confirm involvement. Next Thursday meeting at P&P 1-3 pm looking to finalize proposal for funding region. Only sierra based representatives.  | AllJustine ReynoldsMichelle Selmon, Sarah CampeSteve HazeSarah CampeMarianne Emmendorfer, Nina Hemphill, Josh CourterHazel Early, Big Sandy Rancheria |
| 1:45 |

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| **Interested Party / Public Comment Period** At this time any interested party may comment on any activity involving the RWMG, or request consideration to place an item on a future agenda. Individuals will be limited to a three-minute presentation. No action will be taken by the RWMG as a result of any item presented at this time.  |

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| 1:50 | **Regional Planning and Project Implementation*** Planning Grant application discussion and approval:

Considerable amount of work by P&RUC Merced has some data and information. Regional water management meetings proposal looking at enriched data from Tule and Kaweah which would be useful information. Model watersheds. Make estimates about projects. DWR implementation funding, need to update plan. Research project could provide information about how our regions watershed provides us water and drought consequences. Plan writing, outreach, administrative piece. DWR tax implementation funds plan update. Madera group put together short list of topics, emphasis disadv comm. More work regarding nuts and bolts of project 1. Add data synthesis and research to existing IRWM plan suit of projects to go after implementation funds. Rich data synthesis and modelling to help making decisions. Never been done in this area. Instead of struggling to get up to speed we would have a great plan already. Spit out implementation projects. Know our region needs this. Projects based on rich data supplied by UC Merced. Planning grant proposal due. Willing to put out scope of work and budget right now. Safeeq: scope done budget in system. Additional info needed shows the overhead cost from DWR. Need contact person. Subcontract. Everything is ready. Need final template. Needs to be done early next week!!!!!!!! Monday or Tuesday.2 parts: collect all data, synthesize that, describe model and key drivers and processes. Then sample/test bed in Kings, model a basin and show the types of questions to be asked and the trade-offs (reduce this, minimize this, etc.) Options to maximize outcome. Nina: FS is very concerned with tree mortality. Look at whole watershed to decide what is necessary to change long-run tree mortality. Safeeq: cannot look at whole picture at the moment because the area is very large. Do the test bed to give “lab in the field” which is better than no analyses. Confidence in underground water then apply to larger scale. Slowly moving toward larger scales. Nina: Strategy written for whole of SN and Southern Cascades, meta-restorations. Mesh strategies. Lot of data about species and information from Nature Conservancy. See how to interface with Safeeq’s work. ACTION: Nina Hemphill Meadows piece, looking at regional strategyPiece says where to put treatments and how to get it out to communities. Safeeq: meadows have tons of data in terms of water, feedback, regional foresters, watershed meeting asked for proposal about kind of work possible. USFS gave money. Vegetation survey for few years. Understand disaster and mechanism. Combine all the resources to gain holistic picture. Nina: assist with data gathering. Meadows clearing house, movements afoot to pull data together. Bobby: tree mortality and water supply. Increase water supply without decreasing quality through the treatments. Steve: water quality impacts due to tree mortality. Rough fire. No real significant precipitation. Safeeq: king sierra basin water quality monitoring after the rough fire. Baseline data in this region for last 10 years. Continuing water data. What happens after tree mortality?. Bobby: How to adapt to tree mortality and drought. Is there additional water supply? Is there a compromise to water quality? Questions or concerns?Sophie: 10 years of data for the revisions of sierra sequoia plans. Have you been contacted about this data, Safeeq? Lots of data is from what was considered before the drought. Analysis of this data would be outdated benchmark. Bobby: 3 national forests ahead of the rest. Not including recent data. Questions?Steve: Safeeqsierra southern critical zone, czo, teakettle, experimental f orest region?Safeeq: all of the above. Data is limited in teakettle,, quantity and quality data. More instruments every year. Depending on which data there are from 2 to 30 years of data. Complete picture as you go from low elevation deep soil, high elevation less vegetation low soil data. Data set can be used in planning for restoration projects. Steve: yield from that. Stream gauges to determine runoff. Safeeq: 13 month time frame to look at signal. Scale that water is managed. USGS site map southern sierra, not many stream gauges. Bobby: USGS closed 2 stream gauges, cost $80,000. Safeeq: no impact visible on such large scale.Nina: restore watershed, how to measure it and utilize the information.Mary: compare new requirements for prop 1. Contaminants. Actions to be taken to address contamination. Area of resource management strategies, climate change works its way into many chapters. A lot of work relating to climate change. Economically disadv. Not required chapter but beneficial. Appendix requirements that deal with distress commu nities. Outreach with tribes, understanding their resource concerns, more stakeholder involvement. * RFP format, timing, answers and clarifications

Bobby: relationship with RFP, how to move forward with details. Stakeholder outreach, disadv comm chapter. Apply numbers into budget. Administer the grant. How to cover admin piece. Continuing on model. Continue stakeholder and outreach. Partnership with SRCD. Enable them to assist with activities in Fresno county. Regional projects that SRCD would be able to assist Safeeq on projects. * New Projects
	+ Sierra Water Work Group Data Management Tool

ACTION: Send out workplan to entire group, including on phone. * + SPUD Purple pipe DAC Project
 | Bobby Kamansky, Kamansky Ecological Kate Gladstein, SNA/SWWG Nancy Bruce |
| 2:30 | Soapy: Chris has moved on to private. Administration grant, implementation grant. Fiscal agency. Implementation grants no longer needed? Bobby: No decisions made on implementation grants. One agency shouldn’t do too much. Safeeq and Rogers implementation project, not necessarily who submits grant. One entity not covering both. Deadlines are stacked. Try to get planning funds (won’t necessarily be available later). Implementation piece will be biggest job. Bobby SRT and SRCD are only groups that can administer these types of grants. Look at work plan. Owen completed 40% of the grant. Having UC Merced, Owen, P&P is helpful. Grantee reviewing. Bobby drafting components, Safeeq add pieces to describe benefits. DAC portion and outreach portion and best approaches toward that. Steve: CRCD, USFS communications plan, 5th 6th year of program. How to talk with community at large. Lessons learned, techniques to be utilized. More engagement with this group and collaborative. Community capacity assessment workshop. Very localized. Establishing a vested interest in the outcomes. Safeeq: cost share requirement?Bobby: professionals contributing to planning. Older lady with brown/blonde-ish hair: banked time from this meeting?Bobby: retroactive date for match. May have already satisfied the requirement for the grant. $50,000. Within a year satisfy the requirement.**Break** |  |
| 2:40 | **Projects List and prioritizing actions*** Discuss project list and available funding sources

ACTION: Distribute information to large stakeholder group. Fully-vetted proposal will be distributed when complete. Qualify for further implementation funding. Consensus based approval for planning grant. P&P writing, SRT granteeSteve: money?Bobby: MAX - $250,000, under threshold with all groups. Budget is template, no higher than 250K. There will be competition. Safeeq has his amount to 104,000. 210K 220K at this point. DWR has repeatedly said 5%. ACTION: talk to DWR Soapy: doesn’t have numbers yet* Existing Projects - Updates

Bobby: data management tool, SRT developed. DAC meeting in June, demo of project. Project proponents can go online and find the project. Beta version. 15,000 annual cost. Very inexpensive in terms of the project. More people involved, cheaper overall. Meta-restoration project, meadow restoration, writing benefits for projects. Liz will not be able to put in much effort (cancer). In december agenda for talk. DAC mountain counties. John: Kate: very happy to work on this. Mariposa IRWM is on board. Cost is less. How much does it take to maintain annually? Cost continuously descends as more people are involved. Bobby: Spud Purple Pipe ProjectSteve: identify/establish a representative from the group. Bobby: Steve, John, Bobby as reps to ensure coverage.* + Little Dry Creek Conservation Planning

Steve: “Little dry creek is still dry.” Wildlife conservation board: stream flow augmentation program. Make adjustments to little dry creek proposal. Comprehensive proposal to be changed and altered to fit specific requirements. Under prop 1. The project is low elevation tributary flows into san Joaquin river. Fisheries and salmon. In spawning area. 2 watersheds: big dry creek and little dry creek. At low elevation urbanization has increased significantly. Looking to build many homes. Wanting to reestablish the area. Proposal looking at watershed protection aspect and contribution to multimillion fisheries. Bobby: great high level plan but little details need to be ironed out. * + Three Rivers Water Supply Study

Bobby: DWR created water supply study for Three rivers area. Proposal not yet released. Dave Briant called DWR to provide information. Riding community plan. IRWM programs designed to integrate water and land use planning. Aubury and Springville need comprehensive water studies. Tie from Safeeq’s work with the DWR to plan for communities. This study identified there is lowest supply during greatest demand. No recharge and use is at greatest. Critical zone observancy, Safeeq and UC Merced, etc combine info to get the ball rolling. When there are fewer straws that are pulling water less water will percolate. Ground water is moving down to the bottom of the watershed but there is no replenishment. Community based and watershed based scales and plans. Richard: Springs in the watershed. Comprehensive study done on historical locations of flow and springs. Springs have been well documented on maps. Historical maps show that a lot of maps are no longer running. Development of springs by private. Livestock small orchards utilize these. Some spring water is being exported, some is documented and some is not. Look at overall situation: where we were and where we are now. Digitalize these locations of the historical springs. We need to get control over this along with wells. Bobby: private lands where development is occurs. Agency in CS is no longer willing to section off the springs because of the wetlands. How will that effect the wetlands? Hesitant to investigate the wetland and the impacts. Fig trees are a really bad straw. Now no one harvests the figs and the trees are dewatering the springs. Army corp sponsored project to remove some.ACTION: Documenting and uploading historical and current spring locations. John: John Austin would be a good consult for this ^^^ because he has done historical documentation in the past.Safeeq: document the streams that changed to ephemeral and those that used to be.Richard: Hard rock drilling, transport of naturally flowing streams to elsewhere. Many are no longer functional. Bobby: stream flow in smaller areas and possibly relate it to springs* + Kings, Tule and Kaweah River Watersheds Project
* RWMG resolution in support of the projects and applications
 | Project Proponents, FacilitatorSteve HazeBobbyUC Merced (Safeeq) |
| 4:15 | **Conclusion, Next Steps and Closing Remarks** | Bobby Kamansky, All |
| 4:30 | ***Adjourn******Meeting: December 8th in Fresno******Bobby: THANKS EVERYONE!!!! Especially Stephanie Doria!*** |  |

**Next Coordinating Committee Meetings:**

* Friday, November 18th, 2016, 1 – 3:00 p.m., teleconference or in-person (TBD)

**Next RWMG Meetings:**

* Thursday, December 8, 1:00-4:30, Visalia/Tulare

**Meeting Ground Rules**

1. Be comfortable
2. Humor is welcome
3. Stay focused on the group’s charge, deliverables, and agenda
4. Use common conversational courtesy
5. Share the air
6. Treat each other with respect
7. All ideas have value and will be documented
8. Avoid editorials
9. Honor time