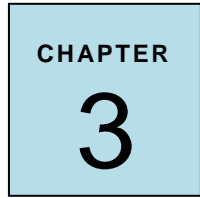


## 3.0 Mandatory Plans and Documents

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The Watershed Plan is derived from and supported by existing local and regional water resource and land management plans, all of which were created or adopted by at least one agency (county, federal or state) with statutory authority in the SFAR region. These resource management plans address water supply reliability, water quality protection and enhancement, wetland, ecosystem, environmental and habitat restoration and improvement, and recreation and public access. Summaries of each plan and how they relate to this document are included in this chapter.



### 3.1 Relation to other Agency Documents

The Watershed Plan links the shared goals and objectives of the resource management plans and the other issues identified by SFAR watershed stakeholders. The goals of the Watershed Plan are over-arching and sufficiently robust to incorporate specific goals of referenced resource management plans. The objectives to achieve the goals of the Watershed Plan are also in line with the resource management plans. Chapter 5 describes in detail the goals and objectives for the plan, and shows the relationship to the resources management plans by way of a matrix table.

It is essential that the agency resource management plans and the Watershed Plan be linked in practice, as well as in theory. The Watershed Plan derives from and is grounded in existing, adopted water resource management plans. This plan pilots a broader science-based assessment and management framework for programs throughout the watershed and region. This is accomplished by prioritizing implementation projects that analytically link the management plans from which they are derived and facilitating extrapolation to and between sub-basins in the region. This is achieved by focusing on water management issues that are both local and regional such as temperature, sediment and nutrient water quality impairments in reservoirs and rivers; fish passage and cold water refugia for trout and, potentially, for endangered salmon; decreasing/increasing water supply conflicts between water users; water efficiency and water supply reliability; and riparian and in-stream environmental water needs. A matrix of the goals and objectives of the Watershed Plan and the resource management plans are described at the conclusion of Chapter 5, *Integrated Goals and Objectives*.

### 3.2 Summary of Agency Resource Management Plans

Each summary described in this chapter references the respective plans directly and uses language quoted from the plans. Often whole sections are quoted from the documents. Minor modifications have been made in places for clarification or to highlight how the plan relates to the Watershed Plan.

The water supply master plans and other specific water operation plans that are utilized by all utilities are not included or integrated in this Watershed Plan. The timeframe for developing and adopting the Watershed Plan did not allow for the in-depth research and analysis required for integration. The stakeholders and participants involved in the

SFAR planning process recognize the importance of including these documents and have requested an annual update of the Watershed Plan for full integration.

## **1. EL DORADO COUNTY GENERAL PLAN**

*Date Adopted:* 2004  
*Term:* Perpetual; until revised by local government  
*Parties involved:* El Dorado County, CA

### Background

California State Law requires each county to adopt a General Plan "for the physical development of the County and any land outside its boundaries which ...bears relation to its planning" (Government Code Section 65300). EDCGP serves as the County's constitution for the physical use of the County's resources, and is the foundation upon which all land use decisions are made. This EDCGP expresses the community's development goals and embodies public policy relative to the distribution of future public and private land use.

### Purpose

The EDCGP provides for long range direction and policy for the use of land within El Dorado County. It provides a mechanism through which the County can focus on the issues of greatest local concern as well as a basis for rational decision-making regarding long-term physical development. It provides for growth in an environmentally balanced manner, maintains the rural character and quality of the living environment, and provides for adequate infrastructure while conserving agricultural lands, forest and woodlands, and other natural resources. This EDCGP also acknowledges that the El Dorado County will continue to grow but will attempt to retain the qualities of its natural resource base, both consumptive and environmental, in order to maintain its custom and culture, and to assure its long-term economic stability. The EDCGP acknowledges the ecological and historic values of these lands while saving and conserving the lands for future economic benefits for all the purposes.

The EDCGP is intended to maintain and protect El Dorado County's natural beauty and environmental quality, vegetation, air and water quality, natural landscape features, cultural resource values, and maintain the rural character and lifestyle while ensuring the economic viability critical to promoting and sustaining community identity. Where appropriate, it encourages clustered development as an option to maintain the integrity and distinct character of individual communities, while protecting open space and promoting natural resource uses.

### Applicable Water and Land Resource Sections

The EDCGP must conserve and improve El Dorado County's existing natural resources and open space, including agricultural and forest soils, mineral deposits, water and native plants, fish, wildlife species and habitat, and federally classified wilderness areas; and preserve resources of significant biological, ecological, historical or cultural importance.

Sections of the EDCGP that are applicable include: Land Use Element, Public Services and utilities Element, Conservation and Open Space Element, Agriculture and Forestry Element, Parks and Recreation Element.

Goals and Objectives Related to The Watershed Plan

Goal 2.2: Land Use Designations:

- A set of land use designations that provide for the maintenance of the rural and open character of El Dorado County and maintenance of a high standard of environmental quality, and the characteristic natural landscape features unique to each area of El Dorado County.

Objective 2.2.2: Overlay Land

- Use Designations: Establishment of overlay designations to provide additional direction for the development of land where circumstances apply generally to the lands regardless of the underlying land use designations. The purpose of the Ecological Preserve (EP) overlay designation is to identify those properties in public or private ownership that have potential to be established or have been established as habitat preserve areas for rare or endangered plant and animal species and/or critical wildlife habitat and/or natural communities of high quality.

Goal 2.3: Natural Landscape Features:

- Maintain the characteristic natural landscape features unique to each area of El Dorado County.

Objective 2.3.1: Topography and Native Vegetation:

- Provide for the retention of distinct topographical features and conservation of the native vegetation of El Dorado County.

Goal 2.6: Corridor Viewsheds:

- Protection and improvement of scenic values along designated scenic road corridors.

Objective 2.6.1: Scenic Corridor Identification:

- A Scenic Corridor Ordinance shall be prepared and adopted for the purpose of establishing standards for the protection of identified scenic local roads and State highways.

Goal 5.2: Water Supply:

- The development or acquisition of an adequate water supply consistent with the geographical distribution or location of future land uses and planned developments.

Objective 5.2.1: County-Wide Water Resources Program:

- Establish a County-wide water resources development and management program to include the activities necessary to ensure adequate future water supplies consistent with the EDCGP.

Objective 5.2.3: Groundwater Systems:

- Demonstrate that water supply is available for proposed groundwater-dependent development and protect against degradation of well water supplies for existing residents.

Goal 5.3: Wastewater Collection and Treatment:

- An adequate and safe system of wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal to serve current and future El Dorado County residents.

Objective 5.3.2: Rural Sewage Disposal/Alternative Wastewater Systems:

- Ensure the development of efficient and environmentally safe individual sewage disposal systems in rural areas while encouraging and promoting alternative and innovative wastewater treatment.

Goal 5.4: Storm Drainage:

- Manage and control storm water runoff to prevent flooding, protect soils from erosion, prevent contamination of surface waters, and minimize impacts to existing drainage infrastructure.

Objective 5.4.1: Drainage and Flood Management Program:

- Initiate a County-wide drainage and flood management program to prevent flooding, protect soils from erosion, and minimize impacts on existing drainage facilities.

Goal 5.7: Emergency Services:

- Adequate and comprehensive emergency services, including fire protection, law enforcement, and emergency medical services.

Objective 5.7.2: Fire Protection (Rural Regions and Rural Centers):

- Sufficient emergency water supply, storage, and conveyance facilities for fire protection, together with adequate access are available, or are provided for, concurrent with development.

Goal 6.7: Air Quality Maintenance:

- Strive to achieve and maintain ambient air quality standards established by the USEPA and the CARB.
- Minimize public exposure to toxic or hazardous air pollutants that create unpleasant odors.

Objective 6.7.8: The Effects of Air Pollution on Vegetation:

- Monitor ongoing scientific research regarding the adverse effects, if any, of air pollution on vegetation.

Goal 7.1: Soil Conservation:

- Conserve and protect El Dorado County's soil resources.

Objective 7.1.1: Soils:

- Ensure long-term soil productivity.

Objective 7.1.2: Erosion & Sedimentation:

- Minimize soil erosion and sedimentation.

Goal 7.2: Mineral Resources:

- Conservation of the County's significant mineral deposits.

Objective 7.2.3: Environmental & Land Use Compatibility:

- Regulate the extraction of mineral resources to ensure that environmental and land use compatibility issues are considered.

Goal 7.3: Water Quality and Quantity:

- Conserve, enhance, and manage water resources and protect their quality from degradation.

Objective 7.3.1: Water Resource Protection:

- Preserve and protect the supply and quality of El Dorado County's water resources including the protection of critical watersheds, riparian zones, and aquifers.

Objective 7.3.2: Water Quality:

- Maintain and where possible, improve the quality of underground and surface water.

Objective 7.3.3: Wetlands:

- Protect natural and man-made wetlands, vernal pools, wet meadows, and riparian areas from impacts related to development for their importance to wildlife habitat, water purification, scenic values, and unique and sensitive plant life.

Objective 7.3.4: Drainage:

- Protect and utilize natural drainage patterns.

Objective 7.3.5: Water Conservation:

- Conserve water resources, encourage water conservation, and construction of wastewater disposal systems designed to reclaim and re-use treated wastewater on agricultural crops and for other irrigation and wildlife enhancement projects.

Goal 7.4: Wildlife and Vegetation Resources:

- Identify, conserve, and manage wildlife, wildlife habitat, fisheries, and vegetation resources of significant biological, ecological, and recreational value.

Objective 7.4.1: Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species:

- Protect State and Federally recognized rare, threatened, or endangered species and their habitats consistent with Federal and State laws.

Objective 7.4.2: Identify and Protect Resources:

- Identify and protect, where feasible, critical fish and wildlife habitat including deer winter, summer, and fawning ranges; deer migration routes; stream and river riparian habitat; lake shore habitat; fish spawning areas; wetlands; wildlife corridors; and diverse wildlife habitat.

Objective 7.4.3: Coordination with Appropriate Agencies:

- Coordination of wildlife and vegetation protection programs with appropriate Federal and State agencies.

Objective 7.4.4: Forest and Oak Woodland Resources:

- Protect and conserve forest and woodland resources for their wildlife habitat, recreation, water production, domestic livestock grazing, production of a sustainable flow of wood products, and aesthetic values.

Objective 7.4.5: Native Vegetation and Landmark Trees:

- Protect and maintain native trees including oaks and landmark and heritage trees.

Goal 7.6: Open Space Conservation:

- Conserve open space land for the continuation of El Dorado County's rural character, commercial agriculture, forestry and other productive uses, the enjoyment of scenic beauty and recreation, the protection of natural resources, for protection from natural hazards, and for wildlife habitat.

Goal 8.1: Agricultural Land Conservation:

- Promote the long-term conservation and use of existing and potential agricultural lands within El Dorado County and limit the intrusion of incompatible uses into agricultural lands.

Objective 8.1.1: Identification of Agricultural Lands:

- Identify agricultural lands within El Dorado County that are important to the local agricultural economy including important crop lands and grazing lands.

Goal 8.2: Agricultural Production:

- Provide for a healthy, stable, and competitive environment necessary to sustain agricultural industry.

Objective 8.2.1: Agricultural Water:

- Provide for an adequate, long-term supply of water to support sustainable agricultural uses within El Dorado County.

Goal 8.3: Forest Land Conservation:

- Maintain healthy sustainable forests that provide for raw materials while limiting the intrusion of incompatible uses into important forest lands.

Objective 8.3.2: Conservation of Forest Lands:

- Protect and conserve lands identified as suitable for commercial timber production within the County that are important to the local forest product industry and forest lands that serve other values such as watershed, wildlife habitat, recreation, hydroelectric power generation, grazing, mineral extraction, or other resource based uses.

Goal 9.1: Parks and Recreation Facilities:

- Provide adequate recreation opportunities and facilities including developed regional and community parks, trails, and resource-based recreation areas for the health and welfare of all residents and visitors of El Dorado County.

Objective 9.1.3: Incorporation of Parks and Trails:

- Incorporate parks and non-motorized trails into urban and rural areas to promote the scenic, economic, and social importance of recreation and open space areas.

Objective 9.1.4: Rivers and Waterways:

- Conserve and promote the waterways of El Dorado County, particularly the SFAR, as recreational and economic assets.

## **2. EL DORADO COUNTY OAK WOODLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*Date Adopted:* 2008

*Term:* Perpetual; until revised by local government

*Parties involved:* El Dorado County, CA

### Background

The OWMP outlines El Dorado County strategy for conservation of its valuable oak woodland resources. Through the OWMP, El Dorado County identifies areas where conservation easements may be acquired from willing sellers as a means to offset and mitigate the loss or fragmentation of oak woodlands in other areas as a result of implementation of the 2004 EDCGP. Additionally, the OWMP provides guidance for voluntary conservation and management efforts by landowners and land managers. The OWMP sets forth further guidance on General Plan Policy 7.4.4.4 Option A, which includes measures designed to encourage retention of existing oak canopy in areas planned for development.

At the state level, the Oak Woodlands Conservation Act of 2001 recognizes the importance of private land stewardship in conserving oak woodlands. The legislation established the California Oak Woodlands Conservation Program (COWCP), the mission of which is to “conserve the integrity and diversity of oak woodlands across California’s working landscapes through incentives and education.” The COWCP provides technical and financial incentives to private landowners to protect and promote biologically functional oak woodlands.

### Purpose

Loss and fragmentation of wildlife habitat, including oaks and oak woodlands, was identified in the 2004 EDCGP Environmental Impact Report (EIR) as a significant impact that would result from development under the EDCGP. El Dorado County identified several mitigation measures which would reduce the severity of these impacts, although not to below a level of significance. These mitigation measures included Policies 7.4.4.4, 7.4.4.5, and 7.4.5.2, and the related implementation of Measure CO-P.

Measure CO-P directs El Dorado County to develop and adopt an Oak Resources Management Plan that addresses the following:

- Mitigation standards outlined in Policy 7.4.4.4;
- Thresholds of significance for the loss of oak woodlands;
- Requirements for tree surveys and mitigation plans for discretionary projects;
- Replanting and replacement standards;
- Heritage/Landmark Tree protection standards; and,
- An Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance as outlined in Policy 7.4.5.2.

Applicable Water Resource Sections

The OWMP is written with the purpose of conserving valuable oak woodland resources, which would assist in the protection of critical fish and wildlife habitat; fish spawning areas; wetlands; recreation; and, aesthetic values found within El Dorado County watershed areas, and therefore including the SFAR watershed project area.

The OWMP lists current valuable recreational and/or open space areas within El Dorado County. This list assists resources planning organizations with identifying potential opportunities to maintain large expanses of oak woodlands and to provide connectivity among the woodlands. The following bulleted list of oak woodland areas is identified within the OWMP for the SFAR watershed project area

- The Cronan Ranch Regional Trails Park, east of Coloma, is managed by the BLM. Plans exist to connect this area with the SFAR corridor trail that will run from Greenwood Creek to Salmon Falls. This park contains oak woodlands.
- Marshall Gold Discovery State Park in Coloma has the Monroe Ridge and Monument trails and other open space in oak woodland habitats near the SFAR.
- The Dave Moore Nature Area provides a small recreation area with oak woodland habitat along the SFAR.
- Lands along Weber Creek that are part of the EID's Texas Hill properties contain large expanses of oaks. Potential partnering between EID and El Dorado County could meet water storage needs and oak conservation goals.
- The Red Shack Trail passes through a 131-acre property supporting oak woodland habitat to reach the SFAR.
- The SPTC includes 28 miles of the corridor within El Dorado County, much of which passes through oak woodland.
- The El Dorado Trail is jointly owned by the City of Placerville and El Dorado County. It winds through oak woodland habitats from Placerville to Camino. The El Dorado Trail eventually will connect the SPTC and the National Pony Express Trail Route. Potential may exist to expand the sections through oak woodlands to enhance oak woodland conservation and to meet the need for trails.
- The BLM manages over 3,100 acres in the Pine Hill Preserve network that serves to protect rare plants that occur on gabbroic soils. The Pine Hill Preserve consists of five separate units in northern gabbroic mixed chaparral and oak woodland.

- The Folsom Lake State Recreation Area provides trails, camping, and open space around Folsom Lake.

Goals and Objectives Related to Watershed Plan

The OWMP goals are guided by two EDCGP objectives: Objective 7.4.2 and Objective 7.4.4. General Plan Objective 7.4.2 states: *Identify and Protect Resources*: “Identification and protection, where feasible, of critical fish and wildlife habitat including deer winter, summer, and fawning ranges; deer migration routes; stream and river riparian habitat; lake shore habitat; fish spawning areas; wetlands; wildlife corridors; and, diverse wildlife habitat.”

General Plan Objective 7.4.4 states: *Forest and Oak Woodland Resources*: “Protect and conserve forest and woodland resources for their wildlife habitat, recreation, water production, domestic livestock grazing, production of a sustainable flow of wood products, and aesthetic values.”

The following goals are set forth by the OWMP:

- Mitigate oak canopy removal by providing flexibility through a range of on-site and off-site mitigation alternatives;
- Establish a Conservation Fund In-Lieu Fee that is sufficient to fully fund the mitigation program;
- Identify PCAs within large expanses of contiguous oak woodland habitat where conservation easements may be acquired from willing sellers to offset the effects of increased habitat loss and fragmentation elsewhere;
- Focus conservation easement acquisition efforts within areas not currently fragmented and which are unlikely to become fragmented through implementation of the EDCGP;
- When weighing acquisition opportunities for conservation easements, generally maintain the relative acreages of all five oak woodland CWHR types (Valley Oak Woodland, Blue Oak Woodland, Blue Oak-Foothill Pine, Montane Hardwood Woodland, and Montane Hardwood-Confier Woodland), but emphasize conservation of Valley Oak Woodlands, considered a “sensitive habitat” due to its relative rarity in El Dorado County;
- Encourage voluntary conservation and management of oak woodlands, including sustainable ranching and farming operations with working landscapes;
- Provide incentives (e.g. grants or cost-sharing for fuels/fire risk management) for the voluntary protection of oak woodlands providing superior wildlife values on private land (COWCP legislative goal);
- Provide oak woodland conservation guidance to private landowners and El Dorado County planners through education and outreach (COWCP);
- Enhance oak woodland conservation by connecting acquisitions from willing sellers with existing open space, including publicly-owned lands that are managed for oak woodland habitat values (e.g., ecological preserves, recreation lands, rangelands, or natural resource areas) consistent with El Dorado County’s open space conservation goals (Goal 7.6; Policy 7.6.1.1); and,

- Establish a database inventory of interested buyers and willing landowners wishing to participate in oak woodland acquisition and management mitigation options (Policy 7.4.2.8).

### **3. EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*Date Adopted:* January, 2006  
*Term:* 5 years  
*Parties involved:* El Dorado Irrigation District, CA  
El Dorado County Water Agency, CA  
(Coordination)

#### Background

The 2005 EID UWMP addresses EID, which was formed on October 5, 1925. The UWMP is required by the Urban Water Management Planning Act (UWMP Act) (California Water Code Division 6, Part 2.6, Sections 10610 through 10657). The 2005 UWMP provides an update to the previous UWMP that was adopted by the EID Board in January 2001.

EID currently serves a population of approximately 100,000 people through 38,000 active service connections. The current boundary of EID encompasses approximately 220 square miles on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains in El Dorado County. It is primarily located in two major watersheds, the SFAR in the north, and the North Fork of the Cosumnes River in the south. The EID is hydrologically split by the Placerville Ridge and Highway 50 between these two drainage systems. Although the rivers drain east to west, the minor streams trend northwest toward the American River and southwest toward the Cosumnes River.

#### Purpose

In accordance with the CUWMP Act, all California agencies providing water to more than 3,000 customers or more than 3,000 acre-feet of water per year are required to update their UWMP every five years and submit them to the DWR. The UWMP looks at historic and current water use projections and compares water supplies with demands over the next 20 years. The UWMP identifies the imported and local water supplies that will meet future demands including groundwater recovery and water recycling, as well as current and planned conservation measures. This helps to ensure that EID and the UWMP can provide the service area with a reliable supply of high-quality water and meet current and future demand.

#### Applicable Water Resource Sections

EID currently relies on surface water to meet its entire potable water demand. EID's potable water system is composed of a main contiguous system which serves over 95 percent of its customers, and two satellite systems. The three main diversion points for the main system are (1) EID owned and operated Sly Park Dam and Jenkinson Lake, (2) EID's Hydroelectric Project 184 (Project 184) at Forebay Reservoir, and (3) Folsom Lake via two U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Water Service Contracts and one State water right permit 21112. EID's two satellite diversions include potable water deliveries to: (1)

Outingdale, diverting water from the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River; and (2) Strawberry, located near the upper SFAR.

Primary EID operated storage includes 41,033 acre-feet in Jenkinson Lake, 1,200 acre-feet in Weber Reservoir, and a total of approximately 37,500 acre-feet in Project 184 storage (Lake Aloha and Caples, Silver, and Echo lakes).

In the El Dorado Forebay subsystem, water is treated at the Forebay WTP (26 million gallons per day (mgd) capacity) located in Pollock Pines. Water in the Jenkinson Lake subsystem is treated at the Sly Park WTP (53 mgd capacity). The Folsom Lake subsystem conveys treated water from the El Dorado Hills WTP (19.5 mgd capacity).

The EID's conveyance system is a combination of pipelines, regulating reservoirs, tanks, and a few Gold Rush era ditches. The ditch system that delivers raw water to agricultural users and a water treatment facility is composed of 26.5 miles of ditch, 15 percent of which is piped. The piped potable system consists of 1,239 miles of pipe ranging in size from 2 to 48 inches. EID has a total of 36 tanks and reservoirs with a combined storage capacity of 72.2 million gallons (mg).

Over the years, EID has changed from serving mainly agricultural customers, to one that serves the rapidly growing residential, commercial, and industrial sectors. The majority of growth in El Dorado County has occurred in the El Dorado Hills/Cameron Park area, mirroring the population trends of the Sacramento metropolitan area. As transportation services, housing, and employment opportunities increase, the population growth is expected to increase.

Based on water quality data from EID and other nearby water purveyors, the EID water supply sources continue to be, and are expected to remain, high-quality.

EID operates two reclamation plants and a distribution system that are regulated under a single Master Reclamation Permit. Recycled water is used within the El Dorado Hills service area to offset the need to develop new potable water sources. Recycled water is used for three main purposes: commercial landscape irrigation, residential landscape irrigation, and construction dust control.

#### Goals and Objectives Related to The Watershed Plan

- The EID UWMP identifies and quantifies the existing and planned sources of water available over five-year increments (to 20 years or as far as data is available).
- The EID UWMP describes the reliability of the water supply and vulnerability to seasonal or climatic shortage, to the extent practicable.
- For any water source that may not be available at a consistent level of use, given specific legal, environmental, water quality, or climatic factors, the EID UWMP describes plans to replace that source with alternative sources or water demand management measures, to the extent practicable.
- The EID UWMP provides data for each of the following: (1) An average water year, (2) A single dry water year, (3) Multiple dry water years.

- The EID UWMP describes opportunities for exchanges or transfers of water on a short-term or long-term basis.
- The EID UWMP describes actions to be undertaken to prepare for and implement during a catastrophic interruption of water supplies including a regional power outage, an earthquake, or other disaster.
- The EID UWMP provides information on recycled water and its potential for use as a water source in the service area of the urban water supplier. The preparation of the plan is coordinated with local water, wastewater, groundwater, and planning agencies and includes a description of the wastewater collection and treatment systems in the service area.

#### **4. EL DORADO COUNTY WATER AGENCY WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*Date Adopted:* April, 2007

*Term:* 5 years

*Parties involved:* El Dorado County Water Agency, CA

##### Background

The 2007 EDCWA WRDMP addresses the water supply needs of the entire county of El Dorado based on the adopted 2004 EDCGP demand projections. The WRDMP was developed by the EDCWA, which is a planning agency that was formed by a special act of the state legislature in 1959.

The EDCWA's mission statement is to protect, preserve, and enhance the water and power interests of El Dorado County's residents, businesses, and environment. The EDCWA's authority includes the power to contract for water and to finance and construct, operate, and maintain works for the storage and transmission of water (EDCWA 2007). In addition, the EDCWA may contract for the sale of water to water purveyors, but cannot sell water directly to customers (EDCWA 2007).

The WRDMP was coordinated with specific El Dorado County Departments and with the five major water providers operating within El Dorado County, which include: the EID, GDPUD, GFCSD, STPUD, and TCPUD.

##### Purpose

WRDMP is designed to coordinate water resource planning activities within El Dorado County and identifies actions and water resource alternatives to meet the water needs of the County (EDCWA 2007). The WRDMP addresses the water supply needs of the entire County including the water purveyors and those areas presently not served by a purveyor, and identify potential technical, environmental, and institutional constraints for each water resource alternative (EDCWA 2007).

The WRDMP is based on information currently available and will be reviewed at least every five years to update the WRDMP with information developed or actions taken during the intervening period (EDCWA 2007). The WRDMP compares water supplies with demands over approximately the next 20 years.

Applicable Water Resource Sections

The WRDMP provides an outline of existing water supplies, rights and permits, and contracts available to El Dorado County's water purveyors (EDCWA 2007). It describes the EDCWA as a member agency of the ACWA, and the WRDMP provides action items that the EDCWA and local water purveyors are involved in accordance with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) Blueprint Project.

Goals and Objectives Related to the Watershed Plan

- Coordinate various water resource planning efforts within El Dorado County;
- Provide technical water supply gap analysis for the CABY IRWMP;
- Be consistent with the 2004 EDCGP;
- Document the projected water needs of El Dorado County through 2025 and beyond;
- Identify actions and water resource alternatives to meet water needs of El Dorado County;
- Identify potential technical, environmental, and institutional constraints for each water resource alternative;
- Develop water resource alternatives that have general local support; and,
- Develop a phasing and implementation plan to the year 2025.

**5. SIERRA NEVADA REGIONAL FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT**

*Date Adopted:* 2004  
*Term:* Approximately 15 years or until revised or amended by the Forest Service  
*Parties involved:* Eleven National Forests in the Sierra Nevada region: Humboldt-Toiyabe, Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, Tahoe, El Dorado, Stanislaus, Sierra, Sequoia, and Inyo National Forests, and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit.

Background

Under federal statute, the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) must maintain land and resource management plans for each unit of the National Forest System. The Secretary also must revise these plans every 15 years or sooner if conditions in a forest unit have changed significantly. After approximately a decade of reevaluation of the land and resource management plans for the eleven National Forests in the Sierra Nevada region, the Forest Service issued the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (Plan Amendment). In 2001, the Forest Service released its record of decision (ROD), which provides management direction to improve protection of old forests, wildlife habitats, watersheds and communities on the eleven National Forests.

The 2001 Plan Amendment was replaced in January 2004 with a final supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) and ROD. The Plan Amendment contains management direction that more adequately addresses the reduction of wildfire risk in the region. This amendment tiers to the already existing forest plans and replaces the

goals and strategies of the forest plans unless they are more restrictive than what is provided in the amendment.

### Purpose

The Plan Amendment guides natural resource management activities on 11 national forests--representing approximately 600,000 acres in California's Sierra Nevada. It describes the goals and objectives, standards and guidelines, resource protection methods, desired resource conditions, and the availability and suitability of lands for resource management. The purpose of the Plan Amendment is to provide management direction to ensure sustainable ecosystems and resilient watersheds that are capable of providing a sustainable flow of beneficial goods and services to the public.

### Applicable Water and Land Resource Sections

The Sierra Nevada region encompasses dozens of complex ecosystems each with numerous, inter-connected social, economic, and ecological components. The Plan Amendment addresses many of these ecosystem components. The ROD lays out broad management goals and strategies for addressing five problem areas identified during the planning process: old forest ecosystems and associated species; aquatic, riparian, and meadow ecosystems and associated species; fire and fuels management; noxious weeds; and lower westside hardwood ecosystems.

### Goals and Objectives Related to The Watershed Plan

There are a number of applicable goals, objectives and policies that relate to the Watershed Plan. The following is a brief summary of the elements that relate to water and land resources from the Plan Amendment.

- Old Forest Ecosystems and Associated Species Goal 1. Protect, increase, and perpetuate desired conditions of old forest ecosystems and conserve species associated with these ecosystems while meeting people's needs for commodities and outdoor recreation activities.
- Old Forest Ecosystems and Associated Species Goal 2. Increase the frequency of large trees, increase structural diversity of vegetation, and improve the continuity and distribution of old forests across the landscape.
- Old Forest Ecosystems and Associated Species Goal 3. Restore forest species composition and structure following large scale, stand-replacing disturbance events.
- Water Quality Goal 1: Maintain and restore water quality to meet goals of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act, providing water that is fishable, swimmable, and suitable for drinking after normal treatment.
- Species Viability Goal 1: Maintain and restore habitat to support viable populations of native and desired non-native plant, and invertebrate and vertebrate riparian-dependent species. Prevent new introductions of invasive species. Where invasive species are adversely affecting the viability of native species, work cooperatively with appropriate State and Federal wildlife agencies to reduce impacts to native populations.
- Plant and Animal Community Diversity Goal 1: Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant and animal communities

- in riparian areas, wetlands, and meadows to provide desired habitats and ecological functions.
- Special Habitats Goal 1: Maintain and restore the distribution and health of biotic communities in special aquatic habitats (such as springs, seeps, vernal pools, fens, bogs, and marshes) to perpetuate their unique functions and biological diversity.
  - Watershed Connectivity Goal 1: Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity for aquatic and riparian species within and between watersheds to provide physically, chemically and biologically unobstructed movement for their survival, migration, and reproduction.
  - Floodplains and Water Tables Goal 1: Maintain and restore the connections of floodplains, channels, and water tables to distribute flood flows and sustain diverse habitats.
  - Watershed Condition Goal 1: Maintain and restore soils with favorable infiltration characteristics and diverse vegetative cover to absorb and filter precipitation and to sustain favorable conditions of stream flows.
  - Streamflow Patterns and Sediment Regimes Goal 1: Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to sustain desired conditions of riparian, aquatic, wetland, and meadow habitats and keep sediment regimes as close as possible to those with which aquatic and riparian biota evolved.
  - Stream Banks and Shorelines Goal 1: Maintain and restore the physical structure and condition of stream banks and shorelines to minimize erosion and sustain desired habitat diversity.
  - Fire and Fuels Goal 1: Treat fuels in a manner that significantly reduces wildland fire intensity and rate of spread, thereby contributing to more effective fire suppression and fewer acres burned.
  - Fire and Fuels Goal 2: Treat hazardous fuels in a cost-efficient manner to maximize program effectiveness.
  - Fire and Fuels Goal 3: Actively restore fire-adapted ecosystems by making demonstrated progress in moving acres out of unnaturally dense conditions.
  - Lower Westside Hardwood Ecosystems Goal 1: Establish and maintain a diversity of structural and seral conditions in landscapes in proportions that are ecologically sustainable at the watershed scale;
  - Lower Westside Hardwood Ecosystems Goal 2: Establish and maintain sufficient regeneration and recruitment of young hardwood trees over time to replace mortality of older trees.
  - Lower Westside Hardwood Ecosystems Goal 3: Establish and maintain sufficient quality and quantity of hardwood ecosystems to provide important habitat elements for wildlife and native plant species.
  - Noxious Weed Management Goal 1: Manage weeds using an integrated weed management approach with the following priorities: Priority 1. Prevent the introduction of new invaders, Priority 2. Conduct early treatment of new infestations, and Priority 3. Contain and control established infestations.

## **6. ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*Date Adopted:* 1988  
*Term:* 10-15 years  
*Parties involved:* National Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, USDA

### Background

The development of an integrated Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (FLRMP) is intended to fit into the larger existing planning network. A list of the existing plans that are integrated include wilderness, recreation, landscape, fisheries habitat, grazing, trail, and fire management. The scope of the plan far exceeds that of water resources. However, many of the management issues and resource areas affect water resources in some way.

The ENF Plan was amended by the Plan Amendment (2004). The ENF FLRMP standards and guidelines that apply to water are more restrictive than the ones listed within the Plan Amendment.

### Purpose

The purpose of the ENF FLRMP is to direct the management of ENF. The ENF FLRMP prescribes compatible sets of forest practices for the land and its resources. Acres are assigned to different resources uses, and targets are set for the production of market and non-market goods and services. To ensure environmental protection, the plan outlines management requirements for approved forest activities. To accomplish its purpose, the plan:

1. Names Forest long-range goals and objectives for a 10 year period.
2. Schedules the location and occurrence of forest practices by management areas.
3. Establishes standards and guidelines for forest practices.
4. Ties management activities directly to the Forest Service budgeting system.

### Applicable Water and Land Resource Sections

Chapter 2: Public Issues and Management Concerns outlines the major issues facing the forest. Issues include energy, mining, outdoor recreation, timberlands, fish and wildlife, fire, transportation system, range, water quality and quantity, and roadless areas. Many of these relate directly to water resource issues (e.g. water quality and quantity). Each issue is stated, summarized, and a solution is presented.

The third chapter is a summary and analysis of the current management situation. The chapter on management direction outlines the goals and objectives for management policies. It also outlines the hierarchy of policy levels, and how management directives move through the system. Monitoring and evaluation of management practices is also included.

Goals and Objectives Related to SFAR Watershed Management Plan

Because of the broad scope and specificity of the plan's application, only the most pertinent goals presented in the FLRMP are included below. The issues and their corresponding goals listed below are those most applicable to the Watershed Plan and its goals and objectives.

*Recreation* - Provide a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that meet project demand at the end of the planning period.

*Wild and Scenic Rivers* - Manage the Wild, Scenic, and Recreation Rivers to preserve their free flowing characteristics and protect their outstandingly remarkable values.

*Wildlife and Fish* - Maintain and enhance populations of threatened and endangered wildlife and plant species and maintain viable populations of sensitive species. Provide a diverse habitat for all species, including harvestable game fish and wildlife.

*Geology and Groundwater* - Prevent degradation of groundwater quality and develop groundwater sources to meet domestic, livestock, and wildlife needs.

*Soil, Water, and Air* - Protect streams, lakes, wetlands and the riparian vegetation that surrounds them. Establish a permanent Streamside Management Zone to furnish shade, ground cover, and natural environmental elements that maintain high water quality and enhance fish and wildlife habitat. Limit cumulative disturbing impacts on watersheds within the Forest.

*Energy* - Facilitate permitting of hydroelectric and other new energy developments that reasonably protect all resources.

*Fire* - Provide a sufficient level of fire protection and treat natural and activity fuels to assure a continuous flow of projected outputs and amenities from the Forest.

*Transportation* - Develop and maintain the Forest transportation system for the through-traveling public, while providing safe, efficient routes for recreationists.

**7. CALFED BAY-DELTA PROGRAM PROGRAMMATIC RECORD OF DECISION**

*Date Adopted:* 2000  
*Term:* 30 year plan; until revised or amended  
*Parties involved:* 25 State and Federal agencies

Background

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program began in May 1995 to address the complex issues that surround the Bay-Delta estuary. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative, interagency effort of 25 State and Federal agencies with management or regulatory responsibilities for the Bay-Delta. It is a collaborative effort including representatives of agricultural, urban, environmental, fishery, and business interests, Indian tribes and rural counties. Seeking solutions to the resource problems in the Bay-Delta, State and

Federal agencies signed an agreement in June 1994 to (1) coordinate their actions to meet water quality standards to protect the Bay-Delta estuary; (2) coordinate the operation of the State Water Project (SWP); and the Central Valley Project (CVP) more closely with recent environmental mandates; and (3) develop a process to establish a long-term Bay-Delta solution to address four categories of problems; ecosystem quality, water quality, water supply reliability, and levee system vulnerability. Currently, the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is transitioning into the Watershed Program administered through the Department of Conservation.

The Bay-Delta supplies drinking water for two thirds of Californians and irrigation water for over 7 million acres. The drought of 1987-92 demonstrated California's vulnerability to water shortages. With the state's population expected to increase by 25 million in 2040, the need to conserve water and other resources and manage the State's water system more efficiently is critical.

#### Purpose

The purpose of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program is to develop a long-term comprehensive plan to restore the ecological health and improve water management for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta system. It is an unprecedented effort to build a framework for managing California's water. The purpose of the program is fourfold: 1) to restore the ecological health of a fragile and depleted Bay-Delta estuary; 2) improve the water supply reliability of the state's farms and growing cities that draw water from the Delta and its tributaries, including 7 million acres of the world's most productive farmland; 3) protect the drinking water quality of the 22 million Californians who rely on the Delta for their supplies; and 4) protect the Delta levees that ensure its integrity as a conveyance and ecosystem.

#### Applicable Water and Land Resource Sections

The CALFED Program and the CALFED agencies have approached many ecosystem and water management issues from a regional perspective. The regions, which include their respective watersheds, are the Sacramento Valley, the San Francisco Bay Area, the Delta, Westside San Joaquin Valley, San Joaquin River/South San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California. Although each region raises unique ecosystem and water management issues, each region's issues affect the health and function of the Bay-Delta system as a whole. This project is the most comprehensive water management program in the world. It is the most complex and extensive ecosystem restoration project ever proposed and is the most far-reaching effort in terms of improving drinking water quality and restoring watersheds. This ecosystem management approach is similar to the approach for the Watershed Plan, whereby regional issues are being integrated into one management plan in order to achieve greater success over a large geographic area.

The programs and implementation plans associated with the CALFED Bay-Delta system that are relevant to the Watershed Plan include: the CALFED Bay-Delta Ecosystem Restoration Program (2000); the Strategic Plan for Ecosystem Restoration (2000); the Delta Regional Ecosystem Restoration Program (in progress); the Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for Suisun Marsh (in progress); the

Sacramento Valley Region Restoration Plan (in progress); the Mercury Strategy for the Bay-Delta Ecosystem (2004); and the 2001 Addendum to the CALFED Bay-Delta ROD (contains minor organizational changes to the 2000 ROD). The objective of the Ecosystem Restoration Program is to develop comprehensive plans and programs to restore ecological processes, habitats, and species on rivers and tributaries to the Bay-Delta. The Delta Regional, Suisun Marsh, and Sacramento Valley are all a part of the Ecosystem Restoration Program. They are regional plans that guide the implementation of the Ecosystem Restoration Program but provide guidance, evaluation, and adaptive management feedback that is region-specific. The Mercury Strategy document outlines a strategy for integrated mercury investigations linked to restoration and adaptive management of the Bay-Delta ecosystem.

#### Goal and Objectives Related to The Watershed Plan

There are eleven program elements that address the four program areas identified above that provide a framework for managing the Bay-Delta water resources. The program elements are listed below along with the goals for each element. The objectives associated with these goals are not listed but can be found under each program area on the CALFED website.

#### Water Management

- Maximize use of available water supplies through conservation, water recycling, and water quality improvements.
- Increase the flexibility of water systems at the state, federal and local level through improvements in conveyance, storage and water project operations.
- Develop groundwater and surface water storage projects to boost flexibility and provide additional supplies for agriculture, urban and environmental use.

#### Water Storage

- Provide financial and technical assistance to implement 1/2 million to 1 million acre-feet of new, locally managed groundwater storage
- Pursue specific opportunities for new off-stream storage sites and expansion of existing on-stream storage sites as identified in the ROD.

#### Conveyance

- Modify the existing conveyance system for water supply, water quality, flood protection and ecosystem benefits
- Improve pumping operations of the SWP to increase reliability and enhance fish protection

#### Water Use Efficiency

- Reduce water demand through "real water" conservation
- Improve water quality by altering volume, concentration, timing and location of return flows
- Improve ecosystem health by increasing in-stream flows where necessary to achieve targeted benefits

### Water Transfers

- Develop a more effective water transfer market
- Protect water rights, the environment and local economic interests
- Streamline the approval process of state and federal agencies for water transfers

### Environmental Water Account

- Reduce conflicts between environmental needs and water project operations by providing water and flexibility.
- Provide better protection for fish and habitats at critical times by providing water in a flexible manner other than through strict requirements.
- Increase water supply reliability by allowing projects to meet environmental and water supply needs at the same time.

### Drinking Water Quality Program

- Objective 1: Ensure continuous improvements in the water quality of the Bay-Delta for all beneficial uses.
- Goal 1: Provide safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water to the people who rely on the Delta for all or part of their drinking water.

### Watershed Management Program

- Provide financial and technical assistance for watershed activities that help achieve the mission and objectives of CALFED and promote collaboration and integration among existing and future local watershed programs.

### Levee System

- Assist and recover at-risk native species
- Improve levees to a higher standard for greater flood protection
- Improve emergency response capabilities
- Ensure levee maintenance and habitat needs are met
- Improve coordination of permit processes
- Develop adequate and reliable funding for levee maintenance

### Ecosystem Restoration

- Assist and recover at-risk native species
- Rehabilitate the Bay-Delta to support native aquatic and terrestrial biotic communities
- Maintain or enhance selected species for harvest
- Protect and restore functional habitat for both ecological and public values
- Prevent the establishment of additional non-native species
- Improve or maintain water and sediment quality

### Science

- Establish a body of knowledge relevant to CALFED actions and their implications.

## **8. FOURTH EDITION OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN (BASIN PLAN) FOR THE SACRAMENTO RIVER AND SAN JOAQUIN RIVER BASINS**

*Date Adopted:* 1998  
*Term:* Perpetual; until revised by local government (ongoing process)  
*Parties involved:* California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region

### Background

Basin Plans are adopted and amended by the California Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) under a structured process involving full public participation and State environmental review. Basin Plans complement Water Quality Control Plans adopted by the State Water Board, such as the Water Quality Control Plans for Temperature Control and Ocean Waters. The Basin Plan is itself an integration of three SWRCB plans and ten policies, and includes beneficial uses of water, objectives, an implementation plan, and a surveillance and monitoring plan. This plan covers the entire Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins, which includes the SFAR Watershed.

### Purpose

The preparation and adoption of water quality control plans (Basin Plans) is required by the California Water Code (Section 13240) and supported by the Federal Clean Water Act. According to Section 13050 of the California Water Code, Basin Plans consist of a designation or establishment of protected beneficial uses, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and a program of implementation needed for achieving the objectives.

### Applicable Water and Land Resource Sections

The Basin Plan sets water quality standards and identifies beneficial uses of water resources. It also sets forth an implementation and monitoring plan to achieve the objectives and preserve the beneficial uses.

Beneficial uses are critical to water quality management in California. State law defines beneficial uses of California's waters that may be protected against quality degradation to include (and not limited to) "...domestic; municipal; agricultural and industrial supply; power generation; recreation; aesthetic enjoyment; navigation; and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources or preserves" (Water Code Section 13050(f)). Protection and enhancement of existing and potential beneficial uses are primary goals of water quality planning. By identifying these beneficial uses, all water quality problems can be stated in terms of whether there is water of sufficient quality and quantity to protect or enhance those stated uses. The identified beneficial uses are listed below.

Water quality objectives set explicit criteria for meeting the plan's goals for several water quality parameters. The objectives identified in the plan for both surface waters and ground waters are listed below.

Goals and Objectives Related to the Watershed Plan

Beneficial Uses:

Municipal and Domestic Supply, Agricultural Supply, Industrial Service Supply, Industrial Process Supply, Groundwater Recharge, Freshwater Replenishment, Navigation, Hydropower Generation, Water Contact Recreation, Non-contact Water Recreation, Commercial and Sport Fishing, Aquaculture, Warm Freshwater Habitat, Cold Freshwater Habitat, Estuarine Habitat, Wildlife Habitat, Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance, and Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species.

Water Quality Objectives for Inland Surface Waters:

Bacteria, Biostimulatory Substances, Chemical Constituents, Color, Dissolved Oxygen, Floating Material, Oil and Grease, pH, Pesticides, Radioactivity, Salinity, Sediment, Settleable Material, Suspended Material, Tastes and Odors, Temperature, Toxicity, and Turbidity.

Water Quality Objectives for Groundwater:

Bacteria, Chemical Constituents, Radioactivity, Tastes and Odors, and Toxicity

**9. CITY OF PLACERVILLE STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*Date Adopted:* June, 2005

*Term:* None

*Parties involved:* City of Placerville, California  
California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Background

The City of Placerville is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills east of Sacramento. Urban runoff from areas located within Placerville City limits is primarily discharged to Hangtown Creek. Hangtown Creek is tributary to Weber Creek and the SFAR.

Purpose

The USEPA has established the following two-phased program to address storm water discharges from MS4s, and industrial and construction activities to surface waters (e.g., Hangtown Creek):

- The Phase I regulations require that storm water management programs be developed and implemented by Large MS4s (serving populations of 100,000 people or more), certain industrial activities and construction activities disturbing five acres or more.
- The Phase II regulations require that storm water management programs be developed and implemented by Small MS4s (serving populations of less than 100,000) and construction activities disturbing one acre or more.

In California, the federal storm water regulations for Small MS4s are being implemented through a national Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for Storm Water Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (General Small MS4

Permit), which was adopted on April 30, 2003 by the SWRCB. Placerville has been specifically designated by the RWQCB as the owner and operator of a Small MS4.

The main goal of the General Small MS4 Permit is to protect water quality from urban runoff pollution. This is accomplished by addressing the various ways storm water quality can be impacted by the public, municipal activities, development and redevelopment.

Applicable Water Resource Sections

The Stormwater Management Plan is written with the purpose of protecting local water resources, primarily water quality, from degradation due to urban runoff.

Goals and Objectives or Best Management Practices Related to the Watershed Plan

- BMP PE-1. Develop Educational Program. Identify existing or develop new educational and training materials that can be used to effectively educate the public, train employees and inform consultants and contractors regarding urban runoff.
- BMP PE-2. Educate the Public. Educate the public using educational materials.
- BMP PI-3. Local Watershed Input. Identify organizations and individuals interested in the local watershed and conduct meetings at least annually to obtain input.
- BMP ID-1. Legal Authority. Amend municipal code, as needed, to prohibit illicit non-storm water discharges to the City storm drainage system.
- BMP ID-3. Illicit Discharge Elimination. Develop and implement a program that will lead to the detection and elimination of illicit non-storm water discharges to the City of Placerville storm drainage system.
- BMP CS-1. Legal Authority. Amend municipal code, as needed, to require construction site operators to install and maintain adequate erosion and sediment controls to reduce pollutants in storm water runoff.
- BMP CS-2. Plan Review. Modify existing City of Placerville procedures, as needed, to assure construction plans and specifications are adequately reviewed to verify that erosion, sedimentation, and construction material and waste controls are adequate to reduce pollutants in storm water runoff.
- BMP PC-i. Legal Authority. Amend municipal code, as needed, to require that post-construction BMPs be considered during the planning and design process for new and remodeled improvements that involve the disturbance of one or more acres.
- BMP PC-2. Design Standards. Develop City of Placerville post-construction facility design standards that are suitable and effective for preventing post-construction storm runoff pollution from new development and redevelopment.

## 10. **AMADOR COUNTY GENERAL PLAN**

*Date Adopted:* 1973 (Currently being updated; new plan completed in 2008)  
*Term:* 20 years  
*Parties involved:* Amador County, California

### Background

California State Law requires each county to adopt a general plan "for the physical development of Amador County and any land outside its boundaries which ...bears relation to its planning" (Government Code Section 65300). The Amador County General Plan (ACGP) serves as Amador County's constitution guiding the physical use of the County's resources, and is the foundation upon which all land use decisions are made. This ACGP expresses the community's development goals and embodies public policy relative to the distribution of future public and private land use.

The Amador County Land Use Agency is currently developing a comprehensive update to the ACGP, and is preparing an EIR for the updated ACGP. The updated ACGP is expected to be completed in 2008.

### Purpose

The last comprehensive update of the ACGP was accomplished by updating the ACGP map in various study areas. This ten year map update process ended in 1991 with adoption of a new ACGP Map, but the text of the 1973 ACGP was not changed. The ACGP is routinely utilized by County staff, local Advisory Committees, Planning Commissioners, members of the Board of Supervisors, and community participants in considering development projects and capital expenditures.

The ACGP contains an introduction that provides an overview of fundamental land use issues important to the County, a list of broad and general goals that establish direction for Amador County, and a series of policies within each element.

### Goals and Objectives (for the new ACGP) Related to The Watershed Plan

#### Land Use:

- Include provisions to support preservation of agriculture and natural resources as well as wildlife habitat.
- Integrate new development with enhancement of water and wastewater systems.

#### Conservation/Open Space:

- Integrate the Amador County Water Plan and future updates into policy framework.
- Create policies to coordinate conservation easements with adjoining and future land uses.
- Develop ordinances to deal with grading and erosion control.

## 11. **EL DORADO COUNTY RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*Date Adopted:* 2001  
*Term:* Perpetual; until revised by local government  
*Parties involved:* El Dorado County, California

### Background

In response to landowner complaints about noise, trespassing, litter, and inadequate sanitation, El Dorado County banned whitewater recreation on parts of the SFAR by ordinance in 1976. This ordinance was later struck down by the State Court of Appeal and El Dorado County adopted a Stream and River Rafting ordinance in 1980. In 1981, El Dorado County began active management of commercial outfitters on the SFAR. El Dorado County then embarked on the development of survey and factual information to formulate a river management program. This effort consisted of property owner surveys, river user surveys, and coordination with representatives of responsible and interested agencies. An El Dorado County RMP and accompanying EIR were prepared in 1984. This plan was adopted by El Dorado County in 1984 as a chapter of the EDCGP's Recreational Element. The project EIR was also certified in 1984, and El Dorado County began the active management of whitewater recreation in and along the SFAR.

This RMP is the latest action in El Dorado County's ongoing interest in the preservation and enhancement of human and natural environments within the project area. Over the past 25 years, El Dorado County has banned, and then actively managed, whitewater recreation on the SFAR.

### Purpose

The El Dorado County RMP provides regulatory, plan, and policy guidance for El Dorado County's management of whitewater recreation and related activities along the 20.7 mile segment of the SFAR between the Chili Bar Dam and Salmon Falls Road in El Dorado County. These rules define and update El Dorado County's river management and reporting activities in accordance with El Dorado County Ordinance No. 4365. In addition to providing a set of operations rules for commercial and private boaters along the SFAR, the purpose of the RMP is to protect the environmental quality of the river; maintain the values sought by the river users and landowners; and to protect the public's safety, health, and welfare.

### Applicable Water and Land Resource Sections

Land use within this area of the SFAR is comprised of a mix of commercial, residential, industrial, agricultural, and recreational uses. Commercial rafting outfitters own, operate, and use campgrounds and parking and staging areas along portions of the river. In addition, a number of recreation-related and other small businesses are located in the area, predominantly near the communities of Coloma and Lotus. A number of private residences are located adjacent to the river and are dispersed throughout the area. Many residents living in this area enjoy the peaceful solitude associated with remote, low density locations.

The SFAR has long been subject to water resources development. Major diversions from the SFAR began in the early 1850s, primarily for mining. Much of the water from these early diversions was used only during winter and spring, when rainfall and snowmelt flows were adequate. However, agricultural demands and other consumptive uses developed in the basin. There has been a long history of water diversion, regulation, and import to the watershed. The SFAR has therefore not been in a true “unimpaired” or “natural flow” condition for about 150 years. The flow regime now, particularly during the summer and fall recreational season, is much more reliable and thus conducive to recreation than it would have been without development of water imports and regulated flows.

The flow regime of the SFAR between Chili Bar Dam and Folsom Reservoir is highly regulated. During summer and fall (the primary recreation season), flows are the product of river system regulation by SMUD. The sustained high monthly and mean daily flows during August, September, and October result primarily from reservoir regulation and import to the South Fork basin by the UARP.

The EDCGP is the primary land use document governing the SFAR project area. The EDCGP identifies a comprehensive set of goals, objectives, policies, and programs designed to direct El Dorado County’s growth, protect natural resources, and provide opportunities for economic growth and community development. The RMP is an implementing tool of the Parks and Recreation Element of the EDCGP, and is responsive to goals and policies identified in other EDCGP elements.

There are a number of applicable goals, objectives and policies that relate to the The Watershed Plan. The following is a synopsis of the elements that relate to water and land resources from the EDC RMP.

Goals and Objectives Related to The Watershed Plan

- Objective 1. Promote on-going community and user participations in river management.
- Objective 2. Provide adequate facilities and suitable services to support river-related activities, where there is a documented need to support such activities; protect the natural, cultural and human resource values of the river; and preserve the quality of life in the area and experience.
- Objective 3. Preserve and enhance the unique range of experiences and historic character of the river.
- Objective 5. Achieve a balance between countywide economic benefits, costs, and impacts associated with river recreation.
- Objective 6. Preserve and protect environmental and cultural resources.
- Objective 7. Enhance educational programs on river safety and etiquette, respect for private and public lands, natural and historical resources, and river rules and regulations.
- Objective 9. Enhance safety through education, enforcement, facilities, and coordinated rescue response.
- Objective 10. Promote adequate law and (rational) code enforcement to protect public health, safety, and welfare, property, and natural resources.

## **12. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT THE SOUTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*Date Adopted:* 2004  
*Term:* Perpetual, or until revised or amended by the Bureau of Land Management  
*Parties involved:* Bureau of Land Management

### Background

This document is the final version of the SFAR Management Plan (SFARMP), which will guide management activities on public lands along the SFAR between Salmon Falls Bridge and Chile Bar Dam.

The BLM long ago recognized the recreational values of the South Fork, and began acquiring property along the river that would benefit the public. To date, approximately 1,633 acres have been acquired by the BLM from people who wanted to sell to the Government. These lands are in addition to the approximately 2,531 acres of the original public domain along the river that have never been in private ownership. In 1996, El Dorado County initiated a planning process to update their 1984 SFARMP. At that time, the BLM made a decision to delay planning for the public lands within the river corridor until El Dorado County completed their plan. The BLM's intention was to wait, then produce a Federal plan that complemented El Dorado County plan since there is more private land subject to El Dorado County regulations than Federal land along the South Fork. Both plans have been completed.

The SFAR and adjacent lands provide opportunities for a wide variety of outdoor activities such as water-related activities, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, gold panning, bicycling, and camping, among others. Land-based recreational opportunities are somewhat limited because of the small size and scattered nature of the public lands. The SFAR has become one of the most heavily used rivers in America for white water rafting and kayaking.

### Purpose

This plan will guide the management of the public lands along the SFAR well into the future, allowing for public use and for protection of natural resources. It pertains only to Federal lands along the 21-mile stretch of the SFAR between Chili Bar and Salmon Falls Bridge in El Dorado County. It contains detailed information on how the Federal lands will be used and developed.

**Plan Organization:** The SFARMP is divided into three sections. The first is an overview of the entire river. The second section consists of general management direction and decisions that will be applied to more than one planning unit. The third section divides the public lands along the SFAR into seven distinct planning units to facilitate the planning process. Each planning unit is physically separated from other planning units by private property.

Applicable Water and Land Resource Sections

This entire plan is related to land management plans and policy and directly affect water resources in the SFAR.

Goals and Objectives Related to The Watershed Plan

There are a number of applicable goals, objectives and policies that relate to the The Watershed Plan. The following is a brief summary of the elements that relate to water and land resources.

*Lands* - It is the policy of the BLM to retain the public lands in the vicinity of the SFAR in Federal ownership, unless specifically stated otherwise. All acquired public lands along the SFAR have been withdrawn from the General Mining Law of 1872 for 50 years, and the original public domain lands are closed to mineral entry until 2007. The BLM will initiate procedures to extend the mineral withdrawal for public domain lands for 50 years.

The BLM shall make a reasonable effort to acquire additional property where it is clear the acquisition will enhance the public benefits currently available on the public lands.

*Bio-Diversity* - For the SFAR, encourage and maintain a mosaic of all habitat types common to the area and typical of this elevation in the western Sierra Nevada. This includes a variety of plant communities in different stages of succession.

*Riparian Communities* - All identified riparian communities will be protected to the greatest degree possible under the law to protect water quality and biological productivity. This will include perennial and intermittent streams as well as other wetlands. Riparian communities associated with artificial ponds on public lands will also be maintained.

*Trails* - In general, the BLM will construct trails in the different parcels to enhance recreational opportunities. Some of these will be multiple-use trails designed for more than one type of non-motorized user. Trails in areas such as the Dave Moore Nature Area will be more restrictive. The BLM shall avoid building trails that may lead to trespass on private property. The BLM will study the feasibility of a trail along the north side of the river between Chili Bar and Salmon Falls Bridge, and, if possible, work with the community to construct the trail.

*Roads* - The BLM will designate the public lands "Closed" to off-road vehicles, except at the access routes to designated parking areas. The Authorized Officer may allow use of off-road vehicles in closed areas for certain reasons, such as granting access to existing mining claims, administrative needs, or search and rescue situations.

*Threatened or Endangered Species* - By law, all plants or animals identified as Threatened or Endangered by the Federal Government or as Rare or Endangered by the State of California will be given special preference for protection and management. Species that are candidates for listing by either the Federal or State governments will also be given special attention.

*Timber Management, Sales and Harvest* - A conventional timber harvest is extremely unlikely along the SFAR, except possibly as part of a fuel reduction project. No standing tree, dead or alive, may be cut down without the approval of the BLM.

*Noxious Weed Control* - It is the policy of the BLM to eradicate populations of noxious weeds. Each parcel along the SFAR shall have a Noxious Weed Control Plan to expedite this policy. The principle weeds along the SFAR include scotch broom and star thistle.

*Fuels Management* - The BLM will actively manage the buildup of fuels with intent of protecting the public lands, private homes, property, and natural resources. The BLM shall prepare a fuels management plan for each planning unit except for the Ponderosa Parcel. The purpose of these plans shall be to reduce the potential for wildfire.

*Grazing* - No new grazing leases will be issued. Grazing will continue within the Dave Moore Planning Unit. Grazing may be used as a management tool to control invasive weeds, or to assist in the fuel reduction management program.

*Adaptive Management* - The BLM will follow the principles of Adaptive Management on the public lands of the SFAR. Basically, this means that if a management problem arises, the BLM will first propose the least restrictive solution to resolve the problem. If that doesn't work, then a more restrictive action will be taken. Essentially, the BLM will progress from the least restrictive solution to a problem to the more restrictive until the problem is resolved.

*Monitoring* - An active program of monitoring conditions will be instituted. The information from the monitoring program will be compared to baseline data to identify trends, and to evaluate progress in achieving management goals and objectives.

### **13. CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY FIRE PLAN**

*Date Adopted:* 1996  
*Term:* Perpetual; until revised by local government  
*Parties involved:* Cooperative effort between the California Board of Forestry and California Department of Forestry

#### **Background**

Public Resources Code Section 4130 outlines the responsibility of the Board of Forestry, which includes: classifying all lands within state responsibility areas based on cover, beneficial water uses, probable erosion damage and fire risks and hazards; determining the intensity of protection to be given each type of wildland; and preparing a fire plan to assure adequate statewide fire protection so that lands of each type are assigned the same intensity of protection. The California Fire Plan is the result and is the Board's approach to assessing the level of wildland fire protection.

The need to reduce the risk of wildland fires in California prompted the implementation of the California Fire Plan. Fire suppression over the past century has increased life,

property, resources and ecological losses; increased safety risks to firefighters; increased volumes of fuel per acre along with fire intensities; and has added to taxpayer costs and asset losses. Other factors that have contributed to this fire environment are more people are living and recreating in wildland intermix areas, which adds to the demand for — and value of — finite natural resources in the wildland, and increases ignition sources. Additionally, California's extended drought increased the dead and dying vegetation, the volumes of drier fuel per acre, and the number of days annually of lower humidity and fuel moisture. The continued set-asides of federal lands, without an aggressive pre-fire management program also limits fuel management and contributes to the annual fuel loading increases.

The California Fire Plan responds to the risks associated with this new fire environment by providing a fire protection system that will ensure natural resource protection and provide for an acceptable level of public health and safety. California Department of Forestry's (CDF) new system emphasizes prevention and minimization of risk and promotes better use of existing resources because of shrinking public revenues.

### Purpose

The primary purpose of the California Fire Plan is to protect the wide range of assets found on California's wildlands. These assets include life and safety, timber, range, recreation, water and watershed, plants, air quality, cultural and historic resources, unique scenic areas, buildings, wildlife, plants, and ecosystem health. In addition to goals and objectives, the California Fire Plan contains five major components that form the basis of an ongoing fire planning process (see below) to monitor and assess California's wildland fire environment in order to reduce the overall costs and losses from wildfire in the state.

### Applicable Water and Land Resource Sections

California has a complex fire environment, with multiple climates, landuse, diverse topography and many complex vegetation communities. To respond to this complex fire environment, custom strategies for each situation have been developed through combinations of pre-fire management, suppression, and post-fire management. These strategies are intended to lessen the costly impacts of future wildfires and offer alternatives to continually increasing suppression forces.

The five components that form the basis of the planning process in the Fire Plan include: 1) Wildfire protection zones; 2) Initial attack success to measure the level of service provided by the fire protection system for wildland fire; 3) Assets protection to establish a methodology for defining assets protected and their degree of risk from wildfire; and, 4) Prefire management to focus on system analysis methods that assess alternatives to protect assets from unacceptable risk of wildland fire damage and a fiscal framework to assess and monitor annual and long-term changes in California's wildland fire protection systems.

Chapter 4 of the plan describes the assets at risk to wildfire, including water and watersheds and describes the commodity and environmental values of water and watersheds and the effects of wildfire on these values. Some of the risks detailed are

increased amounts of sediment delivered to streams, diminished reservoir capacity, and harm to fisheries. This chapter also outlines the risks to rangelands, wildlife, habitat, plants, and ecosystem health.

### Goals and Objectives Related to The Watershed Plan

There are a number of applicable goals, objectives, and policies that relate to the The Watershed Plan. The following is a synopsis of the elements that relate to water and land resources from the California Fire Plan.

- Goal 1. The overall goal is to reduce total costs and losses from wildland fire in California by protecting assets at risk through focused pre-fire management prescriptions and increasing initial attack success.
- Objective 1. To create wildfire protection zones that reduce the risks to citizens and firefighters.
- Objective 2. To assess all wildlands, not just the state responsibility areas. Analyses will include all wildland fire service providers — federal, state, local government, and private. The analysis will identify high risk, high value areas, and develop information on and determine who is responsible, who is responding, and who is paying for wildland fire emergencies.
- Objective 3. To identify and analyze key policy issues and develop recommendations for changes in public policy. Analyses will include alternatives to reduce total costs and losses by increasing fire protection system effectiveness.
- Objective 4. To have a strong fiscal policy focus and monitor the wildland fire protection system in fiscal terms. This will include all public and private expenditures and economic losses.
- Objective 5. To translate the analyses into public policies.

## **14. AMADOR COUNTY FIRE HAZARD REDUCTION PLAN (FIRE PLAN)**

*Date Adopted:* 2004

*Term:* 5 years

*Parties involved:* County, State, and Federal Agencies and private companies

### Background

Due to aggressive fire suppression activities over the past fifty years, Amador County is at high risk of experiencing catastrophic wildfires. This increased potential for large catastrophic wildfires could destroy millions of dollars of private and public property. This risk continues to grow each year as chaparral and forest stands become denser and as fire suppression continues to exclude fire from the natural ecosystem. This problem has been exacerbated by the rapid population growth and residential building in Amador County's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas.

The Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC) began meeting in the fall of 2001 as a small group of homeowners and agency personnel concerned about fire hazard reduction and safety in Amador County. In June 2003, the AFSC was awarded a Community Bio-Mass Regeneration Planning Grant from the Forest Service, through the National Fire Plan (NFP), to produce this Amador County Fire Hazard Reduction Plan.

Purpose

The purpose of this fuels management plan is to identify high priority fuel reduction projects which will be undertaken by the AFSC during the next five years and to provide the basic information needed to establish priorities. The Plan identifies, prioritizes, and links fuel modification treatment areas in order to create “Fire Safe” communities.

Applicable Water and Land Resource Sections

The scope of this Fire Plan is county-wide and covers approximately 600 square miles. The Plan identifies the numerous agencies involved in fire prevention in the County and their responsibilities. It recommends 42 fuel reduction projects based on fuel rankings and other factors such as fuel types, topography, elevation, aspect, fire threat, and watershed boundaries.

Goal and Objectives Related to Watershed Plan

There are a few applicable goals, objectives and policies that relate to the The Watershed Plan. The following is a synopsis of the elements that relate to water and land resources from the Fire Plan.

- Goal 1. Identify and prioritize the most critical fuel reduction projects.
- Goal 2. Provide the AFSC with planning and background information to obtain grants and secure funds for future fuel reduction projects or other project work.
- Goal 3. Provide a summary of alternatives that are currently feasible to reduce fuels.

**15. EL DORADO COUNTY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN**

*Date Adopted:* 2004

*Term:* Perpetual; will be reviewed, updated in response to Strategic Planning Meetings

*Parties involved:* El Dorado County, Professional Foresters, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Eldorado nation Forest

Background

The Federal Register identified 17 Communities at Risk (CAR) of catastrophic wildfire in El Dorado County. The Land Use Map in the Draft EDCGP identifies 33 Rural Centers. These Rural Centers and CAR comprise the listings of communities for the El Dorado County Fire Safe Council (EDCFSC) to consider for NFP funding. The 2003 NFP and HFRA are providing the initial funds to prepare County Wildfire Protection Plans to reduce fuels in and around these communities.

The influx of people to El Dorado County and the building of homes in areas with hazardous fuels increased greatly over the past 15 years. The wildfire threat to lives and human property has increased due to this influx along with the extreme climatic conditions in the summer, which provide for catastrophic wildfire conditions. In response, El Dorado County initiated Fire Safe Planning for all new subdivisions and parcel splits. Since 1993, over 150 Fire Safe Plans have been prepared and approved by the appropriate fire protection agencies.

Purpose

The purpose of the El Dorado County Wildfire Protection Plan (WPP) is to reduce the damage and loss from wildfires by placing emphasis on what needs to be done before a wildfire starts. The Plan looks to reduce property losses, increase firefighter and resident safety and contribute to ecosystem health. The plan is a cooperative effort with the CDF and the ENF, agencies of El Dorado County, local Fire Protection Districts, and the EDCFSC.

Applicable Water and Land Resource Sections

The WPP identifies specific fire protection problems and issues; lists plan goals and strategic action plan recommendations; identifies and lists communities for Fire Safe Planning; provides for formation of local community Fire Safe Councils; adopts a standard outline for Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP); identifies the EDCFSC as a focal point for bringing citizens and protection agencies together to plan and accomplish fire safe measures; and establishes a public education role for the EDCFSC.

Goals and Objectives Related to The Watershed Plan

There are a few applicable goals, objectives and policies that relate to the The Watershed Plan. The following is a synopsis of the elements that relate to water and land resources from the WPP.

- Overall Goal 1: Reduce the number, size, and intensity of wildfires in El Dorado County.
- Goal 2: Work with county planners and supervisors to assure that Fire Safe concerns are heard and considered in the EDCGP.
- Goal 3: Promote land and fire management practices that support wildfire mitigation measures while maintaining healthy native vegetation, wildlife, soil, water, and landscapes.
- Goal 4: Provide assistance to communities to help homeowners protect their homes from wildfire.
- Goal 5: Support legislation that promotes fire safety.
- Goal 6: Provide information for communities preparing evacuation plans, and encourage planning.
- Goal 7: Provide educational opportunities for communities and cooperating agencies.
- Goal 8: Coordinate, cooperate, and (if feasible) collaborate with all agencies, districts, departments, and authorities involved in watershed, fuel reduction, evacuation route planning, and firefighting tasks.
- Goal 9: Help communities with planning and implementation of Fire Safe practices.
- Goal 10: To the extent feasible, address the fire safety needs of homes that are not a part of any established community.

## **16. FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION LICENSES PERTINENT TO THE SOUTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER WATERSHED MASTER PLAN**

### Summary

FERC license documents (available in table 3-2) describe the structures involved with water management and hydroelectric production, as well as the quantities of water, timing of flows and releases, water quality thresholds, and many other hydrologic details. Some of the licenses are 30 to 50 years old, and are in the process of being relicensed, while others are more recently relicensed. New licenses may be more detailed, but existing licenses do provide details of water management criteria (like minimum flows). The more recent license documents include public and stakeholder input as well as a greater attention to environmental resources, and are therefore more complex and more precise regarding water management direction. The FERC licenses are relevant to the Watershed Plan process because they establish terms and conditions related to minimum instream flows, water supply and electricity generation operations, water quality, flood protection, recreation, and riparian habitat. In some cases, project descriptions for relicensing are not yet available, therefore their relation to The Watershed Plan goals and objectives are somewhat indirect.

### Background and Purpose

#### *El Dorado Project (FERC #184):*

This project is a 21 MW water supply/power project that first began commercial operations in 1924, and recently completed relicensing in October 2006. The current license expires in 2046. The project is located on the SFAR, and is owned and operated by the EID. It involves lands in El Dorado, Alpine, and Amador counties. The relicensing agreement involves the Forest Service, United States Department of Interior, National Park Service, CDFG, Alpine County, Amador County, EDCWA, El Dorado Citizens for Water, Friends of the River, Trout Unlimited, Sierra Club, American Whitewater, Chris Shutes, and Paul J. Creger. No transmission lines are involved in the project, but the following facilities are included: Lake Aloha; Echo Lake; a conduit from Echo Lake to the SFAR; Caples Lake; Silver Lake; a diversion dam on the SFAR; a canal/tunnel conveyance system from the diversion dam to the Akin Powerhouse Forebay; a diversion dam on Alder Creek; diversion facilities at six small creeks along the conveyance system including Mill Creek, Bull Creek, Carpenter Creek, Ogilby Creek, Esmeralda Creek, and an unnamed creek; Akin Powerhouse Forebay; and a combination pipeline and penstock conveyance with surge tank from the forebay to the Akin Powerhouse (EID 2006).

#### *Upper American River Project (UARP) (FERC #2101):*

Located on the Rubicon River, Silver Creek, and SFAR, the UARP involves lands in El Dorado and Sacramento counties under BLM and ENF jurisdiction.

The UARP is a 688 MW hydroelectric project owned and operated by SMUD. It is composed of seven existing developments: Loon Lake, Robbs Peak, Jones Fork, Union Valley, Jaybird, Camino, and Slab Creek/White Rock, and one proposed new development: Iowa Hill Pumped-storage Development. The existing developments include 11 reservoirs that can store up to 425,000 acre-feet of water; eight powerhouses that generate an average of 1,830 GWh of power annually; 177.2 miles of transmission lines; 28 miles of power tunnels/penstocks; a 1.9 mile canal; and approximately 700 campsites. The relicensing application proposes a pumped storage facility that would include a new reservoir on Iowa Hill (PG&E 2005; SMUD 2005). A multi-party relicensing agreement was signed in 2007 for both the UARP and the Chili Bar project. FERC completed their NEPA review process in March 2008 and SMUD completed the CEQA review process in September 2008. SMUD anticipates receiving the new license by the end of 2009.

*Chili Bar Project (FERC #2155):*

The Chili Bar Project is a 7 MW hydroelectric project that is composed of Chili Bar Dam, Chili Bar Reservoir, and Chili Bar Powerhouse. This project is pertinent to lands in El Dorado County. The license is made up of the original FERC document as well as 12 subsequent FERC modifications. SMUD originally developed the Chili Bar Project, but transferred its interest to PG&E in 1965 as compensation for the loss of PG&E's American River Project (FERC Project #78). The Chili Bar Project is located on the SFAR, directly downstream of SMUD's UARP. Chili Bar Reservoir has no seasonal or long-term water storage capacity.

An application for relicensing has already been submitted to FERC by PG&E, and is described in two volumes (PG&E 2005). It should be noted that proximity and operations dictate that the Chili Bar Project and SMUD's Upper American River Project (FERC Project #2101) be managed cooperatively. Both projects have common stakeholders and issues. Two relicensing cooperation agreements (MOUs) define the common relicensing issues as "Overlapping Issues," which are generally related to flows into and out of Chili Bar Reservoir (PG&E 2005). A cooperation agreement between PG&E and SMUD, signed in 2007, outlines procedures for coordinated operations between the two utilities. The new license application does not propose new or modified project facilities, but does request permission to build a hiking trail from Rock Creek Road to the upper end of Chili Bar Reservoir (PG&E 2005).

*Rock Creek Project (FERC #3189):*

Located on Rock Creek, tributary to SFAR, the Rock Creek Project is a 3.6 MW hydroelectric project. Facilities include a six foot high dam, a 0.8 mile long water conduit, and a powerhouse containing two generating units situated approximately 200 feet upstream of the confluence of Rock Creek and the SFAR. The current license expires in 2033.

*29 Mile Creek Project (FERC #7931):*

This is a 0.3 MW hydroelectric project on an unnamed tributary to the SFAR. FERC transferred the license from the original holder to Eugene Mark Souza in 2000. The license includes a two foot high dam on the unnamed tributary, a 0.3 mile long penstock, and a powerhouse. The license expires in 2036 (PG&E 2005).

*Goals and Objectives Related to The Watershed Plan*

The FERC licenses, as a whole, prescribe the operation and management of hydropower and related water supply projects and affected river and terrestrial resources in the SFAR Watershed region. Although individual licenses address unique and site-specific goals and objectives, the list below describes the issues resolved among parties involved in modern FERC licenses. The FERC license represents binding agreements to uphold particular standards for the following issues:

- Water supply
- Minimum streamflows and in-stream flows
- Ramping rates
- Reservoir operations
- Creek restoration projects
- Monitoring and adaptive management programs
- Streamflow and reservoir gauging
- Water use and quality
- Aquatic resources
- Land management
- Noxious weed plan
- Flood control
- Recreation resource management
- Whitewater boating issues
- Botanical resource protection
- Wildlife resource protection
- Aesthetic and visual resource protection
- Historical and archaeological resources
- Road and trail access and facility management

**17. GEORGETOWN DIVIDE PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT, URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

*Date Adopted:* 2005  
*Term:* 5 years  
*Parties involved:* Georgetown Dive Public Utility District, California

*Background*

This 2005 UWMP addresses the Georgetown Dive Public Utility District (GDPUD). The Water District is a member of the EDCWA. The EDCWA was established by the EDCWA Act (California Water Code Appendix Section 96-1, et seq.). EDCWA consists of all the territory lying within the exterior boundaries of El Dorado County. The Board of Directors of the agency is composed of representatives from both the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and public water purveyors within the county. All land use planning and development approvals within the water district's boundaries are the responsibility of El Dorado County.

The Georgetown Divide is situated on the west slope of the Sierra Nevada foothills, approximately 45 miles northeast of Sacramento, California. It straddles a ridge which separates the drainage basin of the Middle Fork American River and the Rubicon River on the north from that of the SFAR on the south. The GDPUD sphere of influence is bounded on the north, south, and west by these rivers. Elevations vary from 500 feet at the southwestern boundary to 6,100 feet at Silver Hill on the eastern boundary. The relief varies from rolling foothills in the west to steep slopes and deep canyons in the upper elevations. The town of Georgetown is located at the top of the Divide at an elevation of 2,650 feet. The sphere of influence covers about 173,000 acres (270 square miles). The existing service area encompasses approximately 75,000 acres (112 square miles) with about 30,000 acres currently having some form of water service available. The GDPUD presently provides domestic water service to Georgetown, Buckeye, Garden Valley, Kelsey, Spanish Dry Diggins, Greenwood, Cool and Pilot Hill. The entire service area is located in the unincorporated area of El Dorado County. Through separate facilities, these same communities also receive untreated water for irrigation purposes.

*Purpose*

In accordance with the California UWMP Act, all California agencies providing water to more than 3,000 customers or more than 3,000 acre-feet of water per year are required to update their UWMP every five years and submit them to the DWR. The UWMP looks at historic and current water use projections and compares water supplies with demands over the next 20 years. The plan identifies the imported and local water supplies that will meet future demands including groundwater recovery and water recycling, as well as current and planned conservation measures. This helps to ensure that the GDPUD and the UWMP can provide the service area with a reliable supply of high-quality water and meet current and future demand.

*Applicable Water Resource Sections*

The primary source of water to the GDPUD is the Stumpy Meadows Project, which includes storage facilities (consisting of 11 storage tanks with a capacity of 3.35 million

gallons), diversion structures, and a conveyance system to the service area. It discharges into a concrete chute which rejoins Pilot Creek approximately 500 feet below the toe of the dam. Water is released into Pilot Creek and is re-diverted into the GDPUD water supply system by Pilot Creek Diversion Dam, two miles downstream of Edson Dam, near the mouth of Mutton Canyon Creek. The portion of the watershed above the diversion structure which is not included in the Stumpy Meadows Reservoir watershed is about 4.1 square miles. Diversion structures along the conveyance system, specifically the El Dorado Conduit, divert water from cross drainages between Mutton Canyon and Tunnel Hill. Some of the en-route drainage is also intercepted by the conveyance ditch. These en-route cross diversions provide minimal supplementary supply to the GDPUD system, and drain, in total, approximately three square miles; all above Tunnel Hill.

The GDPUD has no plans to use groundwater as a source of water to supplement the surface water source because local ground water resources are not of adequate quality or quantity to be a viable augmenting resource.

The GDPUD has two water treatment plants: the Walton Lake WTP is located four miles east of Georgetown; and the Auburn Lake Trails WTP is located in the Auburn Lake Trails subdivision.

The GDPUD is geographically separated from its neighboring water purveyors by the three forks of the American River, and therefore has no direct inter-ties with any adjoining water systems. Consequently, there is no immediate mechanism for the transfer of water into or out of the District through a mutual aid agreement, should the need arise.

The GDPUD's ongoing management practices and conservation programs to reduce losses in the water conveyance system by lining ditches with gunite, replacing ditches with pipelines, and improving operations that affect losses, will increase the effectiveness of the present water supply.

The primary tool in promoting water conservation is the water meter. This practice is recognized as sound urban water management practice as well as basic water conservation measure (DMM 4).

There is currently no recycled water being used in the GDPUD's service area and there are very limited opportunities in the area to use recycled water as there are no sewer systems on the Divide.

#### Goals and Objectives Related to the Watershed Plan

- The GDPUD UWMP identifies and quantifies the existing and planned sources of water available over the same five-year increments (to 20 years or as far as data is available).
- The GDPUD UWMP describes the reliability of the water supply and vulnerability to seasonal or climatic shortage, to the extent practicable.

- For any water source that may not be available at a consistent level of use, given specific legal, environmental, water quality, or climatic factors, the GDPUD UWMP describes plans to replace that source with alternative sources or water demand management measures, to the extent practicable.
- The GDPUD UWMP provides data for each of the following: (1) An average water year, (2) A single dry water year, (3) Multiple dry water years.
- The GDPUD UWMP describes opportunities for exchanges or transfers of water on a short-term or long-term basis.
- The GDPUD UWMP describes actions to be undertaken to prepare for, and implement during, a catastrophic interruption of water supplies including, but not limited to, a regional power outage, an earthquake, or other disaster.
- The GDPUD UWMP provides information on recycled water and its potential for use as a water source in the service area of the urban water supplier. The preparation of the plan is coordinated with local water, wastewater, groundwater, and planning agencies and includes a description of the wastewater collection and treatment systems in the service area.

## **18. SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY STRATEGIC PLAN**

*Date Adopted:* 2006  
*Term:* Five years  
*Parties involved:* Sierra Nevada Conservancy

### Background

The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is a State agency within the Resources Agency that was created in 2004. It was established with the understanding that the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada and its communities are closely linked and that the region would benefit from an organization providing a strategic direction. The SNC is charged with a broad mission to be accomplished through a variety of activities in collaboration and cooperation with various partners.

The SNC service area covers approximately 25 million acres, nearly 25% of California's land area, making it the largest conservancy in the State. The SNC jurisdiction includes the mountains and foothills of the Sierra Nevada range, and certain neighboring areas including the Mono Basin, Owens Valley, the Modoc Plateau and a part of the southern Cascade region including the Pit River watershed.

### Purpose

The 2006 SNC Strategic Plan will guide operations over the next five years. The SNC Strategic Plan describes the vision, mission and guiding principles of the SNC and provides a foundation for program development and activities to achieve the Conservancy's vision and mission. The vision for the future of the area is stated as: "The magnificent Sierra Nevada Region enjoys outstanding environmental, economic and social health with vibrant communities and landscapes sustained for future generations". The mission is identified as: "The Sierra Nevada Conservancy initiates,

encourages, and supports efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California”.

The purpose of the SNC is not only to support environmental preservation but assist the regional economy, preserve working landscapes and provide increased opportunities for tourism. It is intended to serve as an example of economy and environment in harmony. It prioritizes projects for implementation that address both its vision and its mission.

#### Applicable Water and Land Resource Sections

The SNC Strategic Plan identifies a set of operating principles, conditions under which programs will be carried out, strategies and goals for creating a successful organization, and programmatic goals and actions to implement various program objectives (see below).

An example of the types of projects and activities the SNC could consider to improve and enhance the region that are pertinent to the IRWMP include: funding projects (easements, critical acquisitions of high resource value lands, public lands maintenance and improvements); infrastructure (public transportation, water and wastewater systems); resources (hunting and fishing opportunities, interpretative scenic byways, bike trails, water and air quality, forest health and sustainable forestry, fuels reduction/fire safe activities; and technical assistance (local government land use planning, preservation of community character, cultural resources, historical buildings and settings, grant writing, promotion of tourism).

#### Goals and Objectives Related to the Watershed Plan

The statute creating the SNC provides for seven specific program objectives (also referred to as goals):

- 1) Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation.
- 2) Protect, conserve, and restore the region’s physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources;
- 3) Aid in the preservation of working landscapes;
- 4) Reduce the risk of natural disasters, such as wildfires;
- 5) Protect and improve water and air quality;
- 6) Assist the regional economy through the operation of the Conservancy’s program; and
- 7) Undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.

Each of these program areas contain many relevant actions that are listed in the Programmatic Goals section (see the water and air quality actions). Key objectives pertinent to the The Watershed Plan include:

- The SNC seeks to “add value” and build upon existing community and regional efforts.
- The SNC brings a regional focus to the issues of the Sierra Nevada, collecting and sharing information across the region and communicating the benefits and contributions of the region.

- The SNC encourages community-based solutions and will assist communities with technical expertise, information and resources necessary to achieve local solutions.
- The SNC uses the best available information and science in making decisions, identifying opportunities to fill information and technical gaps and building on and expanding community information.
- The SNC informs and educates the public throughout the region and the State about the important contributions the Sierra Nevada provides to all Californians, including supplying clean water for many uses outside the Sierra, access to world-class recreation and tourism and the production of a variety of important commodities.
- The SNC strives to identify and implement activities that result in integrated environmental, economic and social benefits rather than “either or” outcomes.