North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP)

Policy Review Panel (PRP) & Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC)
MEETING SUMMARY

April 16, 2015; 10 am – 3 pm
Holiday Inn Express, 707 Montague Road, Yreka

I Welcome, Introductions and Flag Salute

PRP Chair Jake Mackenzie convened the meeting at 10:05 am and welcomed all participants including State representatives. Meeting participant introductions were made (see attendee list below).

The following PRP members formed the quorum: Rohnert Park City Councilmember Jake Mackenzie, Trinity County Supervisor Morris, Del Norte County Supervisor Hemmingsen, Humboldt County Supervisor Lovelace, Mendocino County Supervisor McCowen, Mendocino County Supervisor Gjerde, Karuk Tribe Representative Leaf Hillman, Siskiyou County Supervisor Bennett, Siskiyou County Supervisor Haupt and Sonoma County Supervisor Carrillo

II Review and Approve Agenda

Unanimous

III Public Comment for items not on the agenda

None

IV Announcement from Chair Mackenzie

PRP Chairman Mackenzie stated that he had served for 10 years as Chair and Vice-chair of the NCRP. He went on to say that all of his political career prior to his work with the NCRP had been spent in the transportation sector. For the past 6.5 years he has been working with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the transportation planning, coordinating and financing agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. He was recently honored by being elected for a leadership appointment as the MTC Board Vice-chair. He has an ongoing passion for transportation, water, climate change, and open

space protection. He has decided to step down from the NCRP Policy Review Panel (PRP) so he can focus on his MTC policy responsibilities, which require a substantial time commitment.

V 84 IRWM 2015 IRWM Project Solicitation

After a legislative and policy overview by Grant Davis, Katherine Gledhill provided a brief presentation regarding the Proposition 84, Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 which provides $900 million in regional funds to be allocated to 11 California Funding Areas. The North Coast's allocation is $37 million with approximately $11M remaining. On March 13, 2015 the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the Draft 2015 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program Guidelines and Draft 2015 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for the last round of Proposition 84 funding. The final DWR 2015 IRWM Guidelines and 2015 PSP are expected to be released in late May 2015. Katherine provided a listing of eligible projects and key elements of the solicitation including increased opportunities for participation of economically disadvantaged communities. The meeting presentation can be found on the NCRP website at http://www.northcoastresourcepartnership.org/app_folders/view/8837

VI NCRP Project Review and Selection Process Guidelines & NCRP Proposition 84 2015 Project Application materials

TPRC Co-chair Wayne Haydon provided a presentation regarding the recent history of improvements to the project review and selection process. He described that during the NCRP Meeting in October 2014, the PRP directed staff to work with the TPRC and Executive Committee to develop improvements to the project review and selection process for consideration as an update to the NCRP Project Review and Selection Process Guidelines. A list of NCRP project review and selection process improvement recommendations and feedback was compiled from NCRP meetings, project proponents, a Tribal representatives meeting held on November 14, 2014 and from the TPRC Project Review de-brief meeting held on June 10, 2014 in Eureka. In November of 2014 staff provided this list of process improvements to the TPRC for additional input. Based on the input, updated Guidelines were provided to the TPRC for review in December 2014. Updated Guidelines were presented for review and discussion during the NCRP meeting in January 2015.

In response to the release of the draft IRWM Program Guidelines and Draft 2015 Proposal Solicitation Package, staff worked with the TPRC Co-chairs to update the NCRP Project Review and Selection Process Guidelines and develop the NCRP Proposition 84 2015 Project Application materials for review by the TPRC. On April 6, the TPRC met to discuss and revise the materials which were provided in the NCRP April meeting materials as:

- Attachment A - NCRP 2015 Project Review and Selection Process Guidelines
- Attachment B - NCRP 2015 Project Proposal Scoring Criteria
- Attachment C - NCRP Proposition 84 2015 Project Application materials

Wayne Haydon introduced the TPRC Recommendation: The NCRP TPRC recommends approval of the 2015 NCRP Project Review and Selection Process Guidelines, NCRP 2015 Project Proposal Scoring Criteria and the NCRP 2015 Project Application materials per Attachments A, B & C to allow for the commencement of the NCRP 2015 Project Solicitation and development of a regional NCRP 2015 Grant Application which is expected to be due to DWR in early August. The recommendation includes approval to allow minor changes made by staff with input from the TPRC Co-chairs to the NCRP Project Review and Selection Process Guidelines and NCRP 2015 Project Application materials, if necessary, to comply with the final DWR IRWM 2015 Guidelines and 2015 Project Solicitation PSP expected to be released in May. The meeting presentation and meeting materials can be found on the NCRP website at http://www.northcoastresourcepartnership.org/app_folders/view/8837

Motion: Supervisor McCowen moved to adopt the recommendation with minor edits as provided to the TPRC Co-chairs and as needed.

Second: Supervisor Morris

Unanimous

TPRC Co-chair Sandra Perez provided a presentation regarding the TPRC's request for PRP consideration and direction on two items. The meeting presentation and meeting materials can be found on the NCRP website at http://www.northcoastresourcepartnership.org/app_folders/view/8837

- Scoring Criteria for Projects that Address Long-Term Drought Conditions
- Special Regional Consideration for NCRP 2015 Project Solicitation

Scoring Criteria for Projects that Address Long-Term Drought Conditions

Sandra Perez introduced the TPRC recommendation giving preference to projects that effectively address long-term drought preparedness by providing a weighting factor of 2 to the Drought Preparedness scoring criteria, allowing up to 10 out of 75 points to drought preparedness projects. See Attachment C for the proposed NCRP 2015 Project Proposal Scoring Criteria.

Motion: Supervisor Carrillo moved to accept the TPRC drought recommendation

Second: Supervisor Morris

Discussion: Supervisor Hemmingsen expressed concern that drought projects had already been addressed during the 2014 IRWM Drought solicitation.

Unanimous

Special Consideration for NCRP 2015 Project Solicitation

Sandra Perez provided background information and stated that the TPRC requested clarifying direction about how to interpret PRP direction provided to the TPRC during the April 17, 2014 NCRP meeting. At this meeting, the PRP directed that the NCRP 2014 Drought Solicitation grant would be considered

phase one of two funding phases. Their intention in creating two linked funding phases was to ensure regional representation in project selection for the remaining Proposition 84 Implementation funding. The PRP's direction states that during the final 2015 Proposition 84 Implementation Funding round, project selection will take into account the location of the NCRP 2014 Drought Projects. Following is a table depicting the NCRP 2014 Drought Projects and funding amounts per county and Tribal region.

County / Tribal Region	**Funding Amount**	**Percentage**
Del Norte County	$438,060	5.30%
Humboldt County	$1,531,700	18.53%
Mendocino County	$4,558,293	55.15%
Modoc County	$0	0.00%
Sonoma County	$1,310,573	15.86%
Siskiyou County	$0	0.00%
Tribal - Northern Region	$201,770	2.44%
Tribal - Central Region	$0	0.00%
Tribal - Southern Region	$0	0.00%
Trinity	$224,604	2.72%
	$8,265,000	**100.00%**

Discussion: The PRP discussed the TPRC request and reconfirmed the past direction provided by the PRP to not allocate a percentage by county or Tribal area, but consider regional representation over the two funding rounds. It was stated that the best projects were funded during the 2014 Drought round but the intent was to calibrate regional equity across the two funding phases of Round 3 and provide parity during this final round of Proposition 84 funding.

Motion: Supervisor McCowen moved to reconfirm the direction to the TPRC to take into account the location of the NCRP 2014 Drought Projects when developing their project portfolio recommendation for the NCRP 2015 Project funding round.

Second: Supervisor Hemmingsen

Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donna Rupt requested information regarding the NCRP 2015 Project solicitation and was referred to NCRP staff.

VII Presentation: Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan

Marcus Trotta, Hydro-geologist, Sonoma County Water Agency provided a presentation regarding the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Management Plan and planning process which involved local stakeholder groups and interested parties. The meeting presentation can be found on the NCRP website at http://www.northcoastresourcepartnership.org/app_folders/view/8837

VIII Presentation: DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Mary Randall, Regional Coordinator at the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), Northern Region Office, provided a presentation regarding the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. The meeting presentation and handouts can be found on the NCRP website at http://www.northcoastresourcepartnership.org/app_folders/view/8837

Supervisor Carrillo stated that this act is most important legislation that California has enacted in many years. The act will require the coordination and input from local stakeholders in groundwater management.

IX Strategic Growth Council Sustainable Communities Planning Grant

Karen Gaffney, West Coast Watershed, provided a presentation and status update on the Strategic Growth Council Sustainable Communities Planning Grant (SGC grant) and progress since the last NCRP meeting, including research, contract process for technical experts, interviews with agency staff, and review of other relevant plans. She noted that the SGC grant is meant to address AB 32 and SB 275 with the intent of reducing GHG emissions while achieving other community benefits. Because rural communities are exempt from the requirements of this legislation yet may benefit from future funding related to it, the North Coast has an opportunity to interpret how this legislative intent is applied to the region. The Strategic Growth Council and Department of Conservation appear to be supportive of the NCRP's diverse focus and will be looking to the NCRP to create an innovative program for rural areas. It is an opportunity for the NCRP to build on its existing successes and integrated work over the last ten years to enhance long term economic, community and environmental health for the region.

i. Status Update

Karen Gaffney described the work on the project to date which included: working closely with Humboldt County team to set up the program; conducting meetings with Strategic Growth Council staff, Department of Conservation, Air Resources Board, Governors Office of Planning and Research, and Resources Agency staff; developing a draft outline, ; issuing a Request for Proposals for technical consultants; and developing an approach for interviews with PRP, TPRC, stakeholders, project proponents, agencies and experts.

ii. Round-table discussion: North Coast Vision and Opportunities Moving Forward

Judy Morris facilitated a round-table discussion regarding the objectives for the grant and highest priorities for the North Coast. Following are some key points from the discussion.

- North Coast forests are reverting back to forests with excessive undergrowth that is creating the potential for catastrophic wildfires. The North Coast needs to explore and develop a productive use for biomass. Small/medium biomass energy facilities could be developed to provide energy to existing CCAs such as Sonoma Clean Power. Communities need funding to assist with making biomass energy economically feasible.
- The NCRP should develop strategies to help the timber industry to treat excess biomass as something other than waste such as biomass energy, biochar and other manufacturing uses for hardwood species such as tan oak, etc. Mill sites could be considered high priority sites for restoration.
- Asset evaluation is critically important in terms of natural capital valuation.
- Automobile usage should be re-framed as GHG emission reduction or removed
- Increased focus on the energy/water nexus and promoting demonstration projects.
- Climate change adaptation planning is an important goal and should include the improvement of air and water quality, water quantity and protection of Tribal resources by utilizing traditional ecological knowledge.
- The NCRP should prioritize common goal issues as all issues addressed will provide an economic opportunity. It is important to focus on integration of these goals, to avoid setting up an economy vs. environment conflict. There was a suggestion to add an objective about the integrated approach to the goals.
- The goals need to be reordered and collapsed.
- Develop plan performance measures with quantifiable metrics to track success of the planning effort including jobs and renewable energy.

iii. Consider Name for SGC grant: discuss options

The SGC grant application was approved by the PRP and was submitted with the following name: *Healthy Communities, Functional Watersheds and Viable Economies.*

PRP Direction: To form a SGC committee that will consider name options and report back to the PRP during the NCRP meeting in July.

iv. Ad Hoc Committee

The NCRP PRP convened an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of TPRC and PRP members including Supervisor Gjerde, Supervisor Lovelace and Toz Soto to provide the following:

a) Review and refine the SGC goals and objectives

b) Consider Name for SGC products

c) Development of criteria for the award of sub-grants to Tribes, counties or their designees

d) Technical review of plan sections prior to review by the full PRP and TPRC and public

Other committee members may be added based on interest expressed by PRP and TPRC members. This committee will be disbanded at the end of the grant period.

v. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

X Updates

i. Legislative News

Ann DuBay, Community & Governmental Affairs Manager, Sonoma County Water Agency provided an update on the following topics:

Proposition 1 Guidelines. The Water Bond Coalition and others including the NCRP have developed comment letters that include the following recommendations: to allow fewer grant rounds and more funding in each round; DWR should allow federal funds distributed by state agency to be used as matching funds; 5% retention for each project instead of larger retentions

Pending Bills:

- AB 935 – This bill would require the department to provide grants and expenditures, consistent with an integrated regional water management plan, for the planning, design, and construction of local and regional conveyance projects that support regional and interregional connectivity and water management and provide certain benefits.
- SB 471 – This bill would require the state board, in cooperation with various other agencies, to develop an emissions inventory of greenhouse gas emissions from the water system in the state, using best available data. The bill would provide water recycling, wastewater treatment, water end-use efficiency, water technology improvements, best management practices, and other projects that reduce water system greenhouse gas emissions shall be eligible for funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. The bill would also make legislative findings and declarations, and a statement of legislative intent, with regard to the nexus between water and energy and water and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- SB 664 – This bill would require an integrated regional water management plan to additionally address identification and consideration of the seismic vulnerability of water infrastructure within the boundaries of the plan.

Pacific Fisheries Recovery fund provides $17 million in federal funding per year in California for salmonid restoration. The funding requires a state match and Proposition 1 funding can help to provide this. Grant Davis suggests that the NCRP develop a letter of support for Pacific Fisheries Recovery fund;

Margie Graham suggests that we include mention that the SRF funding often is a critical source for matching funds.

ii. North Coast Tribal Engagement Update

Javier Silva, Environmental Director, Sherwood Valley Tribal Environmental Program provided an update regarding the Tribal engagement in the North Coast and noted that the funding that allowed for this work ended in February. He thanked the NCRP Executive Committee for including traditional ecological knowledge as an innovative project option into the Proposition 1 Guidelines comment letter to DWR.

iii. Cannabis Ad Hoc Committee Update

Supervisor Morris, Ad Hoc Committee Chair provided an update on cannabis legislation, regional planning efforts and the ad hoc committee. The Cannabis ad hoc committee is comprised of Supervisor Lovelace, Supervisor Gjerde, Supervisor McCowen and Javier Silva.

Supervisor Morris described that a number of bills are moving forward on this issue including California A.B. 243, Marijuana Watershed Protection Act by Assembly Member Jim Wood. This bill would ensure that medical marijuana farms are using best practices while cultivating and would minimize their impact on natural resources by requiring the Regional Water Quality Control Board to develop environmental protection regulations to address environmental and water impacts of indoor and outdoor medical marijuana growing operations. An amendment had been added recently that increased the scope of the legislation. Supervisor McCowen informed the group that during the committee hearing on April 15, Wood agreed to withdraw the recent amendment and include a statement of intent in its place.

Supervisor Morris reported that a five county coalition of Mendocino, Trinity, Humboldt, Del Norte, Sonoma, and Lake counties had been formed to develop a collective policy statement on the issue. The policy statement will go before each respective Board of Supervisors for adoption sometime in late spring. The statement supports a statewide regulatory framework that provides the resources and allows local agencies and governments to regulate and enforce the framework in the manner that is best for the local jurisdiction.

PRP and TPRC members expressed interest in the policy statement and suggested that it might be something that the NCRP and/or individual stakeholders may want to support.

iv. Regional Administrator Update

Hank Seemann, Public Works Director, Humboldt County conveyed a commitment for continuity of service, including all administrative elements of the NCRP. He explained that Devin Theobald will be conducting many of the day–to-day project management tasks. Devin reported that currently Humboldt County manages 37 implementation projects, and has invoiced over $32 of $45 million awarded to the NCRP to date. Sub-grantee agreements for the 2014 drought projects are expected to be in place in June and will represent an additional 13 projects (and $8.7 million) to manage.

v. Executive Committee, PRP direction and staff action

Executive Committee Action documents and materials can be found at:
http://www.northcoastresourcepartnership.org/app_folders/view/6947

The NCRP Executive Committee met on March 16, 2015 to discuss PRP direction items per the NCRP Meeting in January, 2015 and to review the NCRP Quarterly Meeting Agenda and Materials for April 16, 2015.

During the January 15 NCRP meeting, the PRP authorized the Executive Committee to take necessary actions to provide input on behalf of the NCRP as implementing legislation is developed and to direct staff to set up meetings in Sacramento with key legislators and agency staff to deliver common messages and promote NCRP goals and objectives.

- On February 10th, Chair Mackenzie, Supervisor Morris and Karen Gaffney met with Senator McGuire, Assembly Member Wood and Senator Wolk's staff and all expressed support for the NCRP and North Coast communities. Chair Mackenzie also testified at the Assembly Water, Parks & Wildlife Committee hearing about suggestions pertaining to Proposition 1 funding timing and project type.

- On April 7, the Executive Committee sent a comment letter to Senator Wolk, Chair of the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy & Transportation regarding the timing of Proposition 1 funding rounds.

- The Executive Committee is developing an input and comment letter to DWR regarding proposed definitions of Proposition 1 Bond language, timing of funding and contract administration improvements to be considered during the Proposition 1 IRWM program guideline development.

On March 13, staff and TPRC members presented at the Annual Salmonid Restoration Conference:

The Continuum of Conservation: Achieving Long-term Ecosystem Goals through Integrated Programs and Diverse Partnerships. Session Coordinator: Karen Gaffney

The North Coast Resource Partnership: Multiple Benefits for Watersheds & Communities. Jen Jenkins Kuzmar, County of Humboldt, and Toz Soto, Karuk Tribe, Fisheries Program

XI NCRP Chair Nominations and Elections

Motion: Supervisor McCowen moved to nominate Supervisor Morris as PRP Chair.

Unanimous

XII Award Resolutions

Resolutions were awarded to Jennifer Kuszmar and Jake Mackenzie with words of gratitude and congratulations. The resolutions can be found on the NCRP website at http://www.northcoastresourcepartnership.org/app_folders/view/8837

XIII PUBLIC COMMENT

XIV Next NCRP meeting date: July 2, 2015, Weaverville

XV ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 3 pm.

Meeting Participants

Policy Review Panel Members
Chair: Jake Mackenzie, Council Member, City of Rohnert Park, Sonoma County
Vice-Chair: Supervisor Judy Morris, Trinity County
Supervisor Gerry Hemmingsen, Del Norte County
Supervisor Mark Lovelace, Humboldt County
Supervisor John McCowen, Mendocino County
Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County
Leaf Hillman, Karuk Tribe, Northern District
Supervisor Grace Bennett, Siskiyou County
Supervisor Ray Haupt, Siskiyou County
Supervisor Efren Carrillo, Sonoma County

Technical Peer Review Committee Members
Co-Chair: Sandra Perez, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County
Co-Chair: Wayne Haydon, Certified Engineering Geologist, Sonoma County
Javier Silva, Sherwood Valley Rancheria, Central District
James Barnts, Director of Public Works, Del Norte County
Hank Seemann, Deputy Director, Environmental Services, Public Works Department, Humboldt County
Toz Soto, Karuk Tribe, Northern District
Marilyn Seward, City of Etna, Siskiyou County
Richard Tinsman, Planning Division, Siskiyou County
Dale Roberts, Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County
Wes Scribner, Weaverville Community Services District, Trinity County

Others
Bill Ehorne, Department of Water Resources
Marcus Trotta, Sonoma County Water Agency
Ann DuBay, Sonoma County Water Agency
Margie Graham, Department of Water Resources
George Rinehart
Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency
Mary Randall, Department of Water Resources
Donna Rupt
Ric Costales, Siskiyou County

Staff
Hank Seeman, Humboldt County
Devin Theobald, Humboldt County
Katherine Gledhill, West Coast Watershed
Karen Gaffney, West Coast Watershed