



## **North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) Policy Review Panel (PRP) & Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) Meeting SUMMARY**

**Friday, October 19, 2018; 10 am – 3:30 pm**

**Weaverville Victorian Inn, 2051 Main St, Weaverville, CA**

### **I Opening Tribal Prayer and Welcome**

NCRP PRP Vice-Chair, Leaf Hillman, Director of Natural Resources, Karuk Tribe

### **II Welcome and Introductions**

NCRP PRP Chair, Judy Morris, Trinity County Board of Supervisors convened the meeting at 10:05 am and welcomed all attendees. She acknowledged a number of attendees and welcomed them including:

- New Tribal representatives: PRP Central District Alternate: Emily Moloney, Water Quality & GIS Specialist, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria and Northern District TPRC Alternate: Megan Van Pelt, Natural Resources Director, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation
- New Mendocino County TPRC member: Joe Scriven, Project Manager/Fisheries Biologist, Mendocino RCD

She also stated that this is Humboldt County Supervisor Ryan Sundberg's last meeting. She plans to attend a Humboldt County Board meeting in late fall to express the NCRP's appreciation. She also mentioned that Javier Silva is no longer on the TPRC, but is working as a consultant with Sherri and the California Environmental Indian Alliance implementing the NCRP Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Program.

She thanked legislative and agency panelists for taking time out of their busy schedules:

- CA State Assemblymember Jim Wood
- Bruce Ross, District Director for CA State Assemblymember Brian Dahle
- John Driscoll, District Representative for US Congressman Jared Huffman
- Tom Weseloh, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture Representative for CA State Senator Mike McGuire
- Keali'i Bright, Deputy Secretary for Climate and Energy, California Natural Resources Agency
- Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor, Department of Water Resources
- David Bunn, Director, California Department of Conservation
- Nuin-Tara Key, Resilience Program Manager, Governor's Office of Planning and Research
- Jenny Lester Moffit, Undersecretary, California Department of Food & Agriculture

She welcomed other state agency staff that were attending:

- Eric Martinez, Grant Manager, DWR

- Maks Khashchuk, Project Manager, DWR
- Ian McFadden, State Water Resources Control Board
- Clayton Creager, Regional Water Quality Control Board

She also thanked Sonoma County Water Agency for their on-going support and Humboldt County for their dedication to service to project sponsors and administering the NCRP projects.

The following PRP members formed the quorum:

- Chair: Supervisor Judy Morris, Trinity County
- Vice-Chair: Leaf Hillman, Director of Natural Resources, Karuk Tribe
- Executive Committee member: Brandi Brown, Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo
- Executive Committee member: Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County
- Edwin Smith, Tribal Council Vice-Chair, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, Central District
- Alternate, Emily Moloney, Water Quality & GIS Specialist, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria
- Alternate: Supervisor Bob Berkowitz, Del Norte County
- Supervisor Ryan Sundberg, Humboldt County
- Supervisor Mike Wilson, Humboldt County
- Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County
- Supervisor John McCowen, Mendocino County
- Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, Sonoma County
- Alternate: Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency

### **III Review and Approve Agenda**

**Motion:** Supervisor John McCowen

**Second:** Supervisor Carre Brown

**Unanimous**

### **IV PUBLIC COMMENT for items not on the agenda**

none

### **V LOCAL PROJECT PRESENTATION: South Fork Trinity River — Spring Run Chinook Salmon Restoration Project**

Aaron Martin, Habitat Restoration Biologist, Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program and Josh Smith, Watershed and Fisheries Program Director, Watershed Research and Training Center provided a presentation about the implementation of a project that included a partnership between a local non-profit and Tribe funded in part by the NCRP 2015 IRWM Funding. The presentation can be found at <https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/news/>

### **VI 2018 Fire Season Round Robin: NCRP PRP & TPRC Members**

NCRP PRP Chair Judy Morris initiated a “round robin” and following summarizes the roundtable discussion.

- Wes Scriber described the Lewiston CSD projects that included water meters, fire hydrant installation and an intertie project which was completed in fall of 2018. On Christmas eve one of the wells failed and the CSD was able to fully utilize the intertie connection. In July when one of the storage tanks failed the two systems became fully connected. Later in the summer the Carr fire required a full evacuation of the town of Lewiston and the combined system was able to provide the helicopters with over 2 M gallons of water to help with the fire

suppression efforts. Lewiston Fire Chief and CSD Board member, Mel Gibson who reiterated that this project really paid off and enabled the CSD to really help save the Lewiston community and area around it.

- There were early season fires in high elevations and were able to work with fire agencies to allow the fires to burn out naturally in remote areas.
- In some parts of the region, analysis has shown that areas that had 60 trees/acre in the 1940s now have 1600/trees acre.
- We all need to think about defensible space for watersheds and communities. There is a need to protect whole communities and watersheds. State parks and federal public lands need better planning and cooperation for fire management. Fire coordination needs to happen proactively. We do not have a fire season anymore it is with us all time. It was acknowledged that every fire season creates an emotional state of perpetual fear. Sonoma County is trying to use this time to proactively plan and manage. There is a sense of urgency.
- There is no single action that will work for all fires. We need to work at watershed level but need to avoid simplifying the solutions. Example thinning may be effective in some areas and in other forests it would make things worse. Fire science is complex.
- Fire practitioners know that detailed knowledge about forest conditions and location is important but larger groups need to think about it in easier terms; there has been great progress on this front and today represents a good example of collaboration. Education needs to continue to explain how complex the solutions are. One key solution is working together collaboratively.
- We need to also consider the lingering smoke and the health issues related to longer fire seasons and backlit fires.
- Assemblymember Wood has been working hard to bring funding to this region to address this issue and we appreciate his efforts. Gratitude to CalFire was also expressed for all their work.

## **VII LEGISLATIVE UPDATES: WATERSHEDS, COMMUNITIES & FIRE RESILIENCY**

Panel Chair: NCRP PRP Chair Judy Morris welcomed Assemblymember Jim Wood and staff from the offices of Congressman Huffman, Assemblymember Dahle and Senator McGuire.

### **CA State Assemblymember Jim Wood**

AB 2551 – passed in September 2018, allows for landowners to get funding up front to encourage forest resource improvements and otherwise facilitate good forest land management; this bill allows authorized organizations to conduct joint prescribed burning operations that serve the public interest and are beneficial to the state; and authorizes the Natural Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency to jointly develop and submit to the Legislature a specified plan for forest and watershed restoration investments in the drainages that supply the Oroville, Shasta, and Trinity Reservoirs.

SB 901 – passed in September 2018, a was joint bipartisan effort with Assamblymember Dahle who has a long history of working on CSAC and is great source of information. This bill would revise the Budget Act of 2018 to provide that the \$25,000,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund shall be appropriated to support activities directly related to regional response and readiness including predisaster response for 5 years. The bill requires that conservation easement holdings of forest land will manage these lands to improve forest health to provide resilient, long-term carbon sequestration and net carbon stores as well as watershed functions, to provide for the retention of larger trees and a natural range of age classes. The bill also stipulates that the State Air Resources Board, in consultation with CalFire, need to measure and report the smoke emissions from wildfire. This bill would require CalFire to create a Wildfire Resilience

Program to assist nonindustrial timberland owners with wildfire resilience efforts by providing technical assistance, including with the permitting process. Other provisions include fuel break management; allowing exceptions to CEQA for federal lands that have NEPA; and biomass management. Wood and Dahle are planning to work together to address biomass and fuel load reduction challenges.

**Tom Weseloh, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture Representative for CA State Senator Mike McGuire**

SB 833 – this bill, on or before July 1, 2019, would require the Office of Emergency Services to develop voluntary guidelines for alerting and warning the public of an emergency, including wildfire.

SB 896 – This bill would extend existing aggravated arson offense until January 1, 2024, and would increase the threshold of property damage to \$8,300,000.

SB 1453 - extends the statute of limitations for illegal conversions of timberland to agricultural uses from one year to three years; will help with watershed health

Silver linings on the smoke related to the Carr Fire is that the Trinity River flows were up this year which is great for the fish. Smoke from fires, cools the stream which is good for fish – Tribal communities know this practice.

**Bruce Ross, District Director for CA State Assemblymember Brian Dahle**

Bruce Ross lives in Redding and is concerned about how the Carr Fire's destruction is going to be felt for years to come by wrecking small water systems because of the increased sedimentation and erosion along Weaverville Lake. He struggles to figure out how to make sure the small communities have access to funding. Every reform we make, is always responding to mistakes of the past. Environmental groups often make it really hard to reform – sometimes we need to understand that the processes that were put in place to protect forest have backfired and we need to make changes. The Forest Practice Rules have become too cumbersome. We hope that fed/state lands can work together to streamline permitting.

**John Driscoll, District Representative for US Congressman Jared Huffman**

Jimmy Smith would be proud of what this group has accomplished.

Federal fire borrowing is a concern. The Forest Service has to spend its budget down when fire breaks out and then diverts funds from non-fire-related accounts to pay to fight fire and so fire preparedness suffers. Beginning in 2020 when reforms are in place, the agency can tap a separate wildfire disaster account after it exceeds its fire budget. Reforms have been a bipartisan effort and is supported by TNC and NACO. The legislation allows for funding for fire resiliency projects, and allows projects to speed through the NEPA process, a prioritizes projects in urban/rural interface.

Jared Huffman introduced sweeping public lands legislation aimed at guarding communities against wildfires and protecting public lands. The bill would conserve more than 260,000 acres of public land as wilderness areas by expanding nine existing ones and creating eight new ones. The bill would also designate almost 400 miles of new wild and scenic rivers, and special restoration area of more than 730,000 acres in the South Fork Trinity River, Mad River and North Fork Eel River watersheds.

**Discussion:**

The one size fits all approach does not work. Wholistic approaches are the only way to approach this. Community level defensible space requires project/programs at a larger scale. Biomass removal is a pickle – we may need to bring back

biomass incentives and create market forces. NCRP is ideal identity to bring in projects and do the technical assistance review to determine the best projects. Recently Calfire funding went out to communities in the normal budget cycle through competitive grants to individual entities. The NCRP needs a block grant to make this work for the North Coast and to leverage the local expertise and collaborative partnership.

## **IX STATE AGENCY UPDATES & PRIORITIES**

NCRP Chair Judy Morris welcomed Keali'i Bright, and stated that he would set the stage for State priorities related to forest health, climate resiliency and rural community benefits.

### **Panel Chair: Keali'i Bright, Deputy Secretary for Climate and Energy, California Natural Resources Agency**

Keali'i Bright stated that there is a pent of need for action in Sacramento – we see an opening this year to tackle these issues. Why are seeing this political opportunity? The experience of this room is seen throughout California and the climate science tells us a fearful story in terms fire forecast - creating an opportunity for action. The governor is obsessed with the health of California's forest and hopes to draw connections between climate adaptation and forest health. The state is trying to work through these difficult issues through the Forestry Task Force, where we are grappling with how best to implement regional plans and move away from granting to individual entities. We want to encourage regional by-in and are keen on building regional capacity through block grants and to develop regional partners. The work that we are doing in climate change adaptation needs to be supported by Traditional Ecological Knowledge strategies. Within our privately-owned working lands, we need to educate and implement BMPs and RCDs are the traditional entity working with private owners. A recent legislative analyst report stated that the IRWM model was an effective method to organize and implement regional programs.

### **David Bunn, Director, California Department of Conservation**

The California Department of Conservation currently has planning grants and technical assistance grants available. The DOC is reinstating the Watershed Coordinator program. It is the time to work with DOC to develop implementation PSPs. This year the DOC has a modest budget, but if Prop 3 passes there will be more. David encouraged the NCRP to engage their department and stated that they expect to have more money than they have ever had. He discussed some of the emerging DOC programs:

- TerraCount is a scenario planning tool for cities, counties, districts, and other land use planners and decision-makers. TerraCount models the greenhouse gas (GHG) and natural resource implications of different development patterns and management activities. TerraCount allows planners to evaluate the application of management activities including agricultural activities such as cover cropping, restoration activities such as riparian restoration, and avoided conversion such as avoided conversion of agricultural land to development. TerraCount provides reporting for how these activities affect a suite of co-benefits. (excerpted from <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/terraccount/>)
- In land protection the California Geological Survey completed the slide threat for fire impacted areas to help with the winter planning
- The DOC is rethinking conversation easements as defensible space buffers around communities to allow barriers on the perimeters to prevent house developments and wants to develop programs to support this effort,

### **Jenny Lester Moffit, Undersecretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture**

Jenny Lester Moffitt described various USDA programs that help to protect natural resources. They have a state-wide water fertilization and water efficiency program for direct on-farm efficiency projects creating 33 billion gallons of water savings each year. They have a lot of partnerships with RCDs and Tribal communities. The Governor released a

biodiversity executive order to convene a biodiversity working group to work with regional groups to implement the Biodiversity Plan including pollinator science research. They also have soil health programs to implement BMPs to encourage soil health including alternative manure management programs that use manure instead of see it as a waste product. The department also provides technical assistance throughout all the programs.

### **Anecita Agustinez, Tribal Policy Advisor, Department of Water Resources**

Anecita applauded the NCRP for the standard established for inclusivity of local Tribes. There was a Tribal caucus that met after the Plenary in October to assist DWR in its development of a new guidance document that will provide advice about how to better engage Tribes in the IRWM program and other state programs. She is working with DWR to provide a way for Tribes to coordinate across the state, modelled after the Roundtable of Regions. She described the DWR DAC mapping tool as lacking. Her goal is provide trainings for GIS for Tribal entities so they can use GIS mapping for emergency planning and protection of cultural resources. Even in the North Coast there are problems with contract administration at the local level.

### **Nuin-Tara Key, Resilience Program Manager, Governor's Office of Planning and Research**

Nuin-Tara manages the climate adaptation work at OPR and hopes to better align local and state climate adaptation actions while also identifying ways to address barriers. She would like to align grant guidelines and processes, by working with all the funding agencies to streamline processes to help local communities. OPR is identifying ways to better support regional collaboration and coordination; identifying barriers to financing including Opportunity Zone financing while also being competitive. The state is trying to work on mechanisms to finance rural communities and OPR can convene a workshop to work through how Opportunity Zones can be used in the North Coast. She described that the North Coast 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment workshop will occur on Dec 13-14 to enable local communities to become informed about resources and information recently made available.

## **X OPPORTUNITIES & PRIORITIES for the NCRP**

### **Integrated Strategies for Community and Watershed Health**

Karen Gaffney, described that during the NCRP Quarterly meetings in January & April, 2018, the NCRP Partnership held discussions regarding strategies, policy and funding to support regional resiliency in the face of wildfire and other extreme events. These discussions integrated information from a project funded by the Strategic Growth Council that included local and regionwide assessments of forest carbon, renewable energy, biomass, fuel load reduction options, water and wastewater system enhancements, natural capital and ecosystem services and climate resiliency.

### **Future Priorities for the NCRP**

Assemblymember Wood & NCRP PRP Chair Judy Morris led a discussion about future strategies and priorities for the NCRP. Following is a summary of that discussion:

- Assemblymember Wood commented on the incredible work the NCRP has done to date and stated that it is in a good position for moving forward.
- The strategic planning documents developed as part of the SGC planning grant summarized the work the NCRP has done to date well.
- Remembrances of Jimmy Smith were expressed as someone who was able to work through differences and ensure that all sides of an issue had a voice: I have worked with Jimmy over many years usually across the table from each other, but we were able to work through what we called the Fish Wars. Today it is most common to see entrenched points of view. The most radical place to be in is in the middle. Over the years, the NCRP has had great leadership. When Jake was the chair the Tribes approached the leadership and made some demands and

he and many around the table were unphased. To continue the work in front of us, we need to work in the radical middle.

- Some stated that they had never seen a group that has been so effective at integrating Tribal communities. We need to work together to do good work. We cannot just have Sonoma or Humboldt do cool stuff when many of the topics are regional in nature.
- Cap and trade only works on mitigation aspects of climate change impacts. Over the past many years there have been efforts to access the cap and trade funding for other approaches with no success. There may be new opportunities with the new state administration to influence ways that we can change the program to allow more preventative and adaptation. There are so many opportunities in front us including SB 398 expands the eligible activities allowed with cap and trade funding including climate adaptation.
- The IRWM pie may be drying up but the partnerships formed through the process are strong. We will always have water bonds in the future. We must not walk away from IRWM, but also support future water bond formation and other opportunities for regional block funding. We have an opportunity to expand the issues we work on. All the topics we discuss are important. What does it mean to be resilient in our community? How easy it is to fall back into our districts when the most important project may be in another area in the region.
- We also need workforce development. We do have challenges around workforce development. We need effective projects and solutions so that we can expend political capital. Rural California tends to get short changed especially when programs are developed where it is expected to work in urban and rural environments in a 'one-size fits all' approach. With smaller communities we need more opportunities for technical assistance. Eviroscan defines the disadvantaged communities based on pollution creating an inequitable and arbitrary score card.
- There were requests to eliminate requirements that require hiring the California Conservation Corp which does not work for all folks, especially Tribes who often have their own workforce and training programs made up of Tribal members and youth. When you look at the Water Code it is restrictive in terms of contracting with Tribes.
- The North Coast is the lungs and kidneys of the state – source watersheds provide benefits and resources to the rest of the state.
- Assemblymember Wood stated that he will be watching 901 closely and thought that it made sense to fund a regional group to implement its programs. He requested that the NCRP bring him its priorities and challenges. He looks forward to continue working with Assemblymember Dahle on a bi-partisan basis on these issues.
- David Bunn wants the NCRP to meet him in early December.

## **XI PRP DIRECTION TO STAFF: STRATEGIES FOR FUNDING**

NCRP PRP Chair, Trinity County Supervisor Judy Morris

Chair Morris opened the discussion by explain that over the last two years, the Vice-chair and I along with staff have visited Sacramento and have had ongoing conversations with elected officials and agency staff regarding the accomplishments of the NCRP and the need for funding to support planning and project implementation focused on forest and watershed health, community health and safety, and local economic vitality. In the wake of the worst fire season in California history, legislation and funding opportunities are rapidly evolving. Positioning the NCRP to receive funding for fuel load reduction and forest health requires the focused and flexible effort of the NCRP staff team. The current set of funding and legislative opportunities are on a much faster timeframe than on past bond funding opportunities and in some cases require immediate staff and Chair/Vice-chair engagement to secure them or signal the interest of the NCRP. She presented the following staff recommendation:

Through April 2019, authorize NCRP staff to work with the Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Committee to pursue funding and provide legislative input that furthers the goals of the NCRP. The following assumptions apply:

1. NCRP staff would only pursue funding opportunities that align with PRP approved Goals and Objectives
2. Prior to proceeding on any funding or legislative opportunity, NCRP staff would receive approval from the Chair and Vice Chair at a minimum, and would request approval from the full Executive Committee
3. NCRP staff would send draft funding requests or legislative input to the full PRP and TPRC for comment
4. A decision to formally submit a grant application would be voted on by the full PRP
5. Any funding request would honor the PRP approved approach to local autonomy – allowing Tribes or counties to opt out of any element of the funding request in which they do not wish to participate.
6. Funding requests or legislative input will predominantly focus on project implementation, but may also include stakeholder outreach and coordination, technical support for project proponents, data, analysis and planning.
7. At the April 2019 meeting, this authorization would be revisited by the PRP

**Motion:** Supervisor John McCowen, amended to stipulate this approach is only suitable if the funding deadline is sooner than the next scheduled meeting of the PRP

**Second:** Supervisor Mike Wilson

**Unanimous**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

none

## **XII RUSSIAN RIVER PILOT**

Chair Judy Morris provided some background about how the Russian River Pilot was initiated. In cooperation with the Department of Water Resources and local stakeholders, California Forward and the Pacific Institute are developing a management framework for the Russian River watershed. This pilot effort is intended to contribute to the CA Water Plan Update 2018, a draft of which is intended out in November. Throughout the Russian River Pilot development process, concerns have been expressed about adequate Tribal and NCRP input in the plan development process. This presents an opportunity for the NCRP to establish a clear protocol for how the NCRP engages in other regional planning processes.

Chair Morris presented the staff recommendation:

- Executive Committee are approved to review a letter regarding the Russian River Pilot from the NCRP Tribal leadership, as well as to consider developing and submitting any additional letters or communication with DWR and California Forward regarding the Russian River Pilot. Note: the NCRP Executive Committee includes two members who reside in the Russian River watershed, and two Tribal members, all of whom are familiar with the Russian River Pilot process to date.
- As per past PRP Policy, any letters submitted on this matter will be shared with the full PRP
- The Executive Committee and staff will bring a draft policy regarding NCRP interaction with external plans to the full PRP for discussion and consideration during the next NCRP meeting in January

She introduced Sherri Norris, Executive Director, California Indian Environmental Alliance who reported out discussions from the Tribal Representative meeting. Sherri presented the contents of the Tribal letter referenced in the staff recommendation and described the NCRP Tribal representative perspective.

Supervisor Hopkins also expressed concern about the thorough involvement of disadvantaged communities in her district in the lower Russian River area.

**Motion:** Supervisor John McCowen, amended to incorporate Supervisor Hopkins' concerns about non-tribal DACs in the lower Russian River

**Second:** Supervisor Hopkins

**Unanimous**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Anecita Augustinez stated that she recognized this issue and concern. This is a pilot and that inherent to pilots is the opportunity to learn lessons for future improvement. This is a good example of how not to do outreach with Tribal communities. There is a need for procedure guidance and protocols established at DWR for state agency outreach and involvement to ensure Tribal engagement.

### **XIII RECONFIRM: NCRP PROPOSITION 1 ROUND 1 IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING SOLICITATION PROCESS**

Chair Morris stated that during the NCRP Meeting in January 2018, the PRP formed a NCRP Proposition 1 IRWM Round 1 Implementation Funding Solicitation Ad Hoc Committee comprised of TPRC Co-Chairs, other PRP & TPRC member volunteers and staff to develop NCRP Proposition 1 IRWM Round 1 Implementation process, guidelines and solicitation materials for review and consideration by the PRP. During the April NCRP meeting the PRP adopted the ad hoc committee's overarching recommendation along with five related recommendations as described in the meeting materials. She explained that at the time, it was expected that DWR would release their 2018 Proposition 1 Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant PSP and Program Guidelines out soon thereafter but for a number of reasons delayed their release till this fall. On October 5th these materials were released for public review requiring that the PRP reconfirm the NCRP April decision with slight scheduling updates. TPRC Co-Chair, Sandra Perez provided a presentation reconfirming the recommendation from the ad hoc committee.

**Motion:** Supervisor John McCowen

**Second:** Supervisor Gore

**Unanimous**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

none

### **XIV UPDATES**

#### **i. NCRP Tribal Engagement**

Sherri Norris, Executive Director, California Indian Environmental Alliance

#### **ii. Regional Administrator & Project Implementation Update**

Hank Seemann, Deputy Director, Public Works Department, Humboldt County

#### **Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Implementation Projects**

Prop. 84 Round	Total Projects	Grant Amount	Amount Invoiced	% Complete	Projects Complete at End of Year (estimated for 2018, 2019, 2020)
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					2017	2018	2019	2020
Round 1 (2013)	18	\$8.2 million	\$6.0 million	75%	10	18	18	18
Round 2 (2014)	12	\$5.4 million	\$4.0 million	75%	7	9	12	12
Drought (2015)	11	\$8.7 million	\$3.5 million	40%	3	7	11	11
Final (2016)	25	\$11.0 million	\$4.2 million**	38%	6	11	20	25
			**Includes \$1.1 million advanced payment					
	66	\$33.3 million			26	45	61	66

### Notes

- In June 2018, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant manager changed from Kaylee Vanni to Eric Martinez. Humboldt County staff have been working closely with Eric to continue the strong working relationship and maintain timely processing of grant deliverables.
- Within the last few months, turn-around time for reimbursement payments from DWR has returned to the normal 60 days. Timely payments are essential to avoid financial hardships for local project sponsors, and DWR's recent efforts to reduce slow-downs are greatly appreciated.
- The Karuk Tribe completed its "Camp Creek Habitat Protection-Road Decommissioning" project under the Prop. 84 Round 1 grant with substantial cost savings (\$180,000). According to NCRP guidelines, the unspent funds can be transferred to another project within the Round 1 suite of projects, with a first priority for projects situated within the same County or tribal region. The unspent funds from the Camp Creek project will be allocated to the Happy Camp Sanitary District to support their project replacing a sewer pipeline crossing on Indian Creek, tributary to the Klamath River.

### Planning Projects

Title and Funding Source	Grant Term	Status	Grant Amount
<i>North Coast Integrated Regional Planning: Healthy Communities, Functional Watersheds and Viable Economies</i> Dept. of Conservation (Strategic Growth Council)	June 2014 to March 2018	Project Complete	\$1 million
<i>North Coast Resource Partnership Outreach &amp; Involvement: Tribal Engagement &amp; Economic Opportunity for Disadvantaged Communities</i>	April 2017 to April 2020	In progress	\$2.65 million

(DACTI)

Dept. of Water Resources, Proposition 1

## **Notes**

- The Strategic Growth Council planning project is complete. The final project reports are available at <http://www.northcoastresourcepartnership.org/>.
- The Tribal Engagement & Economic Opportunity for Disadvantaged Communities project is well underway. Work continues with key support provided by West Coast Watershed and the California Environmental Indian Alliance. This grant supports the coordination and continued collaboration of the NCRP leadership, a regional needs assessment, a small update to the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, technical assistance for tribes and disadvantaged communities, and much more. Administration has been smooth and the DWR IRWM grant manager has been responsive and helpful. Half of the award was received in the form of an advance payment, to be spent within 18 months of grant agreement execution between DWR and the County of Humboldt. The deadline for spending the advance payment is October 20, 2018. Spending has been slower than expected for a variety of unanticipated reasons. An extension to the Advance Payment Funding Plan of one year has been requested. A more detailed report on project progress is provided in the meeting materials for item v. in Agenda Item XIV: Informational Updates.

## **Contacts**

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Devin Theobald, Sr. Environmental Analyst ([dtheobald@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:dtheobald@co.humboldt.ca.us)) – Prop. 84 Round 1 & Drought

Lauren Rowan, Environmental Analyst ([lrowan@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:lrowan@co.humboldt.ca.us)) – Prop. 84 Final Round

Denise Monday, Environmental Analyst ([dmonday@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:dmonday@co.humboldt.ca.us)) – Prop. 84 Round 2

### **iii. Notable Legislation**

Molly Oshun, Sonoma County Water Agency

#### **SB 901 (Dodd D) Wildfires.**

Status: 9/21/18 Approved by Governor. Filed with Secretary of State.

Summary: The Budget Act of 2018 appropriated \$99,376,000 to the Office of Emergency Services for purposes of local assistance. Of those funds, \$25,000,000 was made available, pursuant to a schedule, for equipment and technology that improves the mutual aid system. Current law authorizes the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) to administer various programs, including grant programs, relating to forest health and wildfire protection. This bill would revise the Budget Act of 2018 to provide that the \$25,000,000 described above shall be applied to support activities directly related to regional response and readiness.

#### **SB 1260 (Jackson D) Fire prevention and protection: prescribed burns.**

Status: 9/21/18 Approved by Governor. Filed with Secretary of State.

Summary: Current law requires a local agency to designate, by ordinance, very high fire hazard severity zones in its jurisdiction within 120 days of receiving recommendations from the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection

and exempts a local agency, as defined, from that requirement if ordinances of the local agency, adopted on or before December 31, 1992, impose standards that are equivalent to, or more restrictive than, specified state standards. Current law authorizes a local agency, at its discretion, to exclude from specified requirements governing fire risk reduction an area identified as a very high fire hazard severity zone by the director within the jurisdiction of the local agency, following a specified finding supported by substantial evidence that those requirements are not necessary for effective fire protection within the area. This bill would eliminate the above-described exemption and exclusion and would require the local agency to transmit a copy of the adopted ordinance to the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection within 30 days of adoption.

**[AB 1956](#) (Limón D) Fire prevention activities: local assistance grant program.**

Status: 9/21/18 Approved by Governor. Filed with Secretary of State.

Summary: Current law requires the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish a working group, consisting of specified members, to identify potential incentives for landowners to implement prefire activities, as defined, in state responsibility areas and urban wildland communities and to identify all federal, state, or local programs, private programs, and any other programs requiring a cost share that involves prefire activities. This bill would repeal this law.

**[AB 2541](#) (Salas D) Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: project financing: severely disadvantaged communities.**

Status: 8/27/18 Approved by the Governor. Chaptered by Secretary of State - Chapter 217, Statutes of 2018.

Summary: Current law authorizes the State Water Resources Control Board, to the extent permitted by federal law, to provide grant funding, and principal forgiveness and 0% financing on loans, from the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to a project for a water system with a service area that qualifies as a severely disadvantaged community if the water system demonstrates that repaying a Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan with interest would result in unaffordable water rates, as defined. This bill would instead authorize the board, to the extent permitted by federal law, to provide up to 100% grant funding, and principal forgiveness and 0% financing on loans, from the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to a project for a water system that serves a severely disadvantaged community.

**[AB 2551](#) (Wood D) Forestry and fire prevention: joint prescribed burning operations: watersheds.**

Status: 9/21/18 Approved by Governor. Filed with Secretary of State.

Summary: Current law authorizes the director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to enter into an agreement with an eligible landowner pursuant to which the landowner will undertake forest resource improvement work in return for an agreement by the director to share the cost of carrying out that work. Current law authorizes the director to make various types of loans, including loans to cover all or part of the landowner's cost for the work. Current law requires these loans to be made for a term not exceeding 20 years and bearing interest at the prevailing rate. This bill would instead authorize the director to enter into those agreements with small nonindustrial landowners, as defined.

**iv. Upcoming meetings featuring the NCRP**

NCRP PRP Chair, Trinity County Supervisor Judy Morris

- California Economic Summit, Santa Rosa, November 15 & 16  
NCRP Executive Committee member, Sonoma County Supervisor James Gore
- North Coast 4th Climate Change Assessment Workshop, December 13 & 14

**v. NCRP Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Outreach & Involvement**

PROGRAM VISION: In keeping with North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) Goals & Objectives and building on past initiatives, this Program aims to continue, expand and improve Tribal and disadvantaged community<sup>1</sup> engagement with the NCRP and the Integrated Regional Water Management program.

**PROGRAM STATUS UPDATE**

**NCRP Quarterly Meeting Planning**

- Meetings with NCRP staff and leadership to develop agenda approach and topics
- Draft and refine agenda; draft meeting materials
- Outreach to meeting presenters and participants; follow up communication and panel coordination

**Watershed Based – Holistic Needs Assessment**

- Humboldt Bay Watershed Management Area selected as the pilot watershed to develop and test the process to identify green and grey infrastructure needs and priorities as well as to encourage integrated solutions, projects and partnerships through data gathering, interviews and workshops.
- Tribal and Disadvantaged Community pilot interview process, interview questions, data compilation and outreach materials were developed
- Humboldt Bay area Interviews conducted spring/summer 2018
- interviews in other areas summer – summer/fall 2018 & spring 2019

**Water and Wastewater Services Needs Assessment Survey**

- Completed 2018 Needs Assessment collecting information from 54% of the 207 water and wastewater service providers serving disadvantaged communities in the North Coast region
- Developed a survey summary

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<sup>1</sup> *Disadvantaged Communities Definitions:*

- *Disadvantaged Community (DAC): Census tract, block or place with an annual median household income (MHI) that is less than 80% of the statewide MHI (North Coast – 89%)*
- *Severely Disadvantaged Community (SDAC): Census tract, block, place w/annual MHI <60% of state MHI (NC – 57%)*
- *Economically Distressed Area: a rural county or municipality w/ population of < 20,000 with an annual MHI <85% of statewide MHI, & one of following:*
  - *Financial hardship*
  - *Unemployment rate 2% higher than the statewide average*
  - *Low population density*
- *Under-represented Community: Tribes have been historically under-represented in local and State water management and planning efforts*

- Tribal Water and Wastewater Services Needs Assessment ongoing

### **Technical Assistance**

- Analysis of the NCRP 2014, 2018 needs assessment data along with the state compliance data based on the NCRP Disadvantaged Community Technical Assistance Selection Process approved by the NCRP Policy Review Panel (PRP) in January 2018.
- Meetings held with State representatives to discuss the process and get input regarding regional need. This process will direct the selection of entities to receive technical assistance in the first of several rounds of technical assistance to be provided by the NCRP.
- Data analysis also identifying capacity building and training needs for assistance in 2019
- Tribal selection process may include other factors
- Ad Hoc committees to meet in October/November to finalize Round 1 Technical Assistance list
- Enter into contracts with engineering firms that submitted RFQs in summer of 2017 and were approved by the Ad Hoc committee

### **Prepare for the NCRP Proposition 1, Round 1 IRWM Project Solicitation**

- Proposition 1 Implementation Ad Hoc Committee developed draft process and solicitation materials; these will be updated based the Proposition 1 IRWM Proposal Solicitation Package released on October 5th
- Conducting a survey of project sponsors to gather information about past solicitation processes, contract administration and NCRP processes, outreach and governance with the intent of process improvement where possible
- Developing a Grants Compliance manual including FAQs and Tribal specific approaches
- Developing monitoring guidelines
- Forming a team of technical assistance providers for phone-in help with application development and minor project development assistance. Team comprised of retired engineers, TPRC members, and CSD staff with local experience.

### **NCRP OUTREACH**

- Updated NCRP web content including regional and local news items, calendar events, and funding opportunities.
- Made the NCRP library of spatial data available for download as ESRI map packages organized by content themes
- Worked with the TPRC to review a Shasta Valley RCD groundwater planning project into the NCRP IRWM Plan; once reviewed and approved, posted the project to the NCRP website
- Worked with subcontractors on locally important outreach efforts: regarding the highly contentious water quality threat of failing septic systems in the economically disadvantaged communities of the lower Russian River; and to provide information to legal cannabis producers regarding water conservation, beneficial rural road maintenance practices and proper use and disposal of toxic materials
- Working to improve the NCRP Community Tool Box with the intent of converting the toolbox to a web-friendly tool
- Tribal community outreach ongoing

### **NCRP PLAN UPDATE & DEVELOPMENT**

- Updated the NCRP GIS data catalog and develop NCRP Plan maps
- Updated and developed NCRP/NCIRWM Plan sections pertaining to built and natural resource conditions in the North Coast & performed contaminants research/ analysis and text development

#### vi. **Executive Committee, PRP direction and staff action**

##### **NCRP Executive Committee Comment Letters**

NCRP Executive Committee submitted a comment letter to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) regarding proposed changes to the Proposition 1 Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) implementation project solicitation process on June 1, 2018

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, the NCRP Executive Committee submitted a letter of support at the request of the Alliance of Regional Climate Change Collaboratives who are applying for funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) to develop some demonstration project ideas and shared planning across multiple geographic areas.

##### **Conference and Meeting Participation**

- California Water Plan Update Plenary 2018

Brandi Brown, NCRP Executive Committee member, Redwood Valley Rancheria and Karen Gaffney were panelists for the *Priorities for Sustaining, Broadening, and Strengthening Regional Water Management*, session during the third California Water Plan Update 2018 Plenary held on October 9 & 10, 2018 at the Civic Center Galleria in West Sacramento.

- Round Table of Regions and DWR Meetings on May 4 & 24, June 20, August 16 & 20, October 1, 8 and 10
- Alliance of Regional Collaboratives for Climate Adaptation (ARCCA) meetings on June 11 and August 20
- NCRP Executive committee, met on May 28 and June 4
- Forestry Task Force meeting materials June 11 (for Dale Roberts) and attendance on October 4

##### **Incorporation of Storm Water Resource Plans into the NCRP Plan**

During the North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) meeting in April, the Policy Review Panel (PRP) unanimously approved the NCRP Plan & Storm Water Resource Plan (SWRP) Integration Process which is included in the [2018 NCRP Leadership Handbook](#) under Appendix D, NCRP Policies (see [https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/site/assets/uploads/2018/06/NCRP\\_Handbook\\_2018.pdf](https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/site/assets/uploads/2018/06/NCRP_Handbook_2018.pdf)). The approved policy was provided to the SWRP planning projects in the region. The policy includes provisions for review of draft SWRP plans by the PRP and Technical Peer Review Committee (TPRC) and states that in accordance with the SWRP Guidelines, the submittal of the SWRP to the IRWM group (for further incorporation into the NCRP IRWM Plan, expected in 2019) fulfills the requirement for “incorporation”.

- **Final Russian River Storm Water Resource Plan**

The Draft Russian River Resource Plan was provided to the NCRP TPRC and PRP for review on March 30, 2018. The Russian River Watershed Association provided a presentation to the NCRP leadership during its April 2018 quarterly meeting. The Russian River SWRP was finalized in July 2018.

<http://www.rrwatershed.org/project/stormwater-resource-plan/>

- **Final Mendocino Coast Storm Water Resources Plan**

The Draft Mendocino Coast SWRP was sent to the NCRP TPRC and PRP for review on May 10, 2018. Notice of the finalized version was sent on July 9, 2018 along with a letter in response to NCRP

comments. <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/executive-office/mendocino-county-water-agency/storm-water-resource-plan>.

- **Draft Eureka Area Watershed Storm Water Resources Plan**

The Draft Eureka Area Watershed Stormwater Resources Plan was sent to the NCRP TPRC and PRP for review on July 9, 2018. The final plan is expected to be completed late 2018.

<http://northcoaststormwatercoalition.org/index.php/stormwaterresourceplan/>

#### **On-Going Project Inclusion Process into the NCRP IRWM Plan**

In August, the Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District (SVRCD) provided a project submittal request for inclusion into the NCRP IRWM Plan as a requirement of a Department of Water Resources 2017 Groundwater Sustainability Planning Grant funding award. Per the NCRP protocol, the TPRC reviewed the Preliminary Project Information and approved the project for inclusion in the NCRP Plan.

[https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/site/assets/uploads/2018/09/NCRP\\_Project\\_SVRCD\\_Groundwater\\_0918.pdf](https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/site/assets/uploads/2018/09/NCRP_Project_SVRCD_Groundwater_0918.pdf)

#### **XV PUBLIC COMMENT**

none

#### **XVI NCRP 2019 MEETING DATES**

NCRP PRP Chair Morris would like to consider the following revisions to the schedule for 2019:

- January 18, 2019 – Ukiah Area
- April 19 – Yreka Area (consider rescheduling for April 26)
- July 19 – Eureka Area (consider rescheduling for July 26)
- October 18 – Weaverville Area

#### **ADJOURN**

## **MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

### **Policy Review Panel Members**

Chair: Supervisor Judy Morris, Trinity County

Vice-Chair: Leaf Hillman, Director of Natural Resources, Karuk Tribe, Northern District

Edwin Smith, Tribal Council Vice-Chair, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, Central District

Alternate, Emily Moloney, Water Quality & GIS Specialist, Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria, Central District

Alternate: Supervisor Bob Berkowitz, Del Norte County

Supervisor Ryan Sundberg, Humboldt County

Supervisor Mike Wilson, Humboldt County

Supervisor Carre Brown, Mendocino County

Supervisor John McCowen, Mendocino County

Alternate: Supervisor Dan Gjerde, Mendocino County

Supervisor James Gore, Sonoma County

Supervisor Lynda Hopkins, Sonoma County

Alternate: Grant Davis, Sonoma County Water Agency

Brandi Brown, Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo, Southern District

### **Technical Peer Review Committee Members**

Co-Chair: Sandra Perez, Program Manager, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County

Co-Chair: Dale Roberts, Engineer, Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma County

Hank Seemann, Deputy Director, Environmental Services, Public Works Department, Humboldt County

John Friedenbach, General Manager, Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

Joe Scriven, Project Manager/Fisheries Biologist, Mendocino Resource Conservation District, Mendocino County

Alternate: Megan Van Pelt, Natural Resources Director, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Northern District

Wayne Haydon, Certified Engineering Geologist, Sonoma County

Nathan Rich, Water Quality Specialist, Kashia Band of Pomo, Southern District

Wes Scribner, General Manager, Weaverville Community Services District, Trinity County

Alternate: Mark Lancaster, Director, Five Counties Salmonid Conservation Program, Trinity County

### **Other**

CA State Assemblymember Jim Wood

Bruce Ross, District Director for CA State Assemblymember Brian Dahle

John Driscoll, District Representative for US Congressman Jared Huffman

Tom Weseloh, Joint Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture Representative for CA State Senator Mike McGuire

David Bunn, California Department of Conservation

Jenny Lester Moffitt, CDFA

Keali'i Bright, California Natural Resources Agency

Nuin-Tara Key, Governor's Office of Planning and Resources (OPR)

Brandon Fore, DWR

Anecita Agustinez, DWR

Maks Khashchuk, DWR

Eric Martinez, DWR  
Pat Vellines, DWR  
Roy O'Connor, Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Clayton Creager, Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Ian Mc Fadden, Water Boards, Department of Drinking Water  
Heather James, Watershed Center  
Katie VanPelt, Watershed Center  
Joshua Smith, Watershed Center  
Jeff Morris, Stream Crossing LLC  
Stephen Kullman, Blue Lake Rancheria  
Earl Crosby, Karuk Tribe  
DJ Brandrowski, Yurok Tribe  
Kathy Malony, Yurok, RAM Consulting  
Aaron Martin, Yurok Tribe  
Kirsten Krumball, Dry Creek Rancheria  
Donna Rupp, Trinity County RCD  
Valerie Quinto, Sonoma RCD  
George Jennings, OreCal RC & D  
Virginia Mahacek, Sonoma County  
Adrienne Garyalde, Russian River Confluence  
Courtney Laverty, USR RWRG  
Mary Whitmore, Myers Flat Mutual  
Jarre Mulcher, Myers Flat Mutual  
Colin Bunyard, Xio, Inc.  
Christine Manhart, LACO Assoc.  
Kelly Morris, LACO Assoc.  
Tom Warnock, Pace Engineering  
Chris Paget, Pace Engineering  
Laurie McCullum, Pace Engineering  
Hannah Stewart, GHD  
Devin Chatoian, Sonoma Water  
Susan Haydon, Sonoma Water  
Molly Oshun, Sonoma Water  
Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County  
Lauren Rowan, Humboldt County  
Denise Monday, Humboldt County  
Julia Cavelli, Humboldt County  
Javier Silva, California Indian Environmental Alliance  
Sherri Norris, California Indian Environmental Alliance  
Karen Gaffney, West Coast Watershed  
Katherine Gledhill, West Coast Watershed