

MINUTES of Technical Committee (TC) Meeting
Water Resources Association of Yolo County
October 1, 2020, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
GoToMeeting Teleconference

Committee Members:

Elisa Sabatini, Yolo County, TC Chair
Jeanette Wrynski, Yolo County RCD
Kristin Sicke, YCFC&WCD
Max Stevenson, YCFC&WCD

Matt Cohen, City of Woodland
Heather Brown, City of Davis
Ken Loy, West Yost Associates
Donna Gentile, WRA

Other Attendees:

Tanya Meyer, Yolo County RCD
Dave Pratt

Kenny Liner, Putah Creek Council
Chelsea Spier, DWR

Member Agencies Absent:

RD 2035
City of Winters
Dunnigan Water District
City of West Sacramento

UC Davis
RD 108

1. **CALL TO ORDER & Introductions** at 9:00 a.m. by Elisa Sabatini, Chair.
2. **APPROVAL AGENDA & Adding Items to Posted Agenda:** Elisa requested to move DWR's Update after Item 4 - Public Comment. The TC concurred and approved the agenda.
3. **APPROVE TC MEETING MINUTES:** Previous meeting minutes were emailed to the TC for review with today's agenda. Comments on the draft 8/6/20 minutes are due by 10/2/20 and will be approved by consensus.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments.
5. **DWR Update: Chelsea Spier, Chelsea.Spier@water.ca.gov,** Chelsea gave the following updates:
 - *On Native American Day* last Friday, the Governor issued a new policy regarding restoration of Tribal ancestral lands and place names. A link to this policy in the Governor's announcement: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2020/09/25/on-native-american-day-governor-newsom-takes-action-to-restore-land-promote-equity-for-california-native-communities/>
 - *Public Policy Institute of California* is hosting 3 one hour sessions on "Building a Water Resilient California" November 12, 17, and 19. Topics are: Funding water systems while ensuring affordability and equity, Collaborative approaches to foster groundwater sustainability, and Priorities for a water-resilient California. Registration here: https://www.ppic.org/event/building-a-water-resilient-california/?utm_source=ppic&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=event
 - *California Financing Coordinating Committee* will be hosting a virtual funding fair on October 22nd with representatives from DWR, State Water Board, CalRecycle, California Strategic Growth Council, Cal Fire, Cal OES, Bureau of Reclamation, CA Rural Water Association, State Library, RCAC, CCC, US Economic Development Administration, and CA Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank, <https://www.cfcc.ca.gov/>
 - *DWR is accepting comments on draft System-wide Flood Risk Reduction Program Guidelines.* Webinars to discuss the draft guidelines will be held in the morning and afternoon of Monday, Oct. 12 and on Tuesday, Oct. 13. The comment deadline is Friday, Oct. 30. <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Flood-Management/Flood-Projects/Systemwide-Flood-Risk-Reduction>
 - *California Grants Portal:* The California State Library, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources and other state grant-making agencies, has launched the California Grants Portal – your one destination to find all state grant and loan opportunities provided on a first-come or competitive basis. Visit <https://www.grants.ca.gov/> to find funding opportunities for you and your community.

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- *2020 DACTI Lessons Learned Summit*: The Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA) is hosting the 2020 Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Involvement (DACTI) Lessons Learned Summit from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on October 8, 13 and 14. This virtual Summit is intended for IRWM practitioners, Community members, Tribal representatives, and State agencies. Registration now open: <https://fs27.formsite.com/6Dqgcx/maaxa6pdo2/index.html>. More information can be found here: <https://www.lgc.org/summit/>.
- *Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Funds*: If there are any funds remaining for the Sacramento Funding Area, Round 2 would be available starting in November 2021.

SGMA

- *SGMA Statewide Services* <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Data-and-Tools> (Proposition 68 tab has information on each of these initiatives)
 - ♦ Airborne electromagnetic surveys, currently in the contracting phase but will be covering all high and medium priority groundwater basins eventually
 - ♦ 2018 land-use data will be multi-crop and should be coming out December 2020
 - ♦ Subsidence inSAR data through October 1, 2020 is planned for release in Spring 2021
 - ♦ CA's Groundwater Update 2020 (formerly Bulletin 118) public draft will be coming out in November
 - ♦ Coordinating with USGS to digitize a backlog of paper well completion reports not yet in OSWCR
 - ♦ Facilitation Support Services & Technical Support Services for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement> (see the Technical and Facilitation support services tabs here for more information)

- 6. PRESENTATION: Putah-Cache Watershed Arundo Eradication Program**, Tanya Meyer, Program Manager, Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD), meyer@yolorcd.org gave an overview of the expanded mission of the RCD and its resources activities. Tanya's full PPT presentation can be viewed on the WRA's website: http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_technical.html. She explained why this plant is such a problem. *Arundo donax* (aka Giant Reed) is a perennial invasive species prefers to grow along streambanks. Originally native to Asia and India, it was introduced to the Mediterranean by French and Spanish colonists. It has now invaded many regions of our planet, such as the U.S. Europe, South America, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. It was also spread by the horticultural trade for landscaping and used in some countries for erosion control, roofing materials and wind instruments. In its native ecosystem it does not grow as large as it does here in the U.S. This is primarily due to natural enemies that do not exist in the U.S., which allows it to grow unchecked. *Arundo* uses five times as much water as other riparian vegetation. Active removal of *Arundo* increases water available for wildlife habitat and human use. Tanya informed the net water savings for areas after *Arundo* removal is about 16.7 ac-ft/yr (1-acre foot = 325,851 gallons). If left unchecked *Arundo* reduces biodiversity and habitat quality along crucial corridors, increases stream temperatures by crowding out native trees that provide cooling shade, modifies natural stream flows, and disrupts the aquatic food chain by providing poor quality leaf litter. She illustrated with many photos of *Arundo* overgrowth problems. Massive amount of biomass blocks can also redirect waterways to cause flooding and potentially damage infrastructure. *Arundo* can be controlled using integrated pest management (IPM) and mechanically by pulling, cutting, and disking. Burning or grazing can also provide some controls, but it will not prevent re-sprouting. Plants in the Middle East have natural enemy insect. Research is on-going for biological control agents (natural insect enemies) of this invasive weed but will take time. Chemical application methods require follow up treatments. Glyphosate is the best option, but only products registered for use in aquatic habitats can be used. The California Invasive Species Council (Cal-IPC) is mapping infestations in California. Both Yolo and Solano County *Arundo* infestations are getting larger.

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As a solution to tackle this problem, the Yolo County RCD developed the Putah-Creek Watershed Arundo Eradication Program, which is being funded by Proposition 1 and the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) Stream Flow Enhancement Program. Tanya provided a project timeline. Program development and planning began from 2018 to 2020. Program implementation, 2020 -2024, began when the YCRCD was awarded a \$2.3 million grant from in April for Phase 1 to control Arundo in the lower watershed. Control work began in September 2020. They will apply for Phase 2 funding in summer of 2021 for implementation in 2022-2026. They plan to apply for continued habitat restoration, monitoring and retreatment implementation funding for 2020 to 2035. Tanya showed a map of the total project area of approximately 241 acres of Arundo over 91.6 river miles in the Putah-Lower Cache Watershed with more than ten local project partners. She explained the treatment methods to be used and displayed before and after project photos of work completed last month. Amazing!! The WCB funding allows for active restoration of about 10% of the treated areas. They will be encouraging passive regrowth by area landowners as needed. Tanya answered questions.

7. **FUNDING UPDATES:** Elisa opened up the floor to discuss upcoming funding opportunities, recent awards or project funding updates.
- Max Stevenson gave an update on the YSGA's \$1 million GSP planning grant. A series of public meetings were planned for this summer that was postponed due to COVID-19. The consulting and technical teams hired are progressing through the steps to develop the Plan. The Technical Advisory Committee has met several times since July. The YCFC&WCD is currently interviewing to hire one or two full-time staff to predominantly work on YSGA activities.
 - Kristin Sicke informed that the YSGA is in the process of scheduling individual Management Area working sessions to gather further technical feedback on each of the proposed representative wells: reviewing hydro graphs, considering minimum threshold methodology, and reviewing well impact analysis. This data will help assess how many wells could potentially be impacted if the minimum threshold was exceeded based on the proposed methodology for setting the Sustainable Management Criteria. A project update will be presented at the November 16th Board meeting.
 - Jeanette Wrynski reported that the Yolo County RCD in conjunction with the YCFC&WCD will submit a California Department of Conservation grant proposal for a watershed coordinator that would assist with some aspects YSGA groundwater activities. For example, activities related to landowner outreach, education and planning for implementation projects that would support groundwater recharge. Submittal deadline is November 15th. This is a highly competitive grant and the State only has funding for seven grants statewide.
 - The Yolo County RCD has been trying for 3-4 years to secure a grant for fire risk reduction and preparedness. They were successful in securing a grant for a very competitive second round of funding. The RCD has several contracts with CAL FIRE, the Yolo County Office of Emergency Services and other regional partners. Fires can have a big impact on water resources through lack of water absorption into the landscape, ash runoff into creeks/streams that can degrade water quality and promote biological die off. If landowners are interested in learning more about emergency response and fire damage to their property, they should contact the RCD or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
 - Matt Cohen reminded that the City of Woodland, as part of the Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency, is primarily sourcing its water from surface water instead of groundwater. The City has several groundwater wells no longer being used that they are considering inactivating. They are investigating potential funding and benefits to convert these wells into monitoring wells rather than

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demolishing them. Additionally, the City will be soliciting RFQs to drill a few monitoring wells as part of their Aquifer Storage and Recovery Program (ASR) to track the gradient of the aquifer.

- Elisa Sabatini informed Yolo County was awarded a \$16.1 million DWR grant for a 3-year project for levee improvements on the Sacramento River surrounding Knights Landing. The County also submitted the Knights Landing Flood Risk Reduction Project. This Project involves construction of two of the three Mid-Valley Levee Improvements Projects designed by the Army Corps of Engineers that were never funded. They will be constructing two flood cut-off walls and other related work. The County is looking for recreational opportunities in conjunction with these levee repairs. There will also be some multi-benefit initiatives associated with that project. The County has submitted a letter of interest to FEMA's new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program for the third Mid-Valley project that was not funded. They are seeking \$10 million for that third project.
- Max shared about some end of irrigation season infrastructure repairs that the YCFC&WCD will start over the winter months. Elisa invited Max to explain a little more about their Indian Valley hydroelectric power system and the repairs they will be performing to the two 35-year old turbines.

8. WATER LEGISLATION, REGULATORY ISSUES & DELTA UPDATES:

- The next Central Valley Flood Protection (CVFP) Board meeting is scheduled for October 9th. This will be a virtual workshop. They are preparing for a 2022 update of the 2017 CVFP Plan. They will also be talking about a suite of improvements on the American River and Sacramento River related to the Sacramento Weir as part of the American River Common Features Project.
- DWR is hosting a virtual briefing on the Delta Conveyance Project today, October 1st. DWR may be recording it if someone is interested in hearing the briefing. Elisa will see if she can provide a link and send to Donna for distribution to the WRA TC.

9. REGIONAL PROJECT UPDATES:

- a) *Westside-Sacramento IRWM Activities, Jeanette Wrynski:* The next virtual meeting of the Westside IRWM Coordinating Committee will be on October 7th which was rescheduled from September due to all the fires. The November meeting falls on the Veterans Day holiday so that will also be rescheduled. She outlined some of the items on the October agenda. Dr. McCord will be submitting another proposal to continue implementation projects for his Brownfields project to assess and remediate abandoned mining sites in the Cache and Putah Creek watersheds. They will also have an updated presentation from the State Water Board on their SAFER program. She reminded that the Westside maintains a grant funding spreadsheet that is updated monthly and is available on the Westside's website: <https://www.westsideirwm.com/funding/>. Jeanette offered to help match anyone who is looking for grant funds with available opportunities, please contact her: wrynski@yolorcd.org. Donna inquired about the status of receiving the FY2020-21 invoice for the WRA's MOU cost share. Jeanette offered to check and report back to Donna.
- b) *Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Update, Kristin Sicke:* Kristin gave additional updates on YSGA activities. Draft sections of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) will be available soon. The Working Group and Board will review drafts before they become available for public review. Management Area workshops are being scheduled now. A round of public workshops will be scheduled hopefully at the beginning of next year. The YSGA is working with the Yolo County Farm Bureau to outreach to landowners. A draft Communication and Engagement Plan will be posted to the website soon with all the opportunities to engage in the process.

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10. MEMBER INFORMATION & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Donna will be coordinating with RD108 for an update on the Sites Reservoir Project, hopefully at our next meeting.
- Elisa informed that the Yolo County Board of Supervisors will be receiving a presentation from DWR Division of Flood Management on October 20th. Meetings are conducted through Zoom and are open to the public.
- Matt Cohen provided additional details on the City of Woodland's ASR recovery cycle completed for three months during the summer. Things are looking great from a water supply and water quality standpoint.
- Heather Brown reported that the City of Davis is currently working on their ASR Feasibility Study. They will be sharing information from the completed study with the Natural Resources Commission and their City Council before moving forward with pilot testing. She will have an update in the coming months.
- Donna shared that she is planning to leave the working world due to her disability challenges by the end of December after 22 years of service with the WRA.
- Elisa shared that Dr. Slotton, UC Davis, is working with Casey Liebler, Yolo County, to develop a remediation pilot program to investigate potential methodologies for mercury reduction and/or remediation. This is a joint effort between the UC Davis and Yolo County, in conjunction with the existing gravel mining operations along Cache Creek. Elisa will provide more information as it becomes available.

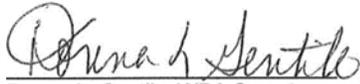
Future Agenda Items Suggested:

- Sites Reservoir Project Update
- SEI Update on WEAP Model
- RD 2035 Sacramento River Joint Intake facility tour
- DWR/CFPP Projects identified in Yolo County

11. NEXT TC MEETING DATE: December 3, 2020, 9:00 a.m., via GoToMeeting teleconference.

12. ADJOURN at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Gentile, WRA Secretary and Administrative Coordinator