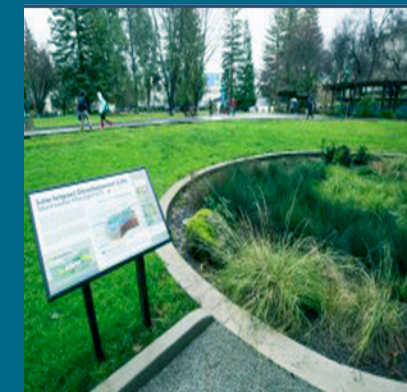


# Section 4 IRWMP Governance



## Contents

4. IRWMP GOVERNANCE.....4-1

    4.1. Background .....4-1

    4.2. ARB IRWMP Governance Structure .....4-2

        4.2.1. Planning Forum.....4-3

        4.2.2. Advisory Committee .....4-4

        4.2.3. Regional Water Management Group – Regional Water Authority .....4-6

    4.3. ARB IRWMP Adoption.....4-10

## List of Figures

Figure 4-1. ARB IRWMP Governance Structure .....4-3

## List of Tables

Table 4-1. Current and Potential Future Participants in ARB IRWMP Governance Structure .....4-11

Table 4-1. Current and Potential Future Participants in ARB IRWMP Governance Structure (contd.)..4-13

Table 4-1. Current and Potential Future Participants in ARB IRWMP Governance Structure (contd.)..4-15

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

ARB	American River Basin
CWC	California Water Code
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
IRWMP	Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
RWA	Regional Water Authority
RWMG	Regional Water Management Group
WFA	Water Forum Agreement

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## **4. IRWMP GOVERNANCE**

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This section describes the governance structure for the development and continuing implementation of the American River Basin (ARB) Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) Update. While an outline of a governance structure was proposed in 2009 during California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Region Acceptance Process, the governance structure and processes evolved throughout IRWMP development and implementation over several years into what is described in this section. This section begins with a brief background as to why the Regional Water Authority (RWA) is suited to serve as the Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) for the ARB Region, proceeds to describe the components of the governance structure, and concludes with an explanation of IRWMP adoption procedures.

### **4.1. Background**

As described earlier in the plan, the historic Water Forum Agreement (WFA) of April 2000 is one of the most notable comprehensive integrated water management plans of its time. In contemplating how to implement the complex elements of the WFA, water agencies in the region chose to create the RWA in July 2001. Given the relationship of RWA in assisting with implementing elements of the WFA, RWA was well-positioned to assume the role of leading development of an IRWMP.

Today, the RWA and its members are successfully implementing conjunctive use programs and an award-winning regional water efficiency program in support of the WFA. Since its inception, RWA's geographic breadth and scope of involvement in regional water issues has grown beyond WFA support. This has made RWA the ideal organization to serve as the RWMG for the ARB. Since the adoption of the 2006 and 2013 ARB IRWMPs, many additional stakeholder groups with varied interests have become engaged in the effort. This increased engagement led RWA to adopt a revised

RWA is a local public agency formed under the Joint Exercise of Powers Act, California Government Code Sections 6500 et seq. A Joint Powers Authority, RWA is a forum to address regional water issues. As a Joint Powers Authority, RWA has the ability to "exercise jointly the common powers of its Members in studying, planning and implementing ways and means to provide reasonable and financially-feasible projects, programs and cooperative operations activities for Members" and may "...exercise any powers in the manner and according to methods provided under the laws applicable to a Community Services District..."

Governance Structure for developing and maintaining the 2018 ARB IRWMP Update.

## **4.2. ARB IRWMP Governance Structure**

The Governance Structure is intended to encourage broad stakeholder involvement while providing a stable organization for the ongoing development, implementation, and maintenance of the ARB IRWMP based on RWA's demonstrated stability and accomplishments since its formation. The Governance Structure adopted in 2009 was used throughout the 2013 ARB IRWMP update effort, with the exception of the addition of the Planning Forum.

The Governance Structure for the 2013 ARB IRWMP Update consisted of four primary components:

- Planning Forum<sup>1</sup>
- Advisory Committee
- Management Committee
- RWMG—RWA

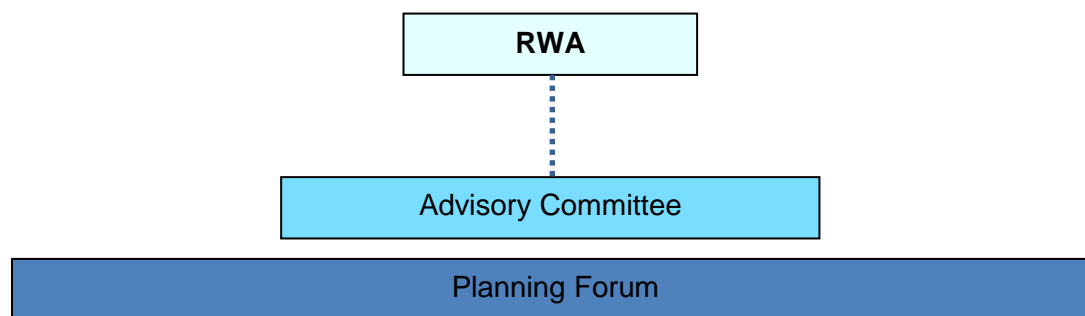
The purpose of the Management Committee was to oversee management of the process and logistics of 2013 ARB IRWMP Update development and implementation, including collecting and managing funds for development of the IRWMP. During development of the 2013 ARB IRWMP Update, the Management Committee recognized that its function would no longer be necessary once the update was completed. The Management Committee recommended that it would “sunset” as a group and have future maintenance and implementation of the IRWMP be the responsibility of RWA as the RWMG. RWA approved this action and has assumed responsibility for IRWMP maintenance and implementation from the Management Committee.

The Governance Structure for the 2018 ARB IRWMP Update is shown in **Figure 4-1**. The Planning Forum serves as the foundation for establishing and revising the ARB IRWMP Framework (described in **Section 5**). The Advisory Committee considers input from the Planning Forum, reviews projects subsequent to IRWMP adoption, and reviews and recommends priority projects to be included in the future IRWM implementation grant solicitations. RWA ultimately has responsibility of adopting and maintaining the ARB IRWMP. Members and staff of the RWA are present at all governance levels, ensuring communication. All components of the Governance Structure are described further below.

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<sup>1</sup> As adopted in 2009, the revised Governance Structure included both a Planning Forum and a Stakeholder Forum. In 2011, these two forums merged into the Planning Forum (see Section 4.2.1).

**Table 4-1** (included at the end of this section) shows participants in the Governance Structure, including level of involvement, any specific water management authority,<sup>2</sup> and types of agencies and stakeholders (relative to those groups identified in California Water Code (CWC) Section 10541(g) (4)-(13)). Likely potential future participants are also included in the table. These are entities with statutory authority over water or water management of which RWA is aware and has, in most cases, coordinated with in the past. Discussion of overall stakeholder involvement is included in **Section 3.1**.



**Figure 4-1. ARB IRWMP Governance Structure**

#### **4.2.1. Planning Forum**

The 2013 ARB IRWMP Update governance structure included both a Planning Forum and a Stakeholder Forum. The concept at the time was that the Stakeholder Forum would provide an open, accessible, and ongoing environment for allowing stakeholders to voice concerns, make suggestions, or simply stay informed. The goal of the Stakeholder Forum was to provide stakeholders with the information needed to become as engaged as they felt necessary, and to promote access to the other levels of the Governance Structure. Stakeholders were continuously identified through participation in other regional planning efforts (past and present) as well as public notifications, members of community and professional groups, Web sites, and other outreach methods.

Based on the participation at the initial Stakeholder and Planning forums, RWA found that the majority of stakeholders were interested in participating at both levels. As a result, the two forums were consolidated into one Planning Forum beginning in September 2010. This consolidated forum serves the purposes of both forums—development and review of the ARB IRWMP, as well as information exchange and feedback.

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<sup>2</sup> It is not a requirement to have specific statutory water management authority to be a participant in the Planning Forum.

The Planning Forum allows participants to:

- Provide input to the ARB IRWMP development, especially on defining and revising the plan Framework (vision, principles, goals, objectives, strategies, and project prioritization methodology)
- Serve as a technical forum for data sharing
- Provide for collaboration opportunities among project proponents, leading to more integrated, multi-benefit projects
- Assess or develop project concepts to meet regional objectives
- Ensure that project proponents develop necessary project information for inclusion in the ARB IRWMP
- Explore and discuss funding sources for the ARB IRWMP and its implementation

Participants in the Planning Forum are self-selected from the ARB IRWM stakeholder organizations. All Planning Forum workshops are also open to the public to attend and provide comment. The 2018 ARB IRWMP Update was developed with stakeholder input provided at four Planning Forum workshops with over 30 distinct participating entities.

#### **4.2.2. Advisory Committee**

During development of the 2013 ARB IRWMP Update, an Advisory Committee was created. The Advisory Committee served a number of functions in the 2013 ARB IRWMP Update development, most of which related to ensuring that input from the Planning Forum was reflected in the ARB IRWMP, and that objective criteria were used to evaluate projects. The Advisory Committee was responsible for:

- Ensuring that broad stakeholder input to the ARB IRWMP was solicited through the Planning Forum
- Reviewing the development of the project prioritization process
- Reviewing projects to evaluate the extent to which they may contribute to the goals and objectives of the ARB IRWMP; which is the initial step in project prioritization
- Reviewing the draft IRWMP to ensure it reflects a broad water resources perspective

- Validating the integrity of the IRWMP development process
  
- Providing recommendations to the Management Committee and RWMG

The Advisory Committee was designed to be broadly representative, but to be small enough to effectively make decisions. The Advisory Committee consisted of five individuals with broad knowledge of issues of the Region, and represented more than a single entity or project proponent. Makeup of the Advisory Committee included:

- A representative identified by each of the three counties included in the ARB IRWMP, chosen to represent broad public interests (Sacramento, Placer, and El Dorado counties)
  
- The Executive Director of the Water Forum (having a broad knowledge of water supply, environmental, industry, and public interests in the Region)
  
- A representative of the California DWR serving as an *ex officio* (nonvoting) member<sup>3</sup> of the committee

During development of the 2013 ARB IRWMP Update, the Advisory Committee met five times. Additional input from the Advisory Committee was solicited electronically, when a limited issue that would not require a meeting came up. While there was no established term limit for the Advisory Committee, members of the Advisory Committee were queried on at least a triennial basis to determine their interest and ability to continue to serve on the committee. If an Advisory Committee member was no longer able to serve, the RWMG would solicit suggestions for a replacement from the group that is represented by the outgoing member on the committee.

Following adoption of the 2013 IRWMP Update, the DWR representative requested to no longer serve on the Advisory Committee. The intent was to have the remaining Advisory Committee members would continue to meet on an as-needed basis to:

- Provide a venue for all stakeholders to raise issues related to the IRWMP
  
- Review projects submitted subsequent to IRWMP adoption and provide recommendations on their inclusion in the IRWMP project database

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<sup>3</sup> The *ex officio* capacity was requested by DWR.



**Section 4**  
**IRWMP Governance**

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Shortly after adoption of the 2013 ARB IRWMP Update, two members of the Advisory Committee were no longer able to serve on the Committee. Those positions were not refilled, and the Advisory Committee was not called upon relative to any issues related to the IRWMP. During the 2018 ARB IRWMP Update, RWA staff asked the Planning Forum if they still had a preference to maintain an Advisory Committee. The Planning Forum felt that it would be good to reestablish and maintain the Advisory Committee. Based on Planning Forum input, the 2018 ARB IRWMP Update Advisory Committee’s continuing role is to:

- Provide a venue for all stakeholders to raise issues related to the IRWMP
- Review projects submitted subsequent to IRWMP adoption and their prioritization, if ranked, and provide recommendations on their inclusion in the IRWMP project database
- Review and recommend priority projects to be included in future IRWM implementation grant solicitations submitted through the RWMG

While they are chosen to reflect broad interests, Advisory Committee members may find that they have a conflict of interest on specific issues or decisions. Members will self-identify these situations and recuse themselves from such matters.

**4.2.3. Regional Water Management Group – Regional Water Authority**

Building on a long history of successful regional planning and implementation, RWA serves as the formal governing body for developing, maintaining, implementing, and updating the ARB IRWMP.

RWA includes 21 members and 5 associate members involved in water management, wastewater management, stormwater management, land-use oversight, municipal government, and habitat management. Most RWA member organizations are represented on the RWA Board by elected members of their individual boards of directors or councils, making them accountable to the public at large. Associate members are private or public entities that are not water utilities in the

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RWA’s Mission</b></p> <p>To serve and represent regional water supply interests, and to assist RWA members in protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability and quality of water resources.</p>
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Region, but have an interest in regional water matters. Associate members do not hold a voting seat on the RWA Board, but participate in policy discussions, programs, and partnerships. RWA members and associates include:<sup>4</sup>

- California American Water
- Carmichael Water District
- Citrus Heights Water District
- City of Folsom
- City of Lincoln
- City of Roseville
- City of Sacramento
- City of West Sacramento
- City of Yuba City
- County of Placer (Associate)
- Del Paso Manor Water District
- El Dorado County Water Agency (Associate)
- El Dorado Irrigation District
- Elk Grove Water District
- Fair Oaks Water District
- Golden State Water Company
- Orange Vale Water Company
- Placer County Water Agency

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<sup>4</sup> The City of West Sacramento and City of Yuba City are members of the RWA, but not the ARB IRWMP.

**Section 4**  
**IRWMP Governance**

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- Rancho Murieta Community Services District
- Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District
- Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (Associate)
- Sacramento County Water Agency
- Sacramento Municipal Utility District (Associate)
- Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Associate)
- Sacramento Suburban Water District
- San Juan Water District

With its long history of participating in and leading integrated regional planning and implementation efforts in the Region, RWA is a stable, ongoing institution, well suited to the long-term task of IRWMP development, maintenance, and implementation. The board meets on the second Thursday of every other month, which will help ensure ongoing opportunities to keep the IRWMP at the forefront of regional planning. These meetings are noticed and open to the public.

In addition, the close relationship between RWA and the Water Forum Successor Effort provides an additional avenue for stakeholder involvement through working relationships developed over more than a decade. WFA signatories are identified in **Table 4-1**.

Roles of the RWA as the RWMG include:

- Considering the input of stakeholders and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee to make final decisions on the content of the ARB IRWMP
- Adopting the ARB IRWMP on behalf of the Region
- Employing the staff and consultants for development and implementation of the ARB IRWMP

Decisions are vetted within the RWMG and made at board meetings. RWA staff will perform the following duties during implementation of the IRWMP:

- Coordinate and provide leadership for the meetings of the Advisory Committee and the Planning Forum
- Meet independently with project proponents and stakeholder groups at their request
- Coordinate with neighboring IRWM groups
- Document any changes to the ARB IRWMP
- Update the project database and ensure new or modified projects are vetted with stakeholders
- Monitor funding opportunities
- Communicate funding opportunity information to appropriate project proponents
- Track progress of implementation of projects in the ARB IRWMP
- Periodically communicate the status of ARB IRWMP implementation

**RWA's Foundational Goals**

RWA adopted four Foundational Goals in July 2009 to implement its mission. The Foundational Goals represent its desire to consistently make progress in priority areas of activity that will serve the needs of members. Both current and future objectives and actions of RWA will be consistent with pursuing these goals.

**Goal 1** – Continuously improve an integrated regional water management plan that is comprehensive in scope and guides effective water resources management in the region.

**Goal 2** - Assist members with implementing successful water resources management strategies and related programs. This includes identifying, acquiring and administering external sources of funding.

**Goal 3** – Inform and educate members and interested parties by providing a forum for discussion of issues, outreach to stakeholders, and a clearinghouse for sharing information.

**Goal 4** – Represent regional needs and concerns to positively influence legislative and regulatory policies and actions.

Because the RWMG is an existing joint powers authority, it is not anticipated that Native American Tribes or other non-member groups will be represented directly on the RWMG. The RWMG is directly accessible through public meetings and through RWA staff, and all groups are encouraged to participate in the Planning Forum. As described in **Section 3.1.5**, there is an ongoing effort through the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program for tribal engagement. The RWMG will consider recommendations from that effort when it is concluded. The RWMG recognizes that Native American Tribes are sovereign nations, and as such coordination should be on a government-to-government basis.

### **4.3. ARB IRWMP Adoption**

As the RWMG, RWA is the primary adopting body of the 2018 ARB IRWMP Update. The RWA resolution adopting this 2018 ARB IRWMP Update on July 12, 2018, is included as **Appendix A**. An intention to adopt this IRWMP was published in accordance with Section 6066 of the Government Code, and the IRWMP was adopted in a public meeting of the RWA governing board.

Adoption by stakeholders is not a requirement for participation or for proposing a project for inclusion in the ARB IRWMP. However, consistent with DWR’s 2016 IRWM Grant Program Guidelines, “proponents of projects included in an IRWM Implementation proposal must adopt the IRWM Plan,” and RWA anticipates that any such project proponents will pass a “Resolution of Adoption” (see **Appendix A** for a draft resolution, approved by DWR). A list of all organizations that have adopted the 2018 ARB IRWMP Update will be maintained on the RWA Web site.<sup>5</sup> Stakeholders and project proponents may adopt the IRWMP on a quarterly basis as the IRWMP is implemented into the future.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://rwah2o.org/programs/integrated-regional-water-management/>

Table 4-1. Current and Potential Future Participants in ARB IRWMP Governance Structure

#	Agency	Statutory Authority over Water or Water Management in ARB Region <sup>a</sup>	Governance Structure Participation				Other Types of Agencies and Stakeholders <sup>c</sup>									
			RWA	Advisory Committee	Planning Forum <sup>b</sup>	Municipal/County Gov't or Special District	Electric Corporation	Native American Tribe	Self-Supplied Water User	Environmental Stewardship Organization	Community Organization	Industry Organization	State, Federal, or Regional Agency or Univ.	Disadvantaged Community Members or Rep.s	Other Interested Group	
1	Aerojet				X											X
2	California American Water*	X	X													
3	California Association of Resource Conservation Districts			X	X					X	X					
4	California Department of Water Resources	X		X									X			
5	California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment			X									X			
6	California State University Sacramento – Office of Water Programs															X
7	Carmichael Water District*	X	X	X												
8	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board	X		X									X			
9	Citrus Heights Water District*	X	X	X												
10	City of Elk Grove			X	X											
11	City of Folsom*	X	X	X												
12	City of Lincoln	X	X	X												
13	City of Rancho Cordova			X	X											
14	City of Rocklin			X	X											
15	City of Roseville*	X	X	X			X									
16	City of Roseville Stormwater Program	X		X												
17	City of Sacramento*	X	X	X												
18	Cosumnes Coalition			X												X
19	Del Paso Manor Water District*	X	X	X												
20	Dry Creek Conservancy			X							X	X				
21	Ducks Unlimited			X							X					
22	El Dorado County			X												X
23	El Dorado County Water Agency*	X	X	X												
24	El Dorado Irrigation District*	X	X	X												
25	Elk Grove Stormwater Program	X		X												
26	Elk Grove Water District	X		X												
27	Environmental Justice Coalition for Water			X							X			X		
28	Fair Oaks Water District*	X	X													

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Table 4-1. Current and Potential Future Participants in ARB IRWMP Governance Structure (contd.)

#	Agency	Statutory Authority over Water or Water Management in ARB Region <sup>a</sup>	Governance Structure Participation				Other Types of Agencies and Stakeholders <sup>c</sup>									
			RWA	Advisory Committee	Planning Forum <sup>b</sup>	Municipal/County Gov't or Special District	Electric Corporation	Native American Tribe	Self-Supplied Water User	Environmental Stewardship Organization	Community Organization	Industry Organization	State, Federal, or Regional Agency or Univ.	Disadvantaged Community Members or Rep.s	Other Interested Group	
29	Freeport Regional Water Authority	X			X											
30	Golden State Water Company*	X	X													
31	HDR															X
32	Laguna Creek Watershed Council				X						X	X				
33	League of Women Voters*				X							X				
34	Mission Oaks Recreation and Park District				X	X				X		X				
35	Natomas Central Mutual Water Company*	X			X											
36	Omochumne-Hartnell 52Water District*	X			X											
37	Orange Vale Water Company*	X	X													
38	Placer County – Planning Department			X	X	X										
39	Placer County – Stormwater/Flood Management	X			X											
40	Placer County Flood Control & Water Conservation District	X			X											
41	Placer County Resource Conservation District				X	X					X	X				
42	Placer County Water Agency*	X	X		X											
43	Rancho Murieta Community Services District*	X	X		X											
44	Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District*	X	X		X											
45	Sacramento Area Council of Governments				X							X				
46	Sacramento Area Creeks Council				X						X	X				
47	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency	X			X											
48	Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority	X			X											
49	Sacramento County/Sacramento County Water Agency*	X	X	X	X											
50	Sacramento County Environmental Management Department	X			X											
51	Sacramento County Stormwater Program	X			X											
52	Sacramento Groundwater Authority	X			X											
53	Sacramento Municipal Utility District*	X	X				X									
54	Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	X	X		X											



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Table 4-1. Current and Potential Future Participants in ARB IRWMP Governance Structure (contd.)

#	Agency	Statutory Authority over Water or Water Management in ARB Region <sup>a</sup>	Governance Structure Participation				Other Types of Agencies and Stakeholders <sup>c</sup>									
			RWA	Advisory Committee	Planning Forum <sup>b</sup>	Municipal/County Gov't or Special District	Electric Corporation	Native American Tribe	Self-Supplied Water User	Environmental Stewardship Organization	Community Organization	Industry Organization	State, Federal, or Regional Agency or Univ.	Disadvantaged Community Members or Rep.s	Other Interested Group	
55	Sacramento Suburban Water District*	X	X		X											
56	San Juan Water District*	X	X		X											
57	Save Auburn Ravine Salmon and Steelhead				X						X	X				
58	Save the American River Association*				X						X	X				
59	Sierra Club*				X						X	X				
60	Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District				X	X					X	X				
61	South Area Water Council	X			X											
62	South Sutter Water District	X			X											
63	Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority	X			X					X						
64	The Nature Conservancy				X						X	X				
65	U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation	X			X								X			
66	Valley Foothills Watersheds Coalition				X						X	X				
67	Water Forum/Water Forum Successor Effort			X	X											X
68	Wilton Action Group				X							X				
69	Woodard & Curran															X
70	American River Flood Control District	X														
71	City of Galt*	X														
72	Clay Water District*	X														
73	Florin County Water District*	X														
74	Reclamation District 1000	X														
75	Sacramento County Farm Bureau*	X										X				
76	Tokay Park Water District	X														
77	United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria								X							
78	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	X											X			
79	Wilton Rancheria								X							

Notes:

\* Signatory of the Water Forum Agreement.

<sup>a</sup> Water supply (surface water, groundwater, recycled water, reclaimed water), water quality management, wastewater collection, wastewater treatment, flood management, stormwater management, etc. Per Sacramento County LAFCo (<http://www.saclafco.org/ServiceProviders/default.htm>), Placer County LAFCo (<http://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/lafco/special%20agency%20contacts>), and El Dorado County LAFCo (<http://www.edlafco.us/Directory.html>).

<sup>b</sup> Consolidated Stakeholder and Planning forums.

<sup>c</sup> Identified in California Water Code section 10541(g)(4)-(13).

Key:

ARB = American River Basin

LAFCo = Local Agency Formation Commission

RWA = Regional Water Authority

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