

Department of Resources Watershed Resilience Pilot



May 16, 2024

Agenda

1. Watershed Resilience Program
2. Pilot Program: DWR proposed scope of work
3. Ad Hoc Committee Membership
4. Status of Activities



Watershed Resilience Program Rationale



- Water managers struggling to keep pace with climate change
- Need for watershed scale approaches and holistic solutions
- Alignment with state policies and plans (e.g., Water Resiliency Portfolio, Water Supply Strategy, CWP 2023)

Multi-sector water management:

1. Forest and Wildfire Management
2. Hydropower
3. Ecosystems
4. Groundwater
5. Water Supply
6. Flood Management
7. Water Quality
8. Recreation



Watershed Resilience Program - Pilot Details (cont.)



- ✓ Potentially 4-5 pilots funded, based on diverse:
 - ✓ geography
 - ✓ institutional capacity
 - ✓ climate resilience planning
- ✓ Informs development of full-scale grant program
- ✓ RWA selected for \$2M through April 2026
- ✓ Positions WaterFuture's Supershed to influence next long-term integrated water program

DWR's Watershed Pilot Tasks

Step A

Building a stronger plan through collaboration and Inclusion

(Frontline Community and Water Agency Engagement & Input)

- Task 3 - Identify and Assess Existing Regional Networks
- Task 4 – Develop Watershed Network
- Task 5 – Delineate Watershed Area
- Task 6 – Watershed Resilience Vision

Task 1 – Project Management
Task 2 – Reporting

Step B

Applying best available climate science and analysis

(Updating and Synthesizing New and Existing Watershed Analysis)

- Task 7 – Assess Climate Vulnerability and State of Watershed
- Task 8 – Assess Vulnerabilities and Risk

Step C

Focusing on Implementation and Progress

(Advance Adaptation Strategies & Implement Measures)

- Task 9 – Develop Adaptation Strategies
- Task 10 – Develop Implementation Strategies
- Task 11 – Performance Tracking
- Task 12 – Watershed Resilience Plan

DRAFT Work Plan - Subject to Change

AD Hoc Committee Membership



Representatives from RWA's Supershed Ten (11) individuals appointed:

1. Headwaters: Rebecca Guo (El Dorado Water Agency)
2. American River Watershed: Tony Firenzi (Placer County Water Agency)
3. Yuba & Bear River Watersheds: Greg Jones (Nevada Irrigation District)
4. Cosumnes River Watershed: Austin Miller (Sacramento County Water Agency)
5. Fisheries: Mike Tognolini or designee (East Bay Municipal Utilities District)
6. Environmental representative: Clyde MacDonald (Save the American River Association)
7. Environmental representative: Ted Rauh (Environmental Council of Sacramento)
8. Groundwater: Brett Ewart (City of Sacramento)
9. Flood: Gary Bardini (Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency)
10. Water Quality: Sean Bigley (City of Roseville)
11. American River Watershed: Michael Saunders (Georgetown Divide PUD)

Regional liaisons:

- American River Basin: Kerry Schmitz (Sacramento County Water Agency)
- Lower American River: Jessica Law or delegate (Water Forum)
- Underrepresented/Front Line Communities: Valley Vision

- DWR Grant Agreement – RWA staff are working with DWR to finalize the grant agreement for Executive Director consideration. RWA Board provided authority to the RWA Executive Director to enter into an agreement (March 14, 2024)
- Technical Consultant Procurement – RWA staff have completed an alternate selection process consistent with RWA policy 300.2, selecting Jacobs Consulting, Inc., based on RWA Executive Committee recommendation received on March 26, 2024. **RWA staff recommend the RWA Board of Directors approve the alternate selection process enabling the RWA Executive Director to develop a draft professional services agreement with Jacobs.**
- Project Kick off and Ad hoc Committee Meeting - Representatives from RWA's Supershed (the ad hoc committee) met on March 6 to discuss their potential role in this opportunity, the next meeting will be scheduled after the execution of the DWR grant agreement and onboarding of a technical consultant.

