

Mountain Counties Funding Area

The Mountain Counties Funding Area covers most of the Sierra Nevada and is characterized by including much of the State's headwaters. It includes ten IRWM regions: Upper Feather River Watershed; Yuba County; Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba; Mokelumne/Amador/Calaveras; Tuolumne-Stanislaus; Yosemite-Mariposa; Madera; Southern Sierra; American River Basin.

Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program

The Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program in Mountain Counties is being implemented by the Sierra Institute for Community and Environment with assistance from the Sierra Water Workgroup. A specific strategy for evaluating Tribal water needs and concerns in the area is being undertaken. The California Indian Environmental Alliance assisted in the first year of the effort; local Tribal members and the Sierra Institute are now working to create resources for Tribes and IRWM regions to better Tribal engagement.

Grantee: **Sierra Institute for Community and Environment**

Grant Award: **\$1,300,000**

Grant Start: November 2017

Needs Assessment: In Progress

Integrated Regional Water Management Regions*

Upper Feather River Watershed

The Upper Feather River Watershed Regional Water Management Group is made up of 12 member agencies, 9 of which are voting members, and includes a representative of the Maidu Summit Consortium as a voting member. There are four workgroups as part of the planning process, as well as a Tribal Advisory Committee. According to the 2018 Plan Update, the TAC meets every other month to review IRWM process tasks, project development/implementation, and coordinate feedback and input to the RWMG.

Yuba County

The Yuba County Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) consists of any entity which adopts the IRWM Plan and MOU, making them eligible to vote in IRWM decision making. If decisions are unable to be made by a consensus, only those who have attended two consecutive meetings can vote to meet the required 75% super majority vote. The Yuba County IRWM region created a Tribal outreach contact lists with assistance from California Indian Environmental Alliance and subsequently contacted Tribes to invite their participation in the planning, RWMG, and project development. The 2019 Plan



Update references the funding area wide Tribal engagement effort being undertaken through the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program as a method for developing Tribal engagement strategies.

Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba

The Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba (CABY) Region is governed by the Planning Committee, while the non-profit organization known as the CABY RWMG supports obtaining and administering funds. Additionally, there is a Coordinating Committee and workgroups. According to the 2020 Plan update, multiple Tribal governments were contacted as part of the planning process. The Plan recognizes that previous outreach efforts to Tribes have not resulted in substantial Tribal engagement, and the region is expecting to consider recommendations from Tribes that emerge from the Mountain Counties Funding Area Needs Assessment.

Mokelumne, Amador, Calaveras

The Mokelumne, Amador, Calaveras (MAC) region is coordinated through the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA), which is a joint powers agency consisting of local public agencies with water resource management responsibilities. The UMRWA Board works with a Board Advisory Committee and Regional Participants Committee (RPC) in IRWM processes and activities. According to the 2013 Plan Update, the RPC has developed a Community Outreach Plan consisting of three tiers. Tier three is intended to improve outreach and engagement for DACs and Tribes.

Tuolumne-Stanislaus

The Tuolumne Stanislaus Integrated Regional Water Management Authority Board of Directors serves as the Regional Water Management Group for the region. The governance body of the plan development process is the Planning Grant Committee, in which all members have signed onto the MOU. Additionally, a Watershed Advisory Committee meets regularly. The Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council is identified as a participating stakeholder in the 2017 Plan Update, and Chicken Ranch Band of Me-Wuk is also identified as having participated in the planning process. Both Tribes are also identified as Governmental and Land Management Agencies within the region. Additionally, the non-federally recognized Tuolumne Algerine Band of Yokut is identified in the Plan Update.

Yosemite-Mariposa

The Yosemite-Mariposa Region is governed by a Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) and a Regional Water Advisory Council (RWAC). The RWMG is comprised of 4 water and resource management agencies and 1 watershed NGO. The RWAC is made up of community representatives who have signed onto the MOU, as well as partners who are non-voting members. The Mariposa Indian Council is considered a partner. Representatives of the American Indian Council of Mariposa County and North Fork Rancheria participated in meetings and assisted in identifying projects beneficial to Tribes, according to the 2016 Plan update.



Madera

The Madera Region lies partially within the San Joaquin River Funding Area and partially within the Mountain Counties Funding Area. The RWMG is made up of MOU signatories, disadvantaged community group members (who elected one representative to vote on their behalf), and affiliate members (non-voting). Any stakeholder organization with an interest or role in water management in the Madera region may become a Member of the RWMG. There are seventeen signatory members of the RWMG, including the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, nine of which have statutory authority. The IRWM area includes two federally recognized tribes, North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians and Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, and numerous non-federally recognized tribes. According to the IRWM plan, the outreach coordinator for the group has reached out to the local Native American Tribes to encourage their participation and membership.

Southern Sierra

The Southern Sierra IRWM region lies partially in the Tulare Kern Funding Area and partially in the Mountain Counties Funding Area. The group recognizes three federally recognized, and many other non-federally recognized, Tribes. The Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) is governed according to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Group includes 18 members who have signed the MOU, including Big Sandy Rancheria, and 43 interested stakeholders who participate but have no voting rights. The RWMG is supported by a Coordinating Committee and various Work Groups who provide advice and input to the RWMG. The Stakeholder Coordinator for the Group has reached out to the local Native American Tribes to encourage their participation and membership.

American River Basin

The American River Basin region lies mostly in the Sacramento River Funding Area, with portions in the Mountain Counties and San Joaquin River Funding Areas. The region's governance structure consists of a Planning Forum, Advisory Committee, and the Regional Water Authority (a joint powers authority). The last update to the IRWM Plan occurred in 2018. Because of the challenges that Tribes may face in joining a JPA, the Plan Update identifies public meetings and the Planning Forum as a way for Tribes to become involved in the region. Additionally, the plan references the funding area wide effort for Tribal engagement through the Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program, and the RWMG expects to consider recommendations resulting from that effort.

** Information on each Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) region was gathered from publicly available information from the region's website or IRWM plan. This information may not reflect the most recent or accurate understanding of Tribal engagement in the region. Please contact the IRWM region for additional information.*



Contact Information

Mountain Counties Funding Area

Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACI)

DACI Program Contact

Tracy Hruska, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment

thruska@sierrainstitute.us

Department of Water Resources DACI Grant Manager

Eliana Camargo, Financial Assistance Branch, Department of Water Resources

Eliana.Camargo@water.ca.gov

Integrated Regional Water Management Contacts

Upper Feather River Watershed

Randy Wilson, Plumas County Flood Control & Water Control District

randywilson@countyofplumas.com

Yuba County

Katie Burdick, Burdick & Co

katie@burdico.net

Cosumnes-American-Bear-Yuba

Elizabeth (Izzy) Martin, The Sierra Fund

cabyirwmp@gmail.com

Mokelumne-Amador-Calaveras

Rob Alcott, Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

robalcott@aol.com

Tuolumne-Stanislaus

Lindsay Mattos, Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District

lindsay@tcrd.org

Yosemite-Mariposa

Melinda Barrett, Mariposa County Resource Conservation District

mcrd@sti.net



Madera

Jeanie Habben, Central Sierra Watershed Committee & Chowchilla/Fresno Rivers Watershed
cfwatershed@gmail.com

Southern Sierra

Bobby Kamansky, Sequoia Riverlands Trust
southernsierrairwmp.@gmail.com

American River Basin

Rob Swartz, Regional Water Authority
rswartz@rwah2o.org

