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Data is collected by each of the public water supply systems located within the Kaweah River Basin. Such data is collected pursuant to provisions of Water Supply Permits issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), Division of Drinking Water. Like information is collected pursuant to provisions of Monitoring and Reporting Programs as adopted elements of Waste Discharge Order issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. This data is uploaded to an SWRCB maintained database which is accessible to agencies of jurisdiction, as well as the general public.

Groundwater related information is also secured pursuant to programs conducted by MOU Participants, collected to agency specific databases and then uploaded to state sponsored and federal sponsored databases. While water level information is generally available to the public as a result of these collection efforts, often times, water quality information is not available on a site-specific basis to the general public.

Data sharing efforts are in a constant state of evaluation and are improving as a result of cooperative efforts. Additional improvements are being manifested as a result of to-date efforts related to implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Data uploaded to the SWRCB and Department of Water Resources databases which include water quality data often have direct data feeds from contracted water quality testing laboratories. These uploads contain sample specific QA/QC measures, results and interpretive decision related inputs designed to assist in the evaluation of resulting test data.

### 15.2.3 Database Maintenance

At the current time, KDWCD assumes the responsibility and lead role position of maintaining their database and makes same available to other MOU Participants. Transition has occurred between the Kaweah & St. Johns Rivers Association with respect to the maintenance of the water quality database. Upon acceptance of the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the water quality database is now maintained by the Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association. In addition, this database has been expanded from its current format of

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As a result of the pursuit of quality related information on an individual basis, a limited amount of information exists in the public arena as to the general water quality of the area. Older studies by the U.S. Geological Survey provides some insight as to water quality parameters, however, many of the investigations performed by said agency were specifically targeted to either problem areas or problem constituents, such as Boron and Arsenic. More recent studies, completed under contracts with the County of Tulare, have identified areas with identified contamination and the types and degrees of contaminants. These studies have been completed on a general Tulare County wide basis, as well as specific areas within the eastern portion of the Valley portion of the Kaweah River watershed. Specific contaminants have been identified including Nitrates, 1,2,3 TCP, perchlorates, Chromium VI and iron. For the eastern Kaweah River watershed, specific projects have been identified, scoped and cost elements developed to assist in implementation of solution sets. Funded budgets are currently in place to assist in the pursuit of funded solutions.

This trend is being reversed as the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP) General Order has been adopted and brings with it a groundwater water quality investigation and evaluation component. Very controversial in its nature, parties have applied to represent landowners within the RWQCB's jurisdiction and that is the case within the Kaweah River Basin. The Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association been recognized by the RWQCB as the third-party representative of growers in the area. Initial steps required under the General Order, now completed, include an initial Groundwater Assessment Report which was prepared with principal emphasis on the vulnerability of the groundwater reservoir to impacts from agricultural related discharges. Of particular importance, nutrient related impacts and pesticide related impacts are of high significance.

In the current agricultural arena, efforts associated with the Dairy Industry General Order, also adopted by the RWQCB, have been in place for some time. The groundwater component associated with said order is specifically related to the private wells located on dairies and monitor wells designed and constructed in locations adjacent

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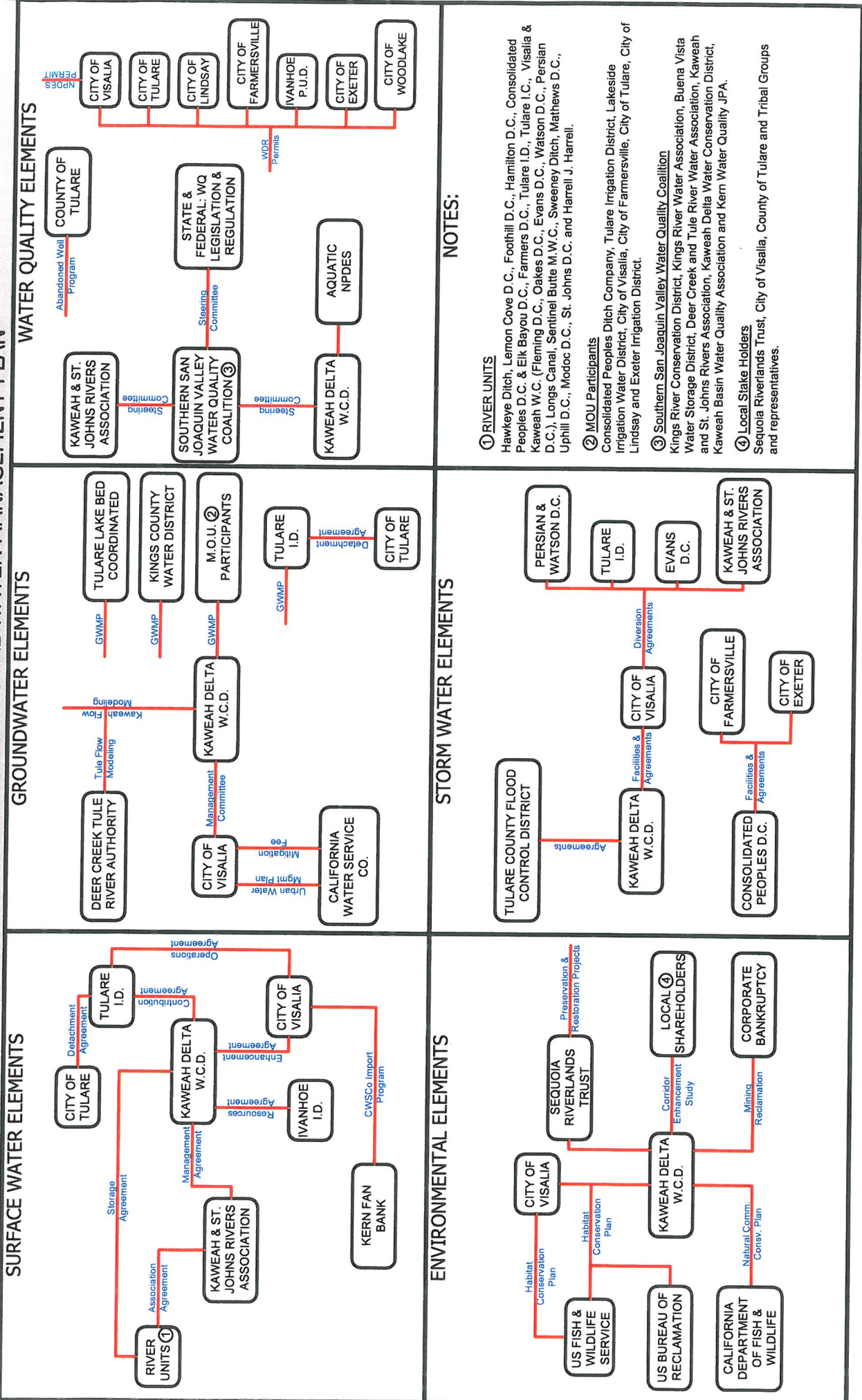
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#### 12.4.8 Outreach to Native American Tribal Communities

The KDWCD as well as multiple MOU Participants have longstanding relationships with tribal community representatives in the area. It is an objective of this IRWMP to continue this relationship on an expanded basis. Currently, consultations take place on any project which is in the development process or, more importantly, at the threshold of construction process, to ensure coordination with tribal group representatives and to ensure protection of antiquities, sacred sites and burial sites.

As an example of this coordination, the KDWCD has recently completed the development of the Paregien Basin Project. Elements of this project involved excavation in areas where the potential existed for historic activity by tribal members. In addition to a library-based research effort, initial consultations occurred with tribal representatives which resulted in limited on-site excavations by qualified archeologists. As a result of this effort, a complete geo-archeological study was undertaken on the project site to ensure that there was no evidence of prior activity wherein artifacts or burial sites would be encountered. With the completion of the geo-archeological study, it was concluded that the risk of finding any artifacts and/or burial sites was remote. Nevertheless, the KDWCD prepared a Memorandum of Understanding with tribal group representatives which called for immediate cessation of project activities if any antiquities or evidence of burial were discovered in the construction process. In such case, consultation would occur with tribal group representatives to determine next steps, which could have possibly included the re-design of the project in order to avoid disturbance of a specific area.

Recently, the tribal contact list was expanded from the historical two (2) contacts to multiple contacts. Additional contact steps have been developed to include an “early” contact step in the project development process to allow for a project awareness step to be incorporated in the contact process, in lieu of waiting for a project to be well along in the development and environmental evaluation process prior to contact efforts being undertaken.

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In addition, the process calling for contact to be made if artifacts are discovered has been augmented with an open access policy allowing for interim project site visits at the election of the tribal representatives. Site safety briefings and safety equipment are being incorporated into this process.

There are no tribal reservations within the Plan Area. There are therefore no specific critical water issues for Native American tribal communities within the Kaweah River Basin. There are therefore no specific government-to-tribal government opportunities.