

G-1647

COVER SHEET (PAGE 1 of 2)

May 1998 CALFED ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROPOSAL SOLICITATION

Proposal Title: American River (North and Middle Forks) Integrated Watershed Stewardship Strategy

Applicant Name: Placer County Resource Conservation District

Mailing Address: 251 Auburn Ravine Road Suite 201 Auburn CA. 95603

Telephone: (530) 885-3046

Fax: (530) 823-5504

Amount of funding requested: \$ 220,750,000 for 3 years

Indicate the Topic for which you are applying (check only one box). Note that this is an important decision: see page of the Proposal Solicitation Package for more information.

- Fish Passage Assessment
- Floodplain and Habitat Restoration
- Fish Harvest
- Watershed Planning/Implementation
- Fish Screen Evaluations - Alternatives and Biological Priorities
- Fish Passage Improvements
- Gravel Restoration
- Species Life History Studies
- Education

Indicate the geographic area of your proposal (check only one box):

- Sacramento River Mainstem
- Delta
- Suisun Marsh and Bay
- San Joaquin River Mainstem
- Landscape (entire Bay-Delta watershed)
- Sacramento Tributary: American River
- East Side Delta Tributary:
- San Joaquin Tributary:
- Other:
- North Bay:

Indicate the primary species which the proposal addresses (check no more than two boxes):

- San Joaquin and East-side Delta tributaries fall-run chinook salmon
- Winter-run chinook salmon
- Late-fall run chinook salmon
- Delta smelt
- Splittail
- Green sturgeon
- Migratory birds
- Spring-run chinook salmon
- Fall-run chinook salmon
- Longfin smelt
- Steelhead trout
- Striped bass

COVER SHEET (PAGE 2 of 2)

May 1998 CALFED ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROPOSAL SOLICITATION

Indicate the type of applicant (check only one box):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/Non-profit joint venture | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local government/district | <input type="checkbox"/> Private party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> University | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Indicate the type of project (check only one box):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Research | |

By signing below, the applicant declares the following:

- (1) the truthfulness of all representations in their proposal;
- (2) the individual signing the form is entitled to submit the application on behalf of the applicant (if applicant is an entity or organization); and
- (3) the person submitting the application has read and understood the conflict of interest and confidentiality discussion in the PSP (Section II.K) and waives any and all rights to privacy and confidentiality of the proposal on behalf of the applicant, to the extent as provided in the Section.



(Signature of Applicant)

1998 CALFED Category III
Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs
Section II: Executive Summary

a. Project Title and Applicant Name

Title: American River (North and Middle Forks) Integrated Watershed Stewardship Strategy

Applicant: Placer County Resource Conservation District on behalf of the American River Watershed Group (ARWG)

b. Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives

The project will develop a Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy addressing a wide range of environmental, institutional, social, and economic issues in an integrated manner on a watershed basis. A major emphasis will be on improving the ecological functioning of the watershed, including protection and restoration of riparian and aquatic habitats, protecting watershed integrity, improving water quality and flows, reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, avoiding and mitigating growth-related watershed impacts, and addressing factors such as connectivity with the mainstem Sacramento River.

The ARWG represents all three forks of the American River. This proposal is for the North and Middle Forks of the American River. The El Dorado County Resource Conservation District will submit a separate proposal for the South Fork. Each of these proposals stands on its own; if both are funded, we will thoroughly integrate them.

c. Approach, Tasks, Schedule

Over a 36-month period, the ARWG will work with agency staff and a team of biology, hydrology, and socioeconomic planning consultants to:

1. Conduct a preliminary public scoping process for the overall project;
2. Collect relevant biophysical, social, economic, and institutional data;
3. Develop these data, to the extent possible, within a central geographic information system (GIS), accessible to all interested parties;
4. Prepare a report integrating data and information collected under tasks 2 and 3 and providing a holistic understanding of watershed conditions, functions, and processes;
5. Develop a Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy, using a significant level of community participation;
6. Conduct a pilot implementation of the Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy on one privately-owned and one publicly-owned site.
7. Conduct an evaluation of overall project, including monitoring of pilot implementation. Prepare a final evaluation and monitoring report for CALFED, ARWG, and other interested parties.

d. Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED

Development of this Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy, to be done in a manner consistent with overall CALFED goals and objectives, is essential to local implementation of CALFED and CVPIA programs. The ARWG and its members from federal, state, and local government, environmental groups, and business/industry provide the best vehicle for developing local responses to CALFED goals and objectives. This proposal will address these goals and objectives through the biological and ecological objectives identified above in section b.

e. Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

Funding in the amount of \$220,750 is requested from CALFED Category III to support the work outlined here. Contributions from project cooperators are estimated at \$65,500, for a total project cost of \$286,350. No third party impacts are contemplated as project proposals will be consistent with current land-use planning or will involve voluntary agreements with affected parties.

f. Applicant Qualifications

The Placer County Resource Conservation District staff will administer this proposal. ARWG member agencies implementing this strategy include Placer County, Placer County Water Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. These agencies have extensive natural resources planning and implementation backgrounds and are well qualified execute this proposal.

g. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

The Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy will be developed with extensive technical and public input. Evaluation of the extensive biophysical, socioeconomic, and institutional data developed as a part of the project will be conducted by the project coordinators and reviewed by the public. The Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy has a monitoring component that will continue as an ongoing element of ARWG activities after the end of the three-year Category III support. Evaluation information and monitoring data will be used as part of an adaptive management process to update data inventories, GIS data layers, the Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy, and on-the-ground implementation. As the CALFED Comprehensive Monitoring and Research Program (CMARP) is developed, this project will work to incorporate CMARP monitoring approaches.

h. Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives

Local support/coordination is provided through the American River Watershed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signatories (See Exhibit A for the ARWG MOU). These signatories include a variety of federal, state, and local agencies, private landowners, and business/industry representatives. Proposition 204 funding will implement water quality monitoring, wildlife habitat improvement, and fuel load reduction program projects that will roll up into the broader planing perspective provided by this proposal. This proposal also recognizes connections with the US Forest Service Category III proposal to study cumulative watershed effects on the American and Cosumnes River watersheds. The proposed project will be done in coordination with the recently initiated Placer County open space and habitat conservation planning process. The project's outcomes in enhancement of water quality, water flows, habitat restoration are compatible with CALFED goals and objectives.

1998 Category III
Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs
Section III: Title Page

- a. Title: American River (North and Middle Forks) Integrated Watershed Stewardship Strategy**
- b. Applicant: Placer County Resource Conservation District**
251 Auburn Ravine Road, Suite #201
Auburn, CA 95603
Phone: (530) 885-3046 ext. 118
Fax: (530) 823-5504
Email: pcrd@quiknet.com
Richard Gresham, Manager
- c. Type of Organization: Local Government**
- d. Federal Tax ID #68-0389895**
- e. Participants/Collaborators in Implementation: American River Watershed Group (see also attached MOU & signatories in Exhibit A)**

Principal agencies include:

Placer County Resource Conservation District (*project administrator*)
Natural Resources Conservation Service
US Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
County of Placer
Placer County Water Agency

The California Biodiversity Council has recently approached the ARWG and offered to help support ARWG in its watershed planning and Proposition 204 grant implementation efforts. We would make full use of this support in carrying out this proposal.

1998 Category III
Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs
Section IV. Project Description

a. Project Description and Approach

The proposed project will prepare and begin pilot implementation of a Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy for the North and Middle Forks of the American River (Figure I). The project will provide the existing American River Watershed Group (ARWG) (See Exhibit A for the ARWG MOU) with background information, management guidelines, project priorities, and environmental data needed to implement watershed restoration activities focusing on improving the ecological functioning of the watershed, including protection and restoration of riparian and aquatic habitats, protecting watershed integrity, improving water quality and flows, reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, avoiding and mitigating growth-related watershed impacts, and addressing factors such as connectivity with the mainstem Sacramento River. Meeting CALFED goals and objectives will be a central focus in addressing these environmental issues. For example, reducing the principal stressors of anadromous fish in the lower American River: excessive late-summer and fall water temperatures, inadequate spring pulse flows, and elevated sediment deposition. As a part of the proposal, two pilot projects will be implemented consistent with the Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy, one on private land and one on public land. ARWG will provide ongoing implementation of the Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy beyond the end of the three-year Category III grant.

The proposed project includes compiling biophysical, institutional, social, and economic data; developing these data in a central geographic information system (GIS); preparing an integrated study of watershed conditions, functions, and processes; preparing a Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy; implementing two pilot projects; and evaluating and monitoring project outcomes. Significant community involvement processes will be used at several points in the project.

The Placer County Resource Conservation District staff will administer this proposal. Other ARWG members and agencies executing the proposal include Placer County, Placer County Water Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. A team of biological and socioeconomic planning consultants also will play a significant role in carrying out the proposed project. ARWG members and the project's community involvement processes provide significant, ongoing linkages to the American River watershed community. The California Biodiversity Council has recently approached the ARWG and offered to help support ARWG in its watershed planning and Proposition 204 grant implementation efforts. We would make full use of this support in carrying out this proposal.

b. Proposed Scope of Work

We have developed seven distinct tasks for the scope of work for this proposal. The work will be carried out over a three-year period. Figure II provides a schematic outline of the proposal. Figure III shows the schedule for completion of tasks. Figure IV shows the project budget.

Task I: Planning Process Scoping

The first task is a scoping process to develop a general set of objectives that will guide the direction, development, and character. The scoping process will seek community, stakeholder, and agency input through several means. These include making presentations and receiving comments at regular meetings

of established community organizations with an interest in watershed and resource management (e.g., Cattleman's Association, California Forestry Association, Fire Safe Councils, environmental groups, Building Industry Association, chambers of commerce, municipal advisory councils, etc.); meetings with agency and special district staffs; and two publicly noticed meetings called by the ARWG specifically for the purpose of receiving scoping comments from the general public. Also, we will use an Internet forum to gather scoping comments.

Among project objectives to be identified in this scoping step are:

- the identification of key watershed resource issues;
- the identification of which issues may be best addressed through this watershed planning and stewardship project and those best addressed through other means;
- the identification of the potential applications of project results and outputs;

This task will culminate in a draft document of general project goals, objectives, and resource issues of concern. While this step is to serve as a means of guiding the project and its goals, additional input and new information gathered throughout the project may result in some modification of these general directions.

Task 2: Biophysical Data Inventory and Collection

Identify and collect relevant information on the biophysical characteristics, condition, functions, and processes of the North Fork and Middle Fork watersheds. Information will be drawn primarily from existing agency, landowner, and commercial databases. Examples include databases of the US Forest Service, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, California Department of Fish and Game, CERES, University of California, and Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP). Data in geographic information system (GIS) format will be sought in particular. Limited new information will be collected on an as-needed basis.

Examples of watershed biophysical data to be sought include:

- hydrography
- water quality
- flows
- vegetation
- soils
- slopes
- sediment sources
- terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and habitat.

Also used in this step will be a review of existing, new, and ongoing watershed science research that may be applicable to the watershed area.

Task 3: Social, Economic, and Institutional Data Inventory and Collection

Compile a social, economic, and institutional database for watershed management and planning from existing data sources and limited new data collection. This assessment will be used to begin development of comprehensive baseline data regarding physical location/demographics, level of knowledge about issues, attitudes/perceptions/beliefs, and communication channels within/among agencies, communities, business owners and private citizens. It will provide a foundation for more effective communication and partnership development regarding watershed-wide resource issues, programs, goals, and objectives.

We will develop a matrix of relationships between the four categories below and the CALFED goals and objectives pertinent to watershed planning. This matrix will be incorporated into the Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy.

Agencies Identify and contact all project area agencies responsible for social and economic concerns, including all land management planning and business development institutions. Define an area of influence for each institutional entity. Create an inter-agency master list of social, economic, and institutional planning information available for the project area, establishing governance roles, information management resources and mechanisms, data formats and data ownership, key contact personnel.

Communities Identify all communities active within the project area, assessing social infrastructure integrity, information management resources and mechanisms, and key contact personnel. Develop a preliminary profile of communities. Consider community characteristics, including geography, demographics, employment base, population, parcel size, land use, etc.

Businesses Identify project area business associations and organizations, their information management resources and mechanisms and key contact personnel. Determine types of businesses represented, demographic and statistical information on these types and key potential linkages of each type to watershed management planning. Refine above profile and extend community business member contacts.

Private Citizens Identify the existing census and assessor records demographic information necessary to contact private resident landowners, non-resident landowners, and non-owner stakeholders (renters, recreation/tourist base). Develop private citizens focus group workshops to create a dialogue regarding watershed issues, concerns, interests in and barriers to involvement in watershed conservation/protection. Integrate local perspectives and issues into Watershed Plan draft development.

Task 4: Geographic Information Management

Process and place the data developed in Tasks 2 and 3 within a single, publicly accessible geographic information system (GIS). The Tahoe National Forest will house this GIS. This GIS will be used to store the information, make it accessible to interested parties, and conduct analyses and generate map products to support Tasks 5 and 6, as well as monitoring and evaluation activities. Also, GIS data generated in the Placer County Proposition 204 grant project will be incorporated into this database. Create master list of the biophysical, institutional, social, and economic data information available for the project area and provide detailed metadata. Develop approaches to make this information available to resource conservation groups and agencies.

Task 5: Integration Study

Develop an integrated understanding of:

- 1) American River watershed processes and functional linkages between resources, resource values and conditions, watershed sensitivity, and land use practices;
- 2) the present stewardship environment and present practices in the watershed;
- 3) the relationship between present stewardship practices and present and potential future values and conditions of watershed resources and functions
- 4) the linkages between the American River upper watershed, the lower American River, the Sacramento River, and the Bay-Delta system.

This task will result in the best working understanding of the natural and social processes and functions of the watershed from the Sierra crest to the Bay-Delta. This material will be the informational basis for the development of the watershed plan and stewardship strategy. A draft of the watershed integration study will be circulated for public and peer review. Following this solicitation of comment, a revised draft will be prepared and published.

Task 6: Watershed Plan and Stewardship Strategy

Develop the Watershed Plan and Stewardship Strategy and formulate their implementation. ARWG direction and significant community involvement processes will be used to guide Watershed Plan and Stewardship Strategy development and implementation. We anticipate that the plan will address the ecological functioning of the watershed, including protection and restoration of riparian and aquatic habitats, protecting watershed integrity, improving water quality and flows, reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire, avoiding and mitigating growth-related watershed impacts, and addressing factors such as connectivity with the mainstem Sacramento River.

Specific elements of the plan will include:

- watershed goals and objectives
- range of land use activities to be addressed
- list of actions, priorities, responsibilities
- implementation on one private and one federal project site
- CALFED compliant monitoring plan
- new data collection and research needs
- linkages to CALFED goals and objectives
- integration of other Category III and Prop. 204 funded projects
- other elements as identified during scoping and planning processes

Task 7: Pilot Project Implementation

We will implement two pilot projects in accordance with the Watershed Plan and Stewardship Strategy. One pilot project will be on private land and one on public land. The planning process will be used to select the issues the pilot projects will address and their location. Category III funding will be used only for the planning and administrative portions of these projects. Funding for actual on-the-ground work will be developed from existing budgets or other sources. Appropriate monitoring plans will be developed and implemented as a part of these pilot projects, following the monitoring approach of the Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy and CMARP recommendations.

d. Expected Benefits

Primary Benefits The project will help alleviate the principal stressors of anadromous fish in the lower American River: excessive late-summer and fall water temperatures, inadequate spring pulse flows, and elevated sediment deposition. Watershed management will help overcome a long-term trend toward higher winter-spring and lower summer-fall inflows to Folsom Reservoir, which has undermined the reservoir's water supply yield. The project will help protect the American River water supply, upon which downstream water developments and the ecosystems of the lower American River and Delta depend. The project facilitates watershed restoration activities by providing the necessary background information, management guidelines, project priorities, and environmental data for their implementation.

The project will contribute to the long-term cultivation of a strong stewardship ethic on the American River Watershed. The Watershed Plan and Stewardship Strategy will provide important direction to resource management efforts and county planning processes (general plan, open space plan, community plans) on the watershed. This guidance will enhance a range of watershed resources, functions, and processes, with a particular emphasis on those of concern to CALFED. These benefits will accrue and accumulate long after the requested Category III three-year funding ends.

Secondary Benefits The project will serve as a model for similar projects throughout the Sierra Nevada. For example, the benefits of the proposed project will be transferred throughout the Sacramento River basin through the ARWG's active participation in the Sacramento River Watershed Program. Integrating local perspectives and issues will promote support of this project and may provide helpful guidance for generating public involvement in subsequent projects. Pre- and post-project economic and social indicators will also be monitored to better understand the risks/benefits for affected communities and individuals, and the influences which determine their willingness to maintain the improvements.

e. Background and Biological/Technical Justification

While fire and road hazard reduction, riparian restoration, and other water quality enhancement projects can be implemented in the absence of a basin-wide watershed management plan, the main benefit of preparing the proposed strategy is providing increased assurance that projects will be effective, economically feasible, environmentally sound, mutually supportive, and economically and socially realistic. Implementing watershed enhancement projects piecemeal, without an overarching plan, greatly reduces the likelihood that the most beneficial projects will be completed first or that projects that need to be conducted in combination with each other to maximize their effectiveness (e.g., to construct fuelbreaks effective in changing wildfire behavior) will in fact be carried out.

This project will contribute to achievement of the following Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan (ERPP) objectives:

- Improve seasonal stream flow and water temperatures for the lower American River ecological unit (Visions for Ecological Units, Lower American River Ecological Unit, ERPP, Vol. II, p. 290-291)
- Local programs for upper watershed health and function (Visions for Ecological Processes, Upper Watershed Process, ERPP, Vol. II, p. 293-294)
- Upper Watershed Processes, Implementation Objective (ERPP, Vol. II, p. 307).

In addition to providing a basin-wide vision for watershed restoration, the proposed project promotes implementation of subsequent projects by providing a process for affected landowners to cooperatively develop a strategy for meeting their mutual objectives, and provides a substantial incentive for implementing subsequent projects by increasing their economic feasibility.

Effective resource management of both private and public property requires active, voluntary, participation of its owners and the local communities. The results of traditional approaches to developing such participation have been spotty at best. Landowners and small businessmen typically fear and resist government involvement with their property and their affairs. Thus, more trusting public-private relationships are need to ensure successful watershed stewardship. The ARWG will strive to cultivate such relationships between landowners, businesses, and government agencies.

The proposed watershed strategy will be prepared based on the best available information, including geographic information system (GIS) data layers.

f. Monitoring and Data Evaluation

The Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy will include a resource monitoring program as the basis for an adaptive management strategy. Implementing monitoring measures in conjunction with management activities will ensure that significant environmental impacts are avoided. The monitoring program will focus on ongoing collection and analysis of pre- and post-project data to assess the effectiveness of management activities in achieving objectives for wildlife habitat, water quality, and

visual resources. Volunteer participation in monitoring (e.g., high school and college students, community groups, etc.) will be sought. The monitoring program will meet or exceed the minimum standards specified in the Category III Proposal Solicitation Package. Project staff and the ARWG will work to incorporate CALFED CMARP monitoring approaches into the Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy monitoring program as the CMARP approaches are developed.

Project monitoring will be coordinated with the monitoring funded through the Placer County Proposition 204 grant. Monitoring data will be integrated into the GIS maintained by US Forest Service.

g. Implementability

The proposed project is consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. The project will require the cooperation of selected members of the existing American River Watershed Group. This group is highly technically qualified, institutionally empowered, motivated, and has demonstrated a high degree of willingness to participate in activities that will further watershed enhancement goals and objectives.

The proposed project does not prejudice ultimate decisions on the CALFED long-term program.

Success of the project has no potential to be affected by the willingness of sellers, hazardous materials conditions, cultural impacts, or related constraints on implementability.

1998 Category III
Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs
Section V. Costs and Schedule to Implement Proposed Project

a. Budget Costs

The ARWG Group consists of volunteers and/or members participating at the expense of their agencies and or private companies. There is therefore a substantial commitment of in-kind time and labor involved in the proposed project. The ARWG members lack some of the technical and planning expertise to develop these plans and Category III funding is needed primarily to support hiring of these experts. See Figure IV for a detailed summary of the proposed budget.

We are asking for \$220,750 of CALFED Category III funding. Project collaborators will provide matching support of \$65,500. In addition, the Tahoe National Forest geographic information system hardware and software, with a capital value of approximately \$250,000, will provide the "home" for the GIS data and analysis included as a part of this proposal.

The Placer County Resource Conservation District (PCRCDD) will be the responsible fiduciary and administrator for this project. PCRCDD has extensive experience in successfully administering grants in the magnitude of several hundred thousand dollars.

The proposed project has multiple components that can be reduced or removed in whole, should CALFED choose to only partially fund this proposal. Should CALFED make such a decision, we are willing to work with CALFED to determine appropriate reductions in project scope and funding.

Work on the proposed project will not commence until all necessary executing agreements are signed by all responsible parties. Funding received will not be used to replace existing funding sources for on-going programs, for political advocacy, or applicant litigation costs.

b. Scheduled Milestones

We propose to carry out the proposed project over a three-year period. Figure III provides a detailed description of the phasing of project tasks.

Following the close of the three years of CALFED Category III funding, the ARWG and its members will provide ongoing implementation of the Watershed Management Plan and Stewardship Strategy, the American River GIS database, and monitoring activities. The outputs of this Category III funded project will help to leverage significant additional watershed planning and enhancement activities. These results will provide a substantial, ongoing contribution to the achievement of CALFED goals and objectives.

1998 Category III
Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs
Section VI. Applicant Qualifications

The ARWG will work with the Placer County Resource Conservation District and Placer County staff to select the appropriate consulting team for technical aspects of the project, preparation of the plan, and to provide input and direction to the project team.

The project will be administered by Richard Gresham, Manager, Placer County Resource Conservation District. Mr. Gresham has been the manager of the Placer County Resource Conservation District since 1978. He has a Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Fresno State. The Soil and Water Conservation Society and the International Erosion Control Association have granted him the use of the professional designation "Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control". Under the direction of Mr. Gresham, the Placer County Resource Conservation District has received, managed, and successfully completed numerous state and federal grants for natural resource and conservation related projects and programs. The Placer County Resource Conservation District has an ongoing agreement with Placer County to provide for planning and implementation of conservation and natural resource programs and assistance with general and community plans.

Additionally, project work will be carried out by staff affiliated with various local, state, and federal agencies. These staff are all highly competent and are leaders in their areas of work. The involvement of these staff in this project is fully supported by their agencies. The agencies most directly involved with this work and most strongly supporting it are those listed in Section III e, above. These agencies have a great depth of competence and resources to contribute to the execution of this project.

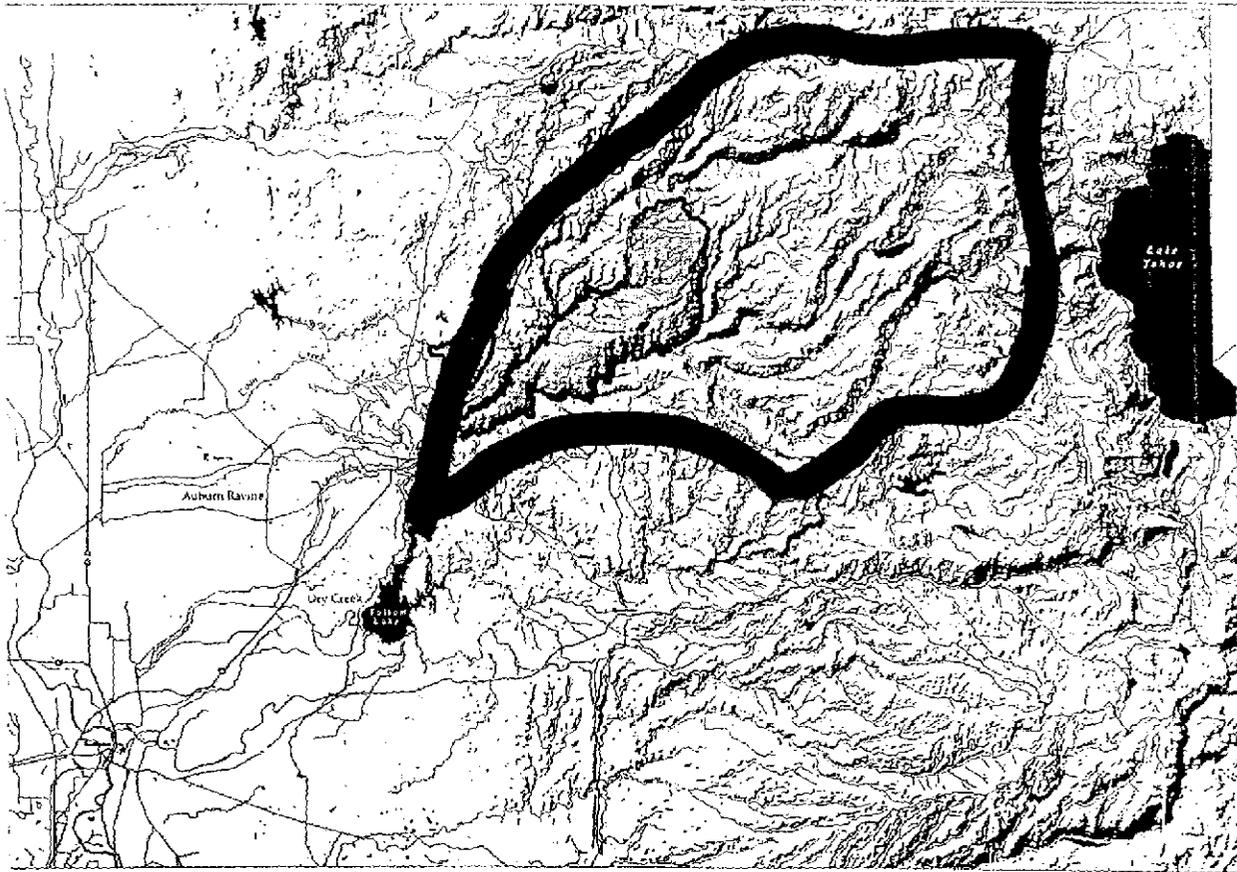
No potential applicant conflicts of interest have been identified.

1998 Category III
Ecosystem Restoration Projects and Programs
Section VII. Compliance with Standard Terms and Conditions

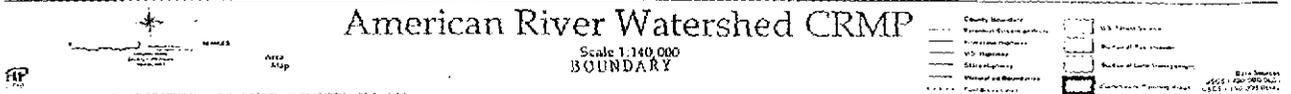
The terms and conditions specified are agreeable and will be complied with by the applicant.

The Placer County Resource Conservation District, administrator for this proposed project, prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.

"FIGURE I"



I-012042



I-012042

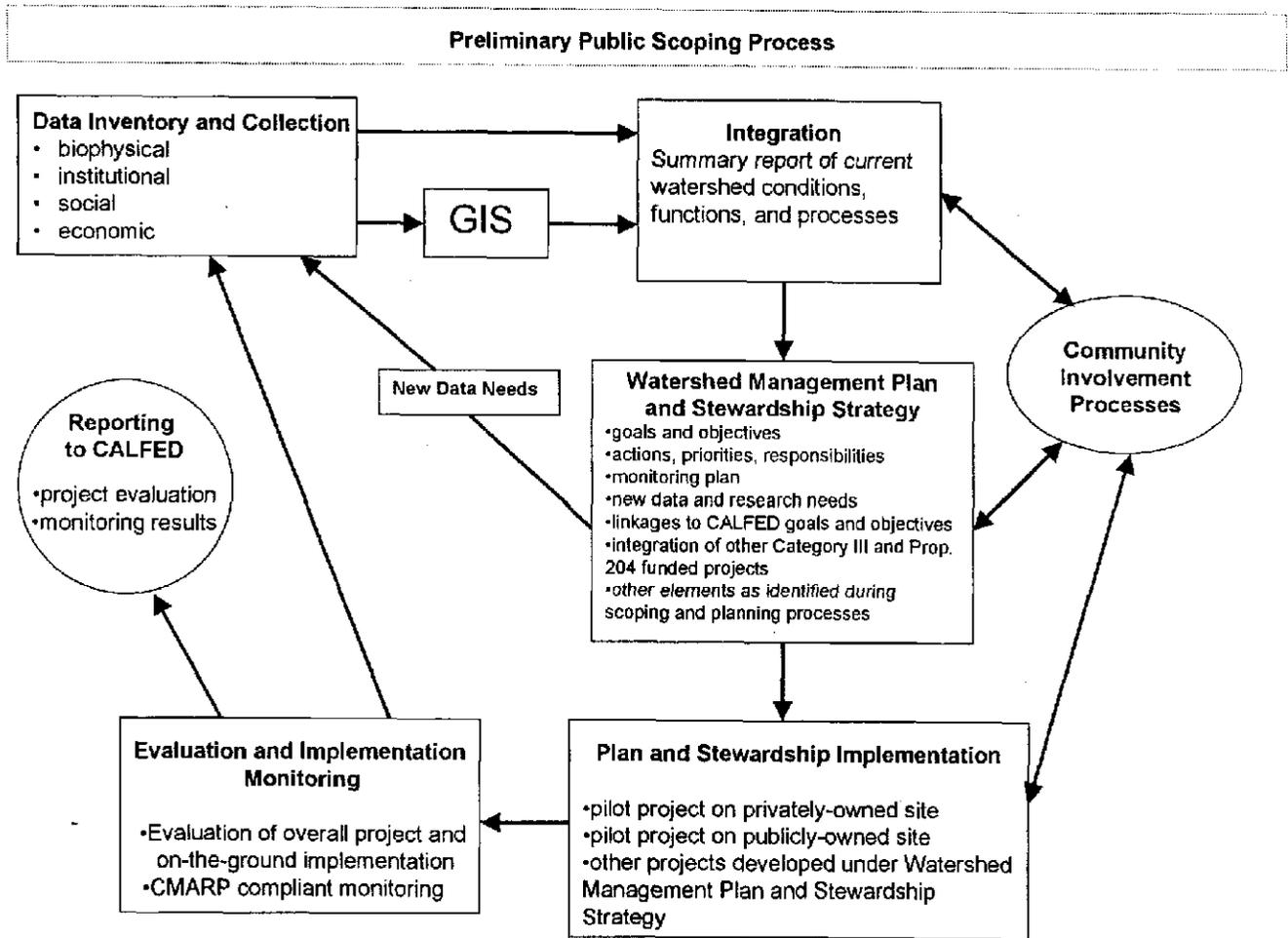
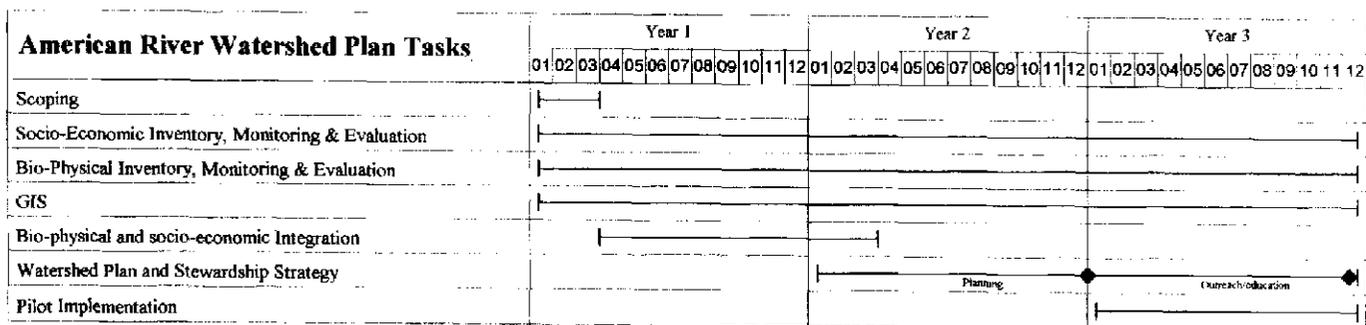


Figure II. Schematic of Proposed Project

Figure III



I-012044

Figure IV

Project Phase and Task	Direct Labor Hours	Direct Salary and Benefits	Overhead Labor (General, Admin. and fee)	Service Contracts	Material and Acquisition Contracts	Misc.	Total Cost	In Kind
Task 1 Scoping and Planning		RCD 5,000	RCD 500				5,500	CRMP 2,000
		5,000	500					2,000
Task 2 Soc-Ec., Invent. Monitor., Evalu.			RCD 2,300	26,500			28,800	CRMP 2,000
			2,300					2,000
Task 3 Bio-Phys. Invent. Monitor., Evalu.		USFS 6,250					29,150	USFS 2,000
		CDF 6,250						F&G 2,000
		NRCS 4,400	RCD 2,650					Placer Co 2,000
		16,900	2,650	9,600			6,000	
Task 4 GIS							42,900	Placer Co 4,000
		USFS 32,000						CDF 4,000
		CDF 4,000	RCD 3,900		3,000			*USFS 4,000
		36,000	3,900				NRCS 3,000	
							F&G 2,500	
							BLM 2,000	
							19,500	
Task 5 Watershed/ Stewardship Integration							33,000	CDF 2,000
								USFS 2,000
								NRCS 2,000
							F&G 2,000	
							BLM 2,000	
							RCD 2,000	
							Placer Co 2,000	
							14,000	
Task 6 Watershed Plan and Stewardship Strategy							59,400	CDF 2,000
								USFS 2,000
								NRCS 2,000
							F&G 2,000	
							BLM 2,000	
							RCD 2,000	
							Placer Co 2,000	
							14,000	
Task 7 Pilot Implementation							22,000	BLM 2,000
								USFS 2,000
								NRCS 2,000
							RCD 2,000	
							8,000	
TOTALS	0	97,900	19,750	100,100	3,000	0	220,750	65,500

* USFS - Tahoe Nat'l Forest will house GIS Data - Hardware and Software. Capital valued at approx. \$250,000.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Coordinated Resource Management and Planning
for the
North and Middle Fork American River Watershed
Placer County, California

I. PURPOSE AND NEED

The signatories of this Memorandum of Understanding recognize the value of coordinating land management and planning activities among public agencies at all levels as well as between these agencies and private landowners, and to evaluate and implement projects of mutual interest. This MOU is intended to focus on wildland and wildland-urban intermix fuel load reduction/healthy forest ecosystem and fire safe communities in order to promote public safety, watershed stability, and high quality waters in the American River and its tributaries through cooperation, information and education. Long term forest health and catastrophic wildland fires are of critical concern as are the following problems: a) erosion and sedimentation; b) habitat quality, habitat disruption and depletion of biodiversity; c) the intermix of rural homes and resultant economic fire hazards; d) the need to maintain the area's economic stability; e) the need to maintain the stability of the watershed; and f) the critical need for high quality waters throughout the American River watershed to serve multiple and highly varied downstream needs.

Opportunities within the CRMP area include improving the forest ecosystem by managing watershed quality by: 1. optimizing citizen initiative in managing fuels on private property to enhance forest and watershed health; 2. managing forest resources through the thinning of overcrowded stands, thinning brush fields and removing dying trees; 3. reducing excessive growth of fire-dependent brush species; 4. reducing risk of catastrophic wildfires through fuel management and reintroduce the natural role of fire to this ecosystem through prescribed burning; 5. developing strategic fuel break locations; 6. implementing defensible space standards; 7. preventing depletion of adequate ground cover in order that siltation of waterways is prevented; 8. preventing discharge of pollutants before they can adversely affect water quality; 9. optimizing and sustaining native fresh water species; 10 preventing depletion of old-growth tree stands and designing areas for re-establishment of old-growth tree communities; and 11. creating and sustaining diverse habitat and wildlife diversity. These activities, done effectively, will improve economic opportunities within the community while ensuring a healthy forest ecosystem. The communities of Meadow Vista and Foresthill may be used as an example of community participation in reviving a healthy forest.

II. MISSION STATEMENT

To develop and implement a plan that ensures public and firefighter safety, and sustain environmental and economic health within the American River Watershed.

III. OBJECTIVES

Develop a watershed approach to fuels reduction and fuel management.

To provide interagency support to agencies and private landowners desiring to reduce fuel load and make resource improvements.

Develop demonstration sites and hold workshops for residents' public education and awareness.

To reduce risk of catastrophic wildfire.

To enhance watershed and habitat values - Rehabilitate the forest ecosystem.

Identify desired future watershed conditions.

To manage and improve water quality.

Reduce the risk of erosion and sedimentation - Employ a long term, interdisciplinary monitoring system.

Protect human lives and improved property.

Sustain long term economic viability.

Notwithstanding the statements of goals and mission herein, those parties acknowledge and intend that this MOU shall not constitute the grounds for any liability in the event such goals and objectives are not met. After the consultation and cooperation provided for herein, each agency shall continue to exercise its sole discretion in fulfilling its legally authorized duties.

Date of Adoption: November 26, 1996

Location of Planning Area:

The North and Middle Fork American River Coordinated Resource Management Plan area is defined as the North and Middle forks of the American River. This watershed is bordered by the crest of the Sierra Nevada and the Lake Tahoe Basin on the east; Yuba and Bear River watershed on the North; Middle Fork American River watershed on the South and Folsom Lake on the West (Figure 1). Area involved includes the North and Middle Forks of the American River :

	North fork	222,360 Acres	
	Middle fork	394,181 Acres	
Public Ownership			<u>Acres</u>
	Tahoe National Forest	North fork	93,527
		Middle fork	98,005
	Eldorado National Forest	Middle fork	16,982
	Bureau of Land Management		20,693
	Bureau of Reclamation		25,000
	State Parks		3,000

Totals		
Public		257,207
Private		<u>359,334</u>
	Total	616,541

Description of the Planning Area:

The American River CRMP planning area includes about 616,541 acres or 963 square miles of land. Elevations of the area range from about 9000 feet along the crest of the Sierra Nevada to about 406 feet at Folsom Reservoir. The mix of public and private ownership is checkerboard within the eastern two thirds of the area. The Western third is generally mixed with BLM and BOR and private ownership.

Nearly all west slope Sierra Nevada Habitat types are represented by a transect within the CRMP planning area that includes: Subalpine Conifer, Red Fir, Lodgepole Pine, Sierran Mixed Conifer, White Fir, Ponderosa Pine, Aspen, Montane Hardwood-Conifer, Montane Hardwood, Blue Oak-Digger Pine, Montane Riparian, Valley Foothill Riparian, Montane Chaparral, Mixed Chaparral, Annual Grassland, Wet Meadow, Fresh Emergent Wetland, Riverine, and Lacustrine. Wildlife and biodiversity is equally rich and varied.

Resource Uses

Human habitation in this watershed occurs within and adjacent to the communities of Auburn, Clipper Gap, Applegate, Weimar, Colfax, Yankee Jim, Blue Canyon, Alta, Immigrant Gap, Baxter, Foresthill, Iowa Hill, and Michigan Bluff. Parcels range from 1/4 to 40 acres within these developed areas and larger private ownership's within the forested area are held by firms such as Sierra Pacific Industries and Fruit Growers Supply. Many scattered home sites, improved campgrounds, irrigation and other public utility improvements occur throughout the planning area. The American River watershed is known for its summer and winter recreational activities, timber management, mining, and grazing. Most importantly, it functions as a producer of high quality and consistent high volume of water for use within and outside Placer County.

Participants: Please see list

Resource Management Issues

The focus of this CRMP is to reduce the fuel load and improve the forest ecosystem. It is intended that all available means for reducing fuel load be implemented including the use of fire by prescription, mechanical and biological removal and chipping in place; starting with a 30-100 foot defensible space around home sites and including shaded fuel breaks to protect communities, public education to demonstrate those activities which homeowners and communities can do together to protect themselves. Past suppression efforts, although well meaning and often necessary, have resulted in a significant buildup of fuels and a modification of vegetation types that may not be

representative of a more natural condition. The CRMP area is not in a natural state with large portions having been modified by man.

A principle objective is to increase awareness through education. Such efforts have the potential to decrease the risk of wildfire to urban and rural home sites, improve valuable standing timber and related wildlife resources, maintain, protect or enhance excellent water quality, and offer recreational amenities in an important watershed.

This CRMP will allow these tasks to be more efficiently accomplished. Coordination within sub-watersheds and treating vegetative types rather than ownership boundaries can reduce cost per unit area.

Public Participation

Participation by the public can ensure activities which complement prescribed burning and would meet overall objectives. These activities may include mechanical treatment, planting and seeding, fencing, road closure and obliteration, land trades and acquisition, water development and other methods of vegetative management.

The following is an indication of what selected agencies are able to do within the CRMP area:

A) California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. (CDF)

CDF is able to apply pre-fire management projects identified through its Fire Plan process to reduce the potential of large conflagration wildfires within the watershed. These projects are designed to reduce the losses and cost of large fire events while protecting public safety, firefighter safety, assets, and natural resources. Pre-fire projects include the use of mechanical vegetation modification treatments and controlled burning to reduce the vegetative material produced in forest, brush fields, and on range lands. Use of its Fire Prevention Bureau programs will also encourage structure defensible space efforts through information and education by way of inspections, media release, and literature distribution.

B) Placer County Resource Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service. (RCD and NRCS)

The RCD and NRCS are able to coordinate soil, water and resource conservation projects with landowners and ranchers by providing technical and available financial cost share assistance to those who qualify. The use of controlled fire in concert with other methods can decrease the potential for destructive wildfire and thus decrease the potential for serious erosion, sedimentation and resource loss while potentially increasing water yield, improve wildlife habitat, range and timber conditions.

In cooperation with the District, NRCS is able to provide technical assistance in preparing conservation plans to landowners. These conservation plans are implemented

by the landowner with assistance from the District/NRCS and include a description of the relationships between soil, water, air plant, and animals.

C) US Forest Service -Tahoe National Forest/Eldorado National Forest (TNF) and (ENF)

Participation within this CRMP will allow the TNF/ENF to become actively involved in meeting many to the Goals as identified within the Tahoe/Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans. Specifically, the CRMP meets goals as identified in the following sections: Wildlife and Fish Protection, Air Quality, Lands, Soil and Water, Forage and Wood Resources, Recreation and Interpretive Services. The program will allow close coordination between public and private land managers thus increasing the opportunity to more effectively met National Forest goals.

D) California Department of Fish and Game (DFG)

Fish and Game is more able to closely and carefully fulfill objectives to protect, conserve and manage wildlife habitat and wildlife populations. The ability to restore native plant communities and to manage wildlife habitat on both public and private lands within the watershed will greatly enhance the DFG's ability to assure the health and vigor of native plant and animal communities. The DFG can also provide technical assistance to both private landowners and state and federal agencies.

E) Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The CRMP area falls into the Folsom Unit of the BLM Management Frameworks Plan (MFP). Under direction of the MFP the BLM will "Manage and perpetuate woodlands for the production of multiple resource values and to provide a permanent source of wood products for future generations." Public lands will be managed for the protection and enhancement of sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species. In addition, the protection of archaeological, mineral and recreational values in the area will be considered as a goal of the agency.

F) The Placer County Air Pollution Control District (APCD)

Portions of the Sacramento Valley, Mountain Counties and Lake Tahoe Air Basins lie within the Placer County Air Pollution District (APCD). The APCD is responsible for the management of air pollution from all non-mobile sources, including open burning. Since open burning represents a significant source of air pollution in our region the APCD will continue in its efforts to monitor and control open burning with permits and enforcement at the local level. This CRMP is seen as a tool to better manage the use of prescribed fire and facilitate communications. The APCD will work to assess the air quality impacts of prescribed fire as open burning may become less tenable in the future. The District will also continue to promote alternatives to burning.

G) Placer County Environmental Health Department

Placer County Environmental Health Services brings a public health perspective to the healthy forest concept. As viewed by Environmental Health Services, a healthy forest in the American River watershed promotes high quality waters. Protecting water quality is a basic public health function of Environmental Health Services. Forest management, fire management and fuels management activities could have adverse effects upon healthfulness of water resources, and for this reason the CRMP components can profit from a certain amount of public health scrutiny. The Public Health Laboratory and Environmental Health Services are currently collaborating in a water quality monitoring and maintenance effort and can jointly provide expertise and staff needed for public-health-based water sampling and analyses.

H) Protect American River Canyons (PARC)

Protect American River Canyons (PARC) is an educational organization based in Auburn near the canyons of the American River. PARC was founded in the early 1970's. PARC's goal is to protect the American River watershed for all to enjoy. With membership of more than 600, PARC sponsors outings, makes presentations and publishes a quarterly newsletter to keep its members and the general public informed on how they can help protect the American River canyons. In addition to organizing such successful events as the annual Confluence Festival, periodic river clean-ups and recreational outings, PARC has published a guide book and recreation map to the American River canyons which remains the definitive source of information for this spectacular area.

PARC volunteers will contribute to the American River Watershed group by:

1. Participating as active stakeholders in resource management decisions making.
2. Providing volunteer time for resource preservation, monitoring projects undertaken by the Watershed Group members.
3. Assisting with fund-raising to support Watershed Group programs and projects.
4. Developing and supporting efforts to broaden Watershed Group membership.
5. Participating in efforts to educate the public about the importance of American River Watershed management.

I) Foresthill Fire Protection District

The Foresthill Fire Protection District participates in and cosponsors the Mountain Fire Districts Association meetings and projects. The District has also made a commitment to sponsor the Public Safety Element of the Foresthill Community Plan update expected to be completed in the next couple of years. As a participant of this MOU, the District will work in conjunction with various federal, state and local agencies on fuel reduction and healthy forest projects. The District will cosponsor and conduct educational forums on public safety and fire safety within and surrounding the Foresthill area.

J) Placer Hills Fire Protection District

The District has initiated a defensible space program, conducts PRC 4291 inspections, participates in education programs, has helped develop a defensible space healthy forest handbook, and mails fire prevention - defensible space information to all box holders. This District also cosponsors the Mountain Area Fire Districts Association.

K) Alta Fire Protection District

Alta Fire Protection District is a member of the Mountain Area Fire Districts Association and is looking into a community demonstration project for fuel management and healthy forest.

L) UC Cooperative Extension

Cooperative Extension has provided a variety of educational programs and demonstration trials within the CRMP area since the 1920's. Educational opportunities exist for Cooperative Extension in the areas of: Fuel load reduction, proper grazing management, improving water quality, enhancing habitat diversity, and assisting in the development of educational materials. Cooperative Extension welcomes the opportunity to participate in this project.

M) Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

The Mission of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American Public. The Mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is to provide for the health, inspiration, and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. Under terms of a cooperative agreement with Reclamation, DPR manages the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) for recreation and resources protection. Fire protection services and other resource protection actions are provided by CDF under a cooperative agreement with Reclamation and coordination with DPR. To the extent that the CRMP's goals and objectives are consistent with those of the ASRA and appropriate legislative authorization, Reclamation, DPR participate and cooperate with the other signatories of this agreement for the development and implementation of a plan that ensures sustainability, safety, environmental and economic health within the American River Watershed.

N) High Sierra Resource Conservation And Development (HSRC&D)

HSRC&D shall:

1. Act as a coordinator between various agencies and organizations when requested.
2. Provide assistance in funding searches for approved projects.

3. Provide required support for projects in the North and Middle Fork Watershed. Provide assistance on economic opportunities through utilization of the natural resources.

O) The California Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB)

The CVRWQCB is responsible for protecting water quality and the beneficial uses of water in the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Tulare drainage basins. These basins extend from the Oregon border to the Los Angeles/Kern County Line and are bounded by the crests of the Sierra Nevada on the east and Coast Range and Klamath Mountains on the west. The Regional Board has a strong interest in watershed management and in working with other agencies and the public on resource issues.

Located within the Sacramento drainage basin, the American River has many beneficial uses, including being the drinking water source for the greater Sacramento area. Uncontrolled fires have the potential to adversely impact water quality by removing riparian vegetation and introducing excess sedimentation and nutrients. Some fire management measures, if not properly implemented, also have the potential to adversely impact water quality. The Board wants to work with the CRMP to ensure that environmentally friendly measures are implemented to prevent catastrophic fires and protect water quality.

P) Sierra Economic Development District (SEDD)

The Sierra Economic Development District represents the four counties of El Dorado, Placer, Nevada and Sierra. SEDD's primary mission is to alleviate unemployment and underemployment by expanding industrial, resource and small business development while preserving the quality of life in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Over the past two years, SEDD has concentrated efforts on developing the potential of a biomass utilization industry within the Sierra Nevada. The agency has sponsored studies identifying the biomass as a resource and identifying opportunities and constraints to a value added biomass industry. SEDD recognizes the potential of stimulating the establishment or creation of businesses that use biomass and will continue its efforts toward this end.

Additionally, SEDD offers technical assistance to member jurisdictions in grant writing, demographic profiles and statistical analysis of the regional economic base.

Q) Sierra Planning Organization (SPO)

The Sierra Planning Organization is a Council of Governments made up of the four counties of El Dorado, Placer, Nevada and Sierra and the member jurisdictions. SPO acts as a forum for elected officials to discuss matters of shared concern and to advocate for rural issues.

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SPO also sponsors projects such as the Tahoe-Northern Sierra Nevada Internet Project which intends to create a system of freely accessible government information using personal computers, on-line geospatial data catalogs and the Internet. SPO will work to bring public official awareness and support to the American River Watershed area and will sponsor projects when appropriate.

R) Northern Sierra Nevada Geographic Information Systems

The mission of the Northern Sierra Nevada Geographic Information System is to assist, promote, and develop a shared geographic information system resource for local decision makers and the general public. In pursuing its mission, the Northern Sierra Nevada GIS must be designed to:

- 1) provide user-friendly public access,
- 2) protect sensitive and/or proprietary information,
- 3) be compatible with existing GIS within the region,
- 4) help agencies avoid duplication, thereby containing costs and saving tax dollars,
- 5) maximize data quality for system users,
- 6) apportion costs equitably to system users,
- 7) provide systems for assembly and integration of spatial data such as physical, biological, economic, demographic and cultural resources, and
- 8) develop data structures, standards, and guidelines for area GIS users.

CRMP strategy

An outline of objectives and implementation strategies

1. Solicit public and legislative participation
2. Identify current projects within the plan area where fire and other fuel load reduction efforts are being used.
3. Develop a fire history of the area.
4. Develop a prioritized list of projects.
5. Develop a list of funding sources.
6. Develop monitoring techniques and strategies.

7. Encourage coordination and communication of all interested entities and where feasible an effort to combine resources within the watershed to accomplish our mission.
8. Enhance local employment opportunities.
9. Determine Air and Water Quality issues and develop techniques designed to reduce overall impacts.
10. Develop an education effort which identifies the link between fuel load reduction and healthy resources.

We the undersigned, have participated in the development of the North and Middle Fork American River Watershed Coordinated Resource Management Plan, concur with the Plan, and will act to implement it to the best of our ability.

An annual meeting for the review of this plan by the participants will be scheduled and organized each year by the Placer RCD. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss problems, make revisions and adjustments for implementation of planned activities.

NAME	TITLE	REPRESENTING
<u>John Richard</u>	<u>Area Mgr.</u>	<u>BLM</u>
<u>Jose J. Foglia</u>	<u>DEP. FOREST SUP.</u>	<u>TAHOE N.E.</u>
<u>William M. Wartin</u>	<u>BOARD MEMBER</u>	<u>AUB. REC. + PARK DIST.</u>
<u>Robert L. Latta</u>	<u>Regional Manager</u>	<u>Calif. Dept. Fish & Game</u>
<u>Jinda Personal</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Placer County RCD</u>
<u>Betty Riley</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Sierra Economic Dev. Dist.</u>
<u>Betty Riley</u>	<u>Executive Director</u>	<u>Sierra Planning Organization</u>
<u>Robert B. Roan</u>	<u>Project Coord.</u>	<u>High Sierra RCD Downhill</u>
<u>Sharon St. Leger</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>No. Sierra Nevada GIS</u>
<u>John Phipps</u>	<u>Forest Supervisor</u>	<u>Adonardo National Forest</u>

