

Section 9: Coordination

As described in previous sections of this IRWM Plan, management of water and related resources within the Tahoe-Sierra Region is complex and has many interdependencies. Many different agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders have authorities and responsibilities for managing water and related resources within the Region. This complexity and the distributed network of shared responsibilities create the need for robust and effective coordination. This section describes how the Tahoe Sierra Partnership plans to coordinate with neighboring IRWM regions, local, state, and federal agencies and other stakeholders within the Region to improve integrated water management throughout the Region and neighboring areas.

Coordination is one of the most essential components of integrated regional water management, and consequently is described in several sections of this Plan, summarized below.

- Section 1, “Introduction,” discusses the stakeholder coordination and public outreach activities that were conducted during the development of the Plan, including outreach to tribal entities and disadvantaged communities (DACs).
- Section 3, “Relation to Local Water and Land Use Planning” describes how water management relates to land use planning and ways that planning agencies currently collaborate.
- Section 4, “Objectives” describes Plan objectives that consider coordination such as *Objective IWM2 Ensure collaboration among multiple jurisdictions within the Region for information exchange*, which was developed to ensure continuing communication and collaboration within the Region into the future.
- Section 8, “Implementation Framework,” describes the specific responsibilities of the Partnership, Leadership Team (LT), and other stakeholders during Plan implementation.

9.1 Intra-Regional Coordination

The primary benefit of this IRWM Plan is the development of a shared vision and objectives for regional water management and planning among the stakeholders in the Region and a framework for maintaining that into the future. The process of developing and updating this IRWM Plan has fostered improved coordination, collaboration, and communication among stakeholders, and a greater awareness of concerns throughout the Region.

9.1.1 Coordination by Partnership and Leadership Team

One of the critical ingredients for improving water resources management is to provide multiple opportunities for water managers, community stakeholders, and other organizations with interests related to water resources to be informed about and participate in the IRWM program. A structured approach to coordination helps prevent conflicts and can help provide more effective and efficient management of resources. The Tahoe-Sierra Partnership and LT are committed to fostering improved coordination within the Region through the following activities of the LT:

- Continue to conduct outreach, create and distribute meeting agendas and content by e-mail and web posting, facilitate stakeholder input meetings, and help track and communicate progress toward Plan implementation. During the stakeholder input meetings all people who are interested have been and will continue to be invited to participate in a collaborative approach to implement projects that help meet Plan objectives. Success of the Plan is dependent on the contributions of stakeholders throughout the Region.
- Continue to foster an open dialog with the Washoe Tribe and representatives of the DACs within the Region to help meet Plan objectives. Coordination efforts will continue in order to identify issues and ultimately help develop projects specific to water-related needs of these groups.
- Continue to conduct stakeholder input meetings as needed, which will be announced and open to any interested person or organization. The Partnership and other stakeholders will meet and coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies, in addition to reaching out to those active in neighboring IRWM planning efforts to accomplish the Plan objectives.
- Continue to use the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM Plan webpage (<http://tahoesierrairwm.com/>) to provide ongoing opportunities for stakeholder involvement during Plan implementation. This will include posting the status of proposed projects, providing notice of stakeholder meetings, and providing notices for coordination and evaluation of ongoing and future project needs.



9.1.2 Coordination among Local Agencies and Organizations

A collaborative approach to water management is essential to meeting the Region’s goals. The majority of the projects included in this Plan involve multiple agencies or organizations, which reinforces the need for collaboration to achieve efficient project execution. Many of the local water management agencies within the Region have developed cooperative relationships and processes for coordination with each other and with other local organizations. Some of those relationships have been strengthened during the development of this Plan and through the Partnership activities and meetings, it is anticipated that opportunities for future collaboration and coordination will occur. These strong working relationships serve as a basis for local water managers and other organizations to continue to collaborate in the future. Some examples of existing coordination efforts among local agencies and organizations include the following:

- Truckee River Watershed Council – A Partnership member and collaborative organization with 27 signatory organizations, including agencies, businesses, and non-profit organizations. The Truckee River Watershed Council coordinates and implements efforts for the protection and restoration of the Truckee River.

- Sierra Nevada Alliance – An organization consisting of groups working to protect and restore Sierra Nevada habitats and communities, including members of the Partnership, project proponents of Plan projects, and other stakeholder organizations.
- Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Advisory Planning Commission – A group that assists the TRPA Governing Board and includes representatives of local planning agencies and community members. TRPA is a bi-state agency that leads a cooperative effort to preserve, restore, and enhance the unique natural and human environment of the Lake Tahoe Region.

9.1.3 Coordination with State and Federal Agencies

Coordination with state and federal agencies has occurred during the initial formation of the Region and during Plan preparation. In the future, coordination with these agencies will occur on an as-needed basis for planning and implementation of specific projects and during future Plan updates.

Representatives from the following federal and state organizations received emails and notifications related to Partnership meetings, opportunities to submit projects, and opportunities to review and comment on IRWM Plan sections; and/or are cooperating on a Plan project (indicated by an *).

Federal

- Army Corps of Engineers *
- Bureau of Reclamation *
- Environmental Protection Agency *
- Forest Service – Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit *
- Forest Service –Tahoe National Forest *
- Forest Service – Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest *
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey *
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

State

- California Tahoe Conservancy *
- Department of Fish and Wildlife *
- Department of Transportation *
- Department of Parks and Recreation *
- Department of Public Health *
- Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Regional Water Quality Control Board – Lahontan Region *
- State Water Resources Control Board
- University of California, Davis

While the majority of Plan projects were submitted by local entities, the California Tahoe Conservancy, which is a state agency, submitted several projects. Additionally, almost half of the Plan projects listed at least one cooperating state or federal agency. With approximately two-thirds of the Region's land area located in federally managed lands, coordination with all of these entities is an important component in the IRWM planning process and may improve the

understanding of the interrelationship between water resources, forest, land use, economic and urban objectives.

In addition, meeting Plan objective IWM6 *Monitor water storage, release and exchange activities in order to improve coordination with regional planning* will require communication and coordination with federal entities including the Bureau of Reclamation and Federal Water Master, and state entities in California and Nevada through the Truckee River Operating Agreement discussed in Section 2.

9.2 Interregional Coordination

Beyond the need for internal coordination, the Partnership also recognizes the importance of coordination with other nearby IRWM planning regions. Appropriate coordination among regions and agencies will help leverage shared activities, identify opportunities for cooperative projects, and reduce potential conflicts among IRWM projects. The Tahoe-Sierra Region is bounded by six neighboring IRWM regions, as discussed in Sections 1.1 and 1.3 and shown on Figure 1-2, and is one of five IRWM regions in the North/South Lahontan funding area. The Sacramento River funding area borders the Region to the west and the San Joaquin River funding area borders the Region to the southwest.

Initial outreach efforts have been conducted as part of the IRWM planning process to foster communication and program coordination with the neighboring IRWM regions through discussions, conversations and direct participation. Representatives of most of these adjacent IRWM regions or of organizations that participate in multiple IRWM groups receive e-mail notification of upcoming meetings.

Members of the LT, with support from other stakeholders in the Region, will engage with neighboring IRWM regional water management groups and communicate with DWR on statewide IRWM issues that involve or could impact Plan objectives. The neighboring IRWM regions and associated interregional coordination activities with the Tahoe-Sierra Region are summarized in the paragraphs that follow. Participation in the Sierra Water Workgroup is another means of achieving interregional cooperation and coordination.

Inyo-Mono (<http://inyo-monowater.org/>): Like the Tahoe-Sierra Region, the Inyo-Mono IRWM region lies on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada and is separated from the Tahoe-Sierra Region by the mountain peaks separating the Carson and Walker River hydrologic units to the south. The Inyo-Mono region is also in the North/South Lahontan funding area. The Inyo-Mono region encompasses a vast area that is sparsely populated with large open spaces and ranges from arid to hyper-arid. The Regional Water Quality Control Board – Lahontan Region and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest are the only entities with a jurisdiction that overlaps the Tahoe-Sierra and Inyo-Mono regions. Available surface waters in the region are largely exported to southern California, resulting overall in limited water supplies.

The Inyo-Mono IRWM Plan was recently revised and adopted in late 2012. The Inyo-Mono region is now implementing the Round 2 Planning grant, Round 1 Implementation grant, and a DWR grant for a Rural DAC and Tribal Program. While there is an emphasis on the Inyo-Mono region, the region is focusing on advancing a broader approach to IRWM planning across regional boundaries, with mutual collaboration for addressing issues related to rural headwater and Disadvantaged Communities. Among the region's efforts for cooperative regional work is the active participation in the Sierra Water Workgroup Summit in June of 2013.

Lahontan Basins (<http://honeylakevalleyrcd.us/irwm/>): Like the Tahoe-Sierra Region, the Lahontan Basins IRWM region lies on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada and is separated from the Tahoe-Sierra Region by the mountain peaks separating the Truckee River and Susanville hydrologic units to the north. The Regional Water Quality Control Board – Lahontan Region and Sierra County are the only entities with a jurisdiction that overlaps the Tahoe-Sierra and Lahontan Basins regions. The Lahontan Basins region is in the North/South Lahontan funding area. The Lahontan Basins region was accepted by DWR in the 2011 region acceptance process, and is currently in the process of developing an IRWM Plan.

Tuolumne-Stanislaus (<http://www.tcrd.org/>): The Tuolumne-Stanislaus region lies along the southern tip of the Tahoe-Sierra Region border in Alpine County. The Tuolumne-Stanislaus region is on the western side of the Sierra Nevada and extends from the crest, through the foothills, and down to the Central Valley. Similar to the Tahoe-Sierra Region, primary sources of water in the Tuolumne-Stanislaus region are large river watersheds fed by snowmelt and rainfall from the Sierra Nevada. Alpine County and the Alpine Watershed Group is the only entity with a jurisdiction that overlaps the Tahoe-Sierra and Tuolumne-Stanislaus regions. The Tuolumne-Stanislaus IRWM Plan was completed in mid-2013 and the Tuolumne-Stanislaus region is now

implementing a Round 2 Implementation grant.



Mokelumne/Amador/Calaveras (MAC, http://www.umnwa.org/mac_region_irwm_program.html): The MAC region borders the Tahoe-Sierra Region to the southwest, along the crest of the Sierra Nevada in Alpine County. The MAC region is on the western side of the Sierra Nevada and extends from the crest, through the foothills, and down to the Central Valley. Similar to the Tahoe-Sierra Region, primary sources of water in the MAC region are large river watersheds fed by snowmelt and rainfall from the Sierra Nevada. Alpine County and the Alpine Watershed Group is the only entity with a

jurisdiction that overlaps the Tahoe-Sierra and MAC regions. The Updated MAC IRWM Plan was completed in early 2013 and the MAC region is now implementing a Round 2 Planning grant and a Round 2 Implementation grant.

Cosumnes, American, Bear, Yuba (CABY, <http://www.cabyregion.org/>): The CABY region borders the Tahoe-Sierra Region to the west, along the crest of the Sierra Nevada. The CABY region is on the western side of the Sierra Nevada and extends from the crest, through the foothills, and down to edge of the Central Valley. Similar to the Tahoe-Sierra Region, primary sources of water in the CABY region are large river watersheds fed by snowmelt and rainfall from the Sierra Nevada. Alpine County and the Alpine Watershed Group, El Dorado County, Placer County, Nevada County, Sierra County, and the Tahoe National Forest are entities with a jurisdiction that overlaps the Tahoe-Sierra and CABY regions. The CABY IRWM Plan was completed in 2007, with updated amendments adopted in 2009. The CABY region is now implementing a Round 2 Implementation grant.

Upper Feather River Watershed (<http://www.featherriverwater.com/regionalplanningirwm.html>):
The Upper Feather River Watershed region borders the Tahoe-Sierra Region to the northwest, along the crest of the Sierra Nevada in Sierra County. The Upper Feather River Watershed region is on the western side of the Sierra Nevada. Similar to the Tahoe-Sierra Region, primary sources of water in the Upper Feather River Watershed region are large river watersheds fed by snowmelt and rainfall from the Sierra Nevada. Sierra County and the Tahoe National Forest are the only entities with a jurisdiction that overlaps the Tahoe-Sierra and Upper Feather River Watershed regions. The initial Upper Feather River Watershed IRWM Plan was adopted in 2005 and the Upper Feather River Watershed region is currently in the process of updating the IRWM Plan.