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DRAFT
Tahoe-Sierra
Integrated Regional
Water Management Plan

SECTION 1:
INTRODUCTION

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South Tahoe Public Utility
District
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South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

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Section 1: Introduction

This Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWM Plan) defines a clear vision for the management of water resources in the Tahoe-Sierra Region (Tahoe-Sierra Region, Region) and highlights important actions needed to accomplish that vision through the year 2035 planning horizon. This document is intended to be a useful planning tool. It does not, in itself, provide discretionary approval for any given project or establish any new prescriptive compliance requirements. Rather, it provides a framework for improved understanding and action to address the major water-related challenges/needs and conflicts facing the Region through the planning horizon.

This plan is an update to the 2007 Tahoe-Sierra IRWM which is required to be in compliance with 2010 IRWM Grant Program Guidelines – Proposition 84 and 1E per the Proposition 84 Planning grant. It is also intended to comply with the *2012 IRWM Grant Program Guidelines – Proposition 84 and 1E* published by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in November 2012. The information contained within this IRWM Plan was developed through the time and contributions of more than 30 water supply, wastewater treatment, land use management, public interest, and ecosystem-focused organizations with interests in the water resources of the Tahoe-Sierra Region. The focus and direction described within this IRWM Plan provides an opportunity for these organizations to accomplish more to benefit the needs of the Region than they could otherwise accomplish individually. The integrated array of goals and objectives, selected resource management strategies, priority projects, and plan implementation framework demonstrate the successful collaborative working relationships fostered through the 18-month plan development process.

1.1 Background

The Region encompasses approximately 802,600 acres, and is defined by the Little Truckee River, Truckee River, Carson River, and Lake Tahoe (California) hydrologic units (HU) or watersheds in the eastern Sierra Nevada mountain range. It includes the eastern parts of Alpine, El Dorado, Placer, and Nevada Counties, and the southeastern corner of Sierra County as shown on Figure 1-1. The Region has a mountainous topography that ranges from about 6,000 feet up to over 9,000 feet in elevation of which about 2/3 is public lands. It extends from the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains east to the Nevada border, and from the border between Alpine and Mono Counties in the south to north of Stampede Reservoir in Sierra County. The majority of the population within the Region is clustered around Lake Tahoe and the Truckee River in the City of South Lake Tahoe, Town of Truckee, Tahoe City and other rural communities. The areas making up the Region share similar geographies and economies, and are hydrologically interconnected. In the northern two-thirds of the Region are the Truckee River and its tributaries in California, including the California portion of Lake Tahoe. In the southern third of the Region are the headwaters to the Carson River. The watersheds of the Tahoe-Sierra Region drain into Nevada where the Truckee River is connected to the Carson River by the Truckee Canal.

Figure 1-1: Regional Location

1.1.1 Primary Focal Points of the IRWM Plan

The intent of this IRWM Plan update is to address the many major water-related needs/challenges and conflicts within the Region, including water quality, local water supply reliability, groundwater management, ecosystem restoration and integrated watershed management throughout the Region. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) discussed in Section 1.2.2 identifies topics related to collaboration to achieve ecosystem restoration, water supply and water quality improvements; integrated activities for increased environmental education and stewardship. These MOU topics have resulted in the following Goals, which are organizing principles for the IRWM Plan objectives, described below, of:

- Protect and Improve Water Quality
- Protect the Community Water Supply and Treatment/Delivery System
- Manage Groundwater Sustainable Yield
- Contribute to Ecosystem Restoration
- Implement Integrated Watershed Management throughout the Region

The goals and related objectives are further described in detail in Section 4.

1.1.1.1 Protect and Improve Water Quality

The protection and improvement of water quality is essential to both human health and aquatic ecosystem function. Communities in the Region are economically dependent on tourism including snow and water sports, which is related directly or indirectly to the water resources of the Region, which are dominated by Lake Tahoe and its tributary and downstream rivers and creeks. Surface water sources in the Region are high quality and acceptable for municipal use after disinfection. However several bodies of water within the Region are 303(d) listed impaired waterbodies with issues such as pathogens, salinity (total dissolved solids and chloride), sedimentation, nutrients (nitrate, nitrogen, phosphorus), metals (aluminum, iron, manganese, silver), sulfates and other organics. Threats to groundwater quality in the Region are both natural and anthropogenic. Naturally occurring uranium, radon, arsenic, iron and magnesium affect some wells within the Region.

1.1.1.2 Protect the Community Water Supply and Treatment/Delivery Systems

The water management system within the Region includes a wide array of infrastructure, such as dams, canals, distribution systems, water and wastewater treatment systems, groundwater wells and pumps, much of which was built in the 1960s and 1970s. As the infrastructure ages, the potential for disruptions in water supply and wastewater failures increase. Maintaining, modernizing, and improving this extensive infrastructure to continue to provide the expected level of service will require significant investment and effort over the next 20 years. In addition, some areas are facing unreliable groundwater supplies and are turning to surface water sources.

1.1.1.3 Manage Groundwater Sustainable Yield

As the main source of municipal water in the Region, groundwater is vital to the residents and businesses. To date, groundwater supplies have generally been sufficient although occasional water quality challenges have occurred. However, few groundwater studies have been

conducted within the Tahoe-Sierra Region, except for portions of the Martis Valley and Carson Valley basins in order to confirm long-term groundwater yields.

1.1.1.4 Contribute to Ecosystem Restoration

The Region provides hundreds of square miles of habitat for countless species, including a broad range of terrestrial and aquatic, state and federally recognized special-status and threatened or endangered species including the Lahontan cutthroat trout and the Paiute cutthroat trout. Improvement of aquatic and terrestrial habitat to promote the survival, restoration, and growth for these important species and many others is critical. In addition, a number of aquatic/riparian invasive plants and animal species either already occur or pose a significant threat to the Region. Invasive animal species occurring in the Region include quagga mussels, Asian clam, and Eurasian watermilfoil. Several invasive plant species have been identified within the Region include Canada thistle, Russian knapweed, diffuse knapweed, sulfur cinquefoil, hoary cress, teasel, rush skeleton weed, and yellow star thistle.

1.1.1.5 Implement Integrated Watershed Management throughout the Region

Many individuals and organizations throughout the Region that are interested in the water resource management are already engaged in efforts that support the work of water management entities. However, more can be done to develop and implement broader public education efforts to further improve stewardship of the Region's precious water resources.

1.1.2 Formation of the IRWM Region

The Tahoe-Sierra IRWM Region is generally based on watershed boundaries which drain to Nevada within the State of California. This allows partners to maximize opportunities for coordination on similar issues, and focus resources and funding on priority projects in targeted areas. The Tahoe-Sierra Region and neighboring regions are further described below and shown on Figure 1-2.

The Tahoe-Sierra IRWM and the adjacent Inyo/Mono IRWM both use watershed boundaries to define their regions. The Inyo/Mono Region includes the Walker River watersheds and the Tahoe-Sierra includes the Carson River watersheds which abuts the Walker River Watersheds. Where these boundaries lie adjacent to each other also happens to be the jurisdictional boundary between Alpine County and Mono County. This means there are no overlaps or areas of isolation between boundaries on the southern end of the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM Region.

On the eastern end of the Tahoe-Sierra boundary, the boundary ends at the California/Nevada state line, again with no overlaps or areas of isolation.

To the north of the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM, the newly formed Lahontan Basins IRWM, which is adjacent to the Tahoe-Sierra Region, is in the early stages of IRWM Plan preparation.

Based on a review of the maps associated with the IRWMs to the west and communications with those IRWM representatives (Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba (CABY), Mokelumne/Amador/Calaveras (MAC), and Tuolumne-Stanislaus), all three IRWMs use the Sierra Nevada Crest as an easterly boundary of the watersheds they address. This means that the boundaries abut at the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, but do not overlap or leave areas of isolation.

Figure 1-2: Neighboring Regions

There was previous concern that there was a slight overlap with the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM boundary and the Feather River IRWM in the area of the Little Truckee River Watershed. This was due to a jurisdictional overlap between the Feather River and the Little Truckee watersheds on the part of both Sierra County and the Tahoe National Forest, and a water supply connection between the two watersheds through water that is diverted from the Little Truckee and imported to Sierra Valley. However, the two watersheds are divided by the regional water board boundaries and the IRWM funding area boundaries. After consultation with the Feather River IRWM, it was agreed that the Little Truckee watershed is appropriate for inclusion in the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM Region. Therefore, the Little Truckee River Watershed is now located entirely within the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM.

With focus on the Little Truckee River, Truckee River, Carson River and Lake Tahoe watersheds as the basis for the Region boundaries, the Region also accounts for the following boundaries and includes the following features:

- Political boundaries: portions of Alpine, El Dorado, Placer, Sierra and Nevada Counties.
- Surface water bodies: Lake Tahoe, Upper Truckee River, Fallen Leaf Lake, middle Truckee River, Donner Lake, Martis Creek Reservoir, Prosser Creek Reservoir, Little Truckee River, Webber Lake, Independence Lake, Boca Reservoir, Stampede Reservoir, West Fork of the Carson River, East Fork of the Carson River, and many other lakes and tributary streams.
- Major water-related infrastructure includes: Indian Creek Reservoir and Harvey Place Reservoir, Lake Tahoe Dam, the Prosser Creek Dam, the Stampede Dam, and the Boca Dam. Fallen Leaf Lake, Donner Lake, and Independence Lake include both natural reservoirs and man-made reservoirs, several surface water intakes and groundwater wells.
- National forests/parks: Toiyabe National Forest, Tahoe National Forest, and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

The Region encompasses the service area (or partial service area) of multiple local agencies, including more than ten entities with water and related resource management responsibilities.

1.2 Governance

The Tahoe-Sierra IRWM Plan governance is comprised of several elements, the broader Partnership who are the heart of the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM, the Regional Water Management Group, which is a smaller group to meet the requirements of the DWR IRWM Program, and subcommittees which are formed on an as-needed basis.

1.2.1 Partnership

The Partnership consists of signatories to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that commits members to adopt and implement the Plan, and to revise and update it as needed. The 2007 MOU has been updated with this update to the Plan, and additional signatories have joined. Appendix 1-A includes the updated MOU with signatory pages or other proof of adoption.

The Partnership along with other participants, their roles and the organizational structure and function is further detailed in Section 8.

Representatives of each member organization are responsible for implementation of the Plan within their organization. The lead agency role is shared and designated by the group when necessary. For the Proposition 50 IRWM Round 1 Implementation Grant and Supplemental Funding application processes, the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD) acted as lead agency and designated applicant. For the current Proposition 84 IRWMP Planning and Implementation Grant application processes, South Tahoe Public Utility District (South Tahoe PUD) is acting as lead agency and designated applicant. A subcommittee comprised of a smaller group of MOU signatories, was created for this IRWM update as described below. The Partnership agreed to a consensus based decision making process; whereby the subcommittee makes recommendations to the Partnership for consideration.

1.2.2 Regional Water Management Group

The Tahoe-Sierra Regional Water Management Group (RWMG) consists of at least three organizations, two of which have statutory authority for water management as identified in Table 1-1 below. The Tahoe-Sierra RWMG has been defined to consist of these entities only for the purpose of meeting grant application schedule constraints. The RWMG will not have any additional authority as such and is considered part of the Partnership.

Table 1-1: Current^(a) Partnership and MOU Signatories

| Organization | Responsibilities | Partnership Member/MOU Signatory | Subcommittee Member | Designed RWMG Member |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Alpine County | Land Use, Water | X | | |
| Alpine Watershed Group | Public Interest Group | X | X | |
| City of South Lake Tahoe | Land Use | X | | |
| El Dorado County | Land Use, Water | X | | |
| South Tahoe Public Utility District ^(b) | Water, Wastewater | X | X | X |
| Squaw Valley Public Service District ^(b) | Water, Wastewater, Fire, Solid Waste | X | | |
| Tahoe City Public Utility District ^(b) | Water, Wastewater, Parks | X | | X |
| Tahoe Regional Planning Agency | Land Use | X | | |
| Tahoe Resource Conservation District | Public Interest Group | X | X | |
| Town of Truckee | Land Use, Storm Water | X | X | |
| Truckee River Watershed Council | Public Interest Group | X | X | |
| North Tahoe Public Utility District ^(b) | Water, Wastewater | X | | |
| Placer County | Land Use, Water, Wastewater, Storm Water, Flood Control | X | | |
| Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada | Tribal Government | X | X | |
| California Tahoe Conservancy | State Government | X | X | |
| Sierra County | Land Use, Water | X | | |
| Friends of Squaw Creek | Public Interest Group | X | | |
| American Rivers | Non-Governmental Organization | X | | |
| Lukins Brothers Water Company | Private Water System | X | | |
| Truckee Donner Public Utility District | | | | ? |

- (a) Table last updated May XX, 2014
- (b) Have statutory authority over water

1.2.3 Subcommittee

For this particular IRWM Plan update, a subcommittee was formed to oversee the IRWM Plan development and provide leadership to the program. The Subcommittee is composed of seven volunteers from agencies, tribal representatives and NGOs within the Tahoe-Sierra Region. Table 1-1 summarizes the agencies and NGOs, their principle responsibilities, whether they have signed the MOU and are a member of the Partnership, are a member of the Subcommittee, and whether they are a part of the RWMG.

As stated in the MOU, agencies and associations joined together to update the IRWM Plan that will accomplish the following:

- Promote collaboration throughout the project implementation such that quantifiable ecosystem restoration and improved water supply and water quality benefits will occur in an integrated, cost and time efficient manner.
- Integrate activities, which will increase environmental education and stewardship, reduce conflicts and litigation potential, and through interregional stewardship and cooperation, increase understanding and participation in export water proposals as they relate to beneficial uses in the area of origin.
- Design a data management system that can inform the stakeholders of the relative success of various Resource Management Strategies, programs and projects.

A fundamental principle of the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM Program process is working toward consensus and the Region strives for consensus (agreement among all participants) in all of its decision-making. The IRWM Program governance structure is described in detail in Section 8, Implementation Framework. As of April 2014, the subcommittee met nine times during the preparation of the IRWM Plan update.

1.3 Stakeholder Coordination and Outreach

The stakeholder engagement and outreach process was a coordinated effort throughout IRWM Plan update development.

1.3.1 Overview of the Stakeholder Coordination and Outreach Process

Inclusion of stakeholders and a consensus-driven process has been a cornerstone since the inception of the IRWM and throughout the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM Plan Update process. Extensive stakeholder outreach was conducted to help ensure that the Plan reflects the water-related needs of the entire Region, promotes the formation of regional partnerships, and encourages increased coordination with state and federal agencies. The term stakeholders is used to refer to representatives of agencies, NGOs, nonprofit groups, governmental organizations, tribal communities and the public who were interested and participated in the development of the

IRWM Plan. Stakeholders were invited to participate in the IRWM Update process through the attendance of Partnership meetings.

A benefit of the IRWM process is that it brings together a broad array of groups into a forum to discuss and better understand shared needs and opportunities. Members of the subcommittee participated in regular meetings/conference calls (often monthly), reviewed meeting materials that included handout materials prepared to discuss plan content, draft IRWM Plan sections, lead the project prioritization effort and provided extensive collaborative input to shape this IRWM Plan Update. In addition, through participation in meetings, stakeholders have been exposed to a variety of opportunities for discovering and establishing mutually beneficial partnerships.

A total of four (4) Partnership meetings were held as shown in Table 1-2. A list containing over eighty-five names and agencies, developed during the planning grant application process, was used as the basis for invitations to the Partnership meetings. Efforts were made to facilitate participation of a diverse group of stakeholders including tribal representation. Outreach efforts included an IRWM Program website, and invitation to the meetings by e-mail and phone. Meeting summaries, agendas, and handouts can be viewed on the Tahoe-Sierra's IRWM website (<http://tahoesierrairwm.com/>). Appendix 1-D includes Partnership and Subcommittee meeting summaries.

Membership in the stakeholder group was broad including representation from agencies, organizations, and individuals with an interest in improving water supply reliability, water quality, water conservation, natural habitat, and land-use planning within the Region; the result was collaboration among a broadly varying stakeholder group that represents the entire Region. Neither a financial contribution nor agency status was required to be part of the collaborative IRWM Plan Update development process. All meetings were open to the public.

Table 1-2: Summary of Partnership Meetings

| Stakeholder Meeting No. | Date | Key Topics | No. of Attendees |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1 | May 23, 2013 | IRWM Update Process, MOU and Objectives | 20 |
| 2 | September 24, 2013 | Final Draft Objectives and Quantifiable measures, Project Review Template and Call for Projects Process, Website update, DAC and Tribal Outreach and Schedule | 14 |
| 3 | April 30, 2014 | SEP Program Update, Sierra Water WorkGroup, Project Scoring, Drought Solicitation and Grant Program, Governance, MOU and Data Management | XX |
| 4 | June 2014 | Planned | |

1.3.2 Stakeholders

A list of all of the agencies and organizations that were involved in the development of the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM Plan is provided in Table 1-3. The broad array of stakeholders includes a mix of regulatory, environmental, tribal and land use planning entities that represent all areas of the Tahoe-Sierra Region including:

- Municipal and County Governments
- Water Purveyors, Wastewater Agencies, and Similar Special Districts
- State and Federal Regulatory and Resource Agencies
- Environmental Community
- Tribal Community
- Disadvantaged Community
- Others

Each of these types of organizations is described further in Table 1-3.

Table 1-3: Participating Stakeholders

| | |
|---|--|
| Alpine County | Truckee River Watershed Council |
| Alpine Watershed Group | UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center |
| City of South Lake Tahoe | North Tahoe Public Utility District |
| El Dorado County | Placer County |
| Lake Tahoe Unified School District | Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada |
| Markleeville Water Company | Carson Water Subconservancy District |
| Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships | California Tahoe Conservancy |
| South Tahoe Public Utility District | Sierra County |
| Squaw Valley Public Service District | Friends of Squaw Creek |
| Tahoe City Public Utility District | American Rivers |
| Tahoe Regional Planning Agency | Lukins Brothers Water Company |
| Tahoe Resource Conservation District | Environmental Protection Agency |
| Tahoe Truckee Unified School District | El Dorado County Water Agency |
| Town of Truckee | Markleeville Public Utility District |
| Sierra Nevada Conservancy | U.S. Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit |

1.3.2.1 Municipal and County Governments

Municipal and county governments participating in the IRWM Plan process included local jurisdictions and land use planning agencies. They were involved in the identification of issues, formation of objectives, and development of projects for the Plan by offering discussion in the meetings. Such participants included Alpine County, City of South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, Placer County, Sierra County and Town of Truckee.

1.3.2.2 Water Purveyors, Wastewater Agencies, and Similar Special Districts

The participation of agencies with water management focus was particularly important to the IRWM process. These agencies include water purveyors, wastewater agencies, and other special districts. The active participants were involved in the development and implementation of the objectives and projects for this IRWM Plan. Their participation focused primarily on water supply and resource management concerns of the Region. Active agencies included Markleeville Water Company, South Tahoe Public Utility District, Squaw Valley Public Utility District, Tahoe City Public Utility District, North Tahoe Public Utility District, El Dorado County Water Agency, Markleeville Public Utility District, and Lukins Brothers Water Company.

1.3.2.3 Regional, State and Federal Regulatory Resource Agencies

Several regional, state and/or federal regulatory and resource agencies helped describe ongoing activities that require coordination with IRWM, identify issues and objectives, and develop projects for this IRWM Plan. Their involvement was essential not only because of the need for coordination but also because of the need for regulatory and environmental approval prior to implementation of projects. Regional, state and federal agencies involved in the IRWM Plan Update included California Tahoe Conservancy, Regional Water Quality Control Board – Lahontan Region, DWR, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the US Environmental Protection Agency.

1.3.2.4 Environmental Community

The role and responsibility of the environmental community in the IRWM Plan process was to help ensure that goals for conservation and protection of the natural resources and habitat within the Region were incorporated. Members of the environmental community involved in the plan included representatives of Alpine Watershed Group, Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships, Tahoe Resource Conservation District, Truckee River Watershed Council, UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center, Friends of Squaw Creek, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, Carson Water Subconservancy District and American Rivers.

1.3.2.5 Tribal Community

The tribal communities involved in planning included the Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada.

1.3.2.6 Disadvantaged Community

Involvement of disadvantaged communities (DACs) was an important component throughout the planning process through a focused DAC outreach process described below. A portion of the Region qualifies as a DAC.

1.3.3 Community Outreach Overview

To recognize the diverse Regional and local interests, the planning process incorporated community outreach focused on a wide variety of stakeholders. The planning process centered around Partnership meetings, which were open to the public. Stakeholders were invited to participate through facilitated discussions and review of draft documents; the meetings were announced to a broad distribution list via e-mailed invitations, as described above. All meeting materials were made available on the website after each meeting.

Public outreach activities occurring throughout the process included:

- **Review of Plan Sections** – The sections of the IRWM were drafted incrementally and provided to stakeholders for review and input at multiple points during the Plan development process. Materials were accepted and finalized only after the stakeholders reached consensus.
- **Partnership Meetings** – Four (4) Partnership meetings were held throughout the IRWM process. These meetings provided background on the planning process, discussed plan goals and objectives, considered opportunities for coordination among local and regional

agencies, presented plan sections to provide opportunity for comments on plan sections, identified potential projects, discussed project selection criteria, as well as discussed plan governance.

- **Website** – The Tahoe-Sierra website (<http://tahoesierrairwm.com/>) was published as a standalone site for the IRWM Partnership. As noted previously, handouts distributed at each Partnership and Subcommittee meeting were posted on the website after each meeting. Additional information regarding the IRWM Plan was also posted to this webpage, including draft IRWM Plan sections as they became available.
- **Data Management Website** – The Tahoe-Sierra data management website will be linked to the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM webpage. This site contains pertinent mapping of the IRWM Region for stakeholder use throughout the IRWM Plan and into the future.
- **Electronic and Written Communication** – Email was the main tool used to maintain stakeholder communication and engagement. The email list, which contained approximately 85 entries, was used to invite stakeholders to the meetings.
- **Contact Information** – Consultant contact and South Tahoe PUD staff contact information were made available to any stakeholder or interested party to ask questions about the IRWM Plan and receive feedback.
- **Notices to Prepare and Adopt the IRWM Plan** – Notices to Prepare and Adopt the IRWM Plan were published in accordance with Government Code §6066 in local newspapers including the Tahoe Daily Tribune, Sierra Sun and The Record-Courier. Appendix 1-C includes the proof of publications for the notices of intent to prepare and adopt the IRWM Plan.

1.3.3.1 Disadvantaged Communities

DAC outreach consisted of door-to-door multi-lingual household surveys in the areas of Kings Beach and South Lake Tahoe that are identified DACs. The surveys included collection of demographic information as well as questions formulated to improve understanding of drinking water and sanitation services, perceptions regarding water quality, ecosystems and wildlife, stormwater, drainage and flooding and importance of various water-related factors to the respondent.

1.3.3.2 Tribal Outreach

Consistent with the 2009 Update to the California Water Plan, the Tahoe-Sierra Partnership has used the term “California Native American Tribe” to signify all indigenous communities of California, including those that are non-federally recognized and federally recognized. The Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada was identified within the Region boundaries.

The purpose of tribal outreach as part of the IRWM plan was to engage and identify issues and ultimately projects specific to water supply, resources, and quality that would benefit the tribe. To begin this process, through the Tribal Environmental Protection Department and the Environmental Specialist, the Washoe Tribe Interim Chairman was invited to attend the initial stakeholder meeting to introduce the IRWM process and request further communication. An initial tribal meeting was held with the Woodfords Washoe Community Council and community

members. This meeting was used to introduce the IRWM process and discuss tribal issues and concerns, tribal water-related needs, and identify opportunities to improve conditions for the tribe. Since the initial meeting, the Washoe tribe has been an active attendee at the stakeholder and subcommittee meetings and submitted two (2) projects for inclusion in the plan.

1.3.4 Neighboring IRWM Regions

Surrounding IRWM Regions include Inyo-Mono; Tuolumne-Stanislaus; Mokelumne/Amador/Calaveras; Cosumnes, American, Bear, & Yuba; Upper Feather River; and Lahontan Basins as shown on Figure 1-2. There are no areas of overlap with these neighboring IRWM Regions. As the Tahoe-Sierra Region starts at the watershed divide of the Sierra-Nevada range, there are no upstream or downstream neighboring IRWM Regions. Downstream areas are in the state of Nevada, and cooperation and coordination is dictated by the Truckee River Operating Agreement (TROA) and the Federal Alpine Decree on the Carson River. Jurisdictions that overlap with other IRWM Regions include county governments. Alpine County includes parts of the Tahoe-Sierra Region, Mokelumne/Amador/Calaveras, and Tuolumne-Stanislaus. El Dorado, Placer, Nevada, and Sierra Counties include parts of the Tahoe-Sierra and Cosumnes, American, Bear, & Yuba Regions. The Upper Feather River; and Lahontan Basins also include area within Sierra County.

1.4 Plan Development

This subsection gives a brief overview of the process of developing this IRWM Plan which includes an overview of the iterative plan development process that was integrated into the IRWM meetings.

1.4.1 Overview

The IRWM Plan development process was organized around regular subcommittee meetings/conference calls and partnership meetings at key IRWM plan junctures. The topics and plan sections were introduced and discussed during the subcommittee meetings prior to release to the Partnership. Stakeholders were provided the opportunity to review the content and sections prior to the meetings and submit written comments after the meetings. Content was then drafted and finalized by Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, the IRWM Plan consultant.

The key topics discussed during the Plan development process are outlined in Figure 1-3. These topics consist of content items defined in DWR's published standards for IRWM Plans (see Proposition 84 and Proposition 1E Integrated Regional Water Management Grant Program Guidelines; November 2012). Although not specifically highlighted in Figure 1-3, the IRWM Plan Standards for stakeholder involvement and coordination were a key topic addressed throughout the process, as described in Section 1.3.

Information related to each of the key topics was presented and discussed through an interactive process initiated during stakeholder meetings. The topics include relevant items, such as IRWM Plan objectives, to be covered in one or more stakeholder meetings. Draft IRWM Plan content was prepared based on the discussion of each topic and then was provided for public review and comment. The draft content was discussed initially at the subcommittee meeting and then distributed to the Partnership and revised through an iterative process based on comments received by the stakeholders until consensus was reached. As described below,

the subcommittee was convened to assist in refining content and resolving any conflicting comments. At the end of the planning process, the agreed upon content was synthesized into this IRWM Plan for final public review and Partnership member adoption.



Figure 1-3: IRWM Planning Process Overview

1.4.2 Subcommittee

A subcommittee was formed to allow for a more detailed discussion of specified topics in a focused setting. The subcommittee’s role included the following:

- Data Management – Reviewed and discussed format of and content for the data management system;
- DAC – Discussed DAC outreach goals and methods for outreach throughout the IRWM Planning process;
- Tribal – Discussed tribal outreach goals and methods for outreach throughout the IRWM Planning process. The committee aided in outreach efforts throughout the plan process;
- Plan Review – Reviewed development of plan sections and key plan content when requested; and
- Technical Review – Scored submitted projects in accordance with the project selection criteria.

The subcommittee convened to participate with and/or assist the consultants with a variety of matters for which regular input and consultation are needed, but they have no independent decision-making authority. The subcommittee members for this IRWM plan update includes: South Tahoe Public Utilities District, Washoe Tribe of California and Nevada, California Tahoe Conservancy, Town of Truckee, Alpine Watershed Group, Truckee River Watershed Council, and Tahoe Resource Conservation District.

1.4.3 Plan Organization

The Tahoe-Sierra Region IRWM Plan Update is organized as a narrative, telling the story of the conflicts/challenges and opportunities and how they inform the objectives for the Region. The Plan is organized to address the standards required by the November 2012 IRWM Guidelines issued by DWR. The key plan standards and sections addressing each standard is summarized in Table 1-4. Appendix 1-B presents a detailed cross-referencing table, which links DWR plan elements with the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM Plan topics.

Table 1-4: Proposition 84 Standards and Plan Cross-Reference

| IRWM Standard | IRWM Plan Section |
|--|----------------------------|
| A. Governance | Section 1 & 8 |
| B. Region Description | Section 2 |
| C. Objectives | Section 4 |
| D. Resource Management Strategies (RMS) | Section 5 |
| E. Integration | Section 6 |
| F. Project Review Process | Section 6 |
| G. Impact and Benefit | Section 7 |
| H. Plan Performance and Monitoring | Section 8 |
| I. Data Management | Section 8 and Appendix |
| J. Finance | Section 8 |
| K. Technical Analysis | Section 2 and Appendix 2-E |
| L. Relation to Local Water Planning | Section 3 |
| M. Relation to Local Land Use Planning | Section 3 |
| N. Stakeholder Involvement | Section 8 |
| O. Coordination | Section 9 |
| P. Climate Change | Section 2 and Appendix |

1.5 Plan Adoption

The IRWM Plan is recommended to be adopted by all participants in the planning process, including the governing boards of the Partnership. The Guidelines require that each agency that is part of the Partnership responsible for the development and implementation of the plan formally adopt the IRWM Plan. The Guidelines also require that each project proponent named in an IRWM Grant Application adopt the Plan.

It is currently anticipated that the Plan adoption by the governing bodies of the various public agencies will begin once the final IRWM Plan has been released in July 2014 (to be updated). The deadline for adopting the plan for purposes of fulfilling the planning grant requirements and to secure potential implementation grant funding is August 15, 2014 (to be updated with final PSP date). A list of organizations that have adopted or endorsed the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM Plan will be included in Appendix 1-A. Adoption or endorsement of the Tahoe-Sierra IRWM Plan does not imply that the organization necessarily supports every project that is included in the plan. Rather, the organization is documenting their support for the objectives, targets, actions, and implementation framework recommended to implement the plan. Projects will be reviewed for implementation on a case by case basis as the Plan is implemented