

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RESOLUTION NO. 2024- 8923

**AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE WATER SOLUTIONS NETWORK
UPPER FEATHER/LA (LOS ANGELES) WATERSHED FRAMEWORK TEST DRIVE**

WHEREAS, the State Water Project supplies drinking water to approximately 27 million Californians (over two-thirds of California's population) and agricultural water to 750,000 acres of farmland in the Central Valley representing over 34 million acre-feet per year; and

WHEREAS, the State Water Project spans more than 705 miles from the headwaters in Northern California to Southern California and includes 36 storage facilities, 21 pumping plants, five hydroelectric power plants, four pumping-generating plants, and approximately 700 miles of canals, tunnels, and pipelines; and

WHEREAS, the State Water Project facilities within Plumas include Lake Davis (84,371-acre-feet), Frenchman Lake (55,475-acre-feet), and Antelope Lake (22,564-acre-feet), with releases flowing through the County down the North Fork and Middle Fork of the Feather River to Lake Oroville; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Feather River Watershed includes all of Plumas County and portions of Butte, Sierra, Lassen and Yuba counties and is a critical State Water Project headwater region that covers 3,600 square miles of the headwaters to Lake Oroville, where Oroville Dam impounds 3,537,577 acre-feet of water and is the largest reservoir in the State Water Project; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Feather River Watershed communities are stewarding land and water resources that support much of the State and historically it has been incumbent on the largely disadvantaged headwaters regions to shoulder the brunt of responsibility for watershed restoration and health that ultimately benefits the majority of State Water Project end users; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Feather River Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Group, representing three counties (Plumas, Sierra, and Butte), Native American Tribes, local water resource agencies, and three National Forests (Plumas, Tahoe and Lassen), have worked with the Upper Feather River Watershed's stakeholders for over a decade to identify, develop, and implement regional and landscape scale projects to restore and enhance water resources in this headwaters region for the benefit of local and downstream users; and

WHEREAS, the goals stated in the Upper Feather River 2016 IRWM Plan support protecting and improving water quality and water supply reliability; and

WHEREAS, the objectives stated in the Upper Feather River 2016 IRWM Plan are to support establishing, maintaining, and building communication and collaboration among water resources stakeholders; enhance public awareness and understanding of water management issues and needs; and work with state and regional agencies to develop strategies and actions for the management, operation, and control of State Water Project facilities in the Upper Feather River Watershed in order to increase water supply, recreational, and environmental benefits to the region; and

WHEREAS, the Water Solutions Network was founded in 2017 by Coro Northern California, DIG IN, and Water Education for Latino Leaders (WELL) with sponsorship from the S. D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the Water Solutions Network original partnership commitment was to expand the understanding of California's water management field and increase awareness of the diverse perspectives and goals of water stakeholders with collaborative leadership approaches to create lasting solutions and give water leaders the skills, knowledge, and networks to support coalition-building to manage for and lead through water extremes; and

WHEREAS, the Water Solutions Network is test-driving an Upper Feather/FA Watershed Framework with the following Framework Principles:

- Time is of the essence. Nimble, flexible, adaptive, timely action is paramount.
- Interconnected and coordinated action across a watershed can produce more powerful human interventions.
- Trust is a necessary and foundational condition.
- Equity is essential and can be better accomplished by reconnecting communities across a watershed.
- Water should be affordable to everyone for basic human needs.
- Collaboration creates opportunity to reduce redundancies and conflict.
- A shift toward catalyzing good things vs preventing bad things must be based on transparency and accountability.
- Everyone is a land and water steward; and

WHEREAS, the stated objectives by the Water Solutions Network for the Upper Feather/LA (Los Angeles) Watershed Framework Test Drive include:

- State Water Project end users in Los Angeles and Upper Feather River Watershed land and water stewards will meet each other.
- The group will develop a common understanding of how the entire watershed works from headwaters to engineered outflows in Los Angeles.
- Drawing on existing plans and strategies in the Upper Feather and Los Angeles, the group will identify opportunities to improve the health of the watershed.
- At the group's discretion and agreement, the group may collaborate on the pursuit of resources to support the shared priority opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the health and capacity of the Upper Feather River Watershed to steward the resources while also supporting thriving local communities may be enhanced by building a common understanding of the watershed with downstream State Water Project end users; and

WHEREAS, coordination and collaboration across sectors may assist in reducing redundancies and expanding the impact of projects and funding within the Upper Feather River Watershed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Plumas, State of California, does hereby:

1. Agree to act as a co-convenor for the Upper Feather/LA (Los Angeles) Watershed Framework Test Drive by providing the Plumas County local government logo and inviting Plumas County stakeholders to a Fall 2024 Test Drive convening.
2. Designate Supervisor Dwight Ceresola, District 1 (primary) and Supervisor Tom McGowan, District 3 (alternate) to represent the County of Plumas for the purposes of the Upper Feather/LA (Los Angeles) Watershed Framework Test Drive.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Plumas, State of California, at a special meeting of said Board held on this 25th day of June, 2024, by the following vote:

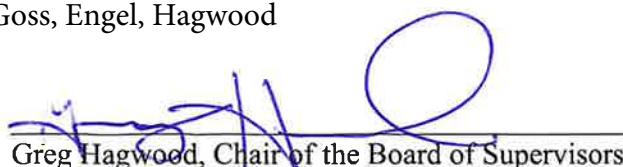
AYES: Supervisors: Ceresola, McGowan, Goss, Engel, Hagwood

NOES: Supervisors:

ABSENT: Supervisors:

ATTEST:

Allen Hiskey
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors


Greg Hagwood, Chair of the Board of Supervisors

Approved as to form:


Joshua Brechtel, Attorney
County Counsel's Office