

## American River Flood Control District Water Forum Stakeholder Participation

### Staff Report

#### **Discussion:**

The Sacramento Water Forum was established to promote sustainable management of the Sacramento Region's water supply and the aquatic habitat of the Lower American River. The Water Forum consists of a diverse group of agencies, businesses, and interest groups that work together to balance the co-equal goals of establishing water supply reliability and preserving the health of the ecosystem.

The Water Forum recently hosted a web meeting to reach out to potential participants in its Public Caucus. The training described the current effort underway for the Water Forum to update its 20-year plan in the form of the Water Forum Agreement and to list the specific tasks and expectations of participants in the Public Caucus.

The Water Forum Agreement consists of 7 elements:

1. River Flow Standard
2. Habitat Management
3. Ground Water Management
4. Water Conservation
5. Increased Surface Water Diversion
6. Dry Year Actions
7. Water Forum Successor Effort

The goals of the Public Caucus mainly include broadening participation into other areas of our region and community. Some specific areas to focus on include:

1. Social Equity and Diversity
2. Land Use and User Experience
3. Legacy of Stewardship

The group has a goal of updating the Water Forum Agreement over the next year and have the document ready to be ratified in mid-2022. The expectation of members in the Public Caucus would be to engage in monthly meetings and to review and contribute to work products and to present the document to their representative Boards for execution/endorsement.

The American River Flood Control District fits into the mix of participants since we are a steward of the lands adjacent to the American River Parkway. In this capacity the District has an impact on user experience of the Parkway and to a minor degree the habitat of the aquatic ecosystem. The District likely would not be participating in a large role in the development of the Water Forum Agreement but could be present in the discussions to provide information on flood control objectives. Although the Water Forum does not have a Flood Control component, the District could participate to stay connected to the progress of the group.

Water Forum staff indicated the time commitment to participate in the Public Caucus was likely to be between 2 to 6 hours each month at the evening work sessions. The Board may want to identify a Trustee to serve as the representative to the Public Caucus and name the General Manager as an alternate.

**Recommendation:**

The General Manager recommends that the District participate as a member of the Public Caucus in the Water Forum.