

Handout 3: Draft Challenges and Opportunities

Meeting #4 – 4/23/12 Woodland, 4/24/12 Clearlake

I. Entire Region

- Coordinate with adjoining IRWM Planning activities
- Coordinate with other State and Federal projects and processes that could affect this region
- Establish a long-term governance for implementation and updating of IRWM Plan
- Halt the spread of and reduce the extent of invasive species
- Prevent colonization of water bodies by Quagga Mussels, Zebra Mussels, or New Zealand Mud Snails
- Implement relevant NCCP/HCP's
- Improve community outreach and engagement to build support for and participation in sustainable management of watersheds and resources
- Improve coordinated data acquisition, management, and access
- Improve public awareness of watershed function and sustainable resources management
- Incorporate federal and land management participation for watershed restoration and water quality improvements
- Maintain and improve economic benefits of tourism and recreational uses
- Meet applicable discharge requirements and basin management objectives
- Meet applicable drinking water standards
- Preserve agricultural lands and a thriving agricultural economy
- Preserve structure of groundwater aquifers
- Provide an appropriate level of flood protection
- Provide better data and information to support decision making and more sustainable public behaviors
- Provide reliable water supplies for beneficial uses
- Provide water of suitable quality for the intended beneficial use
- Reduce the degradation of soils, water bodies, and habitat caused by land uses and other human activities
 - Erosion
 - Contaminants
 - Clearing of native vegetation
 - Wastewater system overflows
 - Septic system impacts

- Accumulation of litter or refuse
- Lakeshore activities
- Rising costs for water supply and distribution and wastewater treatment
- Support health and biological diversity of native aquatic and riparian species
 - Improve floodplain connectivity
 - Fish passage
 - Riparian canopy
 - Structural complexity of habitat
 - Geomorphology
 - Wetlands
 - Vernal pools
 - Migratory birds and wintering areas
- Understand and prepare to address consequences of climate change related to
 - Storm water and flood management
 - Evapotranspiration
 - Agricultural production
 - Riparian and aquatic species
 - Water supplies
- Understand salt loading and the implications on water quality and land use

II. Upper Cache Creek Planning Area

- Algal and bacterial concentrations within Clear Lake
- Meet mercury TMDL for Cache Creek
- Preserve ultramafic soils and associated habitat
- Reduce the water quality impacts of illegal activities (e.g. marijuana growing)

III. Upper Putah Creek Planning Area

- None Noted

IV. Valley Floor Planning Area

- Availability of water supply during drought periods
- Could face decreased water supplies due to environmental regulations and climate change in the future
- Flood conveyance capacity of the Yolo Bypass and associated flood risks
- High nitrate levels in some groundwater aquifers
- High salinity levels in wastewater treatment discharges



- Meet mercury TMDL for Cache Creek
- Subsidence
- Shallow groundwater pumpers are subject to drought impacts
- Low level of flood protection along lower portion of Cache Creek
- Well head management and abandonment
- Groundwater conjunctive use