

## **Appendix O: Policies and Initiatives**

Appendix O provides the MCG-approved policies and initiatives for inclusion in the Implementation Plan.

# 9a: Land Use Coordination Policy

---

**Sponsor(s):** Calaveras Planning Coalition, MyValleySprings.com

**Estimated Costs:** \$25,000

**Funding Source(s):** unknown

**Concept location:** MAC and ESJ Regions

## Policy Statement

Develop a program to improve coordination between willing water agencies, land use agencies, and concerned members of the public.

## Initiative

MokeWISE Stakeholders acknowledge the importance of maintaining a cooperative working relationship between water agencies and local land use agencies to ensure that there is an adequate domestic water supply available to serve the communities within the Mokelumne Watershed. The MokeWISE Stakeholders also understand that there are challenges to maintaining a cooperative working relationship that should be recognized and overcome to ensure that there is a safe and adequate water supply to meet the current and future needs.

In addition, the stakeholders acknowledge existing statutes (SB 221 and SB 610) that impose such planning requirements on water agencies and local land use agencies for land use developments that meet certain conditions.

There are various means by which water and local land use agencies can work together to not only ensure that there is adequate water to serve existing and future needs, but to maintain the environmental integrity of the Mokelumne River, up and downstream. Incorporating the following implementation measures into current procedures and processes can assist with maintaining a cooperative long-term relationship between both entities.

- While updating agency General Plans and Urban Water Management Plans, the local land use agencies should meet and coordinate with local water agencies and members of the public to get an understanding of existing water demands and infrastructure needs to serve existing land use demands, as well as future needs. Policies should be incorporated into the General Plan to ensure that adequate water supply and wastewater disposal are available prior to development and sustained.

- The local land use agency should coordinate with responsible water agencies and members of the public to ensure that there is adequate water supply and infrastructure when a new development proposal is submitted. To ensure this coordination, the project should be routed to the responsible water agency, local interest groups and individuals that have previously expressed a concern, for comments and conditions. The water agencies and other commenters must commit to responding to the local land use agency within the allotted timeframe and provide detailed comments and/or conditions to ensure their requirements are met.
- Local land use agencies should include the responsible water agency, local interest groups and individuals that have previously expressed a concern on pre application meetings for potential developments within their service area.
- Water agencies, Counties and Cities, local interest groups and concerned members of the public should strive to hold periodic meetings to discuss various topics such as:
  - Variability in available water supply, which may fluctuate in drier years requiring the need to implement stricter conservation measures.
  - Existing water supply demands based upon development or proposed development to ensure that current and future water supply needs can continue to be met.
  - Water conservation methods that can be quickly implemented during summer months and drought years to help maintain adequate water supply levels.
  - Facility and infrastructure needs for future growth and demands.
  - How future growth could have impacts on wastewater and drainage facilities downstream.
  - Strategies to sustain and improve surface and groundwater quality.

### **Statement of MokeWISE Support**

MokeWISE Stakeholders support a more defined and transparent approach to improving the coordination between willing water agencies and local land use agencies to ensure that there is adequate water supply to serve existing and future needs and the public interest.

# 9b: Sustainable Forestry Policy

---

**Sponsor(s):** UMRWA (pending)

**Estimated Costs:** \$0

**Funding Source(s):** unknown

**Concept location:** MAC and ESJ Regions

## Policy Statement

MokeWISE Stakeholders support the development and implementation of sustainable forestry practices within the upper portion(s) of the Mokelumne River Watershed. A sustainable forest is ecologically rich and resilient, with full native biodiversity, where natural processes, structure, and function, including fire, sustain the native ecology and a diverse range of ecosystem services. Sustainable forestry considers and incorporates natural processes, functions, and structure as well as compatible management activities to restore and maintain resilient, healthy forest ecosystems and ecosystem services. A sustainable forest reduces the frequency and intensity of wildfires that threaten life, property, or important ecological resources. A sustainable forest protects watershed soil integrity and water quality and quantity.

## Initiative

MokeWISE Stakeholders have been made aware of Principles and Policies adopted by the collaborative Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG). MokeWISE Stakeholders encourage their use to help guide sustainable forestry operations within the region.

The ACCG developed the Principles and Policies to assist in the evaluation of projects or programs proposed for lands within their interest area (note that ACCG doesn't own or manage land, yet their interest area encompasses a large portion of the upper watershed). Further, the ACCG uses the Principles and Policies to make project sponsorship or endorsement decisions.

Principles, which could also be considered as initiatives, have been identified as follows:

- Design and implement activities that protect and restore forest ecosystem resiliency, structures, processes and functions within local watersheds;
- Seek forest and watershed planning solutions that benefit all three components of ACCG's vision: the local environment, community and economy;
- Use adaptive management best practices supported by the most appropriate peer-reviewed, ecology based science available; and

- Plan forest activities using the most comprehensive and current assessment of local watersheds and forests and the communities and economies they support.

A number of associated Policies have been identified. Policies address desired project outcomes. Projects or programs that are developed to help the region achieve sustainable forests should take into consideration these Policies. Policies are grouped under the following categories: natural environments; communities; and economies.

### **Statement of MokeWISE Support**

MokeWISE Stakeholders support the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group's Principles and Policies to Guide Operation as adopted on August 18, 2010 (Attachment A).

### **Other Efforts of which MokeWISE Stakeholders are Aware**

MokeWISE Stakeholders are aware of other efforts underway regarding efforts that relate, directly or indirectly, to forestry practices in the watershed:

- The projects of the Amador-Calaveras Consensus group, including but not limited to the multi-year ACCG Cornerstone Project on the Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests.
- Work being performed by the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council in Amador County to guide sustainable forestry practices on PG&E lands in its program as well as the lands it will donate to federal and state agencies within the upper portion of the Mokelumne River Watershed; and
- An effort as championed by Calaveras County Supervisor Cliff Edson to finance and develop a Calaveras County-wide program aimed at increasing water production from local forests and creating a payment for ecosystem services program.
- Forest and watershed projects on private lands that are funded by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Sierra Nevada Conservancy and CalFIRE.

MokeWISE Stakeholders acknowledge these and other efforts to promote sustainable forestry within the upper watershed and will consider if and how best to support efforts believed to be appropriate for the watershed as they move beyond the concept stage.

**Appendix A: Amador Calaveras Consensus Group  
(ACCG) Principles and Policies to Guide Operations,  
Adopted by ACCG August 18, 2010**

## **Introduction**

The Principles and Policies to Guide Operations detailed below are intended for the use of the ACCG in guiding projects the ACCG controls, manages, sponsors or is considering endorsing. The ACCG recognizes that not all of the principles and policies may be applicable or necessary on every project. Further, the ACCG recognizes that conforming with the principles and policies will require a balanced approach as projects will need to strike a balance between environmental, community and economic objectives. Entities seeking ACCG endorsement of projects should consider how their projects evaluate or integrate the principles and policies.

### **Principles:**

- Design and implement activities that protect and restore forest ecosystem resiliency, structures, processes and functions within local watersheds.
- Seek forest and watershed planning solutions that benefit all three components of our vision: the local environment, community and economy.
- Use adaptive management best practices supported by the most appropriate peer-reviewed, ecology-based science available.
- Plan forest activities using the most comprehensive and current assessment of local watersheds and forests and the communities and economies they support.

### **Policies to Guide Operations:**

#### *Natural Environments*

- Reduce the frequency and intensity of wildland fires that threaten life, property or important ecological resources.
- Protect watershed soil integrity and water quality and quantity.
- Promote the eradication of ecologically harmful invasive species.
- Identify, manage, and enhance wildlife and plant habitat and wildlife corridor connectivity.
- Plan and implement projects using a landscape perspective that recognizes their cumulative effects.
- Prioritize and strategically target projects and treatment areas using the best assessment and the most appropriate adaptive management techniques available.
- Reduce forest fuel loads to manageable, ecologically sustainable levels using site-appropriate methods: including but not limited to mechanical and/or prescribed burning methods.

- Establish and maintain monitoring and data collection activities that improve local knowledge of forest conditions from the stand to landscape and watershed levels.
- Promote the adaptation of management strategies and methods using the best available peer-reviewed science-based research.

### *Communities*

- Treat everyone with dignity and respect, being mindful of their respective roles and responsibilities.
- Reduce the potential for damage to life and property by:
  - Promoting the creation and maintenance of fire-safe communities through community-endorsed fuel hazard reduction projects in the forests' interface with local communities and the built environment.
  - Promoting the use of defensible space and fire-resistant building materials and design.
- Respect and be sensitive to Native American cultural sites, practices and resources.
- Respect and be sensitive to historical sites.
- Include area stakeholders in project planning and implementation.
- Foster cooperative partnerships that maximize effectiveness and regional competitiveness of the local workforce and businesses.
- As appropriate, provide community education and involvement opportunities to local communities.
- Protect scenic beauty and locally important sites.
- Enhance or do no harm to other healthy forest-based activities.

### *Economies*

- Work to create local sustainable jobs with livable wages.
- Work to diversify the local economy with sustainable jobs and businesses.
- Implement and use adaptive management and sustainable practices in forest and watershed work.
- Practice continuous quality improvement in the work done to learn from it and improve future work.

- Mimic nature’s circular process that recognizes “underutilized materials” as valuable feedstock for diverse sustainable, value-added products, services and infrastructure.
- Encourage local investment, purchasing and ownership of forest enterprises.
- Use regional networks and markets to optimize local benefits.

# 9c: Watershed Coordinator Initiative

---

**Sponsor(s):** San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District, Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority

**Estimated Costs:** \$50,000/year per watershed coordinator

**Funding Source(s):** unknown

**Concept location:** MAC and ESJ Regions

## Policy Statement

MokeWISE Stakeholders recognize the value of having one or more watershed coordinators for the upper and lower watersheds to work with the various landowners, agencies, and interest groups within the Mokelumne River Watershed to facilitate collaborative efforts designed to improve and sustain the health of the watershed.

## Initiative

MokeWISE Stakeholders support funding efforts, through state grant programs or other, to establish and maintain one or more watershed coordinators to work under the direction of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District (lower watershed) and / or UMRWA (upper watershed).

## Statement of MokeWISE Support

MokeWISE Stakeholders support funding efforts to retain one or more watershed coordinators to work under the direction of the San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District (lower watershed) and / or UMRWA (upper watershed) to facilitate collaborative interregional efforts to improve and sustain the health of the Mokelumne Watershed.

# 9f: MokeWISE Project Public Involvement Initiative

---

**Sponsor(s):** Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority (UMRWA) and the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin Authority (GBA)

**Estimated Costs:** \$20,000 for anticipated annual meeting management and facilitation expenses incurred over a 5-year period; actual yearly costs will vary depending on MokeWISE project activity

**Funding Source(s):** It is anticipated that if a project or study is projected to commence “shortly,” the project sponsors should work cooperatively with UMRWA and/or the GBA to address any financial commitment to support their effort(s)

**Concept location:** MAC and ESJ Regions

## Policy Statement

MokeWISE stakeholders recognize that transparent and inclusive planning processes, with formal opportunities for public participation, lead to better outcomes. State law requires issued state permits and licenses allowing for the diversion and storage of surface water be in the public interest. MokeWISE Stakeholders recognize that conflicts over public interest issues can stall and/or extend the state permit and license approval process for years.

This proposal provides support for interregional MAC and ESJ stakeholders to work, at the programmatic level, on MokeWISE implementation. Participation would focus on discussing the progress of specific MokeWISE Implementation Plan projects and identifying larger programmatic issues or changes that should be made in response to new information and funding opportunities. MokeWISE stakeholders believe that careful consideration of potential funding opportunities provides the best possible outcomes for MokeWISE projects and studies and that meeting annually to discuss opportunities is in the best interest of the watershed. Public involvement is also critical to the successful implementation of MokeWISE and public workshops can provide the public with a valuable avenue for providing feedback about MokeWISE implementation.

## Initiative

Interested stakeholders in the Mokelumne Watershed and members of the public will meet annually to monitor, comment on, and discuss the implementation of MokeWISE studies and projects.

## **Statement of MokeWISE Support**

MokeWISE stakeholders support ongoing participation of interested stakeholders and members of the public to oversee MokeWISE implementation and track implementation of individual MokeWISE projects. Continuing engagement with former Mokelumne Collaborative Group (MCG) members and the public on a regular basis constitutes an important element needed for success of MokeWISE projects.