

MENDOCINO COUNTY WATER RESOURCES TEAM

IDENTIFY COMMUNITY WATER NEEDS

COUNTY OF MENDOCINO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

28 MARCH 2023

AGENDA

- Introductions
 - EKI
 - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Process to Pursue Funding for County's Water Priorities
- TAC Process
- TAC Recommendations
- Questions and answers



Image Source: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/>

INTRODUCTION: EKI ENVIRONMENT & WATER INC.



- Employee-owned
- 100+ employees: engineers, hydrogeologists, geologists, environmental scientists, GIS, database specialists, and data scientists
- Extensive water resources planning and engineering expertise



Anona Dutton, PG, CHg
Principal-in-Charge

- ✓ Leader in California water issues
- ✓ Strategic and technical direction
- ✓ Support communication and coordination efforts
- ✓ Point-of-contact (POC) and grant application support
- ✓ Support grant development



Amir Mani, PhD, PE
Project Manager

- ✓ Project management experience
- ✓ Primary internal and external POC
- ✓ Drought Task Force POC
- ✓ Coordination with Non-County entities (NCEs)
- ✓ Support grant development

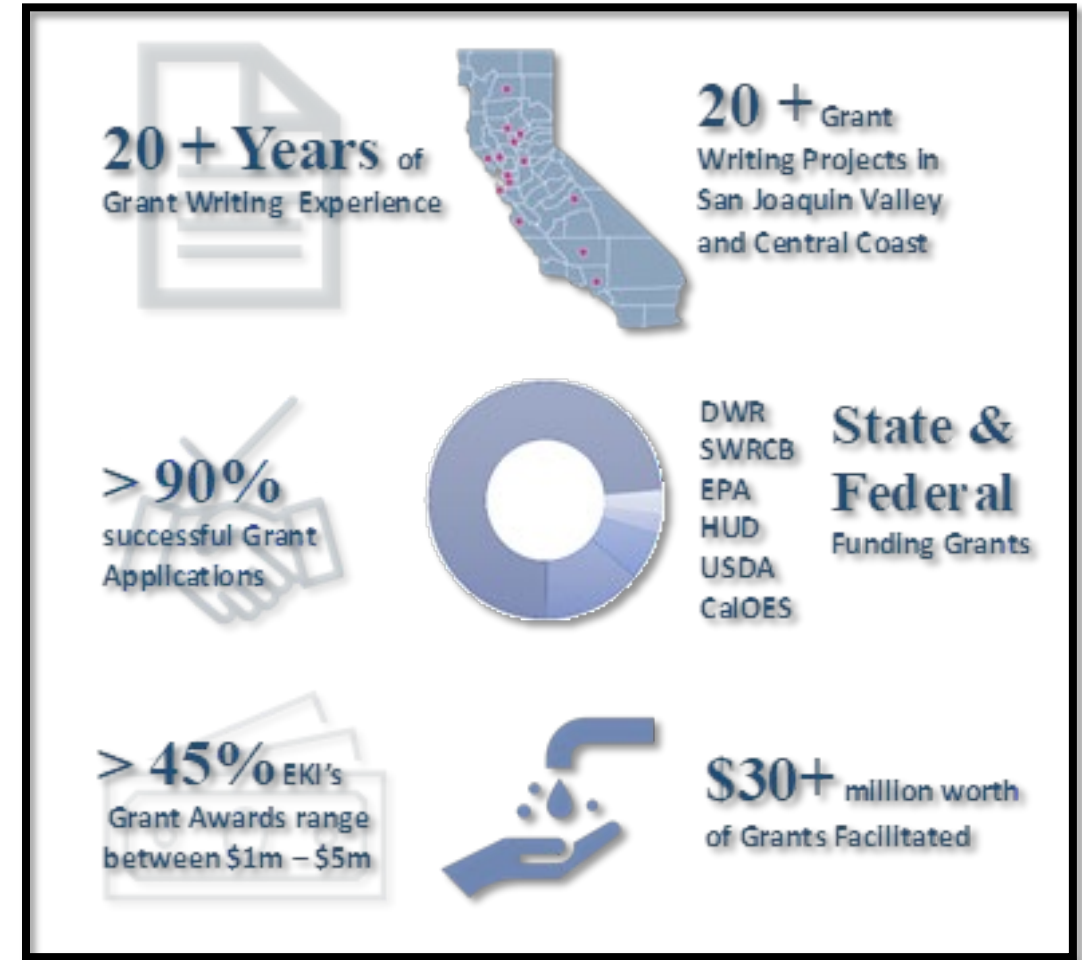


Sarah Hodson, EIT
Environmental Engineer

- ✓ Technical support in all phases of the project
- ✓ Data analysis, GIS, and reports
- ✓ Grant application
- ✓ Development of supporting materials

EKI SCOPE OF WORK: GRANT SUPPORT

- Under this scope, EKI is tasked to support Mendocino County in pursuit of its funding and financing goal:
 - Advocate, lead and prioritize studies and projects to position for grants
 - Build and maintain relationships with state and federal funding agencies on behalf of the County's water interests
 - Lead and coordinate grant applications and grant management
- Since 2018, EKI has administered almost 99% of the grants applied on behalf of the clients
- Received ~\$10M in drought grants in the past two years.
- Submitted Six SGM Round 2 Implementation grants the past December.



INTRODUCTION: TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

District 1: Deborah Edelman

- Mendocino County Resource Conservation District

District 2: Sean White

- City of Ukiah

District 3: Jim Shields

- Laytonville County Water District

District 4: John Smith

- City of Fort Bragg

District 5: James Sullivan

- Mendocino City Community Services District

Howard Dashiell

- Department of Transportation

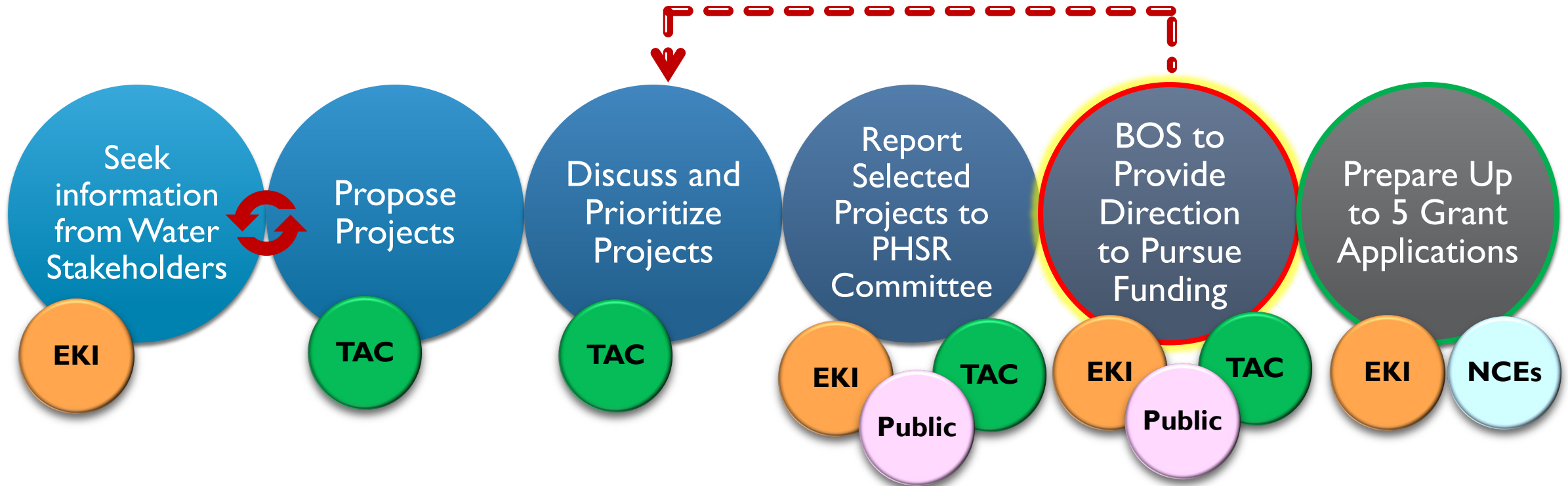
Steve Dunnicliff

- Executive Office

John Harper

- UC Cooperative Extension

PROCESS TO PURSUE FUNDING FOR COUNTY'S WATER PRIORITIES



TAC PROCESS: SEEK INFORMATION FROM WATER STAKEHOLDERS AND PROPOSE PROJECTS

- EKI conducted outreach to various stakeholders, including:
 - ✓ Tribes
 - ✓ Small water agencies
 - ✓ Community services districts
 - ✓ Water districts
 - ✓ Consulting firms
- Built upon project list previously developed by MCRCD for the County's application to DWR's 2021 Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Program
- Stakeholders could directly edit and add projects to a live list on Google Sheets
- Led to 46 projects from 24 different lead agencies

TAC PROCESS: DISCUSS AND PRIORITIZE PROJECTS

1. EKI proposed 10 criteria to evaluate project merit based on the County Water Agency Implementation Plan (WAIP)

- Promotes long-term investment in water reliability and resiliency.
- Promotes conservation, recycled water, or provides capacity for drought response.
- Increases access and transparency to water data in the County.
- Promotes education and outreach.
- Serves disadvantaged and underserved communities.
- Well-defined or -designed project, ready for implementation.
- Eligible for an existing grant (project type, implementation timeline, etc.).
- Promotes habitat restoration and protects fisheries.
- Includes publicly available monitoring and data collection.
- Multi-benefit with quantifiable benefits and impact.

2. TAC members filled out an anonymous survey to rank the importance of each criterion

3. EKI created a ranking tool that translated evaluation of qualitative criteria (i.e., “Yes” or “No”) to numerical weighted scoring for each project

- TAC survey responses were used to apply weights to the scoring of each criterion

TAC RECOMMENDATION

“Pursue funding for the ranked water resiliency projects in the order listed.”

Rank	Project Name	Agency	District
1	135 Acre-Foot Raw Water Reservoirs	City of Fort Bragg	4
2	Recycled Water System Upgrade and Expansion and Modernization of Wastewater Treatment Plant	Mendocino City Community Services District (MCCSD)	5
3	Water Treatment Plant Repairs	Laytonville County Water District	3
4	Smart Water Meter Project	MCCSD	5
5	Gualala River Flow Bank Project	Gualala Water Company	5
6	Ackerman Creek Floodplain Management and Groundwater Recharge Project	Pinoleville Pomo Nation	1
7	Consolidation of URRWA	Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) or Mendocino County	1
8	Western Hills Source Water Protection	City of Ukiah	2
9	Eel River – Trout Creek Water Resource Project	Potter Valley Tribe	2
10	Rainwater Harvest and Greywater Workshops and Tank Cost Share	Mendocino County Resource Conservation District	All

TAC RECOMMENDATION

“The County to consider one application bundling multiple projects to the State Board’s Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience (SAFER) Grant.”

- The County-wide and Regional Funding Program (County-wide SAFER) focuses on immediate needs of state smalls, domestic wells, or small public water systems serving Disadvantaged Communities (DACs).
 - Counties or NGOs/Public Agencies representing one or more counties can apply.
 - Funds specific projects:
 - Assessment: Community outreach, Domestic well testing
 - Interim Solutions: Bottled water, Tanks and hauled water, Kiosk filling stations, Point of Use/Point of Entry (POU/POE) installation and maintenance
 - Long-Term Solutions: Well repairs and/or replacements, Limited-scale consolidation (such as laterals, above-ground interties), POU/POE installation and maintenance (selected cases)
 - County will be responsible for applying and administering grants. Costs after approval are reimbursable if an agreement is ultimately executed.
 - County or lead agencies need to incur costs first. County-wide SAFER would reimburse costs already incurred.
- According to EKI’s correspondence with the State Board:
 - Projects identified in the Project list for the County-wide SAFER will most likely need separate applications to the overall SAFER funding program and will not fit under County-wide SAFER eligibility and requirements.
 - Some of the projects may not fit under FY 2022-23 SAFER funding priorities and should pursue other funding sources.
 - The County-wide SAFER may be updated, but terms and timeline are uncertain at this time.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

