



M E M O R A N D U M
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DIVISION
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors DATE: May 19, 2020
FROM: Ken Grehm, Director of Public Works
By: Brett Storey, Principal Management Analyst
SUBJECT: Environmental Engineering / 2019 Joint Powers Authority Middle Fork Project
Operations Summary

ACTION REQUESTED

Receive a report on the activities of the Joint Powers Authority Middle Fork Project for 2019.

BACKGROUND

The Middle Fork Project (MFP) is a multi-purpose water supply and hydro-generation project designed to conserve and control waters of the Middle Fork American River, the Rubicon River, and several associated tributary streams. The MFP stores water from rain and snow during the fall and winter months and releases water all year to meet consumptive (municipal, industrial, and agricultural) demands within western Placer County, as well as providing recreational experiences, contributing to the natural resource preservation and enhancement of the river, and generating power for the California electrical grid.

Each year, an informational session regarding the performance of the MFP is provided to the Placer County Board of Supervisors summarizing the previous year of operations. Staff works with Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) staff on all facets of the MFP to manage, operate and maintain the system, which provides economic benefits to the people of Placer County. With the final 2019 financial information having been reviewed by PCWA staff, and audited by an independent auditing firm, staff will present information regarding the nature of MFP costs and revenues, volatility of the year, and an analysis of forecasted revenue versus actual revenue received. In addition, a status update will be given regarding re-licensing, forest restoration work, and estimated future revenues and policy definition of the MFP.

In summary, the MFP was able to fully fund the reserves to meet all policy obligations, refinance the outstanding debt to reduce costs by utilizing lower interest rates, and created net revenue. Due to financial, regulatory, water and the COVID crisis conditions the discussion of revenue distributions in 2020 has been delayed until the July MFPFA meeting when the status of each will be clearer. Additionally, per the joint agreement, PCWA continues to reimburse the County's annual operating costs.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no environmental impact as this is an informational item.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact as this is an informational item.

ATTACHMENTS

None

