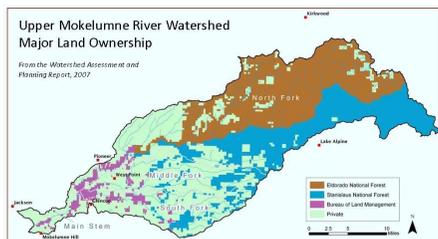


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Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group



US Forest Service, Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority to Improve Critical Watershed: media and public invited to May 18 signing event



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News Release

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VALLEJO, California – Reliable water supplies and protection of water quality are the motivation for a new stewardship agreement between the U.S. Forest Service and the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority. Media representatives and the public are invited to attend the signing event on May 18, in West Point, Calif.

The agreement will assist in advancing restoration and conservation of the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed. These lands provide clean, fresh water for agriculture, industrial and urban domestic use-including local residents in Amador, Calaveras and San Joaquin Counties and 1.4 million residents in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties of the East Bay. Detailed information about the signing event is provided below:

WHAT: Signing of Master Stewardship Agreement between the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority and the U.S. Forest Service – Media representatives will have an opportunity to conduct interviews immediately following the signing ceremony.

WHERE: West Point Calif. – Park area located next to the Odd Fellows Hall.

WHEN: Wednesday, May 18, 2016, 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.

SPEAKERS: Terry Woodrow (Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority/Amador County, County Supervisor), Teresa McClung, (US Forest Service), Randy Moore (US Forest Service) Steve Wilensky (Amador Calaveras Consensus Group founding member) More event information can be found here: [Agenda](#)

“This effort is the result of the dedicated work of many partners, such as the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG) and local communities in Amador and Calaveras counties,” said Rob Alcott, Executive Officer for the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority. “We look forward to working with these partners and others to continue the important task of improving the Upper Mokelumne River Watershed and the surrounding forested areas.”

The Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority is comprised of six water agencies– Amador Water Agency, Calaveras County Water District, Calaveras Public Utility District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Jackson Valley Irrigation District and Alpine County Water Agency– and the counties of Amador, Calaveras and Alpine. They serve as the regional water management group for the Mokelumne-Amador-Calaveras Region. The goal is to enhance water supply and protect water quality and the environment.

“This is a great day for the Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group’s effort to make our communities safer from wildland fire, protect the environment, and put local people back to work in the forest,” said Steve Wilensky, ACCG founding member. “We hope it’s the beginning of a lasting, mutually beneficial rural-urban restoration partnership.”

This agreement covers an area known as the Cornerstone Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration (CFLR) project which lies within the Amador Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest and the Calaveras Ranger District of the Stanislaus National Forest. This CFLR project was developed through the collaborative efforts of the ACCG and was selected in 2012 as one of 23 projects nationwide to be awarded funds to actively manage forest lands to reduce fire hazard and improve water quality. Since 2012, hazardous fuels have been greatly reduced in the project area adjacent to communities at risk and more than 14,000 acres have been treated for fuels reduction within this CFLR Project. The ACCG remains very active in this project and will play a key role in the implementation of this agreement.

"This agreement is a major success for all of the partners involved in the collaborative efforts of the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group, and we are proud to have been a part of this important effort since its beginning," said Jim Branham, Executive Officer for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

"I am pleased that this agreement aligns with our Regional priorities for Ecological Restoration," said Randy Moore, Pacific Southwest Regional Forester for the U.S. Forest Service. "Clean water is one of our most important and valuable forest products. Through this agreement, we are committing to restoring and protecting these valuable resources for generations to come. Our goal is to retain and restore the ecological resilience of National Forest lands to achieve sustainable ecosystems that provide a broad range of ecological services for the benefit of all."

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