



Community-Wide Informational Meeting

June 29, 2021 | 6:00 – 7:30 PM

Summary

Meeting Purpose: Inform community members about the launching of the PID Options Study. Provide information about:

- The PID Options Study purpose and scope
- PID water supply system
- Community engagement process and timeline for Study completion

Background

Paradise Irrigation District (PID) held the first public meeting related to the Paradise Options Study on the evening of June 29, 2021. In addition to the remote meeting summarized below, an informal meet and greet with members of the project team was held in person at PID earlier in the afternoon. Given the informal nature and the many simultaneous conversations during the meet and greet, that portion of the event is not summarized herein.

Welcome and Introduction

Facilitator Orit Kalman, Sacramento State Consensus and Collaboration Program (CCP), opened the meeting and reviewed remote participation guidelines. For a list of participants, see Appendix A.

Tom Lando, PID Manager, welcomed participants and provided background on the Paradise Community Drinking Water Supply Options Study. The PID Board received funding from the State to support a study on the District's operations and capital needs as it rebuilds after the fire. Mr. Lando said that PID is in negotiations for a settlement related to the fire and is confident about the outcome of the settlement.

Randy Marx, Sacramento State Office of Water Programs (OWP) and project manager for the Options Study, shared about OWP's involvement in the Options Study. OWP has a contract with the State Water Resources Control Board to assist communities around the state on water infrastructure issues. Through this contract, OWP is supporting the Options Study, including contracting with GEI Consultants to complete technical aspects of the Options Study and CCP to support community and stakeholder engagement for a transparent, unbiased process. Further information on the Options Study, including a community engagement plan, can be accessed via the PID website at <https://pidwater.com/options>.

PID Water Supply

Mr. Lando and Dustin Cooper, PID Legal Counsel, shared an overview of PID water supply. PID water rights include:



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- Adjudicated pre-1914 direct diversion right for 4.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) beneficial use, or 8 cfs total with carriage loss
- Appropriative Permit 271 for 9,500 acre-feet (AF)
- Appropriative Permit 16040 for 8,800 AF

These all feed PID's two storage facilities, which have a combined capacity of 12,300 AF, which in turn feed the water system. In addition to the reservoirs, the treatment plant is a key PID facility. 90% of the town's water system connections are gravity fed from the treatment plant.

PID is divided into five divisions, each of which has one director on the PID Board. Before the fire PID had 10,500 customers; following the fire that number had dropped to 1,500 and it is now at 3,500 customers.

PID Options Study

Satya Gala, GEI Consultants, shared the Options Study workplan and timeline:

- Task 1. Options Identification Report
 - Community engagement: June 2021
 - Identification of Options: June/July 2021
 - Options evaluation methodology: July 2021
 - Report preparation: July (draft)/August (final)
- Task 2. Options Study Report
 - Cost estimation: August - September 2021
 - Environmental analysis: August - September 2021
 - Funding augmentation analysis: August - September 2021
 - Options evaluation and ranking: October 2021
 - Community engagement: October – November 2021
 - Report preparation: November (draft)/December (final)

The project is currently in the first task and stakeholders are encouraged to share options they would like the study to consider. Additional engagement will gather further input on the options that should be considered. Once the range of options have been defined, another stakeholder meeting will be held. As the project moves into its second task, these will be included as alternatives in the study.

Another key component of the first task is developing the methodology and criteria that will be used to evaluate the options during the second task. Cost, environmental analysis, and funding augmentation are important criteria that will be included. The project team will screen and rank options based upon the criteria. These evaluations will be shared through a meeting as well as draft report for public review and input.

The focus of the study is to identify and evaluate options to provide for long-term sustainability and short-term financial viability for the Community of Paradise water supply. The team has identified several categories of options:

1. Baseline (existing conditions)
2. Localized, Intermediate Approach



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3. Local Consolidation and Interagency agreements
4. Broad Regional Approach/Multipurpose Benefits
5. Funding Augmentation for long-term sustainability

As the study aims to comprehensively cover the range of potential options, additional options outside these categories are welcomed. Stakeholders were invited to contact Mr. Gala with ideas and considerations at any time.

Community Values

Ms. Kalman emphasized the importance of community input throughout the process. She asked participants to share their input on the following question using an online polling tool:

As we move forward with options development and evaluation, what do you want the consultants to know about and what are important considerations?

Participants shared the following considerations and priorities:

- Local control
- Safe water
- Costs to homeowners
- Do not listen only to outside interests - residents need to be heard
- Utilizing Butte County water in Butte County for Paradise and the rest of the county
- Keeping water on the ridge
- Potential environmental enhancement
- Must not encourage growth
- Water is in limited supply - water conservation
- Absolute control by PID, not the Town of Paradise Short term: restoration of clean, safe water throughout Paradise
- Long Term: sustainability and plan for growth
- Local control of the resources which belong to the District
- Maintaining local control of water resources with PID
- When considering consolidation it can be a two way street - another entity can possibly consolidate into PID.

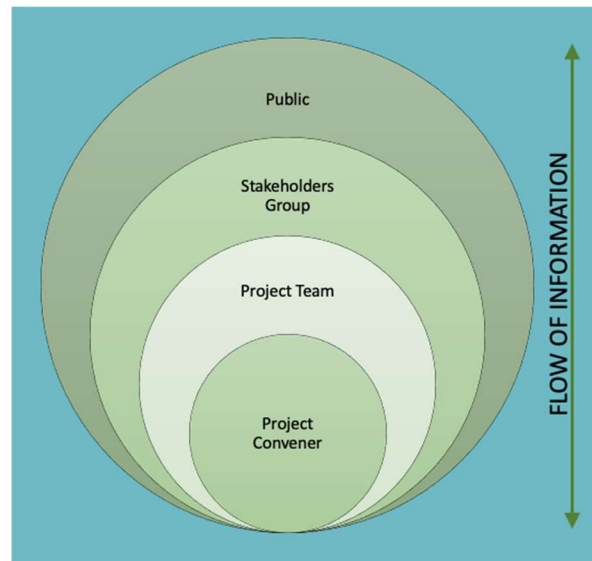
Ongoing Communication and Engagement

Levels of engagement and decision making

Ms. Kalman shared an overview of the project's communication and engagement approach. Project roles and responsibilities have been conceptualized as concentric circles of different levels of engagement and decision-making. Information will be shared back and forth between the levels as discussions and the project progress, so that input from stakeholders is incorporated as the project team works on defining the options. This is represented in the following diagram, and specific roles and responsibilities are detailed below.



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1. **Project Convener** (Decision Maker)
 - a. Options Study development - CSUS-OWP
 - b. Options Study implementation – PID
2. **Project Team** (Support and Development - Contract management, Drafts Options Study, Conducts outreach)
 - a. CSUS-OWP
 - b. CSUS-CCP
 - c. PID – authorized representative
 - d. Town of Paradise – recipient
 - e. State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
 - f. GEI Consultants
3. **Stakeholders Group** (Advise and provide input on all project milestones/decisions, serve as project ambassadors to other interests)
 - a. Local
 - b. Regional
 - c. State
 - d. Tribal
 - e. Environmental
4. **Public** (Ongoing engagement to be informed of the project and its progress)
 - a. Town of Paradise residents
 - b. Butte County residents

Opportunities for input

The project includes five key decision points. As the project moves toward each decision point, there will be opportunities for discussion and input at the various levels of engagement and decision-making.

1. Consultant evaluation criteria:
 - This step is completed. OWP worked with the Stakeholders Group to think through important criteria in selecting the technical consultant.



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2. Selection of consultant:
 - This step is completed. OWP, as the project convener, selected the consultant, informed by input from stakeholders.
3. List of options for consideration
 - This step is in process and stakeholders are encouraged to share input.
4. Evaluation parameters
 - This step is in process and stakeholders are encouraged to share input.
5. Next steps and implementation
 - Once the study is completed, next steps and implementation decisions will be taken by PID.

During the initial stakeholder engagement, feedback included:

- Explore **multiple options** (not limited to the previously studied intertie).
- Consider a wide range of options that look for ways to **consolidate/reorganize regional resources** to achieve goals and **support economic development and growth**.
- Utilize a **long range and holistic approach**. Consider long term governance for sustainability and stability.
- Define and **balance economic sustainability and environmental enhancement**.
- Provide **clarity on water rights** in the region.
- **Keep water localized** as much as possible while **recognizing opportunities** that water affords.
- Consider **conservation and recycling** as they relate to growth and water use.
- Recognize the impact of this study on **other planning efforts** (SGMA, power plant- dam safety, wastewater).
- This may serve as a springboard to **subsequent studies**.

Community discussions during the first task will provide information on what the study is and how it is moving forward, as well as gather input on values and how stakeholders think about the options that are being considered. In parallel to these community discussions, Stakeholders Group meetings will also discuss which options should be considered and what criteria should be used to evaluate promising options.

Information on the Options Study is provided on the PID website as well as on social media for review throughout the study process and to stay abreast of future meetings.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Mr. Gala emphasized that the project's goal is financial viability in short term and sustainability in long-term. He invited stakeholders to contact him with additional input on options and considerations at any time. Another public meeting will be held to share the list of options and gather additional input criteria.

Participants were invited to join an email list to receive updates on engagement opportunities.



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Informal Discussion with Project Team

Participants were invited to remain on the meeting line following the meeting to continue the discussion informally. Participants share the following comments and questions:

- I am concerned that PID may lose the ability to apply for future grants to support financial viability. This should be a key consideration in considering options that could provide a financial benefit, such as using PID water to enhance environmental flows.
 - All opportunities supporting financial sustainability will be considered. He said that PID would carefully consider potential impacts before pursuing approaches that would involve using PID water elsewhere.
- I would hope that grantmaking communities would understand the need of communities impacted by fire for revenue sources that would be truly short-term.
- Has PID explored grant options related to environmental flow benefits for salmon on Butte Creek?
 - Yes, PID is looking into commitment of flow assets in exchange for monetary compensation, however details around this potential option are confidential at this time.
- What does financial sustainability mean for PID?
 - PID has commissioned a study to explore this question. While the study has begun, a definitive answer depends on the outcome of PID's settlement with PG&E. The timeline for that settlement is undefined, so the study includes two tracks. Information will be shared when it is available.

Mr. Marx said that participants were welcome to participate in the monthly Stakeholders Group calls. Anyone interested was invited to email Ms. Kalman and Ms. Marx to be added to the list.



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Appendix A: Participant List

Remote meeting participants are listed below, based on the names listed within the remote meeting platform.

- Alan Hinman Jr.
- Allen Harthorn
- Bill Taylor
- Chris Rehmann
- Christina Buck
- Cliff Jacobson
- David Chan
- David Kehn
- Debra Lucero
- Dee Riley
- Donn Thomson
- Doug Dove
- Ernie Washington
- Gayland Taylor
- Geoff Fricker
- Gregg Mowers
- Jeffrey Twitchell
- Karl Boles
- Marc Sulik
- Mark Thorp
- Michael Bolzowski
- Michael DeGroot
- Mike Nelson
- Miranda Hillskemper
- Paul Farsai
- Paul Gosselin
- Satsie Veith
- Shannon McGovern
- Steve Lobdell
- Steve Lucas
- Tasha
- Tonya Dale
- Ward Habriel