

**Trinity Public Utilities District
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD
September 14, 2023**

Location: Trinity Public Utilities District Community Room
26 Ponderosa Lane, Weaverville, California

Board Present: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nicholas Goulette, Andrew Johnson,
Michael Rourke

Board Absent: None

Others Present: Paul Hauser, Jim Underwood, Mike Garcia, Julie Catanese, Sarah
Sheetz, David DeLange, James Aven and Jill Cox

1. President Rourke called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda Order

Director Goulette made a motion to approve the Agenda Order. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson,
Mike Rourke

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

3. Public Input

None

4. Presentation on the Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability and Asset Protection (WRAP) Project by Tom Murphy, Aspen Environmental Group

Tom Murphy with Aspen Environmental Group (Aspen) provided a presentation on the WRAP Project, a copy of which is attached and incorporated herein by reference.

Mr. Murphy highlighted that the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), who is the lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act work (NEPA), has received correspondence from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and has concurred with the eligibility determination and the finding of no adverse effect from the WRAP Project. The Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service (USFS) are currently preparing for SHPO consultation. The Bureau of Land Management has begun preliminary planning tasks associated with new easements, signaling significant progress.

Mr. Murphy advised that a LIDAR analysis of the risk reduction as a result of the proposed project yielded a nearly 99 percent reduction in tree to circuit contact for Trinity PUD distribution lines once fully implemented.

Mr. Murphy outlined future tasks, including Key Observation Points and Right of Way analysis on private property, revisions of the Draft EIS/EIR, updated biological reports, and finalization of the AB52 Consultation.

The Board inquired about its participation in the process. Director Barragar advised it would be helpful if the Board had an opportunity to review the EIS/EIR prior to the public comment period. Mr. Murphy suggested that a version would be prepared following review by the BLM and USFS which may be an appropriate time for distribution to the Board.

The Board thanked Mr. Murphy and the Aspen team for the excellent work they have done on behalf of the District.

Director Cousins advised that the project not only reduces the District's risk of wildfire, but will also dramatically improve reliability for its customers.

5. Presentation on Golden State Power Cooperative by Jessica Nelson, General Manager, Golden State Power Cooperative

President Rourke welcomed Jessica Nelson, General Manager, Golden State Power Cooperative.

Ms. Nelson provided a brief background on advocacy efforts of both the Golden State Power Cooperative (GSPC) and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Ms. Nelson serves on the NRECA Board of Directors and on the Government Relations Committee, providing advocacy for rural electric cooperatives on a national level. Ms. Nelson advised that she is following several topics that may be of particular interest to the District, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Cybersecurity Resources, updates to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Wildfire Safety Advisory Board in California, Advanced Clean Fleet legislation and Western Regionalization or potential expansion of the California Independent System Operator.

Ms. Nelson advised that the GSPC Annual Conference is coming up in October and invited the Board to attend. The Board thanked Ms. Nelson for her advocacy efforts and the presentation.

6. Consent Calendar

Director Cousins requested that Items 6j and 6k be pulled from the Consent Calendar. Director Cousins made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar, excluding Items 6j and 6k. Director Barragar seconded the motion. The Consent Calendar included:

- a. Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting July 13, 2023
- b. Approve Minutes of the Safety Meeting August 7, 2023
- c. Approve Minutes of the Safety Meeting September 5, 2023
- d. Validate Bills of July 2023
- e. Validate Bills of August, 2023
- f. Approve Financial Reports for June, 2023
- g. Approve Financial Reports for July, 2023
- h. Validate Denial of Claim, Andrew Johnson
- i. Validate Denial of Claim, Bryan Bauer
- j. ~~Ratify Electric Service Contract in the amount of \$26,784.75 for service at 380 Carter Gulch in Hayfork~~
- k. ~~Approve Electric Service Contract in the amount of \$68,597.14 for additional service at 761 Barker Valley Road in Hayfork~~
- l. Certify Voting Delegates for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Director Election
- m. Approve Declaration of Surplus Vehicle

The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes:	Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson, Mike Rourke
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

7. Action Items

a. Items Pulled from Consent Calendar

6j. Ratify Electric Service Contract in the amount of \$26,784.75 for service at 380 Carter Gulch in Hayfork

6k. Approve Electric Service Contract in the amount of \$68,597.14 for additional service at 761 Barker Valley Road in Hayfork

Director Cousins inquired about the utility account deposits for both agreements, if it was necessary to charge large deposits, and if the District has had customers leave with unpaid bills. Mr. Hauser advised that the District has had customers leave with unpaid bills and that the amount charged is based on the size of the service. Ms. Sheetz advised that deposit amounts were determined by average usage for the various size services when the Utility Account Deposit Policy was updated. Deposits are also adjusted based on usage and/or credit history events for any given account, and are in place to protect all District customers from any customer who may leave the area without paying the final bill. Director Cousins inquired about the total value of deposits held by the District. Ms. Catanese advised the amount is approximately \$640,000. Director Cousins inquired if deposit funds are Restricted. Ms. Catanese advised that funds are Restricted. Director Cousins made a motion to Ratify the Electric Service Contract in the amount of \$26,784.75 for service at 380 Carter Gulch in Hayfork and to Approve the Electric Service Contract in the amount of \$68,597.14 for additional service at 761 Barker Valley Road in Hayfork. Director Barragar seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson, Mike Rourke

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

b. Award Bid Number 23-B1, Utility Class Wood Poles

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to Award Bid 23-B1 to Stella-Jones Corporation and authorize the General Manager to execute a Contract for the purchase of utility Class Wood Poles for a twelve-month period beginning September 15, 2023, with a one-year option to extend. Director Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes: Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins, Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson, Mike Rourke

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

c. Rescind Resolution 20-04 and Adopt Resolution 23-02 Approving Amendment 1 to Contract 03-SNR-00570 with Western Area Power Administration for Maintenance Services

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion Rescind Resolution 20-04, and Adopt Resolution 23-02, approving the revised Amendment 1 to Contract 03-SNR-00570, and authorizing the General Manager to execute the Amendment. Director Goulette seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Amanda Barragar -Aye

Alex Cousins -Aye

Nick Goulette -Aye

Andy Johnson -Aye

Mike Rourke -Aye

d. Rescind Resolution 20-03 and Adopt Resolution 23-03 Approving Amendment 1 to Contract 04-SNR-00648 with Western Area Power Administration for Meter Maintenance Services

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion Rescind Resolution 20-03, and Adopt Resolution 23-03, approving the revised Amendment 1 to Contract 04-SNR-00648, and authorizing the General Manager to execute the Amendment. Director Barragar seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Amanda Barragar	-Aye
Alex Cousins	-Aye
Nick Goulette	-Aye
Andy Johnson	-Aye
Mike Rourke	-Aye

e. Adopt Resolution 23-04 Amending the District's 125 Plan

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Goulette made a motion to Adopt Resolution 23-04 Amending the District's 125 Plan and authorizing Staff to execute the necessary documents to Amend the Plan. Director Cousins seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Amanda Barragar	-Aye
Alex Cousins	-Aye
Nick Goulette	-Aye
Andy Johnson	-Aye
Mike Rourke	-Aye

f. Authorize Advertisements and Rebates for Public Power Week

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to authorize the General Manager to place the proposed advertisement and submit the Letter to the Editor in the Trinity Journal; and authorize the doubling of the rebate amounts during the month of October in celebration of Public Power Week. Director Goulette seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes:	Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson, Mike Rourke
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

g. Nomination of Two Board Members to the Community Investment Committee

Mr. Hauser reviewed the report with the Board. Following a discussion, Director Cousins made a motion to nominate Director Barragar and President Rourke to serve on the Community Investment Committee beginning October 1, 2023. Director Goulette seconded the motion. The nominees accepted the assignment. The motion passed with the following voice vote:

Ayes:	Amanda Barragar, Alex Cousins Nick Goulette, Andy Johnson, Mike Rourke
Noes:	None
Absent:	None
Abstain:	None

8. Reports:

a. Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Reporting Metrics Update

Mr. DeLange reviewed the Report with the Board, advising that inspections are behind schedule, but that the inspections being completed are yielding less findings of damage. Mr. DeLange stated that he anticipates the fault tamer change outs will be a three-year process, and that Silver Top recently completed a mastication project up on Haylock Ridge, the cost of which is still being analyzed.

b. General Managers Reports:

- Land Exchange

Mr. Hauser reported that he anticipates a final report from the appraiser soon, and potential completion of the exchange in late Spring or early Summer 2024. Director Johnson inquired if there is a cost for the difference in value yet. Mr. Hauser advised that has not yet been determined.

- Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC)

Mr. Hauser reported that BANC continues to move forward with the Energy Day Ahead Market (EDAM). The District receives no benefit from the Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) or the EDAM. Mr. Hauser continues to work to ensure that the District is not penalized by any costs from the EIM or the EDAM.

- Power Outage Summary – July 2023 and August 2023

Mr. Hauser reviewed the reports with the Board, highlighting that there were only four tree-related outages in the months of July and August.

- Re-initiation of Consultation on the Long-Term Operation (ROC on LTO) of the Central Valley Project

Mr. Hauser advised that meetings regarding the ROC on LTO appear to be on hold for now.

- California Energy Commission (CEC) – Solar Determination Update

Mr. Hauser advised that the exemption to the rooftop solar mandate on new commercial construction in Trinity County was approved at the September 13, 2023 CEC Meeting. Assemblymember Jim Wood's office has been very supportive in the process.

- United States Department of Agriculture, Community Wildfire Defense Grant Application

Ms. Sheetz reported that the District has been following the USDA CWDG Grant cycle following Director Goulette's comment that a utility in Oregon had been awarded a grant last year. Staff has engaged with ICF, a consultant familiar with the application criteria and is preparing to submit an application to help reduce wildfire risk near District infrastructure by the October 31, 2023 deadline.

- Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Four Substations Contract

Mr. Hauser reported that re-negotiation of the Four Substations Contract with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has begun. While the District purchases power from the Western Area Power Administration, the delivery of that power to Big Flat, Hyampom, Grouse Creek and Forest Glen is via PG&E Transmission lines. The four substations represent approximately six percent of the District's load.

- Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), November 5, 2023, Planned Power Outage
WAPA has requested a maintenance outage on November 5, 2023, from 5:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The outage will affect customers in Weaverville, Junction City, Douglas City, Lewiston and Hayfork.
- United States Forest Service (USFS) Leadership Meeting
Mr. Hauser reported that he will be attending a meeting in Portland to meet with State of Oregon Officials, as well as USFS Leadership to discuss strict liability and the USFS efforts to include strict liability provisions in special use permit renewals.

c. Committee Reports

- Ad-hoc Forestry Committee
None
- Ad-hoc United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Loan Committee
None

d. Board Member Reports

Director Barragar reported that she will be attending the California Special District Association's Leadership Conference in Santa Rosa in October.

Director Cousins reported that the Northwest Public Power Association has a meeting scheduled for Friday, September 15, 2023.

Director Goulette reported that the Federal Advisory Committee is meeting to discuss proposed amendments to the Northwest Forestry Plan.

9. Discussion Items

a. Bid Procedures/Purchasing Policy

Mr. Hauser reported that staff has been working on drafting a procurement policy and has requested additional direction from the Board. A copy of the current Bid Procedures was provided. After a discussion, the Board clarified that it would like to 1) increase the threshold for material acquisition bids, which was set in 2003, to a limit that allows for good value and improves efficiency, 2) develop a process for emergency acquisitions to provide the General Manager to authorize such purchases and follow up with a report to the Board.

10. Communications Received

a. Recent Correspondence to the Board

The Board received thank you notes from Sophia Nanez, Christian Jorgensen, Avery Taylor and Dylan Crockett for its participation in the 2023 Trinity County Fair Junior Livestock Auction.

11. Meetings and/or Workshops

- a. Northern California Power Agency Annual Conference
The Portola Hotel, Monterey, CA
October 4-6, 2023

Mr. Hauser plans to attend.

- b. California Special Districts Association – Leadership Conference
Hyatt Regency, Sonoma, CA
October 22-25, 2023

Director Barragar plans to attend.

- c. Golden State Power Cooperative Annual Meeting
Whitney Peak Hotel, Reno, NV
October 23-24, 2023

President Rourke, Director Cousins, Director Johnson, Mr. Hauser and Ms. Sheetz plan to attend.

12. Public Input

None

The Board took a brief recess at 4:50p.m. and reconvened in Closed Session at 5:00 p.m.

13. Closed Session

- a. Closed Session Item Under Government Code Section 54956.9

Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

Claimant: California Fair Plan Association

No reportable action.

- b. Closed Session Item Under Government Code Section 54957.6

Conference with Labor Negotiator

The Board approved a one-time twelve percent incentive payment to the General Manager for fulfilling his annual goals.

There being no further business, President Rourke adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.



Michael Rourke, President

ATTEST: 

Andrew Johnson, Clerk

Wildfire Risk Reduction, Reliability, and Asset Protection (WRAP) Project Trinity PUD Meeting

September 14, 2023



1

WRAP Background

- WRAP Project started January 30, 2020
- Key Stakeholders:
 - Trinity PUD – CEQA Lead Agency
 - WAPA – NEPA Lead Agency
- WRAP Project Parameters:
 - Expand 185.4 miles of Trinity PUD from 20 feet to 130 feet
 - Expand 17.5 miles of WAPA ROW from 80 feet to 130 feet
 - 29.4-mile of Trinity PUD underground ROW would remain at 10 feet
 - Total Expansion area is 2,325.2 acres



2

WRAP Background

- Other Project Parameters:
 - New expanded easements with landowners
 - Removal of trees/vegetation in expansion areas over 4-year period
 - Engineering analyses found significant reduction in tree to circuit contact with implementation of WRAP Project
 - WAPA = 80 percent reduction at 130 feet
 - Long-term Operation and Maintenance Plan for Trinity PUD, including vegetation management

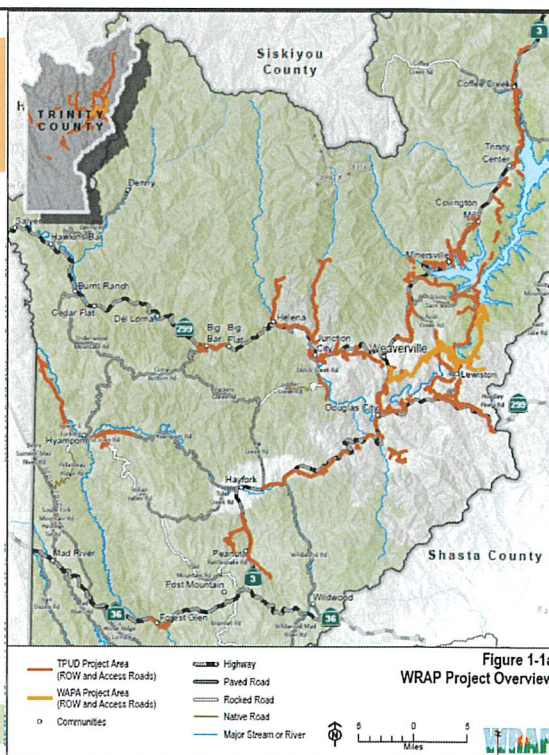


3

WRAP Project Location

Includes the major communities of:

- Trinity Center
- Lewiston
- Weaverville
- Douglas City
- Helena
- Big Bar
- Hayfork
- Hyampom
- Forest Glen



4

WRAP Project Past Accomplishments

- Coordination with 13 different federal, state, and local agencies:

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Regional Water Quality Control Board
U.S. Forest Service, Shasta-Trinity	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
U.S. Forest Service, Six Rivers	California Department of Transportation
U.S. Bureau of Land Management	California Department of Forestry and Fire
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	California Department of Parks and Recreation
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Trinity County
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	
- Completed 39 monthly agency stakeholder meetings
- Completed numerous meetings and site visits with permitting agencies (USFWS, CDFW, USFS, BLM, RWQCB)



5

WRAP Project Past Accomplishments

- Built a comprehensive GIS database system for Trinity PUD – to collect survey data
 - Work completed February 2020 to May 2020
- Detailed biological and cultural surveys completed for 232.3 miles with a 250-foot ROW study area
 - Biological surveys completed between May and July 2020
 - Cultural surveys completed between June and September 2020



6

WRAP Project Past Accomplishments

- Visual analysis
 - Completed 5 representative KOPs to represent the entire WRAP Project area
 - Negotiating for a year with USFS and BLM on visual consistency with BLM and USFS Resource Management Plans (RMP)
 - Conducted viewshed modeling analysis on over 600,000 acres to determine what areas could be seen (sensitive areas) based on topography + developed a heat map to narrow down additional sensitive areas



7

WRAP Project Past Accomplishments

- Started preparing 4th version of Admin Draft EIS/EIR, responding to comments from agencies
 - 700 pages, not including appendices
 - 21 appendices, total page count 2,850 pages
 - CEQA and NEPA attorneys reviewed Admin Draft EIS/EIR – technical solid document



8

WRAP Project Past Accomplishments

- Consulted with Native Americans
- Trinity PUD cultural reporting
 - Completed Class I Report for Trinity PUD portion of the project, a total of 368 pages
 - Completed Class III Report for Trinity PUD portion of the project, a total of 10,000 pages
- WAPA cultural reporting
 - Completed Class I Report for WAPA portion of the project, a total of 250 pages
 - Completed Class III Report for WAPA portion of the project, a total of 1,500 pages



9

WRAP Project Past Accomplishments

- Cultural Resources
 - WAPA ROW - State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has concurred with the eligibility determination and the finding of no adverse effects from the WRAP Project (Letter dated February 21, 2023).
 - BLM and USFS preparing for SHPO consultation



10

WRAP Project Past Accomplishments

- Biological Resources
 - Prepared Biological Resource Technical Report (BRTR), a total of 800 pages
 - Aquatics Assessment Report, a total of 500 pages
 - Preparing Biological Evaluation and Biological Assessments for USFWS and USFS



11

WRAP Project Accomplishments Since 3/7/2023

- Visual analysis
 - Continued to negotiate with USFS and BLM on consistency with USFS and BLM Resource Management Plans (RMPs)
 - Based on the extensive viewshed modeling (600,000 acres) of the ROW, USFS and BLM identified additional KOPs to analyze:
 - 7 KOPs on BLM lands
 - 6 KOPs on USFS lands



12

WRAP Project Accomplishments Since 3/7/2023

- Visual analysis
 - Defined the ROW on all federal lands including KOPs – evaluated 1,817 transmission/distribution line spans on USFS and BLM lands:
 - Identified ROW location and width of each span
 - Shifted ROW to reduce visual impacts
 - Reduced ROW and prescribed vegetation management at some locations to reduce visual impacts
 - All adjustments to the ROW had to be field verified by our visual expert
 - It was determined that all KOPs would be consistent with USFS and BLM with mitigation - except one
 - Tannery Gulch campground could not be mitigated to less than significant and had to be removed from WRAP



13

WRAP Project Accomplishments Since 3/7/2023

- Visual analysis
 - ROW adjustments and KOP analyses were presented to USFS and BLM with buy in on the approach and outcome
 - Revised analysis of original 5 KOPs
 - Analyzed 13 new KOPs



14

WRAP Project Accomplishments Since 3/7/2023

- Revised Admin Draft EIS/EIR
 - Moved Project Conservation Measures (PCMs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to mitigation
 - Addressed hundreds of comments from USFS and BLM on Admin Draft EIS/EIR 3
 - Finalized 12 Appendices
 - Finalized 4 EIS/EIR sections
 - Waiting on visual analysis to be completed to finalize all the remaining sections
 - Because of NEPA's page limitation – analyses were pushed to Appendices



15

WRAP Project Accomplishments Since 3/7/2023

- Biological Resources
 - Conducted meetings and bio summit with resource agencies
 - Conducted research and acquired additional biological data
 - Conducted extensive modeling of specific species
 - Refine species impacts and risk
 - Provide detailed acreage calculations
 - Updating Biological Resource Technical Report, Aquatic Delineation Report, and EIS/EIR section



16

WRAP Project Accomplishments Since 3/7/2023

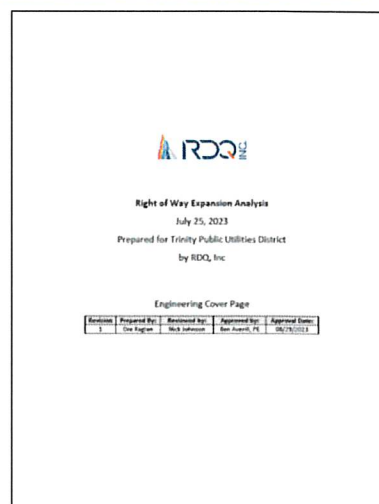
- Cultural Resources:
 - WAPA ROW – SHPO consultation complete
 - BLM sent SHPO a letter in August 2023 requesting concurrence with the eligibility determination and the finding of no adverse effects from the WRAP Project
 - Aspen supporting USFS on a package that they can send to SHPO requesting concurrence with the eligibility determination and the finding of no adverse effects from the WRAP Project



17

WRAP Project Accomplishments Since 3/7/2023

- Risk Reduction:
 - Trinity PUD had RDQ complete an engineering review of the risk reduction associated with the WRAP Project
 - Study found that the WRAP Project would reduce tree-to-circuit contact by 99%



18

WRAP Project Accomplishments Since 3/7/2023

- Preparing for Easements:
 - BLM reached out to Trinity PUD to complete some preliminary planning tasks associated with new easements



19

WRAP Project Future Tasks

- Visual analysis
 - Currently defining the ROW on all private/other lands
 - 2,553 transmission/distribution line spans :
 - Identifying ROW location and width of each span
 - Shifting ROW to reduce visual impacts
 - Reducing ROW and prescribed vegetation management at some locations to reduce visual impacts
 - All adjustments to the ROW will need to be field verified by our visual expert



20

WRAP Project Future Tasks

- Visual analysis
 - It is anticipated that no new KOPs would be required on private/other lands
 - Visual Analysis Technical Report and EIS/EIR aesthetics section will be need to be updated



21

WRAP Project Future Tasks

- Admin Draft EIS/EIR
 - Revise the remaining EIS/EIR once the visual analysis is complete.
 - 9 Appendices
 - 22 EIS/EIR Sections



22

WRAP Project Future Tasks

- Biological Resources
 - Update Biological Technical Report
 - Update Aquatic Delineation Report
 - Prepare Biological Evaluation and Biological Assessments for USFWS and USFS
 - Survey & Management Report
 - Management Indicator Species Report
 - Preparing 2081 ITP Application for CDFW



23

WRAP Project Future Tasks

- Cultural Resources
 - WAPA – SHPO Consultation is complete
 - BLM – SHPO Consultation anticipating completion within 30 days
 - USFS – SHPO Consultation anticipating completion within 90 days
 - USFS will handle the small segment on BOR lands
 - Need to finalize AB52 consultation



24

WRAP Project Schedule

- Schedule
 - Revised Admin Draft EIS/EIR 4 scheduled for Dec 2023
 - Public Draft EIS/EIR – March 2024
 - Final EIS/EIR – Late 2024

