



# Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

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## Water Resource Planning ***Process***

September 2009



# The Key Question is...

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How does our community want us  
to protect and use our water  
resource and address these  
important issues?



# Water Resource Planning

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A process whereby the District's wholesale customers, stakeholders, and interested members in the community are invited to *engage in an innovative public process* to:

- **really *learn* about this issue;**
- **provide input as to *what is important* to the community;**
- consider and evaluate options, as well as trade-offs; and
- formulate recommendations to HBMWD's Board.

# Desired outcomes of WRP

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- The community understands the issues and opportunities facing HBMWD including:
  - The challenges to retaining the District's water rights
  - The role that the Mad River plays in the ecological and economic well-being of the North Coast
  - The context within which the Board is making decisions regarding the management of the resource.
- HBMWD Boards understands the community's:
  - Priorities regarding Mad River and the use of its water
  - Perceptions of the challenges and benefits of putting water rights to full use
  - **Proposed principles for making decisions about the water resource.**

# Desired outcomes of WRP (continued)

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- The District has sufficient information to make the case for “due diligence” to the State and is in a stronger position to maintain HBMWD’s control of its water resource.
- The Board will be positioned to make decisions that broadly benefit the community. Ideally, this will include:
  - Providing additional protection or use for unused water right
  - Better, cost effective water management and use
  - Sustainable growth and jobs
  - Protecting the Mad River and its fisheries
  - Being able to reliably deliver high quality water at a reasonable cost to our regional customers.
- The community has a better relationship with and more trust in the District.

# Why an innovative process?

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*Much consensus that current public processes are not working well*

## **Hope to achieve...**

- Sound recommendations that are better understood and supported
- Increased sense of community and ability to conduct more effective dialogue about tough issues

## **Hope to avoid...**

- Bad or unsupported decisions
- Polarized community
- Delays and/or stalemate
- Wasted time and dollars

# Building blocks of a successful WRP Process include...

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- ✓ *Well-informed* participants
- ✓ *Meaningful, collaborative engagement* of customers, stakeholders, and public
- ✓ *Thoughtful* discourse—balance advocacy and inquiry
- ✓ Separation of *needs and interests* from *positions*
- ✓ Dedicated search for *win/win solutions*



# Characteristics of WRP Process

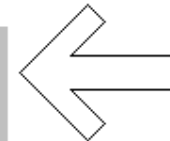
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- *Participatory*—engages broad spectrum of people
- *Open, fair, and clear*—people understand the process and their role in it
- *Efficient and time bound*
- *Educational*—people understand the issues and challenges
- *Respectful*—people listen and consider others' points of view

# Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District

## Water Resource Planning Advisory Committee

**Board of Directors**

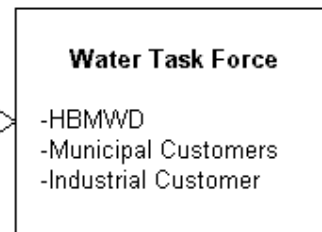
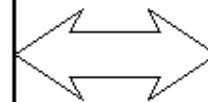
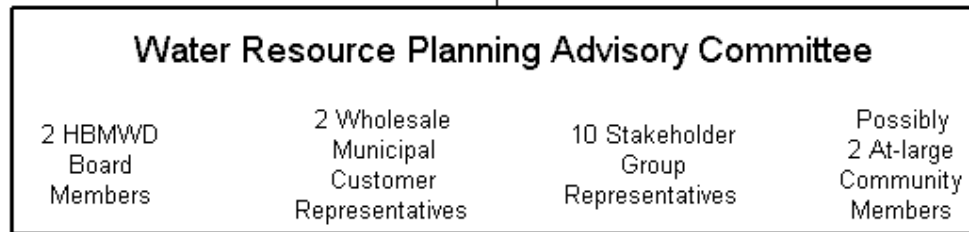
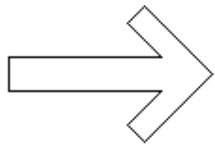


### The Board

- has defined the "Desired Outcome"
- has defined the "Desired Characteristics"
- will support the Advisory Committee in its work
- will accept recommendations from Advisory Committee

### Staff Support to Committee:

- Facilitator
- General Manager
- Water Law Attorney



### Proposed Stakeholder Groups

- Environmental
- Fishery
- Humboldt County Economic Development
- Tribes (Blue Lake Rancheria & Wiyot)
- Chamber of Commerce
- SBDC or RRDEC
- Real Estate
- Organized Labor

### The Advisory Committee

- will further define the process to educate & involve interested community members
- will develop criteria & guiding principles
- will generate & evaluate options
- will develop and put forth a recommendation to the Board



# Role of the Advisory Committee

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## **1. Educate and Communicate**

- Host interactive forums with other stakeholders and interested members of the public
- Gather input and feedback; build understanding and buy-in
- Interface with HBMWD Board and Water Task Force at key points

## **2. Develop Recommendation**

- Understand, synthesize, and use input and feedback from stakeholders and the public
- Develop options and thoughtfully evaluate them
- Formulate recommendations for the HBMWD Board



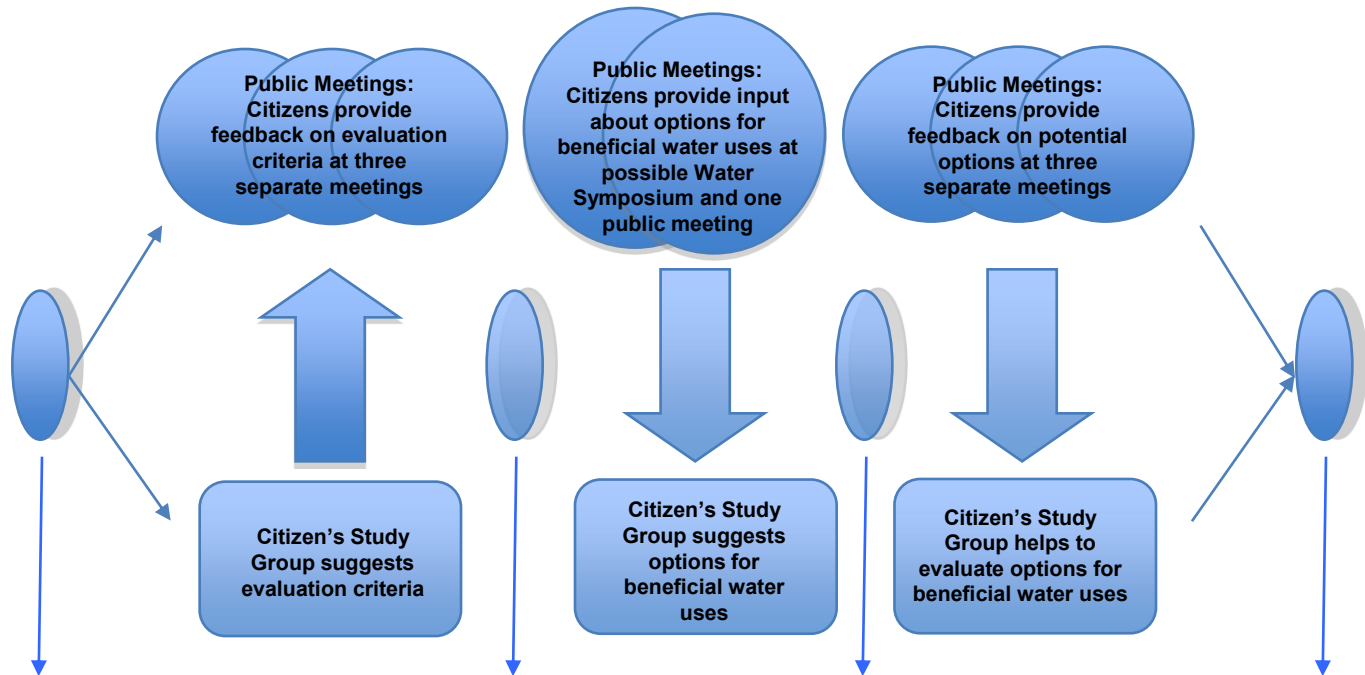
# Role of Citizen's Study Group

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- Understand more about the issue than the “average” citizen who comes to the public meetings
- Act as a “thinking partner” with the Advisory Committee
- Provide balanced input and feedback to the Advisory Committee
- Be consistent players in the process

# Process overview and timeline

Start-Up	Education/Evaluation Criteria	Generate Options	Evaluate Options	Agree on Recommendations
June—Aug., 2009	Sept.—Dec., 2009	Jan.—Feb., 2010	March—April, 2010	May—July, 2010





# Composition of Advisory Committee

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- Two Board members from HBMWD
- Three Municipal Customers representatives
- Additional people from a cross-section of stakeholder groups



# Criteria for Selection of Advisory Committee

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- ✓ Some “process” savvy
- ✓ Interested in experimenting with more effective, innovative public processes
- ✓ Eager and able to learn about this issue and to collaborate with other committee members
- ✓ Able to focus on issues at hand
- ✓ Credible across various sectors
- ✓ Able to think about “big picture” and inter-relationships among issues



# Next steps

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- AC reviews your input and drafts evaluation criteria (Sept./Oct.)
- Citizens learn about the situation and provide feedback on evaluation criteria (Oct. 13 in McKinleyville; Oct. 14 in Arcata; Oct. 22 in Eureka)
- AC reviews feedback, reconsiders criteria, proposes criteria to Water District Board (Nov.)
- Board decides on criteria (Dec.)
- Citizen's Study Group (1) learns about Water Law; the Mad River; what is being done elsewhere; economic considerations, tradeoffs and categories of options for beneficial water use; and (2) generates options (Jan. 2010)