

## **FIRO Workshop – Anticipated Outcomes**

### **Background - Integrated Water Resources Science and Services (IWRSS) Pilot Project**

The evaluation of whether Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) can improve water supply resiliency without significant reduction in flood control protection is one of three IWRSS pilot projects for the Russian River Watershed demonstration area. The goal of the pilot project is to evaluate the feasibility of FIRO for dual purpose reservoirs (flood control and water supply). The first phase of the pilot IWRSS project is to develop a workplan that details how the feasibility study is to be conducted. The workplan will detail: (1) the necessary technical components and work elements; (2) the roles of agencies and stakeholders participating in the study; and (3) an estimate of cost and schedule to complete the study. The pilot study will evaluate the application of FIRO for Lake Mendocino, and in addition the process and evaluation tools developed as part of the pilot study will be leveraged to other similar facilities in California and elsewhere.

### **FIRO Workshop and Post Workshop Activities**

In order to develop the workplan, the IWRSS partners and Russian River watershed stakeholders decided that a workshop of technical experts and key water managers should be held to inform and develop the content of the workplan. The FIRO workshop is an important component of the IWRSS pilot project because it will bring together scientific and technical experts and representatives from water management agencies to identify how the viability of FIRO should be evaluated.

Some of the major topics that the workshop will consider are:

- Water management requirements (e.g., flood control, water supply, environmental).
- Scientific and technical capabilities related to meteorology and watershed conditions that could be relevant to reservoir operations.
- Identify critical “stress tests” meteorological and hydrological conditions that should be tested to evaluate the current level of technical skill to meet the needs of flood control, water supply, and environmental managers.
- Identify gaps in technological skill to meet the needs of water managers.
- The required components, roles of agencies, and schedule for the development of a pilot project workplan.

After the workshop, participants will participate in preparing and reviewing the workplan. It is anticipated that the workplan will describe in a detailed manner how the evaluation will occur, what new scientific and technical capabilities are needed, who will be conducting the evaluation, how long the evaluation will take, and how much the evaluation will cost. The workplan should be of sufficient detail and scope to be the basis for seeking state and federal funding and to advise long-term R&D directions.