

## Managing Surface and Ground Water as a Single Resource with EFC Web-Based Tools Plan2Fund and Plan2FundOPT

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Today we are increasing our understanding of the interrelationship between surface and ground water resources. As we better understand the relationship between surface and ground water use, it will require that we change the way that we manage the resources. Historically, the stake holders for surface water and ground water users have worked on surface water issues of flow, diversion, quality, and remediation. Melding the two user groups increases the complexity of managing the resource from an already complex management issue that involves statutory, economic, social and recreational interests. As monitoring quantifies the interaction, a management system needs to be developed that can incorporate the new knowledge and can prioritize, budget and administer the new relationships set forth by the monitoring. Professionals in this field have understood for some time that water needs should be managed on a watershed basis. Each basin is unique in its specifics and the stakeholders may vary. Traditionally, stakeholders are invited to a hall where flip charts go up on the wall, discussions ensue and a report is produced. Then the lawyers go to work with little consideration for what is good for the watershed from an ecological, economic, recreational and ultimately from the legal perspective. The flip charts and reports after everyone's gone home simply cannot produce the kind of support necessary for helping watershed communities prioritize their goals and see, in real time, the consequences of the groups' rankings. Plan2Fund and Plan2FundOPT were designed specifically to meet this need. The 30 minute presentation will cover the vision behind the tools and an illustration of how watershed districts can use these tools to shape policy recommendations. These tools can help the group prioritize goals in real time by allowing the group to change the decision rules for ranking goals and see what the consequences are of priority ranking scenario immediately. Stakeholders will be able to see several different priority rankings based on different decision rules compared side by side allowing the group to see which goals "float" to the top regardless of which rules they choose. Furthermore, the tools allow for a budget to be set based on the priorities and management of restricted funds for implementing a management plan. The purpose of the demonstration to this group is to develop awareness that such tools exist that can be tapped to help watersheds districts and utilities to develop a water management plan that can incorporate the increasing complexity that the monitoring will bring to the process.