



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

FROM: John Brodie, Water Resource Programs Manager
Joe McGahan, Regional Drainage/Westside Watershed Coalition Coordinator

DATE: June 10, 2021

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for May 2021

This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for May 2021 regarding specified¹ Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

1. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Activity Summary

San Joaquin River Funding Area (SJRFA)

Work continues on environmental documents, permits, and plans for the design, construction and landscaping for the City of Newman NEWS (Newman Environmental Wetland System) project. Tasks for this project are on schedule for completion prior to the July 2022 deadline.

Tulare-Kern Funding Area (TKFA)

The first quarterly report and invoice were submitted for the Proposition 1 Round 1 IRWM Implementation grant funding for the Westside-San Joaquin IRWM Region. The grant is administered through SLDMWA and includes funding for four projects within the SJRFA and one project within the TKFA.

The City of Huron Groundwater Supply Well and Recharge Project is in the TKFA. This project will construct new groundwater and monitoring wells for the City of Huron, a designated DAC. The supply well will generate approximately 766 acre-feet annually, reducing the community's need to purchase water by meeting more than 50% of its drinking water demands. Environmental documentation is nearly complete and the City of Huron is working on site-specific design parameters.

General Westside-San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP)

A draft Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) for Round 2 IRWM Implementation grant proposals is expected in the next few months with a final PSP released near the end of the calendar year. Staff

¹ For the sake of completeness, this includes those Activity Agreements that have been approved by the Board of Directors, but not yet signed by all interested members and/or participants (i.e., the Los Vaqueros Expansion Project Activity Agreement, the Exchange Contractors 2019-2023 Transfer Program Activity Agreement, and the Westside-San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Agreement).

requested project proponents to update the Opti project database in preparation for project ranking and selection for Round 2.

SLDMWA staff continues its participation in the Roundtable of Regions (ROR), a statewide IRWM information and advocacy group. The ROR continues to seek IRWM specific language into water-specific funding proposals under consideration in the state legislature. An overall IRWM advocacy day at the Capitol is tentatively scheduled for this month.

2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity (SGMA) Activity Summary

Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions

New County processes for well permit applications continue to develop in the Northern and Central Regions. New ordinances under consideration in Stanislaus and Merced Counties would give Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA's) input on applications including the power to approve or deny applications for new agricultural wells based on compliance with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Some GSAs say they may need extra personnel to review well applications, since application numbers are expected to spike as drought intensifies through the summer.

GSAs are continuing to work with the consultant team to verify wells identified as part of the Northern and Central Regions' Well Census and Inventory report. The purpose of the study is to identify all wells within the Subbasin, classify them by aquifer, and define them as active or inactive. The information will be loaded into the Subbasin's Data Management System (DMS) for assistance in GSP implementation.

The Northern and Central Management Committees held their regular monthly meeting in late May. The Management Committees discussed implementation efforts within the Northern and Central Regions including evaluation of new projects and well permitting application review. The Management Committees plan to hold a special meeting in June to discuss these topics in more detail.

General SGMA Activities

GSAs and member districts are in the second monitoring phase of the annual report cycle: water quality monitoring. The deadline to complete water quality monitoring is August 31. SLDMWA staff and consultants are working with GSAs to make sure spring water level data collected through the end of May is uploaded to the SGMA Portal by the July 1 deadline along with sustainable management criteria (SMC) data for water level sites.

SLDMWA staff is working with the consultant conducting the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Subsidence Characterization and Project Feasibility Study on identifying and filling data gaps needed to complete the study. Member GSAs may have helpful information.

Subbasin representatives participated in the second inter-basin coordination meeting through the Subbasin's Facilitation Support Services (FSS) program, which provides support for inter-basin coordination efforts through a program with DWR and facilitators from Stantec. Representatives from the Delta-Mendota Subbasin met with counterparts from the Chowchilla, Madera, and Merced Subbasins to discuss subsidence in their respective subbasins and how it is addressed in individual GSPs. Future meetings will focus on how the issue will be addressed across the subbasins and how DWR may react to differences in each subbasin's GSPs.

Staff participated in informational workshops and webinars including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation SECURE Water Act report on the Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins and the California Financing Coordinating Committee's annual financing fair on funding opportunities for water-related projects.

3. Drainage Activity Summary

Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity Summary

Threat to Fish Report – The GBD are required to submit a report on July 31, 2021 under Section 13267 of the California Water Code that would include all data available on fish tissue sampling since the beginning of the Grassland Bypass Project since 1996. The request focuses on selenium and was in part triggered by deformed split tail found at the federal pumps in 2011. Consultants have been retained and some sampling is to occur this spring to augment this report. Field sampling occurred and the report is being prepared.

Mud Slough Mitigation Project – the project to restore Mud Slough (north) flows to the Newman Lake north of Highway 140 is ongoing. A CEQA Initial Study is being developed for the project and will be circulated for public comment in early June. Once the public comments are reviewed and addresses the Authority will be asked to approve the project likely in August, 2021. After CEQA approval permits will be submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board, the Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Work continued to finalize the CEQA documents for public distribution.

Staff participated in a tour with the Regional Board of the San Joaquin River Improvement Program and Grassland Drainage Area. Additionally, discussions were held with a possible treatment supplier to treat drainage water from the SJRIP.

Other ongoing activities – continue to review GBD invoices, manage storm flow activities, prepare annual monitoring reports, support for ongoing litigation and data management and management of the Third Party Group for the Grassland Drainage Area Coalition to implement the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Work includes participation in activities for groundwater protection values.

Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity Summary

Continue management of the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition to comply with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Follow up calls and emails were answered to assist

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farmers in completing their paperwork requirements. Manage field monitoring program and provide update of the management plan to the Regional Board. Review invoices from consultants and prepare letters to admin staff. Continue to update membership database. Prepare video for annual outreach and management plan compliance. Organize meetings for surface and groundwater management plan outreach. Assist grower members in completing the required reporting forms and self-certification requirements.

Participate in group conference calls regarding surface and groundwater management plans, groundwater protection formulas and the CV-Salts prioritization and optimization studies.

Management continued for the Prop 84 Real Time Management Program Grant for compliance with the San Joaquin River Salt and Boron TMDL. Follow up and direct field work in northerly stations.

UB

VIX.A

**Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition
Paperwork Status Update for Del Puerto WD & Oak Flat WD as of 06/14/2021**

<u>Survey Type</u>	<u>recvd</u>	<u>total</u>	<u>pct recvd</u>
Farm Evaluation	91	132	69%
INMPSR	90	131	69%
Overall compliance	84	133	63%

IDNo	Member Name	SurveyType	2020 FE/MWE	2020 INMPSR	paperwork req. met
25001A	R & R Farms	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25011A	Fantozzi, Paul	Farm Evaluation	recvd	not recvd	INMPSR Missing
25012A	Shea Farms	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25015A	Shiraz Ranch LLC	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25017A	Oliveira, Sadie 2006 Revocable Trust	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25019A	Salazar Ranches	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25026A	Ledesma, Javier et ux.	Farm Evaluation	recvd	not recvd	INMPSR Missing
25028B	Thoming Farms, LLC	Farm Evaluation	recvd	not recvd	INMPSR Missing
25032B	Vernalis Partners, LTD	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25035A	Jag Farm Management, Inc.	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25037A	Sandhu Bros. Farm	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25037B	Sandhu Bros. Orchard	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25037C	Sandhu, Maninder	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25038A	Rubino, JP LLC.	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25040A	Gonzalez Farms	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25041A	Arambel, Jeff	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25053B	Tatia & Singh	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25053C	Tatia, Jasbir	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25055A	Singh, Rajinder et ux.	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	recvd	FE Missing
25056A	Sardar Farms	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	recvd	FE Missing
25058A	Apna Farms	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25069A	Balam Farms	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25069B	Iyer Farms	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25069C	Meena Farms PTP	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25069D	SATYAM Farms	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25069E	Lax Iyer Farms	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25073A	JKB Development, Inc.	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25081B	5G AG Management Inc.	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	recvd	FE Missing
25094A	Perez Farms	Farm Evaluation	recvd	not recvd	INMPSR Missing
25105A	E & C Farms, LLC c/o Justin Reeves	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	recvd	FE Missing
25113A	Rodriguez, Raul	Farm Evaluation	recvd	not recvd	INMPSR Missing
25114A	SB Ranches, Inc.	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25115A	Royal Crown Nut Co., Inc.	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25117A	JT Farms #2	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25118A	Gallo, Robert J. et al	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25119A	Amaravati Farms, LLC	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	recvd	FE Missing
25120A	Baba Atwal Farms Inc.	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	recvd	FE Missing
25121A	CSC Westley, LLC / 5 Star Vineyard, LLC TIC	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25129B	Ashley Lane, L.P.	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	recvd	FE Missing
25129C	Howard Ranch - Westley, L.P.	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	recvd	FE Missing
25133A	American Farmers, LLC	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing

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IDNo	Member Name	SurveyType	2020 FE/MWE	2020 INMPSR	paperwork req. met
25138A	Traina Foods, Inc.	Farm Evaluation	recvd	not recvd	INMPSR Missing
25143A	Stanislaus County - General Services Agency	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25144A	Sandhu, Sukhraj et al	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25145A	NISRA Farms, LLC	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25156A	La Fortaleza LLC	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25159A	Escobar Properties LLC et al	Farm Evaluation	recvd	not recvd	INMPSR Missing
25161A	Hooper Ranch Property, LLC	Farm Evaluation	recvd	not req	FE Missing
25162A	Miri Piri, Inc.	Farm Evaluation	recvd	not recvd	INMPSR Missing
25163A	Sun Valley Orchards, LLC	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing

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**Joint Telephonic Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee,
Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee, and
Central Delta-Mendota GSA**

Thursday, May 27th, 2021, 10:00 AM

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Committees to Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.
3. Opportunity for Public Comment

Consent Calendar

4. Committees to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar, Barcellos
 - a. Minutes for the April 22, 2021 Joint Telephonic Meeting of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committees and Central Delta-Mendota GSA
 - b. March 2021 Budget to Actual Report

Action Items

5. Committees to Consider Directing Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regional Representatives to the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee to Authorize Approval of Optional Enhancements for Subbasin Data Management System (DMS), Howard

Report Items

6. Committees to Discuss 2021 GSP Implementation, Petersen
 - a. 1Q 2021 Tracking Tools and Quarterly Report, Dutton/Dumas
 - b. Three-Month Look-Ahead Schedule, Dutton
 - c. Spring 2021 Water Level Data, Dumas

- d. Water Quality Monitoring Activities and Responsibilities, Dumas
- e. GSP Compliance by Individual GSAs, Dutton
- 7. GSP Group to Discuss Special Projects, Petersen
 - a. Well Census and Inventory Project Status, Howard
 - b. Subbasin Subsidence Characterization Study and Project Feasibility Determination, Howard
- 8. Committees to Discuss Well Permit Review Process, Howard/County Representatives
- 9. Committees to Discuss Inter-basin Coordination Update, Howard/Lucchesi
- 10. Committees to Discuss Potential Funding Opportunities, Howard
- 11. Next Steps
- 12. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)

Closed Session

- 13. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

The Committees will meet in closed session to confer with legal counsel pursuant to Paragraph (1), Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9.

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. All Persons Interested in the Matter of the Validity of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions Groundwater Sustainability Plan, et al., Stanislaus County Superior Court, Case No. CV-20-001748 [Delta-Mendota Subbasin SGMA Challenge].

Open Session

- 14. Report Out of Closed Session
- 15. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with a disability may request disability-related modification or accommodation by contacting Cheri Worthy at the Water Authority, 842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA 93635, and telephone: (209) 826-9696 at least 3 for regular or 1 for special day(s) before the meeting date.

Joint Telephonic Meeting of the Northern Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee,
Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committee, and
Central Delta-Mendota GSA

Thursday, April 22nd, 2021, 10:00 AM

Click here to join Zoom meeting
Call-in Number: +1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 870 5672 4618
Passcode: 384997

Management Committee and Central GSA Members and Alternates Present

Northern DM Region Management Committee

Anthea Hansen, Member/Alternate – Del Puerto and Oak Flat Water Districts
Adam Scheuber, Alternate – Del Puerto Water District
Bobby Pierce, Member – West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Vince Lucchesi, Member – Patterson Irrigation District
Maria Encinas, Member – City of Patterson

Central DM Region Management Committee

Randy Miles*, Alternate – Eagle Field Water District
Danny Wade*, Member/Alternate – Fresno Slough Water District/Tranquillity Irrigation District
Liz Reeves*, Alternate – Fresno Slough Water District
Juan Cadena*, Alternate – Mercy Springs Water District
Aaron Barcellos*, Member – Pacheco Water District
Michael Linneman*, Member – Panoche Water District
Mike Wood*, Member – San Luis Water District
Amy Montgomery*, Member – Santa Nella County Water District
Augie Ramirez*, Alternate – Fresno County
Damian Aragona, Member – Widren Water District

*Indicates representative, alternate, or 2nd alternate of the Central Delta-Mendota GSA

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Representatives Present

John Brodie
Joyce Machado
Lauren Neves
Claire Howard – Provost & Pritchard

Others Present

Chase Hurley – Pacheco Water District
Steve Stadler – San Luis Water District
Hughie Bennett – Eagle Field Water District
Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran
Anona Dutton – EKI Environment & Water, Inc.
Joe Hopkins – Provost & Pritchard
Lauren Layne – Baker Manock & Jensen
Gavin O'Leary – Provost & Pritchard

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1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

Aaron Barcellos/Pacheco called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

2. **Committees to Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.**

Lauren Layne/BMJ requested that the closed session be moved up in the agenda after the action item. The meeting minutes reflect this approved change.

3. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

No public comment was shared.

4. **Committees to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar, Barcellos**

a. **Minutes for the March 25, 2021 Joint Telephonic Meeting of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committees and Central Delta-Mendota GSA**

The Committees considered approval of the March 25th meeting minutes as presented. Maria Encinas/Patterson provided the motion for the Northern Management Committee and Anthea Hansen/DPWD&OFWD seconded. The Northern Management Committee voted by roll call; the motion was passed unanimously by those present. Danny Wade/TRID provided the motion for the Central Management Committee and Augie Ramirez/Fresno seconded. The Central Management Committee voted by roll call; the motion was passed unanimously by those present.

b. **February 2021 Budget to Actual Report**

Joyce Machado/SLDMWA provided an overview of the February 2021 budget to actual report. Joyce explained that Fund 64 (Northern) and Fund 65 (Central) are trending positive. Joyce noted that WSID received a partial grant retention disbursement from DWR, and SLDMWA is expecting to receive these grant funds from WSID on April 23rd. Once the receipt of grant funds is confirmed, SLDMWA will be distributing checks to three participants by the end of the following week.

Anthea Hansen/DPWD asked if all FY21 expenses and year-end accruals are reflected in the February 2021 budget to actual report. Joyce explained that this report is not all-inclusive, and that accruals are not yet reflected. Joyce shared that an update on Fiscal Year 2021 expenses will be presented in June.

The Committees considered approval of the February 2021 budget to actual reports. Anthea Hansen/DPWD provided the motion for the Northern Management Committee and Vince Lucchesi/PID seconded. The Northern Management Committee voted by roll call; the motion was passed unanimously by those present. Mike Wood/SLWD provided the motion for the Central Management Committee and Randy Miles/EFWD seconded. The Central Management Committee voted by roll call; the motion was passed unanimously by those present.

5. **Committees to Consider Approval of New Central Delta-Mendota Representative to the Subbasin Coordination Committee, Brodie**

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John Brodie/SLDMWA explained to the Committees that Ben Fenters recently left SLWD, so there is now a vacancy at the Coordination Committee for the Central Management Committee. John asked if any Central Management Committee members are interested in and available to represent the Central Region at the Coordination Committee. Chase Hurley/Pacheco offered that he would be willing to represent the Central Region at the Coordination Committee.

The Central Management Committee considered approval of this nomination. Aaron Barcellos/Pacheco provided the motion and Randy Miles/EFWD seconded. The Central Management Committee voted by roll call; the motion was passed unanimously by those present.

Claire Howard/P&P noted that Chase is not currently Pacheco's designated alternate, but Chase confirmed that the Pacheco Water District board of directors will consider his appointment to the Central Management Committee and Central GSA in May. John confirmed that SLDMWA will work with WSID, the designated group contact for the Northern and Central Region GSP Group, to update this appointment as outlined within the Coordination Agreement.

6. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

The Committees will meet in closed session to confer with legal counsel pursuant to Paragraph (1), Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9.

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. All Persons Interested in the Matter of the Validity of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions Groundwater Sustainability Plan, et al., Stanislaus County Superior Court, Case No. CV-20-001748 [Delta-Mendota Subbasin SGMA Challenge].

7. Report Out of Closed Session

No reportable action was taken in closed session.

8. GSP Group Representatives Report from Subbasin Coordination Committee on March 29, 2021, Lucchesi

Vince Lucchesi/PID shared that the Coordination Committee held a special meeting on March 29th, which was primarily focused on approving the Consolidated Water Year 2020 Annual Report, which was submitted to DWR on the April 1st due date. Vince shared that the Committee also discussed spring water level monitoring and reporting requirements, which include reporting of sustainable management criteria (SMC) for representative water level sites. The Committee also briefly discussed the update and public comment period for California's Groundwater (Bulletin 118). Claire Howard/P&P also noted that the Coordination Committee meetings will now be held quarterly, with the next regular meeting scheduled for June 14th.

9. Committees to Discuss IQ 2021 Tracking Tools, Dutton/Brodie

Anona Dutton/EKI shared that meetings are being held this month with representatives from individual agencies, SLDMWA, and consultant teams to discuss the first quarter 2021 Tracking Tools. Anona reminded the Committee members to share their agency's completed Tracking Tool if they haven't done so already. Anona also noted that these individual agency meetings have provided an opportunity to discuss how agencies are responding to the dry water year and low surface water allocations.

10. **Committees to Discuss Three-Month Look-Ahead Schedule, Dutton**

Anona Dutton/EKI presented the three-month look-ahead schedule. Upcoming meetings include the Subbasin Technical Working Group meeting scheduled for April 30th at 8:00 AM, which will kick off the Subbasin's subsidence characterization study. Subbasin representatives are also preparing to participate in upcoming inter-basin coordination meetings with representatives from the Chowchilla, Madera, and Merced Subbasins.

Anona also highlighted upcoming monitoring efforts reflected in the schedule. The seasonal high water level monitoring period closes at the end of April, and the water quality monitoring period is May 1st – August 31st. Anona shared that USBR is prepared to conduct a subsidence monitoring survey along the Delta-Mendota Canal in June or July 2021.

11. **GSP Group Representatives to Discuss Well Census and Inventory Project Status, Howard**

Claire Howard/P&P noted that she shared with each GSA specific links to maps that present preliminary well data compiled from the well census and inventory efforts to date. Gavin O'Leary/P&P shared that the data presented in each GSA's map(s) are based on data received from agencies along with data from GeoTracker, Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA), and DWR. Gavin requested that the agencies review the prepared maps and share any feedback or additional data, if needed.

Claire reminded the Committees that the Subbasin's Proposition 68 grant includes funding to support the well census and inventory project. Each GSP Group is conducting their own well census and inventory project. When this approach was confirmed, the Coordination Committee agreed to a split of grant funds, for which the Northern and Central Regions will receive \$43,500 of reimbursable funding. Claire shared P&P has been splitting costs for their efforts between the Northern and Central Regions, and that SLDMWA staff's suggested approach for the grant reimbursement process is to request reimbursement equally for the Northern and Central Regions' expenses (up to \$21,750 each) and additional expenses will be covered via budgeted dues. No Committee members shared objections or questions regarding this approach.

12. **Committees to Discuss Subbasin Subsidence Characterization Study and Project Feasibility Determination Kickoff Meeting, Brodie**

John Brodie/SLDMWA shared that the Subbasin's subsidence characterization study kickoff meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 30th at 8:00 AM with the GSI Environmental team. John shared that he requested input from GSI on compiling subsidence data or other material for this meeting. This meeting will be noticed as a joint meeting of the Coordination Committee and Technical Working Group.

13. **Committees to Discuss Well Permit Review Process, Howard/County Representatives**

Augie Ramirez/Fresno noted no updates to Fresno County's well permitting process, but shared that they're anticipating more well permit applications with the dry year and low surface water allocation. Claire Howard/P&P shared brief updates on behalf of the Merced County and Stanislaus County representatives. Lacey McBride/Merced scheduled a meeting with the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSA representatives within Merced County, which was held April 20th. Similar meetings will be held with GSAs in Merced County in other subbasins as well. Amy Montgomery/SNCWD attended this meeting on behalf of the Central GSA and shared that Merced County is seeking GSA approval prior to finalizing well permits. Amy noted that she is concerned about GSA staff availability and capacity to provide this evaluation and review.

Claire also noted that Stanislaus County anticipates conducting another meeting with GSA representatives to review the proposed post-GSP well permitting process, and also seeks to incorporate GSA input into the review process.

14. Committees to Discuss Inter-Connected Surface Water Monitoring Network Development, Dumas/Lucchesi/Pierce

Leslie Dumas/W&C provided an update on recent discussions related to the development of an interconnected surface water (ISW) network. A meeting was held recently with Modesto and Turlock Subbasin representatives to discuss establishing coordinated ISW monitoring efforts. A follow-up meeting will be held with technical representatives from each Subbasin. Leslie noted that she anticipates this meeting will be scheduled in the next month.

15. Committees to Discuss Spring 2021 Monitoring Activities and Responsibilities, Changes to Representative Monitoring Network Presented in GSP, and Access Agreements, Dumas/Howard

Leslie Dumas/W&C noted that current representative water level and water quality monitoring network tables are included in the meeting materials along with an access agreement template. The Committees discussed the option of coordinating water quality monitoring efforts for interested GSAs. Leslie noted that W&C can support this effort by requesting new quotes and coordinating with GSA representatives. The Committees also discussed groundwater level trends in light of the dry year; Leslie shared that she will review water level data collected through April and provide an update next month on any visible trends.

16. Committees to Discuss Inter-basin Coordination Update, Montgomery/Lucchesi/Brodie

John Brodie/SLDMWA shared that the next Facilitation Support Services (FSS) inter-basin coordination meeting (date/time to be determined) will include presentations on subsidence from each participating subbasin (Delta-Mendota, Chowchilla, Madera, and Merced). Vince Lucchesi/PID, Amy Montgomery/SNCWD, and Jarrett Martin/CCID will represent the Delta-Mendota Subbasin at this upcoming meeting. A draft presentation has been developed and was shared with the Coordination Committee for their review.

17. Next Steps

- Chase Hurley was approved to represent the Central Management Committee at the Coordination Committee. SLDMWA staff will support next steps as outlined in the Coordination Agreement to confirm this appointment.
- The SLDMWA and consultant teams will continue to meet with individual agencies to discuss the IQ 2021 Tracking Tools, monitoring, and implementation efforts. Agencies are reminded to share their Tracking Tool once complete.
- The water quality monitoring period is May 1st – August 31st. Agencies interested in coordinating water quality monitoring efforts are encouraged to collaborate on timing. W&C/EKI can support identifying companies to support these monitoring efforts.
- The Subbasin's subsidence characterization study kickoff meeting is scheduled for April 30th at 8:00 AM. This will be noticed as a joint meeting of the Coordination Committee and Technical Working Group.
- Well permitting discussions will continue with county representatives and respective GSA representatives.

- The next FSS inter-basin coordination meeting will include presentations on subsidence from representatives in each participating subbasin. A draft presentation has been shared with the Coordination Committee for their review.

18. **Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**

No topics were discussed under this item.

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

Aaron Barcellos/Pacheco adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.

20 May 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: John Brodie and Claire Howard
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA)

From: Anona Dutton, PG, CHg
EKI Environment & Water, Inc. (EKI)

Subject: Themes from 1Q2021 GSP Implementation Tracking Tool Review
Northern & Central Delta-Mendota GSP Region
EKI C00041.01

EKI, SLDMWA, and Woodard & Curran (W&C) recently completed review of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation 1Q2021 Tracking Tools. During reviews with the individual Northern & Central Delta-Mendota GSP Region (NCDM Region) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and GSA member agencies, ongoing activities and challenges were discussed. The following topics with broader implications across multiple GSAs were identified by several GSAs/GSA members, suggesting opportunities for coordination.

- **Existing Supply Well Registration, Metering, and Reporting.** Several GSAs have already adopted ordinances requiring well registration, metering, and water use reporting and are in the process of implementing them. Several other GSAs are considering such actions. Consistent requirements for well registration, metering, and reporting of water usage data (potentially Subbasin-wide or County-wide) would create more consistent and shared processes, reduce landowner confusion, and improve the collection of data necessary to inform local and Subbasin management.
 - *This issue extends beyond agricultural wells to industrial and other supply wells.*
 - *The Well Census and Inventory Project will improve understanding of well type, status, and location and will support agencies with understanding landowner response rates for purposes of ordinance enforcement.*
 - *Template ordinances adopted by other GSAs have been provided to other interested GSAs.*
 - *Efforts are ongoing to coordinate the well permit review process between the Counties and the GSAs. A template response letter may be developed for use by the GSAs that identifies the powers the GSA has to manage the Subbasin (and well extractions) to ensure that well permittees are duly noticed that usage of a well has to be consistent with the GSP.*
 - *Consistency in data collection/implementation will support use of the Subbasin data management system (DMS) and the potential NCDM-specific DMS in coordinating well management.*

- **New Supply Well Permitting.** The GSAs and the Counties are struggling with how to address the permitting of new wells; no one wants to prohibit wells, but there is ongoing concern regarding sustainability, especially with respect to land subsidence and interconnected surface waters (ISW). Consistent requirements for well permitting review (potentially Subbasin-wide) would create more consistent and shared processes, reduce landowner confusion, and improve the collection of data necessary to inform groundwater management in the Subbasin.
 - *There are ongoing efforts to coordinate well permit review process between the Counties and the NCDM Region GSAs. Efforts may need to be expanded to the Subbasin level and perhaps require inter-basin coordination (as the Counties span multiple groundwater subbasins).*
 - *A template response letter may be developed for use by the GSAs that identifies the powers that the GSA has to manage the Subbasin (and well extractions) to ensure that the well permittee is duly noticed that usage of a well has to be consistent with the GSP.*
- **Drought Response and Contingency Planning.** Concerns that water supply conditions during this (and future) very dry year(s) and increased reliance on groundwater could create conditions where representative monitoring wells (RMWs) approach or exceed their Minimum Thresholds (MTs).
 - *“Undesirable Results” for water levels, as defined in the GSP, occur when 40% of the RMWs in a principal aquifer exceed their individual MTs¹.*
 - *Frequent data collection and analysis (e.g., more frequent than the GSP-mandated schedule) can support proactive planning if water levels begin declining at unsustainable rates.*
 - *Improved data / local water budgets are needed to ensure that issues in one GSA are not being created by pumping in a neighboring GSA, GSP region, or subbasin.*
 - *Several GSAs report that local restrictions on water use have been issued given the reduced allocation of surface water supplies.*
 - *Coordinated preparation for addressing shallow domestic supply wells going dry during dry conditions/droughts should be considered given the State’s emphasis on the Human Right to Water Doctrine and disadvantaged communities.*

¹ From the NCDM Region GSP, Section 6.3.1.1.2 Identification of Undesirable Results:

An undesirable result for chronic lowering of groundwater levels is triggered, or conditions are deemed “significant and unreasonable,” when groundwater elevations drop below the site-specific minimum threshold at 40 percent of representative monitoring wells in a principal aquifer in the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions concurrently over a given year (7 out of 17 wells in the Upper Aquifer and/or 8 out of 18 wells in the Lower Aquifer). If these conditions were to occur, it is anticipated that shallow domestic wells in the same subregion as the representative monitoring points in exceedance of the minimum threshold would go dry and/or these conditions would result in higher pumping costs and/or the need to modify wells to obtain groundwater...

- **Coordination on Water Quality Sampling.** Several of the GSAs expressed interest in coordinating the collection and analysis of the annual water quality samples from their designated wells by August 2021.
 - *Recommendations of qualified firms/labs will be provided.*
 - *Representative Monitoring Network (RMN) still in flux as GSAs continue to replace wells, secure access, etc.*
- **Filling Data Gaps.** The GSP identified multiple data gaps that need to be filled, but progress has been slow.
 - *Well Census and Inventory Project will ideally identify additional wells that can be incorporated into the RMN to address data gaps and/or replace wells that have been removed from the RMN, especially in regards to monitoring of the Lower Aquifer.*
 - *Multiple GSAs have submitted well applications to the Department of Water Resources TSS Program, but very few of the wells have been installed, and the remaining wells may not be installed until at least 2022.*
 - *Subsidence Study will ideally identify areas of potential concern and recommend actions to mitigate additional land subsidence risk.*
 - *The identified need for cooperation from adjoining subbasins and lack of available monitoring infrastructure has slowed progress in addressing ISW and land subsidence issues.*
 - *USGS and USBR are approaching completion of work on a groundwater flow model that could be useful for the GSAs for water budgeting and other GSP-related purposes.*
- **Coordination with Adjoining Subbasins.** The Subbasin shares a significant boundary with other subbasins, some of whom have taken different approaches on setting their sustainable management criteria (SMCs) or are two years behind in development of their GSPs. These different approaches to GSP development and implementation complicate cooperation (obtaining data, ISW and land subsidence issues, quantifying cross-boundary flows).
 - *Stantec is coordinating inter-basin discussions on issues of shared concern under a FSS contract with representatives from the Chowchilla, Madera, and Merced Subbasins.*
 - *The NCDM Region is coordinating with other GSP group representatives and subbasins on development of the ISW RMN along the San Joaquin River.*
 - *Significant differences in subsidence SMC with the Madera and Chowchilla Subbasins still need to be resolved.*

Subbasin Announcements: Implementation Activities

Delta-Mendota Subbasin representatives continue implementation and compliance activities as the year progresses. Each groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) Group is working collaboratively on a well census and inventory project, which seeks to identify well locations and depths for use and monitoring.

The Subbasin is also proceeding with a subsidence characterization study that will determine critical infrastructure locations within the Subbasin, and compile subsidence and water level data to locate areas of concern for future subsidence impacts. The well census and subsidence projects are each supported by funding from the Subbasin's Proposition 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant.

The Subbasin successfully completed and submitted its second Subbasin-wide Annual Report to DWR on April 1st that covers Water Year 2020 (October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020). This Annual Report provides a summary of monitoring events, water use and extraction, and implementation activities.

Subbasin representatives continue to cooperate with one another and their member agencies during this current dry year to ensure monitoring activities are completed for required reporting to DWR. Representative monitoring sites were sampled for seasonal high water level readings this spring, and the Subbasin is currently collecting water quality samples. These data will be incorporated into the next Annual Report.

This quarter, Subbasin representatives continued to meet with representatives from neighboring subbasins to discuss coordination for monitoring and implementation efforts. These meetings are supported through the Subbasin's Facilitation Support Services (FSS) program with DWR.



Upcoming Meetings and Important Dates

**Water Quality Monitoring
Window**

May 1 – August 31

**Coordination Committee
Quarterly Meeting**

Monday, June 14th: 9:30 AM– 12:00 PM

**Coordination Committee
Quarterly Meeting**

Monday, Sept 13th: 9:30 AM– 12:00 PM

Questions? Contact your local groundwater sustainability agency or send an email to dmsgma@sldmwa.org

Learn more at
deltamendota.org

**DELTA -
MENDOTA
SGMA**

Telephonic Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

Monday, June 14, 2021, 9:30 AM

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Committee to Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.
3. Opportunity for Public Comment

Consent Calendar

4. Committee to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar, Howard
 - a. Minutes
 - i. March 8, 2021 Telephonic Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee
 - ii. March 29, 2021 Special Telephonic Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee
 - b. Budget
 - i. April 2021 Budget to Actual Report
 - ii. Water Year 2020 Annual Report Budget/Expenses, Brodie

Action Items

5. Committee to Consider Approval of Optional Enhancements for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Data Management System, Brodie

Report Items

6. Committee to Discuss Implementation Efforts, Brodie
 - a. Monitoring Activities and Reporting Responsibilities, Howard
 - b. Well Permitting Discussions, Howard
 - c. GSP Implementation Activities and Evaluation, Brodie
7. Committee to Discuss Special Projects, Brodie
 - a. Well Census and Inventory Projects, GSP Group Representatives
 - b. Subbasin Subsidence Characterization Study, Brodie

8. Committee to Discuss Inter-basin Coordination Efforts, Brodie
 - a. Facilitation Support Services (FSS) Inter-basin Coordination Meeting, Brodie/Lucchesi/Martin
 - b. Review of Draft Tracy Subbasin GSP Chapters and Opportunity for Public Comment, Howard
9. Next Steps
10. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)
11. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with a disability may request disability-related modification or accommodation by contacting Cheri Worthy at the Water Authority, 842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA 93635, and telephone: (209) 826-9696 at least 3 days for regular or 1 day for special before the meeting date.

Telephonic Meeting of the
Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

Monday, March 8, 2021, 9:30 AM

Click here to join Zoom meeting
Call-in Number: +1 669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 831 0486 1390
Passcode: 408171

Coordination Committee Members and Alternates Present

Vince Lucchesi - Patterson Irrigation District/Northern Delta-Mendota Region
Walt Ward - Stanislaus County/Northern Delta-Mendota Region (Alternate)
Ben Fenters - San Luis Water District/Central Delta-Mendota Region
Lacey McBride - Merced County/Central Delta-Mendota Region (Alternate)
Jarrett Martin - Central California Irrigation District/SJREC
Alejandro Paolini - San Luis Canal Company/SJREC
Jim Stilwell - Farmers Water District
Augie Ramirez - Fresno County
Ric Ortega - Grassland Water District
Joe Hopkins - Aliso Water District/Provost & Pritchard

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Members Present

Scott Petersen
John Brodie
Claire Howard - Provost & Pritchard

Others Present

Ellen Wehr - Grassland Water District
Anthea Hansen - Del Puerto Water District
Larry Harris - Turner Island Water District
Will Halligan - Luhdorff & Scalmanini
Kait Palys Bautista - Provost & Pritchard
Lauren Layne - Baker Manock & Jensen
Leslie Dumas - Woodard & Curran

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**
Jarrett Martin/CCID called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.
2. **Committee to Consider Corrections or Additions to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.**
No corrections or additions were made to the agenda of items.
3. **Opportunity for Public Comment**
No public comment was shared.
4. **Committee to Review and Take Action on Consent Calendar, Howard**

- a. Minutes for the February 8, 2021 Telephonic Meeting of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee
- b. February 2021 Budget to Actual Report

The Committee considered approval of the February 8th meeting minutes and the February 2021 budget to actual report. No comments or questions were shared under this item. Ben Fenters/SLWD provided the motion and Augie Ramirez/Fresno seconded. The Committee voted by roll call; the motion was passed unanimously by those present.

5. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation

The Committee will meet in closed session to confer with legal counsel pursuant to Paragraph (1), Subdivision (d) of Government Code Section 54956.9.

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance v. All Persons Interested in the Matter of the Validity of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions Groundwater Sustainability Plan, et al., Stanislaus County Superior Court, Case No. CV-20-001748 [Delta-Mendota Subbasin SGMA Challenge].

6. Report Out of Closed Session

No reportable action was taken.

7. Committee to Consider Approval of Delta-Mendota Subbasin Water Year 2020 Consolidated Annual Report, Dumas/Brodie

Leslie Dumas/W&C provided an overview of draft Water Year 2020 (WY20) Consolidated Annual Report, and highlighted items that are still being finalized. Kait Palys Bautista/P&P explained that each GSP Group is tasked with developing a written narrative for the Plan Implementation section. The current draft of the WY20 Annual Report has varying detail for each GSP Group's section. Additionally, each GSP Group has the opportunity to share an appendix for inclusion in the Consolidated Annual Report if any GSP is interested in providing additional detail. Some GSP Groups are using the Plan Implementation section or separate appendix to detail monitoring processes, challenges, and changes to the representative monitoring network.

Approval of the WY20 Annual Report will be tabled until a near-final version is available. The Committee members discussed their interest in holding a special meeting March 29th-31st to consider final approval of the WY20 Annual Report prior to the DWR submittal deadline of April 1st. A Doodle poll will be shared to confirm Committee members' availability for this meeting.

8. Committee to Consider Authorization of Execution of the Following Task Orders for Services Included in the Approved Fiscal Year 2022 Coordinated SGMA Budget, Petersen/Brodie

- Woodard & Curran
 - o Proposition 68 grant administration for supplemental GSP development, well census and inventory, and subsidence characterization study (ongoing from Fiscal Year 2021)
 - o Water Year 2021 Consolidated Annual Report (coordinated components and WSE mapping)

- GSI Environmental Inc.
 - o Subbasin-wide subsidence characterization study and project feasibility determination
- Houston Engineering Inc.
 - o Data management system (DMS) hosting, staff support and approved enhancements
- Provost & Pritchard
 - o Staff augmentation support for the Coordination Committee

Scott Petersen/SLDMWA provided an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) task orders for Coordinated SGMA activities that were included within the Coordination Committee's adopted and approved FY22 budget. Scott noted that the practice consistent with previous years is to bring task orders to the Coordination Committee for approval prior to execution. Scott requested input from the Committee regarding the future process for budgetary and task order approval. The Committee suggested that only new contracts and task orders not included in the annual budget should be brought to the Committee for confirmation and approval; contracts for activities included in the approved annual budget do not need to be revisited after the Committee approves the budget. Vince Lucchesi/PID provided the motion for the Committee and Ric Ortega/Grassland seconded. The Committee voted by roll call; the motion passed. Joe Hopkins/P&P abstained from the vote because a Provost & Pritchard contract was included in this set of task orders.

9. **Committee to Discuss Inter-basin Coordination Efforts:**
- a. **Subbasin Representatives' Report from March 3rd Regional Inter-basin Coordination Meeting, Fenters/Lucchesi/Martin**

An introductory meeting for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin's Facilitation Support Services (FSS) inter-basin coordination activities was held March 3rd with representatives from Madera, Merced, Chowchilla, and Delta-Mendota Subbasins in attendance. Vince Lucchesi/PID noted that the Delta-Mendota Subbasin representatives were interested in focusing the meeting on topics such as subsidence and river monitoring. Future meetings will aim to focus on specific topics of shared interest for the various subbasin representatives. Ben Fenters/SLWD suggested holding a pre-meeting with the participating Delta-Mendota Subbasin representatives to coordinate their approach during the meeting and clarify their shared positions in topics.

- b. **Coordination for San Joaquin River Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) Monitoring Network, Dumas/Brodie**

Leslie Dumas/W&C explained that the Northern and Central Regions don't have an ISW monitoring network, but aim to identify and develop this network prior to the 2025 GSP update. Leslie has recently discussed this topic with the consultant team representing Modesto and Turlock Subbasins, which are both developing GSPs for the 2022 submission. As of this meeting, these subbasins don't have plans in place to establish monitoring networks along the San Joaquin River. Modesto and Turlock Subbasins are currently more focused on impacts to the Tuolumne and Modesto Rivers because of anticipated pumping and diversions.

Leslie emphasized the importance of coordinating monitoring efforts along both sides of the San Joaquin River, and at a minimum demonstrating outreach to the Modesto and Turlock Subbasins even if no significant progress is made prior to the 2025 GSP Update. Leslie also suggested that this topic be revisited once more progress is made on the Northern and Central Regions' well census and inventory project to identify potential sites for inclusion in the ISW network. This

topic will be included in future Coordination Committee meeting agendas to maintain emphasis on coordination and development within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin and with other subbasins.

10. GSP Group Representatives to Share Update on Well Census and Inventory Projects, Howard/GSP Group Representatives

Committee members shared progress on each GSP Group's well census and inventory project efforts to date:

- Northern & Central Region GSP Group: Claire Howard/P&P shared that data is being compiled for the Northern and Central Regions' project from each GSA, publicly accessible data, and additional information from past projects. Preliminary maps are anticipated in the coming weeks that each GSA will review for completeness. Ben Fenters/SLWD noted that additional data for the Central Delta-Mendota GSA is being incorporated from that GSA's well registration efforts.
- Jarrett Martin/CCID explained that the SJREC GSP Group submitted for project close-out. The SRJEC GSP Group focused on locating missing lower aquifer sites.
- Ric Ortega/Grassland shared that the Grassland GSP Group is focused on mapping and identifying wells within their area.
- Will Halligan/LSCE explained that the Farmers WD GSP Group's effort is almost complete, and includes the addition of the recent TSS well installed in Farmers WD's area.
- Will also shared that the Fresno GSP Group is updating the well inventory for the Mendota Pool Group as part of their efforts.
- The Aliso GSP Group is updating their well registry and perforation information for their well census project.

Additional project detail and updates will be requested in future Coordination Committee meetings and information from each GSP Group will be collected for reimbursement submission as part of the Subbasin's reporting process for the Proposition 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant.

11. Committee to Discuss Subbasin Subsidence Characterization Study and Project Feasibility Determination Kickoff Meeting, Brodie

John Brodie/SLDMWA shared that a kickoff meeting for the Subbasin's subsidence project will be scheduled this month. This will be an opportunity for Coordination Committee and Subbasin Technical Working Group members to meet with the GSI Environmental Inc. team and discuss available data and project approaches for the Subbasin's study.

12. Committee to Discuss Optional DMS Enhancements, Brodie

John Brodie/SLDMWA reviewed optional enhancements for the Subbasin's data management system (DMS). These enhancements were suggested by various GSP Groups while using the DMS for Annual Report preparation and during the data upload process. The Northern and Central Management Committees recently reviewed these optional enhancements and requested input from the Coordination Committee prior to authorizing approval of any. John and Leslie Dumas/W& C shared that these enhancements are not covered within the approved FY22 budget, but these could be covered by reimbursements through the Proposition 1/68 grant under the Technical Assistance category. Leslie explained that several of these enhancements have been requested to improve the use of the DMS alongside the DWR SGMA Portal for uploading

monitoring data. The DWR templates for uploading monitoring data were finalized after the DMS, so these proposed enhancements would make the DMS more consistent with DWR Portal.

13. Committee to Discuss Monitoring Activities and Reporting Responsibilities for Spring 2021, Howard
14. Reminder Regarding 2021 Coordination Committee Meeting Schedule, Howard

Claire Howard/P&P reminded the Coordination Committee that regular meetings in 2021 will be held quarterly on the second Monday of each month. The next meetings will be in June, September, and December. Special meetings will still be scheduled and noticed as needed.

15. Next Steps

- Leslie Dumas/W&C will provide a follow-up email to confirm outstanding components of the WY20 Annual Report.
- A special Coordination Committee meeting will be scheduled March 29th-31st to get final approval of the Water Year 2020 Consolidated Annual Report prior to submittal to DWR by the April 1st deadline.
- A pre-meeting will be held prior to future inter-basin coordination meetings to discuss the Delta-Mendota Subbasin representatives' approaches and positions on relevant topics
- A kickoff meeting for the Subbasin's subsidence characterization study will be scheduled this month with the GSI Environmental Inc. team.
- The seasonal high water level monitoring period closes at the end of April. The data for representative monitoring sites must be uploaded to the DWR SGMA Portal along with the sustainable management criteria for these sites.

16. Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)

Leslie Dumas/W&C noted that she requested scoring criteria from DWR for the Subbasin's recent application for the Proposition 68 Implementation grant program and will relay updates to the participating representatives for next steps.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Jarrett Martin/CCID adjourned the meeting at 10:56 AM.

Special Telephonic Meeting of the
Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee

Monday, March 29, 2021, 10:00 AM

Click here to join Zoom meeting
Call-in Number: +1 669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 830 8917 8596
Passcode: 810021

Coordination Committee Members and Alternates Present

Vince Lucchesi - Patterson Irrigation District/Northern Delta-Mendota Region
Ben Fenters - San Luis Water District/Central Delta-Mendota Region
Alejandro Paolini - San Luis Canal Company/SJREC
Jim Stilwell - Farmers Water District
Ric Ortega - Grassland Water District
Ken Swanson - Grassland Water District (Alternate)
Joe Hopkins - Aliso Water District/Provost & Pritchard

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Members Present

Scott Petersen
John Brodie
Claire Howard - Provost & Pritchard

Others Present

Ellen Wehr - Grassland Water District
Shawn Carmo - Grassland Water District
Larry Harris - Turner Island Water District
Will Halligan - Luhdorff & Scalmanini
Kait Palys Bautista - Provost & Pritchard
Rick Iger - Provost & Pritchard
Leslie Dumas - Woodard & Curran
Natalie Cochran - Woodard & Curran
Chris Rogers - Central California Irrigation District
Kyle Hill - Central California Irrigation District

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Alejandro Paolini/SLCC called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM.

2. Committee to Consider Corrections to the Agenda of Items, as authorized by Government Code Section 54950 et seq.

No corrections were made to the agenda of items.

3. Opportunity for Public Comment

Ben Fenters/SLWD noted that this was his final SGMA meeting representing San Luis Water District.

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4. **Committee to Consider Approval of Delta-Mendota Subbasin Water Year 2020 Consolidated Annual Report, Dumas**

Leslie Dumas/W&C provided an overview of the latest draft of the Water Year 2020 Consolidated Annual Report. Leslie highlighted the hydrographs and maps depicting change in storage values. Ric Ortega/Grassland requested clarification on Grassland GSP Group's change in storage value. The Committee considered approval of the Annual Report pending approval of the Grassland change in storage value for the lower aquifer. Joe Hopkins/Aliso provided the motion for the Committee and Ric Ortega seconded. The Committee voted by roll call; the motion was passed unanimously by those present. The Annual Report will be submitted to the DWR SGMA Portal by the April 1st deadline following confirmation of the Grassland change in storage value.

5. **Committee to Discuss Upcoming Inter-basin Coordination Meetings and Confirmation of Participants, Howard**

Claire Howard/P&P explained that more inter-basin coordination meetings are anticipated to be scheduled this spring and early summer as part of the Subbasin's Facilitation Support Services (FSS) program with DWR. The FSS-supported inter-basin meetings will be with representatives from the Chowchilla, Madera, and Merced Subbasins. Claire explained that the Stantec team leading the meetings requested contact information for representatives from each subbasin interested in attending as participants (up to three) as well as listeners (up to five) for future meetings.

Jarrett Martin/CCID, Vince Lucchesi/PID, and Ben Fenters/SLWD were previously confirmed as meeting participants on behalf of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. Augie Ramirez/Fresno, Will Halligan/LSCE, Rick Iger/P&P, and Leslie Dumas/W&C all expressed interest in attending future FSS meetings as listeners. Walt Ward/Stanislaus and John Wiersma/SLCC also previously shared their interest in attending as listeners. John Brodie/SLDMWA confirmed that he will share the list of interested participants with the Stantec team.

Leslie Dumas/W&C also shared that she is scheduling meetings with representatives from the Turlock and Modesto Subbasins to discuss developing coordinated interconnected surface water (ISW) networks on both sides of the San Joaquin River. Leslie noted that she will include Jarrett Martin/CCID and Ric Ortega/Grassland when scheduling these meetings.

6. **Committee to Discuss Subbasin Monitoring and Reporting, Howard**

Claire Howard/P&P reminded the Committee that the Subbasin's seasonal high water level monitoring period closes April 30th. Water level readings must be collected at all representative water level monitoring sites by this date. These readings must be uploaded to DWR's SGMA Monitoring Network Module (MNM) by July 1. This year, the MNM also accepts sustainable management criteria (SMC) data for representative water level sites. SMC data must be uploaded for all sites before the seasonal high water level readings are uploaded.

7. **Committee to Discuss California's Groundwater (Bulletin 118) Update and Public Comment Period, Howard**

Claire Howard/P&P and Leslie Dumas/W&C noted that the public comment period is currently open for the latest update to California's Groundwater (Bulletin 118). This version provides an overview of water use at the hydrologic regions throughout the State, and future updates will provide detail at the subbasin-level.

8. **Next Steps**

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- The Committee approved the Water Year 2020 Consolidated Annual Report pending confirmation of Grassland's change in storage value. The Annual Report will be submitted to DWR by the April 1st deadline.
- SLDMWA staff will provide contact information to the Stantec facilitation team for representatives interested in attending future FSS inter-basin coordination meetings as listeners.
- Leslie Dumas will schedule meetings with Turlock and Modesto Subbasin representatives to discuss establishing a coordinated ISW monitoring network along the San Joaquin River.
- The Subbasin's seasonal high water level monitoring period closes April 30th. All representative water level monitoring sites must be sampled by that date; these data must be uploaded to the SGMA MNM by July 1 along with SMC data.

9. **Reports Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a)(3)**

No topics were discussed under this item.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

Alejandro Paolini/SLCC adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM.

From the Department of Water Resources:

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) today released its first assessments of groundwater sustainability plans developed by local agencies to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

DWR has completed its assessment and approved plans for the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin in Santa Cruz County and 180/400 Foot Aquifer Subbasin in Monterey County. The groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) for these critically over-drafted basins will continue implementing their plans to achieve SGMA's goal of groundwater sustainability within 20 years.

DWR has notified GSAs for the Cuyama Valley Basin and Paso Robles Subbasin that their plans lack specific details and are not yet approved. DWR is requesting a consultation meeting with the GSAs to discuss actions necessary to improve the plans. DWR is committed to working with local agencies and providing technical and financial support to help them bring their basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge.

"Local management, including development of solutions for the long-term reliability of groundwater, is the cornerstone of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act," said DWR Director Karla Nemeth. "DWR's evaluation and assessment of groundwater sustainability plans is an important step in the long process of bringing our critical groundwater basins into sustainability, helping to ensure Californians have a reliable water source during drought years and for generations to come."

DWR is releasing plan assessments as they are completed, rather than waiting to release the assessments at the end of the two-year review period in January 2022, to provide early feedback and guidance that can inform other GSAs as they develop their plans.

SGMA initiated a new era of local groundwater management. For the first time in California's water history, local agencies and groundwater users are required to form GSAs and develop and implement plans to guide how they will achieve groundwater basin sustainability goals over the next 20 years. SGMA lays out a process designed for continuous improvement – gathering information to fill data gaps, updating plans, and promoting science-based adaptation. Plans will be updated as new information becomes available and as conditions change in groundwater basins. DWR will review annual reports and also assess each plan every five years to determine if the GSAs are on track to meet their basin's goal.

Despite the long-term timeline, SGMA requires near-term actions that will help the state manage water resources during dry and drought years. For example, GSAs have been required to submit annual progress reports since 2020 with the most up-to-date monitoring and plan implementation information for their groundwater basins, including groundwater levels and use. This data can be accessed on the SGMA Portal. By tracking conditions and implementation performance, the state and local agencies can

better manage water resources during average and wet years to ensure groundwater will be available as a buffer during dry years.

In addition to and aligned with plan evaluation, DWR continues to support GSAs by providing planning, technical and financial assistance. Recently, DWR announced \$26 million in grant funding for project investments to improve water supply security, water quality and the reliability of groundwater. These efforts align with the Administration's budget proposal for significant additional funding for projects to improve groundwater conditions and advance safe drinking water efforts for groundwater-dependent communities.

For more information about DWR's available assistance, watch this video and visit the assistance and engagement webpage.

Additional information, including a video message from DWR on the assessments, is available at this website.

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Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Plan Evaluation Pathways

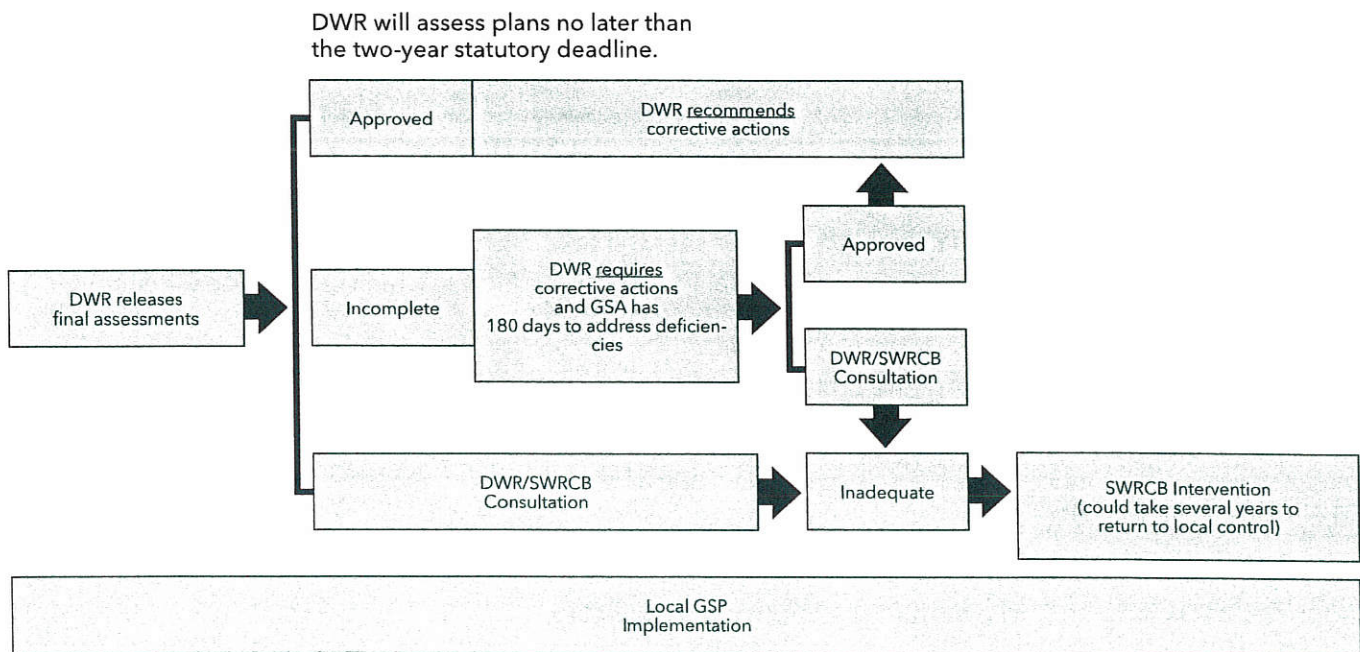
The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) recognizes that groundwater resources are most effectively managed at the local level. The law calls for local groundwater agencies to work with groundwater users to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) that achieve groundwater reliability over 20 years. GSPs are roadmaps for how local agencies will ensure that groundwater resources are reliable for their communities over the long term.

SGMA directs the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to evaluate GSPs to determine if the plans are based on the best available science and information and reasonably likely to achieve the basin's sustainability goals. Evaluations are based on specific criteria outlined in the regulations. Where there are multiple GSPs per basin or subbasin, SGMA requires that plans are coordinated and jointly submitted. In such cases, DWR will provide a single assessment.

DWR's evaluation of GSPs will result in three potential determinations:

- Approved
- Incomplete
- Inadequate

SGMA GSP Pathways



DWR will continue to review GSPs and track performance over time, including reviewing initial plans when they are submitted, reviewing annual reports, and evaluating five-year plan updates.

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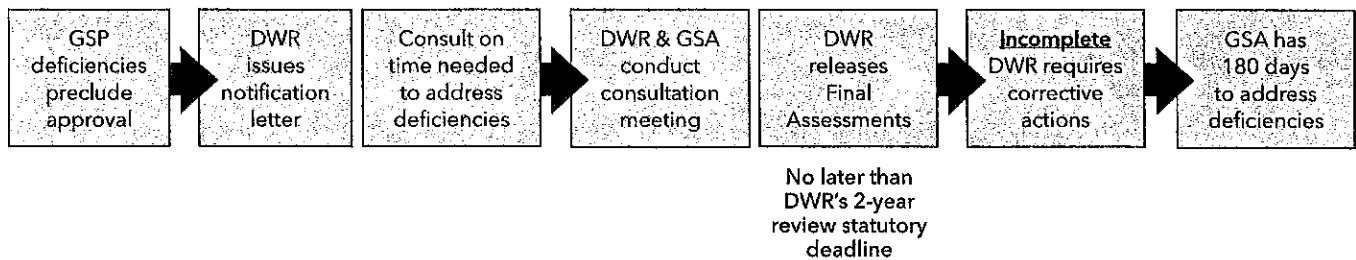
Approved plans with recommended corrective actions

A plan "approved with recommended corrective actions" is overall a good plan. However, it might need some additional information or clarification. The recommendations for further details or clarifications in this type of plan do not affect DWR's ability to determine if the plan is reasonably likely to achieve groundwater sustainability within 20 years. Corrective actions should be incorporated before the next five-year plan update.

Incomplete plans with a required corrective action

A plan is determined to be "incomplete with a required corrective action" if it is missing information that DWR must have to determine if it complies with SGMA, including whether sustainability can be reached within 20 years. The GSA must address the plan deficiencies within 180 days and resubmit that information to DWR. If the information gaps cannot be addressed within that timeframe, the plan could subsequently be determined inadequate. Before DWR determines if a GSP is incomplete with a required corrective action, DWR will inform the GSA about the potential designation and what gaps need to be addressed. DWR will then meet with the GSA to review how much time the basin will need to address the deficiencies, and if there are opportunities for DWR, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), or other agencies or organizations to provide planning, technical, or financial assistance.

Incomplete Process



Inadequate plans

A GSP deemed "inadequate" has significant gaps that will take more than 180 days for the GSA to address. An inadequate plan can trigger the state intervention process, which authorizes the State Water Board to step in to manage the basin.

After notice and a public hearing, the State Water Board can designate the basin as probationary. If the deficiencies identified in the probationary designation are not remedied within a year, the State Water Board, after a subsequent notice and hearing, may develop and adopt an interim plan to manage groundwater use in the basin.

An interim plan is a temporary measure to protect groundwater resources in the basin until local public agencies are willing and able to manage the basin sustainably.

