



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

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

DATE: September 16, 2021

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for August 2021

This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for August 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)

There was a modest amount of funding available in the SJRFA Proposition 1 Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP) grant. The city of Westley seeks to use The Westside San Joaquin (WSJ) IRWM Region's share of funds to put a filtration system on a newly replaced well, bringing this Disadvantaged Community's new well into compliance with state water quality standards.

Work is on schedule for all projects for the Proposition 1 Round 1 IRWM Implementation grant for the SJRFA in the WSJ IRWM Region. Administered through SLDMWA, the grant includes funding for four projects within the SJRFA and one project within the Tulare-Kern Funding Area.

Tulare-Kern Funding Area (TKFA)

Construction work was scheduled to be completed in August on The City of Huron Groundwater Supply Well and Recharge Project. The project is providing new groundwater and monitoring wells for the City of Huron, a designated disadvantaged community (DAC). The supply well will generate more than 50% of Huron's drinking water demands, thereby reducing the community's need to purchase water.

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

The IRWM Roundtable of Regions (ROR) Disadvantaged Community and Tribal Involvement Work Group (DACTI), a statewide IRWM information and advocacy group, recently discussed pending

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).

funding opportunities available through the Department of Water Resources. The Small Communities Drought Relief Program is accepting applications now.

2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity (SGMA) Activity Summary

Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions

The Northern and Central Management Committees held their regular joint meeting in late August. They directed staff to review a draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the Tracy Subbasin and submit a comment letter. Review of the Tracy and other neighboring GSPs will focus on monitoring networks and sustainable management criteria along the subbasins' shared boundaries.

General SGMA Activities

Representatives from the Delta-Mendota Subbasin continue to work with representatives from the Chowchilla, Madera, and Merced Subbasins to address regional subsidence solutions. The inter-basin coordination process is conducted 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. Next steps include formalizing an agreement among participants for a project focus area including interim actions and incentives during data collection efforts.

The consultant conducting the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Subsidence Characterization and Project Feasibility Study continues to compile and review data. Activities for this project are being paid for by a Proposition 68 SGMA Implementation grant. A Technical Working Group meeting will be scheduled mid-fall to review project progress.

GSP groups are working with the consultant to match well completion reports with known well locations and confirm the information with landowners. The work is part of a well census and inventory project for the subbasin. Activities for this project are also being paid for by the Proposition 68 SGMA Implementation grant.

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies can now collect fall/seasonal low water level data. The deadline to collect this data is October 31, 2021. That is also the deadline to have water quality data uploaded into the Subbasin's Data Management System.

Representatives from GSP groups and SLDMWA staff are working with USBR and USGS staff to refine the Central Valley Hydrologic Model 2-San Joaquin Basin (CVHM2-SJB) modeling effort. USBR and USGS hope the model can be used to support GSP implementation. The most recent meeting included an in-depth discussion of water delivery and reuse within the subbasin in an effort to create a more accurate model.

Staff participated in informational workshops and webinars including the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley, DWR's Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge (FloodMAR), a webinar on funding available for projects through the Bureau of Reclamation, and a session on water rights permitting options for recharge projects by the State Water Resources Control Board.

3. Drainage Activity Summary

Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity Summary

- **General Activities:** Coordination of the GBD Steering Committee which met on August 20. Development and recommendation of the approval of the memorandum of understanding for use of supplemental mitigation funds. Development of installation of monitoring wells and other operational installations for Grassland Bypass Project advanced. Develop responses to questions from the Regional Board on the annual monitoring report for the Grassland Bypass Project. Staff continued to review GBD invoices, managed storm flow activities, prepared annual monitoring reports, supported 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.
- **Threat to Fish Report** – The GBD were 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 report was submitted on July 30 and follow up questions were answered.
- **Mud Slough Mitigation Project** – the project to restore Mud Slough (north) flows to the Newman Lake north of Highway 140 is ongoing. The CEQA Initial Study was circulated for public comment in late June. Public comments were received and work is ongoing to prepare responses to the comments. Authority review and possible approval of the CEQA will likely not occur until October or November.

San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority 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 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. Organize and make presentation to outreach meetings for surface and groundwater management plan. Host meetings at Westley and Los Banos. Assist grower members in completing the required reporting forms and self-certification requirements. Enter farmer evaluation and nitrogen summary reports into coalition database.

Participate in group conference calls regarding surface and groundwater management plans, groundwater protection formulas and the CV Salts prioritization and optimization studies. Participate in Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative conference calls. Participate in Regional Board quarterly conference calls.

Begin planning for development of Management Zone implementation. Manage ongoing monitoring. Revise the QAPP for the monitoring program.

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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. Organize and lead July SJVDA Board meeting. Develop materials for August Board meeting.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

P O Box 2157 Los Banos, CA 93635
209 826 9696 Phone 209 826 9698 Fax

WESTSIDE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER WATERSHED COALITION

August 24, 2021

Patrick Pulupa
Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
11020 Sun Center Drive, #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-6114

Dear Mr. Pulupa,

The Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition (WSJRW) is submitting the 2021 Surface Water Annual Report to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) as required by the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order No. R5-2014-0009.

The attached documents report on the Coalition's monitoring program and management of surface water quality within the Coalition region for the period of March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021. The 2021 Surface Water Annual Report includes updates of surface water monitoring results, a status update of constituents and watersheds requiring a management plan, an evaluation of the current Management Plan strategy including a status update of site subwatershed performance goals, a summary of outreach and education activities, and a summary of current and newly implemented management practices in watersheds, an evaluation of management practice effectiveness, and summary of required WDR submittals and approvals.

The 2021 Annual Report package includes:

1. 2021 Surface Water Annual Report
 - a. Appendix I: 2021 Groundwater Annual Report
 - b. Appendix II: Land Use Maps
 - c. Appendix III: Wetland Supply Channel Monitoring Report
2. Attachment A: Electronic Data Submittal
3. Attachment B: Pesticide Use Report Data
4. GIS Shapefiles

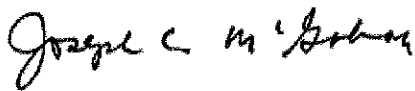
Monitoring results from the 2020 Monitoring Period are available online and can be accessed at: <https://mpsl.mlml.calstate.edu/data-analysis-tools/#OnlineData>. There are online tutorials that provide trainings on how to utilize the online tool and retrieve monitoring results. If individuals need access to the data set, please contact the Central Valley Regional Data Center (CV RDC) for a username and password if one was not already provided.

In every aspect, the Coalition seeks the best quality in its monitoring program by using the most scientifically reliable field and laboratory protocols, ensuring complete quality control and quality assurance of the data received from laboratories, and reporting on that data accurately and punctually to both the CVRWQCB and to the members of the Coalition. The Coalition and its technical staff process and review an immense quantity of data and provide a large number of reports in a timely manner to the CVRWQCB.

During the 2020 Monitoring Period, the Coalition's monitoring program met WDR requirements as described in the 2021 Surface Water Annual Report. Sampling occurred during all twelve months and all data generated are an accurate reflection of conditions in the Coalition region. Overall, there was compliance with completeness, accuracy, and precision requirements for data collected from March 2020 through February 2021.

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for knowingly submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for violations."

If you should have any questions on the information submitted in this report, please give me a call directly at 559-582-9237.



Joseph C. McGahan
Watershed Coordinator
Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition

2021 Surface Water Annual Report

San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority
Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Submitted August 24, 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition (WSJRW or Coalition) is submitting the 2021 Surface Water Annual Report which includes an update to the Coalition's Surface Water Management Plan Progress Report, management plan implementation schedules/timelines, monitoring results for the 2020 Monitoring Period (March 2020 through February 2021), and a record of Coalition outreach activities to meet the requirements of the Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for General Order for Growers within the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition (WDR or General Order; Order R5-2014-0002-09). The primary objectives of the monitoring program are to characterize discharge from irrigated agriculture and to determine if implemented management practices are effective in reducing or eliminating discharge and impairments of beneficial uses (BUs).

The 2021 Surface Water Annual Report includes updates on the status and methods used to 1) identify agriculture sources of discharges resulting in exceedances of Water Quality Trigger Limits (WQTL), 2) track implemented management practices, and 3) document progress toward meeting its performance goals and management plan implementation schedules and timelines as outlined in the WSJRW Comprehensive and Constituent-Specific Surface Water Quality Management Plans (approved August 8, 2018).

MONITORING PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Coalition's monitoring sites have been designated as Discharge sites, Source Water sites, and Special Monitoring Sites according to the type of water that is conveyed through the site. Discharge sites convey agricultural drainage water. Source Water sites are located on waterways that are the source of irrigation water used by growers in the Coalition. Special Monitoring Sites include Wetland Supply Channels which supply freshwater to private, state, and federal refuges within the Coalition boundary.

Samples were collected during the 2020 Monitoring Period at Discharge and Source Water sites, including one rain and two sediment monitoring events. The Coalition also conducted Special Project Monitoring including monitoring to address management plans and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) monitoring.

Monitoring during the 2020 Monitoring Period was conducted at sites in the WSJRW region according to the strategy outlined in the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP), Attachment B to the WDR, and according to Coalition's 2020 Monitoring Plan Update (MPU; approved December 23, 2019).

Results from monitoring include exceedances of the WQTLs for dissolved oxygen (DO; 38), pH (78), specific conductivity (SC; 87), *E. coli* (58), ammonia (7), arsenic (10), boron (41),

WSJRW 2021 Surface Water Annual Report
August 24, 2021

molybdenum (10), zinc (1), DDE (5), diuron (1), and pyrethroids (20). Monitoring also resulted in water column toxicity to *C. dubia* (1), *H. azteca* (10), and *S. capricornutum* (1) and sediment toxicity to *H. azteca* (9). The exceedances and toxicities in the 2020 Monitoring Period resulted in 10 new management plans.

MANAGEMENT PLAN STRATEGY

When a management plan is developed for a site subwatershed, additional focused education and outreach efforts within the site subwatershed are required:

1. Identify members with the potential to discharge to surface waters causing exceedances of WQTLs of management plan constituents.
2. Review the member's FE survey from the year prior to initiation of Management Plan activities to determine number/type of management practices currently in place, and determine if additional practices are necessary.
3. Hold meetings as necessary to inform members of water quality impairments and recommend additional practices.
4. Review the member's FE survey from the year following initiation of Management Plan activities to document number/type of new management practices implemented.
5. Evaluate effectiveness of new management practices.

During the 2020 Monitoring Period, the Coalition and its members took actions to address requirements of the WDR and recent water quality impairments. The Coalition submitted multiple documents for approval to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) to meet the requirements of the WDR pertaining to Farm Evaluations (FEs), Nitrogen Management Plans (NMPs), and Sediment and Erosion Control Plans (SECPs). The Coalition also continued its Focused Outreach process to targeted growers to address exceedances of pesticides. The Focused Outreach process involves discussing water quality impairments as well as management practices designed to reduce runoff due to irrigation and stormwater.

CONCLUSIONS

Overall, water quality in the Coalition region is improving. The Coalition's management plan strategy is effective at identifying water quality impairments, and addressing them through education, outreach, and implementation of management practices. Improvements in water quality result in the successful completion of management plans (71 total complete management plans to date).

Since the initiation of Focused Outreach in 2018, there has been a declining trend in water quality impairments. However, water quality impairments continue to occur, in part, due to growers constantly changing land ownership, lease agreements, land use, and the Coalition continually accepting new members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Coalition identified several areas in which CVRWQCB involvement could result in improvement in water quality in the Coalition region:

1. Continue enforcement actions against non-members who have the potential to discharge.
2. Move forward with the processes to develop plans to study contamination of surface waters by *E. coli*, causes of elevated pH, and low DO.
3. Continue to work with the CV-SALTS process to develop a better understanding of the sources and sinks of salt in surface and groundwater and potential practices that can be effective in preventing exceedances.

IX B.

Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition
Paperwork Status Update for Del Puerto WD & Oak Flat WD as of 9/14/2021

<u>Survey Type</u>	<u>recvd</u>	<u>total</u>	<u>pct recvd</u>
Farm Evaluation	116	132	88%
INMPSR	116	130	89%
Overall compliance	113	133	85%

IDNo	Member Name	SurveyType	2020 FE/MWE	2020 INMPSR	paperwork req. met
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
25028B	Thoming Farms, LLC	Farm Evaluation	recvd	not recvd	INMPSR Missing
25035A	Jag Farm Management, Inc.	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25041A	Arambel, Jeff	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25058A	Apna Farms	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25073A	JKB Development, Inc.	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	not recvd	both forms missing
25076A	California Soils, Inc.	Farm Evaluation	recvd	not req	FE Missing
25081B	5G AG Management Inc.	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	recvd	FE Missing
25105A	E & C Farms, LLC c/o Justin Reeves	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	recvd	FE Missing
25119A	Amaravati Farms, LLC	Farm Evaluation	not recvd	recvd	FE 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
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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IX. C.

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

Thursday, July 29th, 2021, 10:00 AM

Click here to join Zoom meeting
Call-in Number: +1-669-900-6833
Meeting ID: 894 5724 8814
Passcode: 949585

SLDMWA Boardroom, 842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA

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
- Walt Ward, Member – Stanislaus County County
- 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
- Juan Cadena*, Alternate – Mercy Springs Water District
- Aaron Barcellos*, Member – Pacheco Water District
- Chase Hurley*, Alternate – Pacheco Water District
- Michael Linneman*, Member – Panoche Water District
- Mike Wood*, Member – San Luis Water District
- Steve Stadler*, Alternate – 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
- Scott Petersen
- Claire Howard – Provost & Pritchard

Others Present

- Hugh Bennett – Eagle Field Water District
- Chris Olvera – Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran
- Anona Dutton – EKI Environment & Water, Inc.
- Joe Hopkins – Provost & Pritchard
- Kait Palys Bautista – Provost & Pritchard

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

Aaron Barcellos/Pacheco called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

2. **Committees 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**

Chris Olvera/DWR shared that DWR's Household Water Supply Shortage Reporting System website has been updated for agencies and well owners to report dry wells. The site can be accessed at <http://mydrywatersupply.water.ca.gov>. Chris encouraged representatives to share this website with others to better track locations of dry wells.

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

- a. **Minutes for the June 24th, 2021 Joint Telephonic Meeting of the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committees and Central Delta-Mendota GSA**
- b. **May 2021 Budget to Actual Report**

No edits were shared for the June 24th meeting minutes. Joyce Machado/SLDMWA reviewed the budget to actual reports for the Northern and Central Management Committees, noting that both funds are trending positive. The Committees considered approval of the Consent Calendar as presented. Vince Lucchesi/PID provided the motion for the Northern Management Committee and Bobby Pierce/WSID seconded. The Northern Management Committee voted by roll call; the motion was passed unanimously by those present. Amy Montgomery/SNCWD provided the motion for the Central Management Committee and Danny Wade/TID seconded. The Central Management Committee voted by roll call; the motion was passed unanimously by those present.

5. **Committees to Discuss DWR Review of GSPs and State-wide Outreach to GSAs, Brodie**

John Brodie/SLDMWA provided an overview of a recent webinar hosted by DWR and State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff on the GSP assessment process. A summary of notes from this webinar was included in the meeting materials. In June 2021, DWR released assessment updates in response to four GSPs submitted in 2020. DWR clarified that these released notification letters did not constitute DWR's final determination for these GSPs. Final determinations will be shared with all 2020 GSPs by the end of January 2022 per statutory deadline.

The GSP assessment process may involve corrective actions from the GSP. There are two types of corrective actions: recommended and required. Recommended corrective actions can be incorporated into the Five-Year GSP Update, and required corrective actions must be addressed within 180 days of receiving DWR's determination. John explained that the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSPs likely won't receive determinations from DWR until the end of 2021 due to the complexity of these GSPs. The Delta-Mendota Subbasin's six GSPs will likely receive notifications and determinations at the same time. DWR also clarified that subbasins with multiple GSPs will be evaluated at the subbasin scale, indicating that the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSPs will receive the same evaluations.

DWR encouraged other GSPs to review the released assessments to better understand the evaluation process and prepare for the determinations once they're released. Since the Delta-Mendota GSPs likely won't receive input from DWR for several more months, John noted that the GSAs will likely benefit from planning ahead and anticipating potential topics or sections that DWR may address.

6. Committees to Discuss Evaluation of Projects within GSP Area, Brodie

John Brodie/SLDMWA reviewed a survey that SLDMWA staff recently shared with Committee members to seek input on the project evaluation process within the Northern and Central Regions. Three responses were received, all of which noted that project review should be at the GSA level, rather than creating a formal review process at the Committee- or GSP Group-level. Some suggestions shared via the survey included inviting GSAs to share overviews of new projects at the monthly Management Committee meetings to keep other GSP Group members informed. Survey responses also included not seeking input or approval from other members on project evaluation. Committee members did not share any additional input on this item.

7. Well Permit Review Process, Howard/County Representatives

Walt Ward/Stanislaus explained that Stanislaus County recently received well permit applications within DM-II GSA, Northwestern Delta-Mendota GSA, and Central California Irrigation District areas. The County is using these applications as test cases to refine the County's well permit review process, which has been adapted to incorporate feedback from the respective GSA. Walt also shared that the County developed a memorandum detailing this updated permit review process, which has been shared for additional review by other County staff and legal counsel.

Walt explained that if a GSA determines that the location and usage of a proposed water supply well is consistent with the adopted GSP, the GSA can provide conditional approval for new well permits that include data collection or monitoring requirements. If a GSA determines that the proposed well is not in compliance with the adopted GSP, CEQA analysis will be required. Walt explained that he is seeking additional guidance and concurrence from GSA representatives through these initial permit application reviews. Walt also provided clarification that the County is treating the well permit application within the Northwestern GSA boundaries the same way as applications in other GSAs, despite the County's role as the Northwestern GSA's representative. The Committees also briefly discussed the need to consider situations where landowners connect groundwater supply wells, via pipeline or otherwise, across GSA boundaries.

8. Committees to Discuss Process for Commenting on Draft GSP Chapters for Adjoining Subbasins, Brodie

John Brodie/SLDMWA explained that several adjoining subbasins, including Tracy, Turlock, and Modesto Subbasins, are releasing draft individual chapters or draft GSPs in the coming months in advance of the January 2022 submittal deadline. John noted that the Tracy Subbasin will hold a public session on August 10th to review their draft GSP and outline the comment process. The Committees discussed their interest in reviewing the monitoring networks outlined in these three subbasins' GSPs to better understand cross-boundary groundwater flows. SLDMWA staff and consultants will review the Tracy Subbasin GSP first. Comments will be accepted on this GSP until September 9th.

9. **Committees to Discuss 2021 GSP Implementation**

a. **Three-Month Look-Ahead Schedule, Dutton**

Anona Dutton/EKI reviewed the three-month look-ahead schedule and reminded the Committees that the anticipated GSP assessments from DWR will likely be released toward the end of the year. Anona also highlighted that the water quality monitoring period will close at the end of August; several GSAs are still coordinating their sampling process in advance of this deadline. Anona also noted that a Subbasin Technical Working Group will be scheduled with representatives from USGS and USBR to review the latest version of the CVHM2-SJB groundwater model. This meeting will likely be scheduled in mid-August.

b. **Water Quality Monitoring Activities and Responsibilities, Dumas**

Leslie Dumas/W&C requested a status update from each GSA representative regarding water quality monitoring progress. Several GSAs have already collected samples and are awaiting lab results. Adam Scheuber/DPWD shared that DPWD staff are available to support water quality monitoring for any GSAs that still need support. The Committees also confirmed the representatives who will support collecting blind sample duplicates consistent with the GSP's monitoring protocol.

c. **Interconnected Surface Water Monitoring Network Development, Dumas**

Leslie Dumas/W&C explained that she has worked with Gavin O'Leary/P&P to identify existing wells along the San Joaquin River that may be eligible inclusion in the interconnected surface water network. A draft map of these well sites was shared with Bobby Pierce/WSID, Walt Ward/Stanislaus, and Vince Lucchesi/PID for their review and input.

Kait Palys Bautista/P&P stated that she will be sharing a data request with the GSA representatives to collect additional water level data to develop contour maps for the Water Year 2021 Annual Report. The Committees discussed the value of starting these maps early, given the anticipated overlap of the GSP assessment process and upcoming grant opportunities. Leslie also asked the Committees for input on the mapping process for this next Annual Report, noting that the September Coordination Committee meeting will provide an opportunity for Subbasin representatives to discuss their desired approach for coordinated map development.

10. **Committees to Discuss Special Projects**

a. **Well Census and Inventory Project, Howard**

Claire Howard/P&P shared that Gavin O'Leary/P&P is continuing to meet with GSA representatives to review results from the well census and inventory efforts. These meetings have provided an opportunity for representatives to share feedback and identify additional well sites and associated data for inclusion in the project inventory. Gavin is also identifying well completion report data to locate sites for inclusion in monitoring efforts.

b. **Subbasin Subsidence Characterization Study and Project Feasibility Determination, Brodie**

John Brodie/SLDMWA shared that the GSI Environmental team leading the Subbasin's subsidence characterization study is requesting pumping data from GSAs and other agencies to bolster understanding of groundwater use near critical infrastructure. Data shared as part of this project will remain confidential.

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

a. Report on June 25th, 2021 Meeting

John Brodie/SLDMWA shared that the most recent inter-basin coordination meeting was held June 25th. This meeting was led by a team of facilitators from Stantec and included representatives from the Delta-Mendota, Chowchilla, Madera, and Merced Subbasins, and focused on regional subsidence. The recent inter-basin meetings have focused on identifying subsidence risks and causes, and establishing a regional area of focus.

12. Committees to Discuss Potential Funding Opportunities, Brodie

John Brodie/SLDMWA explained that budget trailer bills are anticipated to be released in late August that may provide additional funding for SGMA- or IRWM-related projects. John requested that GSA representatives update project data within the SLDMWA Opti database, which is an online site that stores project data and descriptions. Maintaining current project information in Opti will allow GSAs and member agencies to respond quickly to upcoming grant opportunities. The group discussed the possibility of updating the Opti database, which has historically been used to store IRWM projects. Leslie Dumas/W&C suggested updating the Opti database to gather additional SGMA-specific detail on projects that can benefit grant application development.

13. Next Steps

- The Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSPs will likely receive determination letters from DWR toward the end of 2021. The Subbasin's GSAs can begin considering next steps for this assessment process based on initial information shared by DWR.
- SLDMWA and consultant staff will review the Tracy, Turlock, and Modesto Subbasins' draft GSPs as they are released and prepare draft comment letters for Committees' review.
- The water quality monitoring window closes August 31st. GSAs are continuing to collect samples and confirm lab results for this reporting effort.
- GSAs are requested to share pumping data for the Subbasin's subsidence characterization study.
- Delta-Mendota Subbasin representatives continue to participate in inter-basin coordination meetings through the Subbasin's Facilitation Support Services program.
- GSA representatives are encouraged to update future project data in the Opti database to prepare for anticipated grant funding.

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

No topics were discussed under this item.

15. Future Meetings

- a. Thursday August 26th, 2021 at 10:00 AM
- b. Thursday September 23rd, 2021 at 10:00 AM
- c. Thursday October 28th, 2021 at 10:00 AM

16. ADJOURNMENT

Aaron Barcellos/Pacheco adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.

45

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NORTHERN &
CENTRAL
DELTA-
MENDOTA

IX.C.

September 9, 2021

Matt Zidar
San Joaquin County
1810 E. Hazelton Avenue
Stockton, CA 95201

Re: Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Management Committees Comments on the Draft Tracy Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dear Mr. Zidar,

Representatives from the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region GSA Management Committees (Management Committees) have coordinated in preparing this comment letter on the draft Tracy Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Tracy GSP). Members of the Management Committees collaborated to develop and submit the Northern & Central Delta-Mendota Region GSP (NCDM GSP), which was submitted as a separate GSP, but in coordination with five additional GSPs in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin in January 2020. The NCDM GSP Region borders the southern portion of the Tracy Subbasin, so groundwater management activities in both the Delta-Mendota and Tracy subbasins are critical to successful long-term management and sustainability.

Representatives from GSAs and consultant staff for both the Delta-Mendota and Tracy subbasins, along with staff from the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) representing NCDM GSP, have participated in public workshops and reviewed the Tracy GSP and meeting materials.

Additionally, representatives from both GSPs have previously met to discuss monitoring networks along the shared subbasin boundary. Building on past coordination and in anticipation of ongoing shared interest in long-term groundwater sustainability, representatives from the Management Committees have reviewed content in the Tracy GSP that references the NCDM GSP or other Delta-Mendota Subbasin activities.

The following areas were identified needing additional coordination and cooperation between our subbasins to further our shared interest in regional groundwater sustainability:

- Use of NCDM GSP implementation data to close the gap in water level Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds for representative monitoring network wells located along the subbasin boundary.
- Jointly analyze data on subsurface groundwater exchanges rather than rely on modeling to better inform assumptions within the Tracy GSP draft on Water Budget (Section 7.7), Chronic

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Lowering of Groundwater Levels (Section 9.3.1), and Degraded Water Quality (Section 9.6.5) as they relate to the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.

- Table 8.4 – Data Gap Monitoring Wells highlights several proposed monitoring wells that are of interest to the Management Committees due to their location near the subbasin boundary (also depicted in Figures 8-1 and 8-2). Knowledge of these sites' water levels and quality will aid the NCDM GSP's understanding of subsurface boundary flows and regional water quality. Sharing available data from well construction and monitoring will support shared efforts between the Tracy GSP and NCDM GSP.
- We feel that there is a general perception that actions in neighboring subbasins have a greater influence on some general conditions and sustainable management criteria in the Tracy Subbasin than activities within the Tracy Subbasin itself, admittedly without conclusive data to substantiate those inferences. We disagree with that perception.
- The Management Committees are interested in sharing information regarding future development along the subbasin boundary that may affect groundwater levels, quality, and access in the NCDM GSP area. Members are interested in ongoing communication regarding development and well permitting activity and seek ongoing awareness of activities that may affect the NCDM GSP's successful implementation.

We look forward to working with the GSAs in the Tracy Subbasin to further our shared interest in regional groundwater sustainability.

Sincerely,

Bobby Pierce
Northern Management Committee Chairperson

Aaron Barcellos
Central Management Committee Chairperson



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GSP Implementation Tracking Tool
DM-II GSA (Third Quarter 2021)

Water Level Monitoring

Site Name	DMS ID	Site Type	Spring Event	Status / Notes	Fall Event	Status / Notes
MP030.43R	01-001	IR-Lower	X	SLDMWA-monthly		
MP033.71L	01-002	IR-Lower	X	See above		
MP045.78R	01-003	IR-Lower	X	See above		
MC10-2	01-004	MW-Upper	X	See above		
MP058.28L	01-005	IR-Upper	X	See above		
91	01-006	IR-Lower	X	SLDMWA – 2X/year		
MP021.12L	01-007	Lower	X	See above		
MP051.66L	01-008	Lower	X	See above		
Potential Future Well 1	N/A	Nested				
Potential Future Well 2	N/A	Nested				
Potential Future Well 3	N/A	Nested				
Potential Future Well 4	N/A	Nested				
Potential Future Well 5	N/A	Nested				

Water Quality Monitoring

Site Name	DMS ID	Site Type	Annual Event	Status / Notes
MP030.43R	01-001	IR-Lower	x	
MP033.71L	01-002	IR-Lower		Pump motor being installed
MP045.78R	01-003	IR-Lower	x	
MC10-2	01-004	MW-Upper	x	
91	01-006	IR-Lower	x	
MP021.12L	01-007	Lower	x	
MP051.66L	01-008	Lower	x	
Gemperle	01-018	Upper	x	Well construction info needed for DMS

Commented [A1]: Revised from Sandhu well. Well census may provide construction info. Please confirm status.

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Subsidence Monitoring

Site Name	DMS ID	Site Type	Annual Event	Status / Notes
P252	01-009	CGPS	N/A	UNAVCO program - continuous
Subsidence Monitoring Point #1	01-010	Benchmark		USBR -- now planned for June-July 2021
Subsidence Monitoring Point #2	01-011	Benchmark		See above
Subsidence Monitoring Point #3	01-012	Benchmark		See above
Subsidence Monitoring Point #4	01-013	Benchmark		See above
Subsidence Monitoring Point #5	01-014	Benchmark		See above
Subsidence Monitoring Point #7	01-015	Benchmark		See above
Subsidence Monitoring Point #9	01-016	Benchmark		See above
Subsidence Monitoring Point #10	01-017	Benchmark		See above

Commented [A2]: Please confirm whether this occurred.

Interconnected Surface Water Monitoring

Site Name	DMS ID	Site Type	Spring Event	Status / Notes	Fall Event	Status / Notes
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			

Method to Improve Reporting of Annual Groundwater Extraction Data

Groundwater Production Wells Within GSA	Method	Status / Notes
Upper Aquifer Wells	Metering Planned	Currently estimated based upon ET minus surface water deliveries
Lower Aquifer Wells	Metering Planned	See above

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Methodology Used to Report Annual Water Use Data

Water Use Category	Method Used to Report Annual Water Use Data			
	Surface Water	Groundwater	Reused/Recycled	Other
Agricultural	Metered	Estimated; plan to require metering in the future	N/A	N/A
Urban / Domestic / Municipal		De minimis		
Industrial		De minimis		
Managed Wetlands				
Managed Recharge				
Native Vegetation				
Other				

Projects

Project Name	Anticipated / Project Development Status			
	Prelim Design	CEQA/Permitting	Design	Construction
Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project	Complete	Fall 2022	In-progress; Jan 2022	Complete by Fall 2023
North Valley Regional Recycled Water Program (NVRWWP) – Modesto and Early Turlock Years	Complete	Complete	Complete	Completed March 2020
Del Puerto Canyon Reservoir Project	Estm. 2021	Estm. 2024	Estm. 2024	Estm. 2028

Commented [A3]: Please provide updated information, as appropriate

Tier 1 Management Actions (Shared Among GSAs)

Name	Anticipated Schedule / Management Action Development Status
Lower Aquifer Pumping Rules	Discussed at coordination meeting in May 2020.
Maximize Use of Other Water Supplies	Continue work on sustainable surface alternatives like the NVRWWP.
Increasing GSA Access to / Input on Well Permits	Participation in N-C Region process.
Drought Contingency Planning in Urban Areas	N/A
Fill Data Gaps	Working to identify well locations and begin process of requiring metering of wells.

Commented [A4]: Please provide updated information, as appropriate

Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach

Outreach Activity	Date	Subject Matter
Public Meetings		Standing SGMA item at Board meetings. Plan for SGMA-focused committee meeting.
Newsletters, Flyers and Other Written Materials		
Website posting/emails		
Other		Planning individual outreach to landowners regarding well data.

Commented [A5]: Please provide updated information, as appropriate

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Other

Additional Actions	Comments
<i>Improve understanding of industrial water usage</i>	
<i>Considering water metering and reporting policy</i>	

Note:

(a) The representative monitoring sites identified for each GSA are based on the DMS ID numbers, and reflect Representative Monitoring Network tables updated by Woodard & Curran in April and June 2021.

Completed By: _____
Date: _____

For Sampling Procedures and Protocols, see: GSP Appendix F: Quality Assurance Program Plan; W&C Training Materials For GSP Implementation Requirements, see: GSP Section 7; and W&C January, April, and June 2021 Representative Monitoring Network Tables. Please attach any relevant information in support of activities listed above.

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IX E

Anthea Hansen

From: Houston, David@Waterboards <David.Houston@Waterboards.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 2:57 PM
To: Anthea Hansen; Adam Scheuber
Cc: Way, Kristen@Waterboards
Subject: Re: 8507-110 Irrigation System Improvement Project II

Hi Anthea,

Unfortunately I don't have a definitive answer just yet. My understanding is that the previous Irrigation System Improvement Project was funded using the Agricultural Drainage Loan Program (ADLP) but funds would have to be reappropriated so they wouldn't be available for a while. A similar program called the Agricultural Drainage Management Loan Program (ADMMLP) is apparently continuously appropriated so funds could potentially be available. Management was determining whether this was in fact feasible. I have a meeting with our senior engineer tomorrow, I will check to see if I can provide a status update.

Dave



David M. Houston, P.E.

Water Resource Control Engineer
Division of Financial Assistance, Water Recycling Funding Program
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 "I" Street, 16th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 322-6042 | david.houston@waterboards.ca.gov

From: Anthea Hansen <ahansen@delpuertowd.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 1:57 PM
To: Houston, David@Waterboards <David.Houston@Waterboards.ca.gov>; Adam Scheuber <ascheuber@delpuertowd.org>
Cc: Way, Kristen@Waterboards <Kristen.Way@Waterboards.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: 8507-110 Irrigation System Improvement Project II

EXTERNAL:

Hi David,

Just sending you another check-in to see if there are any opportunities for us to move forward.

Thanks!

Anthea
Anthea G. Hansen
General Manager
Del Puerto Water District

