Delta-Mendota Subbasin

Technical Working Group Meeting

Tuesday, June 19, 2018, 10:00 AM

842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA

Meeting Minutes

**Voluntary Technical Working Group Representatives in Attendance**

Jarrett Martin (Central California Irrigation District/SJRECWA)

Will Halligan (Luhdorff & Scalmanini [LSCE], Consulting Engineers/Farmers WD and Fresno County)

Joe Hopkins (Provost & Pritchard/ Aliso WD)

John Beam (Grassland WD)

Rick Iger (Provost & Pritchard; by phone)

Ben Fenters (San Luis WD)

Lacey Kiriakou (Merced County)

Adam Scheuber (Del Puerto WD; by phone)

Alejandro Paolini (San Luis Canal Company)

Glenn Allen (Fresno County)

Christina Guzman (Fresno County; by phone)

Ric Ortega (Grassland WD)

Kait Palys (Provost & Pritchard)

Leroy Ellinghouse (DWR)

Chris Olvera (DWR)

Andrew Francis (LSCE)

Briana Seapy (California Fish and Wildlife; by phone)

**Authority Representatives Present**

Andrew Garcia

Zachary Roy

Others in Attendance

Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran

1. Introductions

Leslie Dumas/Woodard & Curran called the meeting to order at approximately 10:05 AM.

1. Review of Meeting Minutes from May 15, 2018

There were no comments on the draft meeting minutes from the May 15, 2018 Technical Working Group meeting. The minutes will be finalized.

1. SGWP Grant Update

Leslie Dumas (Woodard & Curran) provided an update on the SGWP grant application status. The Work Plan, Budget and Schedule attachments to the grant application were revised using input from the GSPs. The budget attachment was then revised again to match the final grant distribution agreement (as this was still in the works when the grant application was drafted). GSP budget numbers were increased or decreased proportionally to meet the agreed-upon funding allocation. The revised attachments have been sent to DWR.

After the funding agreement has been executed, SLDMWA will distribute the individual agreements for the funding allocations. This agreement has already been drafted and will be distributed by Andrew Garcia.

The draft funding agreement is presently on Chris Olvera’s (DWR) desk. Included in the draft agreement are draft templates for progress reports and invoices. Chris will send out the draft agreement to Bobby Pierce (WSID) when completed. Leslie Dumas will extract and distribute the templates as appropriate for the GSPs to use. As a reminder, funding reimbursement can cover costs from July 1, 2017 to the present.

1. TSS Application Update

Andrew Garcia (Water Authority) provided an update on the status of the Technical Support Services (TSS) application. The draft general application has been completed and will go to DWR today. Services requested include new monitoring wells, video surveying and water level training. Once the general application has been reviewed and approved, the Subbasin can submit specific requests for prioritized services.

1. Presentation by PPIC on San Joaquin Valley Recharge Study

Ellen Hanak of the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) provided a presentation on their recent study and white paper entitled *Replenishing Groundwater in the San Joaquin Valley*. The presentation and white paper are included as attachments to these meeting minutes, along with a second PPIC publication entitled *Water Stress and a Changing San Joaquin Valley*.

1. Water Budget Comparison

A discussion regarding how to compare the 6 GSP water budgets began with a presentation of the Aliso WD GSA draft historical water budget by Joe Hopkins (Provost & Pritchard). Aliso Water District relies predominantly on groundwater for it’s supplies, though it does obtain some surface water from the San Joaquin River, via a local bypass and Cottonwood Creek. The District also contains two recharge ponds which are used to recharge the basin with surface water when available.

Provost & Pritchard started the water budget with a detailed data request to Aliso Water District growers. Specific information queries included cropping and water use data, water elevations and water quality. The historic water budget covers a period from 2003 to 2012, the it closed on groundwater use (that is, they back-calculated groundwater use as most wells in the District are not metered). The budget used 50% of effective precipitation as water to water use (that is, as an offset to meet crop demands), with an additional 30% going to deep percolation and the remaining 20% as surface runoff. They used the recharge study prepared for the Settlement Study as part of their data source, included estimating Cottonwood Creek recharge from soil textures and the SAGBI Index, and Mendota Pool recharge based on work by Ken Schmidt. Groundwater outflow was calculated by Ken based on water elevations and aquifer properties. Finally, irrigation efficiency was averaged by crop by year, with data obtained from ITRC. The historic water budget has not yet been shared with the adjoining subbasins.

A discussion then occurred over how to compare the water budgets prepared by the 6 GSPs. It was suggested that there are three key areas that could be compared: boundary flows, change in storage and key assumptions for specific parameters (especially as they related to the projected future water budget assumptions).

Due to time constraints, the conversation was tabled and will be resumed on next Monday’s (June 25th) conference call.

1. Presentation by Sustainable Conservation and Earth Genome on their GRAT tool

Joe Choperena from Sustainable Conservation and Glen Low from Earth Genome demonstrated their Groundwater Recharge Assessment Tool (GRAT). The tool was beta tested with Madera and Tulare Irrigation Districts and costs between $100,000 and $200,000 for setup and customization, plus around $10,000 to $20,000 annually for upgrades.

1. Next Steps

Discussions regarding the process by which the water budgets will be analyzed and compared will continue on the next Monday call (June 25, 2018).

1. Adjourn

Leslie Dumas/Woodard & Curran adjourned the Technical Working Group meeting at approximately 1:05 PM