

**Delta-Mendota Subbasin
Technical Working Group Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 10:00 AM
842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA**

Meeting Minutes

Voluntary Technical Subcommittee Representatives in Attendance

Glenn Allen (Fresno County)

Ben Fenters (San Luis WD)

Christina Guzman (Fresno County)

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

Joe Hopkins (Provost & Pritchard/ Aliso WD and Grassland WD)

Rick Iger (Provost & Pritchard/ Aliso WD and Grassland WD)

Lacey Kiriakou (Merced County)

Jarrett Martin (Central California Irrigation District/SJRECWA)

Palmer McCoy (San Luis Canal Company)

Adam Scheuber (Del Puerto WD)

Jim Stillwell (Farmers WD)

Ric Ortega (Grassland WD)

Derrick Williams (Hydrometrix/Wonderful Orchards)

Larry Harris (TIWD)

Authority Representatives Present

Andrew Garcia

Others in Attendance

Leslie Dumas – Woodard & Curran

1. Introductions

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

2. Review of Meeting Minutes from January 22, 2018

There were no comments on the draft meeting minutes from the January 22, 2018 Technical Working Group meeting.

3. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development

Leslie Dumas noted that Woodard & Curran is currently reviewing the table and will be finalizing and sending out for review and comment. In terms of monitoring, many agencies have already done their monitoring rounds for the quarter, and the rest should be done by the end of March.

Will Halligan noted prior discussions regarding starting monthly monitoring. He stated that Farmers WD and the Mendota Pool Group do a lot of coordinating for monitoring with the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors, and in general, they try to cover successive months around the peak to identify and document the low point in groundwater elevations and its subsequent recovery. This means that they are monitoring approximately 7 to 8 months of the year.

Joe Hopkins noted that Aliso WD measures approximately twice a year, and that they are currently looking at putting transducers in some of their wells. (One of their wells is currently monitored by transducer). He suggested that the group look at expanding transducers use in key wells. Joe also noted that Madera County does water level measurements for CASGEM in the Aliso area (in approximately 7 or 8 wells).

Jarrett Martin noted that the Exchange Contractors have a mix of monthly and quarterly monitoring rounds and suggested that they are trying to get water quality data on irrigation wells.

Andrew Garcia notes that DWR has a new stakeholder/representative for subsidence monitoring. Will Halligan then noted that Michelle Sneed does the subsidence monitoring for the Mendota Pool Group. It was further mentioned that the Reclamation website for subsidence also has data that we can use.

The working group then agreed to work to develop a preliminary baseline monitoring program for the Delta-Mendota Basin, starting with what's in CASGEM. But to do this, we first need to identify the aquifer characteristics and then note where the wells are located (both spatially and vertically) and then identify the data gaps. The goal is to try and get funding through DWR's new Technical Support Services program for dedicated monitoring wells and/or transducers.

The working group further agreed to dedicate the next in-person meeting to developing this preliminary basin-wide monitoring program focusing on monitoring for water levels, change in storage and water quality. The meeting will be held on March 20th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the SLDMWA Administration Offices. Each GSP is to come prepared with information relative to basin characteristics and monitoring information (including well inventory information).

It was subsequently agreed to use the April in-person meeting (on April 17, 2018) to focus on subsidence monitoring and invite the DWR representative to that meeting.

4. Upcoming (March) Scheduled Milestones

Northern & Central DM GSP: Started working on Administrative and Plan Setting GSP sections, and are continuing to collect data. We just got the CVHM2 data sets in-house and are reviewing what they contain. Next up is to start on basin characterization and the HCM.

Grassland GSP: Currently working on the basin characterization with Ken Schmidt and making appropriate maps. Next up is to start on the water balances. One focus of the mapping is on delineating the wetted areas in the Refuge as they bring water in during the fall and then drain it off. Additionally, based on the hydrographs, they are seeing the change in storage numbers going up and are trying to understand where and how. Finally, their website is done but they have not yet filed the notice of GSP preparation.

Aliso GSP: Currently working on the basin characterization and are about 90% done. They are doing the change in storage calculations right now (incorporating January and February measurements) and have a draft water balance done (currently under internal review). The Aliso WD Board approved moving forward with the SGMA website, so that's up next along with filing the notice of GSP preparation.

Farmers GSP: Currently looking into website development, and hope to have an answer in a couple of weeks. Next up is website development along with filing the notice of GSP preparation. They are also currently looking at DMS organization using the Mendota Pool Group database as a starting point, pulling in key data sets. Finally, they are developing their GSP document framework with respects to where they can pull in information from the Mendota Pool Group EIR/EIS 20-year review and annual reports. Also doing some work in evaluating their monitoring network.

Fresno GSP: Currently, a lot of what LSCE is doing for the Farmers GSP is in parallel with and potentially duplicative of what needs to be done for the Fresno GSP. The next item to tackle is projecting the model domain to the south into Tranquillity ID. (The model currently ends at the wildlife refuge.)

SJREC GSP: Currently, the HCM is approximately 90% complete along with the geologic conditions; working on tweaking the work and mapping refinements. They are also working on the historic water budget and developing chapters for the cities in the GSP area, along with doing the HCM and water budgets. After that, they will be expanding the water budgets and HCM to fill in the holes in Fresno and Madera Counties.

Basinwide: The group then discussed how to coordinate the GSPs for submittal to DWR. One idea is to have a common chapter included in all GSPs (similar to what has been done for IRWM Plans). This common chapter could include an overview, a discussion of basinwide setting, characterization and HCM, and basinwide monitoring program. It then could have summary sections for each GSP that are, in essence, the Executive Summaries of the GSPs. It was agreed that we should check with DWR relative to how to integrate the GSPs. It was noted that the Kings Basin has 7 GSPs and that they are doing the common chapter approach.

5. Discussion about pursuing DWR Technical Support Services

DWR is offering Technical Support Services (TSS) to GSAs on a first come-first serve basis. Services offered include groundwater level monitoring training, borehole video logging, geophysical logging, geologic logging and monitoring well installation. Applications are going to be accepted on a rolling basis, but we do not know how much money is available. Information on the TSS can be found here: <https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement>

Also, the comment period on the SGWP grant awards has been extended to February 28, 2018.

6. Next Steps

The next Technical Subcommittee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at the SLDMWA Administrative Offices in Los Banos. Agreement on basin-wide aquifer definition and preliminary basin-wide monitoring network development will be the primary topics. Everyone should come prepared with appropriate information for their GSP area.

Leslie Dumas will follow up with the basin DWR rep regarding approach for GSP coordination.

The April 17, 2018 meeting will focus on subsidence monitoring.

7. Adjourn

Leslie Dumas/Woodard & Curran adjourned the Technical Working Group meeting at approximately 11:55 a.m.