

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

**Tuesday, April 17, 2018, 10:00 AM
842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA**

Meeting Minutes

Voluntary Technical Working Group Representatives in Attendance

Ben Fenters (San Luis WD)

Christina Guzman (Fresno County)

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

Joe Hopkins (Provost & Pritchard/ Aliso WD)

Kaitlin Palys (Provost & Pritchard)

Lacey Kiriakou (Merced County; by phone)

Jarrett Martin (Central California Irrigation District/SJRECWA)

Palmer McCoy (San Luis Canal Company)

Glenn Allen (Fresno County)

Larry Harris (Turner Island WD; by phone)

Alejandro Paolini (San Luis Canal Company)

Vince Lucchesi (Patterson ID)

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 10:05 AM.

2. Review of Meeting Minutes from March 20, 2018

There were no comments on the draft meeting minutes from the March 20, 2018 Technical Working Group meeting.

3. SWGP Grant Update

Leslie Dumas gave an update on the 2017 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant that was submitted to DWR on behalf of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. Both the Category 1 and Category 2 portions of the grant application were fully funded. A draft funding agreement should be out next week, and we are currently waiting on the funding agreement for Category 1 projects to start. Leslie also provided an overview of how the grant works; specifically, up to 50% advance funding can be requested once the funding agreement has been executed, but these monies have to be placed in a non-interest-bearing account until spent. Additionally, advance funding requires several additional items/actions be conducted, such as submitting a spending plan to DWR as part of the advance payment request. All other funding is received via reimbursement.

Aliso WD, Farmers WD, and SJREC expressed that they would all prefer a full reimbursement program. There was also an expressed interest in seeking advanced pay for Category 1 projects only. Leslie agreed to confirm advanced pay for Category 1 projects with the Delta-Mendota Coordination Committee.

4. Updates to 3/20/18 Action Items

Leslie Dumas lead the discussion following up on the action items resulting from the March 20th meeting. All items needed were received by Woodard & Curran and Provost & Pritchard. An internal meeting is planned (between W&C and P&P) to discuss how to organize data to support the modeling efforts of the Northern & Central GSP.

The basinwide monitoring network was discussed and the Technical Working Group members should work toward a preliminary basinwide monitoring program. CASGEM wells should be used and the CASGEM program should continue as is for 2018 and 2019. A need to draft contour maps was expressed.

5. GSP Status and Upcoming (May) Scheduled Milestones

The Water Authority and Westlands Water District are working on executing a data sharing agreement to allow for sharing of the Groundwater Quality Assessment Report (GAR) data for points within 5 miles of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin boundary. This data sharing agreement will only be for the Northern & Central GSP; all other GSPs will need to sign separate data sharing agreements with Westlands or authorize the Water Authority to sign on their behalf. Andrew sent an email about this to everyone on Monday April 16th. Similar data sharing agreement discussions will likely need to occur with other adjoining subbasins. Andrew Garcia said he has started a similar conversation with Debbie Liebersbach at Turlock Irrigation District.

Northern & Central DM GSP: CVHM2 files will be in house in the next week or two. Waiting on GAR files to develop the Basin Setting section of the GSP. Starting to discuss management areas and definition of undesirable results.

Grassland GSP: Currently working on Basin Setting section of GSP. Also working on the water budget in parallel with the basin setting, however, there are data gaps in the water budget relating to GDE data.

Aliso GSP: Presenting the water budgets to the Board next Tuesday. The GSP website will also be discussed at next Tuesday's Board meeting.

Farmers GSP: In the process of integrating sources of information for the Basin Setting section of the GSP for management areas. Waiting on GAR data.

Fresno GSP: LSCE is now under contract to develop Fresno GSP. Recently received approval to move forward with NOP and website and will be doing this next.

SJREC GSP: Close to having a draft Memorandum of Understanding and Cost Share agreement with cities. Working on water budget for cities and thinking about how to do one for Merced County. Going to meet with Turner Island Water District about their water budget

Basinwide: Andrew will send the latest and final version of the Coordination Agreement next week.

6. Common Chapter

A discussion about a common chapter between all of the Delta-Mendota GSP regions will be brought up to the Coordination Committee for approval. An estimated cost for developing the common chapter is being developed. Leslie Dumas also related information relative to signatures on the GSPs following conversations with DWR and the California Board of Professional Engineers. Per the GSP regulations, it's the Basin Setting portion of the GSP that needs to be signed by a license engineer or geologist. After discussion, the group agreed the best approach would be to have a separate signature page for the common chapter that contains a disclosure and stamps/signatures for each preparer of the coordinated GSPs, with separate signature page and stamps for each individual GSP.

7. Interbasin Coordination Agreements

See discussion (item #5) above relative to data sharing agreement with Westlands.

8. Basinwide Monitoring Networks, Data Collection, Reporting and Maintenance

A discussion on coordinating basin monitoring programs to date was held. The Working Group agreed to use the existing CASGEM monitoring program for that effort for the next 2 years (until a basinwide monitoring program is developed under the GSPs). However, a similar program needs to be developed for subsidence and water quality. Also, how the basinwide monitoring will be implemented in future needs to be discussed (e.g. does a single organization do it or do the individual GSPs do their portions and then share the data). Another question is how the resultant data get shared and uploaded to DMS, and who manages the DMS.

SJREC specifically addresses monitoring data collection in their MOU with cities.

9. Basinwide Subsidence

Provost & Pritchard provided maps showing subsidence as measured by NASA and USBR, subsidence relative to wells, subsidence relative to major infrastructure, and subsidence relative to subsidence monitoring locations. A suggestion was made to provide a table showing the subsidence monitoring locations by source.

One of the primary problems with monitoring subsidence is where it happens and when it happens (differential movement). A suggestion was made to use CORS (Continuously Operating Reference Stations) network for basinwide subsidence monitoring.

Jarrett Martin agreed to give Provost & Pritchard the subsidence data sets he has and Provost & Pritchard will vet these sources. Provost & Pritchard will make maps for the CASGEM and CORS sites for the basinwide monitoring program.

LSCE mentioned that they are going to use the Farm Package to simulate subsidence.

For most of the SJREC service area, the A Clay doesn't exist and they do not really use sub-Corcoran groundwater, so most of the subsidence happening in their area is from pumping occurring outside their area of control, and there's nothing they can really do to manage that except coordinate with the adjoining subbasin where the pumping is occurring. SJREC doesn't expect a huge modification to future groundwater extractions.

Due to time limitations, the Technical Workgroup members agreed to pick up this subsidence discussion on Monday's call (April 23rd) and during the next in-person meeting on May 15th.

10. Basinwide Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

Due to time limitations, the Technical Workgroup members agreed to pick up discussion of about Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems on Monday's call (April 23rd) and during the next in-person meeting on May 15th.

11. Preliminary GDE Discussion

Due to time limitations, the Technical Workgroup members agreed to pick up discussion of about Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems on Monday's call (April 23rd) and during the next in-person meeting on May 15th.

12. Next Steps

Continue subsidence and GDE discussions

13. Adjourn

Leslie Dumas/Woodard & Curran adjourned the Technical Working Group meeting at approximately 12:50 PM