

**Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination
Technical Sub-Committee**

**Monday September 11, 2017, 10:00 AM
San Joaquin River Exchange Contractor's
Office
541 H Street, Los Banos,**

Meeting Minutes

Stakeholders in Attendance

Kirsten Pringle – Stantec Facilitator
Andrew Garcia – SLDMWA
Larry Harris – Turner Island Water District
Will Halligan – Luhdorff & Scalmanini (Farmers WD)
Jarrett Martin – Central California Irrigation District / Exchange Contractors
Glenn Alenn – Fresno County
Christina Guzman – Fresno County
Joe McGahan – Panoche WD / Central DM Multi-Agency GSA
Joe Hopkins – Provost and Pritchard (Aliso WD)
Rick Iger – Provost and Pritchard
Jim Stillwell – Farmers WD
Ken Swanson – Grasslands WD
Palmer McCoy – San Luis Canal Company
Ben Fenters – San Luis Water District / Central DM Multi-Agency GSA

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Kirsten Pringle at approximately 10:05 AM.

2. Current SGMA Technical Work or Studies

There was a discussion about current Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) technical work and other related studies being conducted by the Groundwater Sustainable Agencies (GSA) and GSA member agencies. Jarrett Martin gave a brief explanation of the data management system and maps developed by the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors). There was discussion about potentially using the Exchange Contractors' database as a foundation for the coordinated subbasin-wide database required by SGMA. Joe Hopkins gave a brief explanation the water budget study being conducted by Aliso Water District. Andrew Garcia gave a brief explanation of the California Statewide Elevation Groundwater Monitoring (CASGEM) dataset maintained by the San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority (Authority). There was a discussion about how to coordinate existing databases. The databases and datasets should be shown and distributed for each GSA to review formatting and available information.

3. Coordinated Plan Assumptions

There was a lengthy discussion about the assumptions in the subbasin coordination

agreement, including the coordinated monitoring network, data, and methodologies. Andrew Garcia with the Authority discussed using the Authority's CASGEM database as the foundation for the coordinated monitoring network and sharing the costs of hiring a consultant to identify potential data gaps. Mr. Garcia will present the CASGEM database and well locations to the group at the next Technical Subcommittee meeting. The Sub-Committee discussed which water quality constituents should be monitored as part of the coordinated monitoring network. There was further discussion on the approaches for developing a coordinated methodology for calculating the sustainable yield for the subbasin. Rick Iger noted that the coordinated assumptions and methodologies are very important, and that the group must resolve these inconsistencies and create a characterization of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin before any GSP group can meaningfully continue their GSP work. Will Halligan expressed concerns with the Exchange Contractors methodology with respect to future forecasting or all aspect required by SGMA. Jarret Martin asked for an example of his concerns so they could talk through the issue. Mr. Hannigan could not come up with a specific example, but hoped Jarrett or Ken Schmidt could describe their approach to complying with the SGMA requirements using their methodology. It was requested that at the next meeting each Sub-Committee member bring a list of assumptions they are using in development of their agency's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). It was requested that Mr. Garcia invite a representative from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to attend the next Sub-Committee meeting and provide a presentation on the requirements for shared methodologies in the Coordination Agreement. Mr. Garcia responded that he would invite a DWR staff member.

4. Coordinated Efforts and Cost Sharing

Andrew Garcia from the Authority led a discussion on the potential cost share options for Coordination Agreement efforts. The Sub-Committee discussed what should be included in the coordinated efforts, including hiring a consultant to develop a coordinated database and establish a coordinated monitoring network. Jarrett Martin with the Exchange Contractors stated that the Exchange Contractors would not pay for the database if the database the Exchange Contractors developed was used as the foundation for the coordinated database. Jim Stillwell noted that Farmers Water District estimated the cost of developing a GSP by itself and the cost was very high; therefore, he was in support of splitting costs among the GSAs. The Sub-Committee members also discussed potentially sharing costs for outreach efforts and developing a shared methodology for calculating the sustainable yield of the basin. The Committee understands there will be shared costs, but is deferring for this meeting the determination of what the coordinated subbasin efforts and shared costs will be. Mr. Garcia stated that an estimate of these costs needs to be determined in order to include this request of funds in the Prop 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant, which is to be submitted by November 2017.

It was agreed that the Technical Committee would recommend to the Joint Management Committee that the GSP coordination expenses be split 50% equally among the six GSPs and 50% by acreage; however, the cost share would have the option of amendment later in the form of a "true up" later in the GSP development process. Grasslands Water District, as a member of this Technical Subcommittee, did not agree to the cost split recommendation. The Technical Sub-Committee also recommended that the Coordination Agreement include language on the cost share and the process for amending the cost share amounts.

5. Next Steps

The Sub-Committee discussed potential agenda items for the next meeting, including a presentation from DWR on shared methodologies in the Coordination Agreement, a discussion of existing databases within the subbasin, and developing an approach for determining a subbasin-wide sustainable yield, change in groundwater in storage, and water budget, list of assumptions or issues in GSP development. Next Meeting was scheduled for Monday September 25th.

6. Adjourn

Kirsten Pringle adjourned the Technical Sub-Committee Meeting at approximately 1:10 PM.

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