

Delta-Mendota Subbasin
Coordination- Technical Sub-Committee

Monday September 25, 2017, 10:00 AM
842 6th Street, Los Banos, CA

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

1. Introductions

Andrew Garcia, San Luis Delta Mendota Water Authority (Authority), called the meeting to order at approximately 10:03 AM.

2. Meeting Minutes Review

Mr. Garcia stated that the draft meeting minutes from the previous meeting were provided via email earlier that day and stated that suggested revisions to the meeting minutes should be provided to him before the next meeting.

3. CASGEM Well Network and Database Presentation

Mr. Garcia gave a presentation of the Authority's California Statewide Elevation Groundwater Monitoring (CASGEM) Well Network database. Jarrett Martin, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors), gave a presentation of the Exchange Contractor's well database. Mr. Garcia proposed using the CASGEM Well Network as the foundation for the subbasin-wide coordinated well network and using the Exchange Contractors' well database as a template for the subbasin-wide coordinated database. The group discussed Mr. Garcia's proposal, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements for coordinated data management, and potential costs associated with developing the coordinated database.

4. Discussion of Coordinated Efforts with DWR Representatives

Trever Joseph and Mark Nordberg from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) led a discussion of SGMA requirements for the coordination agreement. Mr. Joseph explained that the sustainable yield of the basin is more than a single value, it's also a description of sustainability indicators. Mr. Martin asked if different management areas could have different sustainable yield. Mr. Joseph responded that each management area could have a different minimum threshold, which should be used as sustainability indicator for the basin; however, the coordination agreement should agree on the definition of thresholds and objectives for the subbasin. The group discussed whether the technical elements of the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP), such as data water budget and sustainable yield, could be developed with different methodologies, as long as the GSP groups coordinate. Mr. Joseph stated that SGMA requires the methodologies must be the same for each GSP and cautioned against using two different methodologies. The group discussed the difference between developing a single GSP for the subbasin with designated management areas or developing multiple GSPs. Mr. Joseph stated that the

technical standards for each method are the same. The group discussed using a model-based methodology vs database methodology for calculating the subbasin's water budget and sustainable yield. Some participants expressed concerns about using the database methodology to develop projections for the subbasin. Mr. Martin agreed to schedule a meeting between DWR staff and Ken Schmidt, consultant to the Exchange Contractors, to discuss the Exchange Contractors' database methodology for groundwater.

Break

The group took a break at 12:06 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 12:25 p.m.

5. GSP Coordinated Efforts

The group discussed ongoing GSP preparation efforts. Joe Hopkins, Provost and Pritchard, stated that his firm was collecting data and starting to develop an initial water budget for Aliso Water District and other local agencies. Mr. Joseph reminded the group that each GSA needs to prepare an official notification to DWR and stakeholders when it begins preparation of a GSP. Mr. Garcia led a discussion of the cost share agreement for the Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Projects grant. The group discussed methods of splitting the costs of coordinated activities outlined in the grant. Ken Swanson, Grasslands Water District, and Ben Fenters, San Luis Water District, proposed splitting costs by pumping volumes. Mr. Martin proposed developing different cost split options for each cost-share item. Mr. Garcia proposed an equal split for certain coordinated costs, such as meeting facilitation, subbasin coordination, and the plan manager. Mr. Martin and Mr. Garcia clarified that the role of the Plan Manager would only be to submit the plans to DWR and serve as a point of contact. They noted that there would be a separate role for a plan coordinator. The group discussed what would be included as coordinated costs. Several individuals noted that their agency would want to conduct public and stakeholder outreach themselves. Mr. Garcia agreed to provide estimates of the coordinated cost items at the next meeting.

6. Next Steps

Mr. Martin agreed to schedule a meeting between DWR and Exchange Contractors consultants to discuss the database approach to calculating basin sustainability.

Mr. Garcia agreed to provide estimates of the costs of coordinated activities, for the purposes of the grant, at the next meeting.

Mr. Garcia agreed to provide options for dividing coordinated costs at the next meeting.

Mr. Garcia agreed to send out a poll to schedule the next meeting.

7. Adjourn

Kirsten Pringle, Stantec, adjourned the Technical Sub-Committee Meeting at approximately 2:00 p.m..