



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

Wednesday, August 8, 2018

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

San Joaquin County – Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Avenue – Assembly Room #1, Stockton, California

- I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Safety Announcement/Introductions
- II. **SCHEDULED ITEMS** – *Presentation materials to be posted on ESJGroundwater.org and emailed prior to the meeting. Copies of presentation materials will be available at the meeting.*
 - A. **Discussion /Action Items:**
 1. Approval of Minutes of July 11, 2018 (See Attached)
 2. Minimum Thresholds
 3. Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model
 4. Projected Water Budget
 5. Project and Management Actions
 6. Schedule Recap
- III. **Public Comment (non-agendized items)**
- IV. **Future Agenda Items**
- V. **Adjournment**

Next Regular Meeting

September 12, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

San Joaquin County - Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Ave., Assembly Rm. #1, Stockton, California

Action may be taken on any item

Agendas and Minutes may also be found at <http://www.ESJGroundwater.org>

Note: If you need disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact San Joaquin County Public Works Water Resources Staff at (209) 468-3089 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2018

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Safety Announcement/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Advisory Committee meeting was convened by Carolyn Lott, facilitator, at 9:08 a.m., on July 11, 2018, at the Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center, 2101 East Earhart Ave. Stockton, CA. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a representative (Lowell Allen) of the San Joaquin County Office of Emergency Services provided the required safety information.

In attendance were the following Advisory Committee Members: George Biagi, Lance Roberts, Mel Lytle, Walter Ward, Mike Henry, Emily Sheldon, Kris Balaji, Peter Rietkerk, Cathy Lee, and Doug Heberle.

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Discussion Items:

1. Approval of Minutes of June 13, 2018

Mr. Grant Thompson moved, and Mr. Lance Roberts seconded the approval of the June 13 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Minimum Thresholds

Ms. Alyson Watson (Woodard & Curran) gave a presentation on setting minimum thresholds. Mr. Mike Henry asked when results related to Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) are expected. Ms. Watson noted that the screening portion would be done prior to next meeting. Mr. Thompson asked a clarifying question about GDEs, and Ms. Watson responded that GDEs by definition must have high groundwater. Dr. Mel Lytle requested to focus interest in areas that are most effectual. For example, a drop of five feet in an area with high groundwater may not be as critical as in an area where there is a historical depression. Ms. Watson responded that we will be focusing on areas that have had issues in the past. Mr. George Biagi asked if the areas of red on the presentation slide have authority to come up with a plan in areas of drop and asked for clarification on the intent of the exercise. Ms. Watson indicated that we will work as a group to determine what needs to happen as a basin. She additionally clarified the steps of the exercise and where we are at in the process. Mr. Peter Rietkerk echoed Dr. Lytle's comments about focus areas in the basin.

Degraded Water Quality Sustainability Indicator

Ms. Watson presented on setting minimum thresholds for the Degraded Water Quality sustainability indicator. Ms. Cathy Lee asked if other contaminants related to agriculture would be evaluated, and Ms. Watson clarified that the focus will be on salinity, but others will be discussed. Mr. Henry asked a clarifying question about evaporation versus irrigation return water, and Ms. Christy Kennedy (Woodard & Curran) and Ms. Watson responded that the source of salinity is irrigation return water and that evaporation causes irrigation return water to be of higher salinity. Mr. Thompson asked about well depth for deep salty water. Mr. Brandon Nakagawa, San Joaquin County Water Resources Coordinator, and Ms. Kennedy answered indicating that some deep wells installed by the County along the western front found salinity at about 200 feet. Dr. Lytle noted that in the South Stockton area there were old oil and groundwater wells that were not abandoned properly, indicating further that this was an additional finding of the USGS study.

Mr. Henry asked if a contour line was set, would we continue to monitor all the wells outside so any creep of salinity could be detected. Ms. Watson answered that we could set monitoring however the group decides. Dr. Lytle noted that the different sources of salinity make setting a contour line complicated, indicating that there is a potential impact from deep water and that the concept of the

saline front is not behaving as anticipated. Mr. Roberts asked for clarification on setting minimum thresholds, asking if the thresholds will be customized by GSA. Ms. Watson indicated that for groundwater levels, we are setting geographic-specific thresholds, but that this has not been decided yet for other sustainability indicators. Mr. Ali Taghavi (Woodard & Curran) commented on the complexity of salinity intrusion, and Dr. Lytle added that the concept of the saline front is not representative of what is happening in the basin. Dr. Lytle indicated that the monitoring well thresholds would be more representative.

Mr. Walt Ward noted that we need to be careful of what we intend to do and go back to the SGMA regulations to discuss what degradation means, then only go back to January 2015. Mr. Ward indicated potentially looking at gradient change along the western boundary as there is not enough data and time to fully iron this out. Dr. Lytle noted, from an urban point of view, that degradation impacts beneficial use and he is sensitive about chloride concentrations. He indicated that agriculture is sensitive to salinity levels as well and agreed with the need for strong definitions. Ms. Watson noted that minimum thresholds should be set at what point undesirable results would occur and gave an example. Ms. Mary Elizabeth (Sierra Club, Delta-Sierra Group) suggested on this issue that a management area be established and look at an average of the wells as setting the threshold because it has to do with the Delta sediments. She indicated also that the numbers from the USGS report are from 2004, so new data should be included. Mr. Biagi asked Dr. Lytle if increases in salinity requirements at Vernalis will impact the area. Dr. Lytle indicated that he is not certain for groundwater impacts but as a City it is a concern for discharge and drinking water supply. Mr. Nakagawa provided more context about the salinity issue as a unique element, noting that there is already a solution in place and they strive to match the monitoring program to protect beneficial uses and tailor understanding to beneficial uses. Guidelines will be relayed to the consulting team to weigh cost-comparison for monitoring.

Dr. Lytle indicated it is on target that a framework exists regarding plumes, but awareness is something we want to capture. He indicated that there is no self-monitoring, but GSAs can take advantage of existing information contained within basin. He indicated the need to be aware, as we would not want to put a recharge project on top of a plume. Mr. Ward indicated a coordination approach is a good way to go. That is, knowing where plumes are is important so that we do not develop a project on top of a plume or do pumping that affects plumes. He further stated that coordination and awareness is good place to begin. Ms. Elizabeth indicated it would be great if everyone knew where all of the plumes were located and indicated that if there is a proposed action at one of those sites, that the action is reviewed and commented on by the GWA. Mr. Henry noted that at the five-year check-in, the GWA could check for new information from CVSalts and Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP), as this would affect how we operate and what we are doing, noting that being aware is a good direction to take.

Subsidence

Ms. Watson gave a presentation on setting minimum thresholds for the Subsidence sustainability indicator. Mr. Ward commented that thresholds for this sustainability indicator need to look at groundwater elevations below the Corcoran Clay.

Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

Ms. Watson gave a presentation on setting minimum thresholds for the Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water sustainability indicator. Dr. Lytle indicated that a threshold could be calculated, or a narrative could be provided. He suggested thinking about how changes in stream and river instream flow and timing can affect groundwater conditions, indicating that the Board needs to consider how these requirements affect the basin. Mr. Taghavi commented on using existing requirements, and

Mr. Ward indicated that streams are gauged so there are historical records, asking if we can base the evaluation off that. Mr. Taghavi answered that the issue is more complex than that.

3. Projected Water Budget (Update on Assumptions)

Ms. Watson presented an update on the Projected Water Budget approach and assumptions. Initial discussions are wrapping up and a draft model run is expected next month.

4. Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model Discussion

Ms. Watson provided an overview of what is being developed as part of the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM). A proposed number of cross-sections will be provided.

5. Water Accounting Framework Approach

Ms. Watson provided an overview of the approach to the Water Accounting Framework. We will want to identify the “gap” between groundwater used and recharges, and the projects and actions needed to reach sustainability.

6. Schedule Recap

GWA Advisory Committee meeting topics for August include Minimum Thresholds, the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model, and the Projected Water Budget.

B. Informational Items:

Ms. Lott pointed out the informational item in the agenda packet which was an email and Letter from Mary Elizabeth, Sierra Club, Delta-Sierra Group, dated June 12, 2018, “Comments for the Technical Advisory Committee and Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority.” No discussion took place.

III. Public Comment (non-agendized items):

Mr. Paul Wells indicated DWR requirements contained within the California Water Code set SGMA and GSP regulatory framework (Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 1.5, Subchapter 2). He noted that it is up to each GSA to determine compliance. Ms. Elizabeth indicated that there are a number of reports used so far to develop conceptual models and water accounting, and she requested the posting of all reports on the website as “Resources Used for Development of GSP.” She indicated there needs to be clarity between the geographic areas used for modeling and the GSA boundaries. Ms. Lott indicated that the comment had been noted and also stated that when an Advisory Committee member cannot attend the monthly Advisory Committee meeting, it is requested that Ms. Kelly Villalpando (San Joaquin County staff) is notified before the meeting to maintain compliance with the Brown Act. Ms. Lott concluded by stating that she is retiring.

IV. Future Agenda Items:

Agenda items for the August meeting include Minimum Thresholds, the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model, and the Projected Water Budget.

V. Adjournment:

The meeting was closed at 10:44 am.

Next Regular Meeting: August 8, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

San Joaquin County - Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center, 2101 E. Earhart Ave., Assembly Rm. #1, Stockton, CA

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Sign-In Sheet

July 11, 2018

INITIAL	AGENCY	MEMBER
	California Water Service Company	Bolzowski, Michael
	Central Delta Water Agency	Biagi, George
	Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District	Roberts, Reid
	City of Lathrop	Gibson, Greg
PR	City of Lodi	Roberts, Lance
	City of Manteca	Mijango, Elba
CM	City of Stockton	Lytle, Mel
WAW	Eastside San Joaquin GSA	Ward, Walter
	Linden County Water District	Brennan, Paul
MA	Lockeford Community Services District	Henry, Mike
	North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	Flinn, Tom
ES	Oakdale Irrigation District	Sheldon, Emily
KW	San Joaquin County	Balaji, Kris
PMR	South San Joaquin GSA	Rietkerk, Peter
	Stockton East Water District	Moody, Scot
DA	Woodbridge Irrigation District GSA	Heberle, Doug

OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES		
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