



**Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority
Groundwater Sustainability Workgroup
October 9, 2018
4 – 5:30 p.m.
Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Ave., Stockton, CA, Delta Room**

Committee Members in Attendance

	Name	Organization
	Colin Bailey	The Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
	Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla	Restore the Delta
	Gene E. Bigler	PUENTES
	Drew Cheney	Machado Family Farms
X	Robert Dean	Calaveras County Resource Conservation District
X	Mary Elizabeth	Sierra Club
X	David Fries	San Joaquin Audubon
X	Joey Giordano	The Wine Group
X	Jack Hamm	Lima Ranch
X	Mary Hildebrand	South Delta Water Agency
X	George V. Hartmann	The Hartmann Law Firm
	Michael Machado	Farmer
	Ara Marderosian	Sequoia ForestKeeper
	Ryan Mock	J.R. Simplot Company
X	Yolanda Park	Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton
X	Will Price	University of the Pacific & Vice Chair, SJ County Advisory Water Commission
X	Daryll Quaresma	2Q Farming, Inc.
	Jennifer Shipman	Manufacturers Council of the Central Valley
	Chris Shutes	California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
	Michael F. Stieler	CGCS, Spring Creek Golf & Country Club
	Linda Turkatte	San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department
	Ken Vogel	San Joaquin Farm Bureau Federation
X	Ted Wells	Trincherro Family Estates and Sutter Home Winery
	General Public	
X	Andrew Watkins	Stockton East Water District
X	Jane Wagner-Tyack	Communications Consultant
X	Paul Wells	Department of Water Resources
	Staff and Consultants	
X	Brandon Nakagawa	County ESJ GSP Project Representative
	Michael Callahan	County ESJ
	Alicia Connelly	County ESJ
X	Alyson Watson	ESJ GSP Project Manager

X	Christy Kennedy	ESJ GSP Deputy Project Manager
	Lucy Eidam Crocker	Stakeholder Engagement & Public Outreach Consultant
X	Cindy Thomas	Stakeholder Engagement & Public Outreach Consultant

Meeting Notes

I. Welcome

- a. Alyson Watson welcomed the group at 4:05 PM.
- b. Alyson Watson reviewed the meeting agenda, emphasizing the focus would be on the projected water budget, sustainable yield, and an introduction and approach to Projects and Management Actions.
- c. Mary Elizabeth asked if Woodard & Curran could provide statistics on DAC well distribution

II. Comments on Meeting Notes

- a. Alyson Watson discussed crop types by acreage and noted Ara Marderosian's comments regarding the use of certain crop elements as livestock feed and bedding. For example almond husks, cull potatoes and walnut shells can be used this way.
- b. Mary Elizabeth asked for clarification on the "orchard" designation. Alyson noted orchard is a catch-all for prunes, peaches, and smaller crops. She also noted the 14,000 acres to 3,000 acre change.
- c. Daryll Quaresma asked for clarity on the direction of the discussion. He noted that there seems to be increased comments and finger pointing at farmers for their water consumption and is frustrated with the derogatory nature of the discussion.
- d. Mary Hildebrand noted the largest use of water is native vegetation.

III. Follow-Up from Last Meeting

- a. Alyson Watson shared slides addressing questions and comments from the last meeting.
 - i. DAC discussion – how do we do a better job with outreach and is this the forum for DAC issues?
 1. George Hartman noted DACs are a big part of SGMA and funding from the State. He discussed the various water conservation efforts being used in DACs. He also commented that specific programs are needed to support DACs to save on water use (for example: low-flow toilets).
 2. There are numerous items to address groundwater sustainability, and we need to tackle critical issues.
 3. Mary Elizabeth asked if the team has looked at what portion of DAC populations lie within GSAs. She noted that the City of Stockton has canceled Water Advisory Group meetings since May. The City of Stockton, CalWater GSA/SJ County#2 (Thornton) have apparently large numbers of DACs.
 4. Will Price will provide 2-3 names for outreach to DACs.
 5. Jane Wagner-Tyack asked about the overlap between cropping and DACs. The group believes there is some correlation.
 6. Alyson Watson indicated we are looking for water-related community issues within DAC designated areas.

7. Mary Elizabeth noted she believes there are very wealthy people within DACs areas, and therefore more information regarding wealth distribution is needed to make generalizations.
8. Daryll Quaresma asked if there will there be federal funds because Stockton has DACs?
 - a. Alyson Watson answered there are some State funds (example: deep water pumping and problem-solution through GSPs).
9. Robert Dean noted he wants to be sure when coming up with solutions that they will be sustainable. That should be the main issue no matter what method is used to collect water.
10. Alyson Watson requested thoughts for community partners to help with outreach to DACs. Yolanda Park was mentioned as a good representative.
11. Alyson Watson discussed targeting outreach to farmers/growers.
 - a. It was noted that Lockeford Community Services District sent out postcards.
 - b. Daryll Quaresma – Brandon Nakagawa spoke at private applicator pesticide permit meeting last November. 4,000 people were targeted. The same meeting will occur this November.
 - c. The San Joaquin Farm Bureau is also coming up with ideas on outreach.
 - d. Alyson Watson requested information on the applicator meeting to reach farmers.
 - e. Brandon Nakagawa will attend the Ag. Discharge Waiver program meetings to provide updates.
 - f. Other meetings include:
 - i. Applicator Permit Renewal Meetings (Nov-Dec)
 - ii. Stockton East Water District – Ag. Discharge Waiver meetings
 - iii. Environmental Health for well and septic system permitting
12. Alyson Watson described the Environmental Impacts Map and DAC definitions.
13. Woodard & Curran will consider how to use the data and if it can be broken out, and if there is value in that analysis.
14. Mary Elizabeth is concerned that the City of Stockton is not doing their fair share of outreach and the outreach they are performing is not proportional to their use.
15. Alyson Watson described urban water demands and the changes in use over time. Specifically, the City of Lodi has invested in getting surface water. They have dropped their groundwater consumption in the last 20 years and are moving toward sustainability.
16. Andrew Watkins noted he didn't agree with the numbers shown on Slide 13. Thinks that Stockton was delivering 60,000 AFY so demand should be closer to 65,000 AFY for Stockton which includes Cal Water.

17. Alyson Watson described peat soils and the primary cause of oxidation. She noted groundwater operations will not impact or benefit subsidence due to peat soil oxidation, so it is outside the scope of SGMA. Farmers in the Delta are not using groundwater.
 - a. George Hartmann noted the floor of MacDonald Island has dropped 20 ft. It used to have peat storms, but that has not been seen in a long time. Peat soil has oxidized, eroded and been plowed under. Deep Delta Islands are 15-20 below sea level, which is not related to groundwater pumping.
 - b. Alyson Watson noted a threshold will not be development for it.

IV. Projected Water Budget

- a. Alyson Watson discussed the Water Budget timeframe, the projected water budget and projected changes in land use.
- b. Mary Hildebrand asked what the projection per capita is based on.
- c. Alyson Watson noted that the base assumptions rely on population growth based on San Joaquin Council of Governments estimates, and land use and cropping pattern using sphere of influence. She noted that the team has reached out to all GSAs and asked them to anticipate changes for incorporation. We are using the best projections that we have.
- d. Mary Elizabeth – noted variability in gallons per capita daily (GPCD) is different in water districts and asked that a table be provided showing what was used in calculations.
- e. Ted Wells asked if the rate of change and the projection is logical.
- f. Mary Hildebrand noted that the data was lumping together consumptive uses and non-consumptive uses.
- g. Alyson Watson described the Projected Water Budget assumptions and how they took planning data through 2040 and held that constant. Demand, land use, and population were projected and held constant.
 - a. She noted the conversion from agricultural to urban land use and described the small amount of non-irrigated to irrigated land conversion (included only when mentioned by GSAs).
 - b. Mary Elizabeth asked if more consideration could be given to developing assumptions around conversion of dry-land farming to irrigated.
- h. Ted Wells asked if the future water budget accounts for the Substitute Environmental Document (SED)?
 - a. Alyson Watson said no and that another analysis will be done to consider how the SED affects water need for basin. However it will not be included in baseline analysis.
 - b. George Hartmann noted the SED will be pushed down the road due to government transition.
- i. Alyson Watson described why the baseline is above zero.
 - a. There is a year that is not shown that is included so model years match up with the water years. It is approximately 50 total acre-free (TAF)/yr. and goes to 30 TAF/yr. This is basin-wide total water in storage.
 - b. Andrew Watkins noted this decline was not seen in the Stockton East area.
- j. Mary Elizabeth asked if there is a groundwater elevation threshold at this point?

- a. Alyson Watson indicated no – this has paused to determine other elements that relate to groundwater elevations so they can be folded into analysis.

V. Sustainable Yield

- a. Alyson Watson presented the definition and information on sustainable yield.
- b. George Hartmann noted the slide should also say “or” increase supplies by 12-15%; or say absent increased recharge.
 - i. The focus of GSAs is not to reduce groundwater use, the focus is to raise the bridge not lower the river.
 - ii. Brandon noted sustainable yield is an exercise we have to conduct.
- c. Mary Elizabeth asked what number is for sustainable yield pumping.
 - i. Alyson Watson noted good segue to projects and management actions.
- d. Daryll Quaresma told a story about a land owner, Stuart Resnick, and the value of water in relation to the land. He noted some land sales happening in areas surrounding the basin for its water value.

VI. Projects and Management Actions – Introduction and Approach

- a. Andrew Watkins asked how we will deal with cost allocation.
 - i. Alyson Watson noted we haven’t done cost allocation yet and it won’t be easy.
- b. Mary Elizabeth mentioned that Puentes gets its water from Cal Water and they pay a premium. She noted that urban farms are important in communities. She thinks we need to look at metering and how water is used.
- c. Daryll Quaresma noted we should possibly talk to Building Industry Habitat Fee to see if we can maybe channel funds into the GSP. Builder dewatering is contaminated with potential for recharge. Potential industry to reach out to.
- d. Mary Elizabeth asked what recharge projects are underway. Are they successful? Are they meeting projections? Let’s see what is working now to refine a future list. This list of projects has been requested at a previous meeting.
- e. Robert Dean asked if there has been any discussion about groundwater recharge becoming a beneficial use. Recharge itself is not a beneficial use, the use is what it is after it is pumped out. Those projects can get permitted.

VII. Announcements

- a. Second Informational meeting: November 7th
- b. Toolkit to be sent in email to Workgroup so they can forward along
- c. Will Price indicated that individual households don’t understand how this affects them. Will it affect them individually?
- d. Mary Elizabeth requested tool where people can go online and submit if they are having an issue with their groundwater.
- e. Brandon Nakagawa asked if there are specific groups we need to be focusing on for outreach? Bankers? Wineries? Real estate groups?
- f. Jack Hamm noted people want to know how this will affect them and what it will cost them.
- g. Will Price noted the trend for water issues to be funded locally.
- h. Jane Wagner-Tyack asked if we are looking at energy costs associated with pumping water.

VIII. Other Topics

Meeting adjourned at 5:40. The next meeting is on November 13 at 4:00.

Comments by Jane Wagner-Tyack

- Please allow time in the schedule for Workgroup members to discuss issues of common concern. This is our only opportunity to do that.
- Please ask Workgroup members what messages they want to be sure that the GWA Board hears as a result of each Workgroup meeting. For example, here are some points raised by the Sustainability Workgroup at the October 9 meeting of which the GWA Board should be aware:

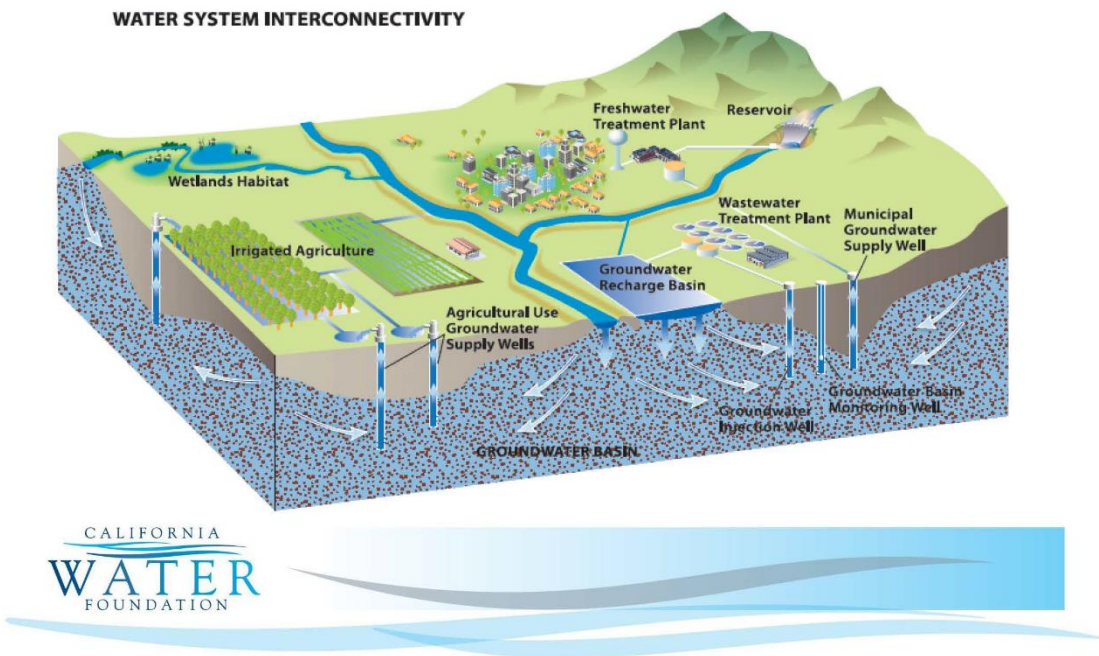
Everyone is concerned about outreach to Disadvantaged Communities (DACs). There are questions about how well DWR's census-based definition reflects the reality on the ground. (Note: It is worth bearing in mind that individual GSAs have always had responsibility for their own DAC outreach.)

The Workgroup does have some confidence in outreach to farmers/growers in some GSAs using existing permitting programs. We still do not see strong outreach and education for the wider community.

- I think the Workgroup members would appreciate getting updates on how their concerns are actually being addressed in the GSP development process.
- In addition to—and possibly instead of—giving the GWA Board the meeting notes from Sustainability Workgroup meetings, give them a summary of the main concerns expressed. I would NOT give them a printout of all the PowerPoint slides for the meeting, which creates a thick, indigestible packet that Board members are unlikely to look at. The PowerPoint packets can be made available on the website.
- Regarding PowerPoint presentations in general:
 - ✓ Slides that work well in terms of color and composition for viewing on a computer screen may not work well at all when they are projected onto a wall in a room that cannot be completely darkened.
 - ✓ Detailed graphs and charts on PowerPoint slides do not communicate information effectively when they are projected for a presentation to a live audience. You can't really get around this problem by sending out the PowerPoint presentations in advance and expecting the people who will be in the audience to study the slides ahead of time, because many or most of them won't do it.
 - ✓ Therefore, information needs to be presented differently to a live audience, especially a general rather than a technical audience, than it may be presented in the GSP.
- Regarding the Water Budget slides specifically:

Members of the Sustainability Workgroup as well as members of the wider public would benefit from graphics designed to explain a water budget in a simple way: what are specific kinds of inflows and outflows, and how does that look on a model like this one (there are better cutaways for this purpose):

Integrated Water Management



(If a cutaway like this has been provided in earlier presentations, it would have been helpful to see it again in this one.)

The Projected Conditions Baseline Groundwater Budget slides that have already been presented contain far too much information at too small a scale for projection on a screen, and the inflow/outflow components, which are identified in pale colors in tiny boxes at the bottom of the chart, are impossible to discern. One way to convey the principle in a neutral way would be to choose three years from the historical period and show them horizontally with inflows and outflows clearly identified.

Comments by Michael Machado

Although I was not at the meeting, the array of comments are interesting. The question I have is where is the group going with respect to the comments, response to and any impact they will have? It seems the consultants are good scribes, but what else?

The stakeholder group seems to be interested in and or asking question as follows: Fairness in the application of ground water management; what is it going to cost and who is going to pay...or at least what is the template being used for considering cost and who pays; is there a differentiation within the basin of sub basin that have engaged successfully in managing ground water (i.e. SEWD) and will that be considered in allocation of fees/taxes (one does not want to pay for another's in action); will new regulations have a cost/benefit analysis and be applied equally?

The response or lack of response to the above will have a direct effect on stakeholder interest and collaboration between the various groups represented.

Comments by Mary Elizabeth

Please include Environmental Impacts Map and DAC definitions.

Comments by Robert Dean

Even though the conversation was truncated last meeting, I think we need to pursue the different avenues of thinking regarding groundwater recharge as a beneficial use.

I understand the historic argument about GW recharge not being a beneficial use until it's taken from the ground and put to use, however, times are changing.

The conditions that existed when the state identified the varieties of beneficial uses are very different now. With the uncertainty of normal rainfall patterns, the possibilities of increased temperatures over sustained periods, the opportunities for natural recharge being uncertain and the evidence of serious overdraft, it becomes incumbent upon us to examine and, if necessary, develop policies that account for these possible changes.

To successfully navigate this issue will take considerable effort. Who owns the water when a public resource is placed in a private substrate? Is there a taking if a landowner is prohibited from using the water? How will we address beneficiaries who receive GW from an upstream recharger? Why would a recharger give up surface water if they receive no acknowledgement of their recharge in the form of a water right?

Perhaps coming to grips with these questions are the reasons that many folks don't want to make recharge a beneficial use. This reluctance to examine the issues of beneficial use only exacerbates the problems of ground water, it does not solve it.

Regardless of whether recharge becomes a beneficial use or not, the issues need to be examined because I don't think there's a clear pathway to a recharge agreement until the issues are resolved.

If it's necessary to define a specific beneficial use that's not one of the 25 plus beneficial uses how about considering recharge as a strategic reserve.

We have strategic reserves for fuels, rare minerals and other resources considered critical for the maintenance of our society. I can't think of a resource that is more strategic and important to the maintenance and sustainability of our society than water.