



**EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN
GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

**GWA Advisory Committee
August 14, 2019**

Agenda



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- Approval of July 10 Meeting Minutes
- Outreach Update
- Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendation and Input
- Proposition 68 Grant Application
- Draft GSP Comment Incorporation Process
- GSP Adoption Procedures
- Staff Administration for GWA for Implementation
- Interbasin Coordination Summary
- September Agenda Items

Announcements & Reminders



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- The Draft GSP is available for public comment July 10-August 25 (see website for more information: www.esjgroundwater.prg)
- Thank you GSAs for your participation in the July 18 Information Meeting!
- If your GSA is planning any SGMA Outreach activities, please let us know. We can promote the event on the GWA website.
- There is no Board meeting scheduled for today.



Outreach Update

SGMA Outreach Requirements Have Been Met & Exceeded



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Outreach Requirements	Completed
Establish and Maintain List of Interested Parties (10423.4)	✓ (Created and updated database)
GSA Formation Public Notice (10723(b))	✓
GSA Formation Public Hearing (10723(b))	✓
GSA Formation (10723(b))	✓ (Developed interested parties list, reserached key stakeholder groups)
GSP Initial Notification (353.6)	✓ (Submitted to DWR)
Encourage Active Involvement (10727.8)	✓ (4 informational meetings, community group presentations, website maintenance, social media, e-blasts, mailers, press releases, media correspondence, bilingual flyers, applicator meeting flyers, Spanish translation)
Public Notices and Meetings (10730)	✓ (Posted to website, physical postings, email and hard copy notification distribution)
GSP Communications Section (354.1)	✓ (Chapter 1 of Draft GSP)
Beneficial Uses and Users (10723.2)	✓ (Workgroup formation, applicator meeting flyers, social media and mailer outreach)
Native American Tribes Participation (10720.3)	✓ (May voluntarily participate)
Federal Government Participation (10720.3)	✓ (May voluntarily participate)
Advisory Committee Formation (Optional)	✓
Public Comment Period (Optional)	✓ (45-day public comment period on Draft GSP)
Public Notice of Proposed Adoption (10728.4)	Under development
GSP Adoption Public Hearing (10728.4)	Planned: 1/2020
GSP Submittal (354.1)	Planned: 1/2020

Outreach Update



- Outreach will continue through the GSAs, GWA meetings (open to the public) and keeping the website and social media actively maintained
- While the public outreach to date has been consistent with SGMA requirements, there are certainly opportunities for improvement. Examples of next steps could include:
 - Post notice of GSP comment period at GSA offices
 - Connecting GWA website to link to GSA websites
 - GSAs should post outreach slides to their websites and include easy pathway
 - Print materials option – bill inserts, flyers, posters
 - Develop map tool so website users can determine which GSA they are in
 - Inquires to “Contact Us” website tool can be summarized with outreach activities



Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendation and Input

Ad-Hoc Process



- Reminder: An ad-hoc committee to the Board has been formed to discuss what the role of the JPA will be going forward. Meetings have been held on July 8, July 15, August 5, 2019.
- Today, we are seeking Advisory Committee input on the Ad-hoc Committee's recommendation for implementation activity owners. The topic will be discussed by the Board in September.



Survey Development & Findings

GSP Implementation Activity	Summary of GSA Responses		
	GWA to Perform	GSA to Perform	County to Continue
A. Monitoring and Reporting			
1. Level Monitoring	X	X	X
2. Quality Monitoring	X	X	X
3. Annual Reporting	X	X	
4. Data Management System Updates	X	X	
B. Data Collection and Analysis			
1. Mokelumne River Loss Study Project	X		
2. Model Refinements	X		
3. Additional Wells, if needed	X		
4. Review of water quality data in Broad network	X		
C. Administrative Tasks (not Project Management)			
	X		
D. Developing 5-Year Evaluation Reports			
	X		
E. Public Outreach and Website Maintenance			
	X	X	
F. Grant Writing – Project Specific			
		X	
G. Grant Writing – Basin-wide Planning			
	X		



Discussion: Obtain Feedback from Advisory Committee



Proposition 68 Grant Application

Grant Application Recommendation



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- The Ad-hoc committee has recommended that the GWA Board pursue funding under Proposition 68 Round 3 and a scope and a fee estimate is available (~\$50K)
- Next steps: Consider what could be funded (administrative needs, planned GSP projects, projects that fill data gaps)

SGM Grant Program Solicitation Tentative Schedule*	
Milestones	Tentative Date
Planning Grant	
Round 3 Solicitation Period (Open Date and Close Date)	09/09/19 – 11/01/19
Technical Reviews of Grant Applications	Nov – Dec 2019
Release Draft Funding List for Public Review	Jan – Feb 2020
Final Award List Released	March 2020

** Dates are subject to change and will be determined based on number of comments received for the draft documents, number of applications received, amount of funds requested, and number of grant awards given.*



Draft GSP Comment Incorporation Process

Comment Incorporation Process – Background



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SGMA places tremendous importance on community engagement throughout the creation of a GSP. In their review, DWR will consider whether an agency has adequately responded to the comments which raise credible technical or policy issues within a plan during its review of a GSP.

DWR guidance recommends the GSP contain an appendix of comments received and responses.

GWA will need to review the GSP comments on the Draft GSP and determine how to appropriately respond.

Comment Incorporation Process – Questions for Consideration



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- How should the GWA process and review GSP comments to comply with SGMA and DWR recommendations?
- What are the protocols for member agencies of the GWA if a member agency receives comments related to the GSP?

Comment Incorporation Process – Consultant Recommendation



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1. Provide GWA members access to comments through a shared FTP location to ensure each GSA can access and review GSP comments.
2. The GWA Board may appoint a temporary, ad hoc committee that is open to staff members from each member without causing a quorum. The comment review ad hoc committee would convene to review the comments, summarize the comments, and provide recommendations to the Advisory Committee regarding responses and potential changes to the GSP.
3. Adopt a protocol that requires each GWA member agency forward any GSP comments it receives to the consultant within 3 business days of receipt. The consultant will post comments to the shared database to allow all GWA members access to the comments.



GSP Adoption Procedures

Adoption Procedures – Background



SGMA expressly allows a GSA to adopt a GSP (“A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing, held at least 90 days after providing notice to a city or county within the area of the proposed plan or amendment.”)

The GWA was formed through a JPA, which does not have GSA status.

Water Code 10725



Water code section 10725 provides the authorities of a GSA. These authorities include, limiting extractions, requiring measurement devices, requiring reporting, initiating investigations, among other authorities.

These GSA authorities are only triggered after a GSA has adopted a GSP. Specifically, Water Code section 10725 states: “A groundwater sustainability agency may exercise any of the powers described in this chapter . . . if the groundwater sustainability agency adopts and submits to the department a groundwater sustainability plan.”

Therefore, SGMA seems to require a GSA to adopt a GSP in order to access the authorities provided by SGMA. SGMA is silent as to whether an adoption by a JPA would be sufficient to trigger section 10725 and provide the individual GSAs with the authorities in this section.

Recommendation



Legal counsel recommendation is that each GSA adopt the GSP, or portion of the GSP pertaining to the area the GSA manages, and recommend the JPA accept and implement the GSP.

With Advisory Committee input, we will prepare and distribute the NOI immediately to meet schedule requirements. If differing direction is provided by the Board, an amendment will be issued.



**Staff Administration for GWA for
Implementation**

Staff Administration for GWA for Implementation



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- Discussion of San Joaquin County continuing as staff administering the GWA for GSP implementation.

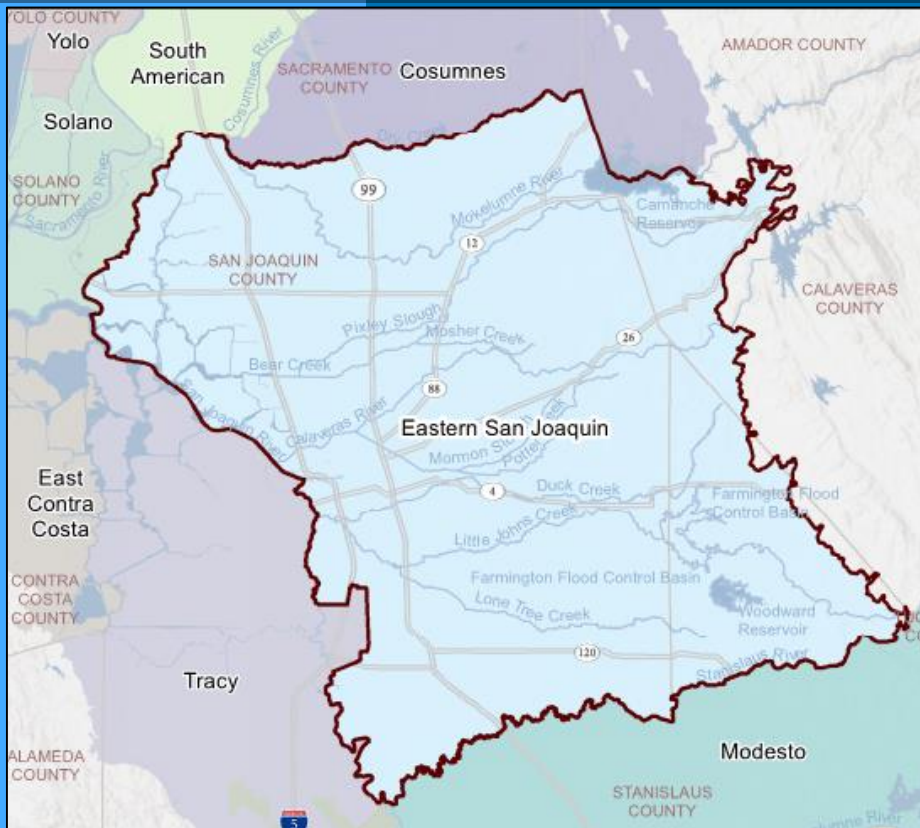


Interbasin Coordination Summary

Inter-basin Coordination Update



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We have met the all neighboring Subbasins for initial coordination:

- Cosumnes (2022 timeline)
- Tracy (2022 timeline)
- Modesto (2022 timeline)
- South American (Alternative plan – not recommended for approval by DWR)
- Solano (2022 timeline)
- East Contra Costa (2022 timeline)

Inter-basin Coordination Update



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Meeting agendas covered the following topics:

- I. Overview of Current Basin Conditions
- II. ESJ Model & Available Information
- III. Boundary Flows
- IV. Sustainable Management Criteria
- V. Next Steps



September Agenda Items

September Agenda Items



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- Comments received on the Draft GSP
- Adoption procedures
- Implementation and Next Steps



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