



**EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN
GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

**GWA Board Meeting
September 11, 2019**

Agenda



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- Approval of July Meeting Minutes
- Outreach & Groundwater Sustainability Workgroup Update
- Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendation and Input
- Draft GSP Public Comment Incorporation Process
- Overview of Draft GSP Public Comments
- Staff Administration for GWA for Implementation
- Implementation Next Steps
- DWR Update
- October Agenda Items



Outreach & Groundwater Sustainability Workgroup Update

Groundwater Sustainability Workgroup Update



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- The next Workgroup meeting will be held on September 11 at the San Joaquin County Public Works Department Building, from 4:00-5:30
- Notes from Workgroup meeting are available on the website, esjgroundwater.org (under 'Agendas' tab)



Ad-Hoc Committee Recommendation & Input

Ad-Hoc Process



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- 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 and 15, and August 5, 19, and 26. A meeting is planned for Sept. 9.
- Advisory Committee input was provided at the August 14 meeting.



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	X	
4. Review of water quality data in Broad network	X	X	
C. Administrative Tasks (not Project Management)			
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		

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)

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.*

Ad-Hoc Committee – Obtain Input



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Prop 68 Grant Development - consider funding the following elements:

- Fill data gaps
- Financing Plan
- GDEs delineation/mapping refinement – interconnected SW-GW understanding
- Incentive/credit/trading program (conservation/gw offset)
- GW monitoring equipment
- Flood-MAR type study/project/framework of program 9

Ad-Hoc Committee – Obtain Input



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Next steps:

- Additional work on defining split with each implementation element
- Further definition of funding mechanisms (regulatory fee, impact fee, Zone 2 funds)
- Pro/Cons of funding mechanism
- Targeting October Board meeting for method of collection of cost



Draft GSP Public Comment Incorporation Process

Background



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.

Advisory Committee 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. Appoint a temporary, ad hoc committee to review and summarize the comments and provide recommendations regarding responses and potential changes to the GSP.
3. Adopt a protocol that requires each GSA forward any GSP comments it receives to the consultant within 3 business days of receipt.

Board Action Needed



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Action: Adopt Advisory Committee Recommendations

1. Provide GWA members access to comments through a shared FTP location to ensure each GSA can access and review GSP comments.
2. Appoint a temporary, ad hoc committee to review and summarize the comments and provide recommendations regarding responses and potential changes to the GSP.
3. Adopt a protocol that requires each GSA forward any GSP comments it receives to the consultant within 3 business days of receipt.

Release of Public Draft



- Published on Website **July 10**
- Hard copies posted in libraries and at GSA main offices
- Notices and press releases in English and Spanish
- 45-day public comment period closed **August 25**

Lodi Public Library
Cesar Chavez Central Library
Margaret Troke Library
Maya Angelou Library
Fair Oaks Branch Library
Weston Ranch Library

18 Public Comment Letters Received



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NGOs

- The Nature Conservancy
- Restore the Delta
- Sierra Club, Delta-Sierra Group
- California Poultry Federation
- California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
- The Freshwater Trust
- Joint comments (includes The Nature Conservancy, Audubon California, Clean Water Action, Clean Water Fund, American Rivers, Union of Concerned Scientists)

Neighboring Subbasins

- Cosumnes Subbasin
- Tracy Subbasin

GSAs

- North San Joaquin WCD
- South San Joaquin GSA
- Stockton East Water District

State and Federal Agencies

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, North Central Region

Others

- Jane Wagner-Tyack (Consultant)
- EBMUD
- Larry Walker Associates
- The Wine Group
- Terra Land Group, LLC

Approach to Responding to Comments



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Comment Categories	Response Approach
Minor Corrections/Clarifications	Direct edits to text in GSP
Substantive comments on Draft GSP	Categorized by topic, master response to be developed, revisions to GSP based on direction from GSAs
Comments on future considerations for GSP Implementation	Categorized and noted for GWA Board consideration and future AC meeting discussion.

Approach to Responding to Comments



Comment Categories	Response Approach	Next Step for Addressing Responses
Minor Corrections/Clarifications	Direct edits to text in GSP	Request Board direction to approve consultant to make changes to text in GSP
Substantive comments on Draft GSP	Categorized by topic, master response to be developed, revisions to GSP based on direction from GSAs	Schedule 2-3 Ad-hoc Committee Workshops before October Board meeting
Comments on future considerations for GSP Implementation	Categorized and noted for GWA Board consideration and future AC meeting discussion.	No immediate action needed – items noted for future follow up

Board Direction Needed



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Recommend the consultant team should make changes to the GSP text to address comments that fall into the “Minor Corrections/Clarifications” category. Consultant would begin to address these comments immediately, separate from Ad-hoc Committee review process.



Staff Administration for GWA for Implementation

Staff Administration for GWA for Implementation



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- In August, the Advisory Committee discussed the role of San Joaquin County continuing as staff administering the GWA for GSP implementation.
- It was decided that the Ad-hoc committee would provide a recommendation on this item



Implementation Next Steps

Timeline for GSP Adoption



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- Public Draft comment period July 10 – Aug. 25
- NOI to adopt GSP distributed – Aug. 16
- Final Draft distributed – Nov. 5
- JPA recommendation to adopt – Nov. 13
- Individual GSAs adopt Final Draft GSP – Nov. 14 – Jan. 1
- JPA action to accept Plan – Jan. 8
- GSP submittal deadline – Jan. 31, 2020



Notice of Intent to Adopt

Notice of Intent to Adopt has Been Distributed



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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN



1818 E. Hazellon Avenue (209) 468-3089
P. O. Box 1610 ESJgroundwater@sjgov.org
Stockton, CA 95201 esjgroundwater.org

August 16, 2019

Via email and U.S. mail

To Whom it May Concern:

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

On behalf of the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) comprising the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (referred to herein as the ESJ GWA and as listed below), pursuant to California Water Code Section 10728.4, the ESJ GWA, on behalf of its member agencies, hereby gives notice to the legislative body of any City, County, or Public Utilities Commission-regulated company within the geographic area covered by the pending Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that its member GSAs intend to adopt the GSP for the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin (Basin No. 5-022.01). A map of the GSP area is included herein.

Interested parties may provide comments on the Public Draft GSP during the scheduled public comment period, July 10 through August 25, 2019. Information regarding the Draft GSP has been posted on the ESJ GWA website at www.esjgroundwater.com. The Draft Plan can be viewed on the website homepage. According to Water Code Section §10728.4: "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 groundwater sustainability agency shall review and consider comments from any city or county that receives notice pursuant to this section and shall consult with a city or county that requests consultation within 30 days of receipt of the notice."

No sooner than 90 days from the date of this Notice, each of the GSAs identified below will hold a public hearing and consider adopting the GSP. For meeting information and public hearing dates, please refer to the ESJ GWA website.

Should you have any questions about this notice, please contact me by email at kbalaaji@sjgov.org or by phone at (209) 468-3100.

Sincerely,

KRIS BALAJI, PMP, P.E.
Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Plan Manager

A notice of intent (NOI) to adopt a GSP has been posted to the GWA website and distributed to cities and counties within the Subbasin, including:

- County of Calaveras
- County of Stanislaus
- County of San Joaquin
- City of Escalon
- City of Lodi
- City of Manteca
- City of Oakdale
- City of Ripon
- City of Stockton
- Linden County Water District
- Lockeford Community Services District



GSP Adoption Procedures

Recommendation



GWA 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. Note that GSAs will need to file a notice of public hearing.

With Advisory Committee confirmation of this approach, the NOI has been prepared and distributed to meet schedule requirements. If differing direction is provided by the Board, an amendment will be issued.

Action Needed



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Regarding GSP adoption, Board confirmation is needed on the approach to have the individual GSAs adopt the GSP, and implement within their area of jurisdiction, and recommend the JPA accept and implement the GSP.



DWR Update



October Agenda Items

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- Response to Public Comments (Ad-hoc Recommendation)
- Ad-hoc Implementation Recommendations
- Adoption Next Steps



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