



EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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South San Joaquin
Irrigation District
Robert Holmes

Woodbridge Irrigation
District
Keith Bussman

Steering Committee Meeting

AGENDA

Wednesday December 13th, 2023

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

San Joaquin County Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center
2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Stockton, CA 95206

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

II. Scheduled Items -

A. Discussion / Action Items:

1. Approval of the November 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes - [Page 3](#)
2. Discussion and Possible Recommendation on a Draft Well Mitigation Program [Page 5](#)
3. Recommendation to Form a Project Management Committee for the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update - [Page 9](#)
4. Recommendation to Approve an ESJGWA Budget Amendment Increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$790,120, to Authorize \$310,000 in Reserves for Use as Revenue, and to Approve the Cost Allocation of Increased Dues to ESJGWA Members - [Page 10](#)
5. Recommendation to Approve a Consultant Agreement with Woodard & Curran for the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update for a Not to Exceed Cost of \$1,130,120 - [Page 14](#)

III. Staff/DWR Reports

- A. Staff Reports
- B. DWR Report

IV. Directors' Comments and Project Status Reports

V. Public Comment (items not on the agenda)

VI. Future Agenda Items

VII. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 10th, 2024

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

San Joaquin County Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center

Action may be taken on any item

Agendas and Minutes may also be found at <http://www.EJGroundwater.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 Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 8th, 2023

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Steering Committee meeting was held at the Robert Cabral Agricultural Center in Assembly Room 1. At approximately 8:30 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert Rickman.

Roll Call: In attendance were Director and Alternates: Justin Hopkins, Mike Henry, Mitch Maidrand, Robert Holmes, Jason Colombini, Brandon Nakagawa, Secretary Fritz Buchman, and Chairman Robert Rickman

II. Scheduled Items

A. Discussion/Action Items

1. Approval of the October 11th, 2023, Steering Committee Minutes

Motion: Justin Hopkins

Second: Mike Henry

Vote was unanimous.

2. ESJ GWA Financial Report

A financial update was given by Hope Paulin, San Joaquin County Water Resources Division. She shared that a deposit that was made for \$149,988 for the Prop. 1 Retention Reimbursement, a small amount for postage and \$782 under Rents, Structures and Grounds.

3. Presentation and Discussion on the GSP 2025 Update

Katie Cole, Woodard & Curran, presented on the GSP Update Scope of Work. The presentation included Risks, 2025 Update Schedule, Background and Context, Periodic DWR Evaluation, and more detailed information regarding the 2025 GSP Update.

Staff reiterated that the approach needs to be further refined and the scope reduced to be more affordable before any additional monies can be raised from GSA Members.

To mitigate the time lost while negotiating the reduced scope of work, staff recommended that a portion of the modeling components be accelerated. A limited scope of work for an amount not to exceed \$60,000 was included in the agenda packet and recommended for approval. The accelerated work will be completed over the next 6-8 weeks.

4. Recommendation to Approve a Task Order with Woodard & Curran to Fund Initial GSP 2025 Update Tasks Not to Exceed \$60,000.00

Motion: Jason Colombini

Second: Robert Holmes

Vote was unanimous.

III. Staff/DWR Reports

1. Staff Report – Brandon Nakagawa shared that Condor assisted with the Fall Monitoring Event and it went very smoothly. Water quality monitoring is complete, data is coming, and now waiting on the final bill and documentation of work.
2. DWR Report – Chelsea from the Department of Water Resources provided the following updates:
 - a. DWR is hosting a virtual Fall 2023 Groundwater Sustainability Agency Forum (GSA Forum) for GSA members and representatives on November 9, 2023, from 8:30 AM to noon. The theme for the Fall 2023 GSA Forum is *Well Management Approaches: from Enhancing Local Understanding to Leveraging Local Coordination*.
 - b. On October 30, 2023, DWR released its [Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation: A Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, and Plan Amendments](#), which provides guidance to GSAs preparing these documents under SGMA and the GSP Regulations. The Department also released a [Frequently Asked Questions and Available Resources](#) document that provides commonly asked questions and answers about Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, and GSP Amendments. These resources do not create any requirements or obligations for GSAs; the information is intended to clarify the necessary content of the documents already required by SGMA and the GSP Regulations.

IV. Directors Comments - None

V. Public Comment - None

VI. Future Agenda Items

Fritz Buchman shared that an MOU with SJ County for AARPA funding will be forthcoming. The only requirements would be standard quarterly reports. The 2023 Spring Groundwater Monitoring Report will likely be presented in December.

VII. Adjournment at 9:48 am

NOTE* - Meeting presentation material can be found on the website at www.esjgroundwater.org/.



Meeting Date: December 13, 2023

TO: ESJGWA Steering Committee
FROM: Brandon Nakagawa, Interim Staff to the ESJGWA
SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Recommendation on a Draft Well Mitigation Program
Date: December 13, 2023

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the ESJGWA Steering Committee discuss the Well Mitigation Fund concept draft. The Steering Committee may recommend that the Board of Directors take further actions to establish a Well Mitigation Fund.

Reasons for Recommendation

The ESJGWA made significant revisions to the 2020 Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to address the initial incomplete determination from the Department of Water Resources (DWR). One of the items of particular concern to DWR was allowing for declines in groundwater levels ahead of reaching sustainability by 2040 (i.e. during droughts prior to the implementation of projects and management actions). Other critically overdrafted basins received similar comments from DWR and are also pursuing development of a well mitigation policy or program with varying degrees of success.

In 2022, the ESJGWA sent Technical Memorandum 2 to Paul Gosselin, DWR SGMA Chief, to specifically address domestic wells as referenced in DWR's inadequate determination comment letter. The following excerpt from Technical Memorandum 2 spells out the ESJGWA obligation to consider a well mitigation policy.

“The GSAs recognize that domestic wells may be impacted by declining groundwater levels, as well as other factors, including but not limited to, end of useful life. The GSAs intentionally set the minimum thresholds in the GSP to avoid domestic well failures due to declining groundwater levels. However, the GSAs recognize the need for a back-up process to mitigate the impact of GSP management on domestic well failures, if necessary. As part of the five-year update to the GSP, the GSAs, through the GWA, will identify additional management actions that can be implemented to address this situation, including considering development of a domestic well mitigation policy and program (“DWMP”).”

The ESJGWA had allocated \$70,000 in the current budget for the development of a well mitigation program. Several GSA including North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, Stockton East Water District, and the South San Joaquin GSA, felt strongly that a consultant would not be necessary to develop the well mitigation program. Instead, the four GSAs developed the attached draft concept

outline of a Well Mitigation Fund for the Steering Committee to discuss on December 13. A subsequent item for the Steering Committee will be to consider amending the budget and instead, utilize the \$70,000 savings for the 2025 GSP Update.

Attachment

Well Mitigation Fund – Admin Draft Outline – 11/21/23 – For Discussion Purposes Only

Well Mitigation Fund – Admin Draft Outline – 11/21/23 – For Discussion Purposes Only

- 1. Purpose** – To provide mitigation for domestic wells that fail due to overdraft pumping that occurred after January 1, 2015.
- 2. Fund**
 - a. Set up initial fund at ESJ GWA with contributions from each GSA.
 - b. Propose - \$200,000 initial fund – per next year budget (July 1, 2024) build into GWA budget so it is allocated same as budget is allocated.
- 3. Claims Process**
 - a. Well owner or user can contact OES, GSA, GWA or County Environmental Health re a failed well. GWA will create pamphlets to hand out that describe this claim process.
 - b. GWA will establish a Committee to review and decide claims, which includes:
 - i. The District Engineer for GSA where well located
 - ii. Hydrologist hired by GWA (obtain short list of pre-approval contractors)
 - iii. SJC Environmental Health Officer
 - iv. Community Advocate (Self-Help?)
 - c. Interim water supply
 - i. The Committee will provide an interim supply for up to 3 weeks while claims are processed. If claim accepted, interim water supply will continue until mitigation completed.
 - ii. Can Self-Help provide this service?
 - d. Types of Claims that Are Subject to Mitigation
 - i. Well failure due to declining water levels caused by overdraft pumping that occurred after January 1, 2015.
 - ii. Well failure or inability to use for domestic purposes due to water quality degradation caused by overdraft pumping that occurred after January 1, 2015.
 - iii. Well failure due to subsidence caused by overdraft pumping that occurred after January 1, 2015.

e. Claim Processing Protocol:

- i. Collect Information: The Committee shall collect and evaluate information regarding the age of well, its depth, construction, screened interval, site conditions, and circumstances surrounding its failure.
- ii. Technical Report: The Committee shall support its recommendation regarding how to mitigate or deny a claim with a written technical report to the Steering Committee and Claimant.
- iii. Form of Mitigation: The Committee shall work with the claimant to structure the form of the mitigation, which can include financial assistance to the claimant to remedy the situation, or could include work funded by the GWA or a GSA to remedy the situation, or other reasonable solutions.
- iv. Recommendation: The Committee will recommend whether and how to mitigate or deny a claim in its Technical Report, subject to final decision by the Steering Committee.
- v. Appeal: Claimant or any GSA can appeal decision of Steering Comm to GWA Board. Decision of GWA Board final.
- vi. Cause of failure
 1. Should Committee have ability to recommend finding of specific causation to the GWA, and recommend request for reimbursement from a specific GSA or pumper/group of pumpers? Recommend defer this to future if needed.

4. Timeline

- a. Draft to Interested Stakeholders (Jane, Mary-Elizabeth, Self-Help, Fritz) by November 22. Ask for comments back by December 6th.
- b. Draft to Steering Committee by December 13, 2023 meeting
- c. Draft to GWA Board by January 2024
- d. Final for approval to GWA Board by March 2024.



Meeting Date: December 13, 2023

TO: ESJGWA Steering Committee
FROM: Brandon Nakagawa, Interim Staff to the ESJGWA
SUBJECT: Recommendation to Form a Project Management Committee for the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update
Date: December 13, 2023

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the ESJGWA Steering Committee formally recommend that the Chair of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority form an Ad Hoc Project Management Committee (PMC) for the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Update.

Reasons for Recommendation

The purpose of the PMC would be to drive the GSP Update process by providing feedback and direction to the consultants. Another key role of the PMC would be to recognize and tee up items requiring discussion and direction from the Stakeholder Working Group, the Steering Committee, and the Board of Directors. The PMC is intended to compliment the role of the ESJGWA Administrator currently delegated to the San Joaquin County Public Works Director.

Staff recommends that the PMC be comprised of no more than 3 to 4 GSA representatives/volunteers well versed in project, program and consultant management. Appointees should expect approximately 2 hours per month for PMC meetings and an additional 4 hours per month to review draft work products and presentation material. GSA Representatives serving on the PMC would not receive reimbursement for their time unless expressly authorized by the ESJGWA Board of Directors.

If approved, staff will work with the Chair to establish the PMC roster and notify the ESJGWA of the appointments.



Meeting Date: December 13, 2023

TO: ESJGWA Steering Committee
FROM: Brandon Nakagawa, Interim Staff to the ESJGWA
SUBJECT: Recommendation to Approve an ESJGWA Budget Amendment Increasing Revenues and Expenditures by \$790,120, to Authorize \$310,000 in Reserves for Use as Revenue, and to Approve the Cost Allocation of Increased Dues to ESJGWA Members.
Date: December 13, 2023

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the ESJGWA Steering Committee make the following recommendations to the Board of Directors:

1. The ESJGWA Budget be amended to reflect a \$790,120 increase in spending authority to be offset by an increase in revenues; and,
2. The ESJGWA Reserve Balance in the amount of \$310,000 be authorized for use as revenue; and,
3. The resulting increase in Member Dues of \$670,120 be allocated to Member GSAs using a similar allocation formula currently in use by the ESJGWA.

The primary purpose of the proposed actions are to amend the budget to reflect the cost of performing the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update.

Reasons for Recommendation

The current ESJGWA budget was originally adopted on June 9th and amended on September 13th. An additional amendment is now needed to reflect the cost of performing the 2025 GSP Update. In a subsequent action, the Steering Committee will be asked to recommend the approval of the scope of work and budget for Woodard & Curran to perform the 2025 GSP Update for a not to exceed amount of \$1,130,120.

Staff has scoured the current budget for line items that can be deferred or eliminated in the current fiscal year. Additionally, the \$310,000 held in reserves specifically for the GSP update is proposed to be reallocated as Revenues. Several line items are also proposed to be adjusted to reflect current

spending trends and progress on specific tasks. The table below shows which specific line items are proposed to be adjusted or “zeroed out”.

ESGWA Budget Line Items	Line Item Increase to/(Reduce to)	Net Change
REVEUES		
Additional GWA Cost Allocation (GSP Update)	670,120	670,120
Reserve Balance for Use on GSP Update	\$310,000	\$310,000
Carryover (Use of Fund Balance)	0	\$(130,000)
Reimbursement from GSAs for Grant Writing	0	\$(60,000)
EXPENDITURES		
<i>MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION</i>		
Meetings (Clerk and Records)	\$20,000	\$(20,000)
Professional Services PW Admin.	\$50,000	\$(10,000)
Professional Services Public Outreach, Communications,...	0	\$(62,000)
Interbasin & DWR Coordination	0	\$(6,000)
Grant Writing	0	\$(112,000)
<i>TECHNICAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES</i>		
Accelerated GSP Modeling Work	\$60,000	\$60,000
GSP 2025 Update	\$1,130,120	\$1,130,120
Groundwater Data Collection	\$60,000	\$28,000
Implementation of Instrumentation (Representative Wells)	0	\$(7,500)
Monitoring Network Evaluation	0	\$(5,000)
Monitoring Network Improvements (wells; SW/GW Interact)	0	\$(5,000)
DMS Implementation	0	\$(23,000)
Model Development & Support	\$15,000	\$(7500)
Domestic Well Mitigation Program	0	\$(70,000)
<i>CONTRIBUTIONS TO RESERVES</i>		
Reserve Dedication	0	\$(100,000)
	Net Change in Revenues	\$790,120
	Net Change in Expenditures	\$790,120

The net shortfall in the ESJGWA budget is typically made up using Member Dues which is projected to be \$670,120. The proposed increase in Member Dues is in addition to the \$370,000 currently allocated to Members. The table below reflects the additional allocation to each Member GSA based on the net \$670,120 FY 2023-24 ESJGWA Budget shortfall. It should also be noted that minimum dues are proposed to be increased from \$7,500 to \$15,000 to reflect the sizeable jump in proposed Member Dues.

GSA	Total Pumping-Projected (AFY)	Population (2017)	Minimum	Pumping	Population	Total	%
CDWA	9,611	1,629	\$15,000	\$3,102	\$468	\$18,569	2.8%
CSJWCD	138,809	8,047	\$15,000	\$44,797	\$2,310	\$62,107	9.3%
Eastside GSA	63,500	10,498	\$15,000	\$20,493	\$3,013	\$38,506	5.7%
LCSD	1,153	1,558	\$15,000	\$372	\$447	\$15,819	2.4%
LCWD	485	2819	\$15,000	\$157	\$809	\$15,966	2.4%
Lodi	14,520	58,174	\$15,000	\$4,686	\$16,696	\$36,382	5.4%
Manteca	18,985	64,279	\$15,000	\$6,127	\$18,448	\$39,575	5.9%
NSJWCD	146,158	21,977	\$15,000	\$47,169	\$6,307	\$68,476	10.2%
OID	39,952	1,890	\$15,000	\$12,894	\$542	\$28,436	4.2%
SDWA	4,532	7,136	\$15,000	\$1,463	\$2,048	\$18,511	2.8%
SEWD	165,025	41,134	\$15,000	\$53,258	\$11,806	\$80,063	11.9%
SJC #1	74,448	16,859	\$15,000	\$24,026	\$4,839	\$43,865	6.5%
SJC #2	8,183	39,779	\$15,000	\$2,641	\$11,417	\$29,057	4.3%
SSJ GSA	60,031	38,080	\$15,000	\$19,374	\$10,929	\$45,303	6.8%
Stockton	23,035	277,120	\$15,000	\$7,434	\$79,534	\$101,968	15.2%
WID GSA	31,238	8,488	\$15,000	\$10,081	\$2,436	\$27,517	4.1%
	799,665	599,467	\$240,000	\$258,072	\$172,048	\$670,120	100.0%



Meeting Date: December 13, 2023

TO: ESJGWA Steering Committee
FROM: Brandon Nakagawa, Interim Staff to the ESJGWA
SUBJECT: Recommendation to Approve a Consultant Agreement with Woodard & Curran for the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update for a Not to Exceed Cost of \$1,130,120
Date: December 13, 2023

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the ESJGWA Steering Committee make a recommendation to the Board of Directors to approve a consultant services agreement with Woodward & Curran to perform the 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Update for a not to exceed cost of \$1,130,120:

Reasons for Recommendation

As directed by the Steering Committee on October 11th, staff has been negotiating with Woodward & Curran on a scope of work and budget to perform the 2025 GSP Update. At the November 8th Steering Committee meeting, Woodard & Curran presented detailed information on items driving the costs of GSP Updates across the San Joaquin Valley. Initial Eastern San Joaquin GSP Update estimates were well above the \$1.5 Million figure. Staff indicated that they would go back to Woodward & Curran with specific cuts to the scope of work, explore ways to leverage existing grant funds, explore facilitation services provided by DWR, and to scour the current budget for items that can be deferred or reduced. Despite these efforts, staff indicated that a significant increase in GSA Member dues would likely be inevitable.

Reducing the cost of the GSP Update needed to be balanced with the goal of producing a GSP Update that has a fighting chance of meeting DWR's expectations. Staff is very aware that a sub-par effort would likely put the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin in jeopardy of having its 2025 GSP Update being deemed inadequate setting the stage for intervention by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Woodard & Curran has provided the attached scope of work and fee for the not to exceed amount of \$1,130,120. The following bullet points highlight the measures taken to reduce costs or leverage existing resources:

- Focus efforts on DWR requirements (Tasks 3, 4, and 5);
- Eliminate all "want to have" tasks i.e. Data Management System Upgrades and Monitoring Network Evaluation;
- Leverage \$50,000 in existing grant funds to create a fundable list of GSP implementation items.

- Explore utilizing DWR Facilitation Support Services to assist with outreach and stakeholder engagement (discussions with Stantec are in progress).
- Allocate a portion of ESJGWA consultant support to an optional task accessible only if needed and authorized by the ESJGWA Administrator.
- Reduce Woodard & Curran hours to attend meetings and make presentations to the ESJGWA Board and Steering Committee.
- Recommend creation of a GSA lead Project Management Committee to drive the GSP Update process across the finish line.

Attachments

Woodard & Curran Scope of Work and Cost Estimate