



## MEETING MINUTES – Merced GSP

SUBJECT: Merced GSP Coordinating Committee Meeting

DATE/TIME: June 25, 2018 at 1:30 PM

LOCATION: Castle Conference Center at Castle Airport, 1900 Airdrome Entry, Atwater, CA 95301

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### Coordinating Committee Members In Attendance:

	Representative	GSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Dietz	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Justin Vinson	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Chavez	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ken Elwin (alternate)	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bob Kelley	Merced Subbasin GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nic Marchini	Merced Subbasin GSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rodrigo Espinoza	Merced Subbasin GSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	George Park (alternate)	Merced Subbasin GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larry Harris	Turner Island Water District GSA #1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Skinner (alternate)	Turner Island Water District GSA #1

### Meeting Notes

1. Approval of minutes for May 29, 2018 meeting.
  - Minutes were unanimously approved
2. Stakeholder Committee (SC) Update
  - Alyson Watson (Woodard & Curran) provided an update on the second SC meeting held earlier in the day. SC members were provided a background on sustainability terms and had open discussion about the definition of sustainability and how it applies to the Subbasin.
3. Plan Area and Authority
  - Alyson Watson provided an overview of what the Plan Area and Authority chapter includes, which will be provided for review by Coordinating Committee (CC) members at the end of June to return with comments by July 23 meeting.
4. Minimum Thresholds
  - MID likely has 1 well in area in eastern portion of the Subbasin that could be added to analysis., with 1 additional possibly near Fahrens Creek. Identified need to work with Planada CSD and others to get additional data in this eastern area.

- Some dry wells in 2015 were only 25 feet deep, but it may not be reasonable to say the threshold is 25 ft in these spots.
- Ron Meyers was identified as a pump tester who may have more detailed well completion information than some of the agencies for areas with private wells. Nic Marchini will provide Ron’s contact info.
- Nic Marchini will look at static water level records back to 2012 and try to put together a summary spreadsheet to fill some data gaps.
- Hicham EITal noted that in the McSwain area, some water is being produced from below a hardpan (not related to Corcoran Clay). In 2008, some wells dropped 40-50 feet. This one example out of several other special situations where shallow groundwater wells may not be useful for regional measurement and analysis.
- Hicham EITal indicated that agencies in neighboring Subbasin may have more information about trucked water program and should be contacted.
- CC members discussed the definition of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) and the need for ground-truthing the dataset provided by The Nature Conservancy (TNC)/DWR.

5. Current Conditions Baseline

- Ali Taghavi (Woodard & Curran) gave a presentation on current conditions baseline assumptions and results so far.
- Hicham EITal and Ken Elwin indicated the possibility of using the latest 2012 MID dataset in the Water Resources Management Plan, prepared by CH2, for Merced and McSwain area to inform assumptions for parks, cemeteries, backyards, etc. within City of Merced boundary.
- Bob Kelley requested to rename “Change in Storage” to “Deficit” or “Overdraft” in Groundwater Budget graphics.
- A table summarizing average rainfall and example hydrologic years will be provided to CC members as a data request for suggested changes/updates.

	Average rainfall	Sample Years
Wet year		
Above normal		
Below normal		
Dry		
Critical		

6. Future Conditions

- Woodard & Curran shared that there is a need for additional information about future baseline assumptions from CC members.
- Bob Kelley shared that there is some information available about dairies, but it is not very detailed.

- Ken Elwin and Justin Vison will provide assumptions about other future conditions.
- Three assumption areas were identified for additional input:
  - i. Urban: 2013 level of water usage (Will conservation measures last long-term? What can each municipality tolerate?)
  - ii. Agriculture Surplus Water (Same cropping pattern with less water? What future cropping mix changes will increase or decrease water usage?)
  - iii. Interbasin Coordination (How much water is escaping from Merced Subbasin to other subbasins?)
- CC members were requested to review and provide comments on projected water supply and demand information, agricultural land use, and industrial users on private wells.
- Woodard & Curran will summarize for Bob Kelley the historical information that has already been provided.

#### 7. Coordination with Neighboring Basins Update

- Staff have provided edits on Interbasin agreement back to Chowchilla Subbasin.
- 2 meetings have been held so far with representatives from Turlock Subbasin to coordinate on GSP development status, data, etc.
- Staff are trying to schedule a meeting with Delta-Mendota Subbasin, with preference to coordinate with GSAs preparing GSPs adjacent to Merced Subbasin.
- CC members directed staff to represent them at the Interbasin Coordination meetings.

#### 8. Update DWR's SGMA Technical Support Services (TSS) opportunity

- Hicham EITal (Merced Irrigation District) is still coordinating with CCID on federal and state funding for monitoring wells for subsidence. He is also still coordinating with a potential landowner to site an additional monitoring well south of LeGrand.
- Amanda Peisch (Department of Water Resources) provided a brief update that four other TSS applications have been submitted so far. The \$2-3M drilling contract is open, but DWR is hoping some other application requests outside of drilling would be handled through services provided by existing DWR staff. While funding is not exactly first-come first-serve, it is still limited and will be decreasing soon.

#### 9. Opportunity for public comment on items not on agenda

- A question was raised about whether GDEs will be included in future water budget projections:
  - i. Not explicitly, but they are included in evapotranspiration (ET) from future land use.

- Water demand for for maintenance of natural spaces will be included through UWMPs (for city-supplied spaces) with some already in model. Refuge water release requirements from MID are already built into the model.

10. Next steps and adjourn