



MEETING NOTES – Merced GSP

SUBJECT: Merced GSP Coordinating Committee Meeting

DATE/TIME: August 27, 2018 at 1:30 PM

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

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 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 checked="" 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. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes for July 23, 2018 meeting.
 - a) Minutes were unanimously approved
2. Stakeholder Committee (SC) update
 - a) Alyson Watson (Woodard & Curran) provided an update on the fourth SC meeting held earlier in the day. SC members had questions, discussion, and clarifications on methodology for setting minimum thresholds, particularly for groundwater elevations.
3. Presentation by Woodard & Curran on GSP development
 - a) Minimum Thresholds for Groundwater Elevations
 - i. Alyson Watson (Woodard & Curran) presented the updated proposed methodology for calculating minimum thresholds for groundwater elevations at existing CASGEM wells.
 - ii. Coordinating Committee members thought the updated methodology made sense. DWR data on domestic wells is likely to be poor, so using a 25th percentile shallow value sounds appropriate.
 - iii. Public Comment: Timing of spring/fall measurement of CASGEM wells may not align with seasonal peak domestic well pumping (e.g. domestic wells may be temporarily dewatered in August, which wouldn't be caught by March/October monitoring).



- iv. The “buffer”/“total range” for the elevation threshold analysis is including the impacts of seasonality and may want to consider fall to fall or spring to spring comparison.
 - v. Question: Should we use threshold setting results to directly identify additional monitoring locations? Answer: Our approach will be to determine storage changes through the sustainable yield process and then use the results to evaluate minimum thresholds and monitoring needs.
 - vi. In the gap area(s), Woodard & Curran will be evaluating other non-CASGEM wells in the database to identify any with (1) enough historical data and also that (2) meet requirements to be used (have completion depth, etc.). A separate challenge is that thresholds for newly constructed monitoring wells may take several years to determine a threshold (e.g. time needed to develop historical data).
 - 1. Marco Bell (Merced Irrigation District [MID]) indicated that an update will be available in approximately 1-2 months about additional monitoring wells MID is working on adding or selecting from existing wells to fill CASGEM gap areas as identified in the Merced Subbasin CASGEM monitoring plan.
 - 2. Request: Hicham EITal (MID) requested standing agenda time to be added to future meetings to provide an update on CASGEM program status.
 - vii. Shallow school district wells were identified as a potential additional indicator for the groundwater threshold analysis. Woodard & Curran will start by contacting the Office of Education to obtain information about these wells for incorporation into the analysis.
- b) Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM)
- i. Alyson Watson (Woodard & Curran) provided an overview of the HCM section of the GSP and some example maps that will be included in the section writeup that will be provided for CC member review in the next few months.
 - ii. CC Comment: 3D renderings or cross sections need to include both a vertical and horizontal scale to distinguish vertical exaggeration or include a non-exaggerated version.
- c) Projected Water Budget and Sustainable Yield
- i. Alyson Watson (Woodard & Curran) provided an update to assumptions and results of the projected conditions baseline groundwater budget and sustainable yield groundwater budget.
 - ii. Question: On the projected conditions baseline budget, why does net deep percolation not change significantly? Answer: Right now, it doesn't take into account efficiency changes since it is a baseline under projected conditions, but we would expect some decrease under other scenarios.
 - iii. Question: What are main assumptions in first 25 years (2015-2040) of the sustainable yield groundwater budget? Answer: No specific decisions on assumptions were made on how we will get to sustainable conditions in 2040, but for the purposes of modeling the end-result or goal, reducing agricultural land was used as a model input.
 - iv. Question: Under the 25-year projected sustainable yield, were assumed model condition changes modeled as front- or back-loaded in the timeline? Answer: This discussion and decision for implementation of projects and management actions will come later in the GSP process. Likely we will design it to be a smooth or back-loaded process to account for expected changes from SED or other factors.
- d) Data Management Approach and DMS Demo



- i. Jeanna Long (Woodard & Curran) provided a description of the data management system (Opti), including a short demo of the existing tool.
 - ii. Question: Will data be available to the public? Answer: The GSAs will decide, but the flexibility is there to make certain or all parts publicly available.
4. Public Outreach Update
 - a. Alyson Watson (Woodard & Curran) provided a summary of discussion and comments recorded during the August 2 public workshop presentation.
5. Coordination with neighboring basins
 - a) No update on Turlock right now, but meetings continue to coordinate on milestones. (Reminder: Turlock is on a different SGMA schedule that has a completion deadline 2 years after Merced).
 - b) Debbie Liebersbach (Turlock Irrigation District) has met with Delta-Mendota representatives to start coordination efforts. Currently Turlock and Delta-Mendota Subbasin are discussing development of a resolution or similar document which will be shared with Merced when ready.
 - i. Woodard & Curran will be setting up a meeting with Delta-Mendota soon to start coordination with the two GSPs adjoining the Merced Subbasin.
 - c) A preliminary meeting was held with Chowchilla staff to begin coordination on modeling.
6. Update DWR's SGMA Technical Support Services (TSS) opportunity
 - a) Hicham ElTal (MID) is waiting for a meeting to be set up by DWR to discuss timing of expected funding for Merced Subbasin project(s). Woodard & Curran continues to move the contract agreement forward with DWR and is currently waiting to hear back from DWR on the latest round of comments.
7. Public comment
 - a) No comments.
8. Next steps and adjourn

**Next Regular Meeting
September 24, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.**

Merced, CA – Castle Conference Center at Castle Airport (subject to change)
Information also available online at mercedsgma.org

Action may be taken on any item

Note: If you need disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact Merced County, Community and Economic Development staff at 209-385-7654 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.