
GSP Coordinating Committee

Coordinating Committee Meeting – August 26, 2019

Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Merced Subbasin GSA
Turner Island Water District GSA-1

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Approval of minutes for July 22, 2019 meeting
3. Stakeholder Committee update
 - a) No morning meeting today, SC encouraged to attend today's CC
4. GSP Public Comments update
 - a) Overview of comments received
 - b) Next steps for finalizing and adoption
5. Prop 68
 - a) Description of funding opportunity
 - b) Recommendation on next steps
6. Water Allocation Framework

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Agenda

6. Coordination with Neighboring Basins
7. Informational Item:
**Presentation on Remote-Sensing of Groundwater Use
by ITRC faculty, Dan Howe**
8. Public Comment
9. Next Steps and Adjourn

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Approval of Minutes

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Public Comments Received on GSP

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Revised Merced GSP Review & Submission Timeline

30-day Public Review Period		Consideration of Comments, Prep of Final GSP, and Public Hearings		
JULY	AUG/SEPT	OCTOBER	NOV/DEC	DEC/JAN
<p>Release Public Draft GSP - July 19</p> <p>Send Notice of Intent to Adopt to Cities and Counties – July 22</p>	<p>Review and Comments on Draft GSP</p>	<p>Consulting team revisions to incorporate comments</p>	<p>Recirculate to GSA Boards. Must be adopted by MSGSA, TIWD GSA-1, MIUGSA + its member agencies</p>	<p>Submit to DWR</p>
<p>SC & CC meetings July 22</p>	<p>Joint Board meeting of the three GSA Boards on Sept 18</p>		<p>Adoption hearings begin no sooner than October 21 (90 days after NOI)</p>	<p>Must be submitted by January 31, 2020</p>

Release of Public Draft GSP

- Published on Website **July 19**
- Executive Summary, GSP (375pp), Appendices
- 30 day public comment period closed on **August 19**



Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

17 Public Comment Letters Received

NGOs

The Nature Conservancy

Audubon California

Self-Help Enterprises

Leadership Counsel

Ag Innovations (includes: Audubon, TNC, Clean Water Action/Clean Water Fund, American Rivers, Union of Concerned Scientists)

California Poultry Federation

Valley Land Alliance

Other

Nickel Family LLC

Private Citizens (2)

Olam Edible Nuts

Water Agencies

Merquin County Water District

Amsterdam Water District

Sandy Mush Mutual Water Co

East Turlock Subbasin and West Turlock Subbasin GSAs Joint Technical Advisory Committee

State and Federal Agencies

US Fish and Wildlife Service, San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Central Region

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Public Comments Topics

- Drinking Water (Quality/Access/Protection)
- Subsidence
- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems
- Public Involvement
- Management Areas
- Water Allocation
- Recharge
- Demand Management

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Prop 68

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Proposition 68 Round 3

Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) GRANT PROGRAM



- Round 3 allows applicants previously awarded funding for Prop 1 (Round 2) funds to apply for development of GSPs and projects that help implement GSPs
- Basin eligible for up to \$500,000
- Basin should qualify for 100% local cost share waiver based on DAC percentage of basin
- Application due November 1, 2019
- W&C has prepared scope and budget to prepare grant application – requesting authorization
- Recommend assembling small working group to decide what to include in grant application

Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) GRANT PROGRAM



DWR tentative schedule for Round 3 funding:

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

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

GSP Implementation Activities

- Preparation of First Annual Report – due April 1
- GSP Program Management (CC/SC coordination, outreach)
- Create a data gaps plan
- Collect and analyze water level, water quality, and subsidence data
- Finalize allocation framework and implementation plan
- Establish groundwater pumping monitoring and reporting program
- Develop methodology for establishing minimum thresholds at new wells
- Refine MercedWRM model calibration
- Refine climate change analysis for local surface water operations
- Pursue funding opportunities

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

For CC Discussion

- Recommendation for authorization of up to \$50,000 in funding for W&C to prepare Prop 68 Grant Application
 - Contingency under existing contract or new authorization
 - Recommendation on establishing working group to advise on what to include in grant application
- Recommendation on funding next steps for GSP Implementation

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Water Allocation Framework

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Water Allocation Framework – How we got here

October 2018	November 2018	December 2018	January 2019	February 2019
Legal presentation at SC and CC mtgs providing overview of GW rights law and allocation options	CC and SC discuss potential allocation frameworks	Additional CC and SC discussions – not ready to make recommendation to GSA Boards	Review and revision of estimate of developed supply from seepage More CC/SC discussion	Revised Water Budget Memo prepared with SY estimate More CC/SC discussion of framework
March 2019	April 2019	May 2019	June 2019	July 2019
Continued SC/CC discussion on allocation framework with focus on method for allocation to overlying acres	CC approved allocation framework recommendation to Boards	Administrative draft Management Action text that includes allocation framework. GSA comments to text highlight areas of disagreement on framework	Special CC Session to discuss definition of developed supply used in GSP and allocation framework. Identified areas needing additional discussion.	Finalize text for public draft GSP Continue CC discussions of details of allocation framework

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Here's what is in document

- Explanation that GSAs intend to allocate water to each GSA but have not yet reached agreement on allocations or how they will be implemented
- Estimates of basin-wide sustainable yield and developed supply for illustrative purposes

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Which baseline should we use to figure out how much pumping needs to be reduced?

- SGMA requires GSAs estimate water budgets for at least 3 different baselines
- Our GSP includes water budgets for 4 baselines
 - 2 historical baselines (1996-2015 and 2006 to 2015)
 - Current conditions (2015)
 - Projected conditions (2040 conditions simulated over a 50-year representative hydrology)
- The GSP must bring the basin into balance by 2040
- The 2040 Projected Conditions baseline is the appropriate baseline to use in evaluating needed changes to groundwater pumping
 - Projected conditions include: projected land use changes, population growth, FERC relicensing rules

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Why are the change in basin storage and change in basin pumping needed not the same?

- The Projected conditions water budget estimates an average annual reduction in storage of 82,000 AFY
- There is not a 1:1 relationship between pumping and storage changes because the groundwater system is complex and other components like stream depletions vary with changing groundwater level
- Pumping needs to be reduced by more than just the storage change to account for changes in stream depletion as groundwater levels change
- An estimated reduction in groundwater consumption of 90,000 AFY is needed to eliminate the projected storage change of -82,000 AFY

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

What reduction in pumping is needed to bring the basin into balance?

Basin wide pumping under Projected Conditions (2040)	660,000 AFY
Estimated Sustainable Yield	570,000 AFY
Basin-Wide Groundwater Consumption Reduction needed	90,000 AFY

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Inter-GSA Coordination

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Water Allocation Framework – Confirmed Areas of Agreement from July Meeting

- **Water rights concepts should be considered**
 - Overlying rights, appropriative rights
- **Appropriative Users (generally the cities)**
 - Appropriators should be allocated based on their historical use
 - Historical period for appropriative use (2006-2015)
- **Overlying Users (generally irrigators)**
 - Allocation to overlayers should be based on acreage (AF/acre), not historical use
- **Each GSA will get an allocation to manage toward sustainability**

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Proposed Allocation Framework Structure

- **Basin Management Principles** (examples below)
 - Work together in mutual cooperation for the sustainable management of groundwater
 - Jointly develop and implement the Groundwater Sustainability Plan
 - Achieve the Merced Subbasin Sustainability Goal
- **Management Responsibilities**
 - Basinwide – Coordinating Committee
 - Each GSA
- **Monitoring and Reporting**
 - Gross vs Net groundwater use
 - Metering, Remote Sensing, Other (e.g. self-reporting)
- **Credits and Trading**
 - Recharge/developed water
 - Basin trading rules

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Roadmap for future discussions and actions

Principles & Management Responsibilities

- Review/confirm guiding principles.
- Identify basinwide and GSA management responsibilities.

Definitions & Quantification

- Define and quantify terms—developed supply, seepage, etc.
- Refine & identify missing data needed to address implementation of allocation framework.

Allocation

- Define and quantify GSA allocations.

Monitoring & Reporting

- Establish near-term and long-term process for monitoring and reporting groundwater pumping.

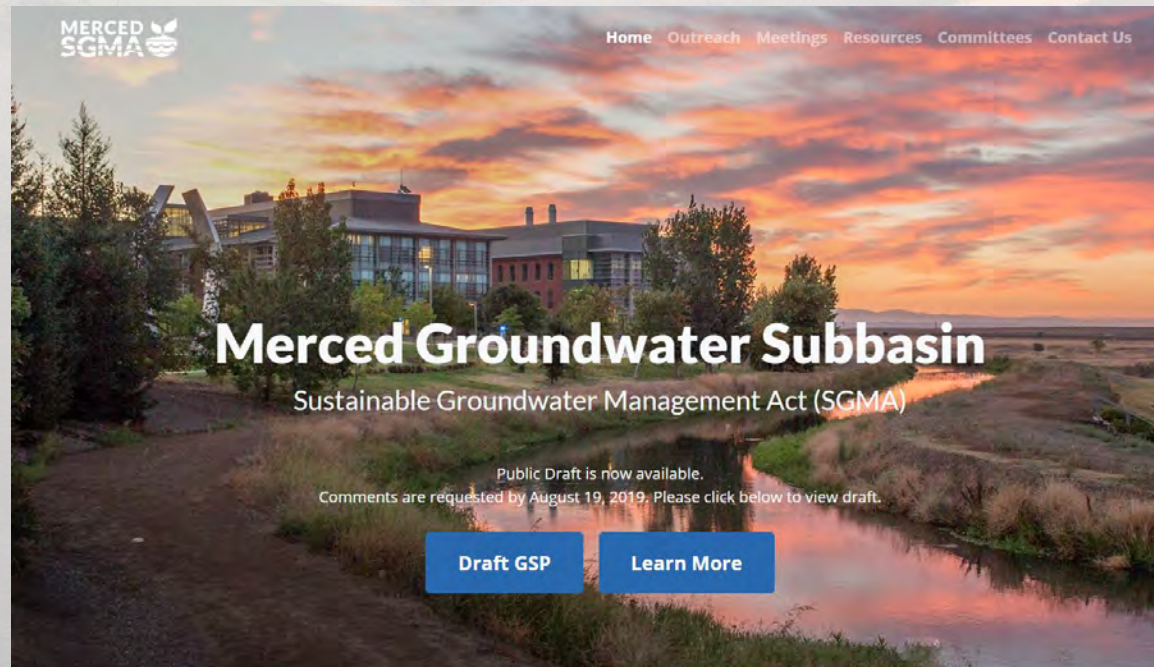


Public Outreach Update

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Public Outreach Update

- Coordination with LC and SHE on outreach to DAC community meetings
- Joint GSA Board Public meeting to take place in September to review comments received
- Adoption hearings to be held in Fall 2019

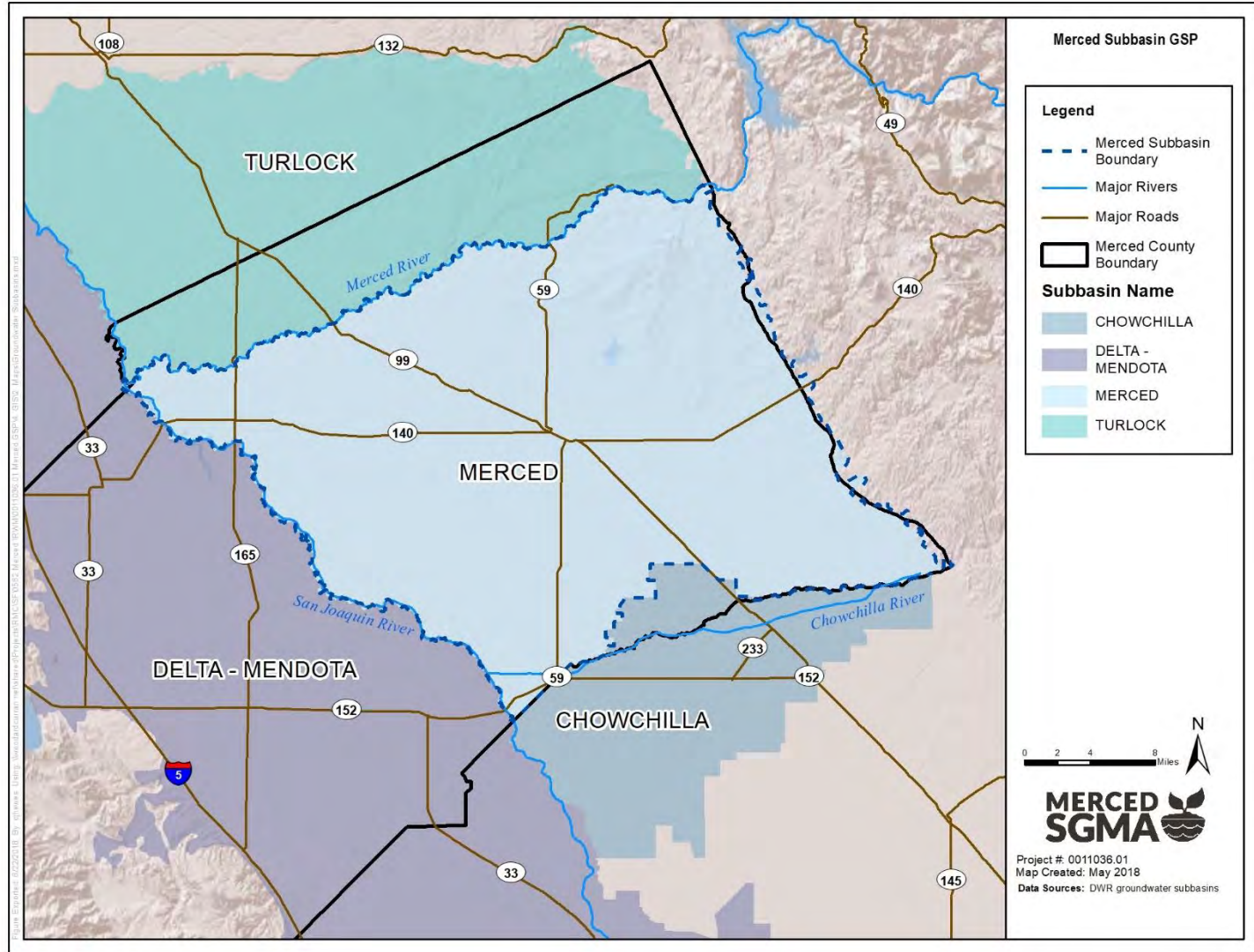




Coordination With Neighboring Basins Update

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Coordination with Neighboring Basins





Remote Sensing of Groundwater Use

Presentation by Dan Howes, Irrigation Training and Research Center

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





Questions/Comments from Public

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Next Steps

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

What's coming up next?

- Joint GSA Boards Meeting on September 18 @ 6PM
 - Review and discuss public comments on draft GSP
- Adjourn to next meeting: not currently scheduled

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

GSP Coordinating Committee

Coordinating Committee Meeting – August 26, 2019

Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Merced Subbasin GSA
Turner Island Water District GSA-1

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

