

Tracy Subbasin GSP Coordination Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 15, 2021

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Teleconference Meeting Only

Teleconference Link: <https://stantec.zoom.us/j/92863298104>

Phone Number: +1 (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 928-632-981-04#

MINUTES

I. Opening of Meeting/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM.

Roll call found the following Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) representatives present via teleconference:

- David Weisenberger, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District GSA
- Greg Young, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District GSA
- Greg Gibson, City of Lathrop GSA
- Lea Emmons, City of Tracy GSA
- Matt Zidar, San Joaquin County GSA
- Ryan Alameda, Stewart Tract GSA

Other attendees:

- Jackson Cook, California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Richard Shatz, GEI
- Nader Shareghi, Mountain House Community Services District
- Kirsten Pringle, Stantec
- Elizabeth Simon, Stantec

II. Scheduled Items

A. Approval of June 17 GSP Coordination Committee Meeting Minutes

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Matt Zidar, San Joaquin County GSA

SECONDER: Greg Gibson, City of Lathrop GSA

AYES: Banta-Carbona Irrigation District GSA, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District GSA, City of Lathrop GSA, City of Tracy GSA, San Joaquin County GSA, Stewart Tract GSA

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

B. Public Outreach Update

Kirsten Pringle, Stantec, provided an overview of the purpose and format for the next public workshop, scheduled for August. The purpose of the workshop is to provide an overview of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) chapters and to prepare the public to provide comment. She also informed the Committee that an informational postcard was being distributed to areas with a high concentration of domestic wells within San Joaquin County GSA's area.

The group discussed the Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt the GSP. Ryan Alameda, Stewart Tract, indicated he would submit the Stewart Tract NOI.

C. Draft GSP and Groundwater Modeling Updates

Richard Shatz, GEI, provided an update on the status of the draft GSP and associated technical work. He summarized revisions made to the GSP chapters to address comments from DWR in the initial GSP assessments. Mr. Shatz noted that no comments had been received from the public during the public comment period for the previous chapters. Minor comments were received from the Cities of Tracy and Lathrop. Mr. Shatz requested final comments from the GSA representatives on the draft GSP chapters by the end of July. The public draft GSP is anticipated to be released for public review and comment on August 9.

The Committee discussed how to address surface water depletion in the GSP. Mr. Shatz stated that the water budget is estimating a 23,000 acre-foot per year of additional surface water depletion. He stated he believes the modeling estimate is incorrect. Greg Young, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District GSA, asked what additional surface depletion means and where it is coming from. Mr. Shatz responded that additional surface water is depletion is depletion beyond historic levels.

Matt Zidar, San Joaquin County GSA, stated that he believes the groundwater model estimate for surface water depletion is incorrect as the numbers don't track with observed data in the Subbasin. He noted that Mike Cornelius, GEI, had suggested language in the GSP to explain modeling errors.

Greg Gibson, City of Lathrop GSA, asked whether the discrepancy between observed vs modeled surface water depletion is due to an issue in the model with inaccurate pumping estimates. Mr. Zidar responded that he believes the model is overestimating the amount of applied surface water.

Mr. Gibson asked whether DWR would reject the GSP due to modeling inaccuracies. Mr. Zidar suggested that the GSAs incorporate the modeling results in the GSP with explanations of the perceived modeling inaccuracies. Mr. Gibson recommended that the GSP be amended when an C2VSIM update was made available.

Mr. Young stated that he was concerned about including erroneous modeling outputs in the GSP that could be used to justify actions unsupported by past data and understanding of water usage within the Subbasin. He suggested instead including information consistent with understanding of the Subbasin.

Mr. Gibson asked how surface water depletion is measured. Mr. Shatz responded that GSAs can evaluate historic and current surface water depletion by the change in gradient, but projected conditions can only be estimated.

Mr. Shatz suggested explaining in the GSP that the modeling estimates for surface water depletion are likely inaccurate and setting minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for surface water depletion based on historic conditions. The Committee agreed with this approach.

Mr. Shatz presented groundwater level trends, indicating that some areas of the Subbasin may require additional projects. Mr. Young asked for more information on the land use in the areas with the specified wells.

D. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for GSP Implementation

David Weisenberger, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District GSA, provided an update on the MOA amendment. Banta-Carbona Irrigation District GSA's legal counsel

recommended amending the existing MOA, rather than developing a new governance agreement, and keeping the amendment simple. The legal counsel has prepared a draft amendment to the MOA for review by the other GSA representatives. It was decided that Ms. Pringle would circulate the draft MOA amendment for review and comment.

Mr. Gibson asked about the timeline to adopt the MOA amendment. Ms. Pringle responded that it was dependent on how long it took for the GSAs to come to agreement on the final MOA language. The final MOA could be adopted with the final GSP, but is anticipated to be completed sooner than that.

E. GSP Public Comment and Adoption Requirements

Ms. Pringle provided a presentation on the draft GSP public comment process and final GSP adoption requirements. Mr. Gibson asked about the schedule for adopting the budget for GSP implementation and indicated that the City of Lathrop would prefer to bring SGMA items to the City Council together.

F. GSP Development Schedule

Mr. Shatz provided an update on the GSP development schedule. He noted that comments submitted during the public comment period will be included as an appendix to the GSP.

G. DWR Status Update

Jackson Cook, DWR, provided an update on the State's emergency drought responses activities. Mr. Gibson suggested that DWR coordinate with the San Joaquin County Drought Task Force. Mr. Shatz suggested distributing information about the My Dry Well Tool to local well drillers.

III. Public Comments

Nader Shareghi, Mountain House Community Services District, noted that he had sent an email to Mr. Shatz and Ms. Pringle about the District's responsibilities under SGMA.

IV. Agency Comments

There were no additional comments from the GSA representatives.

V. Next GSP Coordination Committee Meeting – August 20, 2021

The next GSP Coordination Committee meeting will be held on August 20, 2021.

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Pringle adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM.