

Tracy Subbasin GSP Coordination Committee Meeting

Thursday December 15, 2022
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Teleconference Meeting Only

Teleconference Link: <https://stantec.zoom.us/j/92897226513>

Phone Number: +1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 928 9722 6513

The following options are available to members of the public to listen to these meetings and provide comments to the Committee Members before and during the meeting:

CALL-IN

Members of the public are encouraged to use the call-in number, which will allow them to fully participate in the meeting without having to be present in person. **Once connected, we request you kindly mute your phone.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

If you wish to make a comment on a specific agenda item, please submit your comment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to the meeting. Please submit your comment via email to Matt Zidar, San Joaquin County, at mzidar@sjgov.org. Your comment will be shared with the Tracy Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies members and placed into the record at the meeting. Every effort will be made to read comments received during the meeting into the record, but some comments may not be read due to time limitations. Comments received after an agenda item will be made part of the record if received prior to the end of the meeting.

DISABILITY-RELATED MODIFICATIONS

If you need disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please call 1 (209) 468-3089 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

AGENDA

I. Opening of Meeting/Roll Call

II. Scheduled Items

- A. Approval of the September 15 GSP Coordination Committee Meeting Minutes –
Action Item
- B. GSA Response to EO N-7-22 – *Discussion Item*
 - 1. San Joaquin County Update and Status Report
 - 2. GSA Policies, Criteria, and Forms to Comply with EO
- C. GSA Status Updates - *Round Robin Discussion*

1. Projects and Management Actions Updates
2. Grants/Letters of Support

D. GSP Implementation Updates – *Discussion Item*

1. Current Groundwater Conditions
2. Annual Report Updates
3. Data Gaps: Technical Support Services (TSS) Request
4. SWRCB Water Quality Letter

E. C&E Plan Update Presentation and Adoption – *Action Item*

F. Inter-basin Coordination – *Discussion Item*

1. Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin. Discussion of basin boundary flows, DMS, well mitigation, and other items of interest in both basins
2. Other Adjacent Basin Updates
3. DWR Engagement on Model

G. DWR Status Report – *Discussion Item*

III. **Public Comments**

IV. **Agency Comments**

V. **Next GSP Coordination Committee Meeting – Proposed January 19, 2023**

VI. **Adjournment**

Tracy Subbasin GSP Coordination Committee Meeting

**Thursday September 15, 2022
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM**

Teleconference Meeting Only

Teleconference Link: <https://stantec.zoom.us/j/96886901401>

Phone Number: 1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 968 8690 1401

DRAFT MINUTES

I. Opening of Meeting/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM. Roll call found the following Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SMGA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) representatives for the Tracy Subbasin (Tsb) present via teleconference for the Quarterly Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Coordination Committee (Committee) meeting:

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

Other attendees:

- Emily Finnegan, Stantec
- Khandriale Clark, Stantec
- Richard Shatz, GEI
- Jackson Cook, California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Nader Shareghi, Mountain House CSD

II. **Scheduled Items**

A. GSA Status Updates – *Round Robin Discussion*

- Mr. Shatzs asked the Committee to participate in a round robin discussion. Respondents were asked to provide updates using the following questions as guidelines: How is your water supply? Are you pumping groundwater? If so, how much? Are your constituents pumping groundwater? How are things progressing with any water resources, projects, or management actions?
 - City of Tracy: Minimal groundwater pumping has been conducted to meet water demands. The City of Tracy maintains access to appropriate surface water supplies, so groundwater pumping and usage is supplemental and not a main source of water.
 - BCID: There has been no curtail from the river and no groundwater pumping by BCID. Some farmers in the area have been pumping, but it is a de minimums amount located across the emblematic line separating the Tsb from the Delta-Mendota subbasin.
 - BBID: There has been no curtailment. There may be some groundwater pumping occurring, but Mr. Young is unsure of any specifics or certainties at this time.
 - County of San Joaquin: Nothing to report.
 - Stewart Tract: There has been no pumping by Stewart Tract as all of their water comes from the City of Lathrop. There have not been any curtailments that Mr. Alameda is aware of. He additionally reported that Stewart Tract would soon begin successfully using non-potable recycled water in appropriate spaces at the River Island Development, which will provide great potable water savings.
 - City of Lathrop: Nothing to report.

B. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Updates – *Discussion Item*

- Current Groundwater Conditions

- The current water year will be closing on September 30. The technical team has been collecting data via the monitoring well network, and while some of the numbers presented during the Committee meeting are current and above the minimum thresholds (MT), others are still in flux. The technical team will not be able paint the clearest picture with regard to MTs and the state of the region's water resources until the close of the current water year.
- Mr. Weisenberger asked about the location of a particular lower aquifer well (03S06E05R001M) shown to have exceeded an MT. Mr. Shatz will follow up with him with more information regarding that well.
- There have been no dry well reports for the Tsb to DWR thus far in 2022. Mr. Weisenberger mentioned a well running dry near the intersection of 580; however, Mr. Shatz looking into the groundwater levels near the well and noted that they are .6 feet up at that particular well. Mr. Weisenberger speculated that it might be another issue such as pump failure. If any constituents, customers, or other stakeholders notify the Committee of a dry well, the Committee should direct them to DWR's My Dry Well virtual reporting tool.
- DWR is now receiving subsidence updates (InSAR data) on a quarterly basis. They only compare each year's data to that of the previous year. Currently, the Tsb can report that the basin's subsidence is within the detectable limit, which is -0.1 to +0.1 feet/year.
- The groundwater within the Tsb is not currently exceeding the MTs for water quality. The technical team is still waiting for the levels from Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program nitrate wells to be available; however, it is only collected on an annual basis. Mr. Shatz anticipates that data will be available sometime later this fall/winter.

- The State Water Resources Control Board would like GSAs to use Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program Wells to measure water quality as well. As that data (for total dissolved solids) is taken only every five years, the Tsb is currently using readily available data in lieu of that option, but Mr. Shatz does not think that will be a problem. Mr. Shatz will provide Mr. Zidar with further information on the matter so that it could potentially be used in the neighboring Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin as well.
- Projects and Management Actions
 - Expansion of the BCID distribution facilities will provide surface water to up to about 500 acres of agricultural land that is currently solely reliant on groundwater, thereby reducing groundwater pumping by up to 1,000 acre-feet per year. Estimated costs to build out to the full 2,000+ acres are approximately \$1,500,000 and funded by BCID and grants. Construction is expected to begin in 2023 and completed by 2030. The piping is to be extended by 350 acres but still within the BCID's boundaries, which equates to potentially more than 200 acre-feet of pumping reduction.
 - Management Action #1 – Modify Well Ordinance.
 - a. Create surface water depletion protection zones near rivers and sloughs. The purpose of this management action is to establish minimum sanitary seal and screen depth requirements to limit direct interconnection to surface water. This will benefit the Upper Aquifer and potentially to groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDE).
 - b. Well spacing requirements for high-capacity irrigation or municipal wells from domestic wells. This safeguard will benefit domestic well owners. Target completion date is end of Water Year 2025. There has not been any progress on spacing from surface water and GDEs but there has been an executive order for well spacing for irrigation

wells. An assembly bill (AB 2201) was also pursued but failed. The next steps will be to include GDEs and surface water in all well spacing requirements and make more progress on the executive order.

- c. Mr. Young asked, who has the authority to determine if a well is too close and enforce that? Mr. Shatz replied that the County did. Mr. Zidar confirmed that it was not identified in a written capacity. Mr. Young also asked if GEI could evaluate applications as they came in to aid the GSAs in their decision making. Mr. Shatz responded that if a GSA receives a notification or request for a new well, they should alert Mr. Zidar, who will then make the decision of who should perform the evaluation and continue the discussion from there.

- Updates on Funding Opportunities
 - DWR's Urban Communities Drought Relief Program. The minimum award \$5,000,000 with a cost match 25%. The final guidelines will be released this month with applications accepted shortly after. Award announcements are anticipated to occur in November 2022.
 - Reclamation WaterSmart: Drought Response Program. This program focuses on construction projects, but it can include design. Awards range from \$500,000 to \$5 million per award with a 50% cost match. Proponents have three years to complete their project. The program is anticipated to open any time after October 2022 but possibly Spring 2023.
 - DWR Proposition 1 – Round 2 – Fall 2022. There is a 50% cost match for this fund and available funding is dependent on the IRWM funding area DWR urban communities drought relief program. Note that Round 1 was just for critically overdrafted basins. Round 2 funding will be competitive as it is open to all basins (including the critically overdrafted).

- Federal Infrastructure Bill. There is no information available for this funding source as of yet, but it is something to be aware of.
- Mr. Shareghi asked if the projects and management actions focused solely on groundwater replenishment or just storage. Mr. Shatz responded that it was for both.
- Data Gaps – Technical Support Services (TSS)
 - Upper aquifer – The technical team has identified two proposed wells—one near Tracy and another near the subbasin boundary line to the southeast. The technical team does not have a confirmed location for one of the wells (MW 102) at this time.
 - Lower Aquifer – The technical team has identified four proposed wells—two to the south and two to the North/Northwest area.
 - These wells (total of six) will help fill in data gaps needed to paint a clearer picture of the Tsb's water resources.
 - The individuals or entities that own the land on which the new well(s) would reside would also own the well(s) themselves. However, DWR would be responsible for monitoring. Mr. Emmons suggested that the fire station (33 and Durham Ferry) located in a housing development near Interstate 5 would be a suitable location. He and Mr. Shatz will examine that option more closely and coordinate offline.
- Annual Report Updates
 - The schedule for the next annual report is as follows:
 - a. September 30, 2022 - Water Year (WY) closes
 - b. November 1, 2022 - GEI will be making requests for groundwater pumping and surface water deliveries
 - c. January 31, 2023 - Draft Annual Report release to GSAs
 - d. April 1, 2023 – Annual Report due to DWR. The Annual Report pumping data will serve as the basis for GSA budgets (estimated to occur April-June 2023).

C. Update on Data Management Systems – *Discussion Item*

- The Tsb has a Data Management System (DMS) created by GEI and Eastern San Joaquin has a DMS produced by Woodard and Curran. San Joaquin County is aiming to have one DMS for both subbasins (preferably a web enabled application) and is asking for volunteers from the GSAs to tag team/share costs.

D. Facilitation Support Services Task Order Overview – *Discussion Item*

- The Tsb's Facilitation Support Services (FSS) application has been approved by DWR and a task order for a period of performance covering July 2022 to June 2023 has been executed. The four tasks comprising that task order include:
 - Annual Public Workshop (anticipated for Spring/Summer 2023)
 - Public Outreach and Coordination Support
 - Interbasin Coordination
 - Contract Management
- Stantec will begin implementing the task order by updating the Communication and Engagement Plan. This update will require stakeholder interviews. As a result, Stantec is requesting that the Committee provide them with possible stakeholders to interview by Friday, September 23. The purpose of the interviews is to ascertain how the public viewed engagement during the GSP development process, how the Tsb can improve in that area, what communication channels might be best to use going forward, and how they would like to be engaged during GSP implementation.
- The second prominent task scoped in the new task order is interbasin coordination, which will include a combination of meetings with neighboring basins and GSP manager presentations. The purpose of the presentations is to learn more about the GSP determination process and how managers have dealt with the verdicts for their plans.
- Mr. Shatz noted that the period of performance for the FSS task order would be closing prior to when the Tsb might be receiving its GSP determination from DWR. The Committee may need further assistance

from Stantec then, so requesting an amendment may be a topic of consideration for the Committee.

E. DWR Status Report – *Discussion Item*

- Mr. Cook noted that the InSAR dataset has been updated with data through 7/1/22. <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/activity/tre-altamira-insar-subsidence>

F. Approval of the June 16 GSP Coordination Committee Meeting Minutes – *Action Item*

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Ryan Alameda

SECONDER: David Weisenberger

AYES: All

NOES: None

ABSENT: Matt Zidar (absent at time of vote)

ABSTAIN: None

III. **Public Comments**

No additional comments were provided.

IV. **Agency Comments**

Mr. Shareghi mentioned to Mr. Shatz that there was a well within Mountain House's area that was not destroyed but redeveloped and is currently in use. They will coordinate offline and discuss updates to well information.

V. **Next GSP Coordination Committee Meeting – December 15, 2022**

No additional comments were provided.

VI. **Adjournment**

Ms. Finnegan adjourned the meeting at 2:52 PM.

**BYRON-BETHANY IRRIGATION DISTRICT-
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
WELL PERMIT APPLICANT REQUEST FOR WRITTEN VERIFICATION OF
COMPLIANCE WITH
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM**

1. Well Permit Applicant Name: _____ (Must be the Landowner)
2. County Well Permit Application Date: _____
3. County Well Permit Application Number: _____
**** You must attach a complete copy of your County Well Permit Application to this form*
4. BBID GSA Well Verification Number: _____
**** To Be Completed by BBID GSA*
5. Well Location: _____ (APN and Address)
**** Attach a map showing the location of the parcel where the new well will be located, and property lines*
6. Subbasin in which well is located: Tracy / East Contra Costa
7. Is this a new well or a replacement well? _____
 - If it is a replacement well, describe any changes in the size, use, and location of the replacement wells. *(Please attach description.)*
 - If it is a new well, describe the planned size, flow rate and use of the new well, including the number of acres it will irrigate, crop, and irrigation method. *(Please attach description.)*
8. Will the well serve as a backup well? _____
 - If yes, will the well only be used as an alternative water source when the Applicant's primary surface water source is restricted?
 - If yes, will the well only be used as an alternative water source when the Applicant's existing well has experienced a failure and is unable to pump water?

Applicant understands, agrees and acknowledges all of the following:

1. Byron-Bethany Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (BBID GSA) has adopted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Plan) to manage groundwater in the **Tracy/**

East Contra Costa Subbasin consistent with the Act. The land where the Applicant's well is to be located is within the Tracy/East Contra Costa Subbasin.

2. Applicant agrees that use of groundwater will comply with any applicable groundwater management criteria specified in the Plan, including minimum thresholds and measurable objectives.
3. Applicant expressly acknowledges the BBID GSA's authority to impose groundwater pumping restrictions.
4. Applicant will timely pay any groundwater charges, fees, assessments or taxes levied by the BBID GSA to fund projects that the BBID GSA may implement to achieve sustainability.
5. Applicant will make the new well available for inspection and monitoring by the BBID GSA, upon no less than 24 hours notice.
6. Applicant will, at its own expense, install a meter on the new well acceptable to the BBID GSA and report water use data to the BBID GSA annually.
7. The BBID GSA's issuance of a written verification and the County's issuance of a well permit to Applicant does not guarantee the extraction of any specific amount of water now or in the future or any defined water level or water quality.
8. The BBID GSA is not responsible for or otherwise liable for costs related to any groundwater well permitted following this verification, including pumping fees, extraction limits, well failure, well deepening, increased maintenance, replacement, or operational costs.
9. Applicant agrees to hold the BBID GSA harmless and indemnify the BBID GSA for any liability stemming from or related to the County issuing a well permit in response to the Application or to the BBID GSA issuing a written verification related to the well permit.
10. Applicant understands that the BBID GSA's verification determination is based on information provided by Applicant and the BBID GSA is not responsible for investigating the accuracy of information provided by Applicant.

APPLICANT

Date

**BYRON-BETHANY IRRIGATION DISTRICT-
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
WRITTEN VERIFICATION OF CONSISTENCY WITH GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM**

1. Based on the information and acknowledgements in the attached Request for Written Verification of Compliance with Groundwater Sustainability Program and the information contained herein, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (BBID GSA) issues this written verification pursuant to Executive Order N-7-22 and/or statute for the subject County Well Permit Application Number [REDACTED]; BBID GSA Well Verification Number [REDACTED].
2. County Well Permit Application Number [REDACTED]; BBID GSA Well Verification Number [REDACTED] is located within the **Tracy/East Contra Costa Subbasin**. Groundwater management in the Tracy Subbasin is subject to the *Tracy Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan*. Groundwater management in the East Contra Costa Subbasin is subject to the *East Contra Costa Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan*.
3. BBID GSA finds that, if one of the following sets of conditions exists, then groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in the applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the **Tracy/East Contra Costa Subbasin**:
 - Applicant's proposed well will replace an existing groundwater well, will be located on the same parcel as the existing groundwater well, will provide water only to the area the existing well historically applied water, and pumping from the replacement well will not exceed the highest annual total applied from the existing well: (1) over the prior five years, or (2) during the most recent "Critical Year".
 - Applicant's proposed well will serve as a backup well that will be used to supply groundwater only during circumstances where the Applicant's primary surface water source is restricted, and pumping from the replacement well in combination with any other source of water applied to the same parcel(s) will not exceed the highest annual total applied water: (1) over the prior five years, or (2) during the most recent "Critical Year".
 - Applicant's proposed well will serve as a backup well that will be used to supply groundwater only during circumstances where an Applicant's existing well has experienced a failure and is unable to pump water, be located on the same parcel as the existing groundwater well, provide water only to the area the existing well historically applied water, and pumping from the replacement well in combination with any other source of water applied to the same parcel(s) will

not exceed the highest annual total applied water: (1) over the prior five years, or (2) during the most recent “Critical Year”.

- Applicant’s proposed well will replace an existing groundwater well, and pumping from the replacement well will exceed the highest annual total applied from the existing well: (1) over the prior five years, or (2) during the most recent “Critical Year”, but adequate yield exists in the basin to accommodate this increase in pumping.
- Applicant’s proposed new well will increase pumping from the basin, but adequate yield exists in the basin to accommodate this increase in pumping.
- Other: _____

4. This verification is not intended to interfere with the authority of San Joaquin/Contra Costa/Alameda County (Zone 7) to approve, disapprove, or condition any groundwater well permit project pursuant to its permitting authority.
5. Issuance of this verification is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per CEQA Guidelines Section 15269(c), 15061(b)(3), 15378(b)(5) and 15307 as it is a specific action to mitigate an emergency taken by a regulatory agency for the protection of natural resources to enhance procedures and findings for protection of water resources and does not have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment.

General Manager
Byron-Bethany Irrigation District

Chapter 5.32 WELLS AND WELL DRILLING

Sections:

Article 1. General Provisions

5.32.010 Purpose and declaration of intent.

The Council hereby declares that the people of the City of Tracy have an inalienable right to demand the protection of the ground waters and that the Council has the responsibility to protect these waters for the enjoyment, health, safety, and welfare of the people. The Council further declares that the people of the City of Tracy have a primary interest in the location, construction, maintenance, and destruction of water wells, cathodic protection wells, test wells, and geophysical wells that directly affects the quality and potability of underground waters.

(Prior code § 5-32.010)

5.32.020 Definitions.

For the purposes of this chapter, unless otherwise apparent from the context, certain words and phrases used in this chapter are defined as follows:

"Abandoned well" means any well whose original purpose and use has been permanently discontinued or which is in such a state of disrepair that it cannot be used for its original purpose.

"Agricultural well" means any water well used to supply water for irrigation, livestock operations, or other agricultural purposes but not including any uses of domestic water.

"Air-conditioning wells" means wells constructed to return to the ground, in a closed system, well water which has been used as a coolant in air-conditioning processes.

"Cathodic protection well" means any artificial excavation in excess of fifty (50') feet deep constructed by any means for the purpose of installing equipment or facilities for the protection electrically of metallic equipment in contact with the ground (commonly referred to as cathodic protection).

"Contamination" means an impairment of the quality of the waters by waste to a degree which creates a hazard to the public health through poisoning or through the spread of disease. "Contamination" shall include any equivalent effect resulting from the disposal of waste, whether or not waters of the City are affected.

"Destruction of well" means to restore as nearly as practicable those conditions which existed prior to the construction of the well.

"Disposal well" means a hole dug, bored, or drilled into any known aquifers in which are deposited matters or substances which, by reason of temperature or content, may be deleterious to ground water.

"Director of Environmental Health" means the Director of the San Joaquin County Department of Environmental Health.

"Geophysical well" means a well used for testing or logging strata or to obtain data from the underground.

"Environmental Health Department" means the San Joaquin County Department of Environmental Health.

"Individual domestic water well" means any water well used to supply water for the domestic needs of an individual residence or duplex.

"Industrial well" means any water well used to supply industry on an individual basis.

"Injection or recharge well" means any well constructed to introduce water into the underground as a means of replenishing ground water basins.

"Person" means any natural person, individual, firm, partnership, company, corporation, association, joint venture, joint stock company, organization, club, company, business trust, lessee, agent, servant, officer, employee, or unincorporated association or the representative of same.

"Pollution" means an alteration of the quality of the waters by waste to a degree which unreasonably affects:

- (1) The value of such water for beneficial uses; or
- (2) Facilities which serve such beneficial uses.

"Pollution" may include "contamination".

"Public domestic water supply well" means any water well used to supply domestic water to more than one individual parcel of property or any water supply which services any premises which contains a temporary or permanent resort, hotel, apartment house, triplex, motel, institution, labor camp, trailer park, gas station, cafe, school, subdivision, or any commercial establishment.

"Pump contractor" means any person or company licensed by the Contractors License Law of the State, as provided in Division 3 of Chapter 9 of the Business and Professions Code of the State, to install, service, or repair a pump.

"Recharge well". (See "Injection or recharge well" of this section.)

"Sanitary hazards" means inadequacies, actual or potential, which may permit the entrance of pollutants, contaminants, or pathogenic organisms into the water, thereby impairing the water quality or rendering it injurious to the public health.

"Seal, annular". "Annular seal" means the cement grout between the conductor casing or bore and the casing.

"Seal, sanitary". "Sanitary seal" means a grout, mastic, or mechanical device used to make a watertight joint between the pump and casing or the concrete base.

"Seal, surface". "Surface seal" means a monolithically poured concrete platform constructed around the top of the well casing on thoroughly compacted earth.

"Test well". (See "Geophysical well" of this section.)

"Waters of the City" means any water, surface or underground, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the City.

"Water quality" is a term used to describe the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water in respect to its suitability for a particular purpose. The same water may be of good quality for one purpose or use, and bad or poor for another, depending upon its characteristics and the requirements for the particular use.

"Well contractor" means any person or company licensed by the Contractors License Law of the State, as provided in division 3 of chapter 9 of the Business and Professions Code of the State.

"Well pit" means an excavation in which the well head or top of the well casing is installed below the ground surface.

"Well" or "water well" means any artificial excavation constructed by any method for the purpose of extracting or recharging ground water or the testing or logging of stratum to obtain data from the underground. This definition shall not include:

- (1) Oil and gas wells or geothermal wells constructed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Conservation of the State, except those wells converted to use as water wells; and
- (2) Wells used for the purpose of:
 - (i) Dewatering excavations during construction; or
 - (ii) Stabilizing hillsides or earth embankments.

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007; prior code § 5-8.102)

5.32.030 Applicable territory.

The provisions of this chapter shall apply to all territory lying within the City, except that all wells owned by the City and used in connection with the provisions of this chapter. However, nothing set forth in this chapter shall prevent such City wells from being subject to the jurisdiction of the State under the Pure Water Law as set forth in Division 5 of Part I of Chapter 7 of the Health and Safety Code of the State.

(Prior code § 5-8.103)

5.32.040 Special requirement areas.

In all areas of the City where poor quality water could infiltrate good quality ground water due to well construction, special requirements will be set to protect the good quality water.

(Prior code § 5-8.104)

Article 2. Permits

5.32.050 Permits required.

No person, as principal, servant, agent, or employee, shall dig, drill, bore, drive, repair, or destroy any well or repair, replace, install, or seal a pump for use on any well, whether the well is to be used for domestic, irrigation, testing, geophysical, or cathodic protection or other purposes, without having a valid unrevoked or unsuspended permit to do so from the Director of Environmental Health. The permit shall be valid for one year after the date of its issue. No property owner shall be denied the right to install a well or pump on his property if the work is accomplished in accordance with the provisions of this chapter. No permit shall be necessary to replace or repair equipment if the sanitary seal is not broken. A fee may be charged for issuing such permit as determined by the Council after a public hearing thereon.

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007; prior code § 5-8.201)

5.32.060 Permits—Applications.

Every person proposing to dig, drill, bore, drive, repair, deepen, or destroy any well shall, before commencing the work, apply to the Director of Environmental Health for the approval of the well site and the method of installation or destruction and for a permit to do the work. Such applications shall be on forms

furnished by the Director of Environmental Health and shall contain such information as the Director of Environmental Health may require. Such applications shall be submitted at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the proposed commencement of work on such permit application, as prescribed in the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007: prior code § 5-8.202)

5.32.070 Permits—Compliance.

The applicant applying for a permit for the construction of the well shall assume the responsibility of complying with all the requirements of such permit and this chapter, including such rules and regulations as may be adopted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

(Prior code § 5-8.203)

5.32.080 Permits—Granting.

The permits required by the provisions of this chapter may be granted to any owner or his authorized representative and to those persons having a valid City business license and a license from the Contractors License Board of the State as a well or pump contractor.

(Prior code § 5-8.204)

5.32.090 Emergency repairs.

In the event of an emergency, as evidenced by lack of water, repairs may proceed without a permit. For the purposes of this section, "emergency repairs" shall include the construction of a new well or the repair, deepening, or replacement of a well or pump. All work done under emergency conditions shall comply with the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. In all such cases, the owner or contractor shall file a statement that such was an emergency repair and the reason for the repair. Applications for emergency repairs shall be made within forty-eight (48) hours after such repairs are begun, excluding weekends and holidays.

(Prior code § 5-8.205)

5.32.100 Special permits.

The Director of Environmental Health may grant special permits for limited periods of time when, in his opinion, the application of the provisions of this chapter or the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter would be impracticable or unnecessary. In issuing such special permits, the Director of Environmental Health may prescribe such conditions as, in his judgment, will be necessary to protect the public health.

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007: prior code § 5-8.206)

5.32.110 Well drillers reports.

Upon the completion of a well, the licensed contractor shall file a copy of a well drillers report with the Health District. Such report forms shall be furnished by the Director of Environmental Health.

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007: prior code § 5-8.207)

5.32.120 Well pits.

The construction, use, or installation of well pits shall not be permitted except under unusual circumstances as determined by the Director of Environmental Health.

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007: prior code § 5-8.208)

Article 3. Well Drilling Requirements

5.32.130 Sanitary seals.

All wells shall have a sanitary seal.

(Prior code § 5-8.301)

5.32.140 Concrete platforms or slabs required.

All wells, except cathodic protection wells, shall have a concrete platform or slab constructed to prevent the entrance of surface water from any source into the well or the underground water source.

(Prior code § 5-8.302)

5.32.150 Disinfection.

After the construction or repair of individual domestic or public domestic water wells and prior to the use of such wells, the wells and all appurtenances thereto shall be adequately disinfected.

(Prior code § 5-8.303)

5.32.160 Grout seals on individual or public domestic water supply wells.

Public domestic water supply and individual domestic wells shall have a grout seal in the annular space.

(Prior code § 5-8.304)

5.32.170 Health limitations.

The Director of Environmental Health may order changes in the location of water wells and in the methods, means, and manner of constructing water wells in order that such wells shall not constitute a menace to the health of human beings or animals or a detriment to ground water sources. The orders of the Director of Environmental Health shall designate the period within which such changes are to be made.

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007: prior code § 5-8.305)

5.32.180 Inspections.

The well site, location, materials, and methods used may be inspected by the Director of Environmental Health at any time prior to or during the construction or destruction of any well. The Director of Environmental Health shall be informed when the work is completed and thereafter shall make a final inspection.

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007: prior code § 5-8.306)

5.32.190 Abandonment of wells.

Upon a determination that any well has been abandoned as provided in the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter, such well shall be destroyed in the manner prescribed so that the entrance of degraded or contaminated water into usable aquifers or the creation of a safety hazard shall be minimized.

(Prior code § 5-8.307)

5.32.200 Destruction of wells.

The Director of Environmental Health is hereby authorized, after reasonable efforts to eliminate pollution, contamination, or a safety hazard, to enforce the permanent abandonment by destruction of any well that is polluted or contaminated, or is so located as to become polluted or contaminated, or is a safety hazard. The Director of Environmental Health is hereby authorized to destroy any such well and to recover the cost of the destruction from the owner of the property on which the well is located.

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007: prior code § 5-8.308)

5.32.210 Out of service wells.

If the owner intends to cease the use of a well for a period of six (6) months or more, he shall inform the Director of Environmental Health. Such a well shall be protected from any source of contamination while the well is temporarily out of service. The owner shall maintain such a well as required in the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter pertaining to out of service wells.

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007: prior code § 5-8.309)

Article 4. Rules and Regulations, Appeals, and Enforcement

5.32.220 Adoption of rules and regulations.

The Environmental Health Department shall adopt, and may from time to time amend, rules and regulations including, but not limited to, standards for the implementation of the provisions of this chapter. Such rules and regulations shall not be in conflict with the provisions of this chapter or with the laws of the State. The rules and regulations shall be adopted or amended only after the Board of Trustees has considered the matter at a public hearing at which all interested persons have been afforded the opportunity to either urge or oppose the adoption of the proposed rules and regulations.

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007: prior code § 5-8.401)

5.32.230 (not used)

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007: prior code § 5-8.402)

5.32.240 Appeals to the Council.

If the appellant is dissatisfied with the decision of the Environmental Health Department and any appeal required by San Joaquin County, he or she may, within ten (10) days after that decision, appeal to the City Manager under section 1.12.010.

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007: prior code § 5-8.403)

5.32.250 Enforcement.

The Director of Environmental Health shall enforce all the needful orders, rules, and regulations necessary or proper to accomplish the purposes of this chapter and may perform all other acts necessary or proper to accomplish the purposes of this chapter.

(Ord. 1111 § 4 Exh. A (part), 2007: prior code § 5-8.404)

5.32.260 Violations.

Any violations of the provisions of this chapter shall be misdemeanors as provided in Chapter 2 of Title 1 of this Code and shall be subject to the citation form of arrest as provided in Chapter 5 of Title 1 of this Code.

(Prior code § 5-8.405)



PROGRAM COORDINATORS

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December 13, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO:

FROM: Steven Shih, Program Coordinator (209) 468-9850; ssih@sjgov.org

SUBJECT: GSA Verification Statement for Proposed Well at Proposed Well Address

State of California Executive Order N-7-22, effective on March 28, 2022, states that to protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency the County shall not approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well within a basin subject to the Sustainability Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from that basin's Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The GSA's written verification must include a determination that the extraction would not be (1) inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) adopted by that GSA, and (2) would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for that basin covered by such a plan.

This written verification is not required for permits for wells that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, or that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

Pursuant to Executive Order N-7-22, we request that you complete the verification statement below regarding this proposed well and return it by email to ssih@sjgov.org with the following subject line: GSA Verification Statement.

Proposed Well Address

To: Steven Shih, Program Coordinator

San Joaquin County – Environmental Health Department

Proposed Well at Proposed Well Address

GSA: _____

1. Consistency with the GSP:

- ☐ The proposed well is consistent with the GSP applicable to the basin area managed by the GSA named above.
- ☐ The proposed well is inconsistent with the GSP applicable to the basin area managed by the GSA named above.

2. Impact on GSP Sustainability Goal(s):

- ☐ The proposed well will not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin area managed by the GSA named above.
- ☐ The proposed well will decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin area managed by the GSA named above.

By: _____; Date: _____

Title: _____

Enclosures: Well Permit Application

Well Permit Application Parcel Map

Drought Executive Order N-7-22

Department of Water Resources, Fact Sheet re Drought Executive Order N-7-22
(Action 9)

TRACY SUBBASIN
COMMUNICATION AND
ENGAGEMENT
PLAN ADDENDUM

DRAFT

PREPARED FOR:

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

PREPARED BY:

Stantec Consulting Services Inc

DECEMBER 2022

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

§	Section
2019 C&E Plan	June 2019 Communication and Engagement Plan developed by the Tracy Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
CCR	California Code of Regulations
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014
Stantec	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
Subbasin	Tracy Subbasin (DWR Bulletin 118: 5-22.15)
Tracy Subbasin GSAs	City of Tracy GSA, City of Lathrop GSA, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District GSA, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District GSA, Stewart Tract GSA, and County of San Joaquin GSA

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE ADDENDUM

1.1 Background

In June of 2019, in compliance with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA), Groundwater Sustainability Agencies within the Tracy Subbasin (referred to hereinafter as “Tracy Subbasin GSAs” or simply “GSAs”) developed a Communications and Engagement Plan (2019 C&E Plan) that outlined the tactics, methods, and frequencies for conducting SGMA-related outreach and engagement throughout Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development. For more background information and details concerning SGMA, the Tracy Subbasin, the GSAs, the GSP, and the 2019 C&E Plan, please see the “1.0 Introduction” chapter of the 2019 C&E Plan. This document, referred to as the “2019 C&E Plan – Addendum” or simply “Addendum” hereinafter, supplements the 2019 C&E Plan. The Addendum includes updated information regarding outreach and engagement based on input received through a stakeholder assessment process conducted as part of this document’s development. The Addendum does not replace any existing information or commitments outlined in the 2019 C&E Plan. Rather, it updates, expands upon, and clarifies the existing content to ensure that outreach and engagement aligns with GSP implementation activities.

1.2 The Communication and Engagement Plan

The Tracy Subbasin GSAs prepared the GSP through a publicly engaged process in accordance with GSP Emergency Regulations (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 23, Waters Sections [§]350-§358.4). §354.10 states that each plan must include a summary of information relating to notification and communication by the GSA with other agencies and interested parties. The completion of the requirements set forth in §354.10 are documented in Appendix P to the Tracy GSP along with specific commitments made to achieve those requirements is in 2019 C&E Plan. **Table 1**, below, delineates where each set of information can be located.

Table 1. Communication and Engagement Requirements for Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Requirements per California Code of Regulations Section 354.10	Location in GSP
<i>(a) A description of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, including the land uses and property interests potentially affected by the use of groundwater in the basin, the types of parties representing those interests, and the nature of consultation with those parties.</i>	Appendix P – Public Outreach: 2019 C&E Plan
<i>(b) A list of public meetings at which the plan was discussed or considered by the agency.</i>	Chapter 11.4 – List of Public Meetings
<i>(c) Comments regarding the plan received by the agency and a summary of any responses by the agency.</i>	11.5.2 Comments Received
<i>(d) A communication section of the plan that includes the following:</i>	
<i>(1) An explanation of the agency’s decision-making process.</i>	11.1 GSAs Decision Making Process
<i>(2) Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of how public input and response will be used.</i>	Appendix P – Public Outreach: 2019 C&E Plan

<i>(3) A description of how the agency encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural and economic elements of the population within the basin.</i>	Appendix P – Public Outreach: 2019 C&E Plan
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1.3 The Need for a Communications and Engagement Plan Update

The Tracy Subbasin GSAs began implementation of the GSP following the submittal of the GSP to DWR in January 2022. This shift to plan implementation marks an opportunity for the GSAs to consider how communication and engagement with the public will evolve to meet the interests and needs of communities in the Subbasin over the course of the GSP's 20-year implementation timeline. Outreach and education in the implementation phase will build off the framework established in the C&E Plan and will take into consideration feedback received from various stakeholders. The Addendum provides a roadmap of potential communication and engagement activities that will support the GSA, Tracy Subbasin GSP Coordination Committee, and consultant staff (technical or otherwise) with GSP implementation efforts.

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec) provides facilitation support to the Tracy Subbasin GSAs through the California Department of Water Resources' Facilitation Support Services Program (FSS), a publicly funded program that supports GSAs with outreach and engagement activities implemented under SGMA. This Addendum was developed by Stantec in collaboration with the Tracy Subbasin GSAs, with funding provided by the FSS program.

2.0 BASIN SETTING AND OUTREACH DURING GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Groundwater Sustainability Agency Organization and Decision-Making Process

The Tracy Subbasin GSAs signed a Memorandum of Understanding on or about September 24, 2019 to establish the coordination agreement for development of the Tracy Subbasin GSP. For more background information and details regarding SGMA, the Tracy Subbasin, the Tracy Subbasin GSAs and their decision-making process, please see the “1.0 Introduction” chapter of the 2019 C&E Plan.

2.2 Beneficial Uses and Users

For more information regarding beneficial uses and users, please see the “3.0 Stakeholder Identification” chapter of the 2019 C&E Plan. This Addendum identifies tools and activities to engage and consult the beneficial users of groundwater throughout the implementation of the GSP. These activities are described in **Section 4**.

2.3 Activities and Methods Identified in the 2019 Communications and Engagement Plan

The 2019 C&E Plan identified a variety of tactics, frequencies, and methods for engaging with and soliciting input from stakeholders (i.e., beneficial users) during the GSP development process. **Table 2**, below, delineates what those activities and commitments were during the GSP development phase.

Table 2. Tracy Subbasin Communication and Engagement Inventory from Appendix P – Public Outreach: 2019 C&E Plan

Tactic	Category	Frequency	Responsible Parties	Notification Methods
Tracy Subbasin Website Updates	Outreach	Ad Hoc (pending available information)	Consultant Staff	Web posting and email notification of updates
Informational Materials (e.g., Frequently Asked Questions, Newsletters, Factsheets)	Outreach	2x per year (pending available information)	Consultant Staff	Web posting and email notification to share new informational materials
Interested Parties Database (IPD)	Outreach	Ad Hoc (pending available information)	Consultant Staff	Email; outreach to the IPD was conducted to share meeting information, informational materials, and scheduled engagement events
Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Board, neighborhood, or other community meetings	Engagement	Ad Hoc or Monthly (depending on meeting type and available information)	All GSAs	Web posting and email notification
Public Meetings and Workshops	Engagement	1x per year	All GSAs	Web posting and email notification

BASIN SETTING AND OUTREACH DURING GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The GSAs also gave particular attention to the solicitation of and response to public comments throughout GSP development. Actions conducted in support of this included the following efforts:

- Draft and final GSP deliverables were available for public review and comment during publicly noticed meetings and through a webform linked on the Tracy Subbasin website.
- Opportunities for education and public comment were provided during engagement events such as public workshops.
- Informational/educational materials, notices, or related items that were disseminated via the interested parties database and/or made available on the Tracy Subbasin website.

Stakeholders were asked to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the outreach and engagement methods as part of the interview process described in **Section 3**.

3.0 ADDENDUM DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

3.1 Stakeholder Input

The outreach, communication, and engagement tools and tactics identified in this Addendum were supported by the needs and ideas presented to Stantec by stakeholders in one of two ways, as noted below.

3.1.1 One-on-One Interviews

Between September and November of 2022, Stantec conducted interviews with key stakeholders in the Tracy Subbasin to gather feedback on outreach and engagement strategies during GSP development and identify how the Tracy Subbasin GSAs can best approach communication and engagement activities during GSP implementation. Contact information for stakeholders interviewed was provided by the GSAs.

Interviewees were asked to reflect on:

- Their or their community's level of familiarity with groundwater and SGMA,
- Their or their community's use of or access to groundwater and other water supplies,
- Their level of involvement in the GSP development process,
- Any barriers to participation they or others in their community encountered,
- Implementation activities of interest to the community,
- Preferred communication methods and frequencies, and
- Existing communication platforms, public information campaigns, or local events the GSAs could use to share information about GSP implementation.

The interviews were conducted on a one-on-one basis. In total, 12 individuals were invited to participate in an interview and 5 individuals participated in the interviews. Interview participants represented diverse interests, including agricultural users, domestic wells, and environmental users.

3.1.2 Digital Survey

In addition to the stakeholder interviews, Stantec also developed and disseminated a digital survey to gather input from a broader group of Tracy Subbasin stakeholders. The survey was adapted from the interview questionnaire and respondents were asked to reflect on the topics noted above in Section 3.1.1. The digital survey was distributed to the interested parties database via email as well as to a number of water managers and GSA representatives in November 2022. Respondents were provided approximately two weeks to complete the survey. In addition, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District developed a postcard to share the digital survey link with all landowners within the district boundaries. The postcard also included information about the Tracy Subbasin, the Tracy Subbasin GSAs, the GSP, and the need for input to guide communications and engagement activities during GSP implementation.

Approximately 186 individuals were sent the digital survey link and 10 individuals responded to the survey.

3.1.3 Limitations on Stakeholder Input

Though extensive outreach was conducted via phone calls, emails, and direct outreach to stakeholders from GSA representatives, the community input received to guide the development of this 2019 C&E Plan – Addendum remains limited. Stakeholder involvement in interviews and surveys may have been limited due to technological challenges (e.g., limited access to internet), pandemic-related challenges (e.g., lack

of in-person opportunities for input), limited availability, competing priorities, and misalignment of individuals' schedules. This Addendum has been developed with the recognition that additional input is needed throughout GSP implementation to ensure that communications and engagement approaches reflect stakeholder needs and priorities. Opportunities for additional stakeholder input will be pursued as part of the outreach and engagement activities further detailed in **Section 3**.

3.2 Feedback Received

3.2.1 Reasons Engagement Falls Short

There was a consensus among most stakeholders that the GSAs made a good-faith effort to communicate and engage with the public during the development of the GSP. Moving into GSP implementation, the GSAs may consider the following factors which stakeholders listed as barriers to more meaningful engagement.

Stakeholders involved in the interview process reflected that their communities generally lack knowledge about SGMA, the GSP, and the role and priorities of the GSAs. Interview participants who felt they had a good understanding of the Subbasin's water supply needs still lacked an understanding of the status of GSP implementation and projects and management actions. Stakeholders also felt that domestic well owners were not receiving information or effectively engaged during GSP development. Interview participants and survey respondents noted that general stakeholder outreach often does not reach domestic well owners and users and that additional targeted stakeholder outreach is needed to engage these groups. Domestic well owners often, like other stakeholder groups, have many competing priorities and without dedicated contact made by the Tracy Subbasin GSAs, opportunities for meaningful input may be limited.

Most interviewed stakeholders also agreed that they had limited availability to stay engaged with GSA-related activities as many have competing demands on their time and limited capacity. This was consistent across interview participants from diverse geographies and stakeholder groups. Interview participants particularly noted that the timing of meetings during business hours limited the possibility of attendance for community members with full-time jobs that are not compensated for their participation. Additionally, prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings were held in-person typically at the Banta Carbona Irrigation District facilities but transitioned to all virtual engagement in early 2020. Virtual engagement opportunities removed some barriers for stakeholders as they no longer had to travel from one location to another; however, it also introduced barriers related to access to internet and technology. While all-virtual engagement was appreciated by some stakeholders, it also presented challenges regarding how they managed the increase in digital communications during the pandemic. Meetings are currently still held virtually, and most stakeholders were supportive of continued virtual engagement opportunities. Interview participants noted that additional in-person opportunities would benefit their community to provide more opportunities for individuals to learn and get involved. Several stakeholders identified annual in-person industry association meetings as an opportunity to engage a broader group of stakeholders, particularly agricultural users, where they are already meeting in-person.

3.2.2 Improving Engagement

Based on the findings from the stakeholder input process, the GSAs may consider several methods and strategies for improving outreach and engagement efforts during GSP implementation. Stakeholders noted that the existing methods of communication (e.g., Tracy Subbasin website postings, email, public meetings) were sufficient but could benefit from some additions. Some stakeholders stated that they had

either no knowledge of the Tracy Subbasin's website and the website materials or that the information present on the Tracy Subbasin website was not quite relevant to the GSA-related topics they wanted to know about. Other interview and survey participants commented on not having a clear understanding of how and when to use the Tracy Subbasin website or find the latest information related to GSP implementation. Promoting the website, providing more regular updates and notifying the public of when those updates are available could be of benefit to all parties. Updates, new information, or upcoming engagement activities such as public workshops would benefit from being noticed via direct snail mail or in tandem with existing communications from trusted sources such as industry associations that stakeholders might already be a part of. Another opportunity identified by stakeholders is to increase GSA collaboration with other trusted outreach partners, such as industry associations and community groups, on coordinated outreach and engagement activities. This could create multiple avenues for receiving GSA and GSP-related information and provide new opportunities for the GSAs to gather input from stakeholders.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This section draws on the findings of the stakeholder input process described above to outline tools, activities, and strategies the Tracy Subbasin GSAs may employ to establish and maintain stakeholder awareness and understanding of SGMA and the GSP implementation process. Many of the methods and tactics described in this section are currently in use and can be improved by better utilizing existing communication channels and leveraging partnerships with trusted outreach partners such as industry associations. These partnerships provide access to communication channels and events which can enhance the communication and engagement process during GSP implementation. As mentioned, this Addendum does not seek to alter any of the commitments made in the 2019 C&E Plan, rather it builds upon them. Please refer back to **Table 2** or the “4.0 Venues for Engaging” chapter of the 2019 C&E Plan for details regarding outreach activities outlined in the GSP. **Table 3** below outlines how the GSAs can expand upon outreach and engagement activities during GSP implementation. The tactics outlined in Table 3 are further described in Section 4.1 below.

Table 3. Updated Communication, Outreach, and Engagement Opportunities

Tactic	Category	Frequency	Responsible Parties	Methods of Notification
Tracy Subbasin Website Updates	Outreach	Quarterly (or more frequently, pending available information)	Consultant Staff	Email notification to the IPD when new updates concerning GSP Coordination Committee meetings, public meetings and workshops, community partnerships, annual reports, informational materials, and/or Projects and Management Actions are available
Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Website Updates	Outreach	Proposed Quarterly (in alignment with Tracy Subbasin Website Updates)	All GSAs	Email notification to stakeholders (as appropriate) when new updates concerning public meetings and workshops, community partnerships, annual reports, informational materials, and/or Projects and Management Actions are available
Informational Materials (Frequently Asked Questions, Newsletters, Factsheets, etc.)	Outreach	2x-4x per year	Consultant Staff	Web posting, email, and direct mail notification (as appropriate)
Interested Parties Database (IPD)	Outreach	Quarterly (or more frequently, pending available information)	Consultant Staff	Bi-monthly or quarterly emails noting SGMA/GSA-related updates or upcoming engagement opportunities

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES FOR GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Tactic	Category	Frequency	Responsible Parties	Methods of Notification
GSA Board Meetings	Engagement	Varies (depending on meeting type and available information)	All GSAs	Web posting, email, and direct mail notification (as appropriate)
Tracy GSP Coordination Committee Meetings	Engagement	Quarterly	Consultant Staff	Web posting, email, and direct mail notification (as appropriate)
Public Meetings and Workshops	Engagement	At least 1x per year (or more frequently, pending available information)	All GSAs	Web posting, email, and direct mail notification (as appropriate)
Direct Mail	Outreach	Ad Hoc (pending available information)	All GSAs	Notification of public meetings/workshops, community partnerships, and distribution of informational materials (as appropriate)
Coordination with Community Partners	Outreach and Engagement	1x per year (pending available information and engagement opportunities)	Consultant Staff and all GSAs	Web posting, email, and direct mail notification (as appropriate)

4.1 Engagement Activities

The 2019 C&E Plan details a variety of public outreach activities for GSP development which may be continued during GSP implementation to inform, engage, and respond to the needs and priorities stakeholders and other interested parties. Additionally, the stakeholder input process provided valuable insight on adjustments to current outreach and venues for new outreach activities which may enhance stakeholder engagement. These activities can promote more frequent and impactful interactions between GSA staff, stakeholders, and community organizations as they assist in sharing information related to GSP implementation. Possible engagement venues identified in the 2019 C&E Plan include public meetings with GSA staff, public workshops, and GSA board or GSP Coordination Committee meetings. In addition to these venues, stakeholders identified various local organizations, communication platforms, and local events which the GSAs may utilize as pathways for sharing information related to GSP implementation. These activities and venues are further described below.

4.1.1 Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Meetings and Tracy Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Coordination Committee Meetings

The GSP Coordination Committee intends to meet quarterly throughout the GSP implementation process. These meetings will continue to be publicly noticed and are designed to encourage community

participation in GSP implementation activities. Meeting agendas and minutes will be posted on the Tracy Subbasin website. Quarterly GSP Coordination Committee meetings are an important engagement activity outlined in the GSP and provide regular opportunities for GSA staff and technical consultants to share progress on GSP implementation and solicit stakeholder feedback on projects and management actions.

As outlined in Section 3 above, several stakeholders noted that the GSP Coordination Committee meetings occur at unfavorable times during regular working hours. The GSAs may consider changing the GSP Coordination Committee meeting time and/or location to ensure that meetings are accessible to a larger audience. The GSAs may also wish to consider recording the meetings and posting the recordings on the Tracy Subbasin website for later reference by those unable to attend the regularly scheduled meetings. Holding meetings after work hours and in spaces or facilities that are familiar to the community may encourage greater participation in GSA activities. Though their schedules and purposes are different, the Tracy Subbasin GSAs also have regular board meetings that these tactics could apply to. The GSAs could also add information regarding their board meetings to the Tracy Subbasin website to increase the amount of consistent outreach and messaging being disseminated across communication channels.

4.1.2 Public Workshops

Public workshops are identified in the GSP as an important communication and engagement activity during GSP implementation. The GSAs intend to hold at least one public workshop per year to provide updates on GSP implementation activities and gather questions and feedback on topics such as the Annual Report, groundwater monitoring activities, and project implementation.

Stakeholders generally expressed a limited capacity for engagement in all GSP related activities; therefore, the GSAs may consider holding targeted public workshops that are specific to a particular region, community, or a localized project or management action. Public workshops could also be held in coordination with community-based organizations or industry associations where GSA staff and technical consultants can be available to answer questions directly.

The workshop format may be adapted according to the workshop content, feedback from stakeholders, changing conditions in the Tracy Subbasin, and community partners involved in the event. During periods when state and local ordinances limit or prohibit in-person gatherings due to public health and safety (e.g., during the COVID-19 pandemic), workshops may be held using virtual collaboration platforms (e.g., Zoom). The GSAs have the option to record virtual and in-person workshops and post the recordings on the Tracy Subbasin website and on the individual GSA websites. This tactic allows those unable to attend—either due to scheduling conflicts or health and safety concerns—to have the ability to stay informed about GSP implementation activities.

4.1.3 Partnerships with Local Industry Associations and Existing Community Events

The GSAs may partner with trusted industry associations to facilitate communication and engagement efforts throughout the Tracy Subbasin and to broaden the scope of stakeholder engagement and dissemination of SGMA and GSP-related information. The Tracy Subbasin GSAs can partner with organizations to distribute information about upcoming GSA activities, coordinate on joint community meetings, and share GSP/GSA-related materials and updates through the communication channels that the organizations have access to. The Farm Bureau was suggested as one potential community partner for the GSAs to engage with who can help to conduct direct outreach to farmers, particularly during

regularly scheduled Farm Bureau meetings. By initiating and leveraging these partnerships the GSAs can build trust and rapport with communities in a way that might not be accessible to them on their own. The GSAs may identify additional partners for engagement throughout the course of GSP implementation and with feedback from community members.

4.2 Outreach Tools

This section describes the suite of tools the GSAs developed or may develop to disseminate information to the public and engage stakeholders in GSP implementation. The GSAs intend to utilize a combination of these tools to engage with and inform stakeholders on SGMA and groundwater-related topics.

According to CalEnviroScreen's 4.0 Linguistic Isolation mapping tool¹, there are several hundred households that are considered non-English speaking, multi-lingual, or that do not speak English "very well." Known languages spoken in the region (in addition to English) include Spanish, Tagalog, Arabic, and other Indo-European languages. While this specific need was not highlighted by interviewees or survey respondents, the materials discussed in this section may be translated into non-English languages to ensure that information is accessible to all stakeholders. Additional community engagement is needed to further identify the language needs for specific communities and beneficial user groups.

Interview and survey participants shared that many community members had difficulty tracking the volume of information distributed. The GSAs may consider focusing outreach efforts to provide material that is most relevant to specific communities or stakeholder groups, such as:

- GSP implementation updates,
- Updates on projects and management actions,
- Education on SGMA and regional water supply,
- Groundwater conditions, issues, and potential resources for domestic well owners and users
- San Joaquin County's well ordinance and/or well mitigation program, and
- Drought response or climate change in the Tracy Subbasin, among other possible topics.

The GSAs can leverage existing communication channels to distribute this information. See **Table 3** for communication platforms suggested by interviewees as pathways for sharing information.

4.2.1 Informational or Educational Materials

The development of informational materials was identified in the 2019 C&E Plan as a key outreach and engagement activity during GSP development and continues to be a priority in GSP implementation. Stakeholders expressed a desire for more information surrounding SGMA, local water supply updates, and groundwater management, including updates on Projects and Management Actions. To address these topics, the GSAs may update their frequently asked questions, develop new factsheets, or maintain a regular newsletter to keep interested parties informed on local water news and upcoming GSP implementation activities, meetings, and public engagement opportunities. Newsletters or other informational materials may be sent out quarterly or on an as-needed basis to keep stakeholders informed about GSP implementation activities. Materials should be easily digestible and can serve as a form for promoting general water education within the Tracy Subbasin. Materials may be placed at key

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<https://oehha.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=e6f7cdcf70f44c908d7394be941895cf>

locations such as libraries, farmers markets, or other community events such as industry association meetings and can be distributed through existing communication channels or through community partners to help reach the broadest audience.

4.3 Methods of Communication

4.3.1 Tracy Subbasin Website and Groundwater Sustainability Agency Websites

The Tracy Subbasin website serves as a central location for information and a repository for events, meeting updates, and informational materials. The Tracy Subbasin website is currently managed by consultant staff. Each GSA also has its own website maintained by agency staff. The individual GSA websites do not currently include all the same information as the Tracy Subbasin website. For existing information concerning the Tracy Subbasin website and the GSAs' commitment to web posting, please see the "4.0 Venues for Engaging" chapter of the 2019 C&E Plan. One update to this particular tactic could include regular updates to individual GSA websites in addition to the Tracy Subbasin website. Stakeholders often commented on their appreciation of the clear, consistent, and reliable information received from some of the GSAs on other related water topics. Having information available on individual GSA websites can help ensure that information is clearly and consistently communicated across communication channels and that those who only turn to their direct GSA for information do not miss out on important updates.

4.3.2 Interested Parties Database

California Water Code §10723.8 requires GSAs to "establish and maintain a list of persons interested in receiving notices regarding plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents." Please see the "3.0 Stakeholder Identification" chapter of the 2019 C&E Plan for more information. As part of their efforts to better engage stakeholders during the GSP implementation, the GSAs could continue to regularly assess the interested parties database and determine if it should be expanded.

4.3.3 Direct Mail

Stakeholders expressed an interest in receiving direct mail for larger events such as annual workshops and meetings or opportunities to review and comment on documents such as GSP updates. Direct mail provides opportunities to connect with stakeholders who may experience ongoing technical issues or those that are not closely involved in GSP implementation.

4.4 Targeted Stakeholder Engagement

General stakeholder engagement strategies described above may prove successful for many community members and interested parties within the Tracy Subbasin, but the GSAs may seek to address outreach gaps through targeted messaging and communication aimed at select stakeholder groups. Stakeholders and interested parties that could benefit from targeted outreach include domestic well owners and users and speakers of languages other than English, in addition to other groups which may be identified during the GSP implementation process. These groups may have been underrepresented during GSP development and could benefit from specific engagement strategies adjusted to their needs.

4.5 Adaptive Approach to Communication and Engagement

As mentioned above in Section 3.1.3, stakeholder input used to develop this Addendum was limited and additional feedback throughout GSP implementation is needed to ensure that communications, outreach, and engagement strategies and tactics align with stakeholder needs and priorities. The GSAs intend to evaluate the effectiveness of communications and engagement activities periodically throughout GSP implementation and adjust their approach to stay aligned with the needs of stakeholders, GSA representatives, current initiatives, and the overall schedule for GSP implementation. Some questions they may use to help evaluate the quality of their engagement and assist with any pivoting that may need to occur include the following:

- Is there a shared understanding of the GSP's goals and its implementation timeline?
- Are stakeholders educated about the GSP implementation process and their own role?
- Do diverse stakeholders feel included?
- Has there been behavior changes related to the program goals? Or are improved trust/ relationships evident among participants?
- Has the 2019 C&E Plan and its Addendum been implemented?
- Has the interested parties database been expanded?
- Have there been well-attended and robust public meetings at all of the necessary junctures?
- Are all established venues for stakeholders open and effective?
- Are there formal mechanisms to assess outcomes and make improvements?

The GSAs may continue to use and build upon these outlined questions over the course of GSP implementation to encourage timely review and evaluation of engagement strategies.