

Tracy Subbasin GSP Coordination Committee Meeting

Thursday January 19, 2023

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Teleconference Meeting Only

Teleconference Link: <https://stantec.zoom.us/j/92811369940>

Phone Number: +1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 928 1136 9940

AGENDA

I. Opening of Meeting/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 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
- Greg Gibson, City of Lathrop GSA
- Greg Young, Byron Bethany Irrigation District (BBID)
- Matt Zidar, San Joaquin County
- David Weisenberger, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District (BCID)

Other attendees:

- Emily Finnegan, Stantec
- Khandriale Clark, Stantec
- Richard Shatz, GEI
- Bill Brewster, California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Nader Shareghi, Mountain House CSD
- Molly Dimick, JR Simplot

II. Scheduled Items

- A. Approval of the December 15 GSP Coordination Committee Meeting Minutes –
Action Item

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Greg Young

SECONDER: Greg Gibson

AYES: All

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ryan Alameda, Stewart Tract

ABSTAIN: None

- The notes have been approved under the condition that two grammatical errors are removed.

B. GSA Status Updates - *Round Robin Discussion*

1. Projects and Management Actions Updates, Grants/Letters of Support, and the GSAs' Response to EO N-7-22
 - BCID – Nothing to Report.
 - City of Lathrop –Lathrop received letters of support from all the Tracy Subbasin GSAs and submitted their grant application to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). The draft feasibility study is completed and being finalized. Next steps include awarding contracts to Carollo for design services at the March City Council meeting and conducting a project kick off. Lathrop has not yet developed a response to the Executive Order N-7-22, but they are looking to align with what the rest of the GSAs have developed.
 - a. Additionally, Lathrop received a notice from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWB) notifying them of the new technical order for drought reporting requirements beginning January 1. The new drought reporting requirements will go through the SAFER Clearinghouse. City of Lathrop is required to complete this reporting on a

quarterly basis along with all other designated water systems. Lathrop has been designated as an at-risk system by SAFER in part due to the City's water supply reliability issues. Lathrop is working to respond to the new reporting requirements. The ASR well that City is planning will be critical to addressing their water supply reliability issues. The GSAs expressed several concerns about the new drought reporting requirements, including that there are duplicative reporting requirements for the DRINC portal and SAFER Clearinghouse, and there are concerns about the increased amount of data that the Clearinghouse is requesting through this process and the frequency at which data needs to be captured. The first quarterly report is due to the SWB on April 30, 2023.

- San Joaquin – San Joaquin County provided a brief overview of the standing ag drought task force that is coordinated by County Office of Emergency Services (OES). The ag drought task force has not yet been tasked with responding to the AB 552 requirements to develop a countywide drought task force to address drought preparedness. It's unclear whether OES, County Environmental Health, or County Flood Control District will be lead on the countywide drought task force.
- City of Tracy – Tracy has reported that their recycled water system design is on track and will be going to their City Council soon for review and approval.
- A question was posted to Bill Brewster from DWR regarding the timeline for receiving notification of funding awards. Mr. Brewster did not have information about specific funding award timelines, but if a GSA had specific question related to grant applications, they could follow up with him and he could get in touch with the DWR Division of Financial Assistance. Mr. Brewster also noted that the Tracy Subbasin had generally done a good job with submitting information on groundwater levels for SGMA compliance. He noted that there are two wells in the City of

Lathrop (PW 16-329 and PW 12-315) that show no data was collected. Mr. Shatz noted that these two wells are monitored by Occidental and they're part of their clean up. Mr. Shatz noted that we have their contact information and should be able to get well measurements from them. Mr. Shatz asked Mr. Brewster if the resolved Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) survey data was still planning to be shared by February or March and Mr. Brewster confirmed that they are still on schedule.

- Stewart Tract – Not present at the time of the round robin.

C. Fiscal Year 23/24 Budget Process – *Discussion Item*

- The budget development process constitutes developing a budget for the upcoming fiscal year based on data used to develop the Annual Report. The costs within the budget are based on the number of acres within each GSA's jurisdiction in the non-delta portion of subbasin, the population (which is based on data supplied by the California Department of Finance [DOF]), and the amount of groundwater pumped during the previous water year. 60% of that cost is based on net groundwater pumping, 20% on acreage, and 20% on population.
- San Joaquin County's Zone 2 financial contribution to the budget is capped at \$85,000; the rest of the funds needed are split between the GSAs.
- GEI will spend January and February developing the first draft of the Annual Report. The Coordination Committee is anticipated to adopt the Annual Report in March and it will be submitted to DWR by April 1. Concurrently, GEI will be developing the budget and discussing it with the GSAs. The draft budget will be discussed with the Coordination Committee in April and May and adjustments to the cost allocation spreadsheet can be made during these meetings. The budget is anticipated to be adopted during the June Coordination Committee meeting. The group will be meeting monthly from now until June to aid with development of the Annual Report and the budget.
- When asked what support or approvals each GSA needed in order to adopt the budget, the group members noted the following:

- Lathrop and Tracy – City Council approval is required; however, the format of their respective budgeting process would allow them to bypass the need for City Council approval of the individual budget as long as the new budget does not greatly exceed what was approved with the previous year as the costs will largely be allocated the same way and in similar amounts.
- It was noted that the DOF sometimes does not release population data until late spring. This really only applies to the City of Lathrop, the City of Tracy, and Stewart Tract. DOF combines population data for City of Lathrop and Stewart Tracy which needs to be subdivided so each GSA has the appropriate accounting.
- Mr. Gibson asked if Lathrop's proposed ASR well would get them credit for groundwater pumping. Mr. Shatz noted a GSA could supply him with the ASR recharge which could then become a deduction from the overall groundwater pumping. Mr. Emmons from the City of Tracy asked whether Tracy's perc ponds for stormwater would also count in the groundwater pumping totals. Mr. Shatz noted that we would need to calculate the volume for the water that was recharged and that we would need more documentation in order to do so.
- Mr. Weisenberger suggested that the Tracy Subbasin may need form flow devices for Hollow Creek. He noted that this has been flowing into the Tracy Subbasin since early January, as has Long Tree Creek. He noted that both creeks would benefit from stream gauges. Mr. Zidar noted that the alert gauges out there got beat up in recent storms and County Flood Control District has some amazing videos of the flows. Mr. Zidar suggested that the group consider a flood risk reduction and recharge project in that area of Tracy. Mr. Weisenberger and Mr. Emmons said that they should discuss this further. A question was posed to Mr. Brewster from DWR if there was funding available for new stream gauges. Mr. Brewster confirmed that there was no funding specifically for stream gauges but that this could be included as a component in a grant application.

D. GSP Implementation Updates – *Discussion Item*

1. Current Groundwater Conditions and Annual Report Updates

- As of October 2022, there are several wells that GEI does not have measurements for. Mr. Shatz had already contacted Mr. Young regarding two wells (POO-1 and POO-5) in Alameda County that GEI has spring measurements for but fall measurements are missing. CASGEM may have the needed measurements next time it is updated. Mr. Shatz asked if BBID is still in negotiations with DWR to take over the ORL well. Mr. Young shared that BBID has gone through staffing changes and noted that Mr. Shatz's reminder emails are helpful. Mr. Young did not have the ORL well data but suggested that Mr. Shatz continue following up with BBID staff.
- Overall, 25% of the Subbasin's wells are over the minimum threshold, which can partly be attributed to the drought.
- GEI has received water supply info from BCID, San Joaquin County, and Lathrop.
- Mr. Shatz noted that the Tracy Subbasin has made good progress on the first management action related to well permitting. The GSAs have coordinated with the County Environmental Health Department (the well permitting agency) and most GSAs have developed their plan to comply with the Executive Order. Mr. Shatz noted that DWR is revising the California Well Standards and a public draft of the revised Well Standards is anticipated to be released this spring. DWR will hand the revised Well Standards to the SWB who will then issue a request to the counties to update their well ordinances. Once San Joaquin County receives this request, it would be a good time to update and incorporate the GSA's well permitting review process. The GSP outlines the protection of domestic wells and setbacks from surface water bodies and groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDEs) areas as important for well permitting evaluations. Though the GSAs have no control over the San Joaquin County well permitting agency, they can talk to County Environmental Health Department to generate ideas around

these GSP priorities (setbacks for domestic wells, protections for surface water bodies and GDEs).

E. 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.
 - The Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin has selected new officers. Supervisor Rickman will be the new Chairman for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Groundwater Authority.
 - Mr. Zidar believes that it would be beneficial to maintain one data management system for the Tracy and Eastern San Joaquin subbasins. A streamlined data program, depending on staff resource availability, would be more time, cost, and operationally efficient. Development of the logistics and details for this is still in progress.
2. Other Adjacent Basin Updates
 - Mr. Young noted that there are no major updates from the East Contra Costa Subbasin. He noted that the East Contra Costa basin is pretty stable. There are urban interests in the northern portion of that basin, but these don't impact Tracy. There was no update on coordination with the Delta-Mendota Subbasin, but it was noted that Tracy should prioritize coordination with them. Mr. Weisenberger noted that BCID shares a neighboring district, Del Puerto, but does not attend their regular GSA meetings. Mr. Emmons noted that he can get a report out from those working in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin to share back with the group.
3. DWR Engagement on Model
 - Mr. Zidar has met with Woodard & Curran and is running a series of analyses to show the benefits of possible projects off the Mokelumne River.
 - Mr. Shatz will coordinate a meeting between himself, Mr. Zidar, Mr. Young, and DWR to discuss the groundwater model.

F. DWR Status Report – *Discussion Item*

- Specific grant questions should go to Mr. Brewster as there are a lot of new developments pouring in, and he is able to provide more detail as it

is available. He also stated that there is AEM data currently available for Area 6 (Tracy subbasin area). Mr. Shatz noted that the raw AEM data was posted, but that DWR was planning to go correlate the findings with the geophysical and lithological and geophysical logs.

- Mr. Shatz noted again that there were some wells that they do not currently have fall measurements for, particularly wells owned by private entities such as Occidental—who pushes their data in semi-quarterly reports—but he will continue looking into it and see what he can send to DWR regarding groundwater level data.

III. **Public Comments**

No additional comments.

IV. **Agency Comments**

No additional comments.

V. **Next GSP Coordination Committee Meetings**

A. Confirm Coordination Committee Availability

- February 16, 2023
- March 23, 2023
- April 20, 2023
- May 18, 2023
- June 15, 2023

VI. **Adjournment**

Ms. Finnegan adjourned the meeting at 2:29 PM.