

# **Tracy Subbasin GSP Coordination Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 13, 2023**

**3:00 PM to 5:00 PM**

## **FINAL MINUTES**

### **I. Opening of Meeting/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 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 regular Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Coordination Committee (Committee) meeting:

- John Chapman, Stewart Tract GSA
- Lea Emmons, City of Tracy GSA
- Greg Gibson, City of Lathrop GSA
- Greg Young, Byron Bethany Irrigation District (BBID)
- David Weisenberger, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District (BCID)
- Alex Chetley, San Joaquin County GSA

Other attendees:

- Emily Finnegan, Stantec
- Khandriale Clark, Stantec
- Richard Shatz, GEI
- Bill Brewster, California Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Hope Paulin, San Joaquin County
- Christine Burkhalter
- Carter Reiff
- Karen Holcomb
- Peggy Grillo
- Ed McNair, DLA Tracy Depot, Water Program Manager
- Jim Miller, Kier and Wright
- George Hartman

### **II. Scheduled Items**

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

**RESULT:** APPROVED

**MOVER:** Greg Gibson

**SECONDER:** David Weisenberger

**AYES:** All

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**EDITS:** There are no comments on the notes. They are approved for finalization and publication as is.

B. June 2023 Public Workshop Summary – *Discussion Item*

Ms. Clark requested comments and questions from the Committee on the draft summary from the June public workshop prior to publication. None were received, and thus, the summary will be finalized and published on the Tracy Subbasin website.

C. Leadership Transition at San Joaquin County – *Discussion Item*

Mr. Chetley, Deputy Public Works Director for the County, introduced himself as the interim Plan Manager for the Subbasin on behalf of San Joaquin County. He has taken over the role from Matt Zidar who retired in August 2023. The County is looking to secure a more permanent replacement for Mr. Zidar and has initiated their recruitment process. The job posting is available on the County's Human Resources website. Until a replacement has been found, Mr. Chetley will continue to manage this role alongside his other responsibilities at the County and with the support of the County's Water Resources Director, Fritz Buckman, some staff augmentation, and consultants, including Bob Granberg. Mr. Granberg is an experienced water resources professional that will attend these meetings in tandem with or in lieu of Mr. Chetley as schedules allow. Mr. Pattison and Mr. Gibson also shared that they have ongoing recruitment processes going in their water resources departments. All shared similar sentiments surrounding the challenges acquiring experienced talent across the industry at this time.

D. GSA Status Updates – *Round Robin Discussion*

1. Current Groundwater Conditions, Projects and Management Actions, Funding, and General Updates

- City of Tracy: The City has not pumped a lot of groundwater this year, but there is otherwise nothing more to report at this time.
- City of Lathrop: The City's ASR well project is underway and making good progress with a Basis of Design Report already slated for completion in January. The City is also remediating wells that have been offline for a few years due to unexpected maintenance issues. Separately, Mr. Gibson took a tour of Paradise Cut and learned about the South Delta Water Agency's project, which includes acquiring land, widening the flood plain area, and other components that are slated to support flood management. Mr. Weisenburger asked if the City has been a project proponent. Mr. Gibson responded that the City had been a project proponent for a long time alongside other local districts.
- BBID: Mr. Pattison stated that the District mostly consists of surface water users, and thus, does not have much to report on regarding groundwater. The groundwater quality within the area could be better and lacks in permeability, so it is not used very often.
- BCID: One groundwater monitoring well (MW-203) was completed sometime around August/September. A site for another groundwater monitoring well (MW-204) has been identified and could be drilled as early as this winter. Additionally, DWR has reached out to the District and has begun the contracting process for the grant awarded earlier this year. As a reminder, the District was awarded \$10M out of the \$14M needed to implement a pipeline extension project geared towards providing surface water for up to 500 acres of agricultural land that is solely reliant on groundwater at the moment; this is slated to reduce groundwater pumping by up to 1,000 acre-feet per year. The project design has been scaled back in some respects in order to make it more financially feasible. The project must be completed by October 2025 so that there is an appropriate amount of time to achieve project close out by March 31, 2026. Construction is anticipated to

begin in early 2024. Separately, Mr. Weisenburger noted that he will provide Mr. Shatz with data for the Annual Report.

Additionally, Mr. Shatz congratulated BBID on their work studying various fish species in the region. The results of the study may provide greater insights into which species could be fished more.

- Stewart Tract: Nothing to report.
- San Joaquin County: Mr. Chetley began by noting the Data Management System effort discussed during previous meetings was still a priority at the County and an effort to secure a single system management that would consolidate and organize the Tracy and Eastern San Joaquin Subbasins' information was already underway. Regarding the Corral Hollow Creek project, also mentioned in previous meetings, Mr. Chetley stated that the County was working with landowners on flood management opportunities that may help reduce the impact of flooding in the area but noted that it was not a permanent fix that would eliminate flooding. The County ultimately wants to keep the flows in the bank by restoring the historical flood flow capacity. Something currently being investigated is the use of quarry pits to take off high flows and working with the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

#### E. GSP Implementation Updates

##### 1. GSA Invoicing Through GSP Implementation – *Discussion Item*

- Mr. Shatz explained to the group that the County had not yet invoiced any of the Tracy Subbasin GSAs for their portions of shared GSP implementation costs for the 21-22 and 22-23 fiscal years. The 23-24 fiscal year invoice will not be ready until the end of the fiscal year. The totals vary for each year and. Multiple GSA representatives commented that their accounting departments close the books after each fiscal year; thus, they would need to receive the invoices and speak to their respective departments about how best to move forward.

##### 2. WY23 Annual Report – *Discussion Item*

- Mr. Shatz stated that he still needed water supply data from BCID, BBID, and the City of Tracy by the coming Friday. GEI will use that data in combination with the M&N state database and open ET to estimate agricultural demand. This will all feed into the Annual Report. Additionally, DWR has provided guidance on the Report, including suggestions for showing progress towards GSP goals, use of visual aids, use of mandatory language and dictated within the legislation, [and more](#). Overall, this may increase the cost associated with developing the Report.

3. TSS Update – *Discussion Item*

- As mentioned by Mr. Weisenberger earlier in the meeting, two groundwater monitoring wells are moving through the TSS process. Mr. Shatz noted that the County's Environmental Health Department required permits with a workplan for well drilling. GEI has completed two permit applications—one for BCID and one for the City of Tracy. A permit application for BBID is underway. The additional workplans have increased the cost associated with GEI completing the permits.

4. Groundwater Conditions – *Discussion Item*

- There is only one well currently exceeding the minimum threshold. Mr. Shatz did not note any dry wells in 2023. There was one in August 2022, one in 2021, and one in 2015.
- There was no subsidence outside of the limit detected through the InSAR satellite data. Mr. Pattison mentioned that there is a large subsidence project being implemented in the Delta region and suggested Mr. Shatz contact Pable Arroyo to ensure there are not any undocumented subsidence issues.

5. Small Community Well Correlation to Aquifers – *Discussion Item*

- The purpose of this effort is to increase the use of publicly available water quality data to improve the water quality assessment of conditions and the monitoring network. This is slated to eliminate a GSP identified data gap in the water quality network and expands the area of data. The effort will include assessing more than 50 small community water supply wells to

identify which aquifer they are obtaining water. The wells are monitored by each water system, so the data does not cost the GSAs.

F. Inter-basin Coordination – *Discussion Item*

1. Adjacent Basin Updates

i. Eastern San Joaquin – *Alex Chetley*

- The County is working on their 5-year update which is due in approximately one year.
- Their steering committee met earlier this day and discussed recommendations surrounding a draft well mitigation program.
- The Subbasin received a grant to develop a Mokelumne River water right. GEI and Rincon have been selected as the technical consultants to support that effort. The work began in September and is anticipated to take three years.

ii. Delta Mendota – *Lea Emmons*

- The Subbasin is preparing for their Annual Report for the 2023 Water Year.

iii. East Contra Costa – *Ed Pattison*

- The Subbasin is preparing their Annual Report for the 2023 Water Year and are getting their spring and fall groundwater measurements.
- They are currently interpreting their GSP evaluation. It was accepted by DWR earlier this year with three corrective actions that need to be implemented by 2027. They submitted a grant application for Round 2 funds from DWR but were unsuccessful.

G. DWR Status Report – *Discussion Item*

1. Mr. Brewster congratulated BBID on their grant award and noted there were a lot of applications for funds that round.
2. He also encouraged the group to review the annual report and periodic update guidance provided by DWR.

III. **Public Comments**

None.

**IV. Agency Comments**

Mr. Chetley asked if GSP determinations were due next month. Mr. Shatz responded yes, by the end of January 2024.

**V. Next GSP Coordination Committee Meeting Anticipated January 18, 2024.**

Invites for the monthly meetings were sent out during the meetings, which will occur from January to June in order to facilitate development of the Annual Report as well as Budget for the next fiscal year.

**VI. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:03 PM.