

Tracy Subbasin GSP Coordination Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 20, 2021
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Teleconference Meeting Only

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

Phone Number: +1 (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 928-632-981-04#

NOTICE: CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

On March 18, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 recognizing that COVID 19 continues to spread throughout our community resulting in serious and ongoing economic harm. Governor Newsom has therefore waived certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act relating to public participation and attendance at public meetings.

Based on guidance from the California Department of Public Health and the California Governor's Officer, **effective immediately** and while social distancing measures are imposed, members of the Tracy Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and staff will be participating in this meeting remotely from multiple locations. In order to minimize the spread of the COVID 19 virus, 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

Member 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 Michael Callahan, San Joaquin County, at mcallahan@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 April 15 Technical Committee Meetings Minutes – *Action Item*
- B. Approval to Release of Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan Chapters 7 (Management Areas), 8 (Monitoring Networks), and 9 (Sustainability Management Criteria) for Public Review – *Action Item*
- C. Projected Water Budgets – *Discussion Item*
- D. Projects and Management Actions – *Discussion Item*
- E. Funding for GSP Implementation – *Discussion Item*
- F. GSP Adoption Requirements – *Discussion Item*
- G. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development Schedule – *Discussion Item*
- H. DWR Status Report – *Discussion Item*

III. **Public Comments**

IV. **Agency Comments**

V. **Next Technical Committee Meeting – June 17, 2021**

VI. **Adjournment**

Agenda Item A

**Approval of April 15 Technical
Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tracy Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Coordination Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 15, 2021

1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Teleconference Meeting Only

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Phone Number: +1 (669) 900-6833

Meeting ID: 928-632-981-04#

MINUTES

I. Opening of Meeting/Roll Call

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

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

- David Weisenberger, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District GSA
- Greg Young, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District GSA (joined at 2:00 PM)
- Greg Gibson, City of Lathrop GSA (joined at 1:10 PM)
- Lea Emmons, City of Tracy GSA
- Glenn Prasad, San Joaquin County
- Ryan Alameda, Stewart Tract GSA

Other attendees:

- Nick Janes, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District GSA
- Jackson Cook, California Department of Water Resources
- Richard Shatz, GEI
- George Hartmann, Member of the public
- Kirsten Pringle, Stantec
- Elizabeth Simon, Stantec

II. Scheduled Items

A. Approval of March 18 Technical Committee Meetings Minutes

RESULT: APPROVED

MOVER: Ryan Alameda, Stewart Tract GSA

SECONDER: Lea Emmons, City of Tracy GSA

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: Byron-Bethany Irrigation District GSA, City Lathrop GSA

ABSTAIN: None

B. Public Outreach and Engagement Activities

Kirsten Pringle, Stantec, noted that a representative from The Nature Conservancy had reached out to several GSAs requesting to be added to the interested parties database.

C. Approval to Release of Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan Chapters 7 (Management Areas), 8 (Monitoring Network), and 9 (Sustainable Management Criteria) for Public Review

Richard Shatz, GEI, provided an update on the status of and changes to draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Chapters 7, 8, and 9 to address comments from the GSA representatives. He indicated that significant changes had been made to Chapter 8 (Monitoring Network) to remove inactive wells. In Chapter 9 (Sustainable Management Criteria), the definition for what causes undesirable results had been revised to provide more flexibility. The group requested additional time to review the draft GSP chapters and decided to delay the vote to release the draft chapters for public review and comment until the next meeting.

D. Projected Water Budgets

Mr. Shatz provided an updated on the status of the projected water budgets. He stated that GEI are continuing to conduct the modeling to calculate the projected water budgets with climate change. He stated that the results would be provided at the May meeting.

E. Management Actions

The group discussed the preliminary list of management actions (MA). Lea Emmons, City of Tracy GSA, noted that Tracy Hills already has a detention

basin, and that MA #4 should be revised to be a city-wide action. Ryan Alameda, Stewart Tract GSA, stated that MA #6—which includes a modification to local well ordinance to require consultation for wells built within a certain radius of SGMA monitoring wells—would likely be infeasible. The group decided to remove MA #6 and MA #8. Mr. Shatz recommended removing MA #7, as it is covered under other actions. The group agreed with this approach.

The group discussed whether to add a management action on incorporating the Tracy Basin into the Greater San Joaquin County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Group. Glenn Prasad, San Joaquin County GSA, provided an overview of the potential benefits of joining the group. Greg Gibson, City of Lathrop GSA, asked if the Tracy Subbasin could become its own IRWM. Mr. Gibson also asked for clarification on the commitment and requirements to join the Greater San Joaquin County IRWM Group. Mr. Prasad responded that creating a new IRWM would require an additional process and approval by the California Department of Water Resources. He recommended expanding the boundaries of the existing IRWM to include the Tracy Subbasin and suggested that the region also look into developing a Stormwater Resources Plan. Mr. Prasad offered to prepare additional presentation for a following meeting on the requirements and process for the Tracy Subbasin to join existing IRWM group.

F. Funding for GSP Implementation

Ms. Pringle presented an overview of considerations for funding GSP implementation. Topics included categories for funding items, funding mechanisms, and funding allocation models. Mr. Shatz stated that the draft GSP would need to include a plan for GSP implementation.

Mr. Shatz provided an overview of the draft fiscal budget for GSP implementation. The group discussed the cost sharing methodology and identified which costs will be shared by all the GSAs and which costs will be paid for locally. Mr. Gibson asked about the anticipated frequency of inter-basin coordination. Mr. Gibson and Mr. Emmons noted that city facilities could potentially be used to support public meetings. Mr. Gibson and Mr. Emmons stated their support for having San Joaquin County as the lead agency and

sharing administrative costs. Mr. Prasad stated that the current groundwater level monitoring costs are funded by existing fees and could be covered by the existing funding mechanism.

The group decided to include the following as shared costs: annual reporting, five-year GSP updates, modeling updates, groundwater dependent ecosystem assessment, meeting preparation, inter-basin coordination, intra-basin coordination, annual public workshops, basin coordinator costs, and consultant services. The group decided to include the following as local costs: annual water quality monitoring, groundwater level monitoring, costs for location of annual public meetings, and time to attend monthly meetings.

G. Governance Framework for GSP Implementation

The group discussed the basin governance framework during GSP implementation. Mr. Prasad asked whether projects and MAs should be implemented locally or if a larger entity should be formed coordinate GSP implementation activities. Mr Gibson expressed support for updating the existing Memorandum of Agreement (MA) and requested to see examples of how other basins have worked through the implementation considerations. Mr. Gibson asked whether a new MOA need to be developed or whether the existing MOA could be updated. He requested that a modified MOA or MOU be written to address required provisions for GSP implementation. Mr. Prasad stated that the San Joaquin County GSA would take the lead in reviewing the language in the existing MOA and suggesting potential modifications.

H. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development Schedule

Mr. Shatz provided an update on the GSP development schedule. He stated that public release of full draft GSP is scheduled for late July or early August. Mr. Shatz indicated that a notice of intent (NOI) to adopt the GSP would need to be issued by the GSAs. The group discussed the requirements for issuing the NOI. Mr. Prasad suggested voting to approve a NOI at a GSP Coordination Committee meeting on behalf of all the GSAs. The group agreed with this approach. Mr. Gibson requested that the draft NOI be circulated prior to adoption

at a GSP Coordination Committee meeting. Mr. Prasad stated that he would draft and circulate the NOI for review prior to the adoption meeting

III. Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public on items not on the agenda.

IV. Agency Comments

There were no additional comments from the GSA representatives.

V. Next Technical Committee Meeting – May 20, 2021

Ms. Pringle stated the next technical committee meeting would be on May 20, 2021.

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Pringle adjourned the meeting at 3:19 PM.

Agenda Item D

Projects and Management Actions

Government Code § 65350.5

Before the adoption or any substantial amendment of a city's or county's general plan, the planning agency shall review and consider all of the following:

- (a) **An adoption of, or update to, a groundwater sustainability plan or groundwater management plan** pursuant to Part 2.74 (commencing with Section 10720) or Part 2.75 (commencing with Section 10750) of Division 6 of the Water Code or groundwater management court order, judgment, or decree.
- (b) An adjudication of water rights.
- (c) An order or interim plan by the State Water Resources Control Board pursuant to Chapter 11 (commencing with Section 10735) of Part 2.74 of Division 6 of the Water Code .

GSA and Land-Use Planning Agency Responsibilities

- **GSA:**
 - Coordinate with local land-use agencies to ensure that land-use and groundwater management goals align
- **Land-use planning agencies :**
 - Notify GSAs of any proposal to sustainably amend a general plan
 - Review and consider any adopted groundwater plan when amending their general plan

Agenda Item E

Funding for GSP Implementation

Consideration for Funding GSP Implementation

How is It Being Funded

Example GSP Implementation Funding Mechanisms

Assistance programs	FSS
	TSS
Fees	Fees
	Groundwater extraction fees
	Assessments
General funds	General funds
Grant funding	State and federal grants
Taxes	General taxes
	Special taxes

Discussion Questions

- How are shared GSP costs going to be paid for?
- What agency will be responsible for contracting with consultants?
- Who will be the Plan Manager? How will Plan Manager costs be paid for?

Agenda Item F

GSP Adoption Requirements

CWC § 10728.4

A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing, **held at least 90 days after providing notice to a city or county within the area of the proposed plan or amendment.** The groundwater sustainability agency shall review and consider comments from any city or county that receives notice pursuant to this section and shall consult with a city or county that requests consultation within 30 days of receipt of the notice. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude an agency and a city or county from otherwise consulting or commenting regarding the adoption or amendment of a plan.

Recommendation

Each GSA to adopt resolution authorizing Notice of Intent to Adopt GSP in July.

Template Materials for GSA

Resolution

Staff Report

Presentation Slides

Talking Points