

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA

Wednesday, July 14, 2021 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Teleconference Meeting Only Call-In Information Provided

NOTICE: Coronavirus COVID-19
See Attached Notice Regarding COVID-19

- I. Call to Order/Roll Call (*Please remember to keep your phone line muted and unmute when announcing yourself for attendance or speaking)
- II. Scheduled Items Presentation materials to be posted on ESJGroundwater.org and emailed prior to the meeting.
 - A. Discussion/Action Items
 - 1. Approval of the June 2, 2021 meeting minutes (attached)
 - 2. DWR stakeholder assessment and facilitation support services (staff report attached)
 - 3. SWRCB potential costs and local revenue concept (attached)
 - 4. Professional services and contracting
 - a. Basin accounting framework and budget
 - b. Funding and financing alternatives (P68 grant/\$50K)
 - c. Approach to obtaining support
 - 5. American River water right hearing and GWA support request (attached)
- III. Public Comment (non-agendized items)
- **IV. Director Comments**
- V. Future Agenda Items
- VI. Adjournment

NOTICE: Coronavirus COVID-19

Important Notice Regarding COVID 19 and Closure of Board Chambers to the Public During Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY Steering Committee Meeting AGENDA

(Continued)

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, the meetings of the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Steering Committee Meetings are to be conducted via teleconference.

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:

1. You are strongly encouraged to listen to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee meetings by attending the teleconference:

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

Click here to join the meeting

Or call in (audio only)

+1 209-645-4071 United States, Stockton Phone Conference ID: 511 005 914#

Find a local number | Reset PIN

Learn More | Meeting options

Once connected, we request you kindly mute your phone.

2. 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 Tuesday prior to the meeting. Please submit your comment to the Secretary of the Board at ksmith@sjgov.org. Your comment will be shared with the Board 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.

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY Steering Committee Meeting AGENDA

(Continued)

Next Scheduled Meeting

Wednesday, August 11, 2021 8:30 am to 10:00 am Location TBD

ESJGWA Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Meeting called to order: at 8:33 a.m.

The meeting was conducted via teleconference using Microsoft Teams. Chairman Winn called the meeting to order. Reminders were provided to the attendees regarding meeting procedures.

Roll Call taken:

Roll call taken of members only.

In attendance were Directors Mike Henry; Robert Holmes; Tom Flinn and Alternate Directors Mel Lytle; Walter Ward; Andrew Watkins.

Others in attendance were logged via their sign into Microsoft Teams.

Matt Zidar with San Joaquin County led the meeting in the absence of Chairman Winn.

Discussion / Action Items:

1. Approval of the May 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes

No amendments to the minutes requested.

Motion: Director Mike Henry 2nd: Director Robert Holmes

Mr. Zidar asked for any Opposed or Abstains. With none provided, the minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Proposed GWA FY 21-22 Budget

A table depicting three budget scenarios was presented and explained, noting the expenses and revenue figures for each. The allocations were reviewed and an explanation provided as to the calculations. The Ad-Hoc Budget Committee's recommendation was to adopt the minimal budget scenario. It was noted that discussions took place during the Ad-Hoc Budget Committee meetings regarding the extra tasks and expenses in the other budget scenarios. Additionally, the group noted that there were discussions on being able to come back at a later date with specific projects and request additional funds through the group.

There was a motion by Director Flinn and a 2nd by Alternate Director Watkins to recommend the Board adopt the budget with \$325,000 in charges to the GSAs with the cost allocation schedule based on the 60 groundwater/40 percent pumping costs distribution, and \$8,500 minimum GSA charge and the Zone 2 adjustments. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Resolution Rescinding R-20-06 and Adopting a Resolution Authorizing the GWA Secretary to Approve Expenditures and Execute Contracts Within the Designations and Limitations of the Approved Budget

Resolution R-20-06 and the verbiage errors were explained to the group, noting the original intent of the resolution. The new resolution R-21-XX was provided and recommended for movement to the Board.

There was a motion by Alternate Director Ward and a 2nd by Director Holmes, recommending the Board adopt the proposed resolution rescinding R-20-06 and approving R-21-XX. The motion passed unanimously.

4. FIROMAR Concept and Opportunity

The FIROMAR concept was explained to the group and the potential opportunities were described, noting work on the Calaveras would be based on a similar approach as used on the Merced River area. Committee members added that it seems a great idea and has a lot of potential in terms of drought response, resiliency, and climate change. Discussion was had on the support of the Army Corps of Engineers and potential communications needed.

5. DWR Comment Response Plan

It was noted that DWR comments plan on being officially released at different periods depending on basin; however, an informal consultation for Eastern San Joaquin was expected in mid to late August at which time discussion on changes would occur. DWR will release the official comments in January 2022 at which point the GWA would 180 days to respond.

It was recommended that the Board direct the Steering Committee to coordinate the response to DWR informal comments on the GSP with input from the TAC. DWR comments will be presented to the Steering Committee when received and a response plan will be finalized. The GWA will adopt a joint response for the basin. It is recognized that there may be minority responses, a need for individual GSAs to respond to specific comments, or independent GSA responses. Each GSA should work with their staff and legal representation and formulate their own comments and responses and bring their input to the Steering Committee and TAC. Staff and consultant will consolidate and compile GSA comments and draft a joint response for the basin for consideration by the Steering Committee and Board who would then recommend a consolidated response to the Board. Steering Committee and TAC should plan on scheduling single purpose meeting or meetings to consider the comments and a response. If possible, the GWA should seek to coordinate with neighboring basins on responses.

6. Basin Accounting Framework

Secretary Zidar mentioned the basin accounting case studies originally presented by Ms. Valerie Kincaid. The group discussed the need for accounting framework, and recognized there are limited resources. The following points were made during discussion.

- Would like to use one of the already tested frameworks presented by Ms. Kincaid, inputting data for the basin. Don't reinvent the wheel and seek to keep costs down by learning from other basin examples.
- It was noted that modeling could be done, but the real data would come from the
 monitoring wells and that better accounting would allow for better basin wide
 accountability. Monitoring will help us verify modeling and observe project effects.

- It was noted that we need to do something to create accountability and cannot do nothing.
- Need to understand the basin dynamics to evaluate SW/GW interactions and the relative impacts and benefits of existing projects and those to be built. There are differing levels of contribution to basin overdraft.
- Need to develop a process and structure to agree on the methodology for basin
 accounting and how to account for credits to the GSA project or to landowners that
 make management changes. GSAs need to know who gets credit for projects and yields
 that are or have been developed.
- Members of the group noted that it is important to agree on a methodology because a project could be benefitting the whole basin and credit should be appropriately given.
- The group asked to keep this item on the agenda because further discussion was needed to build consensus as a group.
 Questions- what is the problem to be addressed? What is the desired outcome? How will we achieve the goals in the GSP? How are GSAs contributing to reaching the goals? How will we hold each other accountable? What are the SGMA/Basin benefits of projects or management actions and how are these quantified? How are basin benefits different than project or GSA specific benefits and how do we account for these?

Staff Reports

Mr. Zidar provided a brief of the GBA Termination process being done and advised members that letters requiring response would be coming.

Public Comment:

Chelsea with DWR advised of a scheduled AEM Webinar on June 8th.

Director's Comments:

Director Flinn noted that discussions regarding changes to the JPA should continue in the Steering Committee and Board. Additionally, Director Flinn commented on the use of Zone 2 funds being used to pay for white areas. It was suggested that additional conversations be had offline and that this issue be added to future agendas. Director Holmes commented that the previous comment is the reason discussions on Basin Accounting needs to happen. Director Holmes also advised of public outreach efforts beginning within SSJID and suggested that the GWA also do the same, as outreach to farmers and general public is needed. Alternate Director Lytle suggested that budget discussions happen earlier in the year moving forward.

Future Agenda Items:

None noted.

<u>Adjournment:</u> Meeting was adjourned at 10:06 am with a Motion from Director Holmes and a 2nd from Alternate Director Lytle.

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Roll Call / Vote June 2, 2021 8:30 AM

Chuck Winn	San Joaquin County	209-953-1160	cwinn@sjgov.org	
Mel Lytle 🌘	City of Stockton	209-937-5614	mel.lytle@stocktonca.gov	
Mike Henry •	Lockeford Community Services District	209-712-4014	midot@att.net	
Walter Ward 🌘	Eastside San Joaquin GSA	209-525-6710	wward@envres.org	
Robert Holmes •	South San Joaquin GSA	209-484-7678	rholmes@ssjid.com	
Andrew Watkins •	Stockton East Water District	209-948-0333	watkins.andrew@verizon.net	
Tom Flinn •	North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	209-663-8760	tomflinn2@me.com	



Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Roll Call / Vote June 2, 2021 8:30 AM Minute Approval

			
Chuck Winn	San Joaquin County	209-953-1160	cwinn@sjgov.org
Mel Lytle	City of Stockton	209-937-5614	mel.lytle@stocktonca.gov
Mike Henry	Lockeford Community Services District	209-712-4014	midot@att.net
Walter Ward	Eastside San Joaquin GSA	209-525-6710	wward@envres.org
Robert Holmes	South San Joaquin GSA	209-484-7678	rholmes@ssjid.com
Andrew Watkins	Stockton East Water District	209-948-0333	watkins.andrew@verizon.net
Tom Flinn	North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	209-663-8760	tomflinn2@me.com
		· R	

motion-Director Henry 2nd-Director Holmes Approved

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Roll Call / Vote June 2, 2021 8:30 AM T.A. 2

Chuck Winn	San Joaquin County	209-953-1160	cwinn@sjgov.org
Mel Lytle	City of Stockton	209-937-5614	mel.lytle@stocktonca.gov
Mike Henry Y	Lockeford Community Services District	209-712-4014	midot@att.net
Walter Ward Y	Eastside San Joaquin GSA	209-525-6710	wward@envres.org
Robert Holmes 🏅	South San Joaquin GSA	209-484-7678	rholmes@ssjid.com
Andrew Watkins 🗡	Stockton East Water District	209-948-0333	watkins.andrew@verizon.net
Tom Flinn	North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	209-663-8760	tomflinn2@me.com

Motion - Director Flinn 2nd - Alt. Director Walkins Approved.

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Roll Call / Vote June 2, 2021 8:30 AM 4. A. 3

Chuck Winn	San Joaquin County	209-953-1160	cwinn@sjgov.org
Mel Lytle	City of Stockton	209-937-5614	mel.lytle@stocktonca.gov
Mike Henry 💙	Lockeford Community Services District	209-712-4014	midot@att.net
Walter Ward 😾	Eastside San Joaquin GSA	209-525-6710	wward@envres.org
Robert Holmes 😾	South San Joaquin GSA	209-484-7678	rholmes@ssjid.com
Andrew Watkins Y	Stockton East Water District	209-948-0333	watkins.andrew@verizon.net
Tom Flinn Y	North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	209-663-8760	tomflinn2@me.com

Motion - Alt. Director ward 2nd - Director Holmes Approved

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Steering Committee Meeting Sign-In June 2, 2021 8:30 A.M.

Chuck Winn	San Joaquin County	209-953-1160	cwinn@sigov.org	
Mel Lytle	City of Stockton	209-937-5614	mel.lytle@stocktonca.gov	Present
Mike Henry	Lockeford Community Services District	209-712-4014	midot@att.net	Present
Walter Ward	Eastside San Joaquin GSA	209-525-6710	wward@envres.org	Present
Robert Holmes	South San Joaquin GSA	209-484-7678	rholmes@ssjid.com	Present
Andrew Watkins	Stockton East Water District	209-948-0333	watkins.andrew@verizon.net	Present
Tom Flinn	North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	209-663-8760	tomflinn2@me.com	Present
Kris Balaji	San Joaquin County	468-3100	kbalaji@sjgov.org	Present
Fritz Buchman	San Joaquin County	468-3034	fbuchman@sjgov.org	Present
Matt Zidar	San Joaquin County	953-7460	mzidar@sjgov.org	Present
Brandon Nakagawa *	South San Joaquin GSA - Alternate	209-249-4613	bnakagawa@ssjid.com	Present
				0
KnistySmith	SJC			Present
Ar leth Pelayo	SUC			Present
Alicia Connelly	SUC			Present
Jose Coronado	SIL			Present
Hope Paulin	SVC			Present
Soe Valente				Present

									linda Dorn'	Scot Moody S	(Dey Giordano)	Gerald Schwartz	Isiah-Ann C	Chelsea Spice D
										SEWP			clo mantea	DWP
									Present	Present	Present	Present	Prasunt	Present



Memo

To: TAC and Steering Committee

From: Matt Zidar, Water Resources Manager

RE: DWR Stakeholder Assessment and Facilitation Support Services

Date: June 23, 2021

This memo is to support discussion of support services to be provided by DWR for Stakeholder Assessment and Facilitation Support Services.

Background

The East San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) is working to implement the East San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (ESJ GSP). There are 16 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) that collaborate on the singular GSP. As part of this effort, there are three interrelated initiatives to further develop and implement the long-term strategy to achieve sustainability. **Stakeholder Assessments** help is also sought to identify stakeholder wants, needs, perceptions, level of awareness and positions related to the initiatives. Outputs from the assessments would be used to define outreach needs, refine the communications strategy, shape the agenda for the meetings such that the work is integrated and result in conclusions and decisions by the GWA and GSA. **Facilitation Support Services (FSS)** are being sought to help the GWA and GSAs move through a series of dialogs and make critical decisions affecting the implementation ESJ GSP projects and management actions.

Problem

During development of the ESJ GSP, several of the more complicated issues were deferred to the early stages of the ESJ GSP implementation. This was due to the complexity of the issues, need to complete the GSP on time, additional

time needed for stakeholders to negotiate, potential for conflicts and a desire to achieve consensus on the water budget, basin accounting framework and funding strategy. There had been a lack of consensus on the relative responsibility for overdraft, need for a basin accounting framework to create accountability and funding mechanisms and financing strategies. Each of the GSAs are implementing the GSP within their region. Three separate but interrelated initiatives are currently planned or being scoped to overcome these challenges. Figure 1 show these initiatives and linkages. The initiatives are discussed below. The existing governance and decision structure involve the Technical Advisory Committee, Steering Committee and GWA Board. Ad Hoc Committees may be formed to address specific issues.

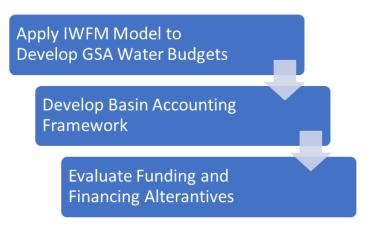


Figure 1 Initiatives

Apply IWFM Model to Develop GSA Water Budgets

The GWA contracted with Woodard & Curran to update the East San Joaquin Basin Integrated Water Flow Model (IWFM), which included recalibrating the model with new data, producing GSA or management area specific water budgets, and participating in meetings of the GWA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) -- which would evaluate the results and help inform the Steering Committee and Board. Staff and the technical consultant would explain the model results, water balance in the GSA areas, and basin current and future conditions; they would bring the results of TAC input and review back to the Steering Committee and Board. The output of this task is to be input to the work, to develop the basin accounting framework.

Develop Basin Accounting Framework

This work is to provide case studies of other groundwater basins and the alternative approaches and policies for basin accounting. The staff and consulting team would present information on up to six areas where a basin accounting framework has been established to allocate resource, manage the framework being implemented, support water exchanges and marketing. The similarity and differences between basins/regions will be described and a pro/con analysis developed to support the Steering Committee and GWA Board in understanding alternatives and selecting a preferred approach for the ESJ groundwater subbasin. The effort will review the scale for accountability, whether at the grower/landowner level, GSA or possibly management areas. The work will inform the review of funding and financing alternatives. The work would be shepherded through the Steering Committee or Ad Hoc with results and recommendations made to the Board.

Funding and Financing Alternatives

The purpose of this work is to evaluate alternatives to fund GWA activities for the long term, generate revenues for GSA projects, define how the GWA and individual member's powers and authorities may be applied pursuant to SGMA to achieve stable funding and finance projects. Basic economic principles (equity, beneficiary pays, externalities, quantification of benefits) will be described and discussed. Revenue generation approaches would be presented (land-based assessments, groundwater charges, sales tax, fees, etc.) and compared. It is anticipated that revenue scenarios would be prepared to inform the process. The work would be shepherded through the Steering Committee or Ad Hoc with final recommendations made to the Board.

Outcome

Local control implies local funding and policies to effectively implement the GSP projects and management actions, collaborate across the basin and meet the goals and objectives identified in the GSP. The ultimate outcome would be firm GWA decisions on the basin accounting framework to be implemented; and on the approach to provide stable long-term funding to the GWA and the services to be provided. It would also be to provide information for the GSAs to make further funding commitments and establish GWA/GSP financing plans that will be implemented and support the basin in achieving sustainability.

SWRCB Potential Costs and GWA Revenue

GSA Name	GSA Abbrev	# Parcels	% of Fees	Total Pumping- Projected (AFY)	% Pumping	Population (2017)	% Pop	Costs @ State Rate	Local Revue (\$5/AF)		Local Revue (\$10/AF)	
Eastside SJ GSA	Eastside SJ GSA	?	0.00%	63,500	7.9%	10,498	1.8%	\$ 3,492,500) \$	317,500	\$	635,000
Linden County Water District	LCWD	569	0.22%	485	0.1%	2,819	0.5%	\$ 26,675	\$	2,425	\$	4,850
Lockeford CSD	LCSD	898	0.40%	1,153	0.1%	1,558	0.3%	\$ 63,415	\$	5,765	\$	11,530
Oakdale Irrigation District	OID	582	0.96%	39,952	5.0%	1,890	0.3%	\$ 2,197,360) \$	199,760	\$	399,520
South Delta Water Agency	SDWA	929	1.66%	4,532	0.6%	7,136	1.2%	\$ 249,260) \$	22,660	\$	45,320
Central Delta Water Agency	CDWA	463	2.36%	9,611	1.2%	1,629	0.3%	\$ 528,605	\$	48,055	\$	96,110
Woodbridge Irrigation District	WID	1,227	2.89%	31,238	3.9%	8,488	1.4%	\$ 1,718,090) \$	156,190	\$	312,380
San Joaquin County GSA No. 1	SJC No. 1	5,560	4.73%	74,448	9.3%	16,859	2.8%	\$ 4,094,640) \$	372,240	\$	744,480
San Joaquin County GSA No. 2	SJC No. 2	12,039	4.80%	8,183	1.0%	39,779	6.6%	\$ 450,065	\$	40,915	\$	81,830
Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District	CSJWCD	1,688	5.21%	138,809	17.4%	8,047	1.3%	\$ 7,634,495	\$	694,045	\$	1,388,090
City of Lodi	Lodi	19,488	7.24%	14,520	1.8%	58,174	9.7%	\$ 798,600) \$	72,600	\$	145,200
City of Manteca	Manteca	24,189	7.97%	18,985	2.4%	64,279	10.7%	\$ 1,044,175	\$	94,925	\$	189,850
Stockton East Water District	SEWD	5,577	8.96%	165,025	20.6%	41,134	6.9%	\$ 9,076,375	\$	825,125	\$	1,650,250
South San Joaquin Irrigation District	SSJID	12,260	9.87%	60,031	7.5%	38,080	6.4%	\$ 3,301,705	\$	300,155	\$	600,310
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	NSJWCD	7,159	12.73%	146,158	18.3%	21,977	3.7%	\$ 8,038,690) \$	730,790	\$	1,461,580
City of Stockton	Stockton	80,807	30.00%	23,035	2.9%	277,120	46.2%	\$ 1,266,925	\$	115,175	\$	230,350
		92,628	100.00%	799,665	100.0%	599,467	1	\$ 43,981,575	\$	3,998,325	\$	7,996,650

Fee Category	Fee Amount	Applicable Parties
Base Filing Fee	\$300 per well	All extractors required to report (excludes de
Linmanaged Area Data	\$10 per AF	Extractors in unmanaged areas (excludes de
Unmanaged Area Rate	(metered)	minimis extractors).
	\$25 per AF	
	(unmetered)	
Probationary Rate	\$40 per AF	Extractors in probationary basins (excludes de
Interim Plan Rate	\$55 per AF	Extractors in probationary basins where the
internii Plan Kate	333 pel AF	State Water Board determines an interim plan
De minimis Fee	\$100 per well	De minimis extractors in probationary basins.
Automatic Late Fee	25% per month	Extractors that do not file reports by the due

County of San Joaquin Water- Right Application (A029657) August 30, 2021 Public Hearing

Background

San Joaquin County filed Water Right Permit Application (A029657) in 1990. It has been defended and amended several times. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) has noticed a public hearing on the Application on August 30 and 31, 2021. The purpose of this hearing is to receive evidence that the Administrative Hearings Office (AHO) and SWRCB will consider whether to: (1) cancel or deny water-right Application 29657 or (2) establish a time schedule for the applicant to submit information necessary for the SWRCB to process Application 29657. We risk losing access to this water source. Deadline for all parties to file exhibits and testimony is July 30, 2021, 12:00 p.m. Exhibits include all written testimony, statements of qualifications of expert witnesses, and other documents to be submitted as evidence. Policy Statements can also be filed by interested parties.

Ask of Local Partners

We need local stakeholders to support preservation of the Application by providing written testimony by the July 30, 2021 deadline. We will be seeking a continuance, but this is the current timeline. This request is to every one of the East San Joaquin Groundwater Authority members. Emphasis is needed from the northern part of the basin with the NSJWCD, SEWD, WID, City of Lodi, and City of Stockton. Such testimony should be related to how American River surface water supply is, or should be, part of your agencies long range planning. We want to emphasize that this water, under the area of origin designation, is reserved for San Joaquin County and is part of the water supply portfolio needed to meet the basin's future needs, to support economic development, and for recharge.

Those filing written testimony need to file a Notice of Intent to Appear. Alternately, Policy Statements may be provided in writing in advance of the hearing or presented orally during the hearing. Policy Statements are not subject to the pre-hearing requirements for testimony or exhibits, except that interested persons who want to make oral Policy Statements during the hearing or present testimony are requested to file a Notice of Intent to Appear indicating an intent to make only a Policy Statement.

Key Points and Messaging

We are seeking to extend the SWRCB consideration to allow further development of specific projects and plans to take the water available under the Application and put this water to current of proposed future beneficial uses. As such, Testimony or Policy Statements should demonstrate a willingness to continue to advance partnerships that would use current or proposed facilities (diversion, conveyance) to put the water to beneficial use (ag, urban, environmental), including storing water in the groundwater basin for local extractive benefits or as a basin benefit. Things

¹ 2021-06-10 Notice of Public Hearing and Pre-Hearing Conference (San Joaquin County)

to note in any Policy Statement and written or verbal hearing testimony might include the following.

- 1. East San Joaquin groundwater subbasin is designated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as being in critical overdraft. East San Joaquin groundwater subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (ESJ GSP) submitted to DWR in January 2020 documents that 80,000 acre feet per year is needed to achieve sustainability and meet current and forecasted demands. The American River water right is a source of water available for recharge and use in lieu of groundwater to reduce overdraft and achieve sustainability.
- 2. Watershed of origin status make the county water right application unique and less subject to a time constraint and requirement to demonstrate due diligence. We continue to work to build partnerships and make plans based on the American River water being available for recharge or in-lieu use.
- 3. Water Availability Analysis previously submitted documents show that there is 'wet year' water available during the proposed period of diversion on the American River system for intended use. It further documented that there would be no impacts to public trust resources or Folsom Dam operations from our proposed diversion.
- 4. Preserving the American River San Joaquin water rights application is in the public interest, is consistent with the local ESJ GSP, and is needed to achieve sustainability and respond to drought and climate change.
- 5. We know what to do but need time to do it. Let us put together a schedule and evaluate the American River in context of the other East San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Plan alternatives and water sources to firm up the basin wide plan. We are working diligently to build projects that rely on more local and more cost effective sources, but the American River water is likely to be needed in the future to achieve sustainability, support the local economy, preserve agriculture, meet build out levels of development, and respond to climate change.
- 6. County and other local partners have been diligently pursuing use of all the available water sources. The American River Application water is in context of other less costly water sources in terms of dollars/acre foot, but still is an important element of a resilient, sustainable, drought resistant water supply portfolio and as a local response to climate change. Project designs have or are considering how to apply the American River, Mokelumne River, Calaveras River, local unregulated east side streams, and Stanislaus River to optimize supplies and build the water supply portfolio. This includes coordinated operations and inter-connections. The projects and operating concepts in the Regional Conjunctive Use Project, Freeport Feasibility Study and ESJ GSP are intended to operate the basin as a unit to achieve sustainability.
- 7. As part of implementing the ESJ GSP, local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are continuing to develop partnerships, evaluate funding and financing alternatives, establish a basin accounting framework, and leverage the available supply sources. The use of existing or proposed facilities for conjunctive use, groundwater storage and banking, and

- development of strategies to use the available 1-2 Million acre feet of available groundwater storage space is part of the sustainability strategy which would provide local, regional and statewide benefits.
- 8. This use of American River water is consistent with the Governor's Water Resilience Portfolio (July 2020) and needed in San Joaquin County as a designated area of origin to respond to drought and climate change.
- 9. This water would allow us to store wet year supply for dry year supply and could help San Joaquin County partners meet Delta water quality and flow standards. There is a definite relation to how the facilities on the Mokelumne, Calaveras and Stanislaus Rivers can or could be operated.
- 10. County would like to seek and develop interregional and potential statewide benefit area programs that include the use of American River rights and in context of the other entitlements on the Mokelumne, Calaveras and Stanislaus Rivers.