EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Board of Directors Meeting

AGENDA

Wednesday, September 8, 2021
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Teleconference Only
Call-In Information Provided

I. **Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Safety Announcement/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. Copies of presentation materials will be available at the meeting.***

A. Action/Discussion Items:

1. Approval of Minutes of June 9, 2021 (Attached)
2. Review and Adopt Policy Statement to SWRCB Administrative Hearing Office to support the American River Water Rights Permit 29657
3. SWRCB Comment to DWR on ESJ GSP (Attached)

B. Staff/DWR Report

1. Report on 9/2/21 TAC Meeting (Glenn Prasad)
2. RFQ for Basin Accounting Framework and Funding/Financing Alternatives
3. DWR Update and FSS status
4. DWR FIROMAR Pilot Project

III. **Directors' Comments and GSA Project Status Reports**

1. Central Delta Water Agency (CDWA)
2. Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District (CSJWCD)
3. City of Stockton
4. City of Lodi
5. City of Manteca
6. City of Stockton
7. Eastside San Joaquin GSA
8. Linden County Water District (LCWD)
9. Lockeford Community Services District (LCSD)
10. North San Joaquin Water Conservation District (NSJWCD)
11. Oakdale Irrigation District (OID)
12. San Joaquin County #1
13. San Joaquin County #2 (Cal Water)
14. South Delta Water Agency (SDWA)
15. South San Joaquin Irrigation District (SSJID)

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting
AGENDA
(Continued)

16. Stockton East Water District (SEWD)
17. Woodbridge Irrigation District (WID)

IV. Secretary Report

V. Public Comment (non-agendized items)

VI. Future Agenda Items

VII. Adjournment

NOTICE: Coronavirus COVID-19

See Attached Notice Regarding COVID 19, Closure of Board Chambers to the Public During the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting and Teleconference Information

Next Regular Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location TBD

Action may be taken on any item

Agendas and Minutes may also be found at http://www.ESJGroundwater.org
Note: If you need disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact San Joaquin County Public Works Water Resources Staff at (209) 468-3089 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

Important Notice Regarding COVID 19 and Closure of Board Chambers to the Public During Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meetings

On March 18, 2020, Governor Gavin Newson issued Executive Order N-29-20 recognizing that COVID 19 continues to spread throughout our community resulting in serious and ongoing economic harm. Governor Newson 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, Board chambers will be closed to the public during the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Board of Directors Meetings.

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY
Board of Directors Meeting
AGENDA
(Continued)

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 Board of Directors before and during the meeting:

1. You are strongly encouraged to listen to the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors 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: 239 455 833#

Find a local number | Reset PIN

Learn More | Meeting options

If you are connecting to Microsoft Teams for the first time, you will need to download the program to you PC. You can also download the Microsoft Teams App to you Apple or Android device by visiting the App Stores.

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 Clerk/Secretary of the Board at kmsith@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
Board Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2021

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance & Safety Announcement/Roll Call

The Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (GWA) Board Teleconference meeting convened, and Chairman Chuck Winn called the meeting to order, via the online Microsoft Teams Meeting platform, at 10:32 a.m. on June 9, 2021. The meeting was Teleconference only.

Chairman Winn led the agenda.

Mrs. Kristy Smith with San Joaquin County conducted the roll call.
In attendance were Chairman Chuck Winn; Vice Chairman Melvin Panizza; Secretary Kris Balaji; Directors David Fletcher, Eric Thorburn, John Herrick, and Robert Holmes; Alternate Directors Jeremiah Mecham, Reid Roberts, Walter Ward, Joe Valente.

Also in attendance were Directors Dan Wright and Tom Flinn who arrived after roll call was completed.

II. SCHEDULED ITEMS

A. Action Items:

1. Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2021 (Attached)

Chairman Winn called for the approval of minutes of the meeting on March 10, 2021. There were no comments by the GWA Board members and no comments by the public. Mrs. Kristy Smith with San Joaquin County conducted the roll call vote.

Motion:
Director David Fletcher moved, and Alternate Director John Herrick second, approval of the March 10, 2021 minutes.
Roll call conducted.
The motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of FY 21/22 budget (Attached)

Mr. Matt Zidar with San Joaquin County presented a brief overview of the proposed FY 21/22 budget. A low, medium and high level of activity was presented to the Steering Committee which recommended the low level of activity budget; and a cost distribution charges that was similar to last year. It was noted that the proposed action would be to accept the Steering Committee recommendation and adopt the budget and GSA cost allocation by resolution.

In terms of the impact of the basin, it was expressed that pumping should be the basis for assessments. It was noted that they would have to revisit pumping assessments in the future.

Motion:
Director Walter Ward moved, and Director Tom Flinn second, approval of the FY 21/22 budget.
Roll call vote conducted.
The motion passed unanimously.

3. **Resolution rescinding R-20-06 and adopting a resolution authorizing the secretary of the GWA to approved expenditures and execute contracts within the designations and limitations of the approved budget (Staff Report and Resolution Attached)**

Mr. Zidar explained the proposed resolution process which included rescinding R-20-06 from last year due to the unclear language. The new resolution seeking board action would be to designate the Secretary of the Board as the officer authorized to approve budgeted expenditures and execute contracts to an approved master service agreement or other contract. It was noted that the modifications the Secretary may make are limited to schedule or dollar amount as long as the modifications are consisted with the GWA budget and are made in consultation and with the concurrence of the Steering Committee.

Motion:
Director John Herrick moved, and Director Dan Wright second, approval of rescinding R-20-06 and approving the new resolution.
Roll call vote conducted.
The motion passed unanimously.

4. **DWR comment response plan (Staff Report & DWR Handout Attached)**

Mr. Zidar provided background on the DWR comment timeline by noting that DWR had 2 years to evaluate the GSPs. The two years began on submittal of the GSP in January 2020 and will end in January 2022. DWR will evaluate whether the GSP is based on the best available science and likely to achieve the basin's sustainability goals. The preliminary comments are anticipated late summer and will include informal consultation. The official determination on plan adequacy is expected January 2022 at which point the GWA will have 180 to respond. Mr. Zidar gave an overview of the DWR comment response plan which includes the Steering Committee receiving the comments and finalizing a response strategy. This would include coordinating input from the TAC, GSAs, and neighboring basins with single purpose meetings for discussion. It was noted that the GSAs could develop individual responses that would be brought together at the Steering Committee, at which point staff, consultants, and legal representatives would draft a final response for GWA consideration and for transmit to DW.

It was mentioned that four DWR GSP assessments have been released with 2 plans deemed adequate and 2 as insufficient. These assessments could be useful in anticipating how DWR will evaluate plans and provides feedback. Mr. Paul Wells from DWR confirmed that some assessments and notification letters were released which provides opportunity to start addressing needs before the 180 day turnaround; he also stated that DWR would have a Q&A session on June 24th.

5. **FIROMAR concept, DWR opportunity and consistency with the GSP**

Mr. Zidar gave an overview of FIROMAR which combines the concepts of Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) and Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood-MAR) to create multiple benefits. DWR is considering pilot projects in the San Joaquin Basin and staff has been promoting our area. This is viewed as a potential DWR opportunity to identify methods to utilize available groundwater storage space, achieve sustainability goals and potentially reduce downstream flood risk to the City of Stockton. It would also support climate change and drought response and reduce the vulnerability of water supplies in the San Joaquin Basin. It was noted that three components for pilot projects would include working with local partners; evaluating reservoir operations to support regional flood risk reduction; and increased conjunctive use operations to take advantage of flood waters and better manage and make use of aquifer storage. Mr. Zidar provided a list of objectives/benefits for a potential Calaveras pilot project focusing on New Hogan Reservoir. The FIROMAR projects would also be consistent with the GSP sustainability goal. Mr. Zidar provided a list of potential stakeholders and partners.

It was mentioned that the Mokelumne River could be a potential source of recharge and for a pilot project. A concern was expressed about inviting non-local presence on a local operation. It was stated that the basin should be mindful of SGMA and cautious about local control since non-local partners could be regulators.

6. Basin accounting framework

Mr. Zidar noted the basin accounting framework would need to be coordinated with the funding and financing alternatives evaluation and the model update activity. There would be further review of the approaches and Facilitation Support Services (FSS) from DWR would be sought.

B. Staff/DWR Report

1. TAC Meeting – March 4, 2021

Mr. Zidar noted that last TAC meeting was on March 4th.

2. DWR Update

Mr. Paul Wells from DWR noted that some initial assessments and notification letters had been released and recommended reviewing the releases to see how their issues were being addressed. However, Mr. Wells also stated that each basin is unique and some issues cannot be anticipated until individual basin assessments are made.

The group asked if DWR would eventually have some form of a manual or document with a universal goal or purpose for these reports. Mr. Wells reported that the goal would be to provide more information and standardize the process.

3. Other

No other reports were provided.

III. Director's Comments and GSA Status Reports:

Chairman Winn requested comments from each GSA Director, in a Round Table Discussion. There were no comments.

It was noted that the 2021 Annual Report Table A-1 Project Progress was attached for reference.

IV. Secretary Report:

There was no report for this meeting.

V. Public Comment:

Ms. Mary Elizabeth provided multiple comments that included:

- TAC meetings are open to the Public, but no notice is provided on the ESJ Groundwater website
- The last annual report or current draft of the annual report on the GSP is not on the website
- A data management tool was designed for the public to obtain information but there is no information provided. She previously requested outreach to educate members of the public on water issues,
- DWR dry well notifications should be highlighted and made available to the public on the ESJ Groundwater and Environmental Health website.
- The most recent Annual CASGEM Groundwater report on the ESJ Groundwater website is outdated and from 2015.
- A letter was sent to the ESJ Groundwater website address regarding Disadvantaged Community maintenance grant opportunities. It was not distributed in the agenda and no response was sent.

- Cal Water agreed to increase their outreach through the Low-Income Rate Assistance program. She would like to make sure that the Disadvantaged Communities are being attended to.

It was noted that the Environmental Health information should be sent to Secretary Balaji. Mr. Zidar confirmed that ESJ Groundwater webpage is under revision and plans to post the annual reports; he would also look into obtaining and posting the CASGEM reports. It was mentioned that outreach and education has a limited budget, but it could be a conversation for the Steering Committee. In response to TAC notices, it was confirmed that the meeting section will be updated on the ESJ Groundwater website appropriately to follow Brown Act. Mr. Zidar would also like to create a log with submitted comments from the public and list them under public comments on the agenda. It was confirmed that a link would be promoted and provided for DWR dry well reporting.

Mr. Gerald Schwartz recommended George Hartmann as a facilitator for the excess water topic.

VI. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates:
None provided.

VII. Adjournment:
Chairman Winn adjourned the March 10, 2021 meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Next Regular Meeting:
Wednesday, September 8, 2021
10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Location TBD

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors
June 9, 2021

Roll Call

Agency Name	Director First	**Director Last**		Alternate First	**Alternate Last**	
Cal Water	John	**Freeman**		Steven Jeremiah	**Cavallini Mecham** •	
Central Delta Water Agency	George	**Biagi, Jr.**		Dante	**Nomellini**	
Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District	Grant	**Thompson**		Reid	**Roberts** •	
City of Lodi	Alan	**Nakanishi**		Charlie	**Swimley**	
City of Manteca	David	**Breitenbucher**				
City of Stockton	Dan	**Wright** • Late		Mel Paul	**Lytle Canepa**	
Eastside San Joaquin GSA	Russ	**Thomas**		Walter	**Ward** •	
Linden County Water District	David	**Fletcher** •				
Lockeford Community Services District	Mike	**Henry**		Joseph Eric	**Salzman Schmid**	
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	Tom	**Flinn** Late		Joe	**Valente** •	
Oakdale Irrigation District	Eric	**Thorburn, P.E.** •				
South Delta Water Agency	John	**Herrick, Esq.** •		Jerry	**Robinson**	
South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Robert	**Holmes** •		Brandon	**Nakagawa**	
Woodbridge Irrigation District	Andy	**Christensen**				
San Joaquin County Public Works **Secretary (1)**	Kris	**Balaji** •				
Stockton East Water District **Vice Chair (2)**	Melvin	**Panizza** •		Andrew	**Watkins**	
San Joaquin County **Chairman (3)**	Chuck	**Winn** •		Kathy	**Miller**	

Quorum

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Joint Exercise of Powers Board of Directors Meeting

MEMBER SIGN-IN SHEET

Location: Teleconference Call Only Date: 6/9/2021 Time: 10:30 AM

INITIAL	Member's Name	GSA	Phone	Email
	John Freeman	Cal Water Member	209-547-7900	jfreeman@calwater.com
Present	Jeremiah Mecham	Cal Water Alternate		jmecham@calwater.com
	Steve Cavallini	Cal Water Alternate	209-464-8311	scavallini@calwater.com
	George Biagi, Jr.	Central Delta Water Agency Member	209-481-5201	gbiagi@deltabluegrass.com
	Dante Nomellini	Central Delta Water Agency Alternate	209-465-5883	ngmplcs@pacbell.net
	Grant Thompson	Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District Member	209-639-1580	gtom@velociter.net
Present	Reid Roberts	Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District Alternate	209-941-8714	reidwroberts@gmail.com
	Alan Nakanishi	City of Lodi Member	209-333-6702	anakanishi@lodi.gov
	Charlie Swimley	City of Lodi Alternate	209-333-6706	cswimley@lodi.gov
	David Breitenbucher	City of Manteca Member	209-456-8017	dbreitenbucher@ci.manteca.ca.us
		City of Manteca Alternate		
Present	Dan Wright	City of Stockton Member	209-937-5614	Dan.Wright@stocktonca.gov
	Paul Canepa	City of Stockton Alternate	209-603-7091	Paul.Canepa@stocktonca.gov
	Mel Lytle	City of Stockton Alternate	209-	Mel.Lytle@stocktonca.gov

INITIAL	Member's Name	GSA	Phone	Email
	Russ Thomas	Eastside San Joaquin GSA Member	209-480-8968	rthomasccwd@hotmail.com
Present	Walter Ward	Eastside San Joaquin GSA Alternate	209-525-6710	wward@envres.org
Present	David Fletcher	Linden County Water District Member	209-887-3202	dqfpe@comcast.net
		Linden County Water District Alternate		
	Mike Henry	Lockeford Community Services District Member	209-712-4014	midot@att.net
	Joseph Salzman	Lockeford Community Services District Alternate	209-727-5035	lcsd@softcom.net
	Eric Schmid	Lockeford Community Services District Alternate	209-727-5035	lcsd@softcom.net
Present	Tom Flinn	North San Joaquin Water Conservation District Member	209-663-8760	tomflinn2@me.com
Present	Joe Valente	North San Joaquin Water Conservation District Alternate	209-334-4786	jcvalente@softcom.net
Present	Eric Thorburn, P.E.	Oakdale Irrigation District Member	209-840-5525	ethorburn@oakdaleirrigation.com
		Oakdale Irrigation District Alternate		
Present	Chuck Winn	San Joaquin County Member	209-953-1160	cwinn@sjgov.org
	Kathy Miller	San Joaquin County Alternate	209-953-1161	kmiller@sjgov.org
Present	John Herrick, Esq.	South Delta Water Agency Member	209-224-5854	jherrlaw@aol.com
	Jerry Robinson	South Delta Water Agency Alternate	209-471-4025	N/A
Present	Robert Holmes	South San Joaquin GSA Member	209-484-7678	rholmes@ssjid.com
Present	Brandon Nakagawa	South San Joaquin GSA Alternate	209-249-4613	bnakagawa@ssjid.com
Present	Melvin Panizza	Stockton East Water District Member	209-948-0333	melpanizza@aol.com
Present	Andrew Watkins	Stockton East Water District Alternate	209-484-8591	watkins.andrew@verizon.net
	Anders Christensen	Woodbridge Irrigation District Member	209-625-8438	widirrigation@gmail.com
		Woodbridge Irrigation District Alternate		

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Staff & Support

INITIAL	Member's Name	Organization	Phone	Email
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
	Glenn Prasad	San Joaquin County	468-3089	grasad@sjgov.org
	Alicia Connelly	San Joaquin County	468-3531	aconnelly@sjgov.org
	Jessica Jones	San Joaquin County	468-3073	jessicajones@sjgov.org
	Roy Valadez	San Joaquin County	468-3089	rvaladez@sjgov.org
Present	Kristy Smith	San Joaquin County	468-0219	kmsmith@sjgov.org
Present	Rod Attebery	Neumiller & Beardslee / Legal Counsel	948-8200	rattebery@neumiller.com
Present	Arleth Pelayo	SJC		

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Joint Exercise of Powers Board of Directors Meeting

OTHER INTERSTED PARTIES - SIGN-IN SHEET

Location: Teleconference Call Only Date: 6/9/2021 Time: 10:30 AM

INITIAL	Member's Name	Organization	Phone	Email
Present	Mary Elizabeth			
Present	LeighAnn	Clo Manteca		
Present	Paul Wells	DWR		
Present	Valerie Kincaid			
Present	Matt Frank			
Present	Kirin Virk	SJC CC		
Present	Scot Moody	SCWD		
Present	Emily Sheldon	Oakdale Irrigation		
Present	Lisa Medina			
Present	Gerald Schwartz			

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

June 9, 2021

II.A.1

Agency Name	Director First	**Director** Last		Alternate First	**Alternate** Last	
Cal Water	John	**Freeman**		Steven Jeremiah	**Cavallini** **Mecham**	Y
Central Delta Water Agency	George	**Biagi, Jr.**		Dante	**Nomellini**	
Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District	Grant	**Thompson**		Reid	**Roberts**	Y
City of Lodi	Alan	**Nakanishi**		Charlie	**Swimley**	
City of Manteca	David	**Breitenbucher**				
City of Stockton	Dan	**Wright**		Mel Paul	**Lytle** **Canepa**	
Eastside San Joaquin GSA	Russ	**Thomas**		Walter	**Ward**	Y
Linden County Water District	David	**Fletcher**	Y			
Lockeford Community Services District	Mike	**Henry**		Joseph Eric	**Salzman** **Schmid**	
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	Tom	**Flinn**		Joe	**Valente**	Y
Oakdale Irrigation District	Eric	**Thorburn, P.E.**	Y			
South Delta Water Agency	John	**Herrick, Esq.**	Y	Jerry	**Robinson**	
South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Robert	**Holmes**	Y	Brandon	**Nakagawa**	
Woodbridge Irrigation District	Andy	**Christensen**				
San Joaquin County Public Works **Secretary (1)**	Kris	**Balaji**				
Stockton East Water District **Vice Chair (2)**	Melvin	**Panizza**	Y	Andrew	**Watkins**	
San Joaquin County **Chairman (3)**	Chuck	**Winn**	Y	Kathy	**Miller**	

Motion: Fletcher

2nd: Herrick

Approved

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

June 9, 2021

II. A. 2

Agency Name	Director First	**Director** Last		Alternate First	**Alternate** Last	
Cal Water	John	**Freeman**		Steven Jeremiah	**Cavallini** **Mecham**	Y
Central Delta Water Agency	George	**Biagi, Jr.**		Dante	**Nomellini**	
Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District	Grant	**Thompson**		Reid	**Roberts**	Y
City of Lodi	Alan	**Nakanishi**		Charlie	**Swimley**	
City of Manteca	David	**Breitenbucher**				
City of Stockton	Dan	**Wright**	Y	Mel Paul	**Lytle** **Canepa**	
Eastside San Joaquin GSA	Russ	**Thomas**		Walter	**Ward**	Y
Linden County Water District	David	**Fletcher**	Y			
Lockeford Community Services District	Mike	**Henry**		Joseph Eric	**Salzman** **Schmid**	
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	Tom	**Flinn**	Y	Joe	**Valente**	
Oakdale Irrigation District	Eric	**Thorburn, P.E.**	Y			
South Delta Water Agency	John	**Herrick, Esq.**	Y	Jerry	**Robinson**	
South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Robert	**Holmes**	Y	Brandon	**Nakagawa**	
Woodbridge Irrigation District	Andy	**Christensen**				
San Joaquin County Public Works **Secretary (1)**	Kris	**Balaji**				
Stockton East Water District **Vice Chair (2)**	Melvin	**Panizza**	Y	Andrew	**Watkins**	
San Joaquin County **Chairman (3)**	Chuck	**Winn**	Y	Kathy	**Miller**	

Motion: Ward
2nd: Flinn
Approved

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority Board of Directors

June 9, 2021

II. A. 3

Agency Name	Director First	**Director** Last		Alternate First	**Alternate** Last	
Cal Water	John	**Freeman**		Steven Jeremiah	**Cavallini Mecham**	Y
Central Delta Water Agency	George	**Biagi, Jr.**		Dante	**Nomellini**	
Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District	Grant	**Thompson**		Reid	**Roberts**	Y
City of Lodi	Alan	**Nakanishi**		Charlie	**Swimley**	
City of Manteca	David	**Breitenbucher**				
City of Stockton	Dan	**Wright**	Y	Mel Paul	**Lytle Canepa**	
Eastside San Joaquin GSA	Russ	**Thomas**		Walter	**Ward**	Y
Linden County Water District	David	**Fletcher**	Y			
Lockeford Community Services District	Mike	**Henry**		Joseph Eric	**Salzman Schmid**	
North San Joaquin Water Conservation District	Tom	**Flinn**	Y	Joe	**Valente**	
Oakdale Irrigation District	Eric	**Thorburn, P.E.**	Y			
South Delta Water Agency	John	**Herrick, Esq.**	Y	Jerry	**Robinson**	
South San Joaquin Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Robert	**Holmes**	Y	Brandon	**Nakagawa**	
Woodbridge Irrigation District	Andy	**Christensen**				
San Joaquin County Public Works **Secretary (1)**	Kris	**Balaji**				
Stockton East Water District **Vice Chair (2)**	Melvin	**Panizza**	Y	Andrew	**Watkins**	
San Joaquin County **Chairman (3)**	Chuck	**Winn**	Y	Kathy	**Miller**	

Motion: Herrick
2nd: Wright
Approved

State Water Resources Control Board

August 23, 2021

Craig Altare
Supervising Engineering Geologist
Sustainable Groundwater Management Office
Department of Water Resources
craig.altare@water.ca.gov

EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN, GROUNDWATER SUBBASIN NO. 5-022.01

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff are providing these comments in support of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) review of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin (subbasin).

Our comments on the GSP focus on the following areas:

- Groundwater Levels and Potential Drinking Water Impacts
- Groundwater Quality
- Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water
- Water Budget
- Projects Reliant on New or Amended Water Rights
- Engagement

Groundwater Levels and Potential Drinking Water Impacts

1. The GSP notes that groundwater elevation minimum thresholds (MTs) are protective of approximately 90 percent of domestic wells. The GSP should also evaluate impacts to wells operated by non-municipal public water systems and state small systems, as smaller systems may have relatively shallow wells. State Water Board staff further recommends the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) quantify and describe the population served by the wells in the subbasin which are not protected at MTs, as this information is important to understanding the potential effects on drinking water users that may occur from undesirable

results. Additionally, impacts to the population served by groundwater in the subbasin should be quantified. In order to ensure that all necessary and relevant information is considered in the GSP, the ESJGWA should engage domestic well users, public water systems and state small systems, and other stakeholders as part of both the analysis and the discussion of what constitutes an undesirable result.

2. If a reasonable conclusion, drawn from the ESJGWA's evaluation and projections including the expanded analysis described in #1, is that the proposed allowable decline in groundwater levels could constitute a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply, the ESJGWA should adjust MTs (and amend the analysis described in #1) or otherwise mitigate for impacts to wells. For mitigation, the ESJGWA could develop and implement a well mitigation plan that would lessen the significance of the impact by replacing or repairing domestic or drinking water system wells impacted by groundwater level declines, supporting expansion of public water system boundaries to private well communities, and supporting consolidation of smaller drinking water systems dependent on at-risk wells with larger public water systems. This would involve identifying vulnerable areas where consolidation or extension of service is feasible. Consolidation efforts could include: (1) providing financial assistance, particularly for low-cost intertie projects that are adjacent to larger systems, (2) working with County Planning agencies to ensure that communities served by at-risk wells are annexed into the service areas of larger water systems to limit barriers to future interties, and (3) facilitating outreach and introductions between small water systems and owners of domestic wells and larger water systems to assist in developing future partnerships.

3. The GSP states that dewatering of domestic wells may be an indication that an undesirable result is occurring in the subbasin and so may trigger reassessment of the adequacy of the methodology used to develop groundwater elevation MTs (p. 3-5). Given shallower domestic wells are often particularly vulnerable to dewatering from groundwater level declines, waiting until wells fail to reevaluate MTs could result in households losing access to their sole water supply. State Water Board staff strongly recommends that ESJGWA consider other, lower-impact methods for confirming the methodology used for developing MTs. Using the occurrence of a potential undesirable result to assess the adequacy of the methodology is overly risky, and opportunities to assess potential impacts to domestic wells before the wells are dewatered should be taken.

Groundwater Quality

4. For groundwater quality, the GSP identifies salinity, arsenic, and several point-source contaminants as water quality constituents of concern, but salinity (as total

dissolved solids [TDS]) is the only water quality constituent for which MTs and measurable objectives (MOs) are established in the subbasin. The GSP discusses monitoring nitrate and arsenic concentrations in addition to salinity but has no associated sustainable management criteria (SMC) for them. Groundwater pumping and projects and management actions under the ESJGWA's authority may have the potential to influence groundwater concentrations and distributions of widespread contaminants within the subbasin in addition to salinity. Based on their prevalence within the subbasin, GSP implementation should also include SMC for 1,2,3-trichloropropane (1,2,3-TCP), nitrate as nitrogen (nitrate), and arsenic.

In deciding which water quality constituents to consider when setting SMC, a GSA should consider the best available water quality information for the basin, including data used to develop the hydrogeologic conceptual model, geochemistry of geological formations (for the potential of mobilization of natural constituents), and groundwater uses in the vicinity of the representative monitoring sites (RMSs) and the basin as a whole when determining which constituents to evaluate for MTs. Different constituents may cause undesirable degradation of water quality in different areas based on the purposes for which groundwater is beneficially used. Not all water quality impacts to groundwater must be addressed in the GSP, but significant and unreasonable water quality degradation due to groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin, and that were not present prior to January 1, 2015, must be addressed in the GSP's MTs. Both groundwater extraction and the implementation of projects to achieve sustainability may cause impacts from migration of contaminant plumes, changes in the concentration of contaminants due to reduction in the volume of water stored in the basin, or release of harmful naturally occurring constituents. A GSA should particularly consider whether any groundwater quality constituents in the basin may impact the State's policy of protecting the right of every human being to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes (Water Code, §106.3). Coordination by the ESJGWA with agencies that oversee the remediation of existing groundwater contamination is highly recommended, both in setting MTs and developing a plan of implementation.

Staff has attached maps from the State Water Board Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program's database (https://gamagroundwater.waterboards.ca.gov/) showing 1,2,3-TCP, nitrate, and arsenic impacts in subbasin groundwater (Figures 1, 2, and 3 in Appendix).

5. The GSP sets the MT concentrations for degraded water quality at 1000 milligrams per liter (mg/L) TDS and MO concentrations at 600 mg/L TDS at all representative monitoring well locations. For TDS in drinking water, the secondary maximum

contaminant level (SMCL) is 500 mg/L—the recommended maximum contaminant level—and the upper limit SMCL is 1,000mg/L.[1] Staff recommends that the GSP further discuss consideration of drinking water users in setting the GSP's water quality SMC.

6. The GSP should outline the process the ESJGWA would use to decide whether GSP implementation caused or exacerbated an MT exceedance for water quality. In addition, the GSP should provide the data supporting its conclusions, which will allow reviewing regulatory bodies to consider how adequately the GSP addresses undesirable results related to water quality degradation. The ESJGWA should also coordinate and share the data with other local and regional groundwater monitoring efforts.

7. Please note that historical and recent water quality monitoring information from public water systems can be accessed using the public version of the State Water Board's Drinking Water Watch database at https://sdwis.waterboards.ca.gov/PDWW/. The Drinking Water Watch database can be queried by public water system name or system number (see #15 below).

8. While the GSP describes well permitting processes in each applicable county, it lacks specific information regarding whether the GSAs will evaluate new permits, address possible impacts from new permits, or work with the county to address concerns. State Water Board staff recommends that GSAs work with county governments to encourage alignment between the GSP and county well permitting programs. As encouraged by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), GSAs should request counties forward permit requests for new wells, for enlarging of existing wells, or for reactivation of abandoned wells. (Water Code, § 10726.4.) Shifting demand to sites near existing wells may cause groundwater level declines and effects on beneficial users of water in areas of the subbasin not well represented by an RMS. Increased production from these wells may also make it more difficult for the GSAs to avoid undesirable results and achieve sustainability within the implementation period.

Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water

9. The GSP identifies interconnected stream reaches through numerical modeling but does not quantify stream depletions. The GSP uses modeling results to make the case that depletions that may occur at the groundwater level MTs are not significant

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[1] California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Secondary Drinking Water Standards (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/documents/ddw_secondary_standards.pdf)

and unreasonable by comparing the additional amount of annual depletions to total annual surface water outflow of the subbasin. This approach misses potential seasonal impacts of stream depletions. While the total annual surface water outflow is dominated by high flows from winter storms or spring and summer snowmelt, depletion impacts to surface water and environmental beneficial users are generally most severe at low flow conditions. The GSP Regulations require identification of interconnected surface water (ISW) systems within the subbasin and monitoring of surface water and groundwater, and where ISW conditions exist, to characterize the spatial and temporal exchanges between surface water and groundwater (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 354.34, subd. (c)(6)). Staff recommends the ESJGWA develop a plan to estimate the quantity of stream depletions, perform more detailed analysis of impacts to beneficial users based on the results, improve model accuracy by filling data gaps in the future, and assess what level of depletions would be significant and unreasonable given the analysis.

10. The GSP uses the groundwater elevation MTs developed to manage for decreasing groundwater levels as a proxy to also manage depletions of ISW in the subbasin; however, the GSP does not draw a direct link between the SMC for declining groundwater levels and undesirable results related to depletions of ISW. Instead, the GSP assumes that reservoir operations would ensure minimum flows for aquatic species, regardless of any increases in stream depletions from declining groundwater levels (p. 3-21, para. 4). This approach overlooks other possible effects of groundwater depletions, including the effects on surface water beneficial users of increased releases from Camanche Reservoir, Woodbridge Dam, and New Melones Reservoir to compensate for additional depletions in maintaining minimum flows. The approach also ignores possible effects on aquatic species if depletions result in warmer water temperatures (due to reduced discharge of lower temperature groundwater) or longer periods of minimum flows each summer/fall. State Water Board staff recommends that shallow groundwater level MTs for depletions of ISW be supported by considerations of the locations, quantity, and timing of depletions and impacts to beneficial users.

11. The GSP does not present locations of existing stream gages and does not include stream gages in the proposed monitoring network for depletions of ISW. Staff recommends the ESJGWA update the GSP with stream gage information and monitoring.

Water Budget

12. The GSP does not consider the potential changes caused by implementation of the State Water Board's Substitute Environmental Document (SED) for the State Water Board's 2018 Lower San Joaquin River and Southern Delta update to the Water

Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan).[2] The Bay-Delta Plan update revised water quality objectives to protect fish and wildlife beneficial uses, including in the three major eastside tributaries to the Lower San Joaquin River, the Stanislaus, Tuolumne, and Merced Rivers. Compliance with flow requirements along the Stanislaus River may lead to changes in surface water diversions and groundwater pumping. Because the GSP is required to use a 50-year planning horizon, staff recommends the ESJGWA incorporate strategies in the GSP that anticipate potential changes to the subbasin-wide water budget from Bay-Delta Plan implementation.

Projects Reliant on New or Amended Water Rights

13. Implementing some of the projects identified in the GSP may require new or amended water rights. If a project would rely on existing water rights, the GSAs should identify the water right identification numbers and other relevant details. It may be unreasonable for the GSP to assume that projects that currently lack adequate water rights for implementation can obtain either new water rights or modifications to existing water rights within a timeframe that will allow the project to contribute to the GSP achieving sustainability. For the GSP to demonstrate a likelihood of attaining the sustainability goal, the GSP should discuss the timing for obtaining approvals and describe any uncertainties, such as water availability in source streams (e.g., Will less surface water be available with projected Bay-Delta Plan implementation? Is the source on the inventory of fully appropriated streams? Can potential protests be anticipated from downstream water users?).

    a. New surface water right permits: The applicant must gather all information necessary to complete the application; this could be extensive. Once the State Water Board publicly notices the application, other water right holders may protest the project based on potential injury to their water rights. Parties may also protest if the project has the potential to harm public trust resources. The ESJGWA should contact the Division of Water Rights' Permitting and Licensing Division or consult the Division's Permitting and Licensing Frequently Asked Questions (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/faqs.html) to develop an informed timeline for project implementation that includes necessary water right actions.

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[2] Final Substitute Environmental Document in Support of Potential Changes to the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Estuary, San Joaquin River Flows and Southern Delta Water Quality (July 2018).

b. Amendment of an existing surface water right: The time required to amend an existing water right depends on multiple factors, including but not limited to whether the change is minor, major, or controversial. The ESJGWA can learn more from the Division of Water Rights' Petitions Frequently Asked Questions (https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/petitions/faqs.html).

14. Given there is no certainty that a particular water right permit or petition will ultimately be approved, or when, it is important the GSP clarify proposed timelines for projects and management actions and consider how changes in those timelines could impact the subbasin's ability to achieve sustainability by 2040. The GSP should also identify alternative groundwater management strategies to achieve sustainability (e.g., demand reduction), if anticipated water supplies such as purchases or new or amended water rights are unsuccessful. This would ensure the ESJGWA can effectively evaluate when it should move towards implementing such contingency projects or management actions if primary projects or management actions are not implemented on projected timelines. To this end, the GSP should also identify well-developed demand management options with clearly defined triggers in the event that proposed supply augmentation volumes are not fully achieved.

Engagement

15. The ESJGWA should engage with all public water systems which rely on groundwater in the subbasin to ensure the GSP protects drinking water users. To facilitate this, State Water Board staff has attached a list of public water systems with wells in the subbasin as of August, 2021. Please contact the Board's Division of Drinking Water at DDW-SAFER-NAU@waterboards.ca.gov with any questions.

16. The GSP is not explicit about how the concerns of local beneficial users, particularly disadvantaged communities reliant on groundwater, and other stakeholders were integrated into development of SMC and monitoring networks and selection of RMS and projects and management actions. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires consideration of the interests of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the populations within the subbasin during plan development. Collaborative and inclusive processes can make plans more resilient by increasing buy-in and trust, improving compliance, and enhancing the quality of information on which plans are based. It is important that ESJGWA send appropriate notices; hold meetings in times, places, and manners that support effective engagement; and acknowledge issues raised. ESJGWA should consult with individuals or groups when actions may impose direct or indirect costs on those entities. Good governance can build trust and reduce regulatory compliance risks. Consultation,

for example, could help a GSA avoid or mitigate an action that might directly or indirectly cause a drinking water system to violate its permit or face new compliance costs due to reduced availability of water or lower water quality.

17. The GSP identifies disadvantaged and severely disadvantaged communities (DACs and SDACs) and California Native American Tribes as beneficial users in the subbasin; however, the GSP does not describe how the ESJGWA appropriately considered the interests of DACs, SDACs, and California Native American Tribes in their plan development. The GSP should elaborate on the ESJGWA's DAC and tribal engagement efforts. If the ESJGWA has not already done so, the ESJGWA should consult with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to obtain information about Tribes that have current and ancestral ties in the subbasin. To request this information, the ESJGWA can email the NAHC at nahc@nahc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to contact State Water Board Groundwater Management Program staff by email at SGMA@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at 916-322-6508.

Sincerely,

Natalie Stork

Natalie Stork
Senior Engineering Geologist
Chief, Groundwater Management Program
Office of Research, Planning, and Performance

Enclosures: Select constituents in Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin wells

Public water systems with wells in the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin as of August, 2021 (see .xlsx attachment within PDF file)

Appendix – Select constituents in Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin wells

Non-detects are green, detections are yellow and orange, and MCL exceedances are red. Figures developed from State Water Board Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program's database (https://gamagroundwater.waterboards.ca.gov/)

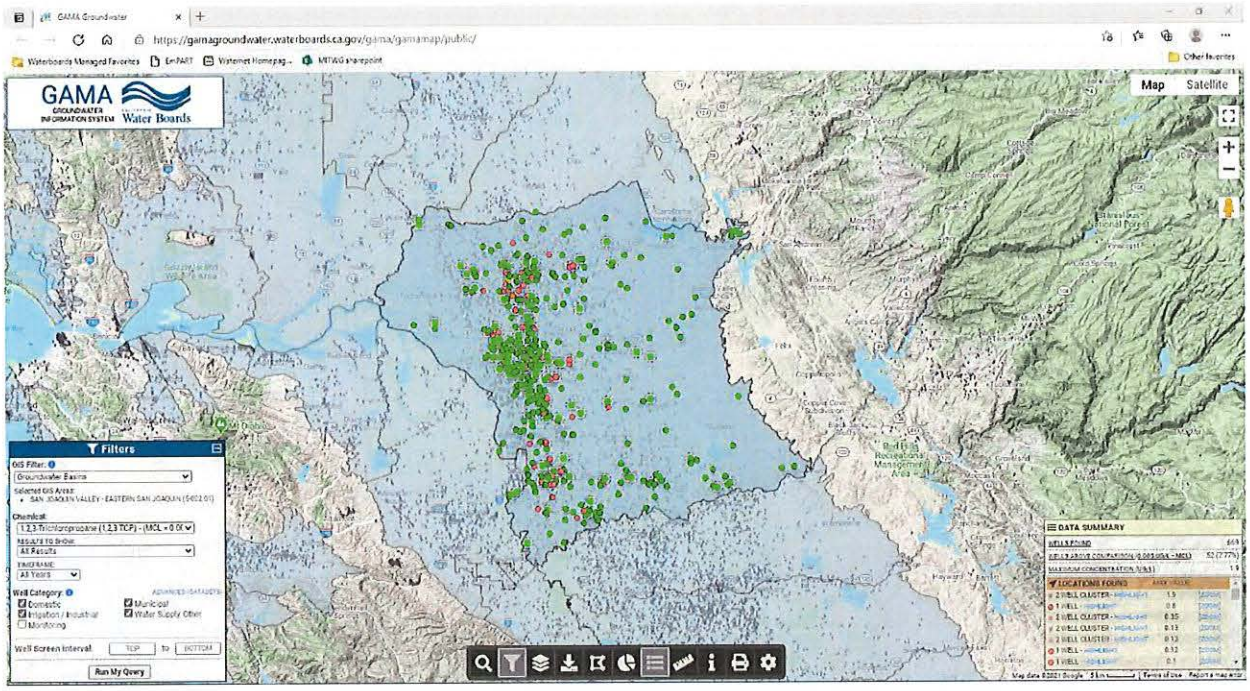

Figure 1. 1,2,3-Trichloropropane Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin wells

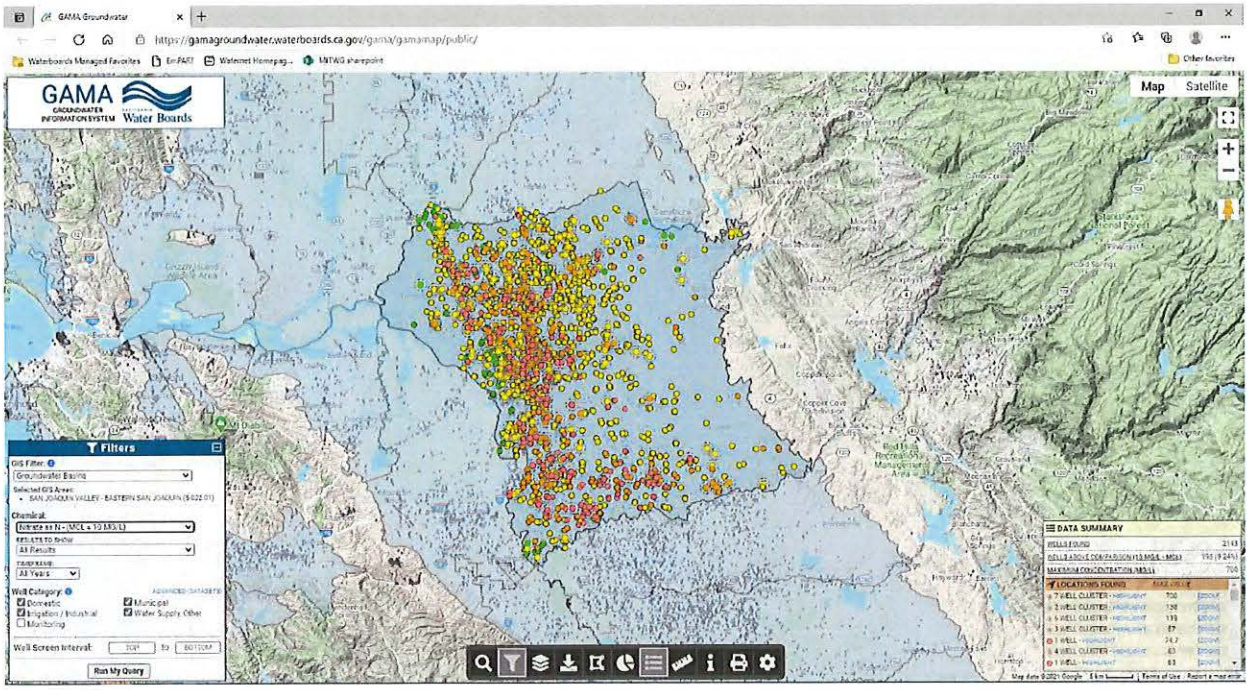

Figure 2. Nitrate as N in Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin wells

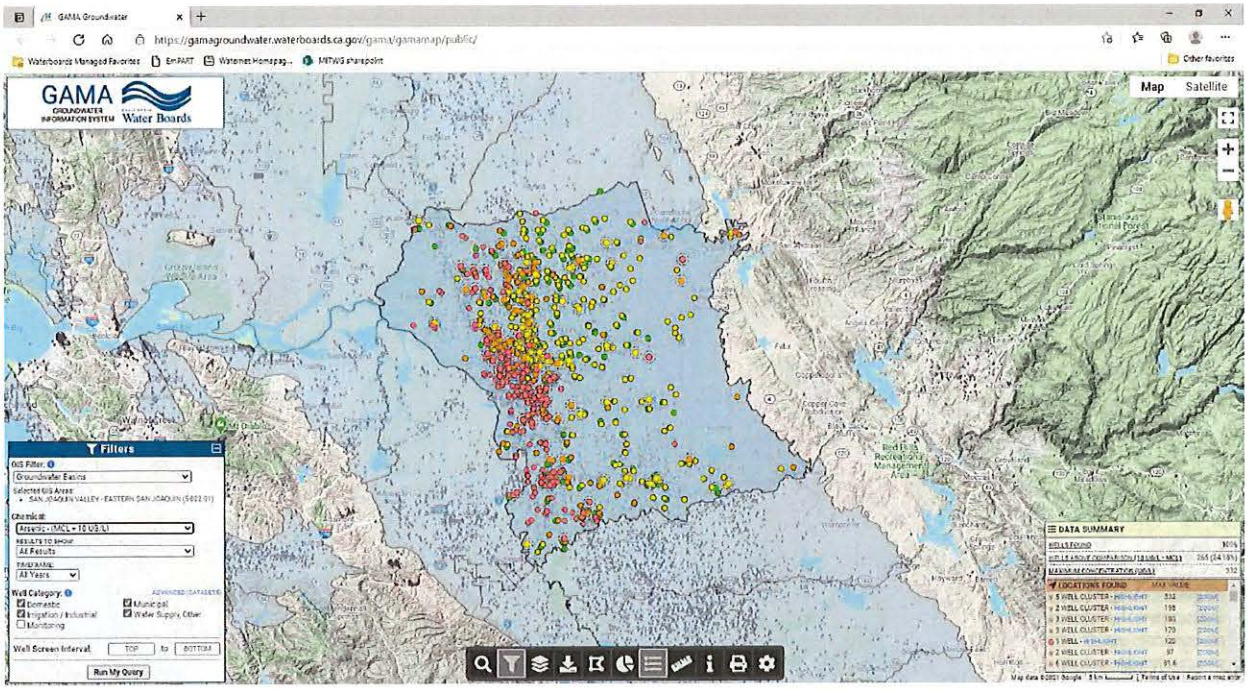

Figure 3. Arsenic in Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin wells

August 2021 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

Grants

California Grants Portal

The California State Library, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources and other state grantmaking agencies, has launched the California Grants Portal – your one destination to find all state grant and loan opportunities provided on a first-come or competitive basis. Visit grants.ca.gov to find funding opportunities for you and your community.

DWR: $200 Million Drought Funding to Support Small Communities

DWR released guidelines for how small water systems may apply for funds as part of the Small Community Drought Relief Program. Eligible projects must be designed to benefit small communities (< 3,000 connections or 3,000 AFY) located in counties under Governor Newsom's drought emergency proclamations or which the SWRCB may determines that drought conditions necessitate urgent and immediate action. Small communities impacted by the drought are encouraged to apply as soon as possible as funds will be dispersed on a first come first serve basis and can submit applications or questions to SmallCommunityDrought@water.ca.gov. This grant will fund projects that provide immediate or interim drinking water supplies such as hauled or bottled water deliveries, deepening of wells, new or temporary water tank storage, new pipelines and connections to more reliable nearby systems, etc. No local cost share is required.

- Future DWR lead drought grants: $100 Million for urban projects and $200 Million for muli-benefit projects. The guidelines are currently under development and are expected to be published in Fall of 2021

SWRCB Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant Program Round 3

Round 3 will fund implementation projects that contribute to cleanup or prevention of contamination in an aquifer. In this round there is approximately $70 million available for projects serving disadvantaged communities and another $50 for general projects. Typical funded projects in the first 2 rounds included wellhead treatment, groundwater well destruction, source area cleanup, and seawater intrusion prevention. **Concept proposal solicitation opened July 6th, 2021 and closes September 7, 2021**. More information including an applicant guidance video can be found here.

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC): Free well assessments for private well owners

Assessments include inspection and vulnerability assessment, potential contamination source identification, well construction inspection, water quality screening for nitrate, a written report with recommendations. To register contact Jerry Tinoco at (661) 401-1857 • jtinoco@rcac.org or register online.

Office of Planning and Research- ICARP: California Resilience Challenge 2021 Funding RFP

In 2020, a coalition of businesses, utilities, and environmental organizations launched the California Resilience Challenge to help communities across California strengthen their resilience to the increasingly severe droughts, heatwaves, wildfires, and flooding affecting California as a result of climate change. A 2021 round of these grants are now open through **September 13, 2021.** The program is focused on helping **under-resourced communities** build resilience against the climate challenges that threaten them most. To learn more follow the links for the request for proposal, a press release and a webinar recording.

FEMA: BRIC and FMA Grants Now Open

FEMA has released the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the new Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) 2021 and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) 2021 funding programs. There is $1.16 billion available nation-wide for these programs in 2021. The Cal OES Community Portal is now open and accepting Notices of Interest (NOI) for BRIC and FMA 2021. **You must submit a NOI by September 20th, 2021 to be eligible. If your NOI is accepted, subapplications must be submitted to Cal OES on December 1, 2021 using the FEMA GO portal.** Please visit https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/hazard-mitigation/pre-disaster-flood-mitigation for more information, important due dates, and to submit a Notice of Interest (NOI) to be eligible for BRIC and/or FMA funding.

August 2021 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

Other state & federal grant websites for resources that may be helpful are:

- California Financing Coordinating Committee -- https://cfcc.ca.gov/, and
- CalOES grants -- https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/grants-management
- US EPA -- https://www.epa.gov/grants/specific-epa-grant-programs, and
- Economic Development Administration -- https://eda.gov/funding-opportunities/

Upcoming conferences, webinars, new reports and data

Water Board: Drinking water needs assessments

For the first time, the State Water Resources Control Board has completed a comprehensive look at California water systems that are struggling to provide safe drinking water. The needs assessment identifies failing water systems and those at risk of failing. It also offers the most in-depth view of long-term drinking water safety the state has ever had. Details are available in this news release.

SWRCB Releases 2012-2019 Public Water Supply Datasets

The State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water has released the latest round of electronic annual report datasets from public drinking water systems. The release covers reporting years 2012–2019, including more than 7 million records for reporting year 2019.

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation: New Data sharing webpage

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has released the new Reclamation Information Sharing Environment (RISE) website. It provides access to Reclamation's water-related data. The site includes maps to help search for data in a particular area. There is also a catalog offering access to datasets and time-series data. https://data.usbr.gov/

Flood-MAR (Managed Aquifer Recharge)

A kickoff meeting to establish a Flood-MAR network was held December 10th, 2020 and a second meeting was held March 5th, 2021. There is also an ongoing Lunch-MAR monthly speaker series. If you are interested in attending or getting involved please email Jennifer.Marr@water.ca.gov (916) 651-9229 to be added to the calendar invite. To join the Flood-MAR listserv follow this link.

SGMA

Dry Well Reporting Site

There is a website available to report private wells going dry at https://mydrywatersupply.water.ca.gov/report/ This information reported to this site is intended to inform state and local agencies on drought impacts on household water supplies. The data reported on this site (excluding personal identifiable information) can be viewed on the SGMA data viewer or downloaded on the CNRA Atlas. Individuals or local agencies can report water shortages and a list of resources are included on the webpage. The reporting forms are available in both English and Spanish.

DWR is developing eight Proposition 68-funded technical projects

These projects include airborne electromagnetic surveys, improving groundwater elevation and quality monitoring networks, Statewide land use data collection, improved subsidence monitoring network, installing and maintaining stream gauges, maintaining and enhancing statewide well completion reports, managing and reporting sustainable groundwater information, and enhancing and maintaining DWR's modeling tools. Fact sheets on each project can be viewed under the "Prop 68" tab here.

August 2021 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

- AEM webpage contains information on the how the process works, safety, schedule, data submission by GSAs, TAC, pilot study data and more. Public webinar was held **June 8th 12:00 – 1:00**, a recording can be viewed here and handouts can be downloaded here.
- New 2018 Statewide Crop Mapping data dataset builds on the 2014 and 2016 statewide crop mapping datasets DWR previously released and includes multi-cropping information. The 2018 dataset includes agricultural land use and urban boundaries for all 58 counties in California.
- InSAR subsidence data is now available through October of 2020 and can be viewed on the SGMA data viewer. The updated GIS services and data reports are also available online.

DWR Releases First Assessments of GSPs

On June 3rd, DWR released its first assessments of groundwater sustainability plans, which includes the approval of GSPs for the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin and the 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin. In addition, DWR also notified GSAs in the Cuyama Valley Basin and Paso Robles Subbasin that their GSPs lack specific details and are not yet approved. These assessments and notification letters, along with other pertinent information, can be viewed here on the DWR SGMA Portal. Alongside the assessments, DWR has also prepared:

- A video message summarizing the current groundwater landscape, including drought conditions, and recent efforts to advance the development of principles and strategies related to groundwater management and drinking water well impacts, as described in Governor Newsom's Drought Executive Order issued on April 21, 2021.
- A GSP Evaluation fact sheet summarizing SGMA's determination pathways for GSPs.
- A press release providing an overview of this initial release.
- A Live Question and Answer Session on **Thursday, June 24, 2021 from 11:30am to 1:00pm** to bring the SGMA community together to answer questions related to these first groundwater sustainability plan determinations. To participate in the Live Question and Answer Session, please see the registration link.

Outreach and Educational Materials Available

DWR's SGMA Assistance and Engagement webpage has added new communication and engagement toolkit items including:

- A new video – Groundwater: California's Vital Resource now available in English, Spanish, Punjabi, and Hmong
- A Story Map for a non-technical audience – Groundwater: Understanding and Managing this Vital Resource
- Guidance on Engaging and Communicating with Underrepresented Groundwater Users
- SGMA Communications: Media Relations and Social Media, including DWR's Groundwater Media Contacts
- "DWR's Assistance Role in Groundwater Management" video: English and Spanish

DWR Releases Draft California's Groundwater – Update 2020

DWR as released the draft California's Groundwater – Update 2020 (Bulletin-118), containing information on the condition of the State's groundwater. DWR encourages community members and water managers to review the publication and provide input. The final document is expected to be released summer of 2021.

- Informational Video: English, Spanish
- Fact Sheet: English, Spanish
- FAQ: English, Spanish
- California's Groundwater Online
- General Information Video: Groundwater: California's Vital Resource
- English, Spanish recordings of Public Webinar

CASGEM to Monitoring Network Module Transition Frequently Asked Questions Available

The CASGEM to Monitoring Network Module Transition Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document covers questions related to the Groundwater Monitoring Law, the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation

August 2021 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

Monitoring (CASGEM) Program, a GSP's required monitoring, the SGMA Portal's Monitoring Network Module (MNM), and a basin's or subbasin's transition from the CASGEM Online System to the SGMA Portal's Monitoring Network Module .

SGMA Water Year Type Dataset Now Available

In the dataset, the water years are labeled as wet, above normal, below normal, dry, or critical based on the amount of precipitation during that water year and the previous one. The information is available for all California watersheds except those underlying the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Hydrologic Regions since that information is already available. Data and a development report are now available.

SVSim Beta Model Released

DWR has released the beta version of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater-Surface Water Simulation Model (SVSim) that can be used during GSP development. Instructions for use are included in the Roadmap to Running SVSim document.

C2VSim Fine Grid Update Published April 2021

DWR has released an update to the Fine-Grid California Central Valley Groundwater-Surface Water Simulation (C2VSimFG) Model, which can be used by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) developing water budgets for their GSPs. C2VSimFG Version 1.01 utilizes the latest version of the Integrated Water Flow Model software and corrects minor errors in the model files. These updates do not significantly affect the overall model calibration; however, resulting changes to simulated groundwater levels may vary by basin.

Draft Handbook for Water Budget Development

The handbook has been posted on the SGMA webpage and can be viewed at the following link under the "reports" tab. A recent webinar discussing the handbook with a deeper dive on 4 topics can be viewed here.

California Groundwater Conditions Update Report and Maps Available

The California Groundwater Conditions Update – Spring 2020 report and accompanying maps are available on the DWR website and present a summary of groundwater level data. The report and maps include a discussion of groundwater level trends with multi-year comparisons which can assist with the development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).

Facilitation Support Services (FSS): Funding still available

- GSA's developing GSPs are eligible to receive funding for identification and engagement of interested parties, meeting facilitation, interest-based negotiation/consensus building, and public outreach facilitation
- More information can be found here. New written translation services available in 10 languages for outreach materials (5,000 word maximum).