



February 3, 2019

To: Frances Mizuno, Assistant Executive Director

From: Andrew Garcia, Senior Civil Engineer

Subject: SGMA Report for January 2019

### **Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity Summary:**

#### **Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region –**

The joint North and Central Committee meeting was held on January 31st. The Committees discussed the concept of categorical division of GSP implementation costs, GSP review and approval processes, status of the historic and current water budget, projected water budget results, and the work by the technical working group on preparing sustainability criteria for each of the five applicable Sustainability Indicators. The Management Committees took action and accepted the historic and current water budgets, with the caveat that the technical working group will make final revisions to some surface water delivery assumptions used in the calculations. Additionally, the Committees accepted the subbasin-wide schedule for final GSP development milestones.

The Northern and Central DM Region Technical Working Group continued to work through water budget results and development of sustainability indicators for all sustainability criteria but most specifically subsidence. The water budget results indicate a similar understanding of subsurface hydrology by each of the neighboring GSP Groups.

Finally, the Central DM Region Multi-Agency GSA began discussions for restructuring its governance and began drafting JPA formation documentation.

#### **General SGMA Activities:**

Authority staff continued to coordinate the SGMA efforts for the six (6) GSP groups in the subbasin. Multiple coordination Committee, Technical working group, and Communication working group meetings were held. Due to various deadlines being missed over the previous 1-2 months, Authority staff developed a list of activities required to coordinate GSPs, along with a schedule of these activities, which was adopted by the Coordination Committee. Academic researchers from Indiana, Massachusetts, and Stanford began attending coordination meetings to study the governance of the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and the Coordination Committee.

A Delta-Mendota Subbasin Technical Working Group and Coordination Committee met three various times, each time focusing on final development of historic and current water

budgets, preliminary development of projected water budgets, and the coordination of results. In addition, these committees and group agreed upon a subbasin-wide common GSP chapter, list of tasks, and schedule through GSP completion. The historic and current water budgets were received by each of the 6 GSP Groups by the end of January. In addition, the Coordination Committee requested a subbasin-wide lower aquifer change in storage value be calculated by analyzing land subsidence, in addition to other methods.

Claire Howard, CivicSpark Fellow with the Authority, finalized and distributed the second newsletter to all GSA representatives. The newsletter describes both the coordinated subbasin SGMA activities and important activities for each individual GSP being developed. The Delta-Mendota Subbasin Communications Working Group continued development of the presentation and outreach materials for the February 2019 workshop. Authority staff continued posting meeting materials and announcements on the subbasin website. Stantec and Authority staff began discussions with Santa Nella County Water District to held an individual stakeholder workshop in Santa Nella.

The Coordination Committee also discussed the status of the sustainable groundwater planning grant. The Local Project Sponsor Agreement, a sub-agreement to the State Agreement between West Stanislaus Irrigation District and the Department of Water Resources, was finalized and distributed for execution. This Agreement memorializes each parties' obligations including the aforementioned reimbursement package requirements and acts as the mechanism for individual RWMGs to receive grant funds in accordance with the state requirements.

Authority staff and San Joaquin River Exchange Contractor staff compiled documentation to submit for reimbursement of all costs paid by Severely Disadvantaged Community participants, as well as expenses paid for hosting public workshops. In addition, Authority accounting and engineering staff continued development of policies and procedures, and standard reports, for grant management and budget reporting.