



February 28, 2019

To: Frances Mizuno, Assistant Executive Director

From: Andrew Garcia, Senior Civil Engineer

Subject: SGMA Report for February 2019

Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity Summary:

Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region –

The joint North and Central Management Committee meeting was held on February 28th. The committees discussed the concepts for allocating GSP implementation costs, projected water budget results with climate change and without climate change with evapotranspiration (Et) factors and precipitation variables applied, projects to include in projected water budget calculations, budget to actual reports, and the Authority Board approved fiscal year 2020 membership dues. The Management Committees took action and accepted the projected water budgets with a small change to idle land Et values. As a reminder, historic and current water budget results were accepted in January. In addition, it was agreed by all parties that the implementation costs will not be based on the results of these water budgets. Additionally, the committees accepted the list of projects presented to be simulated in the next iteration of the projected water budgets. Staff noted that preliminary discussions on cost sharing was based only on concepts of what committee members consider fair and equitable based on the SGMA regulations and members also agreed upon anticipated types of costs. Staff will be circulating to members' various allocation options for a straw poll and to begin work on projected labor hours for GSP implementation. Staff submitted a request to Stantec using grant funding for facilitation for assistance in the development of options for cost sharing for GSP implementation.

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. Staff and the consultant met with Working Group members to review the water budget work to ensure San Luis Water District, Del Puerto Water District, and Santa Nella County Water District's concerns were accounted for in the final iteration of the calculations. In addition, staff made a presentation to the Patterson ID growers on an update on SGMA with respect to where the development of the GSP currently stands and the importance of local input. Panoche WD also requested a similar presentation and a confirmed date is set for March 2019.

Finally, the Central DM Region Multi-Agency GSA continued work on a draft JPA formation document and received an agreement for well drilling services from DWR, for the approved request for the installation of two multi-completion monitoring wells. These 'multi-completion' wells are composed of three nested borings, to monitor shallow, upper aquifer and lower aquifer water levels and water quality.

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 in January. In February, all of the deadlines were met and the schedule continues on the critical path to complete the coordinated GSP.

A Delta-Mendota Subbasin Technical Working Group and Coordination Committee met three times, adopting subbasin historic and current water budgets, preliminary projected water budgets, and the coordination of common terminology and data libraries. In addition, these committees and group agreed upon a subbasin-wide common GSP chapter, list of tasks, and schedule through GSP completion. The consultant's effort was slightly more substantial than anticipated, having to calculate change in storage in the lower aquifer by mapping subsidence over the subbasin as well as compiling water budgets data that were provided in various formats. In addition, the first reimbursement request was submitted to DWR in February by the North/Central Region, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors and Aliso Water District.

Claire Howard, CivicSpark Fellow working with the Authority, finalized and distributed the third 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 held two workshops in February for general stakeholders in Los Banos and Patterson. Authority staff continued posting meeting materials and announcements on the subbasin website. Stantec, Woodard & Curran, and Authority staff finalized plans and a presentation for the Santa Nella County Water District stakeholder workshop in Santa Nella on March 4th from 5 to 8 PM.

A grant reimbursement request for all costs associated with the technical support of Severely Disadvantaged Community participants, as well as expenses paid for hosting public workshops, was submitted this month. In addition, Authority accounting and engineering staff completed development of policies and procedures, and standard reports, for grant management and budget reporting.

The coordination committee continued discussions on what costs for GSP implementation will be regional, or shared amongst the coordinated GSP groups. No decision has been made, but in order for the six GSP groups to plan, Authority staff anticipates continued dialog over the next few months to ensure efficiencies related to implementation costs for activities.