



May 6, 2018

To: Frances Mizuno, Assistant Executive Director

From: Bob Martin, Engineering & Planning Department Manager

Subject: SGMA Report for April 2018

Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity Summary:

Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region –

The joint North and Central Committee meeting was held on April 26th at the Authority's Boardroom. Leslie Dumas with Woodard & Curran presented the budget to actual report and explained that with the modeling tool in-hand, the contract spending will begin ramping up. The Committees took action to approve the amendment to the consultant services agreement with respect to adding a line item for grant funding administration. Rebecca Akroyd and Diane Rathmann provided updates on the Coordination Agreement and Cost Share Agreement, respectively. Leslie Dumas with Woodard & Curran provided an update on the efforts of the Technical working group and Kirsten Pringle with Stantec provided an update on the Communications working group. Kirsten noted that the working group is planning the first public workshop to be held in Patterson, Los Banos, and either Mendota or Tranquillity areas. The North and Central regions discussed the definitions of undesirable results with respect to the SGMA legislation and sustainability indicators.

General SGMA Activities:

A Delta-Mendota Subbasin Technical Subcommittee meeting was held on April 17th, with a focus on a basin wide hydrogeologic conceptual model, basin setting, subsidence, and groundwater dependent ecosystems. This meeting was led by the Woodard & Curran team, with weekly teleconferences of this workgroup coordinated by them as well. The technical working group established the May meeting as a common data set discussion, as far as who will be performing the common chapter consulting work.

The monthly Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee meeting was held on April 26th, at 9:30 AM at the Authority Boardroom. Rebecca Akroyd provided an update on the status of the Coordination Agreement and the need for "sub-agreements" to be complete prior to final execution by all parties. Rebecca also provided an update on the Cost Share Agreement and indicated that this document is ready for final party, or all of the subbasin GSAs signature. The group also reviewed a draft staff report, draft board resolution, and the process of getting the documents passed at individual board meetings.

The DWR Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning grant award draft letter of agreements are pending release by DWR. As a reminder, the joint application contained a request from each group of GSAs that are developing Groundwater Sustainability Plans. DWR recommended awarding the full amount of the request, \$1,178,500 for (2) Category 1 Severely Disadvantaged Community projects and \$1,500,000 for (6) GSP Development projects. The GSAs anticipate funding being available in May with a full cost sharing waiver from DWR, meaning that there will be no matching requirements for the grant funds received.

SLDMWA and Woodard & Curran will begin work on Category 1 project tasks i.e. public outreach, data management system development, and more in May or June of this year.

Via Regular US Mail

May 7, 2018

Received

MAY 11 2018

SLDMWA



NORTHERN &
CENTRAL
DELTA-
MENDOTA

Re: Northern & Central Delta-Mendota Regions Groundwater Sustainability Plan Preparation

Dear Interested Party,

You are receiving this letter as notice that the agencies of the Northern & Central Delta-Mendota Regions of the Delta-Mendota groundwater subbasin have begun the process of developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), passed in 2014, establishes the first statewide framework to regulate groundwater in California. The primary goal of SGMA is to develop a groundwater management framework in California to ensure sustainable use of groundwater resources for existing and future generations. Over the next two years, the agencies of the Northern & Central Delta-Mendota Regions will be developing a GSP containing a plan to manage the basin sustainably.

We encourage your participation in the SGMA process and will be hosting our first series of public workshops from May 14th to the 17th:

Los Banos	Patterson	Mendota
Monday, May 14	Wednesday, May 16	Thursday, May 17
4:00 – 6:00 PM	4:00 – 6:00 PM	4:00 – 6:00 PM
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority Office 842 6 th St, Los Banos	Hammon Senior Center 1033 W Las Palmas Ave, Patterson	Mendota Branch Library Mendota Meeting Room 1246 Belmont Ave, Mendota

Additional information related to opportunities to provide feedback and upcoming meetings will be posted on our website (<http://www.deltamendota.org/>) as information becomes available. For more information on SGMA and the Delta-Mendota Subbasin, please refer to the FAQ sheet included with this letter or the California Department of Water Resources' SGMA website (<https://www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management>).

If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Garcia at Andrew.garcia@sldmwa.org.



Delta-Mendota Groundwater Subbasin – Northern & Central Regions

SGMA Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act?

The **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act**, or “**SGMA**” (pronounced sig-ma), is a California State law that was passed in 2014. SGMA’s goal is to ensure the long-term sustainable management of the State’s groundwater resources and provide local agencies with new authorities and tools to sustainably manage their region’s groundwater resources. SGMA requires agencies throughout California to meet certain requirements. These include:

- Forming **Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA)**
- Developing **Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP)**
- Achieving balanced groundwater levels within 20 years

Commonly Used Acronyms

SGMA = Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

GSA = Groundwater Sustainability Agency

GSP = Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Who is required to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act?

Compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is only required in groundwater basins identified by the State as medium- or high-priority. The Delta-Mendota Subbasin is a high-priority, critically-overdrafted groundwater basin as determined by the State. Therefore, our region is subject to the requirements of the SGMA.

What is the Delta-Mendota Groundwater Subbasin?

The California Department of Water Resources’ Bulletin 118 identifies the groundwater basin in our region as the “Delta-Mendota Subbasin”. The Delta-Mendota Subbasin is a long, relatively narrow groundwater basin on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley that covers portions of six counties: Sacramento, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera and Fresno. For more information about groundwater basins, visit the California Department of Water Resources’ website at www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Bulletin-118.

What does it mean for a basin to be sustainable?

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act defines “sustainability” as the management and use of groundwater in a basin that can be maintained long-term without causing “undesirable results.” The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act identifies undesirable results as:

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
- Significant reduction in groundwater storage
- Reduced groundwater quality
- Sinking of land caused by low groundwater levels (known as “land subsidence”)
- Depletion of surface water as a result of surface water-groundwater interactions

You can find more information at about the sustainability of groundwater basins and undesirable results on the California Department of Water Resources’ website at: www.water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management.

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin

(Northern & Central Region GSAs are in **bold**)

- Aliso Water District GSA
- **Central Delta-Mendota Region Multi-Agency GSA**
- City of Dos Palos GSA
- City of Firebaugh GSA
- City of Gustine GSA
- City of Los Banos GSA
- City of Mendota GSA
- City of Newman GSA
- **City of Patterson GSA**
- County of Madera GSA #3
- **DM-II GSA**
- Farmers Water District GSA
- Fresno County, Management Area A GSA
- Fresno County, Management Area B GSA
- Grassland Water District GSA
- Merced County, Delta-Mendota GSA
- **Northwestern Delta-Mendota GSA**
- **Ora Loma Water District GSA**
- **Patterson Irrigation District GSA**
- San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority GSA
- Turner Island Water District GSA #2
- **West Stanislaus Irrigation District GSA #1**
- **West Stanislaus Irrigation District GSA #2**
- **Widren Water District GSA**

Who will implement the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin?

Twenty-four locally-formed Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) have been established in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (see box to the right). These GSAs are responsible for complying with the requirements of SGMA, including preparing and implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans, conducting outreach about SGMA, and maintaining local control over the region's groundwater resources.

How will the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act affect my community?

SGMA requires the development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). A GSP is a plan developed by one or more GSAs under SGMA regulations. A GSP must outline how the GSA(s) will implement, manage, and measure specific actions to sustainably manage the groundwater levels

in the groundwater basin. A GSP will identify actions and projects to be implemented over a 20-year timeline to sustainably manage groundwater in the Subbasin. The State may intervene or enact fees if the requirements of SGMA are not met. The GSPs for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin must be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources no later than January 31, 2020. The GSAs will then be required implement the actions outlined in the GSP and achieve sustainability by 2040.

How can I participate in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan development process?

Six coordinated GSPs are currently being developed for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. All six GSPs will be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources together and each GSP will be adopted at a public meeting. Prior to adoption, the GSAs will hold public comment periods to receive input on the GSPs. The GSAs will also conduct public outreach throughout the GSP development process.

Groundwater users and interested members of the public are encouraged to participate in the GSP development and implementation process. Ask to be added to your local Groundwater Sustainability Agency's contact list to receive email updates on their Groundwater Sustainability Plan. You may also ask if there are upcoming meetings or events you can attend. For more resources, visit the Delta-Mendota Subbasin SGMA website at www.deltamendota.org. For information specific to the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions, please visit the website at www.deltamendota.org/north-central-dm-gsp.html.

