



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

FROM: John Brodie, Water Resource Programs Manager
Joe McGahan, Regional Drainage/Westside Watershed Coalition Coordinator

DATE: March 9, 2023

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for February, 2023

This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for February 2023 regarding specified¹ Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

1. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Activity Summary

General Westside-San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP)

Work is progressing on three of the projects funded under the IRWM Proposition 1, Round 1 Implementation grant program. All three projects are in the San Joaquin River Funding Area:

- The modernization of pumping plants 3 and 4 at West Stanislaus Irrigation District
- The Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Project (Central California Irrigation District)
- Broadview Aquifer Storage and Recovery Project (Westlands Water District).

Two other projects that received funding under the same grant have been completed, including a groundwater supply well and recharge project for the City of Huron, a disadvantaged community.

2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity (SGMA) Activity Summary

Coordinated Activities

Committee members are beginning their review of the Water Year 2022 Annual Report. The report must be submitted to DWR by the April 1, 2023 deadline. Data from this annual report will be used in the five-year GSP update, due to DWR in January, 2025.

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are beginning work on that required 2025 Update. One item slowing progress on the Update is awaiting expected Recommended Actions from DWR

¹ For the sake of completeness, this includes those Activity Agreements that have been approved by the Board of Directors, but not yet signed by all interested members and/or participants (i.e., the Los Vaqueros Expansion Project Activity Agreement, the Exchange Contractors 2019-2023 Transfer Program Activity Agreement, and the Westside-San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Agreement).

on the Subbasins revised Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). DWR's final determinations on the revised Delta Mendota Plans and Plans for 11 other Subbasins are anticipated in March.

The spring seasonal high monitoring window is open for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to begin collecting data. GSAs can measure groundwater levels in representative monitoring network wells in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin until April 30.

General SGMA Activities

Work is underway on a variety of activities funded by a \$7.6-million-dollar SGMA Implementation grant awarded to the Subbasin. Del Puerto Water District is serving as the lead for the Subbasin for the grant agreement. GSP groups are focused on Filling data and monitoring gaps to help inform management decisions related to SGMA implementation. The first such program will be the establishment of an Interconnected Surface Water Monitoring Network.

3. Drainage Activity Summary

Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity Summary

- Prepare for and attend Grassland Basin Drainers meeting in Los Banos.
- General administration.

Prepare consultant agreements for FY 23-24.

- Participate in conference call meeting regarding the dissolved oxygen aerator at the Stockton deep water ship channel and reviewed program status and budget contributions.
- Manage storm water discharges.

Monitor data and field conditions regarding discharges into the San Luis Drain.

- Mud Slough Restoration Project

The Water Authority adopted the CEQA for the project in December 2021. There were comments received on the project from the State Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and a group of commenters led by the Planning and Conservation League (PCL). A meeting is being scheduled with CDFW to review and move the project forward.

- Grassland Water District Monitoring Wells

A total of 10 observation wells are planned to be installed to monitor groundwater levels and quality within the San Joaquin River Improvement Project and in a portion of Grassland Water District to the north. Work continues on permitting issues from Merced County and landowner issues.

- Compliance Monitoring

Work is continuing to comply with the monitoring requirement of the 2019 Revised WDRs and with the December 2019 Use Agreement. This monitoring includes particulate sediment and fish collection and analysis to continue to analyze possible impacts of very infrequent discharge from the Grassland Bypass Project to Mud Slough and the San Joaquin River. Work was completed to develop the program for 2023.

- Grassland Drainage Area Coalition

Work continues to provide coverage for farmers within the Grassland Drainage Area for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Reporting forms were sent to farmer members in late 2022 for reporting 2022 nitrogen application.

- Work is ongoing to support the Prop 84 Grant administered by Panoche Drainage District for improvements to the San Joaquin River Improvement Project.
 - Mitigation subcommittee.
- Prepare information and lead meeting on February 1, 2023.

San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority Activity Summary

- Development of FY 23-24 SJVDA Budget including consultant scopes of work. Prepare draft for SJVDA Board approval.
 - Prepare for and attend February SJVDA Board meeting.
 - Participate in conference calls with the Regional to respond to their questions on surface water management plans and required follow up.
 - Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition
- Work continues to provide coverage for farmers within the Grassland Drainage Area for the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The work includes managing the monitoring program, assisting farmers with the necessary reporting to comply with the program and preparing reports for the Regional Board. Reporting forms were prepared and sent to growers for reporting 2022 nitrogen application.
- Groundwater Protection Formula, Values and Targets
- Coalitions are developing a methodology to establish nitrogen loading values and targets as required by the WDRs. Ongoing work includes meeting with other coalitions and staff developing the values and targets along with supporting that work through the SJVDA budget.
- Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative
- Attend conference call meetings to give direction to program.
- Management Zones
- Work continued to develop plan for compliance within the Westside Coalition. An ad hoc subcommittee meeting was organized to receive information and to give direction on management zone formation.
- Salt Control Program
- Phase I of the Salt Control Program involves the development of a Prioritization and Optimization Study (P&O Study). Currently, consultants are compiling data in order to characterize current salinity conditions of both surface and groundwater across the Central Valley. Phase I of the Salt Control Program is expected to last years. This work is being supported through the SJVDA budget.
- Prop 84 Real Time Program Grant
- Work continues on upgrading various monitoring stations and gathering monitoring data. Remaining work includes maintaining the stations and modeling to determine and manage salt discharges to the San Joaquin River.