



October 4, 2018

To: Frances Mizuno, Assistant Executive Director

From: Bob Martin, Engineering & Planning Department Manager

Subject: SGMA Report for September 2018

Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity Summary:

Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region –

Zachary Roy, Water Resources Coordinator, continues to develop maps for the Delta-Mendota subbasin which indicate the extents of groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs). This includes depth to water contour development, truth checking The Nature Conservancy datasets, and working with Grassland Water District staff to incorporate their comments during the refinement process.

The joint North and Central Committee meeting was held on September 27th at the Authority's Boardroom. Those present discussed additional sub-consultant agreements necessary to perform additional services related to outreach and the development of subbasin-wide data management system. In addition, Leslie Dumas with Woodard & Curran provided a status update on work performed by the technical working group, with respect to management areas and water budget development. Ms. Dumas presented a revised plan to develop historic and current water budgets. Rather than solely relying on the USGS provided groundwater model (which is currently being calibrated to stakeholder water level data), the water budget will be developed using specific model data sets and actual depth to groundwater measurements, groundwater elevation contours, and surface water delivery information. In addition, the committees were informed of the "CivicSpark Fellow", Claire Howard, and her anticipated duties. Claire has been learning the organizational structure and processes in place, and will begin to prepare monthly newsletters as an outreach effort to participating agencies and stakeholders. The Authority also notified the Management Committee that staff is available to attend individual board meetings to present on SGMA activities and the GSP development status. The Authority presented further information regarding the inclusion of an unmanaged area of San Benito County in the region's GSP, which was agreed upon by both the North and Central Committees, pending written approval on this concept by DWR and the State Board.

Authority staff informed the committees that advanced funds for subbasin-wide projects will be requested in order to reduce to burden on stakeholders who have been funding work to-date. The committees approved increasing the contract budget for these projects.

The Second Amendment to the Northern and Central Region Activity Agreements is in final form, with parties anticipated to continue execution through October. A final executed copy will be distributed to all parties when each agency has provided signatures and a final copy is filed internally.

General SGMA Activities:

A Delta-Mendota Subbasin Technical Working Group meeting was held on September 18th, with a focus on a basin wide water budgets, technical support services application, definable bottom of the subbasin, San Benito County non-managed area, and coordination of sustainability criterion. This meeting was led by the Woodard & Curran team, with weekly teleconferences of this workgroup coordinated by them as well.

A Delta-Mendota Subbasin Communications Working Group meeting was held on September 11th, led by Stantec, to plan the upcoming October workshops. The workshops are planned to focus on water budget and basin characterization, and promotional materials are currently being developed.

The monthly Delta-Mendota Subbasin Coordination Committee meeting was held on September 10th, at 10:00 AM at the Authority Boardroom. Andrew Garcia requested this Committee consider recommendations from the technical working group for coordinating water budgets. The Committee also discussed methodologies and timelines for coordinating individual water budgets and projecting future water budgets. Also important to note, agencies have agreed to setup a workshop to determine which reaches of the San Joaquin River are “gaining” and “losing” and an agreed upon method and dataset to make this determination and for future monitoring. The Authority will coordinate a ‘Water Budget Workshop’ for the technical working group and consultants for October 30th.

