



## MEETING MINUTES – Merced GSP

SUBJECT: Merced GSP Coordinating Committee Meeting

DATE/TIME: April 23, 2018 at 1:30 PM

LOCATION: Sam Pipes Room, Civic Center/City Hall, 678 W 18th Street, 1st Floor, Merced, CA

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### Coordinating Committee Members In Attendance:

	<b>Representative</b>	<b>GSA</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Dietz	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Justin Vinson	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Chaves	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ken Elwin (alternate)	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bob Kelley	Merced Subbasin GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nic Marchini	Merced Subbasin GSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rodrigo Espinoza	Merced Subbasin GSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	George Park (alternate)	Merced Subbasin GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Larry Harris	Turner Island Water District GSA #1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scott Skinner (alternate)	Turner Island Water District GSA #1

### Meeting Notes

1. Approval of minutes for March 26, 2018 meeting
  - Minutes were unanimously approved
2. Stakeholder Committee Progress and Update
  - First Stakeholder Committee Meeting will be 5/29/2018
3. Overview of work completed to date related to basin conditions
  - Woodard & Curran provided additional information on work completed to date as part of SGMA Readiness and Stressed Basins efforts:
    - i. Merced Water Resources Model
    - ii. Monitoring Plan – Merced County
4. Introduction to Terminology:
  - Woodard & Curran provided an overview of the key terminology for SGMA, including the relationships between Sustainability Indicators, Undesirable Results, Minimum Thresholds, Measurable Objectives, Interim Milestones, Margin of Operational Flexibility, and Monitoring Network
5. Preliminary Discussion on Undesirable Results

The group brought up the following potential undesirable effects to consider for each of the Sustainability Indicators:

- Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels
  - i. Groundwater levels were noted to be an important indicator for several other Sustainability Indicators due to interconnectedness and easier visibility
  - ii. Reduced specific pumping capacities at deeper wells
  - iii. Question for technical team: how much emphasis will there be on recording or differentiating between static levels vs pumping levels?
- Reduction in Groundwater Storage
  - i. Groundwater storage was noted to be less important due to a relatively large storage capacity – undesirable effects from reduced storage will be measured primarily in chronic lowering of groundwater levels
  - ii. Might need to consider storage changes above vs below the Corcoran Clay separately
- Seawater Intrusion
  - i. Does not apply to the Subbasin; salinity will be considered in degraded water quality
- Degraded Water Quality
  - i. Crop impacts
  - ii. Nonpoint sources, e.g. contaminant plumes in the cities
  - iii. Water quality above vs below the Corcoran Clay
  - iv. Groundwater pumping may be a positive action if trying to contain a specific localized groundwater quality concern
- Land Subsidence
  - i. Increased conveyance costs of irrigation water
  - ii. Possible changes in direction of flow in unconfined aquifer
  - iii. Cost of injecting water as a tool to slow subsidence
  - iv. Look into research on lagging effect of subsidence after groundwater pumping
- Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water
  - i. CC members had no additions to list presented in slide

Other discussion points included:

- Substitute Environmental Document (SED) for Bay-Delta Plan unlikely to be finalized during GSP development; GSP will be developed according to current requirements but changes can be incorporated later if needed
  - Shallow domestic wells are unlikely to be useful for groundwater level measurements
  - The LeGrand area was identified as a key indicator region that has historically been more sensitive to groundwater level changes, but may have limited monitoring data available (additional investigation needed)
6. Discuss DWR's SGMA Technical Support Services (TSS) opportunity
- Woodard & Curran provided an update on the TSS opportunity based on the 4/20/18 conference call with DWR

- Likely that Delta-Mendota Subbasin will site a monitoring well on their side of the Subbasin boundary which will be beneficial for Merced Subbasin as well, leaving Merced Subbasin with an opportunity to request a monitoring well in a different location in the Subbasin (potentially in the LeGrand region)
7. Discuss Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability Request for Letter of Support
    - Leadership Council for Justice & Accountability has applied for SGMA funding for DAC outreach in the San Joaquin Valley, and DWR has requested Leadership Counsel obtain letter of support from the GSPs in those areas (including Merced)
    - CC chose to take no action until additional information is provided by the group on their workplan and how it will be coordinated with the work Self Help Enterprises will conduct in the subbasin
  8. Opportunity for public comment on items not on agenda
    - No questions
  9. Next steps and adjourn
    - CC members were provided with maps of monitoring wells in 1992, 2015, and present for their respective GSA and given an assignment to indicate wells or regions of wells known to experience undesirable effects for each of the six Sustainability Indicators
    - Hicham ElTal provided an update on the first interbasin meeting between Turlock and Merced, with a next meeting tentatively June 18, 2018