



## MEETING MINUTES – Merced GSP

SUBJECT: Merced GSP Stakeholder Committee Meeting

DATE/TIME: June 25, 2018 at 9:30 AM

LOCATION: Castle Conference Center at Castle Airport, 1900 Airdrome Entry, Atwater, CA 95301

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### Stakeholder Committee Members In Attendance:

	Representative	Community Aspect Representation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alex McCabe	City of Livingston
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Arlan Thomas	MIDAC, growers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ben Migliazzo	Live Oak Farms, growers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bill Spriggs	City of Merced, Merced Irrigation District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bob Salles	Leap Carpenter Kemps Insurance, insurance industry and natural resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brad Robson	Buchanan Hollow Nut Co. Le Grand-Athlone Water District, growers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Breanne Ramos	Merced County Farm Bureau
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Carter	D&S Farms, growers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carol Bonin	Winton M.A.C.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Machado	Machado Backhoe Inc., construction industry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Darren Olguin	McSwain MAC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Frenchy Meissonnier	Rice Farmer, rice growers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Galen Miyamoto	Miyamoto Farms
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gino Pedretti III	Sandy Mush Mutual Water Company
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greg Olzack	City of Atwater resident
<input type="checkbox"/>	James (Jim) Marshall	City of Merced
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Joe Scoto	Scoto Bros Farms / McSwain Union School District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ladi Asgill	East Merced Resource Conservation District / Sustainable Conservation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maria Herrera	Self-Help Enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Maxwell	University of California, Merced
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Maxwell Norton	Retired agricultural researcher
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Parry Klassen	East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition, growers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rick Drayer	Drayer Ranch, Merced cattlemen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Simon Vander Woude	Sandy Mush Mutual Water Company, dairies

## Meeting Notes

### 1. GSP Development Elements and Approach

- Alyson Watson (Woodard & Curran) provided an overview of the schedule of components that will be used to develop the GSP, broken into three categories: Technical Work, Policy Decisions, and Management Actions

### 2. Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Strategy

- Charles Gardiner (Catalyst Group) provided an overview of Outreach and Engagement Activities, including targeting of the first week of August for first public workshop.

### 3. Merced Subbasin Overview

- Plan Area Information
  - i. Alyson provided an overview of the “Plan Area and Authority” chapter of the GSP.
  - ii. A request was made to view the land use/crop map in greater detail, as well as a high-level, order of magnitude summary of total acreage by crop type. Maps are being prepared separately per GSA and the presentation slides will be posted online at [www.mercedsgma.org](http://www.mercedsgma.org)
- Historical Groundwater Conditions
  - i. Alyson provided an overview of the six groundwater sustainability indicators, with some specific examples and maps that help explain each. Groundwater elevations are a good indicator of several sustainability indicators since they are all related.

### 4. Groundwater Sustainability Goals

- Purpose and Overview
  - i. Alyson introduced the sustainability terms: Undesirable Results, Minimum Thresholds, and Measurable Objectives.
- Initial Committee Perspectives and Input on Sustainability
  - i. The Committee was asked to provide input on their definition of sustainability. Below are the notes recorded on a flipchart during the conversation. Sustainability is:
    - The amount of groundwater depletion allowed during two, three, and four-year droughts.
    - Whatever the State Water Board wants to see for sustainability.
    - Stable groundwater levels.
    - Improving groundwater quality.
    - No adverse economic effects.
    - Not running out of water.
    - No restricted use that would affect the economy.
    - Enough water for the uses – agriculture, community, and environment – with a healthy reserve.
    - Significant water quality issues in the Valley improve over time.
    - Balancing surface and groundwater use.
    - Increased acreage in production and crop shift.

- Maintain a balance of agriculture, human right to water, and safe drinking water.
  - Reduce the environmental impact (groundwater basin and water quality) while maintaining things of value.
  - Shared understanding of water budget so everyone knows how much water is used and replaced in every year.
  - Doing what needs to be done so you can keep doing what you are doing but better.
  - Need to plan for wet years – what to do with surplus water.
  - Storage would help fix the problem.
- A DWR representative provided some background information about DWR and State Water Board roles in reviewing and approving GSPs as well as annual and five-year reporting.
    - A request was made to review the criteria that DWR will be using to evaluate the GSP. These criteria will be provided to SC members.

#### 5. Stakeholder Committee Procedures

- Based on feedback from the Coordinating Committee, Alternates for Stakeholder Committee members are allowed, but they need to represent the same interest as the SC member for whom they are substituting. Members of the SC are responsible for keeping their respective alternate current on the meeting topics.
- The group reaffirmed their understanding that the Stakeholder Committee is subject to the Brown Act.
- A suggestion made to flag in meeting agendas where Stakeholder Committee members are requested to make recommendations or achieve consensus on an item to help make the line of communication clearer with the Coordinating Committee.
- The group reached consensus on Procedures and Commitments (see Attachment A).

#### 6. Interbasin Coordination Update

- Staff have provided edits on Interbasin agreement back to Chowchilla Subbasin.
- 2 meetings have been held so far with representatives from Turlock Subbasin to coordinate on GSP development status, data, etc.
- Staff are trying to schedule a meeting with Delta-Mendota Subbasin, with preference to coordinate with GSAs preparing GSPs adjacent to Merced Subbasin.

#### 7. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

- No comments on public items not on the agenda.

#### 8. Next Steps and Adjourn

## Attachment A – Stakeholder Committee Procedures and Commitments

### Purpose

- Advise the Coordinating Committee and GSA Governing Bodies

### Membership

- Diverse representation of interests in the Merced Subbasin
- Coordinating Committee identifies and appoints members, with GSA approval

### Member Terms and Responsibilities

- Through development of GSP
- Participate, represent interests, and educate communities

### Alternate Members

- Alternates selected by members
- Should represent the same interest/perspective as the member
- Member is responsible for keeping alternate current

### Decision-making

- Consensus approach for joint recommendations

### Meetings

- Brown Act compliance
- Consistent participation: don't miss 3 in a row or 5 in a year

### Consensus

Polling the committee to assess and confirm consensus. Consensus is all members present voting in categories 1 through 4.

1. I can say an unqualified 'yes' to the decision. I am satisfied that the decision is an expression of the wisdom of the group.
2. I find the decision perfectly acceptable. It is the best of the real options we have available to us.
3. I can live with the decision. However, I'm not especially enthusiastic about it.
4. I do not fully agree with the decision and need to register my view about it. However, I do not choose to block the decision and will stand aside. I am willing to support the decision because I trust the wisdom of the group.
5. I do not agree with the decision and feel the need to block the decision being accepted as consensus.
6. I feel that we have no clear sense of unity in the group. We need to do more work before consensus can be achieved.