



MEETING NOTES – Merced GSP

SUBJECT: Merced GSP Coordination Committee Meeting

DATE/TIME: November 2, 2020 at 10:00 AM

LOCATION: Online - Microsoft Teams Meeting

Coordination Committee Members In Attendance:

	Representative	GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hicham EITal	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Dietz	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Justin Vinson	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Chavez	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"/>	Mike Gallo	Merced Subbasin GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nic Marchini	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. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME
 - a. Alyson Watson (Woodard & Curran) called the meeting to order.
2. ROLL CALL
 - a. Coordination Committee members in attendance are shown in table above. The Committee had a quorum.
3. CONSENT CALENDAR
 - a. Meeting notes from previous meeting (October 28, 2019) were approved.
4. REPORTS
 - a. Update on Submittal of Groundwater Sustainability Plan and First Annual Report – Alyson Watson (Woodard & Curran) provided an update about GSP related submittals and reviewed GSP related commitments and timelines. The GSP and First Annual Report were submitted on time in early 2020. DWR is now in a 2-yr review of plans and expects GSAs to start implementation in interim. The next Annual Report due April 1, 2021.
 - i. Hicham EITal (MIUGSA) recommended that work on the second annual report should begin soon and the CC directed Woodard & Curran to prepare a timeline for the GSA representatives to review.



- b. Severely Disadvantaged Communities Grant Status Update
 - i. Matt Beaman (MID) provided a status update on the three grant-funded SDAC Projects: Planada Recharge Basin Pilot Project, El Nido Groundwater Monitoring Wells, and Meadowbrook Water System Intertie Feasibility Study, describing location, funding status, and details about projects and ongoing steps.
- c. Coordination with neighboring basins
 - i. Hicham EITal provided updates:
 - 1. The Merced Subbasin has 3 neighboring basins (Turlock, Chowchilla, and Delta-Mendota). The GSAs have a formal cooperative MOU and an agreements with Turlock and Chowchilla, respectively.
 - 2. Ongoing coordination is occurring with Turlock Subbasin as that basin develops their GSP (not critically overdrafted, so on a later completion schedule than Merced).
 - 3. Subsidence is the main issue of concern for coordination with the Delta-Mendota and Chowchilla subbasin.
- d. GSA Reports - Updates were provided from each GSA on activities they are undertaking in their own jurisdiction:
 - i. Merced Subbasin GSA - Bob Kelly provided an update on past year activities, including:
 - 1. MSGSA joined the coordinated right to water application
 - 2. MSGSA is considering sustainability zones for GSP implementation, for example for subsidence. Outside consultant will be working on developing a summary of likely areas and reasons for development of separate sustainability zones within the GSA.
 - 3. Added Amsterdam Water District as a non-voting member to **the GSA's** Joint Powers Agreement. Set a board meeting schedule and continued to engage in the ad-hoc committee for implementation measures.
 - ii. MIUGSA - Hicham EITal provided an updated on recent activities, including:
 - 1. Generally keeping busy on technical work and now catching up on administration to build up capacity for MIUGSA.
 - 2. The coordinated effort towards a basin-wide water right to flood water application has been a key item and is described later in the meeting notes.
 - 3. On behalf of the basin, have been working on SDAC projects (also described later in meeting notes).
 - 4. Executed agreement with DWR for Prop 68 Planning Grant (described later in meeting notes)
 - iii. TIWD GSA #1 - Larry Harris (TIWD) provided an update on recent activities, including:
 - 1. Joined in the coordinated water right application
 - 2. Completed the groundwater metering programs (all active wells are now metered).
 - 3. Current focus of attention is on locating some storage reservoirs to capture flood waters.

5. ACTIONS

a. Water Level and Water Quality Monitoring Networks – Approve RFQ for Monitoring Support Services

i. Matt Beaman (MID) gave a background on historical monitoring

1. Reviewed existing groundwater elevation (CASGEM) and water quality monitoring program
2. DWR has asked whether the voluntary wells from the CASGEM will continue to be reported. The voluntary wells are not part of the required reporting group for various reasons (questionable data results or **don't meet construction** requirements). A recommendation was made to discontinue reporting on these wells for CASGEM purposes.
3. Q: Monitoring well installed with telemetry as dedicated monitoring ~1 year ago (east end of MCWD/SWD area). Currently updates to DWR telemetry website. Should it be part of the GSP network? A: MID will take a look and if it meets the construction requirements, consider adding it to the network.

ii. Matt Beaman (MID) gave a background on current and future monitoring.

1. Q: In GSP, monitoring entities were sending information into data management system (DMS). What is different in what is being proposed? A: MIUGSA is assigned to submit the data for all monitoring wells throughout the basin (not per agency or well-owner). Measurements were submitted March and October (and December measurement coming up). But to meet GSP commitment, wells need to start being measured more frequently (monthly instead of 2-3 times per year).
2. Q: How many wells are dedicated monitoring vs active production for irrigation/drinking water? A: The number in current monitoring network is 4 or 5 dedicated. 2 from SWD and 2 City of Merced and 1 from City of Atwater, plus 2 from MID former production but currently no pumps; rest are production.
 - a. Follow-up Q: What concerns are there about moving to monthly monitoring for production wells (pumping impacts)? A: Many MID wells are dormant much of the time. For the most part, these wells need to be included to provide a complete subbasin picture.
3. Q: **Nic Marchini has been taking elevations for several years in 12 wells that aren't** necessarily part of CASGEM. Should these be included? A: It depends on Corcoran Clay and other CASGEM requirements for time between pumping. These would need to be reviewed individually.
4. Public Comment via chat: "Hello, my name is Jovana with Leadership Counsel. I have a question regarding the monitoring network. Our concern is that vulnerable communities will be overlooked, how is the monitoring network going to detect impacts to drinking water users, particularly for vulnerable communities?"
 - a. **MIUGSA: As we work on data gaps, we'll be looking at these issues,** however the majority of these communities are served drinking water as part of community service districts that conduct routine water quality monitoring and meet all applicable drinking water regulations.
5. Q: What would it take to bring marginal/voluntary wells up to the technical standards to be able to consider them for the monitoring network? A: Most of the voluntary wells were production wells screened in multiple aquifers. It would





require a large level of effort to modify those to meet monitoring requirements. This is, however, an evaluation task under the Prop 68 planning grant work.

- iii. ACTION approved by CC: Direct MID to prepare and issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the purpose of hiring one or more firms to conduct groundwater elevation monitoring, data compilation, reporting, general monitoring site maintenance, and other associated activities as needed. Selection of firm(s) and preparation of the scope of work subject to subsequent conversations among the GSAs prior to issuance of any contracts.

b. Proposition 68 Planning and Implementation Grants

- i. Prop 68 Planning Grant: The scope for the \$500,000 Planning Grant work was developed by a committee of GSA and stakeholder reps in Fall 2019. The GSAs were awarded the **grant in early 2020. MID, as the GSAs'** authorized rep, executed a grant agreement with DWR in May 2020. The grant scope includes 3 components: Developing a plan to address Data Gaps in the subbasin, field work to upgrade existing wells and potentially install new wells to augment the monitoring network, and development of a decision support tool.
 1. Matt Beaman (MID) provided an overview of the work that needs to be started and recommended the GSAs request a scope/budget from Woodard & Curran for the Data Gaps Plan and Remote-sensing Tool, and issue an RFQ for the field work component.
 2. Hicham EITal (MID) suggested additional items that should be considered as part of data gaps plan development: assessment of CIMIS station for reliable location if considering satellite information in future, also add subsidence recommendations.
 3. Bob Kelley (MSGSA) confirmed that work under the grant would be coordinated with all 3 GSAs since all will benefit.
 4. ACTION approved: Direct Woodard & Curran to provide a scope and budget consistent with Prop 68 Grant Workplan to complete Data Gaps Plan and Remote Sensing components for review by GSAs.
 5. ACTION approved: Direct MID to prepare and issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the purpose of hiring one or more firms to for well installation, well inspection, and other activities associated with Proposition 68 Grant Workplan. Selection of firm(s) and preparation of the scope of work subject to subsequent conversations among the GSAs prior to issuance of any contracts.
- ii. Prop 68 Implementation Grant: DWR is releasing a solicitation for proposal for Prop 68 Implementation Grant funds. Matt Beaman (MID) provided an update on latest information on Prop 68 Implementation Grant Proposal Solicitation Package.
 1. The three Merced Subbasin GSAs submitted a joint letter to DWR requesting an extension of the deadline to March 2021. DWR publicized the January 2021 deadline last week and is not expected to extend it.
 2. MID recommended that the GSAs ask W&C to prepare a scope to prepare the grant application and the 3 GSAs would review the scope and decide how to move forward with grant application preparation and work with stakeholders to select most likely projects to compete for limited funds.
 3. Q: Will projects need to be identified and scoped out before the grant app is submitted? A: Yes, W&C will have to come up with some assumptions about number of projects which will need to happen in parallel to grant preparation.



4. Public Comment: What actions will be taken to make sure funding for disadvantaged communities is appropriately allocated/addressed? A: GSAs will consider whether projects will benefit under-represented communities (URCs) during project selection. DWR will give preference to projects that meet requirements and benefit URCs so the basin has incentive to move those projects forward. Furthermore, most of the subbasin meets the definition of disadvantaged community or under-represented community.
 5. ACTION approved: Direct W&C to prepare a scope for grant application preparation and for MID to serve as the subbasin representative in submitting the grant application and eventual contracting with DWR.
- c. DWR Technical Support Services General Application
- i. Matt Beaman provided an update on the status of the application. The three Merced Subbasin GSAs have coordinated on initial development of the General Application to DWR (effort primarily led by Lacey McBride (MSGSA)), and discussed the next steps for applying for DWR Technical Support Services.
 - ii. ACTION approved: Assign Groundwater Subbasin Coordinator (Hicham EITal) to finalize and submit DWR Technical Support Services application and associated materials requesting various field activities. Application and submittal are subject to subsequent coordination among the GSAs.
6. Public Comment
- a. No additional comments submitted besides the two noted earlier that were submitted during discussion of the monitoring network and Prop 68 agenda items.
7. Informational Items
- a. Matt Beaman (MID) presented a brief summary of the Domestic Well Inventory project administered by Merced Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (MIRWMA), funded by **DWR's Disadvantaged Community Involvement Grant**
 - b. Hicham EITal (MID) provided a summary of the Coordinated Water Right Application which has to do with use of periodic floodwater from most streams in the Subbasin.
 - i. Application was submitted December 2019. It then took about five additional months to revise per State Water Resources Control Board staff feedback. Currently waiting for results of the review.
 - c. Other information items
 - i. No items were raised.
8. Next steps and adjourn
- a. Meeting frequency for Coordination Committee and Stakeholder Committee
 - i. Hicham EITal (MID) suggested some agenda items that could be discussed in future meeting(s):
 1. Establishing thresholds and sustainability criteria in areas without historical monitoring data or not monitored in past or without domestic wells.
 2. Meeting frequency and composition of stakeholder committee
 3. Consider changing general interest email address mercedsgma@woodardcurran.com to something that **doesn't include a consultant or agency name** like: mercedsgma@mercedsgma.org.
 - a. W&C will look into this and report back.
 - ii. GSP indicated CC and SC would meet quarterly.



1. The group expressed interest in CC meeting more frequently in the near term given pressing issues like the Prop 68 Implementation Grant application. The group agreed to schedule a meeting in early December and also consider a meeting in early January as well.
- b. Confirm next meeting date
 - i. Woodard & Curran will work on scheduling an early December meeting.
- c. Meeting adjourned at 12:17 PM

Next Regular Meeting
TBD (expected early December)
Meeting to be conducted virtually (subject to change)
Information also available online at mercedsgma.org