



MEETING NOTES – Merced GSP

SUBJECT: Merced GSP Coordination Committee Meeting

DATE/TIME: December 22, 2021, 1:00 to 3:00 PM

LOCATION: Online – Zoom Meeting

Coordination Committee Members in Attendance:

	Representative	GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hicham ElTal	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephanie Dietz	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Justin Vinson	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Chavez	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ken Elwin (alternate)	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eric Swenson	Merced Subbasin GSA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Gallo By MSGSA Board resolution, Kole Upton is standing in for Mike Gallo for the 12/22 CC meeting and subsequent project scoring	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"/>	Kel Mitchel	Turner Island Water District GSA #1
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tim Allan (alternate)	Turner Island Water District GSA #1

Meeting Notes

1. Call to Order and Welcome

- a. Jim Blanke (Woodard & Curran) called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

2. Roll Call

- a. Coordination Committee members in attendance are shown in table above. The Committee reached a quorum.

3. Consent Calendar

- a. Nic Marchini motioned to approve all consent calendar items, Kel Mitchel seconded. All present voted in favor.



4. Public Comment

- a. Jeff, a fairly new farmer in the Merced Subbasin located in the MIUGSA, introduced himself and raised the topic of recharging the aquifer with treated wastewater and desalinated brackish water. Eric Swenson (MSGSA) responded that the economics of this type of recharge are more difficult in agricultural areas. Matt Beaman (MID) encouraged Jeff to contact MID to initiate further discussion and suggestions.

5. Reports

- a. None

6. Actions

- a. None

7. Discussion Items

- a. Overview of Round 1 SGM Implementation Planning and Projects Grant Application Process
 - i. Jim Blanke (Woodard & Curran) discussed funding availability, project type considerations, and timeline for the Round 1 SGM Implementation grant.
- b. Informational item: Overview of Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant Program
 - i. Jim Blanke (Woodard & Curran) provided an overview of the IRWM implementation grant. There are projects already lined up from Merced IRWM Authority to apply for the available funding.
 - ii. Public Question: Is Clayton Water District part of Merced Subbasin? Answer from Lacey McBride (MSGSA): Clayton Water District was annexed in 2019 and 7,000 to 10,000 acres are part of Merced County. One project they are pursuing is to bring water from the Eastside Bypass into the Merced portion of the District.
 - iii. Public Question: When is the next IRWM meeting? Answer from Matt Beaman (MID): February, with additional information to be available on the website: <http://www.mercedid.com/index.cfm/water/groundwater1/mirwma-merced-integrated-water-management-authority/>
- c. Scoring Criteria Review for Round 1 SGM Implementation Planning and Projects Grant
 - i. Liz DaBramo (Woodard & Curran) presented on the updated evaluation criteria, maps of Underrepresented Communities, and the Excel project scoring workbook.
 - ii. Lacey McBride (MSGSA) requested that the technical team send the evaluation criteria to the project proponents so they can modify their project descriptions accordingly.
 - iii. Question from Hicham EITal (MIUGSA): Does DWR include anything about water rights in their evaluation criteria? Answer: Not explicitly, but the project must show quantifiable benefits and be reasonably accomplished.
 - iv. Question from Kel Mitchel (TIWD GSA-#1): Can private agencies submit projects? Answer: No, public agencies must sponsor projects.
 - v. Question from Eric Swenson (MSGSA): Which projects have specially funded projects for flagged DWR funds (e.g., AEM, etc.). Answer: Project proponents discussed their projects and verbally mentioned if the project incorporated an activity specially flagged. It was further noted that the requirement for certain project types included in the draft proposal solicitation package is not part of the final proposal solicitation package.



- d. Review Projects to Be Scored for Round 1 SGM Implementation Planning and Projects Grant
- i. Jim Blanke (Woodard & Curran) discussed the project sources for initial scoring: GSP shortlist projects (3), GSP running project list (3), and new projects (14) – totaling 20 projects for grant consideration.
 - ii. Question from Lacey McBride (MSGSA) to the Coordination Committee: How should we allocate funding – fully fund projects or partial fund a higher quantity of projects?
 1. Hicham EITal (MIUGSA): Focus on projects that can receive benefits soon.
 2. Eric Swenson (MSGSA): Ask project proponents if partial funding is an option.
 3. Kole Upton (MSGSA): Focus on areas hardest hit by subsidence.
 - iii. The following projects were briefly presented by project proponents and CC members asked intermittent questions:
 1. Amsterdam Water District Surface Water Conveyance and Recharge Project
 - a. Question from Hicham EITal (MIUGSA): What are the water rights for this project: Answer: Based on existing water rights and temporary permits until permanent water right is granted.
 2. Filling Data Gaps Identified in Data Gaps Plan
 3. Merced Water Resources Model Enhancement
 4. Merced Subbasin Recharge Project Decision-Support and Implementation Tool
 5. Merced Subbasin Integrated Managed Aquifer Recharge Evaluation Tool (Merced MAR)
 - a. Project #3-#5 are complimentary and together update the basinwide modeling tool set.
 6. Buchanan Hollow Mutual Water Company Floodwater Recharge Project
 - a. Question: Where is the basin located and have there been recharge tests yet? Answer: The basin will be located a few hundred feet from a creek. No investigations yet.
 7. Purdy Project (E. Purdy, W. Purdy, and Kevin Recharge Basins) (Project No. 38)
 - a. The project will utilize existing water rights.
 8. Purdy Project (East Pike Recharge Basin) (Project No. 37)
 9. G Ranch Groundwater Recharge, Habitat Enhancement & Floodplain Expansion Project
 - a. Question from Eric Swenson (MSGSA): Is there data that the water table is dropping in this location? Answer from Brad Samuelson: He can provide information that the water table is dropping, although that information is not included in the project description.
 10. LeGrand-Athlone Water District Intertie Canal – Phase 2
 - a. Kole Upton expresses support for this project.
 11. Deadman Creek Canal Off Stream Storage and Recharge



- a. Questions from Hicham EITal (MIUGSA): Could this project proceed with partial funding? What is the acreage? Answer from Lacey: 250 acres of previously double-cropped land. Partial funding is okay.
 - b. Comment from Hicham EITal (MIUGSA): They are looking for another surface water storage location to replace Black Rascal Creek for FloodMAR application. There is potential alignment with this project.
12. Merquin County Water District (MCWD) Sustainable Yield Management Plan and Plan Implementation
13. Project 31: Crocker Dam Modification
 - a. Question from Eric Swenson (MSGSA): Have you estimated the quantity of water that could be saved from this project? Answer from Hicham EITal (MIUGSA): Yes, 100,000 AF down Bear Creek is not unusual, and he will provide those number in the project application.
 - b. Question from Eric Swenson (MSGSA): Does this project bring MID closer to charging canals in winter? Answer from Hicham EITal (MIUGSA): Yes.
14. MIUGSA Groundwater Extraction Measurement Program
 - a. The project will include 200 private wells.
15. Tri City's Water Recharge/Underground Storage Feasibility
 - a. Comment from Hicham EITal (MIUGSA): There is potential to revise the state's AEM survey pathway if there are locations that would support local underground/recharge investigations.
16. Vander Woude Storage Reservoir
 - a. Question: What is the water right for this project? Answer: Flood water rights off of Mariposa Creek listed in the water rights application under review.
17. Vander Dussen Subsidence Priority Area Flood-MAR Project
 - a. Eric Swenson (MSGSA) requested that the project proponents show quantities/probability of flooding in their project write up.
18. Turner Island Water District (TIWD) Water Conservation
 - a. Question from Eric Swenson (MSGSA): Do you have a property already? Answer from Kel Mitchel (TIWD GSA-#1): Yes, would be on private property in TIWD – he has some locations in mind.
 - b. Question from Hicham EITal (MIUGSA): What are the water rights for this project? Answer from Kel Mitchel (TIWD GSA-#1): Contracted water from neighboring agencies.
19. TIWD Surplus Water Conveyance
20. TIWD Shallow Well Drilling
 - a. Question from Eric Swenson (MSGSA): What is the source of the cost per well? Eric volunteered to share cost estimates and recommends a lower target flow rate with more wells to reduce drawdown. Response

from Kel Mitchel (TIWD GSA-#1): The contractor included pump bowls, etc. in the cost estimate and he will follow up offline.

8. Next steps and adjourn



- a. Jim Blanke (Woodard & Curran) adjourned the meeting at 3:08 pm.

Next Regular Meeting

February 7, 2022

Information also available online at mercedsgma.org