Merced GSP Coordination Committee

Coordination Committee Meeting – June 1, 2022

Meeting will begin at 1 pm or a few minutes after – thank you for joining us!

Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA Merced Subbasin GSA Turner Island Water District GSA-1



Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Welcome, Instructions for Zoom Bienvenidos, Instrucciones para Zoom

We have two language audio channels available. English only speakers, please select English.



The meeting will have simultaneous interpreting, so you are welcome to comment in your native language. La junta será interpretada simultáneamente, así que le invitamos a que haga comentarios en su lenguaje nativo.

Agenda

- 1. Call to Order and Welcome
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. State of Emergency Teleconference Findings
- 4. Approval of April 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- **5.** Public Comment
- 6. Reports
 - a) GSA Reports
 - b) Current Basin Conditions

- 7. Potential Revisions to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan
 - a) Groundwater levels
 - b) Subsidence
 - c) Domestic well mitigation
 - d) Adoption / public input process
- 8. Next Steps and Adjourn



Roll Call

Representative	GSA
Hicham EITal	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Stephanie Dietz	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Justin Vinson	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Daniel Chavez	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Ken Elwin (alternate)	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Mike Gallo	Merced Subbasin GSA
Nic Marchini	Merced Subbasin GSA
Eric Swenson	Merced Subbasin GSA
George Park (alternate)	Merced Subbasin GSA
Kel Mitchel	Turner Island Water District GSA #1
Tim Allan (alternate)	Turner Island Water District GSA #1





State of Emergency Teleconference Findings

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



State of Emergency Teleconference Findings

- All meetings of the Committee's legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the Committee's legislative bodies conduct their business
- The Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions
- Those conditions exist per the continuing State of Emergency due to the impacts of COVID-19.
- The Coordination Committee will consider the circumstances of the State of Emergency and determine whether to make the following findings that any of the circumstances exist per AB 361:
 - The State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or
 - State or Local Officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

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Approval of Meeting Minutes

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Approval of Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2022

mage courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





Questions/Comments from Public:

If you would like to make a comment, please type the comment in the chat or raise your hand to request to be taken off mute

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





Reports



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GSA Reports

- Updates from each GSA on activities they are undertaking in their own jurisdiction:
 - Merced Subbasin GSA
 - Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
 - Turner Island Water District GSA #1

Turner Island Water District GSA #1

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Merced Subbasin GSA

Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA





Potential Revisions to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan





DWR GSP Comments Overview

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels / domestic well impacts
- Land subsidence



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

January 28, 2022

Hicham Eltal Merced GSP Plan Manager 744 W. 20th Street Merced, CA 95340 ercedid or

RE: Incomplete Determination of the 2020 Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability

Dear Hicham Eltal

The Department of Water Resources (Department) has evaluated the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) submitted for the Merced Subbasin (Subbasin) and has determined that the GSP is incomplete. The Department based its determination on recommendations from the Staff Report, included as an enclosure to the attached Statement of Findings, which describes that the Merced Subbasin GSP does not satisfy the objectives of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) nor substantially comply with the GSP Regulations. The Staff Report also provides corrective actions which the Department recommends to address the identified

The Subbasin's Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) have 180 days, the maximum allowed by GSP Regulations, to address the identified deficiencies. Where addressing the deficiencies requires modification of the GSP, the GSAs must adopt those modifications into the Subbasin's GSP or otherwise demonstrate that those modifications are part of the GSP before resubmitting it to the Department for evaluation no later than July 27, 2022. The Department understands that much work has occurred to advance sustainable groundwater management since the GSAs submitted the GSP in January 2020. To the extent to which those efforts are related or responsive to the Department's identified deficiencies, we encourage you to document that as part of your resubmittal. The Department prepared a Frequently Asked Questions document to provide general information and guidance on the process of addressing deficiencies in

Department staff will work expeditiously to review the revised components of your GSP resubmittal. If the revisions address the identified deficiencies, the Department will determine that the GSP is approved. In that scenario, Department staff will identify additional recommended corrective actions that the GSAs should address early in implementing their GSP (i.e., no later than the first required periodic evaluation). Among other items, those recommendations will include for the GSAs to provide more detail on STATE OF CALIFORNIA | GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR | CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY



Groundwater Level Sustainable Management Criteria

Three Discussions Today:

- Minimum thresholds direction from the GSAs
 - Groundwater levels
 - Subsidence
- Modifications for consistency with minimum thresholds:
 - Measurable objectives
 - Interim milestones
- New Management Actions
 - Subsidence
 - Domestic well mitigation





Groundwater Level Minimum Threshold – GSA Direction

- Considered input from the committees along with other information
- Decided to pursue the historical lows as the minimum threshold approach
 - Incorporating a domestic well mitigation program, with primary financial responsibility with MSGSA
 - Incorporating a management action to explore different levels above Corcoran in the subsidence area for more flexibility in responding to subsidence issues



Potential Minimum Threshold Options Evaluated



Potential Minimum Threshold Options Evaluated

(Copy of table from 4/25 meeting)

	Basis		Average Pumping Reduction	Complies with Groundwater Level Minimum Thresholds?	Long-Term Change in Storage, Below Corcoran Subsidence Area (over 50 years)	Minimum Annual Change in Storage, Below Corcoran Subsidence Area	Long-Term Change in Storage, Whole Basin (over 50 years)
0	Baseline (no pumping reductions)	0 AFY (0.0%)	No	-47,000 AF	-100,000 AF	-1,000,000 AF	
GSP	Sustainable Yield Scenario published in GSP (goal of no long-term basinwide storage change)		66,000 AFY 10.7%	No	+30,000 AF	-36,000 AF	~0 AF
А	2015 groundwater levels	175,000 AFY 28.3%	Yes	+110,000 AF	+16,000 AF	+1,800,000 AF	
В	Historical low groundwater levels	GSAs agreed to move forward with Historical Lows	115,000 AFY 18.6%	Yes	+70,000 AF	+1,000 AF	+900,000 AF
С	Historical lows in subsidence area Domestic well depths + 10 feet elsewhere 0 long-term storage change in subsidence area		70,000 AFY 11.4%	Yes	+30,000 AF	-40,000 AF	+200,000 AF
D*	Historical lows in subsidence area Domestic well depths + 10 feet elsewhe Avoiding negative storage at any tim area	115,000 AFY 18.6%	Yes	+70,000 AF	+1,000 AF	+900,000 AF	
	*Same model run as B						

Conceptual Scenario - Pumping vs Groundwater Levels Diagram



Groundwater Level Measurable Objective

- Desired state for groundwater levels
- Should be sufficiently higher than the minimum threshold to allow for impacts of droughts



- Previously based on average simulated conditions under sustainable conditions
- New definition of minimum threshold requires reconsideration of measurable objectives



Measurable Objective Approach



Groundwater Level Interim Milestones





Interim Milestone Approach



Subsidence Sustainability Management Criteria

- Minimum threshold option: 0 ft/yr with consideration of uncertainty
- Other options:
 - Total subsidence instead of rate
 - Addition of a 5-year rolling average or similar
- Measurement error
 - GPS observations from the USBR network have a +/- 2.5 cm (~1 inch) vertical accuracy
 - Measurement error issue to be discussed with DWR
- Other option (groundwater levels as proxy) would involve more rework of the section which is currently based on subsidence rate

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Subsidence Sustainability Management Criteria

- Measurable objective option: 0 ft/yr
- Interim Milestones will assume some level of subsidence through 2040 residual and new



Management Action for Subsidence Area

- Goal: Target pumping reduction (or recharge activities) within Subsidence Focus Area to achieve positive annual storage change (defined by region with 2015-2021 average <-0.15 ft/yr)
- Exact details to be developed as part of the management action determined after GSP is updated



Management Action for Domestic Well Mitigation Program

- Management action to develop a Domestic Well Mitigation Program
- Identify need for the program during GSP implementation
- Envisions a board or committee reviewing claims
- Claims would need to be tied to regional groundwater conditions
- Primary financial responsibility with MSGSA, through negotiations
- Details to be developed



Adoption Process and Opportunities for Input

Week Starting	5/15	5/22	5/29	6/5	6/12	6/19	6/26	7/3	7/10	7/17	7/24
GWL SMC updates											
Subsidence SMC updates											
Prepare updated GSP redline											
GSA staff & CC review											
Comments incorporation											
Board review and adoption											
CC/SAC Meetings			X				X				
DWR Meetings											
Submit updated GSP to DWR											
Project Management											

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Next Steps

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What's coming up next?

- Revised GSP for adoption by GSAs in July
- Adjourn to next meeting: tentatively 1pm June 27, 2022





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