



## MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director  
Andrew Garcia, Senior Civil Engineer  
Joe McGahan, Regional Drainage/Westside Watershed Coalition Coordinator

DATE: August 8, 2019

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for June 2019

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This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for July 2019 regarding specified<sup>1</sup> Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

### 1. Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Summary

#### **Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP)**

On June 26, SLDMWA staff received a \$223,001 reimbursement check from DWR and Contra Costa Water District for the following; consultant and staff costs prior to February 1, 2019, and consultant and staff costs for the period of February through April, 2019. Additionally, staff received an \$134,000 advanced funding check for consultant costs for Needs Assessment work to pay consultant invoices from May through project completion. Reimbursements were delivered on July 24 from the received reimbursement check totaling \$223,001. The funds were distributed back to Legislative & CVP Operational Affairs (LegOps) participants based on the funds allocation percentages.

The consultant continued work on the San Joaquin River Funding Area Needs Assessment for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) with a public workshop scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup> in San Joaquin County, to discuss the DAC Involvement Program and results of the Needs Assessment in the Westside-San Joaquin IRWM Region.

In the Tulare Kern Funding Area, the Needs Assessment is complete, the Community Education Program is in progress, and the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) continued approving projects eligible for DACIP funding. In the Westside San Joaquin Region one DAC, the City of Huron,

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<sup>1</sup> For the sake of completeness, this includes those Activity Agreements that have been approved by the Board of Directors, but not yet signed by all interested members and/or participants (i.e., the Los Vaqueros Expansion Project Activity Agreement, the Exchange Contractors 2019-2023 Transfer Program Activity Agreement, and the Westside-San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Agreement).

submitted for funding. The City of Huron, which was approved to receive \$230,000 for a feasibility analysis of a water supply project as well as \$20,000 reimbursement for application costs for IRWM implementation funding, began work with Tulare County to get consultant agreement documents executed. Other projects are scheduled to be discussed for a general pot of competitive funding in August.

Staff began and continued communication with the Council for Watershed Health, who is supporting both the City of Newman and City of Mendota for storm water project development and funding. Staff informed the consultant that both of these projects could have numerous funding pots, including implementation grant funding and DACIP implementation funding.

In addition, staff began conversations with Contra Costa Water District who has identified priority water systems in the state based on a California Urban Water Agency (CUWA) study. The study identified systems that, upon resolving water quality issues, could help resolve compliance issues for a large number of people. In this IRWM region, Dos Palos has been identified as a potential candidate. Staff will continue to work with Contra Costa Water District staff and the City of Dos Palos to identify potential funding and project planning activities to assist in resolving any issues identified by the State Water Resources Control Board.

#### **General Westside IRWM Plan**

Staff received all eleven (11) signatures for the IRWM Activity Agreement for current and future IRWM activities. The Activity Agreement was compiled into a final executed document with first membership dues collected July 12<sup>th</sup>. Staff held a meeting of the IRWM Regional Water Management Group and its stakeholders on July 31st, to discuss the need for development of a Stormwater Resources Plan, updates on grant application activities, ACWA's IRWM policy principles and the correlation to the California Water Plan, as well as the need to replace a project in the San Joaquin River Funding Area Implementation Grant application.

In the Tulare Kern Funding Area, Westlands Water District, Pleasant Valley Water District, and the City of Huron agreed to share costs for an IRWM Implementation Grant application. These agencies, along with Authority staff, attended a workshop with the Department of Water resources to present the agencies projects in June and received feedback in mid-July. SLDMWA's consultant (EKI Environment & Water, Inc.) continues to assist in compiling project information and is assisting in preparing the Implementation Grant application, utilizing feedback given by DWR post-workshop. The feedback mentioned that two of the projects may be utilizing flood flows as water supply and thus may require a Stormwater Resources Plan. This requirement is an eligibility requirement for the Grant Proposal Solicitation Package.

In the San Joaquin River Funding Area, the IRWM regions coordinated with the IRWM funding area working group to compromise and split the available grant funding, rather than competitively apply. The Westside-San Joaquin region will receive \$3.41 million of the \$24 million for the 2018 Implementation grant funding. A letter of agreement has been drafted and was

reviewed again in July, with tentative approval in August. The funding area currently has its workshop set with DWR for late August and staff is coordinating with project proponents to understand projects well enough for the workshop.

## **2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity Summary**

### **Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region**

The monthly joint North and Central Management Committee meeting was rescheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup> to allow for review of GSP sections, commenting on the subbasin common chapter and technical memorandum, and review of the estimated budget increase for these SGMA activities for the remainder of the fiscal year. Staff continued to collect groundwater data this month and on numerous occasions reminded the committee members and their staff of the importance of a thorough review of the draft GSP sections.

Woodard & Curran staff distributed an updated table outlining when each section is estimated to be distributed for review as well as when comments are due. SLDMWA staff and a few GSA representatives reviewed compiled comments to assist Woodard & Curran in their incorporation of comments on the GSP sections. There were two in person meetings to review compiled conflicting comments, in order to give direction to the consultant.

The first grant application package was approved by DWR and staff was informed that the grantee, West Stanislaus Irrigation District, received reimbursements of nearly \$900,000 in mid-June. Authority staff received funds from WSID and issued reimbursement to the various applicable grant parties on July 17th. In total, the Northern and Central Management Committee members (excluding DWR retention) received reimbursement for \$443,361 directly toward GSP development costs. Staff continued working with the consultant and DWR on a grant amendment, in an attempt to extend the grant period and to request approval for reimbursement of nearly \$500,000 in costs spent on coordination of the six plans.

Finally, the Central DM Region Multi-Agency GSA, which agreed to a Joint Powers Agreement document in June, will be changing its name to remove 'Multi-Agency' and has outlined all necessary steps for formation in August. All parties to this agreement are expected to have the Agreement document adopted and executed in August. SLDMWA staff and outside counsel began compiling cost estimates in the formal processes for filing the JPA documents and will assist as necessary.

### **General SGMA Activities**

Authority staff continued to coordinate the SGMA efforts for the six (6) GSP groups in the subbasin. Multiple coordination Committee, Technical working group, and Data Management System development working group meetings were held. The committees and working groups focused on the development of a subbasin data management system and incorporation of edits and comments to the eight Technical Memoranda and a Common Chapter to accompany the six

individual GSPs and subbasin Coordination Agreement. Authority staff presented a proposed amendment for costs to complete the coordinated portions of the GSPs, including only additional consultant costs with no modification to estimated costs of Authority staff time. The final coordinated materials for a single GSP package are expected to be in draft form by early August 2019, with approval by the coordination committee on August 12th.

Claire Howard, CivicSpark Fellow working with the Authority, finalized and distributed the seventh newsletter to all GSA representatives. The newsletter describes both the coordinated subbasin SGMA activities and important activities for each individual GSP being developed.

The coordination committee agreed on amending the Proposition 1 sustainable groundwater planning grant agreement with DWR. The consultant supporting grant administration began formally amending the agreement and those documents are currently under review by DWR staff. In short, the amendment will formally request extension of the grant agreement period, as well as for the “coordinated expenses” to be covered by these funds. Again, the “coordinated expenses” are those expenses shared by all six groups developing GSPs which were shared while ensuring the same data and methodologies were used including, but not limited to, meetings, SLDMWA staff coordination, and development of the common chapter and technical memoranda.

### **3. Drainage Activity Summary**

#### **Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity Summary**

A Grassland Bypass Steering Committee was held on July 19. Work continues on the Long-Term Storm Water Management Plan (LTSWP) and the potential future San Luis Drain Use Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. The Initial Study and Addendum to the 2009 EIS/EIR were coordinated with consultants and prepared. Edits to proposed waste discharge requirements were sent to the Regional Board. Database edits were made to provide to Contra Costa Water District at their request. A meeting was held with the USBR regarding the LTSWP in Fresno. Ongoing monitoring for discharges from the Grassland Bypass Project and data entry continued. Work to administer the Prop 84 grant for the LTSWP and reuse area upgrades continued. Regional questions on the Grassland Bypass Project annual report were reviewed and answered. A presentation was prepared for a Regional Board meeting on August 2 to summarize the Long-Term Storm Water Management Plan. Administration of the Prop 84 grant to implement the LTSWMP continued.

Activities also included management of the Third Party Group for the Grassland Drainage Area Coalition to implement the Irrigated Lands Program. Support was provided to farmers for completing their paperwork requirements. The July 31 membership list was assembled and submitted. This required extensive coordination with districts and farmers to make sure farmer paperwork was up to date and submitted correctly.

#### **San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority Activity Summary**

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Preparations were started for August San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority Board Meeting. Follow up occurred with the Regional Board on various water quality management plans. Follow up calls and emails were answered to assist farmers in completing their paperwork requirements. Follow up mailings for missing paperwork were prepared and mailed. Data was entered into the ILRP database. The July 31 membership list was assembled and submitted. This required extensive coordination with districts and farmers to make sure farmer paperwork was up to date and submitted correctly. Farmers not up to date will receive notices of violation from the State. Focused outreach meetings and follow up were organized as part of surface water quality management plans. Management continued for the Prop 84 Real Time Management Program Grant. This grant is part of compliance with the San Joaquin River Salt and Boron TMDL.