



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: September 11, 2019

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for August 2019

This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for August 2019 regarding specified¹ Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

1. Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Summary

[Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program \(DACIP\)](#)

On August 26, SLDMWA staff received a \$60,674 reimbursement making the total to date \$283,675 in reimbursements from DWR and Contra Costa Water District for the following; consultant and staff costs for the period through April, 2019. Additionally, staff utilized a portion of the \$134,000 advanced funding check for consultant costs for Needs Assessment work to pay consultant invoices after May. Reimbursements from the \$60,674 will be distributed or credited 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 two public workshops scheduled for September for the American River and Greater San Joaquin IRWM regions, to discuss the DAC Involvement Program and results of the Needs Assessment those regions. The draft needs assessment is currently scheduled to be available for review in October with the final complete report available in November.

¹ 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).

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 August, projects were reviewed and approved for a general pot of competitive funding. No projects were proposed from the Westside-San Joaquin IRWM region.

Staff 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. This is contingent on stormwater funding availability and because these are DACs, they will not be reliant on the completion of a Stormwater Resources Plan.

In addition, staff followed up on conversations with Contra Costa Water District who has identified priority water systems in the state based on a California Urban Water Agency (CUWA) study. As a reminder, 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 continued to work with Contra Costa Water District staff and attempted to contact 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. Staff was unsuccessful contacting the City of Dos Palos representative, but will continue to do so thru September.

General Westside IRWM Plan

The Activity Agreement was compiled into a final executed document with first membership dues collected July 12th. Staff held a meeting of the IRWM Regional Water Management Group and its stakeholders on August 21st, to discuss the need for development of a Stormwater Resources Plan (SWRP), the status of the request for proposals to develop the SWRP, and its impact on the two IRWM Implementation Grant applications.

In the San Joaquin Funding Area, the IRWM Implementation Grant application project proponents, along with the Authority consultant, attended a workshop with the Department of Water resources to present the agencies projects on August 28 and are still awaiting feedback. SLDMWA's consultant (Woodard & Curran) continues to assist in compiling project information and is assisting in preparing the Implementation Grant application, and are planning to utilize feedback given by DWR post-workshop. 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 Tulare Kern Funding Area, the consultant, EKI Water & Environment, Inc. continued working on completion of the grant application package and compiling all pertinent information from project proponents. The grant application package is on schedule to be completed for submission to DWR by September 6th. The Activity Agreement participants in this funding area

were asked to consider the proposal which was received for development of a Stormwater Resources Plan and will continue to discuss the proposal and willingness to develop this plan in September.

2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity Summary

[Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region](#)

The monthly joint North and Central Management Committee meeting was held on August 29th with topics of discussion including a budget update, current grant opportunities and grant reimbursements, draft policies for implementation of the GSP, and the Notice of Intent for adoption of the GSP. 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 final draft GSP sections.

Woodard & Curran staff distributed final draft GSP sections for final comments, due by September 4th, to be incorporated before the 90-day Notice of Intent for adoption of the Northern & Central Delta-Mendota Region GSP is posted to the deltamendota.org website on September 9th. Additionally, staff began reviewing public drafts of GSPs for neighboring Subbasins that may have impacts on the GSAs or their stakeholders within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. Preliminary review of the draft GSPs shows a varied response to impacts of subsidence, chronic lowering of water levels, and development of monitoring networks and data collection.

The second grant application package was approved by DWR and staff was informed that the grantee, West Stanislaus Irrigation District, is expected to receive reimbursements of nearly \$365,000 in mid-September. Authority staff and Woodard & Curran finalized working with DWR on a grant agreement amendment, in which the request was approved for reimbursement of over \$600,000 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, changed its name to remove 'Multi-Agency' and completed all necessary steps for formation in August. All parties to this Agreement document adopted and executed by August 28th. SLDMWA staff and outside counsel compiled cost estimates to support formation of the JPA and for an initial operating budget of this JPA. Staff anticipates an amendment to the Central Delta-Mendota SGMA Services Activity Agreement relatively soon to update items due to this reformation of this GSA.

[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, allowing the subconsultant to begin programming of the DMS this month. Finally, the eight Technical Memoranda and a

Common Chapter which accompany the six individual GSPs and subbasin Coordination Agreement were officially approved by the Coordination Committee on August 12th. 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, which were also approved by the Coordination Committee on August 12th. Staff also coordinated the review of neighboring GSPs with the Coordination Committee Technical Working Group, with the process continuing thru the various GSP review periods to ensure all agencies have adequate information and resources to comment on these GSPs.

Authority staff finalized and distributed the eighth newsletter to all GSA representatives. The newsletter describes both the coordinated subbasin SGMA activities and important activities for each individual GSP being developed.

The consultant supporting grant administration, and the grantee, formally amended the agreement and those documents were signed by DWR staff. In short, the amendment formally requested that 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. In total, thru June 2019, this total is approximately \$475,000 with the total reimbursement anticipated to be \$625,000 for these activities.

3. Drainage Activity Summary

[Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity Summary:](#)

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. A meeting was held with Gary Bobker, Hal Candee and Yuan Liu with Contra Costa Water District on the LTSWP. Database edits were made in preparation for the meeting. A presentation was made to a workshop of the Regional Board in Rancho Cordova regarding the LTSWP. The addendum and Initial Study were put in final form for posting on the SL&D-MWA website. A meeting was held with the USBR regarding the LTSWP in Fresno. Assistance was provided to USBR for preparation of the biological assessments for the LTSWP. Organized and led a field tour of the Grassland Bypass Project for Regional Board staff. 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.

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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.

[San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority Activity Summary:](#)

Prepared for and attended August 6 San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority Board Meeting. Revisions were made to the surface water quality management plans and submitted to the Regional Board. Focused outreach meetings were organized and presentations made at CCID in Los Banjos and at San Luis Canal Co in Dos Palos. 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. Focused outreach meetings and follow up were organized as part of surface water quality management plans. A conference call was held with the Regional Board regarding the sediment management plan. Mailings to farmers for completion of sediment management plan were completed. Management continued for the Prop 84 Real Time Management Program Grant. This included preparation of vendor specs for purchase of equipment. This grant is part of compliance with the San Joaquin River Salt and Boron TMDL.