



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Joe McGahan, Regional Drainage/Westside Watershed Coalition Coordinator

DATE: June 4, 2020

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for April 2020

This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for May 2020 regarding specified¹ Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

1. Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Summary

San Joaquin River Funding Area (SJRFA)

The SJRFA disadvantaged community involvement program (DACIP) is in the process of amending its grant agreement with DWR. This grant agreement amendment will incorporate funding for Phase 2 of the DACIP, which is focused on projects for technical assistance and capacity building for the SJRFA's disadvantaged communities.

DWR shared draft funding awards for the SJRFA Proposition 1 Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Solicitation on May 7th. The four projects submitted for the Westside-San Joaquin IRWM Region are recommended to receive the full funding request, totaling \$3,427,791. DWR requested additional information regarding disadvantaged community benefits for three of these projects. The public review period of 21 days closed May 28th. Once DWR confirms the final funding awards, SLDMWA staff will continue to work with the Woodard & Curran project team and each of the project implementing agencies to confirm next steps for this funding.

Tulare-Kern Funding Area (TKFA)

DWR finalized funding awards for the Proposition 1 Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant program in the Tulare-Kern Funding Area at the end of April. The TKFA was awarded \$650,000

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).

for the City of Huron Groundwater Supply Well and Recharge Project and \$10,000 for contract administration work. SLDMWA staff have been coordinating with the City of Huron project representative and DWR to confirm receipt of the official award notification letter and next steps to begin grant agreement negotiations.

General Westside IRWM Plan

The public comment period for the Westside-San Joaquin Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP) closed May 20th and the SWRP was finalized at the end of May. This Plan ensures that stormwater and dry weather runoff capture projects in the WSJ IRWM Region will be eligible for future grant funding.

2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity Summary

Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions

The monthly meeting of the Northern and Central Management Committees was held on May 28th. EKI has developed implementation tracking tools for the GSAs in the Northern and Central Regions to ensure the GSAs work toward the projects, management actions, and data gap filling that was outlined in the Northern & Central GSP. The Woodard & Curran team is leading monitoring training sessions to standardize data sampling processes within the GSP region. The water quality sampling period is May-July; once required sampling is conducted by GSAs, the data will be shared with SLDMWA for compilation.

EKI will lead the development of a request for proposals (RFP) on behalf of the Northern and Central Management Committees to support the well census and inventory project that will be supported through funding from the Subbasin-wide Proposition 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant.

General SGMA Activities

The Subbasin's data management system (DMS), developed by Houston Engineering, Inc, has been finalized and was shared with GSA representatives during a June 2nd meeting. The DMS will provide a repository for data collected for sustainability indicators through GSP implementation. As GSAs collect seasonal and annual data through implementation, these data will be uploaded to the DMS to provide evaluations of groundwater management relative to established measurable objectives and minimum thresholds. The DMS is designed to support the development of future Annual Reports by summarizing these data in an efficient manner.

The next Coordination Committee meeting is scheduled for June 8th. During this meeting, the Coordination Committee will further discuss their plans for the Proposition 68 well census and inventory project. Three comment letters were finalized and submitted on behalf of the Coordination Committee on adjacent subbasins' GSPs (Chowchilla, Merced, and McMullin) prior to the May 15th deadline of DWR's public comment period. Each of the six Delta-Mendota

Subbasin GSPs received comments during this period as well. The Coordination Committee will discuss the GSP groups' plans for using this information moving forward.

3. Drainage Activity Summary

Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity Summary

Staff worked on activities to finalize the 5th use Agreement for Use of the San Luis Drain for the Long-Term Storm Water Management Plan, including coordination with Reclamation and resource agencies regarding installation of deer ladders in the San Luis Drain.

Staff prepared for and facilitated GBD Steering Committee Board Meeting. Work continued on the Drainage Management Plan. Issues with non-compliant discharger were followed up on.

Coordinate work related to the agreement with Newman Land Company and State Fish and Wildlife for restoration of Mud Slough to conditions prior to the Grassland Bypass Project. Activities include field work and project design to submit draft 404 permit applications to the US Army Corps of Engineers and 401 certification to the Regional Water Quality Control Board and State Fish and Wildlife Service, including CEQA documents for the Mud Slough Restoration Project.

Staff continued ongoing monitoring for discharges from the Grassland Bypass Project and data entry, as well as the administration of the Prop 84 grant for the Long-Term Storm Water Plan and reuse area upgrades.

Activities also included management of the Third Party Group for the Grassland Drainage Area Coalition to implement the Irrigated Lands Program, the preparation and submittal of the annual monitoring report and trend monitoring report. Support was provided to farmers for completing their paperwork requirements and upcoming paperwork mailings were prepared.

San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority Activity Summary

General support was provided to farmers for compliance with paperwork and web data, data entry, field monitoring program management, membership list, and nitrogen summary reports were mailed. Grant management continued for the Prop 84 Real Time Management Program Grant, including preparation of an annual report. Coordination continued regarding groundwater protection targets and Regional Board staff. Begin work on June 30 annual report.