



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

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

DATE: October 8, 2020

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for September 2020

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

1. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Activity Summary

San Joaquin River Funding Area (SJRFA)

The grant agreement amendment for the SJRFA disadvantaged community involvement program (DACIP) has been finalized with the Department of Water Resources (DWR). This grant agreement amendment incorporates funding for Phase 2 of the DACIP, which focuses on projects for technical assistance and capacity building for the SJRFA's disadvantaged communities. SLDMWA staff are identifying an eligible project for DACIP funding within the Westside-San Joaquin IRWM Region and SJRFA.

SLDMWA staff, local project sponsors, and the Woodard & Curran project team provided deliverables to DWR as part of the confirmation process for the SJRFA's \$3,427,791 awarded funding through the Proposition 1 Round 1 IRWM Implementation Grant. DWR developed a single draft grant agreement for the Westside-San Joaquin IRWM Region's Proposition 1 projects included in both the SJRFA and TKFA. The Woodard & Curran consultant team provided a revised draft grant agreement to DWR in early October after confirming project schedules, budget, and work plan details with local project sponsors.

Tulare-Kern Funding Area (TKFA)

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).

SLDMWA staff confirmed with the City of Huron representatives that the Woodard & Curran team will lead grant administration for the City of Huron's project. This will allow for increased efficiencies for the Westside San Joaquin IRWM Region's single grant agreement and coordination with DWR for the SJRFA and TKFA projects supported through Proposition 1 funding. The Woodard & Curran consultant team provided a revised draft grant agreement to DWR in early October after confirming project schedules, budget, and work plan details with City of Huron representatives.

General Westside-San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP)

The Westside-San Joaquin IRWMP and Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP) were updated for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in September. These final documents are available online via the SLDMWA website.

2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity (SGMA) Activity Summary

Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions

The Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions' consultant teams are coordinating with GSA representatives to confirm water quality data collected during this year's irrigation season. These data will be included in the next Annual Report, which will be developed and submitted to the Department of Water Resources by April 1, 2021.

The Northern and Central Management Committees will kick off their well census and inventory efforts later this month with support from the Provost & Pritchard and Kenneth D. Schmidt and Associates team. This team's support will be tailored for each GSA to support the varying needs throughout the Northern and Central Regions. These efforts are funded in part through the Subbasin's Proposition 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) grant.

General SGMA Activities

GSA representatives recently finalized water quality data collection for the Subbasin's representative monitoring network. Some GSP Groups have identified water level or water quality monitoring sites that are not accessible and, as needed, are considering adjustments to their representative monitoring networks. Such changes or inability to collect water level or water quality data at identified sites will be described in the next Annual Report.

The seasonal low groundwater level monitoring period is September 1 – October 31. Representatives from all GSP Groups have been reminded of the current monitoring window. These data will be included in the next Annual Report and will also be uploaded to the Subbasin's Monitoring Network Module.

The Delta-Mendota Subbasin Technical Working Group met in early October to discuss upcoming Subbasin-wide funding opportunities, monitoring efforts, and projects supported by the current

Proposition 68 SGM grant. The Proposition 68 SGM grant supports the Subbasin's efforts on developing a Subbasin well census and inventory and subsidence characterization study. SLDMWA staff are coordinating with United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and DWR representatives to gather input on the Subbasin's approach for the subsidence characterization study.

The Subbasin is in the final stage of compiling application materials for the Department of Conservation Watershed Coordinator Program grant. San Luis Water District has volunteered to be the grant applicant on behalf of the Subbasin. If awarded, this funding will support ongoing Subbasin-wide coordination and GSP implementation efforts.

Another upcoming funding opportunity the Subbasin intends to pursue is the Proposition 68 Implementation grant. This will support up to \$5 million for implementation projects identified in the Subbasin's GSPs. During the Subbasin's October Technical Working Group meeting and the Coordination Committee meeting that will be held in mid-October, GSP Group representatives will discuss prioritizing potential projects and confirm the Subbasin's approach for this funding opportunity.

The next edition of the quarterly Subbasin newsletter will be shared in early October. This edition will provide a Subbasin-wide overview and GSP-specific updates on activities completed this summer (July, August, and September).

3. Drainage Activity Summary

Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity Summary:

Continue work on Drainage Management Plan due in December 2020.

Prepare for and organize conference call Board meeting for the GBD Steering Committee. Follow up on issues related to bankruptcy proceedings for non-compliant discharger. Review and prepare invoice letters to admin staff. Continue to develop wording for MOU for new members.

Organize meeting of local wetland managers regarding supplemental mitigation fund developed for the 2009 Use Agreement.

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. Wetland impacts were calculated, maps prepared and mitigation requirements were determined. The hydrology report was modified with new operation description to offset mitigation requirements. Review permit application status with permit consultant. Review of CEQA documents for cultural portion of Mud Slough Restoration Project.

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Organize conference call regarding completion of the biological opinion for the 2009 Use Agreement. Follow up conversation with USBR.

Review the 2019 biological monitoring report on the SJRIP and transmit report to USF&WS and USBR.

Ongoing monitoring for discharges from the Grassland Bypass Project and data entry continued. Work to administer the Prop 84 grant for the Long-Term Storm Water Plan and reuse area upgrades continued. Continue to manage monitoring plan.

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:

Follow up calls and emails were answered to assist farmers in completing their paperwork requirements. Data entry, field monitoring management, and membership database updating continued. Review invoices from consultants and prepare letters to administrative staff. Participate in Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative conference call. Participate in quarterly meeting with USBR regarding San Joaquin River management agency agreement. Staff meeting with consultants regarding upcoming deliverables. Review 2020 trend monitoring well results. Review regional Board review of annual monitoring report. Work with Regional Board to identify farmer members that have not fulfilled compliance paperwork.

Management continued for the Prop 84 Real Time Management Program Grant for compliance with the San Joaquin River Salt and Boron TMDL.