



## MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

FROM: John Brodie, Water Resource Programs Manager  
Joe McGahan, Regional Drainage/Westside Watershed Coalition Coordinator

DATE: March 10, 2022

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for February 2022

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This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for February 2022 regarding specified<sup>1</sup> 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)*

Work is now complete on the Phase 2 SJRFA Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP). SLDMWA staff previously coordinated with the City of Newman on the Newman Environmental Wetland System (NEWS) project with Contra Costa Water District as the SJRFA DACIP grantee. Work on this phase of the project was focused on completing a geotechnical report, construction documents, a landscape plan, and a design report.

#### *Tulare-Kern Funding Area (TKFA)*

IRWM regions in the funding area must come to a consensus on when to submit an application for Proposition 1, Round 2 funding. Most IRWM regions in the TKFA prefer the paired October 2022 and February 2023 deadlines. The comment period on the draft Proposal Solicitation Package and Guidelines closed February 18. The final PSP and guidelines including application deadlines are expected to be released in April.

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

SLDMWA Staff continues to work with the WSJ IRWM Region's Project Proponents and Activity Agreement members to update the Opti database of projects. Project Proponents are being urged to update details including project status, funding requirements, and amount of water (AF/year) recharged, saved, or recycled/recirculated.

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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).

## **2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity (SGMA) Activity Summary**

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

The Northern and Central Management Committees held their regular joint meeting in late February. Updates given at the meeting included a preliminary draft of a Subsidence Characterization and Project Feasibility Study paid for by DWR Grant funding. The final report is expected in March, and will focus on subsidence near critical infrastructure and recommended monitoring and mitigation measures.

### **General SGMA Activities**

A subcommittee of Delta-Mendota Subbasin representatives met February 18 with DWR SGMA program staff to review the Determination Letter issued on the six D-M GSPs. DWR issued the Determination Letter January 21, 2022 and designated the D-M Plans incomplete. GSP groups have until July 20 to make required changes. Two more meetings between subbasin stakeholders and DWR SGMA staff are scheduled in March.

An application for \$10 million in SGMA Round 1 Implementation funding was submitted on behalf of the subbasin for projects and activities to meet the goals and objectives of the regulation. Del Puerto Water District/DM-II GSA is the lead applicant on behalf of all 23 GSAs in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. DWR will award approximately \$7.6 million of the total application amount.

SLDMWA staff and consultants continue to coordinate with GSP groups to gather information for the Third Annual Report on SGMA Implementation. The report will cover Water Year 2021. The deadline to submit the report is April 1, 2022.

The Spring/Seasonal High Water Level monitoring window opened February 1, 2022. All GSAs have until April 30, 2022 to monitor the water level of designated representative monitoring wells.

## **3. Drainage Activity Summary**

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

Prepare agenda and meeting materials and lead January 18, 2022 GBD Steering Committee meeting, including presentation of the GBD Fund 23 Budget for approval.

Preparation of consultant contract agreements for 22-23 year.

Work with attorneys in preparation of court documentation for the PCFFA lawsuit.

Review membership dues details with Panoche Drainage District.

Review issues with CDFW on the Mud Slough mitigation project. Field surveying for permits.

Follow through on requests for treatment suppliers on the SJRIP.

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Proceed with development of installation of monitoring wells and other operational requirements for Grassland Bypass Project.

Coordinate activities with the Grassland Basin Authority for operation of the SJRIP.

Other ongoing activities: Continue to review GBD invoices, prepare annual monitoring reports, support for ongoing litigation and data management and management of the Third Party Group for the Grassland Drainage Area Coalition to implement the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Work includes participation in activities for groundwater protection values.

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

Organize and lead SJVDA Board meeting and present FY 22-23 budget.

Review management zone requirements and develop budget estimates.

Continue management of the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition to comply with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. Begin assembling paperwork requirements for 2021 reporting year. Follow up calls and emails were answered to assist farmers in completing their paperwork requirements. Manage field monitoring program and provide update of the management plan to the Regional Board. Review invoices from consultants and prepare letters to admin staff. Continue to update membership database. Prepare for annual grower meetings. Enter farmer evaluation and nitrogen summary reports into coalition database.

Participate in group conference calls regarding surface and groundwater management plans, groundwater protection formulas and the CVSalts prioritization and optimization studies. Participate in Central Valley Groundwater Monitoring Collaborative conference calls. Participate in management practices effectiveness program conference call. Held meetings on Management Zone development. Manage ongoing monitoring. Revise the QAPP for the monitoring program. Prepare monitoring plan update and management plan.

Management continued for the Prop 84 Real Time Management Program Grant for compliance with the San Joaquin River Salt and Boron TMDL. Preparation of annual real time management program report. Direct in field monitoring station construction activities.