



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

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

DATE: September 15, 2022

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for August 2022

This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for August 2022 regarding specified¹ Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

1. Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Activity Summary

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

Three projects from the Westside San Joaquin IRWM Region were submitted for consideration by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for consideration of funding from the Proposition 1 Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant Program. Del Puerto Water District submitted an application for \$950,000 from the San Joaquin River Funding Area (SJRFA). Two projects from Westlands Water District will compete with projects from the Tulare Kern Funding Area's (TKFA) seven other IRWM regions.

Work continues on projects funded in Proposition 1 Round 1 in the SJRFA. Three active projects will add approximately 17,000 acre feet per year (AFY), plus increase water supply reliability and pumping efficiency by another 88,000 AFY. Two completed projects will add approximately 14,000 AFY in SJRFA and 1,000 AFY in TKFA.

Staff continues to take part in meetings and webinars including meetings of the IRWM Roundtable of Regions (ROR), the IRWM ROR Disadvantaged Communities and Tribal Working Group, and the Technical Advisory Committee of the Water Blueprint for the San Joaquin Valley.

2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity (SGMA) Activity Summary

Coordinated Activities

GSA's recently completed collection of water quality samples from Representative Monitoring Network (RMN) sites in the Subbasin. The information will be stored in the Subbasin's data

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).

management system and uploaded to DWR's SGMA Portal. Fall groundwater level monitoring will begin September 1, 2022. GSP groups are also reviewing the latest subsidence monitoring data from USBR and DWR.

General SGMA Activities

DWR and Del Puerto Water District are expected to finalize a grant agreement for \$7.6 million dollars from the state's SGMA Round 1 Implementation Grant Program. Del Puerto Water District served as the lead applicant on behalf of the Subbasin. Water recharge and enhancement activities are expected to add more than 25,000 AFY in storage, recharge, and water supply reliability to the Subbasin once completed. Other funds will be used for installation of monitoring equipment, site selections and studies to inform adaptive management for SGMA implementation activities. Funds can also be used to offset the cost of revising GSPs determined incomplete by DWR, and to pay for work on the 5 year GSP updates due in 2025.

3. Drainage Activity Summary

Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity Summary

- *Grassland Water District Monitoring Wells*

A total of 10 observation wells are planned to be installed to monitor groundwater levels and quality within the San Joaquin River Improvement Project and in a portion of Grassland Water District to the north. To date, five of the observation wells have been installed. The remaining five were delayed due to permitting issues from Merced County and landowner issues, which are in the process of being addressed.

- *Compliance Monitoring*

Work is continuing to comply with the monitoring requirement of the 2019 Revised WDRs and with the December 2019 Use Agreement. This monitoring includes particulate sediment and fish collection and analysis to continue to analyze possible impacts of very infrequent discharge from the Grassland Bypass Project to Mud Slough and the San Joaquin River.

- *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

- *General*

Continue management of the Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition to comply with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. 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. Enter farmer evaluation and nitrogen summary reports into coalition database. Meet with members to answer program questions.

- *Groundwater Protection Formula, Values and Targets*

Coalitions are developing a methodology to establish nitrogen loading values and targets as required by the WDRs. The coalitions have calculated current values by township (36 square miles) and will propose interim targets and longer-term final targets for each township. If a township does not meet the approved GWP Targets, Coalitions will need to amend their Groundwater Quality Management Plan to include new management practices designed to meet the township's GWP Target. If a Coalition has elected to comply with the state's Nitrogen Permitting Strategy through the Management Zone alternative, the Coalition will have significantly more time to meet final GWP Targets.

- *Management Zones*

The Central Valley Basin Plan's Nitrate Permitting Strategy divided the Central Valley into Priority 1, Priority 2 and non-Prioritized basins. The Westside Coalition is in Priority 2. Priority 1 basins have developed and begun to implement their nitrate programs. The Regional Board is expected to issue notices to comply to Priority 2 basins in early 2023. The Westside San Joaquin River Watershed Coalition is in a Priority 2 basin and therefore is expected to receive a Notice to Comply from the Regional Board in 2023. The Westside Coalition is working to develop a plan to help form a Management Zone to comply with the requirements. The Management Zone will incorporate all dischargers of nitrate to groundwater, including municipal wastewater plants, dairies and industrial dischargers. The Management Zone will need to identify domestic wells that are high in nitrate and develop and plan to provide alternative water.