



## 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: December 12, 2019

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for November 2019

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This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for November 2019 regarding specified<sup>1</sup> Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

### 1. Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Summary

#### **Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP)**

##### *San Joaquin River Funding Area (SJRF)*

SLDMWA staff and Accounting department worked to distribute reimbursements from previously received grant funding and began preparing the grant reimbursement package for submittal to DWR by the most recent quarter.

The final SJRF DACIP Needs Assessment is now complete. The Funding Area IRWM Region representatives have scheduled a meeting in December to discuss the use of remaining grant funding and project selection procedure.

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

Staff has been coordinating with Westlands Water District staff to appoint a Westlands Water District staff member to the TKFA DACIP Stakeholder Advisory Committee. This Committee administers funding for the DACIP in the Tulare-Kern Funding Area.

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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).

### **General Westside IRWM Plan**

SLDMWA staff began the preparation of the Fiscal Year 2021 IRWM Activity Agreement budget. This will be reviewed and approved by January and brought to the SLDMWA Board of Directors for final approval in February prior to the start of Fiscal Year 2021.

The San Joaquin River Funding Area Proposition 1 Implementation Funding grant application was submitted. The Tulare-Kern Funding Area Proposition 1 Implementation Funding grant application was updated with input from DWR with additional information on the Stormwater Resources Plan and other requested details.

The consultant services agreement was executed and work began on the Stormwater Resources Plan (SWRP). Once complete, the SWRP will allow for future compliance with grant application requirements for projects submitted for Proposition 1 implementation funding.

## **2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity Summary**

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

Andrew Garcia shared that he will be leaving SLDMWA before the end of the year. The Management Committees had the opportunity to discuss their intended path forward, the role of SLDMWA, and how the future role of consultants will be utilized during the coming implementation transition year with Andrew's departure. The Finance Working Group of the Northern and Central Management Committees, a subgroup of Management Committee representatives, met to further discuss their vision for the future of the Northern and Central Management Committees during GSP implementation, and the roles of SLDMWA and consultant support for the responsibilities that Andrew currently oversees. The Finance Working Group also reviewed updates to the Fiscal Year 2021 draft SGMA Services Activity Agreement budgets and provided additional input on the development of these budgets.

The monthly joint Northern & Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committees meeting was held on November 25<sup>th</sup> with topics of discussion including approval of the Northern and Central Implementation Guidelines, authorization of approval of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Implementation Guidelines at the Coordination Committee level, ratification of letters of support for adjacent subbasins' Proposition 68 grant applications, discussion of the Fiscal Year 2021 SGMA Services Activity Agreement budgets, discussion of grant reimbursement packages and costs, review of the GSP adoption and upload schedule, and discussion of future SLDMWA SGMA team and roles.

The Management Committees approved the Northern & Central GSP Implementation Guidelines, which will be an internal document to support future implementation coordination between the GSAs in the Northern and Central Regions. The Management Committees also approved the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Implementation Guidelines, which will be considered for approval by the Coordination Committee on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Both sets of Implementation Guidelines provide internal guidance for ongoing coordination; neither is a formal policy or legal document.

In early November, a Request for Proposals was released that seeks consultant support for the first year of Northern & Central GSP implementation. Two proposals were received by the November 22<sup>nd</sup> deadline. The Finance Working Group of the Northern and Central Management Committees is currently reviewing the received proposals. Interviews will be held with the two applicant teams on December 12<sup>th</sup>. These interviews will allow the Finance Working Group members and SLDMWA staff to further consider the consultant support they will seek during the first year of GSP implementation.

A consultant services agreement was finalized for work to begin on the Northern & Central GSP Annual Report, which is due by April 1, 2020. A combination of Provost & Pritchard and Woodard & Curran team members, led by Provost & Pritchard, will develop the Annual Report.

SLDMWA and Woodard & Curran staff have started the GSP upload process on behalf of the Northern & Central Region GSAs. This involves seeking approval from the Northern & Central Region GSAs. These GSAs will share notices of individual GSA public hearings and resolutions documenting their official adoption of the GSP, once complete.

Staff continued to collect groundwater data this month and continued populating reporting templates with data to upload to the Subbasin data management system. Staff also recently submitted Technical Support Services applications through DWR for new monitoring wells in three GSA areas.

#### **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.

SLDMWA staff and representatives from the Delta-Mendota Subbasin's GSPs met with representatives from the Merced Subbasin on November 14<sup>th</sup> to further discuss contents of the adjoining GSPs, identify challenges and issues in these GSPs, and determine a process for ongoing interbasin coordination. SLDMWA staff also recently submitted a Facilitation Support Services application through DWR on behalf of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin to support ongoing interbasin coordination. This will support coordination with the Chowchilla and Madera Subbasins as well.

The Data Management System development working group continued to refine definitions of attributes within the DMS and further discussed contents and approaches for each GSP's Annual Report. In early December, representatives from the Coordination Committee and Technical Working Group will begin to develop Subbasin-wide groundwater contouring maps that will be incorporated into each Annual Report.

Authority staff finalized and distributed the 11th newsletter to all GSA representatives. The newsletter describes both the coordinated Subbasin SGMA activities and important activities for each individual GSP being developed.

### **3. Drainage Activity Summary**

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

Work continues on the Long-Term Storm Water Management Plan (LTSWMP) and the potential future San Luis Drain Use Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, including coordination between Reclamation and NOAA Fisheries regarding ESA and the reinitiation of the Third Use Agreement. Coordination continues with Contra Costa stakeholders regarding selenium concentrations and salinity discharges, including data analysis. The Regional Water Quality Control Board had additional follow up questions on proposed waste discharge requirements that were responded to.

Ongoing monitoring and data entry for discharges from the Grassland Bypass Project continued. Work to administer the Prop 84 grant for the LTSWP and reuse area upgrades continued.

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 and information was distributed on upcoming deadlines.

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

Revisions were made to the surface water quality management plans and submitted to the Regional Board. Maps were developed to delineate represented waterways. Preparations were made to send sediment requirements to farmers. Notice was developed for mailing of paperwork requirements to farmers. Update monitoring plan for recent Regional Board requirements. 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 Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program database. Management continued for the Prop 84 Real Time Management Program Grant. This grant is part of compliance with the San Joaquin River Salt and Boron TMDL. Begin work on November 30 annual report. Organize and begin preparations for annual grower meetings.