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: June 6, 2019

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for June 2019

This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for June 2019 regarding specified[1] Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

1. Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Summary

Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program (DACIP) –

The first submittal package for advanced grant funding and reimbursement of spent funds was submitted the final week of February to Contra Costa Water District. The grant package was submitted to the Department of Water Resources the week of March 18th, and was approved by DWR on May 13th. Staff anticipates reimbursements for the following; consultant and staff costs prior to February 1, 2019, consultant and staff costs for the period of February through April, 2019, and advanced funding for consultant costs for Needs Assessment work amounting to approximately $130,000. The consultant continued work on the San Joaquin River Funding Area Needs Assessment for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) and began distributing flyers for the June 4 community workshop in the Westside San Joaquin IRWM Region. The meeting is set to be held at Romero Elementary School in Santa Nella on June 4th, to discuss the DAC Involvement Program and results of the Needs Assessment in the Westside-San Joaquin IRWM Region.

In the Tulare Kern Funding Area, the Needs Assessment is complete and the Community Education Program is in progress. Richard Warner with the City of Huron was appointed to the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC of the Funding Area began approving requests for reimbursement for DAC IRWM application costs. The City of Huron submitted a project request

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[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 grant funding for a drinking water well and pipe replacement to Tulare County. The City will receive up to $250,000 for a feasibility analysis of the project as well as receive reimbursement for application costs for IRWM implementation funding. Staff continued preparation for the June PAC meeting to approve the project requests in the WSJ region and other regions as well.

General Westside IRWM Plan:
Staff worked with the Board of Directors to adopt an IRWM Activity Agreement for all future IRWM activities. The Activity Agreement has been executed by a number of parties, and will be compiled into a final executed document with first membership dues invoiced in June of 2019.

In the Tulare Kern Funding Area, Westlands Water District, Pleasant Valley Water District, and the City of Huron agreed to share costs for an IRWM Implementation Grant application and project information has been collected. These agencies, along with Authority staff, continued planning for a workshop with the Department of Water resources to present the agencies projects, which is now scheduled for June 25, 2019. The total request in dollars was reduced in this region to match the maximum available funding for this round of IRWM Implementation funding.

In the San Joaquin River Funding Area, the IRWM regions coordinated with the IRWM funding area working group to compromise and split the available grant funding, rather than competitively apply. The Westside-San Joaquin region will receive $3.41 million of the $24 million for the 2018 Implementation grant funding. A letter of agreement has been drafted and is set to be discussed during a regional IRWM group call in June. The funding area currently has its workshop set with DWR for late August and staff is coordinating with project proponents to understand projects well enough for the workshop. The late release of the proposal package may remove one project from being eligible for funding; Staff is scheduled to meet with the DWR financial branch in June to seek an extension on the execution period to keep the project eligible for funding.

2. <u>Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity Summary</u>

Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region –
At the monthly joint North and Central Management Committee meeting, the committees discussed the anticipated tasks and scope of work for GSP implementation, upper aquifer sustainable yield, projected water budget results and approved the monitoring network and sustainable management criteria to reach the agreed upon sustainability goal. The Region's GSA representatives and Authority staff participated in 4 community workshops to present information related to the above topics and answer questions from stakeholders. Discussions continued on the total monitoring network needed to determine change in storage and groundwater flow contours for both seasonal high and seasonal low water levels.

Woodard & Curran has completed drafts of the Monitoring Protocols and Groundwater Conditions sections of the GSP for review and comment by Authority and GSA staff. A final complete draft is expected by late July of 2019.

Grant application package 1 was approved by DWR and staff anticipates receiving reimbursements of nearly $500,000 in mid-June. The proposal solicitation package was received in draft form and is being reviewed by staff prior to the comment period closing.

Finally, the Central DM Region Multi-Agency GSA continued work on a draft Joint Powers Authority formation document and met to discuss the draft document.

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 communication working group meetings were held. The committees and working groups are focused on developing a subbasin data management system and completing the development of the subbasin monitoring network, sustainable yield and final water budget results. Authority staff has been coordinating the data management system development with an ad-hoc working group of various GSA and consultant staff. The final four public workshops were held the week of May 20th. To summarize the workshops, participation was much lower than previous workshops, mainly due to fatigue but also a lot of information distribution via emails, newsletters, grower's workshops, and individual agency board meetings. The final coordinated materials for a single GSP package are expected to be in draft form by late July 2019.

Claire Howard, CivicSpark Fellow working with the Authority, finalized and distributed the sixth newsletter to all GSA representatives. The newsletter describes both the coordinated subbasin SGMA activities and important activities for each individual GSP being developed.

The coordination committee agreed on the general scope of work for GSP implementation and the activities that must be coordinated between the 6 individual GSPs being implemented. No decision has been made, but in order for the six GSP groups to plan, Authority staff has been asked by the Coordination Committee to perform the work without support from consultants due to costs. Staff anticipate continued dialog over the next few months to ensure efficiencies related to implementation costs for activities. The scope of work will be discussed at an upcoming Authority Board of Directors meeting.

3. Drainage Activity Summary

Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity Summary:

Work continues on the Long-Term Storm Water Management Plan (LTSWP) and the potential future San Luis Drain Use Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation. A conference call was held with the Regional Board to coordinate new waste discharge requirements for the LTSWP

and a public outreach meeting was set for June 18 in Sacramento. Follow up calls with various stakeholders occurred to keep them up to date on progress for the LTSWP. The annual biological report for the SJRIP reuse area was completed and sent to the US Fish & Wildlife Service as well as a recent scent dog survey report. Ongoing monitoring for discharges from the Grassland Bypass Project and data entry continued.

Activities also included management of the Third Party Group for the Grassland Drainage Area Coalition to implement the Irrigated Lands Program. The annual report to the Regional Board for the Coalition was prepared. The first round of groundwater trend monitoring was completed in December 2018 and a follow up report to the Regional Board was reviewed. Additional wells are being located to expand the program for monitoring in June 2019. Support was provided to farmers for completing their paperwork requirements.

San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority Activity Summary:

Responses were prepared to the Regional Board responding to questions on how parcels are identified for the various program requirements and previous monitoring results. Focused outreach meetings and follow up were organized as part of surface water quality management plans. The first round of groundwater trend monitoring was completed in December 2018 and additional wells are being located to expand the program for monitoring in June 2019. A regular quarterly conference call was held with the Regional Board to report progress on compliance with the irrigated lands program. 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 ILRP database. An update to the surface water quality management plan was submitted to the Regional Board. Coordination occurred for implementation of $855,000 Prop 84 Grant to implement the San Joaquin River Real Time Management Program for salinity.