



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: September 11, 2019

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for August 2019

This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for August 2019 regarding specified¹ Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

1. Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Summary

[Disadvantaged Community Involvement Program \(DACIP\)](#)

On August 26, SLDMWA staff received a \$60,674 reimbursement, making the total to date \$283,675 in reimbursements, from DWR and Contra Costa Water District for the following; consultant and staff costs for the period through April, 2019. Additionally, staff utilized a portion of the \$134,000 advanced funding check for consultant costs for Needs Assessment work to pay consultant invoices after May. Reimbursements from the \$60,674 will be distributed or credited back to Legislative & CVP Operational Affairs (LegOps) participants based on the funds allocation percentages.

The consultant continued work on the San Joaquin River Funding Area Needs Assessment for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) with one public workshops completed in September and the final scheduled for October for the American River IRWM region, to discuss the DAC Involvement Program and results of the Needs Assessment those regions. The draft needs assessment is currently scheduled to be available for review in October with the final complete report available in November. The next steps following completion of the Needs Assessment will be to amend the grant agreement with the California Department of Water Resources and submit projects selected and identified in the Needs Assessment, for project funding up to \$1.2 Million.

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).

In the Tulare Kern Funding Area, the Needs Assessment is complete, the Community Education Program is in progress, and the Project Advisory Committee (PAC) continued approving projects eligible for DACIP funding. In September, an online web tool went live that is a Disadvantaged Community StoryMap for the Needs Assessment results, which also includes various reporting tools. Staff will work through the Beta StoryMap tool online and continue to work with DACs in this funding area.

General Westside IRWM Plan

The Activity Agreement was compiled into a final executed document with first membership dues collected July 12th. Staff held a meeting of the IRWM Regional Water Management Group and its stakeholders on August 21st, to discuss the need for development of a Stormwater Resources Plan (SWRP), the status of the request for proposals to develop the SWRP, and its impact on the two IRWM Implementation Grant applications.

In the San Joaquin Funding Area, the IRWM Implementation Grant application project proponents, along with the Authority consultant, attended a workshop with the Department of Water resources to present the agencies projects on August 28 and are still awaiting feedback. SLDMWA's consultant (Woodard & Curran) continues to assist in compiling project information and is assisting in preparing the Implementation Grant application, and are planning to utilize feedback given by DWR post-workshop. Two of the projects may be utilizing flood flows as water supply and thus may require a Stormwater Resources Plan. This requirement is an eligibility requirement for the Grant Proposal Solicitation Package.

In the Tulare Kern Funding Area, the consultant, EKI Water & Environment, Inc. completed the grant application package and compiled all pertinent information from project proponents. The grant application package was submitted to DWR on September 6th. The Activity Agreement participants in this funding area were asked to consider the proposal which was received for development of a Stormwater Resources Plan and discussed their willingness to develop this plan beginning in September.

A consultant was selected for development of a Stormwater Resources Plan, and the BOD approved the execution of this contract in September. Currently, staff does not anticipate having to collect additional funds for the development of this plan due to the current expenditures for the IRWM activities.

2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity Summary

Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region

The monthly joint North and Central Management Committee meeting was held on September 23rd with topics of discussion including a Subbasin coordinated expense estimate for next fiscal year, current fiscal year budget update, current grant opportunities and grant reimbursements, draft policies for implementation of the GSP, and the procedures for adoption of the GSP. Staff

continued to collect groundwater data this month and began populating spreadsheets with data to upload to the Subbasin data management system. A finance working group was formed to allow for GSA input into the Fiscal Year 2021 budget, considering each of the anticipated activities for the first year of GSP implementation, staff resources, and potential projects. The first meeting of this finance working group was held in September, with subsequent monthly meetings scheduled through November.

Woodard & Curran staff distributed completed draft GSP electronic documents to each of the Northern & Central Delta-Mendota Region GSAs. Staff submitted the 90-day Notice of Adoption to the cities and counties which are covered by this individual GSP on September 9th. At the same time, this letter opened a 30-day public comment period to allow for comments through October 11th, 2019. A hard copy of the completed draft GSP will reside at the SLDMWA Los Banos office until a final document is approved and submitted to DWR. In addition, staff and the consultant presented on the draft GSP to various agencies at grower's meetings, board of director's meetings, and city council meetings to allow for direct communication of pertinent portions of the GSP as well as to answer initial questions in person. These presentations have been very well received, and staff plans to continue these presentations over the coming months.

The second grant application package reimbursements of nearly \$365,000 arrived in mid-September with reimbursements to be processed and distributed in October. Authority staff and Woodard & Curran finalized the third grant reimbursement package, which included submittal of nearly \$500,000 of costs spent on coordination of the six plans.

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. The committees and working groups focused on the development of a subbasin data management system, reviewing the partially completed DMS this month. Authority staff coordinated multiple meetings with adjoining Subbasins including the Madera, Chowchilla, and Kings Subbasins. Staff reviewed public drafts of GSPs for neighboring Subbasins that may have impacts on the GSAs or their stakeholders within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. Preliminary review of the draft GSPs shows a varied response to impacts of subsidence, chronic lowering of water levels, and development of monitoring networks and data collection. The meetings between adjoining Subbasins allowed for preliminary discussion and clarification, with upcoming meetings to be held prior to GSP adoption and the DWR public comment period that begins February, 2020.

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

The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Subbasin that are not considered disadvantaged communities (15 of 23 total GSAs) have verbally agreed to share the cost of the preparation of the Round 3 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Application, which is due on November 1st. Staff prepared a cost share letter of agreement that is currently being executed by all 15 participating agencies. The grant application will seek to do a well census and inventory for the entire Delta-Mendota Subbasin, perform a subsidence related study at two known locations of subsidence along the Delta-Mendota Canal, and seek to reimburse the six GSP Groups approximately \$250,000 of their individual GSP development costs. The projects included in the grant application were developed as part of a coordinated effort of the coordination committee and their respective GSAs.

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. The Initial Study and Addendum to the 2009 EIS/EIR were coordinated with consultants and prepared. Comments were received on the LTSWMP and responses were prepared. Resolutions were reviewed for SLDMWA Board meeting to approve the LTSWMP.

A meeting was held with USBR and the NMFS regarding ESA ongoing monitoring for discharges from the Grassland Bypass Project. Administration of the Prop 84 grant for the LTSWP and reuse area upgrades continued. Tentative waste discharge requirement revisions were reviewed to make comments to Regional Board. The Grassland Basin Drainers met in Los Banos. The Program continues to coordinate survey work for the restoration of facilities for Newman Land Company.

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:](#)

Revisions were made to the surface water quality management plans and submitted to the Regional Board. A report was developed and sent to Regional Board regarding monitored and represented areas. A focused outreach meeting presentation was made in Patterson. Conference calls with the Regional Board were held regarding nitrogen sampling results and the quarterly conference call regarding various issues. Follow up occurred with the Regional Board on various water quality management plans. 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. Mailings to farmers for completion of sediment management plan were completed.

Memo to SLDMWA Board of Directors

October 10, 2019

Page 5 of 5

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. Additionally, a meeting was held in Los Banos regarding future SJVDA organization planning. The 2020 Monitoring Plan was updated and work on the November 30 annual report has begun.