



## 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: November 1, 2019

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for October 2019

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This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for October 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)**

The consultant completed the Draft San Joaquin River Funding Area Needs Assessment for Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), and presented the results on October 22, 2019 in Modesto. Staff was present to explain the current activities in the Westside-San Joaquin Region as well as to hear from other community members interested in the Needs Assessment Report. The next steps following completion of the Needs Assessment in November 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. A meeting is currently scheduled for early December for the various IRWM regions to agree upon a process for project selection and fund distribution amongst the active regions.

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 October, staff provided comments on a Beta online web tool which is a Disadvantaged Community StoryMap for the Needs Assessment results. Staff will work through the Beta StoryMap tool online and continue to work with DACs in this funding area. Additionally, staff requested input from Tulare County and City of Huron representatives on the

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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).

need for a septic system survey in their areas, per the request of Self-Help Enterprises and the DACIP effort.

### **General Westside IRWM Plan**

Woodard & Curran began work on the regional Stormwater Resources Plan (SWRP) which, when completed, will allow for compliance of current grant applications and their identified projects as well as stormwater and flood capture type projects for future grant opportunities. 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.

In the San Joaquin Funding Area, the IRWM Implementation Grant application is going to be submitted in early November. Project proponents were providing final edits through October to the compiled application package. 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 6<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

The monthly joint North and Central Management Committee meeting was held on October 31<sup>st</sup> 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, a fiscal year 2021 preliminary estimate, and the public comments received on the Draft GSP. Staff continued to collect groundwater data this month and continued populating reporting templates with data to upload to the Subbasin data management system. A finance working group met on two occasions 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. Direction was given to budget for an additional position if the work load begins to show the need for support for SLDMWA staff. The committees approved selection of Provost & Pritchard for the development of the first Annual Report, which is due April 1, 2020, to comply with SGMA regulations.

Woodard & Curran staff distributed compiled comments on the draft GSP for the Northern & Central Delta-Mendota Region. The comments were discussed by a small ad-hoc working group to decide how to respond prior to submittal of the GSP to DWR. The comments were then organized into various categories by staff and the working group members to determine responses and potential budget for responses in the upcoming fiscal year.

The second grant application package reimbursements of nearly \$365,000, which arrived in mid-September, were 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. The third reimbursement package has not been received as of November 1.

### **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 completion of the subbasin data management system, reviewing the partially completed DMS this month and working on definitions of terms for reporting requirements and DMS data. Authority staff coordinated multiple meetings with adjoining Subbasins including the Madera, Chowchilla, and Merced 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. For coordination with Madera and Chowchilla, staff intends to submit for facilitation support services contracted through DWR and Stantec.

Authority staff finalized and distributed the tenth 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) agreed to share the cost of the preparation of the Round 3 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant Application, which was due on November 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 \$240,000 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 for approval. Response to comments were also prepared including late comments. The LTSWMP was presented for approval by the Grassland Basin Drainers Steering Committee on October 9 and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority on October 10. Continue follow up with USBR and the NMFS regarding ESA. Prepared for call with Contra Costa stakeholders regarding salinity discharges.

Ongoing monitoring for discharges from the Grassland Bypass Project and data entry continued. Work to administer the Prop 84 grant for the LTSWP and reuse area upgrades continued. Coordinate survey work for 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. Notifications to farmers under the trend monitoring program were prepared and sent.

#### **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. Last minute letters were prepared for notification of trend monitoring results and notification requirements to members that allowed use of their wells for trend monitoring. Review membership policy and develop proposed wording. Update monitoring plan for recent Regional Board requirements. Prepare for and attend San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority meeting in Los Banos. 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. 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. Prepare materials for October 1 SJVDA board meeting. Begin work on November 30 annual report. Attend meetings in Sacramento on acceptable nitrogen ranges. Attend meeting in Modesto for Stakeholder meeting with Regional Board.