



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

FROM: Scott Petersen, Water Policy Director
Joe McGahan, Regional Drainage/Westside Watershed Coalition Coordinator

DATE: February 6, 2020

RE: Activity Agreements – Staff Report for January 2020

This memorandum serves as the Staff Report for January 2020 regarding specified¹ Water Authority activities not separately addressed on the Board meeting agenda.

1. Integrated Regional Water Management Activity Summary

San Joaquin River Funding Area (SJRSA)

Following the completion of the Needs Assessment, the SJRSA DACIP will now focus on identifying projects within the Funding Area for additional DAC support through technical assistance and capacity building. The SJRSA DACIP stakeholder advisory committee is meeting in mid-February to discuss the next steps for this funding and potential project ideas from each IRWM region.

DWR is conducting an eligibility and completeness review for the submitted Proposition 1 Round 1 IRWM Implementation application. The participating local project sponsors provided updated Groundwater Management Compliance Self-Certification forms following a request from DWR to reflect each agency's GSP status. It is anticipated that the SJRSA will receive a draft funding announcement in late March or early April.

Tulare-Kern Funding Area (TKFA)

The Tulare-Kern Funding Area is anticipating receiving draft funding award from DWR in early February. If any projects in the TKFA are awarded funding, SLDMWA staff will coordinate grant administration support as needed.

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).

General Westside IRWM

In January, the Westside-San Joaquin IRWM Activity Agreement members had a call to discuss the Fiscal Year 2021 IRWM Activity Agreement budget, discuss recent updates on the development of the Region's Stormwater Resource Plan, and discuss next steps within the San Joaquin River and Tulare Kern Funding Areas.

A technical advisory committee (TAC) meeting was held for the Stormwater Resource Plan in early January. Activity Agreement members and other stakeholders attended this meeting. Following this meeting, a call for projects was announced for stormwater-related projects in the Westside-San Joaquin IRWM region; this will conclude on February 20th. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for February 10th at the SLDMWA Los Banos office.

2. Sustainable Groundwater Management Activity Summary

Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions

The Northern & Central Delta-Mendota Region Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was successfully submitted to the Department of Water Resources' SGMA Portal on January 23rd along with the five other GSPs in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. The Northern and Central Region GSP's associated reference, monitoring network, and historical data have also been uploaded to the SGMA Portal as required by DWR. The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Northern & Central DM GSP Region had been coordinating the development for the past few years to reach the target submittal date of January 31st. Prior to this submittal, all GSAs in the Northern & Central DM GSP Region held public hearings to adopt the GSP. DWR is currently finalizing a completeness check of the submitted GSPs. Once this is complete, DWR will open a 60-day public comment period to the GSP.

The GSAs will now transition their focus from GSP development to GSP implementation and on-going efforts to complete the first Annual Report, which is due by April 1st. Representatives from the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Region Management Committees have been discussing the Northern & Central GSP Group's approach for GSP implementation for the past several months. The Finance Working Group, comprised of members from the Northern and Central Management Committees, convened several times to discuss the received proposals for GSP implementation support. The Finance Working Group recommended the selection of a hybrid approach for implementation, which will provide the Northern & Central DM Region GSP Group with support from the Woodard & Curran consultant team as well as from EKI for additional program management support for the first six months of GSP implementation.

The January Management Committees meeting was held on January 30th. During this meeting, the Management Committee representatives approved several action items that the SLDMWA Board will consider for final approval, including:

- Recommendation to the SLDMWA Board of approval of the Fiscal Year 2021 SGMA Activity Agreement budgets
- Recommendation to the SLDMWA Board to authorize execution of consultant services agreements for GSP implementation and program management support within the Northern & Central Delta-Mendota Region
- Recommendation to the SLDMWA Board to increase the Fiscal Year 2020 budget and amend the GSP development contract to finalize the remaining tasks prior to the initiation of the implementation contracts

Representatives from the Northern & Central GSP Group agreed to pursue a single Annual Report for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin. The consultant teams will continue to coordinate with Northern & Central GSAs and other GSP Groups to compile the necessary data and develop the Annual Report for the Subbasin.

General SGMA Activities

All GSPs in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin were successfully submitted to DWR ahead of the January 31st deadline for the Subbasin. Prior to this submission, GSAs in the Subbasin held public hearings to adopt their respective GSP. The representatives and consultant teams for the various GSAs and GSPs in the Subbasin have been collaborating toward this target over the past few years. Subbasin-wide meetings were held in January for the Coordination Committee, DMS Working Group, and Technical Working Group. Now that the GSPs have been submitted, the focus in these meetings will shift to GSP implementation across the Subbasin.

This month, DWR released draft funding announcements for recently submitted Proposition 68 grant applications. In this draft funding announcement, the Delta-Mendota Subbasin's application received the full \$500,000 that was requested in the application. There is currently a public comment period until February 10th. The GSP Groups in the Subbasin are initiating work for the projects outlined in the Proposition 68 application, which will focus on developing a Subbasin-wide well census and inventory, subsidence characterization and project feasibility determination, as well as funding for supplemental GSP development for each GSP Group.

Additional Data Management System (DMS) Working Group calls were held this month to continue to refine the structure of the DMS and discuss the content of the Subbasin's Annual Report.

Staff finalized and distributed the 13th newsletter to all GSA representatives. This newsletter announced the successful submission of all six GSPs and provided additional summary of coordinated Delta-Mendota Subbasin SGMA activities as well as updates for each individual GSP group.

3. Drainage Activity Summary

Grassland Basin Drainage Management Steering Committee Activity Summary

A side-by-side comparison was prepared of the new 2020 4th Use Agreement compared to the previous 2009 Use Agreement. Participate with Water Authority counsel on the CEQA lawsuit against the Long-Term Storm Water Management Plan (LTSWMP). Prepare Revision 2 of draft GBD budget and present at GBD meeting in Los Banos. Prepare for and attend the GBD meeting in Los Banos. Prepare monitoring plan as required for the new WDRs and use Agreement for the LTSWP. Coordinate work related to the agreement with Newman Land Company for restoration of deliveries to their property. Review proposed letter from Regional Board on reporting requirements. Prepare documents for installation of monitoring wells adjacent to the SJRIP and Grassland Water District. Provide conference call report to SLDMWA board meeting. Attend meeting in Los Banos with State Board members to give drainage update.

Ongoing monitoring for discharges from the Grassland Bypass Project and data entry continued. Work to administer the Prop 84 grant for the Long-Term Stormwater Plan 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. Upcoming paperwork mailings were prepared.

San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority Activity Summary

Prepare outreach information for focused outreach meetings. Follow up conference call with consultants and respond to question regarding the surface water management plan. Follow up calls and emails were answered to assist farmers in completing their paperwork requirements. Assist with web portal updates for 2019 growing season paperwork. Prepare updates to membership list. Manage field monitoring. Compile nitrogen summary report mailers. 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. Make presentations at January 9 grower meeting in Newman and January 21 grower meeting in Westley. Prepare first draft of SJVDA budget and attend SJVDA meeting Los Banos. Prepare for and participate in quarterly meeting with the Regional Board.