



**Stanislaus County
Water Advisory Committee**

Minutes

May 31, 2023 9:02 a.m.
Stanislaus Farm Bureau

Members Present:

Joe Alamo
Rachelle Antinetti
Daniel Bays
Louis Brichetto
Larry Byrd
Joseph Day

Caitie Diemel
Richard Gemperle
Jim Mortensen
Tom Orvis
Sean Roddy
Cooper Rossiter

Tim Sanders
Edward Tobias
Rod Vilas
Rob Kostlivy
Christy McKinnon
Terry Withrow

Members Absent:

Francisco Canela

Erika Durrer

Vince Dykzeul

- I. Called to Order at 9:02 a.m.** (The entire meeting can be viewed at <https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/wac.shtm> and by selecting the video option for the February 22, 2023 Water Advisory Committee meeting)

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Upon request of Vice Chairperson Tom Orvis, the attendees participated in the pledge of allegiance.

III. Public Comment

No public comment

IV. Roll Call

A quorum of voting members was present.

V. Approval of May 31, 2023, Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the May 31, 2023, meeting were presented by the Vice Chairperson. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval.

The action was taken as follows:

Motion: Tim Sanders

Second: Jim Mortensen

Vote: Unanimous

VI. Informational Items (not subject to a formal vote)

I. Rob Kostlivy, Legislative Update

AB 1337, SB 389, and AB 460 have a similar parameters and include authorizations for curtailments, diversions, and investigation procedures to address challenges associated with climate change and the drought to change the way we manage surface water in California. AB 1337, SB 389, and AB 460 passed yesterday May 30, 2023.

II. Rob Kostlivy, Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant

Mr. Kostlivy provided an update on the water quality issue surrounding the Riverbank Army Ammunition Plant area. The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) sent a letter to the Department to encourage county staff to coordinate with their staff to ensure all permitting information is discussed and made available. The CVRWQCB has proposed that a legally non-binding Memorandum of Understanding is completed with the county to outline procedures for inter-agency communication, information sharing, and certain groundwater quality well permitting. Specifically in respect to the areas of concern in the vicinity of the site and for any well drilling activities that would occur. The CVRWQCB states in the letter that our current well siting and construction guidelines and process that were written and established in 2022 are not protective enough. The county utilizes the state database aquifer risk map to determine areas that have been identified as having contamination that does not meet drinking water standards.

III. Regina Hirsch – Watershed Progressive

Regina was not able to be present at the meeting.

IV. Matt Beaman – Merced Irrigation District Mariposa Creek Flood MAR Efforts.

The Mariposa and Owens Creek Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) project succeeded in integrating strategies to benefit sustainability and climate resiliency in a groundwater subbasin challenged with local cones of depression and subsidence despite limitations and requirements set by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. A Draft Operation Plan has been developed to forecast and notify groups of potential Flood MAR eligible flows, to coordinate with growers for diversion staging, and to collect diversion data and submit reports to the SWRCB. Diversions during a flood event are not allowed to be used as groundwater credit but can be recognized by a Groundwater Sustainability Agency and included

in their implementation plan to benefit the subbasin. More work needs to be completed to streamline and expedite the permitting process, extend flood declared diversions to allow for recharge, enable higher carry over in major state reservoirs and to ensure that all entities are prepared to divert and recharge during wet weather events.

https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/pdf/wac/2023/flood_mar.pptx

V. Mike Tietze – East Turlock GSA Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program Grant, Status of Pumping Management Pilot Program and Upcoming Public Workshop.

The Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program Grant has been awarded to the East Turlock Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETGSA) in the amount of 8.89 million dollars from the California Department of Conservation. The ETGSA is developing a framework for delivering projects that benefit land repurposing strategies that provide water, environmental and community benefits while working towards groundwater subbasin sustainability goals. Upcoming workshops will be scheduled for grower outreach and engagement in the program and to provide information about the program implementation approach. Projects including elements such as orchard swale rewilding, flood plain reconnection, habitat restoration, recharge or storage basins, non-irrigated working land, solar, and re-cropping and that focus on multi-benefit strategies to solve local and regional sustainability issues will be prioritized. A final list of target end uses will be developed and included in the plan.

<https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/pdf/wac/2023/wac-pmp-mgmt.pdf>

<https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/pdf/wac/2023/wac-mlrp.pdf>

VI. Parry Klassen – Valley Water Collaborative – Update on Domestic Well Testing Program and Outreach Priorities.

The Nitrate Control Program (NCP) is a non-profit organization based in Modesto that has 3 main goals: provide safe drinking water that meets nitrate drinking water standards, reducing the amount of nitrate that impacts water supplies, and to restore groundwater quality, where reasonable, feasible, and practical. The program offers free domestic well testing for residences in the Modesto and Turlock groundwater subbasins and provides bottled water delivery services and water treatment systems to eligible applicants. Seventy percent of tested wells exceed the drinking water standard for nitrate in these areas. In January 2022 the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience Program awarded additional funding to the VWC to expand testing for drinking water co-contaminants such as arsenic, 123-TCP, and other locally identified contaminants. Upcoming outreach activities include focusing on over 400 water recipients through email newsletters, cash referrals, social media and upcoming spring and summer outreach and tabling events.

<http://valleywaterc.org/>

VII. Christy McKinnon – SGMA Updates – GSP 2022 Annual Report Submission, SGMA Compliance Status, and SGMA Implementation Round 2 Grant Awards – Attachment 2

Annual reports for water 2022 were submitted to the Department of Water Resources for each of the subbasins within the county in April of 2023. Minimum threshold exceedances were identified for the county for groundwater levels and water quality; however, the water quality exceedances were not caused by groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) activities. The minimum threshold exceedance data is evaluated each year by the GSAs to determine if undesirable results have occurred or if additional actions are required by the GSA to maintain compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, (SGMA) and adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). In Fall of 2022 the Modesto Subbasin received its first minimum threshold exceedance for water levels and interconnected surface waters but undesirable results did not occur. The GSA will continue to monitor data during upcoming monitoring events and take necessary actions to mitigate potential impacts to groundwater resources and beneficial users and maintain in compliance with the Modesto Subbasin GSP.

On March 2, 2022, the Department of Water Resources announced the approval of 6 GSPs which included approval of the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The Department also announced 6 inadequate determinations for subbasin plans, including the GSPs submitted on behalf of the 23 GSAs in the Delta-Mendota Groundwater Subbasin, potentially placing the subbasin on probationary status. The major deficiencies identified in the plan included lack of coordination among the GSAs and inconsistencies with the sustainable management criteria and data and methodologies for the plan water accounting framework.

In May of 2022 the DWR awarded the Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Round 2 grant funding in the amount of \$187,289,000 to competing agencies. Oakdale Irrigation District received 14.3 million dollars from this grant to support the Paulsell Lateral Extension Project.

<https://turlockgroundwater.org/gsp>

<http://www.esjgroundwater.org/>

<https://www.strgba.org/>

<https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gspar/preview/204>

https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater/Files/SGM-Imp-Round-2---2022/SGMA-Implementation-Round-2-Draft-Awards---May-2023.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

VII. Round Table Discussion:

VIII. Meeting adjourned: 11:32am

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.
Meeting location: Stanislaus Farm Bureau, 1
201 L St., Modesto

PREPARED BY:
Rebeca Padilla, CA III
Christy McKinnon, Groundwater Resources Manager