



**Stanislaus County  
Water Advisory Committee**

**Minutes**

January 27, 2016, 9:00 a.m.  
Alliance's Kirk Lindsey Center  
1020 10<sup>th</sup> St, Suite 102  
Modesto, California

**Members Present:**

Gail Altieri	Ron Macedo	Thomas Smith
Daniel Bays (9:10 am)	Jim Mortensen	Walter Ward
Louis Brichetto	Tom Orvis	Terry Withrow
Larry Byrd	Sean Roddy	Wayne Zipser
Francisco Canela	Cooper Rossiter	Bill Zoslocki (Left 10:57 am)
Neil Hudson		

**Members Absent:**

Vince Dykzeul	Ray Kablanow
Richard Gemperle	Rod Vilas

**I. Called to Order at 9:07 a.m.**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Upon request of Chairman Wayne Zipser, the attendees participated in the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**IV. Roll Call and Introduction of New WAC Members**

New members, Gail Altieri and Ron Macedo, were welcomed. A quorum of voting members was present.

**V. Approval of November 18, 2015, Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting were presented by the Chairman. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval, and the action was taken as follows:

Motion: Tom Orvis  
Second: Jim Mortensen  
Vote: Unanimous

**VI. Selection of WAC Chair and Vice-Chair for 2016-2017**

Jim Mortensen was voted as Chair.

Motion: Tom Orvis  
Second: Neil Hudson  
Abstention: Jim Mortensen  
Vote: Unanimous

Tom Orvis was voted as Vice-Chair.  
Motion: Louis Brichetto  
Second: Neil Hudson  
Abstention: Tom Orvis  
Vote: Unanimous

**VII. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Update and Groundwater Sustainability Planning Regulations Development (Department of Water Resources Staff)**

Mike McKenzie, Staff Hydrogeologist with the Fresno Office of the Department of Water Resources (DWR), provided an overview of the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan regulations that have been DWR released for public comment.

On September 16, 2014, the Governor signed into law a three-bill legislative package Assembly Bill (AB) 1739 (Dickinson), Senate Bill (SB) 1168 (Pavley), and SB 1319 (Pavley). These laws are collectively known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA defines **sustainable groundwater management** as the “management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing “undesirable results.”

“Undesirable results” are defined in SGMA as:

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply;
- Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage;
- Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion;
- Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality;
- Significant and unreasonable land subsidence; and
- Surface water depletions that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water

SGMA further identifies the following:

- Requires critically-overdrafted basins (in our region these include the Eastern San Joaquin and the Delta-Mendota basins) to be managed under a GSP *by January 31, 2020*
- Requires all other groundwater basins designated as high or medium priority basins (such as the Modesto and Turlock basins) to be managed under a GSP *by January 31, 2022*

A GSP may be any of the following:

- A single plan covering the entire basin developed and implemented by one GSA

- A single plan covering the entire basin developed and implemented by multiple GSAs
- Multiple plans implemented by multiple GSAs and coordinated pursuant to a single coordination agreement that covers the entire basin

SGMA also expands the role of DWR to support local implementation of sustainable groundwater management, and allows for intervention by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) at discrete points throughout the process if local agencies are not willing or able to manage groundwater sustainably.

The legislative intent of the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is for groundwater basins in California to be managed and regulated by local public agencies and groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs). In the basins designated by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as medium and high priority, local public agencies and GSAs are required to develop and implement groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) or alternatives to GSPs (Alternatives). Pursuant to Water Code Section 10733.2, DWR is required to draft and adopt emergency regulations for the evaluation of GSPs and Alternatives, the implementation of GSPs and Alternatives, and coordination agreements by **June 1, 2016**.

DWR established a comprehensive, multi-phased outreach approach to: (1) educate the public about groundwater science and the regulatory requirements of SGMA; (2) better understand important regional and local issues; and (3) collect statewide information to assist with the development of GSP emergency regulations. Throughout 2015 and into 2016, DWR regularly met with numerous SGMA advisory groups and conducted public meetings and webinars to gather perspectives from other statewide stakeholders, partners, and local agencies, which have been considered in the Draft GSP Emergency Regulations.

There are many complex issues associated with managing a basin to comply with the requirements and legislative intent of SGMA. As such, DWR divided the GSP issues into ten separate, though related, themes and prepared topic papers for the purpose of having meaningful and focused discussions with advisory groups, stakeholders, State agency partners, and the public.

Local agencies, interested parties, and the general public will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft GSP Emergency Regulations before they are adopted. All comments related to the Draft GSP Emergency Regulations should be provided in written format and should be sent in the following manner. Email with the subject "Draft GSP Emergency Regulations Public Comment" to **sgmps@water.ca.gov**, or

Mail to:

California Department of Water Resources  
Attn: Lauren Bisnett, Draft GSP Emergency Regulations Public Comment  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, CA 94236

The entire presentation made by Mr. McKenzie can be found at the following link within the Presentation materials for the January 27, 2016 WAC meeting:

<http://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/wac.shtm>

**VIII. Discussion Regarding Proposed Scope of Work Pertaining to the Stanislaus County Proposition 1 Grant Application to the Department of Water Resources (Walter Ward, Stanislaus County and Mike Tietze, Jacobson James & Associates)**

Mike Tietze, Principal Hydrogeologist with Jacobson, James & Associates provided an overview of the Scope of Work associated with the Proposition 1 Grant Application that Stanislaus County submitted to the Department of Water Resources and has tentatively been awarded \$250,000, the maximum amount for which the County was eligible.

As a recap, Stanislaus County was the first in the state to adopt a Groundwater Ordinance with well permitting requirements deliberately aligned with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. To streamline the application and review process for new wells, further support implementation of the program, and develop a foundation for the development of long-term, comprehensive groundwater management plans, Stanislaus County is proposing to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) to be funded, in part, through the state grant program mentioned above and by local cost share among the County, Cities, Special Water Districts and Private Agricultural and Business industry interests. It is intended that the PEIR will provide multiple benefits for all parties and will promote the achievement of sustainable groundwater management throughout the County.

The results of this analysis will be used to develop a framework of program-level mitigation measures, study requirements, and monitoring recommendations. The Programmatic EIR will not only serve as a basis to refine and streamline the well permitting program, but will also provide valuable data that will be useful for County-wide groundwater management activities that will directly inform all local groundwater stakeholders as each of us prepare for the creation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) and development of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) as required under state law.

The full presentation made by Mr. Tietze can be found at the following link within the Presentation materials for the January 27, 2016 WAC meeting:

<http://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/wac.shtm>

**IX. Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.**

**Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, March 30, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.  
Alliance's Kirk Lindsey Center  
1020 10th Street, Suite 102  
Modesto, California

PREPARED BY:  
ANETTE ARIAS, Administrative Secretary

\*Underlined items are Action Items subject to vote as described in the committee by-laws.

**Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee  
Voting & Attendance Record  
Committee Roster (Voting Members)**

Meeting Date	Action Item No.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Totals		Pass/ Fail
		Gail Altieri	Daniel Bays	Louis Bricchetto	Larry Byrd	Fransisco Canela	Vince Dykzeul	Richard Gemperle	Neil Hudson	Ray Kablanow	Ron Macedo	Jim Mortensen	Tom Orvis	Sean Roddy	Cooper Rossiter	Thomas Smith	Rod Vilas	Wayne Zipser	Bill Zoslocki	Y	N	
1/27/16	V - Minutes	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	NP	NP	Y	NP	Y	Y-2	Y-1	Y	Y	Y	NP	Y	Y	13	0	P
	VI - Chairperson - Jim Mortensen	Y	NV	Y	Y	Y	NP	NP	Y-2	NP	Y	A	Y-1	Y	Y	Y	NP	Y	Y	12	0	P
	VI - Vice Chairperson - Tom Orvis	Y	NV	Y-1	Y	Y	NP	NP	Y-2	NP	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	NP	Y	Y	12	0	P

Quorum = 10

NP = Not Present

NV = No Vote

A = Abstention

Y-1 = 1st

Y-2 = 2nd

*Jan 2016 Ron Macedo replaced Rob Santos*

*Jan 2016 Gail Altieri replaced Don Petersen*

*Jan 2016 Frank Clark's seat became vacant*