Status Report and Discussion
PEIR for Groundwater Ordinance Implementation

July 27, 2016

Presented to:
Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee

Facilitated by:
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Overview

Objectives:

Review of status, schedule, communication and data needs

Expected Outcome:

Informational update and discussion

Topics

1. *Status of DWR grant agreement and Work Plan*
2. *Overview of updated schedule*
3. *Project communication and data sharing*
4. *Data needs*

Status of DWR Grant Agreement and Work Plan

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Status

- June Pre-Scoping meetings with STRGBA and TGBA
  - Review and Discussion of Work Plan
  - Review and Discussion of Modeling Approach
- State executed grant agreement July 7, 2016
- Tentative Official Start Date July 25, 2016
- Further refinement of Work Plan and Modeling Plan during the Scoping Period
- Data gathering starts
- Will set up share site to facilitate communication, data sharing, and review/comment

Revised Task Structure

Rearranged tasks to emphasize dual purpose of GSP Support and Local Groundwater Ordinance Support:

Task 1 Grant Administration

Task 2 GSP Technical Support

- *Task 2.1 Hydrologic Modeling*
- *Task 2.2 GSA Support*

Task 3 Local Groundwater Ordinance Support

- *Task 3.1 PEIR Preparation and Processing*

Revised Modeling Scenarios

Removed speculative modeling of unimpaired flow and GSP implementation. Added modeling of "Alternative Management Strategies":

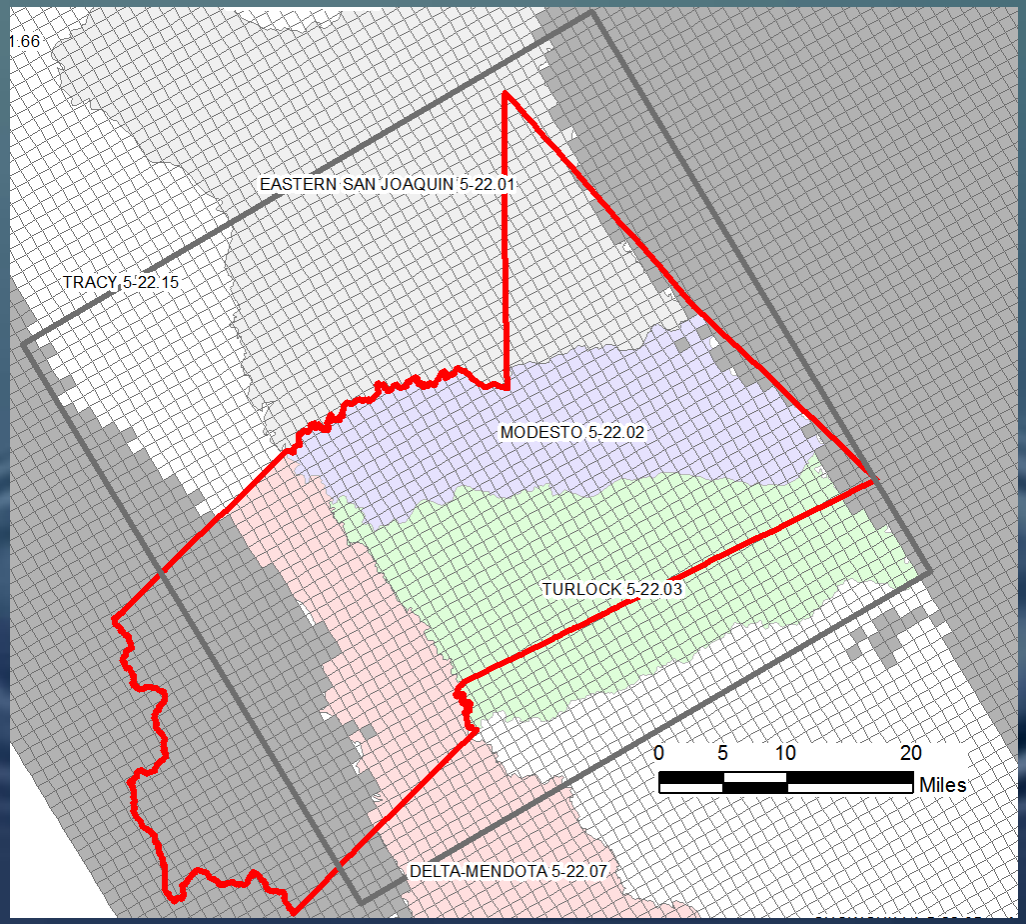
Forecast Component	Scenarios			
	1	2	3	4
Current and Forecasted Groundwater Demand	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ordinance Implementation		✓		✓
Alternative Management Strategies			✓	
Mitigation Concepts				✓
Climate Change	✓	✓	✓	✓

Work Plan Clarifications

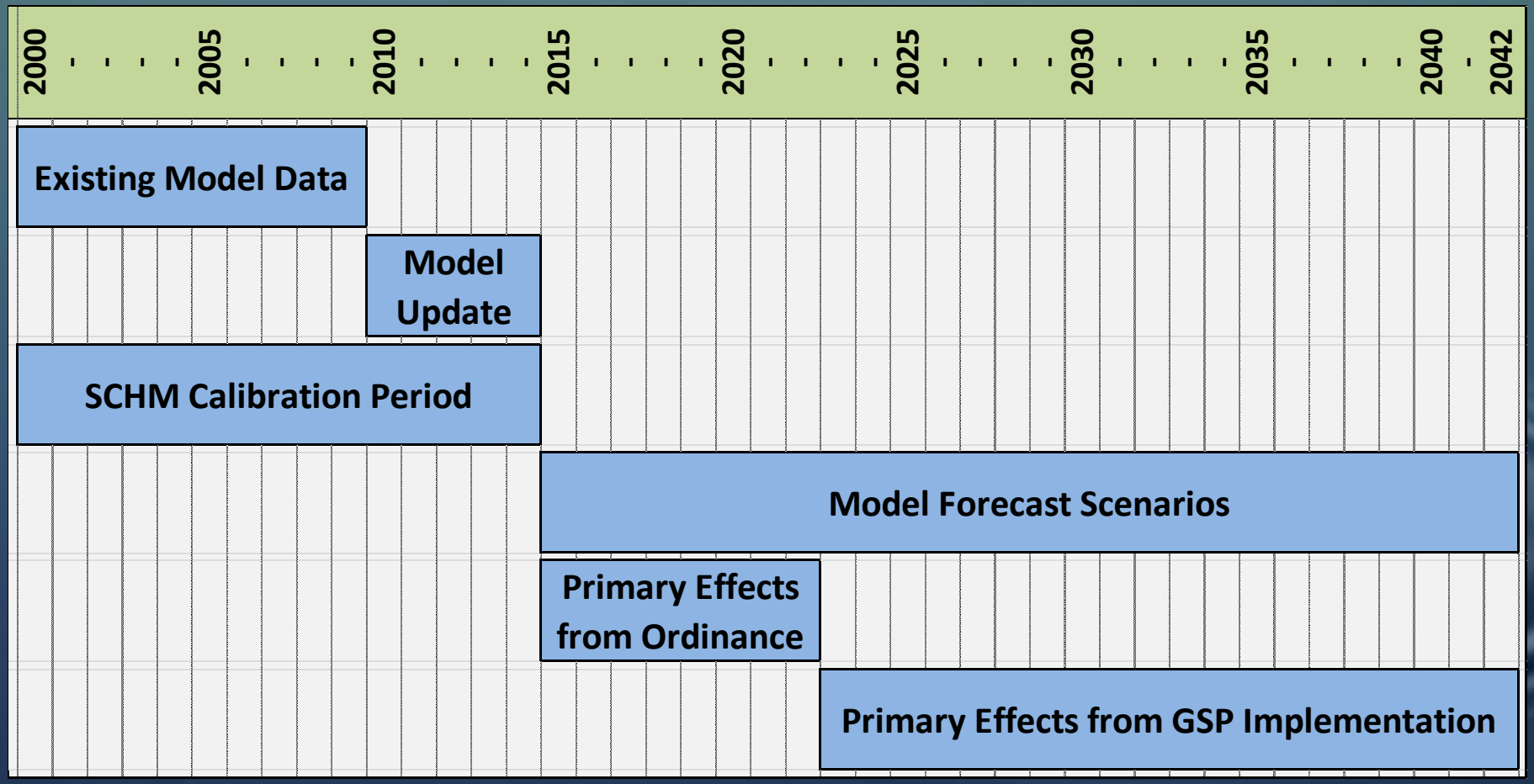
- Recognized that Ordinance impacts will occur primarily prior to GSP implementation
- Clarified that evaluation of GSP implementation or preparation is not part of the scope, but that data may be developed that are useful to GSAs as they prepare for GSP preparation
- Clarified impacts will be evaluated under CEQA; eliminated commingling of CEQA/SGMA language
- References to undesirable results and unsustainable extraction tied to definition under the Ordinance

Model Domain and Boundaries

- ✓ 52 x 52 miles
- ✓ 2,704 mi^2
- ✓ NE and SW No-Flow boundaries
- ✓ NW and SE General Head boundaries based on larger model results
- ✓ Includes entire Modesto and Turlock Subbasins



Model Timeframes



Timeframe Rationale

- Ordinance persists after GSP implementation
- Sustainability milestone under SGMA (2042) represents a logical time frame for CEQA analysis
- Well Permitting Implementation Guidelines will be updated when GSPs are adopted; however, specific requirements of GSPs remain to be developed by GSAs vested with this responsibility
- As such, GSP implementation is considered speculative and will not be evaluated
- Modeling will take a superposition approach assuming a pre-GSP baseline

Schedule Overview

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Key Initial Milestones

- Start date: July 25
- Kickoff Meeting (Modesto): August 4 (Additional meetings to kickoff scoping and PEIR preparation)
- Initial Study Preparation: August 2 – September 12
- Draft Modeling Plan Development: August 2 - 29
- File NOP (Starts CEQA Process): September 12
- Scoping Process: September 12 – October 17
  - ✓ Scoping Meetings (Three): September 26 – October 6
  - ✓ Final Work Plan and Modeling Plan: October 17
- Data Compilation: Through October 17
- First Quarterly Progress Report: October 17

Scoping Process

INITIAL STUDY

- Preliminary screening analysis of 17 resource areas
- Identify areas warranting further study in the PEIR

MODELING PLAN

- Prepare draft modeling plan
- Vet draft plan with stakeholder agencies
- Release draft plan with Initial Study for scoping process

SCOPING MEETINGS

- Engage agencies, stakeholders and other interested parties
- Conduct three scoping meetings (WAC, TAC, and TBD)
- Compile comments

FINAL SOW

- Finalize Work Plan
- Finalize Modeling Plan

Communication

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Data and Document Sharing

- **Project Share Site**
  - ✓ Dropbox site
  - ✓ Site for posting data and documents for sharing with stakeholders and interested parties
  - ✓ Data library of reference documents
- **County Groundwater Site**
  - ✓ Public notices and public review documents
  - ✓ Periodic updates
- **Webmaster**
  - ✓ Person designated to receive comments/uploads

Meetings and Status Reports

- **Status Reports**
  - ✓ Monthly Status Reports to County and participating stakeholders
  - ✓ Quarterly Status Reports to DWR and interested parties
- **Status Update Meetings**
  - ✓ Four status update meetings
  - ✓ Five workshops with regional groundwater management entities
  - ✓ Additional outreach as needed

Data Needs

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Types of Data Needed

HYDROLOGIC DATA	•Geology and hydrogeology •Surface and groundwater conditions •Water budget data
GROUNDWATER DEMAND	•Current use •Distribution •Forecast trends
LAND USE AND POPULATION	•Agricultural land use •Municipal populations •Forecasted trends
BIOLOGICAL DATA (GDEs)	•Wetlands and riparian zones •Springs and seeps

Specific Data Requested

HYDROLOGIC DATA	•Technical reports, studies, models •Well logs, inventories, databases •Aquifer tests
GROUNDWATER DEMAND	•Pumpage databases, reports, maps •Forecast trends and future plans •WMPs, Water Supply Assessments
LAND USE AND POPULATION	•General Plans, Planning Documents •Populations, Land Use, Trends •GIS data, maps •Crop reports
BIOLOGICAL DATA (GDEs)	•General Plans, Planning Documents •GIS data, maps •Environmental studies