



## Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee

### Minutes

October 25, 2023 9:04 a.m.  
Stanislaus Farm Bureau

#### Members Present:

Rachelle Antinetti  
Daniel Bays  
Larry Byrd  
Joseph Day

Caitie Diemel  
Vince Dykzeul  
Richard Gemperle  
Jim Mortensen  
Tom Orvis

Cooper Rossiter  
Tim Sanders  
Edward Tobias  
Rob Kostlivy  
Christy McKinnon

#### Members Absent:

Joe Alamo  
Louis Brichetto  
Francisco Canela

Erika Durrer  
Sean Roddy

Rod Vilas  
Terry Withrow

- I. Call to Order at 9:04am (The entire meeting can be viewed at <https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/wac.shtm> and by selecting the video option for the October 25, 2023 Water Advisory Committee meeting)
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Roll Call

A quorum of voting members was present.

V. **Approval of October 25, 2023, Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of October 25, 2023, meeting were presented by the Vice Chairperson. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval.

Motion: Tim Sanders

Second: Jim Mortensen

Vote: Unanimous

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

I. Rob Kostlivy, California Well Standards, Bulletin 74-90

The California Well Standards, Bulletin 74-90, revision is pending receipt of additional information to help the Department of Water Resources (DWR) develop appropriate procedures for modernizing the well seal grouting methodology and materials requirements. Specifically, for consideration is the addition of more mixtures of cement, bentonite, and superplasticizer additives for use during grouting process. The state anticipates having a contract in place with a consultant to evaluate available grouting methodologies for potential inclusion in the revision. We are looking at some time in February or March before we get something submitted back from the state for review.

II. Jesse Franco, Modesto Irrigation District Long-Term Groundwater Replenishment Program.

MID has been working towards implementation of the Long-Term Groundwater Replenishment Program promoting responsible groundwater management which is evident in MID Resolution 89-77 establishing the district's strong and effective conjunctive use program and commitment to beneficial uses. The district intends to cooperate with the groundwater users to preserve and protect groundwater supplies so that they are available for use in drought periods when surface water availability is limited.

In 2022 MID as a member of the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency, (STRGBA GSA) submitted the Modesto Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The Long-Term project supports the GSP and proposes that MID provide up to 60,000 acre-feet of available surface water in "Wet and Above Normal" water years for groundwater recharge.

III. Mike Busby, Lidco Inc., Subsurface Recharge

Subsurface perforated pipes are installed 8-15 feet below the ground surface allowing recharge water to percolate beneath farmland and other developments having less of an impact or footprint than other recharge methods such as aquifer storage and recovery wells and recharge basins, respectively. These subsurface drainage tubing installations allow for extended, more flexible recharge opportunities as these systems are not limited to use only during flood events and can help to drain water away from the root zone as necessary to support plant growth and productivity.

As of October 2023, over 25 systems have been installed throughout the San Joaquin Valley and have been designed to maximize turnout flow rate, with system sizes ranging from between 2 and 500 acres.

Tile recharge systems limit impacts on farming practices, keeping quality land in production, reduced impact on farming practices, reduce evaporation losses, and can recharge groundwater year-round if water is available. Installation costs can be less than other recharge systems and may be an effective way for individual farmers to earn water credits.

[2023-10-18 Stanislaus Co LIDCO Presentation \(stancounty.com\)](https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/pdf/wac/2023/stanco-water-advisory-committee.pptx)

IV. Mike Tietze, East Turlock GSA update on East Turlock Subbasin GSA Proposition 218 Fee Assessment, Pumping Management Framework, and Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program

Mike Tietze gave a summary introduction and background of the East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and an overview of the supporting policies, rules and regulations and GSA proposed Proposition 218 Benefit and Fee Assessment needed to fund GSA activities necessary for compliance with SGMA. The GSA is using an adaptive management implementation strategy to reduce pumping with project implementation to achieve a sustainable yield.

The assessment is designed to be proportional to groundwater use using available data and will support use benefits that support the subbasin as a whole and a higher assessment for irrigated parcels which will be charged at the full land-based benefit assessment rate. Assessment ballots will be mailed to property owners in January 2024. If majority support is achieved the assessment will be imposed by the board in April 2024.

Additional funding mechanisms are being developed by the GSA in the form of a Proposition 218 property related fee to be tentatively adopted in Spring 2024 to cover additional cost based on pumping beyond the target allotment (Tiered Overdraft Pumping Rates).

<https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/pdf/wac/2023/stanco-water-advisory-committee.pptx>

V. Christy McKinnon- SGMA Updates- Fall GSP 2023 Monitoring Event, Modesto Subbasin Management Actions and Public Workshop Number 2, Recharge Resources, SB 552 Update, Emergency Flood Diversions.

Christy provided an update on groundwater levels observed during the Fall 2023 Groundwater Sustainability Plan monitoring event and expressed that the groundwater recovery is slower than expected and that the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency is concerned about continuing trends in declining water levels and that water levels will continue to be closely observed and additional response actions will be developed to address these declines and associated impacts as necessary.

On December 13, 2023, Stanislaus County will be hosting an Eastern Modesto Subbasin Landowner Workshop No. 2 which will focus on the status and implementation of the GSP, include an update on current groundwater conditions, explore subsurface and on-farm recharge opportunities and innovations in groundwater demand reduction.

The Department of Water Resources is providing technical assistance services to support development of the County Drought Plan as required by SB 552 to Stanislaus County. The plan will be developed in the upcoming year via a partnership between the County Office of Emergency Services and the County Department of Environmental Resources.

In August of 2023 the On Farm Recharge Methods Manual, prepared by Sustainable Conservation, became available providing a resource for on-farm recharge from growers throughout the San Joaquin Valley to growers.

Christy provided an update regarding emergency water diversions allowed by the state during extreme weather events if certain criteria are met and encouraged the group to plan now to secure opportunities that can benefit disaster preparation and response in tandem with resource management efforts and maintenance of our “natural infrastructure.”

[farm-recharge-methods-manual.pdf \(stancounty.com\)](https://www.stancounty.com/water-recharge-methods-manual.pdf)

VII. Round Table Discussion:

VIII. Meeting adjourned: 11:24am

IX. Scheduling of next meeting

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.  
Meeting location: Stanislaus Farm Bureau,  
1201 L St., Modesto

PREPARED BY:

Rebeca Padilla, CA III

Christy McKinnon, Groundwater Resources Manager

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