



Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee

Minutes

September 25, 2024, 9:15 a.m.
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau

Members Present:

Caitie Diemel
Navjot Athwal
Tom Orvis
Sean Roddy

Christy McKinnon
Jim Mortensen
Cooper Rossiter
Edward Tobias

Tim Sanders

Members Absent:

Rachelle Antinetti
Larry Byrd
Rod Vilas

Daniel Bays
Joseph P Day
Terry Withrow

Louis Brichetto
Vince Dykzeul

- I. Call to Order at 9:15am (The entire meeting can be viewed at <https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/wac.shtm> and by selecting the video option for September 25, 2024, Water Advisory Committee Meeting)
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Roll Call
- V. **Action Items (subject to formal vote):**

A quorum of voting members was present

- I. Approval of May 29, 2024, Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion: Tim Sanders
 - b. Second: Sean Roddy
 - c. Vote: Unanimous

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

I. Robert Kostlivy

II. Christy McKinnon – DER, Modesto Subbasin Updates

Revised 2024 Modesto Groundwater Subbasin GSP Adopted 6/25/2024. Request for Qualifications and Request for Proposal Services to Develop a Well Mitigation Plan and Management Actions for the Modesto Subbasin GSP due Monday, September 23, 2024. Well Mitigation Plan & Management Action Workgroup Application Due September 20, 2024 – **Attachment 1 (Application)**

III. Christy McKinnon – DER, Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin Updates

Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin Upcoming Workshop: Open House Presentation – September 25, 2024, 5:30 p.m. Public Review Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan held at the Robert Cabral Agricultural Center, 2101 E. Earhart Avenue, Stockton, CA 95206. GSP Update & DWR Periodic Evaluation Public Review Period – October 1, 2024 -October 31, 2024. <https://www.esjgroundwater.org/Documents/GSP> Public Hearing for Stanislaus County BOS GSP Approval Scheduled for December 10, 2024.

IV. Christy McKinnon – DER, Delta Mendota Groundwater Subbasin Updates

Delta-Mendota GSP adopted by Stanislaus County on August 13, 2024, and included a commitment to adopting a Pumping Reduction Plan by October 2024 and Implementation by January 2025 – **Attachment 2** (EKI Consultant Proposal)

Stanislaus County Well Metering Monitoring and Reporting Program Guidelines (Guidelines) – **Attachment 3**

URTCA Groundwater Technical Assistance Factsheet - **Attachment 4**

Resources and Available Assistance URTCA Groundwater Technical Assistance Factsheet - Attachment 4 American Farmland Trust Financial and Technical Assistance Programs – **Attachment 5**

Christy McKinnon presented and discussed the developing efforts to implement the Groundwater Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) within Zone 3 of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin to meet the updated Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) requirements. This plan addresses deficiencies identified by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by establishing triggers, timelines, and measures to stabilize groundwater levels and prevent subsidence. The PRP includes a six-part framework: monitoring policies, groundwater metering, threshold avoidance policies, water quality safeguards, subsidence mitigation strategies, and a potential groundwater allocation backstop.

Implementation of the PRP begins January 1, 2025, requiring an incremental 20% reduction in groundwater pumping by 2026 and reaching 100% of the reduction target by 2030. The GSP requires a total reduction of at least 42,000 acre-feet per year across the subbasin, with adjustments based on hotspot modeling and trends.

The Stanislaus County Well Metering, Monitoring, and Reporting Guidelines, developed under local groundwater ordinances, will support compliance by requiring specific well types to report water use. These reports, starting January 2026, will include annual data reporting monthly and total extraction figures. Proactive compliance is critical to avoiding probationary measures, as seen in other basins. Additional modeling and detailed methodologies are underway to finalize the plan before implementation.

- V. Round Table Discussion:
- VI. Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.
- VII. Scheduling of Next Meeting:

Wednesday, January 29, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.
Meeting location: Stanislaus Farm Bureau,
1201 L St. Modesto, Ca

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