

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR JOINT MEETING OF THE
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF THE
WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AND
EAST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

AUGUST 25, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Meeting materials and recording can be found at the following link:

<https://turlockgroundwater.org/events/regular-meetings-of-the-east-and-west-turlock-subbasin-gsa-technical-advisory-committees>

1. WELCOME / MEETING PROCEDURES

The Regular Joint Meeting of the West Turlock Subbasin (WTS) and East Turlock Subbasin (ETS) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Technical Advisory Committees (TAC) was held via remote teleconference due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and pursuant to AB 361 signed into law on September 16, 2021.

WTS GSA TAC Member Herb Smart provided a brief overview of the teleconference and public participation procedures.

2. CALL TO ORDER

WTS GSA TAC Chair Michael Cooke announced there was not presently a quorum of the WTS GSA TAC and noted that action items would be heard later in the meeting once there was a quorum of members.

ETS GSA TAC Chair Sarah Woolf called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

WTS GSA TAC MEMBERS PRESENT (AT THE TIME ROLL WAS CALLED)	ETS GSA TAC MEMBERS PRESENT (AT THE TIME ROLL WAS CALLED)
Michael Cooke, WTS GSA TAC Chair Debbie Montalbano, Turlock Irrigation District Herb Smart, Turlock Irrigation District Christy McKinnon, Stanislaus County Orlando Gutierrez, City of Turlock Mike Pitcock, Waterford for Hickman Miguel Alvarez, City of Modesto Jaime Velazquez, City of Hughson Karen Morgan, WTS GSA TAC Vice Chair (arrived at approximately 2:05 p.m.)	Sarah Woolf, ETS GSA TAC Chair Dennis Yotsuya, Ballico Cortez Water District Christy McKinnon, Stanislaus County Matt Beaman, Merced Irrigation District
<i>Other WTS GSA TAC members may have arrived after the time roll was called.</i>	<i>Other ETS GSA TAC members may have arrived after the time roll was called.</i>

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no public comments.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes of the July 28, 2022 Regular Joint Meeting of the West Turlock Subbasin and East Turlock Subbasin GSA Technical Advisory Committees

Action by the East Turlock Subbasin GSA TAC:

Motion by Ballico Cortez Water District (*Yotsuya*), seconded by Stanislaus County (*McKinnon*), Approving Minutes of the July 28, 2022 Regular Joint Meeting of the West Turlock Subbasin and East Turlock Subbasin GSA Technical Advisory Committees. Roll call vote: Dennis Yotsuya – yes, Christy McKinnon – yes, Matt Beaman – yes, and Sarah Woolf – yes. The Chair declared the motion carried.

WTS GSA TAC CHAIR MICHAEL COOKE ANNOUNCED THERE WAS NOW A QUORUM OF THE WTS GSA TAC AND CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 2:05 P.M.

Action by the West Turlock Subbasin GSA TAC:

Motion by City of Turlock (*Gutierrez*), seconded by City of Ceres (*Vice Chair Morgan*), Approving Minutes of the July 28, 2022 Regular Joint Meeting of the West Turlock Subbasin and East Turlock Subbasin GSA Technical Advisory Committees. All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

5. RESOLUTION OF THE WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (WTS GSA) TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) RECOGNIZING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY PROCLAIMED BY THE GOVERNOR ON MARCH 4, 2020 WHICH REMAINS IN EFFECT AND REAUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE WTS GSA TAC FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 4, 2022 THROUGH OCTOBER 3, 2022 PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS

WTS GSA TAC Chair Michael Cooke provided a brief overview of this item, noting this is a subsequent action to allow for continued remote teleconference meetings for an additional 30 days (September 4, 2022 through October 3, 2022).

There was no public comment.

Action by the West Turlock Subbasin GSA TAC:

Resolution No. 2022-9: Moved by City of Ceres (*Vice Chair Morgan*), seconded by Waterford for Hickman (*Pitcock*), Adopting a Resolution of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WTS GSA) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) recognizing the state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor on March 4, 2020 which remains in effect and reauthorizing remote teleconference meetings of the WTS GSA TAC for the period September 4, 2022 through October 3, 2022 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

Upon roll call, the following vote was had:

Ayes: City of Modesto (*Alvarez*), Stanislaus County (*McKinnon*), Turlock Irrigation District (*Montalbano*), Waterford for Hickman (*Pitcock*), City of Hughson (*Velazquez*), City of Ceres (*Vice Chair Morgan*), Turlock Irrigation District (*Chair Cooke*), and City of Turlock (*Gutierrez*)

Noes: None

Absent: Delhi County Water District, Denair Community Services District, Hilmar County Water District, Keyes Community Services District, and Merced County

WTS GSA TAC MEMBER ORLANDO GUTIERREZ FROM THE CITY OF TURLOCK LEFT THE MEETING SHORTLY AFTER THE ACTION (ROLL CALL VOTE) FOR ITEM 5 WAS TAKEN.

6. DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (PEIR) PUBLIC REVIEW MEETING

Environmental Science Associates (ESA) Kelley Sterle made a presentation regarding the Draft PEIR for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan currently available for public review and comment that included an overview of the following:

- Funding for this work – Proposition 68
- Purpose of the public workshop and how input can be provided
- GSP background
- Turlock Subbasin study area
- California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review is not required for the development/adoption of a GSP; however, it is required for implementation of GSP projects and management actions. A program-level CEQA document is the most appropriate to streamline these activities.
- Statement of objectives are to intended to avoid undesirable results and achieve sustainability goal
- Project definition – physically constructed features
- Definition of management actions – no-structural programs
- Scope of PEIR
- Environmental analysis
- Alternatives analysis (1, 2, & 3)
- Next steps in the CEQA process
- CEQA schedule – NOP released on January 7, 2022; Draft EIR published on July 27, 2022; Final EIR scheduled to be certified in early 2023
- Public comment period started on July 27, 2022 and ends on September 12, 2022
- Methods for reviewing the Draft PEIR and submitting comments

Member of the public Walt Ward expressed concern regarding alternative analysis 3 related to direct and in-lieu recharge.

ESA's Kelley Sterle and Meredith Parkin provided brief comment in response to public comment clarifying the thought behind developing different CEQA alternatives for the PEIR.

Member of the public Peter Drekmeier questioned the impact of diverting additional water from the Tuloumne River.

ESA's Kelley Sterle and Meredith Parkin provided brief comment in response to public comment clarifying that the PEIR focuses on evaluating implementation of the GSP and not other policy issues. WTS GSA TAC Chair Cooke further clarified that the Bay Delta Plan and fish flows will be addressed as part of the permitting requirements for projects and management actions.

ITEM 8 WAS NOT HEARD DUE TO A LACK OF QUORUM OF THE WTS GSA TAC MEMBERS

8. TASK ORDER FOR ON-CALL SERVICES PERFORMED BY TODD GROUNDWATER

Turlock Subbasin Plan Manager Debbie Montalbano noted this item would be agendaized at a future meeting of the WTS GSA TAC (at a special meeting in early September 2022).

ETS GSA TAC Chair Sarah Woolf reported that the ETS GSA Board voted to move forward with this item at their meeting earlier today.

ITEM 9 WAS NOT HEARD DUE TO A LACK OF QUORUM OF THE WTS GSA TAC MEMBERS

9. CONTRACT AMENDMENT WITH TODD GROUNDWATER FOR THE FINAL PEIR

Turlock Subbasin Plan Manager Debbie Montalbano noted this item would be agendaized at a future meeting of the WTS GSA TAC (at a special meeting in early September 2022).

ETS GSA TAC Chair Sarah Woolf reported that the ETS GSA Board voted to move forward with this item at their meeting earlier today.

10. SGMA RELATED UPDATES

- Communication/Outreach

ETS GSA TAC Representative Julianne Phillips provided information regarding a workshop scheduled for October 18, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. at the Cortez Hall to discuss the different ways to measure groundwater extraction and possible associated fees.

- GSP Implementation

Turlock Subbasin Plan Manager Debbie Montalbano spoke regarding the ongoing efforts to facilitate contracting for GSP project development, grant application, the OPTI system, and well siting.

ITEM 7 WAS HEARD OUT OF ORDER

7. BUDGET UPDATE

WTS GSA TAC Chair Michael Cooke noted there is no update for the West Turlock Subbasin.

ETS GSA TAC Chair Sarah Woolf provided an informational update regarding the account balance, revenue, and expenditures for the East Turlock Subbasin.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2022.

Turlock Subbasin Plan Manager Debbie Montalbano noted the WTS GSA TAC may have a special meeting on September 8, 2022.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment by the East Turlock Subbasin GSA TAC:

Motion by Merced County (*Beaman*), seconded by Ballico-Cortez Water District (*Yotsuya*), to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m. Roll call vote: Matt Beaman – yes, Dennis Yotsuya – yes, Christy McKinnon – yes, and Sarah Woolf – yes. The Chair declared the motion carried.



Jennifer Land, Acting Secretary
West Turlock Subbasin
Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Technical Advisory Committee