

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY AND
EAST TURLOCK SUBBASINGROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

November 15, 2021
5:00 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER / CHAIRS WELCOME

West Turlock Subbasin (WTS) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Chair Alamo called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

East Turlock Subbasin (ETS) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Chair Rossini called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The Special Joint Meeting of the West Turlock Subbasin and East Turlock Subbasin GSAs was held via remote teleconference call due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB 361) signed into law September 16, 2021.

B. ROLL CALL – WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GSA

PRESENT: Directors Miguel Alvarez (Modesto), Michael Buck (Hughson), Nicole Larson (Turlock), Leandro Maldonado (Delhi CWD), David Odom (Denair CSD), Alternate Directors Bret Silveira (Ceres), Walt Ward (Stanislaus County), Vice Chair Curtis Jorritsma (Hilmar CWD), and Chair Joe Alamo (Turlock ID)

Alternate Director Lloyd Pareria (Merced County) arrived at 5:05 p.m.

ABSENT: Directors Vito Chiesa (Stanislaus County), Rodrigo Espinoza (Merced County), and Javier Lopez (Ceres)

C. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments.

D. STAFF UPDATES

- Budget Update

WTS GSA Treasurer Michael Clipper provided a financial update (October 2021) for the basin-wide account (East and West GSAs) including cash balance, revenue, and expenditures.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR – ACTION BY THE WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GSA:

Motion by Vice Chair Jorritsma, seconded by Alternate Director Silveira, adopting the consent calendar as submitted.

Upon roll call, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Buck, Larson, Maldonado, Odom, Alternate Directors Pareria, Silveira, Ward, Vice Chair Jorritsma, and Chair Alamo
Noes: None

Absent: None

Chair Alamo declared the consent calendar adopted.

1. **Motion:** Approving Minutes of the October 19, 2021 Special Joint Meeting of the West Turlock Subbasin and East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
2. **Resolution No. 2021-04:** Adopting a Resolution of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WTS GSA) Board of Directors (Board) 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 Board for the period November 16, 2021 through December 15, 2021 pursuant to Brown Act provisions
3. **Resolution No. 2021-05:** Adopting a Resolution of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WTS GSA) Board of Directors (Board) appointing Debbie Montalbano, of the Turlock Irrigation District, as the Plan Manager for the Turlock Subbasin
4. **Resolution No. 2021-06:** Adopting a Resolution of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WTS GSA) Board of Directors (Board) determining no sustainable management criteria needs to be developed for seawater intrusion in the Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
5. **Resolution No. 2021-07:** Adopting a Resolution of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WTS GSA) Board of Directors (Board) establishing regular board meeting dates for 2022

Member of the public Spreck Rosekrans addressed the GSA Boards, noting he was unable to speak earlier in the meeting during public comment.

F. CONSENT CALENDAR – ACTION BY THE EAST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GSA:

The East Turlock Subbasin GSA took action to adopt the consent calendar as submitted.

G. AGENDA ITEMS:

1. FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN AND EAST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES

WTS GSA General Counsel Valerie Kincaid provided an overview of this item including the WTS GSA having provided direction to staff to develop water accounting for the GSP. Per that direction WTS and ETS GSA staff members, as well as ad hoc committee (Board) members met, but were unable to agree on final water accounting. In order to continue with collaboration, the Amendment consists of renewed commitment to develop a single GSP including water accounting materials and resolve water accounting issues within a specified timeline.

Chair Alamo spoke regarding a typo in the resolution as it relates to the reference (short cite) for Groundwater Accounting Structure (“GAS”). Ms. Kincaid noted the resolution will be amended accordingly.

Vice Chair Jorritsma spoke about the progress made and the importance of continuing this conversation as we prepare to submit the GSP.

There were no public comments.

Action by the West Turlock Subbasin GSA:

Resolution No. 2021-08: Motion by Vice Chair Jorritsma, seconded by Director Buck, Adopting a Resolution of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WTS GSA) Board of Directors (Board) approving the First Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

Upon roll call, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Buck, Larson, Maldonado, Odom, Alternate Directors Pareria, Silveira, Ward, Vice Chair Jorritsma, and Chair Alamo
Noes: None
Absent: None

Chair Alamo declared the resolution adopted.

Action by the East Turlock Subbasin GSA:

The East Turlock Subbasin GSA took action to adopt a Resolution approving the First Amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

2. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (REVIEW OF CHAPTER 8 – PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND CHAPTER 9 – IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT ACTIVITIES)

Woodard & Curran Ali Taghavi presented information regarding Chapter 8 (Projects and Management Actions) and Chapter 9 (Implementation and Support Activities) of the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan including an overview of the following information:

- Model provides representation of the physical system based on data and mathematical formulations and calibration to observed data.
- Model was developed and calibrated in an open and transparent environment which represents various components including the groundwater budget, land and water use, streamflow conditions in the rivers, and observed groundwater levels.
- Model has been calibrated to historical records, will be improved as additional information becomes available, and provides reasonable predictions of changes in groundwater levels as a result of projects and actions over time.
- Sustainable yield defined as the maximum quantity of water calculated over a base period representative of long-term conditions in the basin, including any temporary surplus that can be withdrawn annually from a groundwater supply without causing an undesirable result.
- Review of the six sustainability indicators that cause undesirable results, noting it has been determined that seawater intrusion does not apply to the Turlock Subbasin.

- Based on current information, data, and knowledge available, the sustainable yield for the Turlock Subbasin without causing undesirable results has been estimated at 311,000 AFY.
- Historical and projected conditions of groundwater pumping and sustainable yield.
- GSP regulations state that each plan must include projects and management actions that the GSAs have determined will achieve sustainability goals for the basin.
 - Projects defined as physical construction or structural features.
 - Management actions defined as nonstructural programs or policies designed to incentivize programs and actions.
- Review of Group 1 and 2 projects (projects in place/currently planned) and Group 3 projects (conceptual projects; implemented as needed).
- Modeling scenarios for the project groups including approach and sustainability indicators.
- Water user categories (surface water & groundwater users and groundwater only users).
- Sustainable management criteria including reduction of groundwater storage, declining groundwater levels, land subsidence, and surface water depletions.
 - Minimum thresholds for Merced River set at Spring 2014 groundwater levels.
 - Minimum thresholds for San Joaquin and Tuolumne Rivers set at Fall 2015 groundwater levels.
- Representative monitoring network for groundwater levels and interconnected streams.
- Groundwater storage improvements will occur with implementation of Group 1 and 2 projects. Implementation of additional projects, management actions, and reduced pumping (approximately 25% reduction in net groundwater demand) will be needed to meet sustainability goals in the subbasin.
- Adaptive management path forward – continual monitoring of the basin, establish estimated sustainable yield based on latest data, gain more knowledge, evaluate and reduce uncertainties, and meet compliance requirements to ensure minimum thresholds and measurable objectives are set properly.
- Review of management actions including demand reduction strategies, pumping management framework, and domestic well mitigation program.
- Adaptive management with implementation of Group 1, 2, and 3 projects and demand reduction management actions.
- Implementation support activities and actions in support of implementing GSP between years 2022-2042, with a focus on the first 5 years.

Based on comments/questions from the chat, Mr. Taghavi provided information regarding the Merced ID expansion project. ETS GSA Director EITal suggested a different name be used for this project to avoid it from sounding like boundaries are growing.

Vice Chair Jorritsma left the meeting at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Actions by the West Turlock Subbasin GSA:

Motion by Director Buck, seconded by Director Maldonado, Authorizing the release of Chapter 8 of the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan for public review and comment. All voted in favor with none opposed. Chair Alamo declared the motion carried.

Motion by Director Buck, seconded by Director Maldonado, Authorizing the release of Chapter 9 of the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan for public review and comment. All voted in favor with none opposed. Chair Alamo declared the motion carried.

Actions by the East Turlock Subbasin GSA:

The East Turlock Subbasin GSA took actions to authorize the release of Chapters 8 and 9 of the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan for public review and comment.

3. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (REVIEW OF CHAPTER 3 – COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH CHAPTER)

WTS GSA TAC Member Herb Smart presented information regarding Chapter 3 (Communication and Outreach Chapter) including an overview of the following information:

- GSP regulations require a communication section that discusses the decision making process of the GSAs, opportunities for public engagement and input, encourages active involvement, and informs the public about implementation.
- SGMA requirements compared to compliance efforts (through the different phases of formation, development, and implementation).
- Chapter drafting team comprised of Todd Groundwater, Turlock Subbasin Ad Hoc Communications Committee (volunteering members of the TACs and Sacramento State College of Continuing Education), and Stantec Consulting.
- Information regarding the chapter drafting process to date.
- Section contents including opportunities for engagement and input activities/involvement.
- Appendices (reference documents) that will be referenced in the chapter and included at the end of the GSP.
- Ongoing work including various outreach metrics, stakeholder gap analysis, timeline of meetings, and appendices for responses to public comments.
- Various tables and figures including public comment periods and a timeline of coordination and public outreach meetings held throughout the GSP development process.
- Communication tools – public meetings, website, emails to interested parties list, digital resources and handouts, and social media.
- Other items in the chapter including governance structure and decision making, branding efforts, as well as outreach to tribal stakeholders and disadvantaged areas.

Action by the West Turlock Subbasin GSA:

Motion by Director Larson, seconded by Director Buck, Authorizing the release of Chapter 3 of the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan for public review and comment. All voted in favor with none opposed. Chair Alamo declared the motion carried.

Action by the East Turlock Subbasin GSA:

The East Turlock Subbasin GSA took action to authorize the release of Chapter 3 of the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan for public review and comment.

4. PUBLIC HEARING DATE TO CONSIDER ADOPTING THE TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AND DIRECTING THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO PUBLISH THE REQUIRED NOTICES

WTS GSA TAC Chair Michael Cooke provided an overview of this item including SGMA requirements for adopting the GSP, recommended a joint public hearing date of January 6, 2022 to review and consider final public comments and consider adoption, and noted that a joint GSA Board meeting is being planned for December 15, 2021 to provide a global overview of the draft GSP.

There were no public comments.

Action by the West Turlock Subbasin GSA:

Resolution No 2021-09: Motion by Alternate Director Ward, seconded by Director Odom, Adopting a Resolution of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WTS GSA) Board of Directors (Board) establishing a public hearing date to consider adopting the Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and directing its Technical Advisory Committee to publish the required notices.

Board Secretary Land noted that Vice Chair Jorritsma has left the meeting; therefore, he will be absent from this vote.

Upon roll call, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Buck, Larson, Maldonado, Odom, Alternate Directors Pareria, Silveira, Ward, and Chair Alamo
Noes: None
Absent: Vice Chair Jorritsma

Chair Alamo declared the resolution adopted.

Action by the East Turlock Subbasin GSA:

The East Turlock Subbasin GSA took action to adopt a Resolution of the East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors establishing a public hearing date to consider adopting the joint Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan and directing its Technical Advisory Committee to publish the required notices.

H. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARDS:

There were no Board Member comments.

I. ADJOURNMENT

WTS GSA Chair Alamo adjourned the Special Meeting of the West Turlock Subbasin GSA at 6:20 p.m.

ETS GSA Chair Rossini adjourned the Special Meeting of the East Turlock Subbasin GSA at 6:20 p.m.


Jennifer Land, Secretary
West Turlock Subbasin
Groundwater Sustainability Agency