

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND THE EAST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2:00 p.m., Thursday, January 14, 2021

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

<https://turlockgroundwater.org/events/special-meeting-of-the-turlock-subbasin-technical-advisory-committees-1>

IMPORTANT NOTICE: DUE TO THE ONGOING COVID-19 CRISIS AND PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA CONFERENCE CALL WITHOUT A PHYSICAL MEETING LOCATION. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISHED TO PROVIDE COMMENT OR OBSERVE THE MEETING WERE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN THE CONFERENCE CALL.

- 1) **WELCOME / MEETING PROCEDURES** – Herb Smart (Turlock Irrigation District) provided a brief presentation and explanation regarding conference call procedures.
- 2) **IDENTIFICATION OF PARTICIPANTS** – Michael Cooke, WTS GSA TAC Chair, took a roll call of meeting participants to include members and the public.
- 3) **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting of the ETS GSA TAC was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Kevin Kauffman, ETS GSA TAC Chair. The WTS GSA TAC was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Michael Cooke, WTS GSA TAC Chair.

WTS GSA TAC MEMBERS PRESENT	ETS GSA TAC MEMBERS PRESENT
Michael Cooke – WTS GSA TAC Chair Michael Clipper – WTS GSA TAC Treasurer Karen Morgan – City of Ceres David Odom – Denair Community Services District Brody Patterson – Merced County Herb Smart – Turlock Irrigation District Debbie Montalbano – Turlock Irrigation District Brandon McMillan – Turlock Irrigation District Walt Ward – Stanislaus County Allison Martin – City Of Turlock Lea Simvoulakis, City of Hughson Leandro Maldonado – Delhi County Water District Michelle Harris – Keyes Community Services District Miguel Alvarez – City of Modesto	Kevin Kauffman – ETS GSA TAC Chair Brody Patterson – Merced County Dennis Yotsuya – Ballico-Cortez Water District Walt Ward – Stanislaus County

4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

WTS GSA TAC MOTION: City of Ceres (K. Morgan) moved, City of Turlock (A. Martin) seconded, that the minutes from the December 17, 2020 special meeting be approved. All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

ETS GSA TAC MOTION: Ballico-Cortez Water District (D. Yotsuya) moved, Stanislaus County (W. Ward) seconded, that the minutes from the December 17, 2020 special meeting be approved. All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

5) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Milt Treiweiler addressed the Technical Advisory Committees.

6) BUDGET

Michael Clipper, WTS GSA TAC Treasurer, provided a brief report on the current bank account balance and pending invoices. No action was taken.

Kevin Kauffman, ETS GSA TAC Chair, provided a brief report on the current bank account balance and pending invoices. No action was taken.

7) LETTER OF SUPPORT

Debbie Montalbano (Turlock Irrigation District) discussed recommending the GSAs provide a letter of support to the East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District for their grant application to fund a Watershed Coordinator. A draft letter from the ETS GSA TAC & WTS GSA TAC Chairs was presented for review by the TACs. It was discussed that this is simply a letter of support and would provide an opportunity for information sharing, however it does not require a financial obligation from any of the member agencies.

WTS & ETS GSA TAC JOINT MOTION: Eastside Water District (K. Kauffman, ETS GSA TAC Chair) moved, City of Ceres (K. Morgan) seconded, that the TACs recommend a letter of support signed by the Chairs of the ETS and WTS GSA TACs to the East Stanislaus Resource Conservation District regarding a grant application to fund a Watershed Coordinator. There was no opposition from either the ETS GSA TAC or the WTS GSA TAC. The Chairs declared the joint motion carried.

8) GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Phyllis Stanin (Todd Groundwater) presented the TACs with information on the Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water Sustainability Indicator, Potential Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs), both Vegetative and Wetland areas, and GSP requirements for Monitoring Interconnected Surface Water.

SGMA defines “undesirable results” for this indicator as, “Depletions of interconnected surfaced water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water,” CWC Section 10721(x)(6). The Regulatory definition of Interconnected surface water is “surface water that is hydraulically connected at any point by a continuous saturated zone to the underlying aquifer and the overlying surface water is not completely depleted.”

Historical water budgets show that the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers were net gaining streams and Merced River was a slightly losing stream, on average. Projected Future Baseline suggests that the Tuolumne will transition to a slightly losing stream and the Merced River loss will increase. However, results of the baseline modeling assume that current conditions are projected into the future without any additional management actions or projects to mitigate impacts, allow for an analysis of potential impacts to help frame the Undesirable Results definition, and determine projects and management actions.

The Interconnected Surface Water Sustainable Management Criteria Minimum Threshold (MT) is the rate or volume of surface water depletions caused by groundwater use that has adverse impacts on surface water beneficial uses and may lead to undesirable results. The MT is supported by location, quantity, and timing of interconnected surface water depletions, and the description of the groundwater and surface water model used to quantify surface water depletion. Water levels can be used as a proxy to the volume or rate of depletion by identifying groundwater elevation monitoring sites where a correlation between water level and volume/rate of depletion can be demonstrated, or by demonstrating that the Minimum

Threshold for chronic lowering of water levels is sufficiently protective of surface water. There was some discussion as to whether or not the GSAs would want to use a proxy for this Sustainable Management Criteria.

Next Steps for the TACs include:

- Coordinate with surface water rights holders on potential impacts
- Define targets for preliminary analysis of sustainable yield
- Select sustainable management criteria for sustainability indicators
- Develop projects and management actions to address any potential undesirable results
- Develop monitoring program for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and future analysis

9) SGMA RELATED UPDATES

This is an opportunity for TAC members to discuss and provide updates on issues related to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. A list of topics could include, but are not limited to the items below. No action will be taken.

- Herb Smart (Turlock Irrigation District) provided the TACs with a public outreach update:
 - Two Groundwater Lunch Hours have been held to date. The next Lunch Hour is scheduled for January 29th, 2021.
 - The Modesto and Turlock Subbasins will be collaborating on a joint factsheet, which will be provided to the TACs for input.
 - A Water Budget video is in development.
 - If any presentations or outreach are done for individual agencies or councils regarding SGMA or the GSP, please let Debbie Montalbano (Turlock Irrigation District) or Herb Smart know so that the can information be submitted as part of the GSP.
- Debbie Montalbano (Turlock Irrigation District) provided a Round 3 Grant and GRAT update to the TACs:
 - Locations for the installation of monitoring wells have been identified by the ETS GSA. The WTS GSA has identified two potential locations and is pursuing a third location.
 - The California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption has been posted at the County and on the www.turlockgroundwater.org website for the installation of monitoring wells.
 - The GRAT Tool is still in development. Analysis has been done on the Groundwater Recharge Suitability Index. The GRAT team will be reaching out to the agencies for data and projects to be included.
 - A project schedule is in development to ensure the deadline for GSP completion and submittal is met. A draft schedule will be brought to the TACs in the near future.

10) NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2021.


11) ADJOURNMENT

WTS GSA MOTION: Delhi County Water District (L. Maldonado) moved, City of Modesto (M. Alvarez) seconded, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:33 p.m. All voted in favor with none opposed. The Chair declared the motion carried.

West Turlock Subbasin GSA and East Turlock Subbasin GSA TAC
Special Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2021

ETS GSA MOTION: Ballico-Cortez Water District (D. Yotsuya) moved, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:33 p.m. The Chair declared the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:



Tara Rodriguez
Acting Secretary, West Turlock Subbasin GSA TAC