

Turlock Community Workshop #2 | SUMMARY NOTES

Meeting Date: June 20, 2018

Workshop Overview and Introductory Presentations

The second Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Community Workshop was held during the afternoon of June 20, 2018 from 3:00pm – 5:00 pm at the Turlock Irrigation District (TID). The workshop was supported by the Turlock Subbasin's Ad-Hoc Communications Committee. The focus of this workshop was communications, outreach, community engagement, and discussing ways to improve educational/ outreach materials. Approximately 30 stakeholders attended.

Primary Workshop Objectives:

1. Discuss and share updates on activities in Turlock Subbasin and how to share with beneficial users.
2. Discuss and share information and tools regarding the GSP development for Turlock Subbasin
3. Identify those stakeholders that need reaching.
4. Develop strategies and activities to reach those stakeholders.

Stephanie Lucero, California State University, Sacramento, provided framing remarks including reviewing workshop objectives described above. As an introductory exercise, stakeholders reviewed Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) identified beneficial users and were asked to self-identify which type of groundwater beneficial user(s) they classify as and/or frequently work with. This allowed the group to gain an understanding of the interests in the room, how to engage with one another, and determine if there are beneficial user groups missing from the conversation that should be invited to future workshops.

Herb Smart, TID, next provided a brief overview of GSP components and the overarching steps that will be taken for the basin to reach sustainability by year 2042. He included a high level review of the overall timeline for the subbasin to complete its GSP (January, 2022) and for the basin to come in to sustainability, with tentative five-year interim milestones and review. There will be communication with stakeholders throughout this process. He reviewed the approximate stakeholder meeting schedule for the next 18 months, including technical workshops and community outreach meetings. The Communications Committee also intends to launch a "speaker series" in the summer, where members and staff from the Turlock Subbasin GSAs will attend and provide SGMA information at ongoing or standing meetings of various groups/ organizations representing the Subbasin's Beneficial Users.

Overview of Upcoming Subbasin and Adjacent Subbasin Activities

Kevin Kaufman, East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), provided a summary of SGMA requirements for adjacent basin GSP development schedules and activities in relationship to the Turlock Subbasin timeline. The three subbasins adjacent the Turlock Subbasin are:

- Modesto Subbasin (to the north)
- Merced Subbasin (to the south)
- Delta-Mendota Subbasin (to the west)

Both the Merced and Delta-Mendota subbasins are critically overdrafted. These subbasins must have their GSPs adopted by January 2020, a somewhat accelerated timeline compared to Turlock and Modesto, whose deadlines for GSP adoption are January 2022.

SGMA requires coordination of GSP development between all subbasins adjacent to one another and has directives for how this coordination must occur. This includes understanding adjacent subbasins and coordinating GSP Development efforts. Additionally, each GSP must show that its plan does not adversely impact the plan of adjacent subbasins. For example, a subbasin's GSP must show no adverse effect to adjacent subbasins to implement their GSP. Thus, if a groundwater project in one subbasin is negatively impacting groundwater supplies in the adjacent subbasin and inhibiting the adjacent subbasin's ability to achieve sustainability, then that project will need to be evaluated as potentially conflicting with SGMA.

Adjacent subbasins are coordinating on data collection and modeling (e.g. how certain creek flows that may cross subbasin boundaries impact groundwater recharge). There are many data gaps to address for GSP development. The Turlock Subbasin may have to expedite certain efforts to allow for coordination given the critically overdrafted basins' accelerated timeline. Adjacent subbasin GSA coordination meetings are currently underway, and the subbasins are cooperating successfully thus far. These coordination meetings are open to the public with meeting information available on the www.turlockgroundwater.org website.

PARTICIPANT QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION:

- In the event adjacent subbasins do not agree on a coordination issue and there is a conflict, who makes a final decision to resolve the issue?
 - SGMA guidelines require the GSAs to develop solutions collaboratively, this may include bringing in a third-party facilitator. However, if an impasse is reached, and the GSPs do not meet compliance, then the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) has authority to step in for regulation and management. As these situations are being discussed real-time, it is currently unclear what type(s) of action State Board would take. Please keep in mind that state agencies have expressed a desire for local resolution of issues locally.
 - There are opportunities for GSAs from other parts of the Central Valley and state to come together and discuss their particular approaches to GSP development to foster creative thinking and share solutions for overcoming hurdles.
- Is the Delta-Mendota Subbasin developing a groundwater model?
 - Yes, they are using a water balance and flow chart to support their groundwater modeling.
- Are there other parts of the state that have more complicated coordination requirements?
 - Yes. For example, there is a subbasin in the Central Valley with 24 GSAs developing six different GSPs that must be coordinated. Comparatively, coordination requirements for Turlock are much less complicated with two GSAs, coordinating a single GSP.
- Is the Turlock Subbasin required to coordinate with the Eastern San Joaquin subbasin?
 - No, as it does not share any border with Turlock. However, Delta-Mendota will be coordinating with Eastern San Joaquin, and Turlock will be coordinating with Delta-Mendota.
- How many GSAs and GSPs border the Turlock Subbasin in the Delta-Mendota subbasin?
 - There is one GSP that is being developed for the western edge of the Delta-Mendota subbasin that runs adjacent to the Turlock subbasin border. However, Turlock will have to ultimately coordinate with the entire Delta-Mendota subbasin as a whole regardless of the number of GSPs that will be developed for Delta-Mendota (i.e. a daisy-chain of coordination among GSPs). The same technical consultants are working on GSP development for all these subbasins, so there is already built in coordination.
- Who employs the technical consultants?

- The technical consultants are contracted by the GSAs. Grant funding is provided to certain subbasins for GSP development (primarily for the critically overdrafted subbasins) through Department of Water Resources (DWR), but this does not cover 100% of the consultant costs.

Outreach Strategies and Tools

Walt Ward, Stanislaus County, shared his experience conducting outreach to stakeholders immediately following SGMA’s implementation. He explained that the topic of groundwater was considerably foreign and complex, and many people were not interested to learn about it until he was able to find talking points that, in simple terms, related the legislation to how it will impact people directly. An example talking point shared was “this is the most significant water legislation in 100 years. It is going to impact you and affect future generations.”

Mr. Ward emphasized that workshops, such as this one, are not very effective for reaching general public. It is essential to go speak to and engage with people at *their* convenience. For example, find out when/where groups are meeting and ask for a spot on their agenda (analogous to “speaker series” Mr. Smart discussed). The audience will be more comfortable, and the information exchange will be more productive. Furthermore, the information shared cannot be complicated.

He suggested that messaging be framed such that this new regulatory program is a program of opportunity; that program is being developed from the ground up and there are many opportunities for creative solutions in the Turlock subbasin. He provided the framing that, as soon as the GSP begins implementation, it will be changed and adapted.

Mr. Ward summarized messaging as follows:

1. Identify both the harm for not engaging and the benefits for engaging. Messaging should be focused on the benefits, i.e. opportunities to craft the outcomes through engagement.
2. Ensure the message is in simple terms that are easily understood irrespective of stakeholder familiarity with SGMA and/or engineering, or water management terms.
3. End with a positive message of opportunity.

PARTICIPANT QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION:

- Mr. Ward, what was a successful meeting where you felt your message was really heard?
 - The League of Cities had a dinner meeting in Lodi where the message resonated with a number of key folks. Additionally, the January 2015 Water Summit had a receptive audience.

Participants were next asked to complete a “trusted messengers / outreach strategies worksheet” for the purpose of helping the Communications Committee identify communities, trusted messengers, and media outlets to help increase engagement and general education about Turlock Subbasin groundwater. The Ad Hoc Communications Committee will compile the information and use it to update the Turlock Subbasin Communication Plan, and to inform the “speaker series” scheduling and outreach contact list.

Evaluation of Current Outreach Materials: Breakout Session

Stakeholders gathered in small groups to review and familiarize themselves with existing outreach tools,

identify additional materials needed, and begin to develop strategies for engaging others in GSP development. Workbooks and material evaluations forms were provided for soliciting written feedback.

REPORT OUTS

After approximately 30 minutes working in small groups, participants were briefly reconvened to share some feedback and suggestions.

Some Shared Suggestions for Updating Materials:

- Update the “GSP Development Timeline” PowerPoint slide/graphic to include a parallel timeline for the subbasins that are adjacent and in critical overdraft. Also update “adjacent basins map” to include year by which GSP is required.
- On Turlock calendar of public workshops, include listings for the public workshops for adjacent basins.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** **Stephanie** to contact Lisa Beutler and request information related to GSP development timelines for adjacent subbasins for which to update Turlock materials.
- To the extent possible, or when information is available, identify on the GSP workplan timeline what topics will be discussed at which meetings, and when decisions will be made.
- Identify on large subbasin map the white areas, wildlife refuges, and the riparian corridors.
- Identify on large subbasin map the footprints of the various entities: GSAs, water agencies, and cities.
- Term to add to glossary: white area / white space.
- Provide list of example plans, projects, and management actions that are being completed/ have been completed in other parts of the State as models Turlock may be able to learn from.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** **Team** to review Department of Water Resources (DWR) materials on Best Management Practices (BMPs) to see if information on Projects and Management Actions exists.

Next Steps and Closing

The Ad Hoc Communications Committee will compile all written feedback received and make updates to outreach materials per stakeholders’ suggestions. The Committee will also work to arrange the “speaker series” launch this summer. Updates will be made to the turlockgroundwater.org website on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Smart and Ms. Lucero thanked all attendees for their contributions before closing the meeting.

Staff Support

- Herb Smart, TID
- Brandon McMillan, TID
- Walt Ward, Stanislaus County
- Kevin Kaufman, East Turlock GSA
- Stephanie Lucero, CSUS
- Meagan Wylie, CSUS

Appendix: Attendee List and Meeting Materials

Amanda Monaco	Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
Ana Lucia Garcia Briones	EDF
Bart Muller	
Brandon McMillan	TID
Breanne Ramos	Merced County Farm Bureau
Brent Van Ruler	
Constance Anderson	TID
Curtis Jorritsma	HCWD
Dana Dominguez	SHE
David Odom	Denair CSD
Debbie Liebersbach	Turlock ID
Dennis Yotsuya	BCWD
Dirk Ulrich	East Turlock GSA Board member
Gil Esquer	City of Turlock
Gordon Enas	Modesto ID
Herbie Smart	TID
Joe Alamo	TID
John Van Ruler	
Kevin Kauffman	ETS GSA
Lacey Kiriakou	County of Merced
Michelle Harris	KCSD
Miguel Alvarez	City of Modesto
Mike Day	Provost & Pritchard
Richard Lindo	Denair CSD
Ryan Honnette	
Sal Alhomadi	SHE
Spreck Rosekrans	Restore Hetch Hetchy
Sunny Kler	City of Modesto
Tom Orvis	SCFB
Wald Ward	Stanislaus County Dept of Environmental Resources
Ward Burroughs	ESWD