

## Turlock Community Workshop #1 | SUMMARY NOTES

Meeting Date: April 18, 2018

### Workshop Overview

The Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Kickoff Community Workshop was held during the evening of April 18, 2018 from 6:00pm – 8:00 pm at the Ceres Community Center. Approximately 35 stakeholders attended. The workshop was supported by the Ad Hoc Communications Committee.

### Primary Workshop Objectives:

1. Clearly outline the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development process.
2. Identify specific GSP topics of most interest to stakeholders, while informing stakeholders of engagement opportunities within in the GSP process.

### Turlock Governance Structure

Herb Smart, Turlock Irrigation District (TID), presented a brief overview of the Subbasin's two Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), GSA Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) and work groups. His discussion emphasized the *process* of developing a GSP on the January 31, 2022 timeline. Refer to accompanying PowerPoint slides for additional details.

When prompted verbally and also visually with a slide as part of the presentation, there were no questions from participants on governance structure during this portion of the workshop.

### GSP Development Process and Engagement

Mr. Smart provided an overview of the GSP development process, GSP components and GSP engagement opportunities. Stephanie Lucero, California State University Sacramento, indicated there are many opportunities for public engagement throughout GSP development. A comprehensive stakeholder outreach and engagement plan is available for public review. Refer to accompanying PowerPoint slides for additional details.

When prompted verbally and also visually with a slide as part of the presentation, there were no questions from participants on GSP development process and engagement during this portion of the workshop.

### GSP Components and Timeline

Phyllis Stanin, Todd Groundwater, GSP consultant, reviewed the components of the GSP. The consulting firm has approximately 3.5 years to complete the GSP in accordance with the 2022 deadline. The first year of work will focus on developing the technical analysis of the Subbasin. A public workshop focused on the technical components of the GSP may held in the fall of 2018. Refer to accompanying PowerPoint slides for additional details.

### PARTICIPANT QUESTIONS:

- What percentage of the GSP technical analysis has already been completed?

- Fortunately, decades of detailed work have been conducted in the Subbasin by numerous agencies, such as the US Geologic Survey (USGS). The consulting firm is in the process of compiling and reviewing existing data to inform the technical analysis.
- Is the GSP consultant working with the East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition?
  - Yes. They have provided a large database of salts and nutrients, and water quality information, that is informing the technical description of the Subbasin.
- Do you perceive future or current issues with water quality for the Turlock Subbasin?
  - Yes. There are water quality issues in all subbasins across the state. In this region, there are concentrations of nitrates in shallow aquifers, and some deeper aquifers with high manganese and iron levels. There are a number of environmental sites the team is looking in to per State Water Resources Control Board data. A positive is that many of the local water supplies have already been managing these water quality issues.
- Are you working with monitoring networks?
  - Yes, we are working with statewide and local monitoring networks. Also, many water agencies conduct their own monitoring at specific sites. The consulting team is working to understand the level of information that has/is being collected across the basin and compiling it.
- There are subbasins throughout the state that have numerous GSAs and multiple GSPs to coordinate, and there are basins that are in critical overdraft that must have a GSP complete by 2020. How does the Turlock Subbasin compare to these areas in terms of complexity and challenge?
  - This basin is well on its way down the right path. The more cooperation among GSAs, the easier it is to develop a single coordinated GSP that will meet sustainability goals. Some basins in the State in have made more progress on developing their GSP(s) though that is likely because they are on an accelerated timeline due to critical overdraft.

### GSP Poster Session

Stakeholders were given approximately 60 minutes to roam designated information/discussion stations regarding the following four GSP topics. Staff persons were at each station to provide an overview of the topic, answer questions, and gather key feedback (concerns, questions, ideas, etc.) from stakeholders:

1. **GSP Components:** What's in a GSP, GSP regulations, what is required in the GSP, including an overview of the hydrogeology of the Turlock Subbasin.
2. **Finding Solutions:** How might we achieve sustainability? What are some likely projects or programs to be in a draft GSP?
3. **What Happens if Sustainability is a Struggle?:** GSA powers and authority, monitoring and enforcement, and what state intervention could look like.
4. **Community Impacts:** The impacts of achieving groundwater sustainability. What are the potential impacts to me, my family and/or my business operation? Can this affect my water rates?

Following the poster session, participants reconvened in the main seating area and station facilitators provided brief recaps of the conversations held:

### GSP COMPONENTS

- Discussed advantages of developing monitoring programs early.

- Reviewed some of the available data for the Subbasin.
- Resources group has been conducting monitoring and will provide data to GSP consultant.
- Encouraged data sharing for GSP technical analyses.
- Department of Water Resources noted upcoming SGMA workshops.

## FINDING SOLUTIONS

- Discussion on pros/cons of increasing use of pressurized lines for water supply.
- Reviewed the myriad plans that all contain some sort of water management component and emphasized stormwater resources and flood management plans.
- Discussed water available for replenishment, and what do to with water when it is available in a hurry (e.g. from a major storm event).
- Brainstormed concepts of alleviating City's dependency on groundwater to allow for more recharge.
- Purple pipe infrastructure and better use of non-potable water discussed.
- Strong emphasis on the need for the GSP to include an urban water management and outreach component (e.g. limiting the days of week one can water their lawn is insufficient)
- Green areas in the City that use well irrigation could be xeriscaped.
- Focus on soil management for water conservation efficiency.
- Fox Grove was a project mentioned for evaluation for use of surface water.
- Suggested Federal Government or non-governmental organizations to purchase undevelopable land and turn them in to conservation easements.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF SUSTAINABILITY IS A STRUGGLE?

- Reviewed some potential milestones for sustainability check-in; e.g. every five-year review
- Some questions were raised about funding, and how financial support may be spread across the Subbasin.
- Discussed water conservation and encouraged groundwater recharge.
- Discussed in general terms the cost to the Subbasin for managing groundwater.
- GSA powers and authorities related to Subbasin management, in comparison to the more limited tools available to the State Water Resources Control Board.
- Discussed the DWR process for reviewing GSPs once submitted.
- General discussion about the groundwater adjudication process and the cost and length of such processes experienced in Southern California groundwater basins.

## COMMUNITY IMPACTS

- A lot of discussion about costs (water rate increases, pumping fees, etc.).
- Discussion on how to engage and involve residents that do not normally attend these types of meetings, as decisions made may ultimately impact them.
- Need to help residents process complex information in small, understandable pieces.
- Need for Spanish translation and more intentional outreach to Hispanic community. Provide informational meeting in Spanish. Engage local trusted messengers in delivering the information

## Closing

Mr. Smart thanked attendees and reminded them of the ways to stay connected and receive information:

- Website: [turlockgroundwater.org](http://turlockgroundwater.org)
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TurlockGroundwater/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/turlocksubbasin>

#### Staff Support

- Herb Smart, TID
- Brandon McMillan, TID
- Phyllis Stanin, Todd Engineering
- Debbie Liebersbach, TID
- Stephanie Lucero, CSUS
- Meagan Wylie, CSUS