

# WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

December 13, 2018 - 6:00 PM  
Regular Meeting

Turlock Irrigation District, Board Room 105  
333 E. Canal Drive, Turlock, California

## AGENDA

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### BOARD MEMBERS

Joe Alamo, Turlock Irrigation District  
Chair

Curtis Jorritsma, Hilmar County Water District  
Vice Chair

Chris Vierra, City of Ceres  
Dillard Worsham, Delhi County Water District  
David Odom, Denair Community Services District  
Jeremy Young, City of Hughson

Rodrigo Espinoza, Merced County  
Miguel Alvarez, City of Modesto  
Vito Chiesa, Stanislaus County  
Gil Esquer, City of Turlock

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**NOTICE REGARDING NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS:** West Turlock Subbasin GSA meetings are conducted in English and translation to other languages is not provided. Please make arrangements for an interpreter if necessary.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:** In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Secretary of the Board at (209) 883-8374. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the Agency to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. If requested, the agenda and documents in the agenda packet will be made available in alternative formats to persons with a disability.

**AGENDA PACKETS:** Prior to the GSA meeting, a complete agenda packet is available for review in the Board Secretary's office located at 333 East Canal Drive, Turlock, CA, during normal business hours. Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Agency after distribution of the agenda packet are also available for public inspection in the Board Secretary's office.

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. ROLL CALL**

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of the regular meeting of September 6, 2018.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Interested persons in the audience are welcome to introduce any topic within the Agency's jurisdiction. No action may be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that the Board may briefly respond to the comments, refer the matter to staff, or request it be placed on a future agenda.

**E. STAFF UPDATES**

- Interbasin Coordination Update – *Michael Cooke*
- Technical Services Agreement Update - *Michael Cooke*
- Joint TAC Update – *Michael Cooke*
- Election of Officers – *Michael Cooke*
- GSP Update – *Debbie Liebersbach*
- Budget Update - An overview of current and future expenditures and revenues for the GSA – *Michael Clipper*

**F. AGENDA ITEMS (INCLUDING consent, regular business items, action, reports, public hearings or closed session)**

**1. MEMORANDUM OF INTENT WITH THE MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES**

The West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) has been collaborating with the groundwater sustainability agencies in the Merced Subbasin to ensure the groundwater sustainability plans (GSP) for the adjacent basins are consistent and comply with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. For consideration is a Memorandum of Intent that memorializes the parties' intent to continue their collaboration.

- *Valerie Kincaid*

***Recommended Action:***

Motion: Approving a Memorandum of Intent with the Merced Subbasin and Authorizing the Chair of the West Turlock Subbasin GSA to execute said Memorandum

**G. REPORTS**

**1. UPDATE ON THE TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP)**

- *Phyllis Stanin, Todd Groundwater*

**H. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

Board Members may provide a brief report on notable topics of interest. The Brown Act does not allow discussion or action by the Legislative Body.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

The next scheduled regular meeting will be held on February 7, 2019 at 6:00 PM, TID Board Room 105, 333 E. Canal Drive, Turlock.

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

Turlock Irrigation District Office  
Board Room 105  
333 E. Canal Drive, Turlock, CA

6:00 p.m.  
September 6, 2018

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**A. CALL TO ORDER**

GSA Chair Joe Alamo called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**B. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Directors Alvarez (City of Modesto), Chiesa (Stanislaus County), Espinoza (Merced County), Jorritsma (Hilmar CWD), Esquer (City of Turlock), Lindo (Denair CSD), Worsham (Delhi CWD) and Alamo (TID)

ABSENT: Directors Vierra (City of Ceres) and Young (City of Hughson)

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Motion by Director Espinoza, seconded by Director Jorritsma, that the minutes of the regular meeting of June 7, 2018 be approved as submitted. All voted in favor with none opposed. Directors Vierra and Young were absent. The Chair declared the motion carried.

**D. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

There were no comments from the public.

**E. STAFF UPDATES**

- **Interbasin Coordination Update:** Michael Cooke, TAC Chair, updated the Board on meetings held with the Merced Subbasin GSAs and the Delta Mendota GSA. A big challenge in the Merced subbasin is the groundwater movement between the basins under the Merced River. A resolution of coordination/understanding between the basins is being drafted that will be reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee and legal counsel, and brought to the Board at the next meeting. Staff is working towards data collaboration with the Delta Mendota Subbasin.
- **Joint TAC Update:** Michael Cooke, TAC Chair, reported that the Joint TAC has been meeting regularly and have provided a letter of support to the Merced Subbasin. A joint letter signed by the Board Presidents of seven GSAs was submitted in opposition to the SWRCB's proposed Bay-Delta Plan. A joint technical workshop between the East and West Turlock TACs was held on August 23 in Denair.
- **GSP Update:** Debbie Liebersbach, TAC member, reported that the consultant is working on a locally appropriate model and initial information is expected as early as

November. She reported on data that will be used in the first two chapters of the GSP, and noted that an administrative draft will be submitted to the Joint TAC for their initial review.

- **Current and Pending Public Outreach Efforts:** Herb Smart, TAC Member, reported on the August Technical Workshop, and noted that the workshop presentation has been posted on the Turlock Groundwater web page. The interested parties list has grown to 248 stakeholders. Upcoming meetings in November include a community workshop and subbasin coordination meetings. Mr. Smart advised that staff is working to develop “community ambassadors” to help with public outreach efforts, and is updating the GSA fact sheets.
- **Budget Update:** Michael Clipper, Treasurer of the WTS GSA, gave an overview of expenditures and revenues for the GSA, and provided information about the fund balances in the GSA accounts.

## F. AGENDA ITEMS

### 1. ADOPTION OF MEETING DATES FOR 2019

Michael Cooke advised that Article 3.1 of the Agency’s Bylaws requires the Board to meet on a quarterly basis. The recommendation is for the Board to adopt the resolution of meeting dates for 2019.

**ACTION:** **Resolution 2018-04:** Establishing Regular Meeting Dates for 2019 for the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Moved by Director Chiesa, seconded by Director Jorritsma, that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Upon roll call, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Chiesa, Jorritsma, Espinoza, Esquer,  
Lindo, Worsham and Alamo  
Noes: None  
Absent: Directors Vierra and Young

The Chair declared the resolution adopted.

### 2. DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR) GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT

Valerie Kincaid, WTS GSA, reported on the status of the grant award process. She advised that the action of the Board is to authorize Chair Alamo to sign the grant agreement, and for he or his designee to sign future work orders.

**ACTION:** **Resolution 2018-05:** Authorizing the Chair of the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, or his/her designee as the Official Authorized to Enter into an Agreement with the Department of Water Resources for Proposition 1 Funding. Moved by Director Espinoza, seconded by Director Jorritsma, that the foregoing resolution be adopted. Upon roll call, the following vote was had:

Ayes: Directors Alvarez, Chiesa, Jorritsma, Espinoza, Esquer,  
Vierra, Young, Odom, Worsham and Alamo  
Noes: None  
Absent: Directors Vierra and Young

The Chair declared the resolution adopted.

**G. REPORTS**

There were no reports.

**H. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD**

Director Chiesa asked if the November water bond included funding for SGMA efforts. Chris Montoya, Dept. of Water Resources, responded that this bond includes significant funds for SGMA related projects.

**I. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

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Interim Agency Secretary

DRAFT

# WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

December 13, 2018  
Special Meeting

Turlock Irrigation District, Board Room 105  
333 E. Canal Drive, Turlock, California

## AGENDA REPORT

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**TO:** West Turlock GSA Board  
**FROM:** Valerie Kincaid, Counsel  
**SUBJECT:** Memorandum of Intent with the Merced Subbasin GSAs

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**ACTION:** Motion authorizing the Chair to execute Memorandum of Intent.

### Background

The West Turlock Groundwater Sustainability Agency is working with the East Turlock Groundwater Sustainability Agency to develop a single groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) for the Turlock Subbasin. The Turlock Subbasin is adjacent to the Merced Subbasin. The Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the Merced Irrigation Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and the Turner Island Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency are working to develop a single GSP in the Merced Subbasin.

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that adjacent basins coordinate sufficiently to ensure that their respective GSPs do not adversely affect an adjacent basin's ability to implement its GSP or impede the ability to achieve its sustainability goal. (Water Code, § 10733(c).) In determining the adequacy of a GSP, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is required to evaluate whether a GSP adversely impacts an adjacent GSP.

As the GSAs in the Merced and Turlock Subbasins have begun developing their GSPs, they have begun to efforts to coordinate and ensure the development of their respective GSPs are consistent and comply with SGMA requirements. These discussions are just beginning and will continue as data is developed, refined, and incorporated into the respective GSPs. An effort that is complicated by varying timelines between the two subbasins. SGMA requires an ongoing coordination effort as GSPs are implemented and updated over time. The Memorandum of Intent (MOI) memorializes the parties' intent to continue to collaborate between adjacent basins by sharing data and coordinating on the development of the GSPs. In addition, the MOI will demonstrate to DWR that the adjacent basins have developed a system to communicate, share data, ensure consistent data, and avoid adverse impacts between adjacent basins. The purpose of the MOI is provide support to DWR to find a plan is adequate and has complied with SGMA's adjacent basin provision, without committing any party to endorsing a GSP that is not fully developed or will continue to be developed and updated.

### Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board take the following action:

1. Approve the Memorandum of Intent with the Merced Subbasin and authorize the WTS GSA Chair to execute said Memorandum.

**MEMORANDUM OF INTENT TO COORDINATE BETWEEN THE MERCED  
SUBBASIN AND TURLOCK SUBBASIN**

**WHEREAS**, the Turlock Groundwater Subbasin (Subbasin No. 5-22.03) and the Merced Groundwater Subbasin (Subbasin No. 5-22.04) are adjacent subbasins that share a common boundary along the Merced River; and

**WHEREAS**, the Turlock Subbasin is a high-priority subbasin that is required to submit a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 31, 2022 and the Merced Subbasin is a high-priority, critically overdraft subbasin that must submit a GSP to DWR by January 31, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WTSGSA) and the East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETSGSA) are working to develop a single GSP in the Turlock Subbasin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the Merced Irrigation Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and the Turner Island Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency-1 are working to develop a single GSP in the Merced Subbasin; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) prohibits a GSP from adversely affecting an adjacent basin's ability to implement its GSP or impede the ability to achieve its sustainability goal (Water Code, § 10733(c)); and

**WHEREAS**, the parties to this Memorandum of Intent (MOI) (collectively "Party" or "Parties") desire to establish compatible sustainability goals and understanding regarding fundamental elements of the GSPs of each GSA as they relate to sustainable groundwater management.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Parties agree to coordinate in the following matter:

1. Each Party desires to comply with SGMA by assuring that its GSP actions do not negatively impact the adjacent GSA in complying with SGMA.
2. To assure this compliance, each Party commits to meeting as necessary to compare GSP development concepts and approaches to identify potential areas of concern that may negatively impact the other.
3. Each Party will commit to sharing data, analysis, methods, results, and any other information that is pertinent to the Parties' compliance with SGMA.
4. The Parties recognize that the development of the respective GSPs have different deadlines and may be developed using different timelines. Coordination is expected to continue, as needed, throughout GSP development and implementation.

5. The Parties recognize there may be data gaps that will need to be filled. Datasets will improve as the Parties develop and implement GSPs over time. The Parties agree continue to work together to develop and refine understanding of the conditions over time. This common knowledge and understanding will be incorporated into future GSPs as data and information becomes available.
6. The Parties intend to coordinate messaging and outreach along the subbasin borders to maximize stakeholder outreach and understanding between the subbasins.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties have caused this Memorandum to be executed by and through their respective officers thereunto duly authorized.

**WEST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GSA,  
a Joint Powers Authority**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Alamo, Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**EAST TURLOCK SUBBASIN GSA,  
a Joint Powers Authority**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Albert Rossini, Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MERCED IRRIGATION-URBAN GSA,  
A Joint Powers Authority**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**TURNER ISLAND WATER DISTRICT**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MERCED SUBBASIN GSA,  
a Joint Powers Authority**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_