

JOINT MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

December 2, 2020

Special Meeting

2:00PM

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87811739951?pwd=bHV2RmNlbnENCmMhZ1WUZ3OGhCb2hYUT09>

Meeting ID: 878 1173 9951

Dial in: +1 669 900 6833

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Crisis, and as authorized by the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, Committee Members will participate in this meeting offsite via conference call. Members of the public who wish to provide comment or observe the meeting may join the conference call.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public opportunity to speak on any matter of public interest within the Agency's jurisdiction including items on the Agency's agenda. Testimony limited to three minutes per person.

3. MEETING MINUTES

February 6, 2020

4. SUSTAINABILITY ZONE CONCEPTS DISCUSSION

5. NEXT MEETING

6. ADJOURNMENT

Alternate formats of this agenda will be made available upon request by qualified individuals with disabilities. Appropriate interpretive services for this meeting will be provided if feasible upon advance request by qualified individuals with disabilities. Please contact the Secretary at (209) 385-7654 for assistance and allow sufficient time to process and respond to your request. Copies of agendas and minutes will be available at the Merced County Community and Economic Development Department and at www.countyofmerced.com/MercedSubbasinGSA.

**MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY JOINT MEETING OF
THE TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 06, 2020- SPECIAL MEETING

The special meeting of the Technical and Advisory Committee for the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) was called to order at 9:00 a.m., on February 06, 2020, at the Merced County Administration Building located at 2222 "M" Street, room 310, Third Floor, Merced, California.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees did roundtable introductions.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Eric Swenson commented that there should be a conversation in an upcoming agenda to discuss Floodmar and whether the Merced Subbasin will take some independent leadership or cede certain leadership to Merced Irrigation District (MID).

III. MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for October 03, 2019, were presented to the committee and no edits were suggested. Mr. Swenson asked if a request has been made to MID for an operational plan of the El Nido recharge basin. Ms. Lacey McBride responded that a request has not been made for an operational plan from this committee. Mr. Swenson further inquired if a request could be made and Ms. Kiriakou stated that it could.

IV. MONITORING NETWORK IN MERCED SUBBASIN GSA

Ms. Lacey McBride informed that the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) submitted a press release upon submission of its Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) accepted the submission of the GSP and posted it online per requirements. The submission occurred late January and DWR has a 75-day comment period which goes until April 15th. Ms. McBride stated the GSA anticipates comments to be submitted from the public and community organizations to DWR, similar to the comments made to the GSAs on the GSP. She mentioned that the 3 GSAs applied for Proposition 68 grant and the funds will be announced during the month of March 2020. One project anticipated with these funds, would be to develop a plan addressing data gaps and Ms. McBride suggested the committee could help bring forth ideas for filling data gaps and input to submit to consultants Woodard and Curran. She went over the current monitoring network in the GSP and representative monitoring sites. The group discussed well permits identified by Merced County's Environmental Health post 1990s. Mr. Eric Swenson recommended that, in moving forward, criteria be established to identify what is a suitable well for monitoring. He also suggested a separate ad-hoc committee to identify protocols and acceptable criteria. Mr. Swenson mentioned that one of the challenges is that many of the wells are oil lubricated and many have oil in the column so there needs to be a protocol to compensate for that. The

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group discussed the benefits of monitoring different types of wells. Ms. McBride informed that existing monitoring for CASGEM wells in the GSP is intended to occur monthly. Mr. Young discussed two main points of focus; one is to get more data to improve the model and the other is to address data gaps and have new wells in areas that are currently under represented. He also spoke about the importance in trying to improve the model and continuously assess well monitoring, calibrations, and other components of the model. Mr. Nervino proposed that those people who apply for new well permits might be good candidates for turning their old wells into monitoring wells. Mr. Young stated that it would be important to identify those individual landowners who have wells within the representative area who will allow their wells to be used in data monitoring as this would be one of the challenging aspects. Mr. Swenson stated it would be easier to encourage landowners if they were approached with an agreement they could read. Ms. Breanne Ramos suggested an opportunity of overlapping with farmers who are already on monitoring wells through other programs. Mr. Nervino commented that well testing could also be used to prove that certain areas are meeting water quality criteria in a positive aspect. Ms. McBride spoke about the possibility of working with Environmental Health on the possibility to allow the ability to not have to destroy an unused well and use it for monitoring. Mr. David Farmer addressed the group and discussed the concept of above ground dams.

V. INITIATING DEMAND REDUCTION

Mr. Young spoke about the early implementation concept of initiating demand reduction and asked if this advisory group could concentrate on coming up with a flyer that describes framing of various risks and the affects in the next few years. Mr. Swenson stated that there is not enough data to reduce demand with the current model. He suggested concentrating the next few years to improving the model and developing the science to come up with projections for phased reduction in consumptive use. Mr. Young stated that during that time there needs to be a demonstration of progress being made to DWR and some efforts could be made to incentivize those choosing to participate in voluntary reductions. Mr. Swenson cautioned on those that would take advantage of an approach like this. Mr. Young asked if the GSA is considering a domestic well mitigation strategy and Ms. McBride responded that it is one of the items in the 5-year implementation strategy for the GSA to discuss but a decision has not been made yet. Mr. Swenson suggested that one of the first things to focus on would be to figure out a 2 to 3-year budget of anticipated implementation costs and a revenue to match that. Mr. Young discussed the start of developing a flyer or printed material with information to take to members of the community and inform them of items of being discussed by the GSA in order to get some interest and input from these groups. Mr. Nervino suggested events like a crabfeed or other social gathering would be a good opportunity to introduce and get feedback

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on material. Ms. Ramos stated that she would be willing to discuss this material at a future Farm Bureau meeting and she suggested also going out to each of the GSA areas to reach as many community members in their respected areas. The group discussed satellite imagery and how it would be used to assess acre feet of water allocations.

VI. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be determined in late March or April 2020.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.