

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 22, 2022

Special Meeting

9:00AM

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83995509627?pwd=TkNLUTZKNjE0Q0dZOVcxTThUZTUzd09>

Meeting ID: 839 9550 9627
Passcode: 750683

Dial in: +1 669 900 6833

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Crisis, and as authorized by Assembly Bill 361, Committee Members will participate in this meeting offsite via Zoom meeting. Members of the public who wish to provide comment or observe the meeting may join the Zoom meeting.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. STATE OF EMERGENCY TELECONFERENCE FINDINGS

Action Item: The Technical Advisory Committee will consider the circumstances of the State of Emergency and determine whether to make the following findings:

1. The State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and
2. State or Local Officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

3. 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.

4. MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2022

5. WELL CONSISTENCY POLICY

6. LAND REPURPOSING PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

7. PARCEL BASED WATER BUDGETS

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.

8. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR ALLOCATION DISCUSSIONS

9. NEXT MEETING

10. ADJOURNMENT



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

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2022- SPECIAL MEETING

The special meeting of the Technical and Advisory Committee for the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on January 25, 2022 via Zoom Meeting due to the COVID-19 crisis and as authorized by Assembly Bill 361.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees did roundtable introductions.

Committee-members Present:

Michael Brasil
Randal Edwards
Lou Myers
George Park
Breanne Ramos
Brad Samuelson
Julia Berry

Consultants Present:

Greg Young, Tully and Young
Chris Heppner, EKI

Staff Present:

Lacey McBride, Water Resources Manager
Ana Muñiz-Laguna, Recording Secretary

II. STATE OF EMERGENCY TELECONFERENCE FINDINGS

TAC to determine whether to make the findings:

1. The state of the emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and
2. State or Local Officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

MOTION: M/S PARK – BERRY, AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 7 – 0, THE BOARD DETERMINES THE FINDINGS THAT THE STATE OF THE EMERGENCY CONTINUES TO DIRECTLY IMPACT THE ABILITY OF THE MEMBERS TO MEET SAFELY IN PERSON AND STATE OR LOCAL OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO IMPOSE OR RECOMMEND MEASURES TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER
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Ms. Vicky Espinoza asked about workshop accessibility with non-English speakers and those in disadvantaged communities.

IV. MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for November 19, 2021 were presented to the committee and no edits were suggested.

MOTION: M/S BERRY – PARK, AND CARRIED BY A VOTE OF 7 – 0, THE BOARD APPROVES THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 19, 2021 MEETING.

V. DWR COMMENTS ON MERCED GSP

Mr. Greg Young, consultant with Tully and Young, discussed DWR comments on the Merced Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and deficiencies identified by DWR in the Merced GSP. Discussed near-term funding versus longer term funding solutions and debated pros and cons to each.

Committee-member Brad Samuelson suggested focus be on disadvantaged communities and proposed selling bonds to provide funding against Proposition 218 fees. Recommended Technical and Advisory Committee (TAC) decisions and strategies be taken to the GSA Board to be presented by a member of the TAC.

VI. LAND REPURPOSING PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Chris Heppner with EKI presented on the Land Repurposing Landowner Survey results and discussed results and target areas.

Committee-member Lou Myers recommended sending landowners an application or updated survey to find out how much acreage landowners would be willing to fallow and for how much. Suggested using County tax roll records to send out.

Ms. Espinoza proposed an increased reach to achieve diversity of land owners.

Committee-member George Park advised being mindful of timelines and timeframe issues.

Committee-member Samuelson proposed irrigated land could be identified as a target on County tax roll.

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Mr. Young commented that the GSA Board can opt for a tiered strategy and determine a criterion. Pricing could be consistent or entrepreneurial and GSA Board could opt for open or behind the scenes market pricing. GSA Board could consider publicizing a set price point and add on factors to the floor price based on incentives. Factors of scale could be location, duration, quality of use, etc.

Mr. Heppner added that GSA Board could incentivize durations and target certain areas based on sustainability and land repurposing goals. GSA could also target groundwater hotspots as an example.

Committee-member Park advised that any options suggested be reviewed by GSA's legal counsel.

Committee-member Samuelson suggested areas like El Nido, Le Grand and disadvantaged areas to be a priority. Scoring sheets with points assigned to projects would be helpful. Ultimate criteria should be dollars per every acre of water conserved.

Ms. Espinoza proposed considering different price points depending on acreage, scale of operation and revenue to include smaller farmers.

VII. WELL CONSISTENCY POLICY UPDATE

Mr. Young led the discussion with committee members on applicant requirements as well as criteria and discussed rules and restrictions.

VIII. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO GSA BOARD

Committee-member Samuelson will present a TAC summary at the next GSA Board meeting on February 10th.

IX. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.