

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**September 27, 2022**

**Special Meeting**

**9:00AM**

**AGENDA**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82159324505?pwd=S2s4eFVWNXh0T211WjRtM2ZCSFZ2dz09>

Meeting ID: 821 5932 4505

Dial in: +1 669 900 6833

Passcode: 208646

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**

March 22, 2022 and May 24, 2022

**5. PHASE 1 LAND REPURPOSING PROGRAM**

Review the available application and documents on the Phase 1 Land Repurposing Program.

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](http://www.countyofmerced.com/MercedSubbasinGSA).

**6. PHASE 1 FUNDING MECHANISM APPEAL PROCESS**

Discuss and possibly recommend the proposed appeals process for the Phase 1 Funding Mechanism.

**7. GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF DEMAND REDUCTION**

Review and possibly recommend proposed guiding principles for developing demand reduction programs within the Merced Subbasin GSA.

**8. ET TRACKING TOOL NEEDS**

Discuss and identify the needs and requirements to guide a request for proposals for the development of an evapotranspiration tracking tool to use with allocations.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**



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

---

**MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MARCH 22, 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 March 22, 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:

Lou Myers  
Breanne Vandenberg  
Blake Nervino

Consultants Present:

Greg Young, Zanjero, Inc.  
Patrick O'Connell, EKI  
Chris Heppner, EKI

Staff Present:

Lacey McBride, Water Resources  
Adriel Ramirez, Environmental Health Specialist  
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.

No determination made, due to lack of quorum.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No comments

**IV. MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes for January 25, 2022 were presented to the committee and no edits were suggested by the group.

**V. WELL CONSISTENCY POLICY UPDATE**

**MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
GOVERNING BOARD JPA  
Minutes – Joint Meeting of the Boards of Directors  
of the Merced Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater  
Sustainability Agencies- March 22, 2022**

**Page 2**

Ms. Lacey McBride and Mr. Greg Young discussed the draft well consistency policy and application requirements and consistency criteria for different classification of wells as well as rules and enforcement.

Committee member Blake Nervino asked what the process is for new property owners wanting to put a new well in, in the future.

Mr. Young stated that individuals wanting to install new wells in the future could petition the GSA and request a CEQA analysis to determine there would be no negative impacts on groundwater conditions as determined by the GSP objectives with the installation of new wells.

Committee member Lou Myers asked if well permits were going to be processed under the existing County ordinance up until end of April and Ms. McBride confirmed that any well permit requests received before end of April will and any received after May 1<sup>st</sup> will be reviewed under the amended ordinance and will require a consistency determination from the GSA.

Mr. Adriel Ramirez explained the County's inspection process of well applications.

Ms. McBride commented that the GSA will be considering outside consultants and support staff to help enforce and manage the policy.

Committee-member Breanne Ramos stated that she would be able to help distribute policy info to Farm Bureau members and the public for review and input.

Ms. McBride urged that if any members have comments or ideas to email these to Mr. Ramirez and he will submit to the GSA Board at their next meeting.

**VI. LAND REPURPOSING PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Chris Heppner provided a presentation and update on the program. He provided a cost estimate for the Land Repurposing Program (LRP) and the Prop 218 fee study and also discussed the DOC MLRP Grant application being pursued by the GSA. Mr. Heppner went over the LRP application scoring framework and groundwater sustainability projects.

Committee member Nervino discussed concerns with the Phase 2 internal funding portion and stated that he prefers this item not be listed for growers to design their farming practices in the future.

**MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
GOVERNING BOARD JPA  
Minutes – Joint Meeting of the Boards of Directors  
of the Merced Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater  
Sustainability Agencies- March 22, 2022  
Page 3**

Committee member Myers suggested to that the application clarify the acreage of land to be repurposed should state farmable acreage. He suggested that the weight of the credits should be on cost per acre-foot volume of water saved.

**VII. PARCEL BASED WATER BUDGETS**

Mr. Young informed on parcel-based water budgets and discussed a possible evapotranspiration (ET) data tool for growers. He stated this tool could be part of the GSA's 218 process and provide this service via a vendor to growers to monitor their water usage. In the meantime, growers can use a tool called Open ET.

Committee member Nervino stated an ET data tool would be very helpful.

Ms. McBride asked if it would be more practical to provide the growers with ET monthly data information gathered by staff or if teaching the growers how to navigate the Open ET program and have them gather it themselves.

Committee member Nervino said a combination of both options would be beneficial along with a flyer.

Committee member Myers agreed that a combination would work and also suggested making growers aware that further changes are coming through SGMA, to get their attention and participation.

**VIII. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FOR ALLOCATION DISCUSSIONS**

Ms. McBride asked for input on different ways to extend public outreach regarding GSA topics and discussions.

Committee member Nervino recommended having outreach at morning coffee shops and posting flyers around areas that growers typically frequent. He also suggested using the YouTube forum to have videos offering information.

Committee member Myers suggested using post card mailers with bold SGMA news-alert information.

Both Committee-members Nervino and Myers stated that in-person meetings may not be the most productive as many growers typically do not attend.

**IX. NEXT MEETING**

**MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
GOVERNING BOARD JPA  
Minutes – Joint Meeting of the Boards of Directors  
of the Merced Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater  
Sustainability Agencies- March 22, 2022**

**Page 4**

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

DRAFT

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

---

**MINUTES FOR MEETING OF MAY 24, 2022- REGULAR MEETING**

The regular 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 May 24, 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:

Lou Myers  
Breanne Vandenberg  
Blake Nervino  
Brad Samuelson  
Julia Stornetta  
George Park

Consultants Present:

Greg Young, Zanjero, Inc.  
Chris Heppner, EKI

Staff Present:

Adriel Ramirez, Environmental Health Specialist  
Ana Muñoz-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.

No determination made due to lack of quorum

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No comments

**IV. LAND REPURPOSING PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

Mr. Chris Heppner provided a presentation and update on the program.

**MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
GOVERNING BOARD JPA  
Minutes – Joint Meeting of the Boards of Directors  
of the Merced Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater  
Sustainability Agencies- May 24, 2022  
Page 2**

Committee member Lou Myers suggested providing growers with multiple mailers and flyers towards more public outreach.

Committee member Breanne Vandenberg cautioned on the cost towards the number of flyers sent out.

Committee members Blake Nervino and Brad Samuelson stated that July and/or August would be good timing for solicitation.

**V. WELL CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

Mr. Adriel Ramirez and Mr. Greg Young provided information and update.

Committee member Samuelson stated that additional data would be needed regarding location of wells on ranches.

Committee member George Park informed that most people don't know info of well depth as it's currently not a requirement. He discussed a CALAg permit electronic system. He discussed about the GSA having an approved vendor list.

Committee -member Nervino cautioned that digital may not work for all farmers.

**VI. PARCEL BASED WATER BUDGETS**

Mr. Young provided information and discussion and asked for ideas on Request for Proposals (RFPs) on vendors.

Committee member Julia Stornetta expressed concerns about on meter discrepancies to applied water.

Mr. Heppner discussed how Land Repurposing would be monitored using remote sensing.

Mr. Young stated that program considerations for the RFP should have ease of functionality and the ability to add or modify data in real time.

Committee member Samuelson suggested that it would be helpful if there were credits between the three GSAs for trading.

Mr. Young went over language for solicitation and repository of info.



**MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER  
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
GOVERNING BOARD JPA  
Minutes – Joint Meeting of the Boards of Directors  
of the Merced Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater  
Sustainability Agencies- May 24, 2022  
Page 3**

**VII. NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, July 26, 2022.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

DRAFT