



Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association
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MEETING MINUTES

September 4, 2014 (1.30 P.M. – 3.00 P.M.)

MID CONFERENCE ROOM 3A

The meeting was called to order at 1.30 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The following members of the Committee were present:

Modesto Irrigation District (MID):	John Davids, Anna Brathwaite
City of Modesto:	Glenn Prasad, Anyon Warda
City of Riverbank:	Michael Riddell
City of Oakdale:	Michael Renfrow
Stanislaus County:	Walt Ward

Also in Attendance:

United States Geological Survey (USGS): Steve Phillips

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Approve 6/5/2014 Meeting Minutes

The Meeting Minutes for 6/5/2014 were unanimously approved.

4. Groundwater Legislation Update

Mr. Davids provided an update of the Groundwater Sustainability Management Act, which was to be signed by Governor Jerry Brown later in September. Mr. Davids explained key definitions, and emphasized that for now, the requirements established in the Act with respect to land use were on a voluntary basis. In general, the Act will allow 2 years to form a sustainability agency or agencies, and then 3 - 5 years to create a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The GSP to be developed under this Act will need to be approved by the Department of Water Resources, and will not be applicable to CEQA requirements. Mr. Ward mentioned that the implementation of the GSP will have to be closely coordinated with each member of the STRGBA.

5. Draft Stanislaus County Groundwater Governance Options

Mr. Davids handed out Options 1 and 2 of the Draft STANCO Governance Structure, which was developed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). These options will be provided to the Water Advisory Committee (WAC) at their next scheduled meeting.

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Mr. Ward added that he will be requesting funds from the County Board of Supervisors to develop a database of wells along the eastern boundary of the County (“white areas”). Mr. Prasad has been assisting Mr. Ward with the development of a Request for Qualifications for this work. Mr. Ward assured that the County will fully fund this effort and no additional funds will be requested by other members of the TAC/ WAC. During discussions regarding the database and data confidentiality, Ms. Brathwaite cited the code describing the fact that data confidentiality will have to be preserved.

6. Groundwater Management Plan Update

Mr. Davids informed the Committee that the Request for Proposal for the Groundwater Management Plan will need to be delayed until issues surrounding the State legislature, and the County’s groundwater management efforts have been resolved.

7. USGS Groundwater Model Update

Dr. Phillips is trying to complete his review of the modeling and documentation work. He is hoping to finish his portion of the work by the end of September. Mr. Ward clarified that typically various levels of review is required from USGS, and Dr. Phillips agreed that the final Scientific Investigations Report (SIR) may not be released until the end of 2014; however, the model could be released sooner. Per Dr. Phillips, an extension of the USGS contract with MID will not be needed to complete any remaining work.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for October 2, 2014 at 1.30 p.m. in the MID Conference Room 3A.

9. Items too late for the Agenda

There were no items too late for the agenda. The meeting was adjourned.