



Minutes

*West Placer GSA Public Meeting
October 12, 2017 at 1:30 PM
Western Placer Waste Management Authority board room
3033 Fiddymont Road Roseville, CA 95747
by: Chris Hanson, Placer County*

1. Public comment period: Brett Storey, Placer County

Speakers were allowed two minutes to discuss any item not on today's agenda. Brett Storey explained that the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) anticipates having public meetings on approximately a quarterly basis.

- a. Brad Arnold Department of water resources, introduced himself as point of contact for the WPGSA.

2. GSA Discussion Items: Brett Storey, Placer County

- a. Brett walked through slides 1 through 7 of the attached PowerPoint presentation that described the GSA members, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), and the required elements of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).
- b. Department of Water Resources Notice – The West Placer GSA is now exclusive – meaning it is an entity recognized by the Department of Water Resources to implement SGMA exclusively in the portion of the North American Subbasin located in western Placer County.
- c. Roles, Budget & funding of GSA activities – Brett recapped the role of the GSA, its consultant, and the public. The GSA work is funded by the member agencies as well as grant funding; there is no intent to charge or meter well owners. Brett emphasized that a major goal is protection of the agricultural community.
 - i. West Placer Member Agency participation

1. Decision Authority – Brett explained that all GSA decisions will need to go to each member agency’s elected Boards, at a public meeting, for approval. The GSA will request public input, through its public meeting process, on all requested actions prior to them being presented to the elected officials.
 2. Technical coordination – It was explained that GSA member agencies provide staff and other technical resources. In addition to the public meetings, GSA members and staff will meet internally among themselves, and with other agencies and consultants, as needed.
- ii. Consultant (GEI) Role & Scope of Work - GEI Consultants has been hired by the GSA to, among other things, obtain the technical information needed to report to the State, perform groundwater monitoring, and prepare reports.
 - iii. Public involvement – The GSA is interested in the public’s experience and insight related to groundwater management as well as input on the forthcoming decisions that will be made.
 - iv. Questions from the audience:
 1. *When you say “Public Notice Provided” when GSP begins; what does that mean?* When GSA starts to move forward and develop the actual, written GSP (currently we are just gathering data in preparation of this), we will notify the public.
 2. *When do you want comments?* At public meetings as we go along. Public meeting will be held at key points, i.e. when we have pertinent information to share and prior to requested decisions brought to our elected officials. Your feedback will be most helpful at those times. Input can be provided verbally at the meetings or any time at <http://westplacergroundwater.com/>.
 3. *How will this be financed?* We do not anticipate charging groundwater users. All efforts are currently funded by member agencies and grant funding. In the next section of this presentation, Kelye McKinney will provide more information on budgets and funding.
 4. *Will you be meeting monthly?* Not necessarily.

5. *Will all your meetings be public?* We anticipate the member representatives will hold public meetings approximately quarterly. There will also be staff meetings to work on technical projects that will likely not be made public.
6. Difference between Irrigated Lands Program and this SGMA/GSP? Josh Huntsinger, the Agricultural Commissioner, explained that the Irrigated Lands Program focuses on water quality; SGMA focuses on water quantity/supply and sustainable management of the groundwater basin.

3. **GSP Discussion Items: Kelye McKinney, City of Roseville**

- a. Kelye walked through the presentation slides 8 through 11, explaining the GSA coverage of the western Placer County portion of the North American Subbasin, coordination with other GSAs, budgets and funding, and grant opportunities available.
- b. North American Subbasin (NASb) GSAs update: The NASb is located in portions of Placer County as well as portions of Sutter County and Sacramento County. Kelye walked through the GSA map on slide 9 that shows the boundaries of the five GSAs that have been established in the NASb. All five NASb GSA's are committed to develop one GSP for the Subbasin that they will manage together.
- c. Budget & funding of GSP activities: The five NASb GSAs are in the process of developing a grant application for up to \$1M toward preparation of the GSP (see item d below). GEI is developing the scope of work that outlines the work needed to develop the GSP, what data is available, and what is needed so we can estimate what it will cost to develop the GSP. The latest estimate is \$1.85 million. The five NASb GSAs intent to share in the cost of the GSP, based on an acreage basis. They plan to request \$905,000 in grant funding and the balance of the cost will be shared among the five GSAs. The WPGSA portion is about \$245,000 over the next 3 years. The WPGSA has determined it can fund its share, which will consist of funding as well as ink-kind services.
- d. Grant Opportunity: The grant solicitation was released by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on September 8, 2017. The application is due November 10. Kelye explained the process to apply for the grant and that GEI is assisting in the preparation of the application. Awards will be announced in the spring. DWR only allows one

agency to submit the application and the Sacramento Groundwater GSA has agreed to be the submitting agency. That also means that if successful in receiving the grant, the Sacramento GSA will be the project manager of the grant funds. Then all five GSAs will execute a formal agreement confirming that all agencies agree to work together and share funds toward a single GSP.

4. Current Placer County Prop. 1 Grant supporting SGMA - Grant Status – Richard Shatz, GEI

- i. Brett Storey explained that GEI Consultants was selected to perform this work by a Request For Proposal Process by Placer County as per state grant regulations. Richard walked through slides 12 through 22 on the following items:
- ii. Land Use report - The goal of this task was to identify and summarize existing land use, water supply, and well permitting authorities to see where there is consistency, overlap, or ordinances that need to be created to meet the requirements of SGMA. GEI found that Placer County, Roseville, Lincoln, and Rocklin all have land use authority. Regarding water supply authority, there are many agencies, as shown on slide 14. Richard also discussed well permitting authorities, DWR well standards, and that the State Water Board has authority over recharge wells. The GSA needs to assess future groundwater demand so GEI looked at various land use plans to develop a forecast. Richard explained that Roseville and Lincoln are required to have Urban Water Management Plans. Roseville plans to rely solely on surface water, augmenting with groundwater only during periods of low surface water supply, e.g. droughts. Placer County's land use plans have similar goals. Most of Lincoln's forecasted use is also surface water. Lincoln prohibits new groundwater wells for potable use. Richard reminded the audience that one of SGMA's undesirable results is depletion of surface water, so maintaining surface water bodies and rivers is important.
- iii. Questions from the audience:
 1. *Does Loomis have land use authority?* Yes, but Loomis is not in the Subbasin.

2. *What is Lincoln's well permitting authority?* The City only requires notification of a new well being drilled in the City; they do not issue permits.
3. *Regarding the Bulletin 74-90 Well standards; does DWR plan to adopt that?* No (Answer was provided by DWR representative).
4. *Will Lincoln's practice continue in the future?* Yes, Lincoln will only use municipal groundwater wells equal to 10 percent of overall water supply production. The City also uses groundwater to shave off peak surface water usage in summer.
5. *What about other cities?* Kelye McKinney explained that the City of Roseville takes surface water from Folsom Lake. For back up supply, the City has groundwater wells for aquifer storage and recovery (the wells are permitted but not currently used). The City has enough surface water supplies currently to meet demands thanks to significant conservation measures to reduce demand. However, the City is not at build out and may need to use groundwater in the future, but plans to recharge with surface water to maintain sustainable supplies. Tony Firenzi from PCWA explained that they only use groundwater for droughts, as a backup supply; although they rarely use it, even in the last drought. PCWA will construct three more wells, for total of five, but forecasts anticipate that would only use a small amount of groundwater in a future drought. Chip Close from NID explained their agency is solely a surface water agency. A small portion of the Subbasin is in their service area, and some of their customers also use groundwater. NID can assist with helping groundwater sustainability efforts by providing excess surface water supplies. CalAm explained their western Placer County service area only utilizes surface water, by agreement with the County.
6. *Is information from the slides on your website?* It will be soon.
7. *Surface water is important; Village 5 in Lincoln, as it moves forward, will eliminate surface water to farms and downstream Auburn Ravine, so they will drill new wells...how does that factor in to protecting surface*

water? There are meetings on Monday at SSWD; those meetings would be better venue to pose this question, as this group is not charged with solving that issue.

8. *Does Roseville's forecast include how many more City wells will be developed?* In the City's capital improvement plan, there is a plan for 10 more groundwater wells; but again, they are only for back up in drought conditions. Roseville has also invested in a recycled water program.
- iv. Groundwater Recharge Areas report - The goal of this task was to look at, on a planning level, where recharge occurs, what other opportunities are there for recharge in western Placer County, and if there are future projects where we could incorporate recharge to improve groundwater supplies. Richard Shatz from GEI Consultants walked through slides 18 through 22 that discuss the different types of recharge methods, potential recharge water sources, and locations where recharge could occur. We have that knowledge now, so when we develop the GSP, and need to put water in the ground, we are prepared to do that. The report is in draft form, to be completed soon. It will be posted on the web once it has been submitted to the DWR.
- v. Questions from the audience:
 1. *What about CEQA review for that?* Any project that involves construction of such projects will require CEQA review.

5. Items anticipated at next Public Meeting - Brett Storey, Placer County

- a. Brett explained that the next public meeting will be around January or February, be located at night, and likely be located in Lincoln. Because stakeholders vary between agency and the public it is anticipated that meetings will vary between the day and night time on an alternating basis. The following items are anticipated to be discussed at that meeting:
- b. Biennial Groundwater Basin Report – The WPGSA agencies have been conducting groundwater level monitoring under the existing California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program. The CASGEM Program tracks seasonal and long-term groundwater elevation trends in groundwater basins statewide. Monitoring

will continue under the GSP requirements. The WPGSA will present the results of groundwater elevation monitoring in the WPGSA management area.

- c. Groundwater Well Information System (GWIS) Development report (a deliverable of the current Prop 1 Grant) – To understand groundwater use in the region, the WPGSA needs consistent well data, in a consistent format, going forward. GEI is developing a database that will combine all well data, e.g. both State owned and locally permitted wells, in one place. If any member of the public is interested in being a voluntary monitoring point, please let us know. Otherwise we will need to drill additional monitoring wells for data gathering purposes required for the GSP. GEI will discuss the Groundwater Well Inventory System they have developed.
- d. GSP Grant Status – a status of the grant application process will be provided.
- e. Diesel pump replacement grant: Placer County Air Pollution Control District - PCAPCD staff will discuss this grant process that could provide funding for diesel well pump replacement to an electric pump and wiring.
- f. Plans/Expectations for 2018 – The WPGSA will discuss when it will start preparation of the GSP and other efforts so the public can plan to provide input on those areas.

6. **Agency Updates** – none.

Attachments: Power Point Presentation: West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency