



SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA) STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP – MEETING #1

Materials Recovery Facility Administration Building
3033 Fiddymment Road, Roseville, CA 95747

Thursday, January 19, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

MEETING NOTES (**follow along with the attached PowerPoint presentation)

AGENDA ITEM	SPEAKER	DISCUSSION
Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) <i>(slide 1)</i>	Josh Huntsinger, <i>Agriculture Commissioner</i> , Placer County	Josh opened up the workshop by providing an overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and need for formation of a Groundwater Sustainable Agency.
What we're covering today - Presentation Overview <i>(slide 2)</i>	Josh Huntsinger, <i>Agriculture Commissioner</i> , Placer County	Josh welcomed the group and provided some initial background information on the State legislation that formed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. He mentioned that the legislation is statewide and requires agencies to work together to meet these new requirements. He provided an overview of what would be covered during the morning's presentation. -Background and need of Sustainable Groundwater Management -Formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency -Components of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan -Placer County's current groundwater basin conditions -Initial stakeholder assessment results -Audience questions and comments

<p>Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 <i>(slide 3)</i></p>	<p>Josh Huntsinger, <i>Agriculture Commissioner</i>, Placer County</p>	<p>The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was enacted by the State of California in 2015. This meeting is to establish the framework for local groundwater basin management and to bring together all stakeholders (agencies, groundwater users, and public) involved. Requirements of SGMA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Groundwater Sustainability Agencies must be formed by June 30, 2017. -Groundwater Sustainability Plans are due by January 31, 2022. -Groundwater requirements only apply to wells using more than two acre feet of water per year. The average family of 4 uses less than one acre foot/year <p>Enacted by state of California in 2015.</p>
<p>Managing Groundwater Sustainability <i>(slide 4)</i></p>	<p>Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i>, Placer County</p>	<p>Chris provided an overview of the importance of managing groundwater sustainability. Goals are to reduce/avoid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lowering of groundwater levels - water quality degradation - seawater intrusion - depletions of surface water - land subsidence - reduction of groundwater storage
<p>What is a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)? <i>(slide 5)</i></p>	<p>Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i>, Placer County</p>	<p>Chris defined a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *having one or more local agencies implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act; *including any local public agency with water supply, water or land management authority (cities, water providers, etc.); and *multiple agencies that will need to coordinate to cover the groundwater basin.

<p>What is a groundwater basin? What are the boundaries of the North American Sub basin? <i>(slide 6)</i></p>	<p>Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i>, Placer County</p>	<p>A groundwater basin is a defined area containing sediments that are capable of supplying or storing significant amounts of groundwater. The boundaries that define the North American Sub basin are outlined in the map attached to slide 6 in the presentation. There are roughly four (4) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA's) being formed within this basin. All GSA's will work together to coordinate the management of SGMA.</p>
<p>Proposed West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency <i>(slides 7,8)</i></p>	<p>Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i>, Placer County</p>	<p>Within the boundaries of the North American Sub basin, the following agencies have allied to form the West Placer GSA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -City of Lincoln -City of Roseville -Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) -Placer County -Cal American Water (Cal Am) <p>*This group is on track and working together to be officially established by the June 30, 2017 deadline.</p> <p>*This group has an established working relationship. They formalized the Western Placer Groundwater Management Plan in 2007 and have an identity created for their GSA which is formally known as the "West Placer Groundwater Sustainability Agency." This team has been managing groundwater in the area for nearly a decade.</p>
<p>South Sutter Water District (Adjacent Agency) <i>(slide 9)</i></p>	<p>Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i>, Placer County</p>	<p>The southern district of Sutter County will have to manage a portion of groundwater monitoring in Placer County. A memorandum of Agreement (MOU) with Placer County will ensure fair treatment of all landowners. All GSA's will work together to develop one plan.</p>

<p>Groundwater Sustainability Agency Requirements (slide 10)</p>	<p>Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i>, Placer County</p>	<p>The GSA requirements are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - carry out the groundwater act; - prepare, adopt and implement the Sustainability Plan by 2022; - conduct studies and monitor the sustainability of the basin; - engage all stakeholders; and - report annually to the state and public (all files will be available to the public for review).
<p>Groundwater Sustainability Agency Options (slide 11)</p>	<p>Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i>, Placer County</p>	<p>The tools referenced below will be allowed and called upon <u>only</u> if necessary. At this time, we are not looking at any of these items.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Adoption of rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions; -Conduction of groundwater studies/investigations; -Registering and monitoring of wells; -Requiring reports of groundwater extraction; -Implementing capital projects to meet goals; and/or -Assessing fees to cover plan implementation.
<p>Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) (slide 12)</p>	<p>Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i>, Placer County</p>	<p>These items are required to be in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Public outreach -State Department of Water Resources (DWR) approval -Annual reporting will be done and every 5 years the Plan will be evaluated to ensure relevance and effectiveness. -All GSA's within the North American basin will work together to form one GSP for best cooperation and cost effectiveness. The GSP is due January 31, 2022.
<p>Plan Components (slide 13)</p>	<p>Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i>, Placer County</p>	<p>The Groundwater Sustainability Plan will be comprised of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Monitoring and reporting *Data collection and basin setting *Establishment of a Sustainable Yield *Water Supply and Reliability Assessment

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Land Use and Consideration of General Plans *Water Demand Assessment and Water Budget Consideration *Consideration of Threats and Undesirable Results *Sustainability Goal (Operating within Sustainability Yield) *Measurable Objectives and Milestones
<p>Who uses Groundwater in West Placer? <i>(slide 14)</i></p>	<p>Tony Firenzi, <i>Deputy Director of Technical Services</i>, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)</p>	<p>Groundwater users in West Placer County are largely agriculture. Over 90% of the groundwater is used by Agriculture. Less than 10% is used for Municipal/Domestic users. Groundwater use follows a very logical pattern - more use in drought years and less use in wet years. Tony shared information with the audience that precipitation was 217% of normal and that the snow pack was 171% of normal, making this year one of the wettest years on record.</p>
<p>West Placer – Hydrogeology <i>(slide 15)</i></p>	<p>Tony Firenzi, <i>Deputy Director of Technical Services</i>, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)</p>	<p>Tony provided an overview of the hydrogeology for the West Placer area describing the productive parts of the basin as the blue-colored areas. The brown areas are made of clay material.</p>
<p>West Placer Groundwater Levels <i>(slide 16)</i></p>	<p>Tony Firenzi, <i>Deputy Director of Technical Services</i>, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)</p>	<p>Over 67 groundwater well levels are measured by the City of Lincoln, City of Roseville, PCWA, Placer County, and the State Department of Water Resources (DWR). DWR has been measuring these levels since the 1940's. Local agencies have been measuring levels since 2004.</p>
<p>Groundwater Level Changes <i>(slides 17,18)</i></p>	<p>Tony Firenzi, <i>Deputy Director of Technical Services</i>, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)</p>	<p>Tony explains a map picture that illustrates the health of a groundwater area based on its shade of color. The green areas have stable and healthy levels of groundwater. The yellow areas imply a decline of 10 - 20 feet. Being yellow isn't necessarily a bad thing but just means it is very</p>

		<p>important to manage to ensure levels don't drop significantly. The red areas show a decline of more than 20 feet and could possibly signal a danger zone for maintaining an appropriate amount of groundwater.</p> <p>Most wells show that they are within historic range. Some areas in north Lincoln have showed declining levels and everyone is aware of that so that area is being closely monitored. Most groundwater levels have recovered from the 2010-2015 droughts due to heavy rains in 2016.</p>
<p>Subsidence: Land Settling (slide 19)</p>	<p>Tony Firenzi, <i>Deputy Director of Technical Services</i>, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)</p>	<p>From 1950 to 1991, there was witness of some land settling but that has since resided. The West Placer area has low potential for subsidence due to generally stable groundwater levels. Subsidence refers to the shrinking of land which is evidenced in a picture from San Joaquin Valley (shown on slide 19).</p>
<p>Surface Water/Groundwater Interaction in West Placer (slide 20)</p>	<p>Tony Firenzi, <i>Deputy Director of Technical Services</i>, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)</p>	<p>It's important to protect and preserve the recharge stations for our groundwater basins. The basins recharge through creeks and there are special portals that transport the water directly to the basin. These special areas need to be protected and maintained to the best ability to ensure enough capture of natural water.</p>
<p>Groundwater Quality/North American Sub Basin: West Placer Groundwater Conditions (slides 21,22)</p>	<p>Tony Firenzi, <i>Deputy Director of Technical Services</i>, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)</p>	<p>The quality of the West Placer groundwater is generally good. The contaminated sites have been identified and are under remediation. As long as groundwater levels are generally stable and managed well, life should be good. But overall, the water quality is generally good in the area. If everyone in the area is paying attention to water levels and amounts of pumping, we'll be able to handle and foresee any problems, or be able to</p>

		prevent them.
Stakeholder Involvement <i>(slide 23)</i>	Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i> , Placer County	Stakeholder involvement is very critical to have throughout the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) formation process. Stakeholders are defined as anyone who has an interest in the topic or process. Stakeholders can provide input into decisions and weigh in on what's important to them. The Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) relies on this information from all users to make the process successful. The Groundwater Management Act requires the GSA to keep a list of interested parties to be maintained and engaged throughout the process.
Initial Stakeholder Assessment <i>(slide 24)</i>	Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i> , Placer County	An initial stakeholder assessment was conducted last summer, May - July 2016. There were multiple interviews conducted with farmers, ranchers, residential pumpers, the Agriculture Commissioner, and related Placer, Sutter and Sacramento agencies. These were all conducted individually.
Sample Questions Asked <i>(slide 25)</i>	Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i> , Placer County	Chris read through a list of sample questions asked during each of the interviews. The discussions included the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Background -Groundwater trends -SGMA information already received and from whom -Relationship, advocates and conflicts -Critical community events -Information worth sharing -Stakeholder processes that have worked -When and where to have meetings

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Keys to successfully engaging -Best ways to keep you informed -Advice
<p>Themes of Feedback Received <i>(slide 26)</i></p>	<p>Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i>, Placer County</p>	<p>Concerns expressed from Stakeholders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Local control vs. state control -Property rights -Water rights -Water ownership -Concerns about other groundwater pumpers
<p>What People Want to Know <i>(slide 27)</i></p>	<p>Chris Hanson, <i>Senior Planner</i>, Placer County</p>	<p>Folks wanted to know why the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was established and Chris reiterated to them that it was established to prevent any undesirable effects from happening to our groundwater supply and to protect the sacred natural resource. Chris shared other stakeholder thoughts on participation and involvement in the process. Many expressed that they wanted to be involved. There was concern over water and property rights. At this time, the law does not intend to change these rights. And it was determined that individual groundwater pumpers did not have to comply with the current law if they were under the threshold.</p>

<p>How to Stay Involved and Keep Informed (slide 28)</p>	<p>Josh Huntsinger, <i>Agriculture Commissioner</i>, Placer County</p>	<p>Josh wrapped up the meeting by providing the audience with the GSA's website - www.westplacergroundwater.com. He mentioned that the site was up and running and that folks could read up on the issue and sign up for the e-mail notification list to keep informed of upcoming meetings and legislative actions. Josh acknowledged the concern for new regulations and sensitivity to new fees but he ensured that wasn't going to happen at this time and that the West Placer region was in a good place with its basin and groundwater levels.</p>
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AUDIENCE QUESTIONS AND STAFF ANSWERS

A panel of staff from each of the GSA representative agencies was present to take audience questions. The panel was moderated by Josh Hutsinger consisted of:

- Chris Hanson, Placer County
- Tony Firenzi, Placer County Water Agency
- Kelye McKinney, City of Roseville
- Audie Foster, Cal American Water
- Jennifer Hanson, City of Lincoln

Question about City of Roseville wastewater – what is the baseline of nitrates in our creeks?

A: Both of the City's wastewater treatment plants (the Pleasant Grove WWTP and the Dry Creek WWTP) have discharge limits that are placed upon them by the State Regional Water Quality Control Board. Roseville monitors effluent that comes from the wastewater plants daily and as well monitors up and down stream of the plants per those discharge permit requirements and we meet or exceed our requirements. (Follow-up to the meeting: The Dry Creek WWTP usually discharges between 10 and 12 mg/l nitrates. The Pleasant Grove WWTP typically discharges within the range of 4 to 5 mg/l. Background nitrates in creeks and water ways are more likely the result of landscape run-off containing fertilizers and not discharge from wastewater treatment plants. Roseville is making improvements at the Dry Creek WWTP in the next two years that will further reduce nitrates to 6 or 7 mg/l.) Additionally, we collect groundwater samples and they're analyzed to ensure that levels, like nitrates are below drinking water maximum levels.

The City's groundwater consultant, GEI Consultants, performed a round of groundwater quality sampling in 2015. Based on memory, no exceedances were found (follow-up review found one exceedance).

May I get a copy of the report of groundwater quality?

A: Report is being finalized and will be posted on the website when available.

Future development - how will this be affected by our groundwater wells?

A: Placer Vineyards was recently approved. That development will be serviced by California American Water through surface water contracts with Placer County Water Agency. With new development and water efficiency requirements, homes will be efficient.

Placer County has a policy against developing strictly on groundwater (GW). All water suppliers are looking at a conjunctive use program – a blend of surface and groundwater. In Placer County, there is enough surface water supply to meet the demands. We would integrate groundwater wells to balance things depending on water use conditions. It would be a managed processed.

In Roseville, our long term plan is to use surface water. There are times in the last few years where we have had dry years. We anticipate that we will need to use GW in those dry years as the city grows – three or four months of the year. We are installing GW wells. There are 6 active now and 10 more over time. These would be for dry year purposes, not normal years. They are equipped with ASR facilities. In wet years, we will take surface water and directly inject the water back into the groundwater basin to help keep the basin healthy. Roseville also uses recycled water to reduce water supply needs for irrigation use.

How deep are the wells in Roseville? Does it affect other wells that aren't as deep?

Roseville's production wells are 400 to 600 feet deep. During the last drought, we pumped for a month, three years ago, and haven't turned them on since because they are emergency backup wells. In hydrogeology, the different layers of aquifer are separated. Wells 200 or 400 feet could be coming from different aquifers. Under the conditions Roseville is pumping, it should not affect domestic wells. The goal is to reduce or mitigate impacting other users. Roseville will be looking to maintaining the sustainable yield long term.

Cal Am near Cook Riolo, serving Antelope.

A: There are no political boundaries underground. We look at the basin as a whole. We do an extensive amount of conjunctive use. We have contracts with other Sacramento water providers to obtain surface water to rest GW wells. We have seen recovery in Sacramento wells. We need to work together to manage the basin.

How does the water coalition (irrigation lands program) come into this?

A: The regional board Irrigated Lands Program is focused on Agricultural water quality impacts. The SGMA is quantity and Irrigated Lands are quality but SGMA does require evaluation of water quality. We will look into a coordinated effort.

How deep to get to the brine water?

A: Ranges from as little as 100 in the eastern portion of the basin to about 1,000 feet in the western portion of the basin.

The way to keep GW stable is to get surface water at a reasonable amount of money. How are the agencies working together to keep AG surface water at a reasonable cost?

A: The cost of water per acre foot has increased, but it still competitive. We had a good deal for decades under the PG&E contract, which had to be renegotiated in 2015. The revised cost, though much higher than we enjoyed before, is fair and aligned with the cost of water elsewhere in the Sacramento Valley. We are doing everything we can to coordinate with our partner agencies and stakeholders regarding surface water supply for agriculture. (PCWA response).

Excessive water going to the fish - question about releases for the environment.

A: It is a fact that there are statewide issues and concerns that are greater than groundwater. There is no instance where we are taking groundwater and using it for surface water initiatives. But it's integrated. We are very engaged with surface water issues.

Five forming agencies will become WPGSA. Will it be a newly formed agency and who funds it? And the options on page 6 - who assesses fees and additional burden?

A: We are required to form a GSA. There are different ways to form: Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) or a Joint Powers Authority (JPA). A JPA will form a new governing body. We are moving ahead with an MOA. At this time, we are not planning to form an authority with a board of elected officials. We are working like we have been working for the last 10 years. So, for example, Placer County – your rep would be the Board of Supervisors. We are in the process of drafting up the legal language. Placer County will be the administrative agency but each agency will fund activities associated with implementing the plan. We also have to coordinate with other GSA's within the basin. We don't know the cost with developing the plan yet. There are currently no plans to assess fees on properties. If this changes, we would develop a process for public engagement. It's not our interest to assess fees. Given the state of the basin, we are hoping to maintain the GSA under a MOA. It's early in the process to speculate if fees will be assessed or not.

Finding ways to reintroduce stormwater recharge. Look at grant funding.

A: We agree. These opportunities will show themselves overtime. Placer Land Trust doing trial runs for flooding the lands.