

**SOUTHWEST KINGS
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

100.04

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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: December 5, 2018

TO: Board of Directors & Interested Parties

FROM: Dale Melville & Joe Hopkins

SUBJECT: December Status Report

Below is a summary of the current status for various issues for the SWKGSA. Don't hesitate to call Dale Melville, Joe Hopkins, or Rick Besecker if you have any questions or need additional information.

1. Financial

- a. SWKGSA submitted its assessment roll to Kings County for inclusion on the property tax bill in the amount of \$270,560.30 (\$3.00 per acre). There remain six unpaid assessments from 2018 totaling \$2,976.76. SWKGSA expects to receive the first installment of 2019 assessments from Kings County in January.

- b. Balance in banking accounts as of 11/30/2018:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Bank of America | \$ 1,021.59 |
| Local Agency Investment Fund | <u>169,265.87</u> |
| Total | \$ 170,287.46 |

- c. Grants:

- i. The Tulare Lake Subbasin has been awarded a \$1,500,000 DWR grant to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") for the Subbasin. The SWKGSA share of funding the GSP is approximately \$275,000, which will be reimbursed as DWR grant funds are received. A contract to prepare the GSP (see item 3 below) has been awarded to a consultant team, Wood (formerly AMEC). A contract with DWR has been executed. A reimbursement request has been submitted to DWR for all work completed by the consultant through October. Future reimbursement requests will be submitted quarterly by the consultant.
- ii. Since Mid-Kings River GSA ("MKRGSA") is the contracting agency for the DWR grant on behalf of the Tulare Lake Subbasin, MKRGSA contracted directly with Wood for GSP development. Each GSA is providing MKRGSA "seed funding" for the cash flow

necessary to pay Wood for the GSP work until the MKRGSA is reimbursed by DWR, and then the SWKGSA will be reimbursed by MKRGSA. SWKGSA should see reimbursement in January for a portion of the seed money provided to date.

- d. Budget report through November 2018 is attached.
2. Subbasin Coordination
 - a. Modeling effort: Wood has completed the first draft of the groundwater model under their prior contract. A presentation was made to the Kings County Board of Supervisors on 8/7/2018, where after the report was submitted to DWR. The presentation has been posted on the SWKGSA website (swkggsa.org). The model will continue to be refined by Wood under the GSP scope of work, with the intent of incorporating additional local data and addressing boundary issues with input from neighboring subbasins.
 - b. The Tulare Lake Subbasin GSAs are now meeting bi-monthly.
 - i. At the 11/9/2018 meeting the consultant provided an update on grant status with DWR, and continued discussion on a potential third round of seed funding. A preliminary project map was provided, and potential projects for selection and management actions were discussed. A proposed monitoring network was previously provided to the group, and a discussion ensued regarding potential technical support services from DWR to drill monitoring wells and video borehole logging. Data sharing efforts with adjacent subbasin were discussed and are anticipated to influence the modeled outputs for SWKGSA. The model is receiving its last iteration of input on surface water interactions for calibration. In response, SWKGSA staff met with Wood's modeling team on 11/16 to identify inconsistencies with the model compared to local data.
 - ii. The 11/21/2018 was cancelled. The Basin Setting chapter was provided digitally for review.
 - iii. The December meetings will be held 12/14/2018 and 12/27/2018.
 - c. A stakeholder survey has been placed on our website to seek concerns of affected parties. The deadline to submit comments was November 30, 2018. Due to limited responses, staff is considering a short deadline extension to encourage stakeholder participation in SGMA.
 3. Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") Development
 - a. The GSA representatives of the Tulare Lake Subbasin selected Wood for GSP development. SWKGSA is working collectively with the other Tulare Lake Subbasin GSAs to develop a single GSP for the Subbasin. The Subbasin is within a critically overdrafted groundwater basin, thus required by SGMA to submit a comprehensive GSP to DWR no later than January 2020. The GSP must develop a preliminary plan to achieve groundwater sustainability with regards to established goals for groundwater elevation, storage, quality, and subsidence. The GSP must also develop measurable objectives, interim milestones, and threshold levels that would trigger mitigation actions to maintain the goals established by the Subbasin and/or Management Areas within the Subbasin.

- b. The consultant has provided for review:
 - i. Draft GSP Outline
 - ii. Draft Communication and Engagement Plan
 - iii. Discussion material regarding Management Areas
 - iv. Discussion material regarding Undesirable Results
 - v. Draft Plan Area Chapter
 - vi. Discussion material regarding Monitoring Network
 - vii. Discussion material regarding Projects and Management Actions
 - viii. Draft Basin Setting Chapter
- c. A draft water budget has been prepared specific to the SWKGSA as a check against the regional groundwater modeling effort. The budget is now being refined to account for where groundwater is used within the SWKGSA. The data from within the SWKGSA and the neighboring subbasin will be provided to the GSP development team for inclusion during refinement of the modeling.
- d. To refine the model, staff will be seeking input on which areas of the basin receive only groundwater, only surface water, or both. A map is being refined by SWKGSA to illustrate the areas of water application. The modeling team has also provided their surface water input values for verification by GSAs.
- e. At the SWKGSA September Board meeting, an ad-hoc committee was established to provide input to SWKGSA staff on SGMA compliance. The committee met on 10/11/2018. The first items discussed were:
 - i. Data Management Systems
 - 1. Recommendation from the committee is to create a simple DMS utilizing MS Excel or Access.
 - ii. Management Areas within SWKGSA
 - 1. Recommendation from the committee to have one management area for the entire SWKGSA.
- f. Tentative schedule: Attached is an updated list of tasks and the tentative schedule for completion of the GSP; the schedule of individual tasks will be revised based on the GSP consultant's (Wood's) schedule adjustments, but the completion date of September 2019 for public review and January 2020 submittal to DWR are fixed.

Attachments: Budget Report through 11/30/2018
Schedule for GSP Development