

**SOUTHWEST KINGS  
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**

100.04

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**M E M O R A N D U M**

DATE: February 7, 2019  
TO: Board of Directors & Interested Parties  
FROM: Dale Melville & Joe Hopkins  
SUBJECT: February 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 four unpaid assessments from 2018 totaling \$1,019.26. SWKGSA received \$145,619.15 from Kings County in January and expects to receive the second installment in May.
- b. Balance in banking accounts as of 1/31/2019:
 

Bank of America	\$ 4,596.10
Local Agency Investment Fund	<u>305,323.23</u>
Total	\$ 309,919.33
- 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. Reimbursement requests will be submitted quarterly by the consultant; the next request will include consultant costs from November through January.
  - 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.

- iii. A reimbursement request was submitted and accepted by DWR for all work completed by the consultant through October. MKRGSA received the reimbursement from DWR in January. However, a distribution will not be made to the GSAs at this time, since cash flow projections did not show sufficient reserves to cover consultant costs until the next reimbursement is received. SWKGSA should see reimbursement for a portion of seed money provided in April.
  - d. Budget report through January 2019 is attached.
2. Subbasin Coordination
- a. Modeling effort: The groundwater model has been calibrated to historic conditions. The Wood team is now using the model to develop projected groundwater conditions through 2070, based on varying hydrologic conditions. Future model iterations will include project and management actions, once direction is provided from the GSAs.
  - b. The Tulare Lake Subbasin GSAs are now meeting bi-monthly.
    - i. At the 1/11/2019 meeting the consultant provided an update on grant status with DWR. The Basin Setting Chapter was provided, with first round comments due 2/8/2019. The groundwater model forecast was discussed. Finally, a discussion was held amongst the GSAs that any special requests of Wood by a single GSA should be the financial responsibility of that GSA unless all GSAs concur that the request is of benefit to the Subbasin as a whole.
    - ii. At the 1/25/2019 meeting the consultant again provided an update on grant status with DWR, and an update model projection. Next, a discussion was held on how Sustainable Management Criteria could be developed.
    - iii. The February meetings will be held on 2/8/2019 and 2/28/2019.
  - c. A stakeholder survey has been placed on our website to seek concerns of affected parties. The deadline to submit comments was extended to January 15, 2019.
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
  - ix. GSP review checklist
- c. At the SWKGSA September 2018 Board meeting, an ad-hoc committee was established to provide input to SWKGSA staff on SGMA compliance. The committee met on 12/11/2018. The Committee recognized that SWKGSA's ability for local projects are limited as almost all of the water is imported from outside of the Subbasin; accordingly, the Committee recommended the SWKGSA explore partnering solutions in and out of the Subbasin that could enhance our water reliability.
- d. 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 1/31/2019  
Schedule for GSP Development