SOUTHWEST KINGS GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

100.04

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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: **March 7, 2018**

TO: **Board of Directors & Interested Parties**

FROM: **Dale Melville**

SUBJECT: **March Status Report**

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

1. Financial
    a. SWKGSA received its first tax apportionment ($209,891.22 less $490.00 assessment fee) from Kings County (Proposition 218 assessments) in January. There were unpaid assessments of $36,162.90. The second tax apportionment is due in April. The board will need to determine 2019 assessment in July 2018 for inclusion in Kings County tax collection process.
    b. Balance in banking accounts as of 3/2/18:

Bank of America	$ 1,305.34
Local Agency Investment Fund	95,000.00
Total	$ 96,305.34

    c. Grants:
        i. 2017: Kings County received a $500,000 grant from the California Department of Water Resources ("DWR") to prepare a groundwater model for the Tulare Lake Subbasin ("Subbasin"); the SWKGSA is one of the 6 GSAs in the Subbasin.
        ii. 2018: In February, DWR announced that the Subbasin is scheduled to receive an additional $1,500,000 DWR grant to develop a Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) for the Subbasin; a contract will be forthcoming, however, funds are unlikely to be available until summer/fall 2018.
    d. Budget report through February 2018 is attached.

2. Subbasin coordination
    a. Modeling effort: AMEC consultants continue to develop and refine the groundwater model for the Subbasin; preliminary results of the model are

expected to be presented to the GSAs later in March. The modeling period covers the years 1995-2016.

b. Interim Operating Agreement: The Interim Operating Agreement has been approved by all of the Subbasin GSAs. A copy of the Agreement has been posted on the SWKGSA website (www.swkgsa.org).
c. Proposed Kings County groundwater ordinance: In response to Kings County's draft ordinance, the GSAs in the Subbasin submitted the attached letter to the County Board of Supervisors on February 20.

3. Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") development
    a. SWKGSA will work collectively with the other Tulare Lake Subbasin GSAs to develop a single GSP. 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 shall develop a preliminary plan to achieve groundwater sustainability with regards to established goals for groundwater elevation, storage, quality, and subsidence. The GSP shall develop measurable objectives, interim milestones, and threshold levels that would trigger mitigation actions to maintain the goals established for the GSA.
    b. A water budget is being prepared specific to the SWKGSA as a check against the regional modeling effort. The model will utilize surface water deliveries and cropping data to solve for groundwater pumped.
        i. Data Collected:
            1. All known cropping records, surface water deliveries, groundwater imports, and wastewater treatment plant effluent records have been received as of March 3rd from Kettleman City Community Services District, Dudley Ridge Water District ("DRWD"), Westlake Farms, and Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District ("TLBWSD").
            2. Cropping records are undergoing GIS processing to incorporate cropping data from DRWD and Reclamation District 761 ("RD 761") with existing DWR and USDA Cropscape data.
        ii. Data remaining to be collected:
            1. Sandridge to provide/confirm locations of tile drains and provide any additional information (particularly for 2014-2016 in RD 761).
        iii. Next Steps:
            1. Organize and evaluate the data.
            2. Provide draft water budget for review by board and interested parties.
    c. Consultant selection: Three consultant teams have submitted proposals to the Subbasin (AMEC, Geosyntec, Lytle) all in the $1.5M fee range; the Subbasin representatives will be reviewing and recommending one of the consultants be retained to prepare the GSP.
    d. Tentative schedule: Attached is a 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 selected, but the completion date of September 2019 for public review and January 2020 submittal to DWR are fixed.

Attachments: February 20, 2018 letter to Kings County Board of Supervisors
Budget report through 2/2018
Schedule for GSP Development

MID-KINGS RIVER
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

South Fork Kings
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

El Rico GSA

TRI-COUNTY
WATER AUTHORITY GSA

SWK
Southwest Kings
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

February 20, 2018

Board of Supervisors
County of Kings
1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

Re: Proposed Groundwater Export Ordinance

Honorable Supervisors:

This letter is being forwarded in response to the proposed Groundwater Export Ordinance currently being considered by the County. The undersigned represent five (5) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies ("GSAs") recently organized and populated within the DWR Bulletin 118 Tulare Lake Subbasin as part of the 2014 statewide legislation commonly known as the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ("SGMA").

Tasked with providing groundwater management for the next 20-40 years over a combined service area of approximately 59% of the land in Kings County, these GSAs have thoroughly evaluated the County's proposed draft groundwater ordinance(s) and have had extensive discussions with County staff on the need for, as well as the options for, addressing some citizens' concern over the possibility of groundwater leaving the County. Individually and collectively, we strongly support the actions of both the Kings County Water Commission and the Kings County Agricultural Advisory Board at their joint meeting on January 22, 2018 recommending the Board of Supervisors **NOT** to proceed forward with a groundwater ordinance at this time.

The SGMA requires the GSAs to develop comprehensive Groundwater Sustainability Plans ("GSPs") with the intention of achieving sustainability in the subbasin and to protect and sustain locally determined thresholds for groundwater storage, groundwater levels, and groundwater quality, among other items. These plans are required by statute to be developed over the next twenty months. Kings County is a member of each of the Tulare Lake Subbasin GSAs. It will be no small task to comply with the complex and intricate requirements set out by DWR to achieve compliance. To enact an ordinance at this time would add additional, and likely unnecessary, complexity at an inopportune time. The bottom line is that we have concluded that the successful

development of the GSPs would not be helped by an ordinance, but rather **would be hindered** by a groundwater export ordinance complicating the process at this time.

We, the undersigned, request that we be allowed to prepare the GSPs with all the tools available to us to achieve the common goal we have with the County...to develop and maintain sustainable groundwater conditions within the region. Please table the draft ordinances until a later time, when we can all agree one might be necessary and/or effective for maximizing groundwater management.

Respectfully,

Mid-Kings GSA

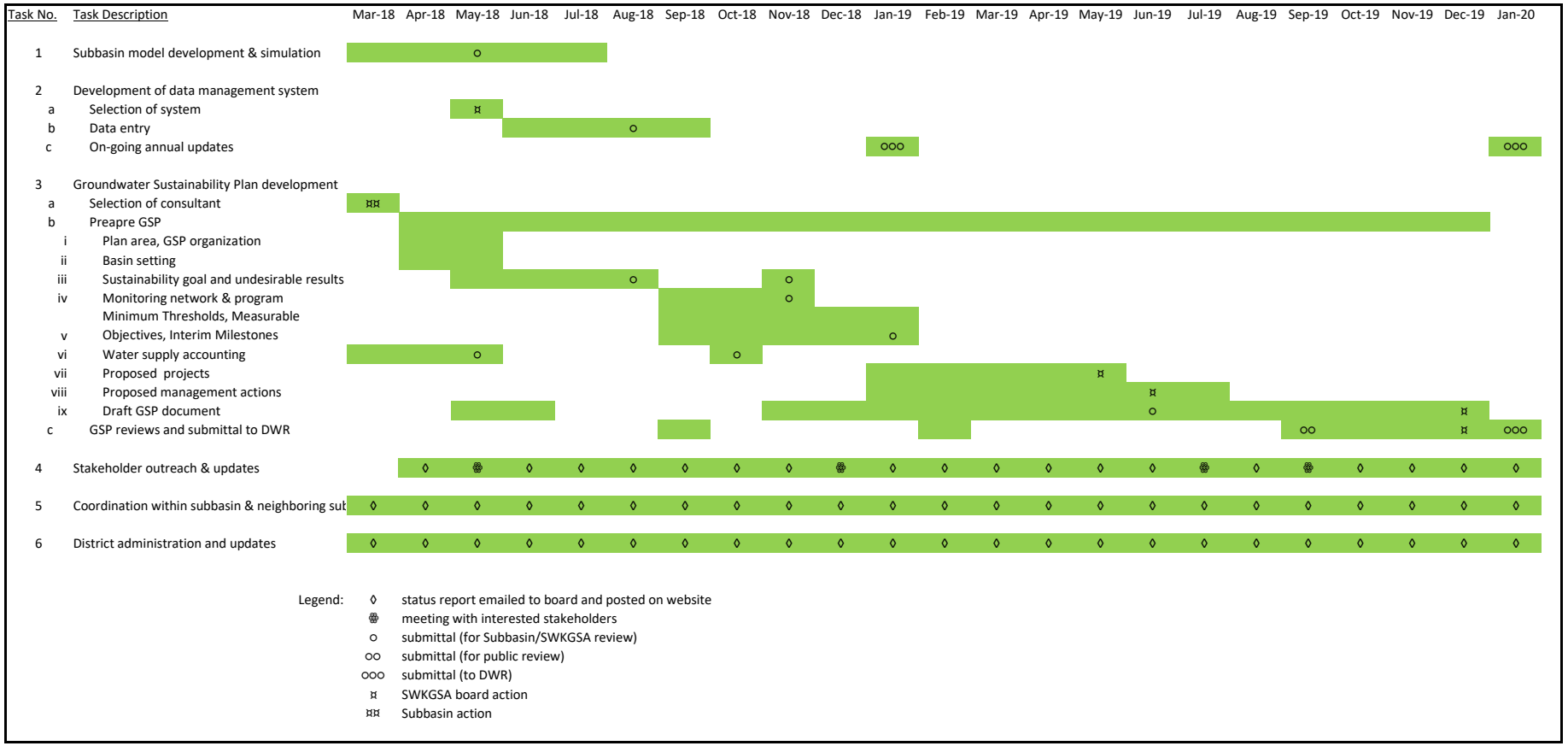
El Rico GSA

Tri-County Water Authority GSA

South Fork Kings GSA

Southwest Kings GSA

SWKGSA
2018 Budget

Description	Proposed 2018 Budget
Management	50,000
Legal	20,000
Clerical	6,000
Insurance	-
Website	2,000
Audit	1,000
GSP	115,000
Contingency	20,000
Total Expenses	214,000
Projected Income	
Assessments	455,906
Reimbursements	(97,939)
Delinquent Assessments	-
Interest	-
Total Income	357,967

SWKGSA SCHEDULE FOR GSP DEVELOPMENT & SUBMITTAL TO DWR rev 2/27/2018