

JOINT MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

March 23, 2021

Special Meeting

10:00AM

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89432095772?pwd=RDFRaUovMmhIb01VUWhtTmd5RGlwUT09>

Meeting ID: 894 3209 5772

Dial in: +1 669 900 6833

Passcode: 115196

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Crisis, and as authorized by the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, Committee Members will participate in this meeting offsite via conference call. Members of the public who wish to provide comment or observe the meeting may join the conference call.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public opportunity to speak on any matter of public interest within the Agency's jurisdiction including items on the Agency's agenda. Testimony limited to three minutes per person.

3. MEETING MINUTES

December 2, 2020

4. GSP OBJECTIVE OVERVIEW

5. SUSTAINABILITY ZONES

6. DEMAND OFFSETS

7. NEXT MEETING

8. ADJOURNMENT

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**MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY JOINT MEETING OF
THE TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES**

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF DECEMBER 02 2020- SPECIAL MEETING

The special meeting of the Technical and Advisory Committee for the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) was called to order at 2:00 p.m., on December 02, 2020, via Zoom Meeting.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees did roundtable introductions.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None

III. MEETING MINUTES

Minutes for February 06, 2020 were presented to the committee and no changes were made.

IV. SUSTAINABILITY ZONE CONCEPTS DISCUSSION

Ms. Lacey McBride gave an overview on sustainability zones and introduced Mr. Greg Young, from Tully and Young, and Mr. Mike Day, from Provost and Pritchard to give a presentation on key points and 3 sample maps describing the sustainability zones. Mr. Young and Mr. Day discussed how the zones were derived at and went over the maps. They also discussed management actions within the Merced GSA.

Mr. Eric Swenson stated there was more data from some of the agencies and landowners to share with the GSA and the increased data would be helpful for this effort. Mr. Swenson also stated that adding more landmarks to the map like streams and creeks would be helpful. He further commented regarding Zone 1 stating the Eastern part may not belong with the rest of the zone because that area has issues with drilling. He noted that Zone 2 has a fair amount of subsidence and Zone 5 may have challenges with riparian rights. Mr. Swenson stated that Zone 4 was good.

Mr. Keith Ensminger stated that the area along Highway 59 has some subsidence and thought there should be some flexibility with the zones. He stated he liked the hydrogeology-based map, mentioning differences in soil types and subsidence as key factors and asked if Merced GSA is working with Mariposa County.

Mr. Swenson said that based on discussions, flows in the fractured bedrock would be relatively small (maximum well yields of 200 gpm) but higher yields were possible in the decomposed granite above.

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Mr. Ladi Asgill commented that recharge should be high priority in designating zones and asked if having sustainability zones was being driven by DWR.

Mr. Young stated it was not driven by DWR, but rather a recognition that differences in various areas of the GSA would likely be important as policies, programs, and projects are developed to address sustainability.

Mr. Blake Nervino noted that subsidence should be an important factor for zone boundaries. He noted that Zone 4 may not have many wells below the Corcoran clay. He asked whether recharge from applied irrigation water would be credited to the landowners.

Mr. Young Greg answered this would be something that the GSA would need to determine.

Mr. Nervino also mentioned that the area near Stevinson has very shallow groundwater and landowners pump their wells to control it, adding that wells there typically don't go beneath the Corcoran Clay layer because they get sufficient production from the aquifer above it. He also talked about a project where using a reservoir for storage of spills from irrigation districts and flood flows in creeks for later use. He asked if such a project would be something the GSA would encourage.

Mr. Young discussed that the ability to produce water from wells from both above and below the Corcoran Clay (i.e. well yields) was a factor to consider based on the discussion. He also mentioned the location of the GSA's monitoring points for sustainability indicators for checking various thresholds should be an important factor in establishing the zones as well as the rate of groundwater decline.

Mr. Nervino suggested that Zone 4 may be too large and asked if adding Zone 5 to it could be considered. He mentioned soil differences in Zone 4 as one of the factors. And others thought the area near Stevinson should be separated from Zone 4 and maybe added to Zone 5.

Mr. Kelley deliberated that Zone 5 needs data about how much extraction is being provided there and how it is affecting the river.

Mr. Young discussed water rights application by Merced Irrigation District on behalf of the entire Merced Subbasin and that points of diversion could be something factored in the sustainability zones.

Mr. Ensminger asked if it were feasible to determine sub-zones within the zones.

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Mr. Young suggested that the maximum number of zones be between 4-6 for manageability.

Mr. Nervino asked about the tracking of groundwater recharge and the ability to receive water credits.

Mrs. McBride informed that the Coordinating Committee and the Stakeholder Committee will be regrouping in order to focus on furthering the development of the GSP. Meetings will be starting back up in early 2021.

V. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is planned to take place in February 2021.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.