



Stanislaus County Water Advisory Committee

Minutes

January 31, 2024 9:01 a.m.
Stanislaus Farm Bureau

Members Present:

Daniel Bays
Louis Brichetto
Joseph Day
Caitie Diemel

Christy McKinnon
Jim Mortensen
Tom Orvis
Sean Roddy

Cooper Rossiter
Tim Sanders
Edward Tobias
Rod Vilas

Members Absent:

Rachelle Antinetti
Larry Byrd

Vince Dkyzeul

Terry Withrow

- I. Call to Order at 9:04am (The entire meeting can be viewed at <https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/wac.shtm> and by selecting the video option for the October 25, 2023 Water Advisory Committee meeting)
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Roll Call

A quorum of voting members was present.

V. **Approval of January 31, 2024, Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of January 31, 2024, meeting were presented by the Vice Chairperson. The members were asked to consider the minutes for approval.

Motion: Tim Sanders

Second: Jim Mortensen

Vote: Unanimous

VI. **Informational Items (not subject to a formal vote)**

- I. **Scott Rowe, Senior Services Hydrologist – NOAA
National Weather Service and Hydrologic Forecast**
<https://www.stancounty.com/er/groundwater/pdf/wac/2024/national-weather-20240131.pptx>

- II. **Jane Gray, Project Director/Regional Planner – Dudek
SGM Technical Assistance Program for Tribes, Underrepresented
Communities and Small Farmers**
SGM Technical Assistance Steps – Attachment 2
DWR SGM Technical Services – Attachment 3

[DWR SGM Technical Services for Tribes, Underrepresented Communities,
and Small Farmers \(stancounty.com\)](#)

- III. Len Mason, East Turlock Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Update on Proposition 218 Fee Assessment

[East Turlock Groundwater Sustainability Agency \(stancounty.com\)](#)

- IV. Christy McKinnon – SGMA Updates
Turlock GSP Determination
Modesto GSP Determination

On January 18, 2024, the DWR completed the review process for 17 GSPs in high and medium priority groundwater basins and approved 10 and deemed 7 plans as incomplete including the GSPs submitted for each the Modesto and Turlock Subbasins. The identified deficiencies for both basins were almost identical, and the first areas of concern was regarding the methodology the GSAs used to define sustainable management criteria and how beneficial users will be impacted from the GSAs allowing groundwater levels to decline below minimum thresholds to interim milestone levels and what actions the GSAs will take to mitigate any undesirable results.

The second area of concern requires a more robust description and commitment defined in the GSP to clearly illustrate how projects and management actions will stabilize groundwater levels and achieve the subbasins sustainability goal.

The GSAs are working to analyze the state determination and will be meeting with DWR staff to address the deficiencies and

develop obtainable paths forward that will be in compliance with the GSP regulations.

DWR News Release – Attachment 4
SGMA Plan Evaluation Pathways –Attachment 5 GSP Webpage

https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Sustainability-Plans?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

VII. Round Table Discussion:

The Committee discussed tentative state plans to provide guidance that can help move recharge projects forward. Rob Kostlivi clarified that revisions to the state well permitting regulations are currently being revised and a draft proposal would be tentatively available this Spring and the regulations may or may not address well construction requirements for injection type wells used for subsurface recharge.

VIII. Meeting adjourned: 11:24am

IX. Scheduling of next meeting

Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. Meeting
location: Stanislaus Farm Bureau,
1201 L St., Modesto

PREPARED BY:

Rebeca Padilla, CA III

Christy McKinnon, Groundwater Resources Manager