



Bill Brewster, DWR, along with Lisa Beutler, provided an overview of the **FSS goals to help local agencies work through challenging water management situations and achieve compliance with SGMA**. Under SGMA, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic interests. All beneficial uses and users of groundwater have to be considered, as GSAs develop SGMA mandated Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).

In particular, the FSS for the Tracy Subbasin is being providing to help with development of a GSP and/or the coordination of GSP efforts that must reconcile. To receive services, GSAs developing GSPs, or other groups coordinating with the GSAs in developing GSPs agree to:

- Work in an open, inclusive, and collaborative manner toward the development of a GSP.
- Support an inclusive process that seeks, promotes, encourages, and welcomes the involvement of all interested parties.
- Commit to meet regularly and work diligently toward a clear and defined goal.
- Commit to providing a meeting space that is suitably located and sized.

Lisa then provided an overview of the specific services that had been authorized for the Tracy Subbasin. The Project Work Order extends through December 2018 or as the number of hours allow. She also explained she would be assisted by Kirsten Pringle from Stantec as the work began in earnest.

#### *Discussion:*

Overall the group found the list of services fairly straightforward. There was some interest in how exactly it would work if the boundary modification request working its way through the DWR process is successful. The question was how the work might be split up. Lisa indicated that her goal will be to get as much done as possible that would have to be done regardless of the boundaries. For example, a communication plan could be prepared that would encompass the need of all the GSAs regardless of which area they are located in. She noted this would be similar to the communication plan prepared for the Delta Mendota where there are multiple GSAs, and GSPs. She explained that it was likely that many of the GSAs shared the same or at least similar stakeholders.

She shared that the Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin Authority already receives FSS and her team works with San Joaquin County as the convener. Thus, it would be easier to sort out a split, if needed, than it might otherwise be. Brandon Nakagawa, San Joaquin County GSA, explained that they had worked with a facilitator for a number of years and appreciated the DWR support.

#### **Communications Requirements Under SGMA**

Lisa then provided an overview of SGMA Communications Requirements. Some of the group members were a little surprised to learn what might be required to achieve what was considered as an adequate response to some requirements as it exceeded what they had anticipated. There was also discussion as to how the requirements were similar to but different than some of the CEQA requirements. One large discussion point was the requirement for web posting, which implies there must be some form of web presence. Lisa explained that this could be accomplished through shared

websites (for example, using the website being developed by Contra Costa) or possibly through social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Lisa provided a handout listing some of the roles that are typically involved in managing a communications, outreach and engagement effort. She then asked the group how they might like to manage these roles. Following is that discussion.

- **Communications Team** – Lisa explained that in some other subbasins a communications team, composed of communications related personnel from participating agencies, are formed to provide oversight for implementation of the communications function. This has been helpful in some basins as they help with press releases, meeting posting, etc. – things they are already do as part of their duties.

Due to the composition of the Tracy Subbasin GSAs, the group felt there was no need for this type of team at this point. They preferred to do the function within their existing working group structure.

- **Project Leadership (who, what, when, why)** – Lisa noted that she would need to check in with the project leadership to plan meetings, organize meeting spaces, etc. and asked how the group would like to manage that. She explained that Brentwood and the LSCE consulting team were her default points of contact. Brandon also volunteered to help fill this role related to East San Joaquin. The group thought this shared responsibility was fine and also thought this could be revisited later in the process.
- **Technical Team/ Facilitation Team** – Lisa explained how she typically worked with technical teams and that she looked forward to working with the LSCE team. In particular she noted she would focus on process rather than content and focus on specific outreach and engagement activities. The group appreciated hearing how these responsibilities were split.

### **Facilitate GSA/GSP Meetings**

Lisa explained that the FSS did provide for group facilitation and asked what kind of facilitation the group thought might be needed. Up until this point the East Contra Costa County subgroup had been meeting without much need for facilitation support. The group has a long history of working together on IRWM topics. They believed they could continue as they have for now but noted that this could change as the discussions became more detailed. The same was true for San Joaquin. The primary interest was for support in managing the integration of the two groups. Again, this need would be altered if the boundary modification request is successful. It was decided that the topic should be revisited once there was a determination about the final configuration of the group.

### **Inventory of Existing Efforts**

Lisa began an initial inventory of existing outreach and engagement activities. By listing required items and seeing if any work had been done by the GSAs on the same items.

- Communications Plans – none of the GSAs had prepared communication plans
- Stakeholder Lists – Both of the groups had compiled lists for the purposes of the GSA filing. Debbie Cannon at LSCE will coordinate getting the lists to Lisa. Lisa indicated that additional work will be needed on developing stakeholder lists and this could be the subject of the next meeting.
- Websites – Contra Costa County (CCC) is putting together a website for use by the ECCC members. San Joaquin will utilize its existing website structure and mirror the Contra Costa effort. Lisa asked if the County website could be used to support the member GSAs website requirements. Additional discussion will be needed. Lisa will work with CCC independently to sort out options that can be brought back to the group.

### **Next Steps & Closing Thoughts**

Based on the progress in this meeting, the group decided that a meeting in 4-6 weeks to continue working on communications would be useful. The groups will also to continue to meet separately on other topics during their previously scheduled, regular times. LSCE volunteered to send out a poll to set the next meeting date and the group agreed to get back quickly so the date could be set.

This meeting will be the same length and conducted on-line to save travel time. The focus will be on continuing to identify and inventory needed communications plan items.

### **Adjourn**

With no further business, the group adjourned at the appointed time.

### **List of Attendees**

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| 1. Bill Brewster, DWR   | 11. Pat Corey, East Contra Costa Irrigation District GSA |
| 2. Brandon Nakagawa, San Joaquin County GSA                   | 12. Rick Gilmore, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District GSA  |
| 3. Chris Ehlers, City of Brentwood GSA                        | 13. Ryan Alameda, Stewart Tract GSA                      |
| 4. David Weisenberger, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District GSA  | 14. Ryan Hernandez, Contra Costa County GSA              |
| 5. Debbie Cannon, LSCE  | 15. Vicki Kretsinger, LSCE                               |
| 6. Eric Brennan, City of Brentwood GSA                        | 16. Tracy Trop, City of Antioch                          |
| 7. Jill Chamberlain, Contra Costa Water District              | 17. James Wolfe, City of Brentwood                       |
| 8. Lisa Beutler, Stantec                                      | 18. Diana Williford, City of Brentwood                   |
| 9. Mike Davies, Discovery Bay Community Services District GSA | 19. Ken Henneman, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District      |
| 10. Mike Yeraka, Diablo Water District GSA                    |  |