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Meeting Summary

Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Planning (GSP) Advisory Committee Meeting #3 January 24, 2018, 6:00 – 9:00 pm

This meeting was the third convening of the Groundwater Sustainability Planning (GSP) Advisory Committee. It took place on January 24, 2018 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office. This document summarizes presentations to the Advisory Committee and discussion of several topics, including reflections on the orientation sessions, information needs, and goals of groundwater sustainability. It also captures clarifying questions from Advisory Committee members and Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) staff responses, as well as an overview of public comment. It is not intended to serve as a detailed transcript of the meeting.

Meeting Objectives

1. Begin discussing initial draft GSP problem statement.
2. Identify additional information needs.
3. Receive orientation to initial policy questions.
4. Understand the interrelationships between technical GSP sections and sustainability indicators.
5. Begin discussing overarching goals of groundwater sustainability in the basin.

Action Items

Committee members identified the following action items from the meeting discussions:

Near-term (prior to next Advisory Committee meeting)

1. Kearns & West to revise the October 25 meeting summary based on comments provided.
2. Executive Team to transmit both the October 25 and November 13 meeting summaries to the MGA Board for their information (per the Charter).
3. Advisory Committee members to review Staff Report on Policy Questions and transmit any additional comments, additions, revisions to Darcy by COB, Wednesday, Jan. 31
4. Staff to prepare a cross-walk between the GSP outline and the upcoming GSP meetings
5. Staff to prepare an annotated outline of the GSP that more clearly indicates where the content will come from and exactly what the Advisory Committee will be focusing on. Clearly indicate this focus for the Advisory Team for all meeting materials as appropriate.



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Staff to prepare a numerical example associated with our discussions of the Sustainability Indicators at the February meeting #4.

Longer term

6. Staff to set up drop-in sessions on key topics once these have been identified.
7. Agendize a discussion of the model of “baseline” conditions at a future Advisory Committee meeting, associated with discussions of the water budget.

Meeting attendance

Committee members in attendance included:

1. Kate Anderton, Environmental Representative
2. David Baskin, City of Santa Cruz
3. Bruce Jaffe, Soquel Creek Water District
4. Dana Katofsky McCarthy, Water Utility Rate Payer
5. Jon Kennedy, Private Well Representative
6. Jonathan Lear, At-Large Representative
7. Charlie Rous, At-Large Representative
8. Allyson Violante, County of Santa Cruz

Committee members who were absent included:

1. John Bargetto, Agricultural Representative
2. Rich Casale, Small water System Representative
3. Douglas P. Ley, Business Representative
4. Marco Romanini, Central Water District
5. Ned Spencer, At-Large Representative (has withdrawn as a member of the Advisory Committee)

Meeting - Key Outcomes (linked to agenda items)

1. Introduction

John Ricker, County of Santa Cruz, opened the meeting and welcomed participants. Mr. Ricker introduced members of the MGA Executive Team and staff, the MGA consultant support team, and he addressed members of the public in attendance. John announced that Ned Spencer, At-Large Representative, is moving out of the state and has withdrawn from the Committee.

Eric Poncelet, Facilitator, reviewed the agenda, meeting objectives, and the GSP process timeline.



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2. Confirm October 25th and November 13th Advisory Committee Meeting Summaries

The Committee members provided feedback on and edits to the two summaries for the October 25 and November 13 Advisory Committee meetings and confirmed them for sharing with the MGA Board.

3. Problem Statement

Darcy Pruitt, Regional Water Management Foundation introduced the MGA Board's problem statement to the Committee members and requested feedback on the public orientation sessions in order to inform staff on further **information needs**. **Staff reiterated that the Advisory Committee will be returning to and refining the problem statement** as needed as several intervals in the GSP process.

4. Orientation to GSP Policy Questions

Rosemary Menard, City of Santa Cruz, provided Committee members with an orientation to a draft set of GSP policy questions that will be a major focus of the Committees' work in the GSP process. Rosemary shared her working *Draft of Policy Question to be Addressed as Part of Developing the Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Plan*. She also walked the Committee through the anticipated outline of the GSP, referring to the California Department of Water Resources' *Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annotated Outline*.¹

Committee members identified the following information needs related to these materials:

- A cross-walk between the GSP outline and the upcoming GSP meetings.
- An annotated outline of the GSP that more clearly indicates where the content will come from and exactly what the Advisory Committee will be contributing to. Clearly indicate this focus for the Advisory Team for all meeting materials as appropriate.
- A numerical example associated with Committee discussions of the Sustainability Indicators at the February meeting #4.

5. Orientation to the Interrelationships Between Technical GSP Sections and Sustainability Indicators

Georgina King, HydroMetrics presented the Committee members with an orientation to the interrelationships between technical GSP sections and sustainability indicators.

¹ Link to GSP Annotated Outline: http://water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GD_GSP_Outline_Final_2016-12-23.pdf



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Key discussions points on this topic included:

- The GSP model can calculate data historically and will be able to make projections up to and beyond the year 2020.
- Long term conservation (not emergency conservation) is inherent within the model analysis.
- In discussing projected water budgets, it will be important to use the model to first examine “baseline” conditions before exploring the potential impacts of proposed projects or management measures.

6. Overarching Goals of Groundwater Sustainability

Each Committee member present shared his or her overarching goals of groundwater sustainability, considering the following questions as guidelines:

- 1) What should the basin be in 20 years?
- 2) What would be undesirable results?

Some common themes emerged from the Committee members’ reflections on what a sustainable groundwater basin should be like in 20 years. These included:

- Groundwater would be available to a diverse population of users of all socioeconomic status;
- Sufficient and affordable water supply would exist in streams to support thriving communities;
- Groundwater overdraft problems are overcome;
- Biodiversity is maintained, and the basin supports diverse and healthy fish habitat; and
- Public health and happiness is supported.

Committee members also expressed common themes in terms of what they considered to be undesirable results. Commonly expressed undesirable results included:

- Groundwater is still in overdraft and insufficient water supply exists;
- There is significant seawater intrusion and a lack of stream flow;
- There is a lack of diversity in fish habitat;
- There is a loss of groundwater storage; and
- Poor public health.

7. Public Comment

Members of the public who attended the Advisory Committee meeting provided comments (C) and questions (Q) on the following topics related to sustainability and in general:



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- C: I would encourage the Advisory Committee to work on controlling growth in the Mid-County Basin and developing a GSP that can provide answers to this and other issues.
- C/Q: I grew up here and would like to preserve the beauty of this area as I knew it. Soquel is not incorporated, we need to organize this town. What is the Advisory Committee going to do to about helping this town, and when will you act?
- C: My definition of sustainability is personal accountability. If I'm doing it and everyone is doing it, would it work? If not, then it is not sustainable. The damage to the basin has been done. It is time to move forward, to be accountable for our actions; everything is interconnected.
- C: Our government needs to be transparent, honest and competent. We are withdrawing too much water from our Basin; we are depleting our resources to benefit developers. Desalination is not the solution. We should not allow any new hook ups.
- Q: How can stakeholder groups effectively interact with their respective representative on the Advisory Committee and how can public comments be incorporated into the GSP process?

8. Introduction to MGA Website

Sierra Ryan, County of Santa Cruz and Darcy Pruitt, RWMF, provided the Committee members with a live orientation to the MGA website. Sierra and Darcy encouraged Committee members to use the website and offered additional assistance to Committee members as needed.

9. Next Steps

In closing, Mr. Poncelet reviewed the anticipated meeting objectives for the February and March Advisory Committee meetings as well as action items from this meeting. Mr. Ricker closed the meeting by thanking the attendees for their participation.