

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

PO Box 351, Willows, CA 95988 | 530.934.6501

Board of Directors Meeting Materials

September 8, 2020 | 9:00 AM

LOCATION: Teleconference

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 this meeting will be conducted by teleconference.

The meeting can be accessed via telephone at +1 (571) 317-3122 or by computer, smartphone, or tablet at:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/367866069>

Meeting Access Code: 367-866-069

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson will call the meeting to order.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call will be conducted.

3. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. *Approval of meeting minutes from August 10, 2020.

Draft meeting minutes are attached.

Attachments

- Meeting minutes from August 10, 2020

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Groundwater Sustainability Agency

PO Box 351, Willows, CA 95988 | 530.934.6501

MEETING MINUTES

GLENN GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AUGUST 10, 2020

1:30 PM

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Orders N-29-20 this meeting was conducted by teleconference. The meeting was accessible via telephone, computer, smartphone or tablet.

Director Members Present:	Alternate/2 nd Alternate Directors	Agency Representing:
X John Viegas	Vince Minto	County of Glenn
X Bruce Roundy	Pete Carr	City of Orland
	Ed Vonasek (2 nd)	City of Orland
X Gary Hansen	X Evan Markey	City of Willows
George Nerli	X Leslie Nerli	Glide Water District
X John Amaro	Thad Bettner	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X Charles Schonauer	X Emil Cavagnolo	Orland-Artois Water District
	X Andrea Jones (2 nd)	Orland-Artois Water District
X Randy Hansen	Wade Danley	Kanawha Water District
	Michael Alves (2 nd)	Kanawha Water District
X Mark Lohse	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District
X Gary Enos	Lance Boyd	Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District/ Provident Irrigation District

Others in attendance:

Lisa Hunter, GGA/Glenn County; Valerie Kincaid, GGA Counsel; David Kehn; TAC member/Cal Water; Jaime Lely, landowner; Brandon Davison, DWR; Shannon McGovern, Cal Water; Mary Fahey, CGA/Colusa County; Mardy Thomas, Gina Nicholls, Nossaman

1. CALL TO ORDER

John Amaro called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM and briefly reviewed remote meeting protocols.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll was taken and is indicated above.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of meeting minutes from July 13, 2020.

The July 13, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Motion: Bruce Roundy, Second: Gary Enos, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

John Viegas: AYE

Bruce Roundy: AYE

Gary Hansen: AYE

John Amaro: AYE

Charles Schonauer: AYE

Randy Hansen: AYE
Mark Lohse: AYE
Gary Enos: AYE
Leslie Nerli: AYE

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Gina Nicholls, from Nossaman indicated she has been engaged along with John Flynn to represent certain westside landowners within the Glenn Groundwater Authority. She asserted her clients have little or no access to groundwater and feel they have been subjected to excessive operations fees by the GGA. She referenced the board's lack of action to address landowner concerns including a report of a committee in which they were participating. She mentioned an increase to the operations fee in June and the lack of recognizing and protecting overlying water rights on a per acre basis. Absent conversations with the GGA in the near term that will resolve these issues, she indicated the landowners would consider taking action to refund fees. Ms. Nossaman also noted concerns with wasteful expenditures of funds. She encouraged the Board or their representative to reach out to discuss when and how the GGA could implement a fee structure consistent with landowner rights.

Vice Chair John Viegas assumed the role of running the meeting in the absence of the Chairman. Mr. Viegas thanked Ms. Nicholls for her comments and requested she supply all documentation to Lisa Hunter to share with legal counsel for review to determine next steps. Ms. Nicholls asked for clarification on what documentation is being requested to forward to Ms. Hunter. Mr. Viegas clarified he was requesting she send a letter or a statement to capture her comments in writing to ensure the minutes are accurate for the next meeting.

Mr. Amaro rejoined the meeting and Mr. Viegas yielded meeting responsibilities to Mr. Amaro.

Mr. Amaro indicated the information Ms. Nicholls provided was difficult to hear due to a bad connection and he concurred that it would be helpful if she could provide a written copy of her statement.

5. STAFF UPDATES

Lisa Hunter included a Program Manager Report in the meeting packet. She highlighted the Northern Sac Valley Inter-Basin Coordination group that has been formed to assist in coordination between basins in the region. Staff has participated in these meetings, which will also include technical consulting leads at the next meeting. She also mentioned the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 Budget Worksheet was submitted to Glenn County and she provided an update on the property-related fee direct charge preparation being completed by Provost & Pritchard staff. The letter of support for Tuscan Water District Formation approved at the last meeting has been written and attached to the report. An email was also received from Butte LAFCO regarding withdrawal of the application which is intended to be recirculated in the near future.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. Review and accept Monthly Activities Report.
- b. Review and consider approval of claims.
- c. Review and approve budget transfer in the amount of \$48,395.72 from Unanticipated Revenues or Contingency to cover costs associated with Professional Services.

A motion was made to accept the monthly activities report as submitted.

Motion: Gary Hansen, Second: John Viegas, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

John Viegas: AYE
Bruce Roundy: AYE
Gary Hansen: AYE
John Amaro: AYE
Charles Schonauer: AYE
Randy Hansen: AYE
Mark Lohse: AYE
Gary Enos: AYE
Leslie Nerli: AYE

Bruce Roundy commented on the consultant rates. A motion was made to approve the claims as presented.

Motion: Bruce Roundy, Second: John Viegas, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

John Viegas: AYE
Bruce Roundy: AYE
Gary Hansen: AYE
John Amaro: AYE
Charles Schonauer: AYE
Randy Hansen: AYE
Mark Lohse: AYE
Gary Enos: AYE
Leslie Nerli: AYE

Lisa Hunter reviewed the budget transfer item indicating funds must be transferred from either unanticipated revenue or from contingency in order to pay the professional services invoices. A motion was made to approve a budget transfer in the amount of \$48,395.72 from Unanticipated Revenues to cover costs associated with Professional Services.

Motion: John Viegas, Second: Gary Enos, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

John Viegas: AYE
Bruce Roundy: AYE
Gary Hansen: AYE
John Amaro: AYE
Charles Schonauer: AYE
Randy Hansen: AYE
Mark Lohse: AYE
Gary Enos: AYE
Leslie Nerli: AYE

7. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILTY PLAN

- a. Receive update on Plan development and activities
- b. Receive update on GSP Development Grants (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68)
- c. Receive update on Project Agreements

Lisa Hunter stated Davids Engineering will provide monthly memorandums to give Board members a better understanding of specific components and GSP development activities. Topics discussed in the memorandum included in the meeting packet are the Integrated Hydrologic Model, Water Budgets, Groundwater Conditions, Well Monitoring Pilot Program, Project/Management Actions and Public Outreach.

Ms. Hunter reviewed the GSP Development Grants stating the invoice and progress report for April-June 2020 was due this last month, in which she coordinated with CGA who leads the project. Invoicing was sent to CGA for GSP Development tasks submitted for consultant project invoices in the amount of \$112,400.96 covering the April-June 2020 timeframe. The amount billed to DWR through June 2020 is \$301,486.32.

The two Project Agreements include the HCM/Water Budget Project and GSP Development Project, both of which are led by Davids Engineering. For the GSP Development Project, an amendment to the agreement is being finalized to include the three additional tasks and the optional funding mechanisms task. Bi-weekly meetings between GSA staff and the consultant team continue.

8. CONSIDER REQUEST FROM CALWATER TO OPPOSE THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION JULY 6 PROPOSED DECISION ON WATER CONSERVATION AND AFFORDABILITY - RULEMAKING 17-06-024

Cal Water representatives Shannon McGovern and Evan Markey gave a presentation on Decoupling, Water Conservation & Affordability. The presentation provided an overview of Cal Water, which is the largest water utility regulated by the state (CPUC), and the three main tenants for its approach to set rates including affordability, safe drinking water and reliable infrastructure, and water conservation and sustainability. They reviewed the CPUC proposal to eliminate decoupling, which is a mechanism that was put into place in 2005 that allowed water providers to separate their rate structure from their sales. The decoupling allowed a water rate adjustment mechanism to balance the accounts. This gives providers the ability to encourage conservation while being able to accomplish the capital investments. In Cal Water's opinion the proposal by the CPUC would backtrack on the State's water conservation progress and increase water rates for millions. Additional data and examples were provided on decoupling, water conservation measures, and charges. Cal Water is opposed to eliminating the decoupling option and a list of alternative options were presented. Ms. McGovern explained and emphasized they are not asking the GGA Board to select an alternative, but rather encourage the CPUC to consider all alternatives and data before making a final decision. Ms. McGovern also referenced a letter that was sent recently to the CPUC regarding the "Potential Consequences of July 6th Proposed Decision on Water Conservation and Affordability – Rulemaking."

Gary Hansen commented he supports Cal Water's effort and urged the board to support this effort as well. He asked for clarification that if the letter has already been sent, would a new letter be sent? Ms. McGovern indicated a new letter would not be sent, but advocacy efforts are continuing and GGA's name and logo could be added to the coalition. Mr. Markey indicated the CPUC public hearing had been moved to late August. Mr. Hansen noted he was in favor of supporting this request.

There was a motion to be a signatory to the existing joint letter to the CPUC.

Motion: Gary Hansen, Second: Gary Enos, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

John Viegas: AYE

Bruce Roundy: AYE

Gary Hansen: AYE

John Amaro: AYE

Charles Schonauer: AYE

Randy Hansen: AYE
Mark Lohse: AYE
Gary Enos: AYE
Leslie Nerli: AYE

9. CONSIDER DISSOLVING BUDGET AD HOC COMMITTEE

Lisa Hunter stated the GGA Board’s standard practice is to dissolve the Budget Ad Hoc Committee once the budget has been approved. She indicated another committee could be formed if the Board desired to have a committee review the budget. Valerie Kincaid added the current committee is an ad hoc committee which should dissolve when the job is complete. A standing committee could be formed if desired or create another ad hoc committee during budget development next year. A motion was made to dissolve the Budget Ad Hoc Committee.

Motion: John Viegas, Second: Bruce Roundy, Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote

John Viegas: AYE
Bruce Roundy: AYE
Gary Hansen: AYE
John Amaro: AYE
Charles Schonauer: AYE
Randy Hansen: AYE
Mark Lohse: AYE
Gary Enos: AYE
Leslie Nerli: AYE

10. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. CGA/GGA Joint Executive Committee

The GGA Executive Committee did not meet and has nothing new to report.

- b. Stakeholder Engagement Committee

The Stakeholder Engagement Committee did not meet and has nothing to report.

- c. Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) last met June 22, 2020. Lisa Hunter indicated David Kehn, TAC member, is available to answer questions and the TAC will discuss selecting a representative to provide regular updates at the TAC meeting on August 14, 2020. David Kehn stated the facilitator is working well and the consultants have provided good ideas which facilitate good discussion. Currently, the TAC is trying to incorporate as much public input as possible, but it has been challenging due to virtual meeting circumstances, but the facilitator is working on it. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday August 14, 2020 at 1:00 PM. Leslie Nerli stated she has noticed on the Butte County report, there are monitoring wells along the Glenn/Butte border, which is along the Sacramento River. She wants to make sure agencies are in agreeance with sharing data. Mr. Kehn noted there is routine communication between staff, and there will be sharing of data, but more importantly the modeling process is supposed to align. Ms. Hunter stated that topic is also being discussed at inter-basin coordination meetings.

- d. Budget Ad Hoc Committee

The Budget Ad Hoc Committee did not meet and has nothing to report.

11. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None

12. NEXT MEETING

The next GGA Board meeting is September 15, 2020.

13. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:27 PM.

DRAFT

4. PERIOD OF PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public are encouraged to address the GGA Board of Directors on items relevant to the GGA. Public comments are limited to no more than 5 minutes. No action may be taken on public comments.

5. POTENTIAL PLACEMENT AND STAFFING CHANGES TO THE GLENN COUNTY WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM

- a. Presentation by Glenn County staff regarding the possible changes to organization structure and staffing including potential impacts to GGA Administrative Services
- b. Discuss possible changes to Glenn County organization structure and staffing including potential impacts to the GGA Administrative Services
- c. *Consider sending letter to Glenn County regarding concerns with potential organizational and staffing changes

Potential changes to the Glenn County's organizational structure and staffing resources have brought up questions for GGA board members relating to the Administrative Services the County provides to the GGA. Questions have also arisen relating to outreach efforts and how those functions may be affected. Glenn County staff will present information on the possible changes and how the changes may impact the GGA and related services. Following the presentation, the GGA will hold discussion, and if appropriate, the Board may choose to submit a letter to the County.

6. STAFF UPDATES

The program manager will provide brief status updates. Reminders and/or clarifications may also be made at this time.

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

- a. *Review and accept Monthly Activities Report.
- b. *Review and consider approval of claims.

The Monthly Activities Report is not available at this time. The report will be made available to board members and posted to the website if it is prepared prior to the meeting. The Claims Summary is attached.

Attachments

- Claims Summary

Claims Summary

Glenn Groundwater Authority

Invoices to be paid

Meeting Date: September 8, 2020

Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
7/31/2020	1178.01-4106	Davids Engineering, Inc. (HCM/Water Budget)	\$ 35,132.00
7/31/2020	1178.03-4102	Davids Engineering, Inc. (GSP Development)	\$ 6,300.75
8/31/2020	1178.03-4122	Davids Engineering, Inc. (GSP Development)	\$ 8,448.25
9/1/2020	1149	O'Laughlin & Paris LLP	\$ 2,765.00
Total			\$ 52,646.00

8. COLUSA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILTY PLAN

- a. Receive update on Plan development and activities
- b. Receive update on GSP Development Grants (Proposition 1 and Proposition 68)
- c. Receive update on Project Agreements

Dauids Engineering staff provided a GSP Development Status Update Memo which is included as an attachment. Staff will also provide additional updates.

Attachments

- GSP Development Status Update Memo



*Specialists in Agricultural Water Management
Serving Stewards of Western Water since 1993*

Memorandum

To: Colusa Groundwater Authority, Glenn Groundwater Authority
From: Davids Engineering
Date: 9/4/2020
Subject: **GSP Development Status Update**

This memorandum provides brief summary of activities related to the HCM and Water Budget Project and GSP Development Project for the Colusa Subbasin. In addition to recent activities, upcoming activities are discussed.

Integrated Hydrologic Model (IHM)

The consultant team is finalizing calibration of aquifer parameters used to simulate the movement of water in the groundwater system and to simulate groundwater levels. The model is felt to be adequate for the development of historical, current, and projected water budgets, though could be refined further to better simulate historical observed groundwater levels in some areas. As part of documenting model development and calibration, the team will identify areas in which the model could be improved in the future. Potential refinements can be made to support the evaluation of Sustainable Management Criteria and Projects and Management Actions.

Water Budgets

Draft historical, current, and projected water budgets have been developed. Draft current conditions and future conditions with 2070 climate change projected water budgets were presented to the Joint TAC in August. Considering the most recent 50-year historical period, projected long-term overdraft in the subbasin is expected to be less than 10,000 acre-feet per year; however, substantial declines in storage may occur over prolonged dry periods. Fluctuations in hydrology (e.g. precipitation and surface water supplies) will be important considerations in defining undesirable results and establishing minimum thresholds and measurable objectives.

Draft water budgets will be updated using the most recent version of the calibrated model. Updated water budgets will be incorporated into the draft water budget section of the GSP currently under development. Draft water budget documentation is anticipated in October.

Groundwater Conditions

Initial analysis of potential Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) was presented to the Joint TAC in August. A scoring system was developed to rank potential GDEs from 1 (more likely a GDE) to 4 (less likely a GDE) considering recent historical depth to groundwater and proximity to surface water sources including rice and other irrigated crops, managed wetlands, and surface water bodies (perennial streams, canals, and drains). Parameters used in the scoring system were discussed, and it was recommended that additional analysis be conducted to evaluate the sensitivity of ranking results to the

parameters assumed. It is anticipated that the sensitivity analysis results will be presented at the next TAC meeting.

Monitoring Network

Information from the monitoring network is being compiled and formatted to support analysis of sustainable management criteria (SMC). This includes information describing each site, as well as associated data (e.g. water levels).

Sustainable Management Criteria

A draft sustainability goal and narrative statements of undesirable results for each sustainability indicator are being prepared for review by GSA staff. Once reviewed, it is anticipated that these would be brought to the GSA boards for review and input. The sustainability goal draws from the Colusa Subbasin Memorandum of Agreement, which includes statements regarding the aspirational goals of the GSAs.

As described above under Monitoring Network, information is being compiled to develop draft SMC including minimum thresholds (MTs) and measurable objectives (MOs) for each sustainability indicator. It is anticipated that draft MTs and MOs will be available for review and input by November.

Well Monitoring Pilot Program

Discussion of the well monitoring pilot program was held at the August Joint TAC meeting, and feedback was received regarding program structure, including selection criteria and incentive structures. Based on the input from the TAC, a draft flyer describing the program will be developed, along with a more detailed program description. It is anticipated that the team will present the updated information to the Joint TAC, after which it will be brought to the GSA boards. In order to implement the program prior to the 2021 growing season, it is desired to complete program development by the end of 2020 to allow for advertising and implementation in early 2021.

Projects and Management Actions

[No changes from prior update] A template has been developed to allow interested stakeholders to submit ideas regarding potential Projects and Management actions that could address potential sustainability challenges in the subbasin in the future. Options for distributing the template are being evaluated, including the use of web-based forms. Criteria for initial screening of submittals for further evaluation are under development.

Public Outreach

At the August Joint TAC meeting, there was discussion of increasing the frequency of meetings, but keeping them shorter and later in the day to accommodate other member commitments. GSA staff and the consultant team are currently working to schedule upcoming meetings.

An administrative record is being developed to provide a centralized location to store public comments, meeting materials, and other outreach materials for inclusion in the GSP. The consultant team met with GSA staff in August to discuss current practices to track the associated information and develop a plan for creating a centralized means for organizing it and storing it moving forward.

9. *SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT WATERSHED COORDINATOR GRANT

Consider sending a Letter of Support for the Colusa County Resource Conservation District to apply for and, if awarded, administer a Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator Grant through the California Department of Conservation on behalf of the Colusa Subbasin.

The California Department of Conservation has an open solicitation for applications requesting funding for Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator(s). Information regarding this opportunity is included in the attachments. The application submittal period has been extended from September 15 to October 15 due to the nature and extent of the wildfires burning throughout California.

Staff has met with Liz Harper, Colusa Groundwater Authority staff, and Glenn County Resource Conservation District staff regarding the grant opportunity and recommends supporting these efforts. A draft application is currently being reviewed by a small team of representatives from the Colusa Subbasin, including GGA staff.

Attachments

- Email from Liz Harper requesting Letter of Support
- Grant Program Summary
- Draft Letter of Support

Lisa Hunter

From: Elizabeth Harper <liz@colusarc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2020 4:34 PM
Subject: Letter of Support for CCRC's SGMA Watershed Coordinator Grant Proposal
Attachments: 2020 SGM Watershed Coordinator Grant Program - Updated Summary.pdf; LOS final.docx

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you soliciting support for a grant proposal the Colusa County RCD is working on. We are in the process of applying for the Department of Conservation's SGMA Watershed Coordinator. I have partnered with Mary Fahey, Colusa Groundwater Authority, on developing the scope of work the SGMA Watershed Coordinator would perform if granted funds.

What is the DOC SGMA Watershed Coordinator Grant?

Please follow the link to DOC's blog for more information on what the coordinator will do:
[tps://calconservation.blog/2020/07/06/funding-available-to-hire-local-watershed-coordinators/](https://calconservation.blog/2020/07/06/funding-available-to-hire-local-watershed-coordinators/)

In addition, I have attached an information sheet on the grant.

What is CCRC asking for?

CCRC plans on requesting the full amount allowed which is \$300,000. This will fund a three-year full time position at the RCD, monitoring/assessment equipment, consulting costs and outreach/education materials.

In discussing how the CCRC could support groundwater conservation, protection and sustainability within the Colusa Basin alongside agencies and landowners already engaged in doing so, the SGMA Watershed Coordinator will:

1. Solidify partnerships within Colusa and Glenn counties between agencies, NGOs, and private landowners/land managers.
2. Work one-on-one with landowners/managers to create on-farm groundwater conservation plans, project design, budgets, seek project funding, and assist with monitoring and quantifying groundwater recharge.
3. Coordinate with the local university to develop and share findings for watershed monitoring.
4. Develop outreach and education that will bring resources and information to land managers looking for ways to increase infiltration, increase water-use efficiency and prevent degradation of groundwater resources.
5. Provide organization and administrative support to the Colusa Groundwater Authority and Glenn Groundwater Authority as they see fit.

I want to emphasize here, the vision of this position will be to get more groundwater conservation projects within the Colusa Basin. There has been a good amount of interest in the project yet there is a need for a planner to work with landowners. These on-farm projects will include a wide swath of practices that can enhance supply and increase efficiency on the demand side.

The critical importance of partnerships.

One priority for this grant program is partnership building and unifying individuals and agencies that are solutions and project focused. CCRC has received support from the Colusa Basin Drainage District, Colusa Groundwater Authority, Glenn County RCD, Glenn Groundwater Authority and CSU, Chico.

Yet, the more partners in the form of landowners, conservation/ agricultural organizations, water districts, and local government agencies, not only will make our grant more formidable, but it will increase the chances of the SGMA Watershed Coordinator's success and a sustainable groundwater basin.

How to help?

If you are interested in supporting our grant proposal please submit a letter of support to me by **September 8th, 2020**. I have attached the LOS template where you'd fill in your information including in the last paragraph specifying how you'd support this project. I have outlined ideas below:

Groundwater Project Funding: These funds will not cover project costs. The role of the coordinator will be to find funding to start implementation for projects yet if you can provide project funding or in-kind match (labor, equipment, etc) for groundwater projects.

Groundwater Project Site: If you are interested in receiving the SGMA watershed coordinator's planning, project design and budgeting for your farm, ranch, or other private property.

Outreach and Education: The coordinator will be developing events and materials to share information of groundwater project successes. If you have experience in successful groundwater projects, on-farm conservation practices that increase water efficiency/ soil capacity/ water quality, etc and would share your knowledge with groundwater users in the Colusa Basin,

Monitoring and Assessment: If you have interest or experience with groundwater recharge monitoring or assessment or watershed monitoring/ assessment, we would call upon your support to assist developing basin protocols

General Support: You or your organization sees the crucial need for the coordinator to the sustainability of the groundwater basin or achieving the Groundwater Sustainability Plan goals.

I apologize for the lengthy email. I hope you consider supporting our proposal. Finally, please share this with your networks if they have an interest in groundwater sustainability in the Colusa Basin.

Thank you and have a great evening,

--
Elizabeth Harper
Executive Director
Colusa County Resource Conservation District
100 Sunrise Blvd; Suite B
(530) 458-5131 Ext.117
Liz@ColusaRCD.org

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From: liz@colusarc.org

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Prop 50—CA Dept of Conservation – SGM Watershed Coordinator

Updated Summary of Grant Program

Funding Program Name: 2020 Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator Grant Program (Prop 50)

Funding Agency: CA Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection

Background Information: The 2020 Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator Grant Program (Program) funds watershed coordinator positions to develop and implement watershed improvement plans consistent with the CALFED Programmatic Record of Decision and Groundwater Sustainability Plans developed by local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Watershed coordinators will facilitate watershed-scale collaborations, promote integrated watershed management efforts, and support local implementation activities focusing on areas significantly impacted by SGMA implementation.

Funding:

- Total Funding: \$1.5 million
- Maximum awards: \$300,000—proposals may request less than this maximum amount.

Match Requirement:

- A Match is not specified but it does **recommend** Partnering which is defined as commitments by other organizations, government agencies, private citizens, or volunteer groups **to provide funds or in-kind services**. Partnerships must be evidenced by letters of commitment and/or other signed documents, which explain the relationship and outline the partner's **contributions**.

Eligible applicants:

Eligible applicants are: (1) special districts; (2) nonprofit groups (with 501(c)(3) status); (3) local governments; (4) federally recognized California Native American tribes, (5) non-federally recognized California Native American tribes; and (6) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies. Eligible applicants must be either (1) locally-based, which are defined as those that maintain a local office and focus on issues within the watershed or community that is the focus of the application or (2) non-local, where there are strong local partnerships between the applicant, the local GSA(s), and other important stakeholders. Eligible applicants must have watershed-related goals as part of their current long-range or strategic plans and be located in a High or Medium Priority Basin as identified in Appendix D of the Application.

This grant program encourages partnering (as defined above) and cooperation within watersheds. To ensure a wider distribution of grants, no more than one full-time coordinator position or two part-time coordinators will be awarded per proposal. Proposals should demonstrate multiple, committed partnerships and extensive cooperation with other agencies, organizations, or entities. Cooperation is defined as working with other organizations, government agencies, or groups to ensure that all entities work in agreement and are non-duplicative of each other's activities. Cooperation may be evidenced by letters of support, signed agreements, board resolutions, or other signed documents.

Prop 50—CA Dept of Conservation – SGM Watershed Coordinator

Updated Summary of Grant Program

Eligible Projects:

The Watershed Program includes the following elements:

- Supporting local watershed activities. Monitoring and measuring watershed function. Obtaining funding for and implementing watershed restoration, maintenance, and conservation activities that support the goals and objectives of the program, including improved river functions.
- Facilitating coordination and assistance. Facilitating and improving coordination and assistance between government agencies, other organizations, and local watershed groups.
- Developing watershed monitoring and assessment protocols. Facilitating monitoring efforts that are consistent with program protocols and support watershed activities that ensure that adaptive management processes can be applied.
- Supporting education and outreach. Supporting resource conservation education at the local watershed level and providing organizational and administrative support to watershed programs.

Application Scoring:

Scoring Criteria	Points
Program Priorities	30
Disadvantaged Community Benefits	20
Benefits to the Watershed	20
Performance Measures	10
Work Plan	10
Sustainability	5
Budget	5
Total Points Possible	100

Application Submittal:

Applicants must submit all required application materials via email to wcp@conservation.ca.gov. Applications must be received digitally by 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2020.

Schedule:

- Draft Solicitation released for comment—April 3, 2019
- Close public comment period—April 30, 2020
- Solicitation released—June 15, 2020
- Online Workshops TBA
- Applications due—September 15, 2020
- Awards announced—November 15, 2020

Website: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/watershed>

Program Guidelines: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/watershed/Documents/2020%20WCP%20SGMA%20Solicitation%20Release_rev1.pdf

Questions:

Department of Conservation/Division of Land Resource Protection
Watershed Coordinator Grant Program Manager
wcp@conservation.ca.gov
(916) 324-0850

August 25th, 2020

Keali'i Bright, Assistant Director
Division of Land Resource Protection
California Department of Conservation
801 K Street, MS 14-15
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SGMA Watershed Coordinator Grant

Dear Mr. Bright,

On behalf of [Insert Organization], we encourage you to award a SGMA Watershed Coordinator grant to the Colusa County Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) to develop plans and projects to improve the watershed health and achieve state and local natural resources goals in the Colusa Basin.

Colusa County RCD has successfully worked with landowners, built inter-agency regional partnerships and managed grant projects to protect and manage the district's natural resources. Groundwater conservation is a top priority for the CCRCD as the Colusa Subbasin, an aquifer within the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, covers approximately 723,823 acres in both Colusa and Glenn counties. The basin is crucial for sustaining agriculture and ecological functions dependent on a healthy watershed especially in light of years of severe drought, increasing stormwater flows and other natural disasters linked to the changing climate. It is clear there is a need for on-the-ground projects across the district to create a resilient landscape.

We agree to work with and support the local Colusa Basin SGMA Watershed Coordinator in their efforts to perform the following:

1. Solidify partnerships within Colusa and Glenn counties between agencies, NGOs, and private landowners/land managers.
2. Work one-on-one with landowners/managers to create on-farm groundwater conservation plans, project design, budgets, seek funding, and assist with monitoring and quantifying groundwater recharge.
3. Coordinate with the local university to develop and share findings for watershed monitoring.
4. Develop outreach and education that will bring resources and information to land managers looking for ways to increase infiltration, increase water-use efficiency and prevent degradation of groundwater resources.
5. Provide organization and administrative support to the Colusa Groundwater Authority and Glenn Groundwater Authority as they see fit.

Finally, the [Insert Organization] agrees to commit [\$\$\$ toward project implementation, outreach/education resources/technical assistance/ any other type of specific support] to protect, enhance and conserve groundwater within the Colusa Basin in conjunction with the SGMA Watershed Coordinator's deliverables.

Sincerely,

Name, Title

10. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Executive Committee
 - i. CGA/GGA Joint Executive Committee

The GGA Executive Committee last met May 27, 2020. Recommendations from that meeting were considered on June 15, 2020. The July 22, 2020 meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2020.

- b. Stakeholder Engagement Committee

The Stakeholder Engagement Committee has not met and has nothing new to report.

- c. Technical Advisory Committee

The Technical Advisory Committee met jointly with the Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) Technical Advisory Committee on August 14, 2020. The GGA TAC selected TAC member David Kehn to provide updates to the GGA Board. Meeting topics focused on Groundwater Sustainability Plan development included updates on the projected water budgets, preliminary refinement of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem delineation, and the well monitoring pilot program description. Additional discussion took place on inter-basin coordination as it relates to technical components of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Information for this meeting, including the presentation can be found on the website at:

<https://www.countyofglenn.net/resources/minutes-agendas-groundwater-authority-technical-advisory-committee-water/glenn-1>

The CGA/GGA Joint Technical Advisory Committee plans to meet again in late September or early October 2020.

11. CLOSED SESSION

Gov't Code §54956.9 - Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated or significant exposure to litigation (1)

12. MEMBER REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Members of the GGA Board are encouraged to share information, reports, comments, and suggest future agenda items. Action cannot be taken on items brought up under this item.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2020 at 1:30 PM.

14. ADJOURN

The meeting will be adjourned.

*Indicates Action Item