

MEMO: SVGSP Planning Committee Update, TAC Update

To: SVGMD, Plumas County

From: Jenny Gant and Judie Talbot (outreach facilitator)

Date: May 12, 2021

Re: Sierra Valley GSP – Planning Committee and Technical Advisory Committee updates

The Planning Committee is submitting the following informational items as a monthly update for May 2021.

PLANNING COMMITTEE CALL

The SVGSP Planning Committee met on April 29, 2021 to finalize materials for the May 8 and 10 Public Workshops and the TAC meeting for May 10. The committee also discussed items for presentation to the Board.

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Two times and dates were offered for the May 2021 workshops. While the content for each workshop was the same, community members had a choice of attending a session on Saturday, May 8 from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. at the Loylton Park Event Center or the session on Monday, May 10 from 6 – 8 p.m. at Sierra Christian Church in Beckwourth. Each workshop provided an initial overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the approach to develop the Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and the two Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

This was followed by a description of the key Sustainability Indicators: Groundwater Quality, Interconnected Surface Water, Groundwater Levels and Storage, and Subsidence. At the Saturday session, members of the Technical Team partnered with a member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) when presenting on each indicator. This helped provide a good discussion about local resource conditions. The Monday session occurred after the TAC meeting concluded. Laura Foglia, LWA Project Manager, presented on all of the topics, with Tracey Ferguson and Kristi Jamason providing additional local details.

At both sessions of the workshop, participants received a packet with informational materials and a survey. The survey focused on the Sustainability Indicators, asking people about what their views on Undesired Results (sustained and unreasonable impacts), general level of concern (e.g., not concerned, somewhat concerned, very concerned) and questions about what people have seen or experienced – and their ideas about what each Sustainability Indicator should be sure to address, and what might be considered or done to support sustainability for the respective indicators.

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) UPDATE

May 10 TAC Meeting

The seventh meeting of the Sierra Valley GSP Technical Advisory Committee was held as an in-person meeting on Monday, May 10, 2021 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. A zoom meeting option was provided for remote participation. There were 26 participants: 18 TAC members, 7 project team members and a member of the public. Twelve people joined the meeting via Zoom and fourteen participated in person.

The meeting consisted of:

Project Updates

Project updates were provided on: comments received for the First Draft of Chapters 2 and 3 for Groundwater Quality and Subsidence; the public workshops; a February webinar conducted by DWR and the Water Board; and Tribal Outreach

Continued Discussion on Groundwater Levels

Laura Foglia, described the factors relating to Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC), and related considerations for monitoring and compliance. She described how criteria would be tailored for the individual monitoring wells, since conditions varied across the valley. Also, SMC for groundwater levels will need to consider criteria for Interconnected Surface Water and Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems.

Continued Discussion on Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs)

Christian Braudrick, Stillwater Sciences geomorphologist, reviewed the information presented at the February TAC meeting and provided additional details on the process for mapping the locations of GDEs in Sierra Valley.

Presentation on Interconnected Surface Water (ISW)

Dave Shaw, Balance Hydrologics hydrologist and geomorphologist, presented information how groundwater can interact with surface water. He provided a summary of observations based on data sources and in-the-field evaluations for Sierra Valley. He concluded with a discussion on the approach to identifying ISW and considerations for monitoring.

Next TAC Meetings

The next TAC meeting occurs on Monday, June 21, 2021 at the Sierra Christian Church from 2 – 5 p.m. The date has been moved to coordinate with the Board Meeting, with the start time for the TAC meeting moved to 2 p.m.

April TAC Agenda Concepts

- Continued discussion on Integrated Surface Water
- Present the Sierra Valley Water Budget
- Introduce the topic of Projects and Management Actions

