



# GBA Coordinating Committee Meeting

December 8, 2010 10:30 a.m.

California Water Service Company, Conference Room

1602 East Lafayette Street, Stockton, California

## ----- Agenda Topics -----

- A. Discussion on IRWM Program Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package for Project Implementation Grants – Mel Lytle/Brandon Nakagawa/Mark Williamson
- Project List
    - SEWD
    - Urban Conservation
    - Others
- B. Discussion on Reclamation District No. 1614 (Smith Tract) Resolution of Interest to Explore Partnering with the GBA on an IRWM Program Stormwater Management Implementation Grant (See Attached) – Mel Lytle/Brandon Nakagawa/Mark Williamson
- C. Discussion on Local Groundwater Issues – Mel Lytle/Brandon Nakagawa
- SBX7 6 – Groundwater Monitoring (See Attached)
  - SSJID Interest in Groundwater Banking

### Future Agenda Items:

- Integrated Conjunctive Use Preferred Program Alternative and PEIR Finalization
- Groundwater Basin Recharge and Banking Operations

**The next regularly scheduled GBA Coordinating Committee meeting is  
January 12, 2010, 10:30 a.m.**

Agendas and Minutes may also be found on the San Joaquin County Public Works Website at:

<http://www.sjgov.org/pubworks/Meeting%20Info.htm>

Note: If you need disability-related modification or accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, please contact the Water Resource Staff at (209) 468-3531 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting.

**Northern San Joaquin Groundwater Banking Authority  
Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary  
Wednesday, November 10, 2010**

**Follow up Items:**

1. Members to determine if their respective boards will participate in funding Mr. Zuckerman's "Building Regional Water Self-Sufficiency" study.
2. Staff to develop USGS workshop suggestions for discussion.
3. Staff to develop an impact matrix for use in selecting the "preferred" alternative.
4. Staff to provide County Counsel's opinion on the effect of selecting a "preferred" alternative on other projects outside the alternative.

**A. Discussion on IRWM Program Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package for Project Implementation Grants – Mel Lytle/Brandon Nakagawa/Mark Williamson:**

A copy of pertinent information regarding the addendum to the IRWM Implementation Grant Round 1 August 2010 PSP was distributed. Mr. Keith Wallace, DWR, provided an overview of the changes. Some of the highlights include:

- An additional funding amount of approximately \$100 million, as appropriated by SB 855, may also be awarded.
- The additional funding is targeted at projects which reduce dependence on the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for water supply. The original funding amount does not have this requirement.
- Not less than \$20,000,000 will be allocated to support urban and agricultural water conservation projects necessary to meet a 20% reduction in per capita water use by the year 2020. Projects must be in the IRWM plan.
- Not less than 10% of the available funding will be used to support projects that address critical water supply or water quality needs for DACs.

Members discussed projects to be considered for inclusion in an implementation grant package. These projects will be further discussed and fleshed out offline. It seemed to be the consensus of the group that while NSJWCD projects are critical to the region in regards to preserving water rights, because of the political controversy within the district's board it is unlikely issues can be resolved in time for this round of applications. Projects discussed include:

- DAC conservation project – app. \$50,000-\$100,000
- 35 acre retention basin for Stockton East – app. \$800,000
- Stockton East purchase of 226 acres – app. \$5 million

It was noted while the IRWM plan update is developed, care should be taken to document how the plan will benefit the Delta. The implementation proposal is due January 7, 2011. There will be workshops next week. They will be available in-person and by WebX.

There was further discussion regarding the future of NSJWCD. There was an observation if the district loses its water right and cannot provide the services it was designed to address it could mean the continued existence of the district is in jeopardy. It was suggested NSJWCD might go

back to the city of Lodi to discuss a possible joint project. It was noted NSJWCD's water right expires December 31<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Dr. Lytle agreed to convene interested parties in refining the implementation grant proposal. Mr. Kauffman offered his district's services in helping to draft the proposal. The matter will go before the board at the December meeting.

**B. Discussion on Local Groundwater Issues – Mel Lytle/Brandon Nakagawa:**

A copy of the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program procedures for monitoring entity reporting was attached to the agenda. The deadline for commenting on the guidelines is November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The guidelines will be finalized by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Electronic sign-up for monitoring entities will be available and must be completed by January 1<sup>st</sup>. It was noted this is a voluntary program. However, there are funding consequences if agencies do not comply. There is no funding available from the state to offset the costs of this new program. Mr. Nakagawa stated a \$40,000 request to help with this project was included in the IRWM planning grant application. He added the county is currently providing monitoring services, but is not coordinating with other regional entities. This will have to be done if the county is to be the monitoring entity.

Dr. Lytle stated he has been approached by South San Joaquin Irrigation District in regard to a possible groundwater banking project. The Bureau is denying carry-over storage from New Melones. Therefore, SSJID is considering banking unused water. The amount of water available for banking is estimated at an average of 85 acre feet. Mr. Dante Nomellini said he believes it is a good idea to keep control local. Mr. Kevin Kauffman said he has been approached by Oakdale Irrigation District with a similar idea.

Members agreed that SSJID should be invited to the Coordinating Committee in order to facilitate discussing mutual interests.

**Conclusion:**

Members expressed appreciation for the time DWR staff, Keith Wallace and Brett Wyckoff, spent addressing the group on current issues.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- Update on IRWMP Funding Area Discussions
- Integrated Conjunctive Use Preferred Program Alternative and PEIR Finalization
- Prop 84 Bond Funding
- Groundwater Basin Recharge and banking Operations

**Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** December 8, 2010, 10:30 a.m.

**Submitted by:**

Carolyn Lott, Facilitator  
Center for Collaborative Policy



**ATTACHMENT  
B**

*DRAFT*

Reclamation District No. 1614 (Smith Tract)

P.O. Box 4807, Stockton, CA 95204

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RESOLUTION No. 2010 12-\_\_

Direction to RD 1614 staff/consultants to pursue potential funding available from State Department of Water Resources Storm Water Management Grant funds administered by the Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) to replace the Wisconsin Avenue Pump Station and associated outfall structure.

WHEREAS, Reclamation District No. 1614 (RD 1614) has noted deficiencies in the overall performance and structural integrity of the Wisconsin Avenue pump station, its discharge lines, and its outfall structure; and,

WHEREAS, RD 1614 has undertaken engineering evaluations, performed preliminary designs, and have developed cost estimates that suggest the full replacement costs to be currently estimated at approximately \$1,700,000.00; and

WHEREAS, RD 1614 seeks assistance in funding for the replacement of the Wisconsin Avenue Pump station; and,

WHEREAS, the Northeastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority (GBA) is in the process of identifying: (1) viable projects east of the San Joaquin River to participate in its regional IRWMP implementation grant application that is due in January 2011, and (2) applicable Stormwater Flood Management (SWFM) projects east of the San Joaquin River that may be eligible for State Proposition 1E grant applications that are due on April 15, 2011; and,

WHEREAS, the IRWMP Stormwater Flood Management grants offered by DWR allow up to a maximum of 50% cost-sharing by the State and a minimum of 50% cost-sharing by local project proponents, such as RD 1614 and any applicable local cost-sharing partners; and,

WHEREAS, RD 1614 staff/consultants have had preliminary discussions with GBA representatives and believe the project to be a potential candidate, provided it has measurable or demonstrated benefits and does not add risk to the GBA or San Joaquin County, for inclusion in an application for the SWFM funds that may be available through the GBA Integrated Regional Water Management Plan implementation grant program.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Directors of Reclamation District No. 1614:

Directs staff/consultants to further explore the viability of pursuing development of a State Proposition 1E Stormwater grant application with the GBA for the Wisconsin Avenue Pump Station and outfall structure that may be: (1) identified in the Northeastern San Joaquin County GBA IRWMP implementation grant application that is due in January 2011, and (2) that may be eligible to participate in the IRWMP SWFM Proposition 1E grant program with applications that are due on April 15, 2011.

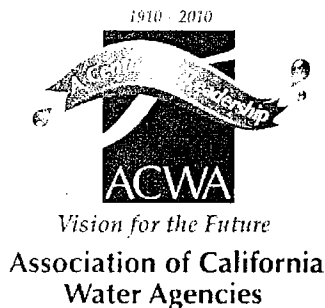
PASSED and ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Reclamation District No. 1614 on December \_\_, 2010.

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

, Trustee

Attest Clerk/Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENT  
C**



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# DRAFT

Via email: [GWElev-Support@water.ca.gov](mailto:GWElev-Support@water.ca.gov)

November 22, 2010

Mary Scruggs  
Supervising Engineering Geologist  
California Department of Water Resources  
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Subject: ACWA Comments on draft CASGEM Documents

To Whom It May Concern:

The Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Procedures for Monitoring Entity Reporting and Department of Water Resources (DWR) Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Guidelines. ACWA represents nearly 450 public water agencies in California that collectively supply over 90% of the water delivered in California for domestic, agricultural and industrial uses.

ACWA member agencies are dedicated to responsible stewardship of California's surface water and groundwater resources. ACWA believes that groundwater resources are best managed by local jurisdictions to effectively and efficiently sustain the state's groundwater basins. To that end, we appreciate DWR's efforts to ensure local entities active participation in the CASGEM program.

ACWA supports accountable and transparent groundwater management, which includes appropriate local monitoring, measurement and reporting of groundwater basin elevations to ensure groundwater basin objectives are being achieved. We have encouraged a feasible approach to the development of the CASGEM program since the passage of SBX7 6 in 2009, and will continue to collaborate with DWR as the process moves forward.

~~ACWA~~In addition, we would like to offer the following specific comments on the proposed procedures and guidelines.

## Procedures for Monitoring Entity Reporting

### Existing Groundwater Management Plans

- As DWR is aware, many agencies throughout the state have robust groundwater management plans that include monitoring for basin elevations ~~as that will satisfy the objectives of~~ required by SBX7 6 (and subsequently the CASGEM program). ACWA believes DWR should expand on and reiterate the wording on page 4 that states “The CASGEM program will rely and build on the many, established local long-term groundwater monitoring and management programs.” Explaining to Monitoring Entities that many existing monitoring plans likely cover much, if not all of the components needed in the CASGEM monitoring plan would reduce confusion of questions and would be beneficial to both potential Monitoring Entities and DWR staff.

### Roles and Responsibilities of Monitoring Entities, pg. 9

- The Procedures state that “DWR plans to continue monitoring groundwater levels [in their network], contingent upon available funding” but a local entity in those areas still needs to notify DWR of their intent to become the Monitoring Entity. While we appreciate DWR’s commitment to continuing their monitoring efforts, the requirement that Monitoring Entities must demonstrate “they have the capability to take over the DWR monitoring network” is inappropriate. This is not a requirement of SBX7 6 and cannot be placed upon the Monitoring Entity.

### Data Gaps, pg. 14

- In this section, DWR details the variety of reasons that data gaps may occur in the CASGEM monitoring network “including a lack of suitable monitoring wells, lack of groundwater use, access issues, and jurisdictional issues, among others.” However, the next paragraph states that “if no local entity is able and/or willing to fill a data gap, [DWR] may be required to perform groundwater monitoring functions,” which could result in the agency and/or county in the area of the data gap being “potentially ineligible for a water grant or loan awarded or administered by the state.” This section must be clarified to emphasize that local entities will not be required to ~~cannot~~ address certain data gaps within monitored basins, depending on the reasons for the lack of information or access. In addition, DWR is not allowed to require additional monitoring in areas lacking wells or sufficient density without funding support.

### Well Information, pp. 17-18

- The required level of accuracy for monitoring well location (longitude, latitude, and elevation) in many cases is above and beyond the level of detail currently used by DWR and local monitoring agencies. This level of detail is not required to fulfill the requirements of the legislation, which is to determine seasonal and long-term trends in groundwater basins and subbasins. In many areas, the State Well number allows for general location down to the 40 acre level and this is sufficient for the intent detailed in the new sections of the Water Code. Should the longitude, latitude and elevation be required for each proposed monitoring well, volunteer monitoring entities would be subject to significant additional

costs without measurable benefits to the CASGEM program. We recommend that DWR utilize the existing State Well ID system as it allows for sufficient detail in location and topographical maps would provide adequate elevation data.

- ACWA strongly believes that the confidentiality of Well Completion Reports (Reports) must be protected. While it is explained in the Procedures that the Reports will not be posted online, it also states that Reports voluntarily disclosed by a Monitoring Entity become records that DWR may be required to disclose in response to a request for public records (pg. 18). This is of much concern to many of our agencies, particularly those that work with multiple private well owners. This level of detail is not needed to accomplish the task of monitoring to determine seasonal and long term trends, and we do not think the submission of the Well Completion Reports should be recommended in this section. We would like to work with DWR to find a solution that will provide adequate basin elevation information while protecting the privacy of well owners throughout the state.

### Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Guidelines

#### Guidelines for Measuring Water Levels

- On page 18 the guidelines recommend that, "as a general rule it is recommended that the measurements [for groundwater elevation] not be made until 24 hours after pumping has ceased." This timeframe is impossible to attain for many agencies that might use irrigation wells as monitoring points, and it is more important that there be consistency, rather than a minimum time the well is off. While it is stated in the guidelines as a recommendation and not a requirement, ACWA believes it would be more appropriate to recommend measurements be taken on a consistent basis depending on the characteristics and use of the basin.
- On page 23 the guidelines outline a recommendation for making a measurement using the Electric Sounding Tape Method. In item (2), it states "place the tip or nail of the index finger on the insulated wire at the RP and read the depth to water to the nearest 0.01 foot (0.1 foot for production wells)." We recommend that if there is a direct line-of-site to the tape and top of casing, it should also be sufficient to take a direct reading from the tape rather than using the 'tip or nail of the index finger' technique described.

#### Points of consistency and clarification

ACWA also noted sections of the document we believe would benefit from additional clarification or a review for consistency throughout the guidelines.

#### *Procedures for Monitoring Entity Reporting*

- The phrase, "establishing Monitoring Entities for each Bulletin 118 basin" (pg. 6) might be misinterpreted as meaning one entity is responsible for an entire basin. While this language is spelled out later in the document, we believe further clarification is needed at the beginning of the Procedures and recommend revising the phrase to, "identifying Monitoring Entities that provide coverage for each Bulletin 118 basin."

- The Procedures for Monitoring Entity Reporting should further clarify that only Monitoring Entities need to submit an application, compile data and submit the information to DWR. (pg. 8). Cooperating Agencies and other agencies within the basin (cities, counties, local water agencies not involved in monitoring) do not have to provide information directly to DWR.
- In order to serve as the Monitoring Entity, agencies are required to submit a “copy of the current groundwater management plan.” Because there is often more than one plan covering basins or subbasins, references to this requirement should be edited to read “. . . groundwater management plan or plans.” (pp. 9-13)
- Throughout the Procedures DWR refers to “seasonal” when referring to data collection, as is outlined in the statute. These references should clarify that “seasonal” means at least two times per year, but no more. The Guidelines explain the measurements as “semiannual” (pg. 11), which more appropriately describes the required frequency.
- The Procedures indicate submission of the State Well Number is required when providing information on the monitoring sites and timing and reporting a groundwater level data measurement (pp. 15, 17), but then identify this as a “recommended” data point on page 18. This inconsistency needs to be addressed.
- The Procedures do not address how Monitoring Entities should monitor and report basins with multiple aquifers. It is important to provide additional details for those Entities that may be reporting this type of groundwater level information.

#### General organizational comment

- ACWA believes the document’s overall organization would be more consistent and effective if DWR promoted the Data Reporting section header on page 16 to the same level as the Monitoring Plans header seen on page 14. The monitoring plan is one deliverable, and the data reporting is a subsequent, recurring deliverable. Similarly, it will prevent confusion if the detailed list of data that should comprise monitoring plans (Entity Information and Well Information, beginning on page 17) is listed under Monitoring Plans section; and the detailed list of data regarding Groundwater Elevation Information (page 19) is listed under Data Reporting section.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft procedures and guidelines. We look forward to working with you to fully implement the CASGEM program.

Sincerely,

David Orth  
ACWA CASGEM Workgroup Chair  
General Manager  
Kings River Conservation District

Danielle Blacet  
Regulatory Advocate  
Association of California Water Agencies