



Collaborative Work Group - Meeting Summary #17

Meeting held February 23, 2017

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute

Meeting in Brief

In its final meeting, members of the Collaborative Work Group shared updates on the appointments of interim governing board directors to Salinas Valley groundwater sustainability agency. Work Group members also reviewed the agenda for the inaugural GSA governing board meeting on March 9.

The full Joint Powers Authority agreement is available on www.salinasgroundwater.org.

Action Items

Timeline	Who	What
done	CBI	Send announcement for DAC director alternate to full interested parties list
done	CBI	Announce cancellation of March 30 Work Group meeting

MEETING SUMMARY

Briefings and Updates

Marina Coast Water District continues to develop its own GSA. Monterey County and Marina Coast Water District have differing interpretations as to whether a GSA-eligible agency can form a GSA covering its *service area* or its *jurisdictional area*. If the State Water Resources Control Board does not adopt regulations or provide a definitive interpretation of the statute, one or both parties could seek declaratory relief in court.

Public Comments

The Collaborative Work Group invited and listened to public comments at two points during the meeting. The Consensus Building Institute has attempted to capture those comments in this summary. Note: The CBI facilitator invited anyone making a public comment the opportunity to share in writing to capture the comment more fully.

City of Greenfield: In a week, Greenfield City Council will consider whether to form own its own groundwater sustainability agency, in partnership with Clark Colony, or to join the Salinas Valley groundwater sustainability agency joint powers authority. The City of Greenfield's primary concern is its representation on the Salinas Valley groundwater sustainability agency. If the City proceeds with forming a GSA, issues could emerge related groundwater sustainability agency overlap. Greenfield hopes to resolve overlap issues prior to July 1. From the perspective of the City of Greenfield, in forming its own GSA, the City hopes to have a stronger position in development of a basin-wide, integrated groundwater sustainability plan -the City of Greenfield is concerned that if it joins the Salinas Valley joint powers authority and shares the South County Cities seat on the Salinas Valley governing board with three other South County cities, its voice will not be as strong.

Bill Carrothers: There are groundwater declines of 22 inches in parts of the Central Valley Project Connect. These declines, which occurred during drought period, are irreversible. A DWR report provides more information, as does a NASA study.

Attorney Tom Versik: When an eligible agency is considering whether to form its own groundwater sustainability agency or to join the Salinas Valley joint powers authority, it should look at what the groundwater sustainability plan is supposed to be - in order to determine what is best for accomplishing long-term goals. This is hard to do without having a skeleton of a groundwater sustainability plan. The Department of Water Resources website contains lots of useful information to this end.

The groundwater sustainability agency **start-up costs**, as outlined in the JPA agreement, are \$330,000 per year for the City of Salinas; \$670,000 year for Monterey County; and the cost to other cities or agencies is determined by population and water use.

This evening, **Paso Robles** subbasin will hold its inaugural groundwater sustainability agency meeting.

Attorney Tom Versik: Based on his careful interpretation of some of the statutes, he sees the following timeframe for development of the groundwater sustainability plan: The basin needs to be managed by the beginning of 2020. The State Water Resources Control Board can't create probationary basin before 2020. However, the plan needs to be formed within 10-12 months of now (in 2018), so that the Department of Water Resources has time to review and approve the plan by 2020.

Department of Water Resources: Attorney Versik's interpretation is correct. However, if the plan is not reviewed by the due date, there is an expectation that the groundwater sustainability agency will nonetheless implement the plan as submitted, and will continue to use that plan until the Department of Water Resources makes a decision.

Mayor Gunther: In the initial meeting, many thought that Salinas Valley groundwater sustainability agency formation would never happen successfully. Collaborative Work Group members have worked very diligently and accomplished a lot. There will be bumps in the road and the process won't be perfect, but this group will set the standard for the state.

Interim Governing Board Members

The Collaborative Work Group reviewed the status of interim Salinas Valley groundwater sustainability agency governing board appointments.

Director Seat	Who Fills Interim Seat
City of Salinas	Mayor Joe Gunther
South County Cities	Michael McHatten, Soledad City Manager
GSA-Eligible Agency	The Monterey County Board of Supervisors will make appointments on March 7.
Disadvantaged Communities + Public Water Systems	Primary: Ron Stefani, Castroville CSD Application for alternate due March 7
Ag seat 1 - East Side/Langley	Colby Pereira
Ag seat 2 - Pressure/Monterey	Adam Secondo
Ag seat 3 - Forebay	Steve McIntyre
Ag seat 4 - Upper Valley/Paso Robles (within Monterey County)	Bill Lipe
Environmental	Primary: Jan Shriner Alternate: Brian LaNeve
Public Member	The Monterey County Board of Supervisors received a number of applications for this seat and will make appointments on March 7.
CPUC-regulated	Brenda Granillo, CalWater

Public Hearing for Salinas Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation Process

The Work Group reviewed the draft agenda for the initial meeting of the Salinas Valley groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) governing board, to be held on March 9. This initial meeting is intended to get the GSA up and running. Once the GSA is operational, the governing board can begin developing the groundwater sustainability plan. Director alternates should plan to attend the first GSA meeting if they are available to do so.

Conflicts of interest for governing board Directors will be considered on a case by case basis.

Feedback on the Salinas Valley GSA Formation Process

Work Group members provided the following feedback to facilitator Gina Bartlett on the Salinas Valley GSA formation process:

- The initial assessment interviews set the frame and context;

- Good job of setting **ground rules** at the outset of the process and managing the environment;
- **Facilitation kept the group on track**, focused, and able to move forward;
- Kept the meetings **fun**;
- **Website** was a highly effective central resource for disseminating information and keeping people on the same page;
- Good assistance in helping the group **interpret complex regulations and documents**;
- **Examples** of SGMA implementation in other parts of state were helpful;
- Gina had a presence in the state, speaking at ACWA and elsewhere, and as such is knowledgeable with what's happening with **SGMA statewide**;
- The **Monterey County team** (Les Girard, Lew Bauman, Gary Petersen) was very helpful;
- Gina's ability to **summarize** what was occurring at a meeting and point out areas of agreement and areas that need additional discussion helped to facilitate the process;
- GSA agencies were open to a lot of **stakeholder representation**;
- The process was **responsive to public input**: for example, the Collaborative Work Group created two seats for rural residential well owners in response to requests by a public observer that this interest was not represented.
- The Collaborative Work Group was comprised of people with vastly **different interests and representation**.
- Glad that people made the **commitment** to show up to every meeting and were able to reach a good solution.
- Many are holding Salinas Valley groundwater planning up as a **model** for coming together and finding solutions across difference.

Next Steps

This was the final meeting of the Collaborative Work Group. The Work Group canceled the meeting originally scheduled for 3/30.

The Salinas Valley GSA Governing Board will meet for the first time on March 9.