



DRAFT

Collaborative Work Group - Meeting Summary #16

Meeting held January 19, 2017

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute

Meeting in Brief

In its first meeting of 2017, the Work Group reviewed the **timeline** to groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) formation, **GSA staffing** needs, and the function and composition of the interim GSA governing board. Nominating groups must submit interim GSA board director **nominations** to the appointing authority by January 31. The **interim board** will serve through September 2017, with the **permanent board** seated by October 1, 2017. The interim board will be responsible for submitting the GSA joint powers authority agreement to DWR by June 30 and for developing a permanent **funding mechanism** for the GSA. Additionally, the Collaborative Work Group recommends that it morph into a **GSA advisory group** upon GSA formation, and that the advisory group add seats for South County cities.

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

Action Items

Timeline	Who	What
done	CBI	Recirculate briefing form
asap	Lew Bauman / Monterey County	Create and circulate application for interim director for public member seat
asap	CBI	Circulate application for interim GSA board director for public member seat
Jan 27	CBI	Make sure information on JPA + JPA members, GSA + GSA directors is clear on salinasgroundwater.org
Jan 31	Nominating bodies	Submit interim GSA director nominations to appointing authority

MEETING SUMMARY

Briefings and Updates

Gary Petersen received overwhelmingly positive feedback on his recent presentation at the League of Women Voters, where he provided a comprehensive overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) formation.

Abby Taylor-Silva briefed ALBA (Agriculture and Land-Based Training Association), CCOF (California Certified Organic Farms), and the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce on GSA formation and SGMA implementation.

Marina Coast Water District filed a notice of intent in September 2016.

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.

Bill Carrothers: Mr. Carrothers attended a meeting of the Monterey County Water Resources Board of Directors. He is concerned that the Groundwater Sustainability Agency will not be equipped to accomplish its task.

Attorney Tom Versik: Without knowing the groundwater sustainability plan, it will be difficult to make decisions about recruiting for a technical advisor to the groundwater sustainability agency. It would be useful for advisory group to first understand what the plan will look like in order to best advise on a technical advisor and other matters.

Jeff Taylor inquired about the cost to agencies that sign on as Joint Powers Authority (JPA) members. The cost, as outlined in the JPA agreement is \$330,000 per year for City of Salinas; \$670,000 year for Monterey County; and the cost to other cities or agencies is determined by population and water use.

Timeline to GSA Formation

- **Now:** Public agencies are considering adopting the JPA agreement
- **January 31:** Deadline by which nominating groups submit nominations for interim GSA directors. Appointing authorities will select interim board members for any seats that don't receive nominations.
- **February 28 // early March:** Deadline for eligible agencies to join the JPA. Entities may join the JPA at a later date; however, those that join after the deadline will need to contribute a greater amount toward the start-up cost.
- **February 28:** Deadline by which appointing authorities appoint GSA directors.
- **Spring:** Interim GSA board in place; public hearing; submittal to Department of Water Resources (DWR).

- **June 30:** Final deadline for GSA formation to DWR – *interim board to submit*
- **October 1:** Latest date by which permanent GSA governing board seated

Update on Joint Powers Authority Agreement Adoption

The full JPA agreement is available on www.salinasmgroundwater.org.

Monterey County, the City of Salinas, the City of Gonzales, and Castroville Community Service District have approved the joint power authority (JPA) agreement. The Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors recommended approval of the JPA; the Board of Supervisors (as the board of WRA) will evaluate and decide on 1/31. The Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency approved the JPA agreement; its full board will consider approval on 1/30.

The JPA agreement is now effective because a minimum of two members have joined the JPA. Les Girard sent notice to the Secretary of State that the JPA has been formed.

Rene Mendez provided an update of **activities in the City of Gonzales and South County:**

- City of Gonzales approved the JPA agreement on 1/17.
- City of Greenfield provided direction to staff to consider setting up its own groundwater sustainability agency (GSA).
- City of King will bring the JPA agreement to City Council to consider other options.
- City of Soledad will bring the JPA agreement to City Council in February or March.

If a city does not join the JPA:

- It will not participate in the process of selecting GSA directors.
- It could file a notice of intent to serve as its own GSA.
- If a city (such as the City of Greenfield) does not file notice of intent, its jurisdictional area would be included in the Salinas Valley JPA’s notice of intent area.
- Because the City of Greenfield’s wells are outside of city limits, the groundwater sustainability plan adopted by the Salinas Valley GSA would apply to those wells.

South County cities will address GSA formation at their meeting on January 23. The agricultural caucus has conducted outreach in South County and will attend the January 23 meeting. Rene Mendez will speak further with the South County city managers.

Clark Colony’s water jurisdiction includes 30% of the City of Greenfield. As a mutual water company, Clark Colony is not eligible to form its own GSA, but *may* participate in a GSA.

If two or more proposed GSAs **overlap**, the state expects the jurisdictions to address the overlap. As of July 1, 2017, the state will declare an area unmanaged if there is any overlap among GSAs; overlap is cause for state intervention.

Interim Board

The interim board will serve through September 2017.

Director Seat	Who Fills Interim Seat
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City of Salinas	Mayor
South County Cities	Mayor of Gonzales [unless another city signs the JPA]
GSA-Eligible Agency	TBD
Disadvantaged Communities + Public Water Systems	TBD
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	TBD
Public Member	Application process - Monterey County and CBI to circulate the application

Nominating groups can contact County Counsel Les Girard or the lead of the appointing agency with any questions.

Staffing/Tasks

Interim General Manager: Gary Petersen

Interim General Counsel: Les Girard

The permanent board will have the option to contract with Monterey County for legal counsel or to contract out.

The interim board will post a request for proposal (**RFP**) for **permanent GSA General Manager** and an **RFP for technical services** to develop the groundwater sustainability plan (GSP). RFPs will be posted shortly after the interim board is seated, with the goal of having candidates for consideration as soon as the permanent board seated.

The interim board will also be responsible for developing a permanent **funding mechanism** for the GSA.

Advisory Group

The interim board will have the option to set up an **advisory group** to support the SGMA implementation process. The advisory group will provide an opportunity for interests not directly represented on the governing board to nonetheless have a voice in the process. The governing board will adopt its own bylaws, which will address how advisory committee members are selected.

Recommendation to interim board:

- The Collaborative Work Group would morph into advisory group, plus offer seats to South County Cities and potentially other interests that are not already represented.

- Seats would be refilled by the same representation for any existing CWG members who move on to the interim board. If CWG members do not want to continue serving, another individual would represent that interest on the advisory body.
- Benefit of consistency and knowledge.
- Time commitment: 1-2 meetings per month, for a total commitment of 2-3 hours per month.
- GSA General Manager would staff/support the meetings.
- Advisory Group will be subject to the Brown Act.

Next Steps

Nominating groups must submit nominations for interim GSA board directors by Jan. 31, and are asked to begin recruiting for permanent GSA board members so that nominations are in place by summer.

The Work Group will meet on 2/23 and 3/30, and canceled the meetings originally scheduled for 2/2 and 3/9.

CWG Members in Attendance

Representative	Organization
Tom Adcock	Alco
Brenda Granillo	Cal Water Service, District Manager
Alfred Diaz-Infante	CHISPA
Emily Paddock	Driscoll Strawberry Associates
Gary Petersen	City of Salinas, Director of Public Works
Heather Lukacs	Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Jan Shriner	California Native Plant Society; Carmel River Steelhead Association
Rene Mendez	Gonzales, City Manager
Abby Taylor-Silva	Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
Janet Brennan	LandWatch
Keith Van Der Maaten	Marina Coast Water District, General Manager
Norm Groot	Monterey County Farm Bureau
Kim Stemler	Monterey County Vintners & Growers
Lew Bauman	Monterey County, County Administrative Officer
Brett Harrell	Salinas Valley Sustainable Water Group
Steve McIntyre	Salinas Valley Water Coalition, Government Affairs
Robert Johnson	Water Resources Agency, Deputy General Manager
Margie Kay	Rural Residential Well Owner, North County
Chris Lopez	Rural Residential Well Owner, South County