



AGENDA

DATE	Thursday, February 8 th , 2024; 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (PST)
LOCATION	STPUD Board Room 1275 Meadow Crest Dr., SLT Remote Option: Click here to join the meeting
STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP LIST	Rick Lind (EN2R) ; Karen Bender, REHS, RD (El Dorado County -EMD); Brandon Badeker, P.G. (El Dorado County -EMD); Kyle Ericson, P.E. (El Dorado County Water Agency); Jason Burke (City of South Lake Tahoe); Scott Carroll (CA Tahoe Conservancy); Andrea Buxton (Tahoe Resource Conservation District); Brian Grey, P.G. (Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board); Jacob Stock (TRPA); Paul Nielsen (TRPA); Shay Navarro (TRPA); Nicole Bringolf (USFS – LTBMU); Nakia Foskett (Lakeside Park Water Co.); Jennifer Lukins (Lukins Brothers Water Co); Hallie Kirkingburg (Tahoe Keys POA); Harold Singer (Community Rate Payer); Paul Hughes (South Tahoe PUD); Russ Wiggart, CPESC, QWSP/QSD (El Dorado County DOT);
PLAN MANAGER	Mark Seelos, Ph.D. (South Tahoe PUD)

BASIN MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES (BMO)

1. Maintain a sustainable long-term groundwater supply.
2. Maintain and protect groundwater quality.
3. Strengthen collaborative relationships with local water purveyors, governmental agencies, businesses, private property owners and the public.
4. Integrate groundwater quality protection into local land use planning activities.
5. Assess the interaction of water supply activities with environmental conditions.
6. Convene an on-going Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG) as a forum for future groundwater issues.
7. Conduct technical studies to assess future groundwater needs and issues.
8. Identify and obtain funding for groundwater projects.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1. Provide updates on groundwater management activities.
2. Discuss regulatory actions and orders related to groundwater management.
3. Discuss Water Year 2023 Annual Report.
4. Identify groundwater management priorities and funding sources.

SEE REVERSE FOR AGENDA



AGENDA

Time	Description	
1:00	Roll call (5-Minutes)	SAG
1:05	TVS Subbasin (6-005.01) - Open Forum (10-Minutes) Topics outside the subject matter of the SAG and not listed on the Agenda.	Round Robin
1:15	Water Year 2023 Annual Report Summary (20 Minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of Key Findings • Questions/Comment/Edits 	Mark Seelos STPUD
1:35	Information Management System for TVS Subbasin (10 Minutes)	Dr. Gus Tolley, DBS&A
1:45	Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Study (15 Minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives • Monitoring Plan Design • Status 	Dr. Mark Hausner, DRI
2:00	TVS Subbasin Model Update (5 Minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective • Timeline 	Mark Hausner, DRI
2:05	South Y PCE Update (15 minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleanup and Abatement Orders • Ongoing Monitoring • Eastern Lobe Investigation • Q&A 	Brian Grey, PG LRWQCB
2:20	Executive Order N-7-22 (10 Minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements • Implementation 	Mark Seelos STPUD
2:30	DWR Updates (20 Minutes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide Efforts • Funding 	Barrett Kaasa, PG DWR
2:50	Round Robin: Funding Opportunities (10 minutes)	Round Robin
3:00	Adjourn	



Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Name	Organization	Attendance
Scott Carrol	California Tahoe Conservancy	In-Person
Brianna Greenlaw	City of SLT	In-Person
Jason Burke	City of SLT	In-Person
Gus Tolley	Daniel B. Stephens and Associates	Remote
Barrett Kaasa	Department of Water Resources	In-Person
Mark Hausner	Desert Research Institute	Remote
Karen Bender	El Dorado County Environmental Management	In-Person
Krista Eissinger	El Dorado County Environmental Management	Remote
Russel Wiggart	El Dorado County Stormwater	Remote
Rebecca Guo	El Dorado County Water Agency	Remote
Rick Lind	EN2/SEA	Remote
Keith Collins	Jones and Mayer	Remote
Brian Gray	Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board	In-Person
Nakia Foskett	Lakeside Park Association	Remote
Jenn Lukins	Lukins Brothers/Tahoe Keys Water Company	In-Person
Harold Singer	Public	In-Person
Donielle Morse	South Tahoe Public Utility District	In-Person
Mark Seelos	South Tahoe Public Utility District	In-Person
Paul Hughes	South Tahoe Public Utility District	In-Person
Stephen Caswell	South Tahoe Public Utility District	In-Person
Hallie Kirkingburg	Tahoe Keys POA	Remote

Open Forum

- No Comments

Water Year 2023 Annual Report Summary (M. Seelos, STPUD)

Groundwater Levels

- 2023 was a “very wet” water year, with 55.7” snow water equivalent at Hagan’s Meadow.
- Groundwater recharge in WY 2023 was ~30k acre-feet, exceeding average production 4-fold.
- 95% of wells were above their median groundwater level.

Groundwater use and storage

- Extraction has been decreasing over time and in 2023 was at an all time low at 5,850 AF (all purveyors).
- STPUD losses were about 10%.
- Current groundwater supply is 47,407 AF.



Basin Management Objectives

- All numerical objectives met.
- All reporting requirements met.
- Executed contracts for multiple groundwater management projects.

Goals for 2024

- Policy for compliance with N-7-22
- Implement public database.
- Finalize GDE monitoring plan.
- Meet monitoring and reporting requirements.
- Identify funding opportunities.

Information Management System for TVS Subbasin (G. Tolley, DBS&A)

- Dr. Tolley introduced and gave a tour of public database for the Tahoe Valley South Subbasin, which is live at southtahoe.gladata.com.
- Mark Hausner asked if additional layers could be added.
 - Dr. Tolley confirmed that any spatial data can be added.
- Mark Hausner noted that the IMS will be useful for designing GDE study.

TVS Subbasin Model Update (M. Hausner, DRI)

- Refresher of TVS Groundwater Model
- Future climate productions from CMIP5 (1986-2005) are applied to a GSFLOW model to predict spatial and temporal groundwater recharge.
- Model will be updated with new predictions from CMIP6 (1995-2014).
- CMIP data feeds PRMS model, which is applied to GSFLOW.
- Rick Lind asked if there were major differences between CMIP5 vs. CMIP6.
 - Mark confirmed there are.

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems Monitoring Plan (M. Hausner, DRI)

- Monitoring plan being developed to comply with SGMA provision for assessing Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems.
- GSA uses TRPA Stream Environment Zones (SEZs) as GDEs.
- GDEs were prioritized using the groundwater model by identifying the time when groundwater levels are predicted to drop below historical range of variability.
- Identification of existing and potential new monitoring wells.
- Develop standardized methodology for monitoring relative to thresholds.
- Rick Lind asked about timing for selection of monitoring well sites.
 - Mark mentioned that the Monitoring Plan will be sent to the SAG for review prior to implementation.



- Harold Singer noted recent studies that attributed tree mortality in the Sierra to lowered groundwater levels, and asked if these are considered GDEs.
 - Mark Seelos noted that TRPA SEZs are used because they are well established and controllable (as opposed to upland areas away from wells).
 - Barrett Kaasa noted that the TRPA SEZ definition is consistent with DWR's interpretation of GDEs.

South Y PCE Update (Brian Gray, LRWQB)

- Proposed Cleanup and Abatement Orders
 - Lake Tahoe Laundry Works (regional plume)
 - Big O Tires (site specific)
 - Former Norma's Drycleaner (site specific)
- Site Cleanup Subaccount Program Investigation Tasks
 - Non-municipal well sampling (2022)
 - Soil gas sampling (2022)
 - Sentry well network installation and monitoring (2023)
- Eastern Lobe Investigation (2023)
 - Sampling along James Ave. indicate no upgradient sources – Eastern Lobe is connected to the Regional Plume.
- Mark Seelos noted that even though the TVS Subbasin consistently meets Basin Management Objectives for Degraded GW Quality, the PCE plume has caused significant operational issues for water purveyors, and thanked LRWQCB for moving CAOs forward.

Executive Order N-7-22 Policy (Mark Seelos)

- Executive Order N-7-22 signed in March 2022 due to drought.
- Mostly repealed in 2023, but those relevant to GSAs remain.
- All wells with production >2 AFY must be approved by GSA.
- Proposed criteria relevant to Chronic Lowering of GW Levels, Reduction of Storage, Water Quality, Interconnected Surface Water, GDEs.
- There isn't a current standard for implementation.
- Rick Lind asked if well permits would be approved in areas that might be affected by the dynamic PCE plume in the future.
 - Mark Seelos replied that DRI did a contaminant fate and transport model that could be used.
- Donielle Morse asked if private well permits are still being issued.
 - Karen Bender replied that they are only issued for properties that can not be served by existing purveyors. This includes areas outside of the District's jurisdiction or areas where existing capacity is insufficient.



DWR Updates (Barrett Kaasa)

- Jan 18th, DWR released final 17 GSP determinations.
- DWR transitioning to review of Plan Updates and Annual Reports.
- Acknowledged that feedbacking has been lacking on Annual Reports.
- DWR released GSP Implementation Guide.
- DWR will release three ISW guidance documents in 2024.
- Introduced DWR open data portal.
- Scott Carroll asked what level of maintenance and QA/QC goes into databased.
 - Barrett responded that the data is mostly crowd sources and doesn't go through QA/QC from DWR.

Round Robin – Funding Opportunities

- Mark Seelos noted that funding for GW management is 50% cost share between District and EDCWA. EDCWA cost share is limited to planning. We are going to need to implement plans soon and don't have funding.
- Jenn Lukins mentioned that other water companies surcharge customers for groundwater management activities/SGMA compliance. Will we do that? Or figure out a basin wide tax program or something through TRPA? How can we get local government more involved?
- Mark Seelos mentioned that it is difficult to get agencies to fund regulatory compliance.
- Jenn Lukins: how can we fund the program without increasing water rates, which are already perceived as too high.
- Harold Singer: what does the west shore do to fund GW management?
 - Mark Seelos: they don't because they are a low priority basin.
 - Mark Seelos: Should we try to get downgraded to a low priority basin?
 - Jenn Lukins: SGMA is not like IRWM was. IRWM was very well funded and project oriented. SGMA has the regulation but not the funding.
 - Donielle Morse: What is LRWQCB doing with money from CAOs?
 - Jenn Lukins: There isn't money being gathered. Doesn't think CAOs will ever be enforced.
- Scott Carroll: Are there federal sources available?
 - Jenn Lukins: We are only at Regional Board level.
- Rick Lind: What will happen to the PCE plume once it gets in Lake Tahoe?
 - Jenn Lukins: It will be diluted to non-detectable levels.
- Harold Singer: can we get somebody else to be the GSA for the Subbasin?
 - Mark Seelos: STPUD is probably the most qualified, but funding is an issue.
 - Barrett Kassa: If nobody wants to claim the GSA, it would go the DWR Board.

3:06 pm: Adjourn