

2016 GWMP Stakeholder Advisory Group Minutes

May 27, 2016
South Lake Tahoe, CA

Members Present

Ivo Bergsohn (IB)	Rebecca Cremeen (RC)	John Larson (JL2)
Joey Keely (JK)	Harold Singer (HS)	John Thiel (JT)
Jenn Lukins (JL1)	Brian Grey (BG)	
Robert Lauritzen (RL)	Bob Loding (BL)	
Jason Burke (JB)		

Members Excused

Scott Carroll	Thomas Gavigan
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Members Absent

Greg Daum	Doug Dame
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Presentations

Lynn Nolan, STPUD	Rebecca Cremeen, TRPA
Eric Ingbar, Gnomon	Ivo Bergsohn, STPUD

Others Present

See Sign-In Sheet (Attached).

OPEN FORUM

There was no discussion.

APPROVAL of MINUTES

The SAG approved the meeting minutes from the December 16, 2015 Workshop (Attachment 1). Meeting Minutes will be posted on the District's website.

2016 GW Management Activities (Presentation)

A Power Point presentation was used to discuss GW Management Activities for the 2016 Water Year; 1) Staying current with new State Regulations for implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA); 2) Collaboration with the Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG) with expanded outreach to small community water systems, private well owners; 3) Issue with fringe areas (discuss later); 4) Complete South Y investigation; 5) Continue development of hydrologic model by DRI; 6) Continue use of water conservation measures; 7) Continue basin monitoring; and 8) Prop.1 funding for Groundwater Cleanup Program (GCP).

DWR Regulations and GSP Alternatives (Attachment 3): The recent Notice issued by the State Water Board (SWB) announcing the final approval to the Emergency Regulation Plans related



2016 GWMP Stakeholder Advisory Group Minutes

May 27, 2016

South Lake Tahoe, CA

to Groundwater Sustainability Plans and Alternatives was discussed. The Emergency Regulations allows Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to submit alternative plans in lieu of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Acceptable alternatives include; 1) an AB3030 Groundwater Management Plan; 2) a comprehensive adjudication; [Basins managed under a court decree] or 3) An Analysis of Basin Conditions (ABC) showing that the basin operated within its sustainable yield over a 10yr period.

Under the Emergency Regulations, GSPs will address a number of undesirable results related to insufficient water supply. As the TVS Basin has adequate recharge, these types of undesirable results are not encountered in the Basin. The most prominent criterion that does apply is degraded water quality, which is identified as the primary groundwater concern within the existing Groundwater Management Plan (GWMP). In order to submit the existing GWMP as an Alternative, the District will need to provide supporting documentation showing the GWMP is functionally equivalent to a GSP. Functional equivalence has to do with plan contents; specifically Section 5 of the SGMA and Section 7 related to annual reporting and periodic evaluation requirements. The deadline for submitting an Alternative to DWR is January 1, 2017. The District believes it is in its best interest to submit an Alternative using the current GWMP along with the new information developed under the GWMP, such as the basin water balance recently completed by the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in February 2016.

SAG Discussion: Planning Horizon- The GWMP is reviewed every 5 years, which is similar to the periodic evaluation requirements required under the Act. The GWMP also includes an annual report that is also required for GSPs. **GSA Powers and Authority** – GSAs primary authority is managing groundwater extractions; this does not supersede LRWQCB authority for regulating water quality. Water quality thresholds in a GSP would be consistent with current Drinking Water Standards. GSAs do have the ability to enact water quality triggers to address groundwater contamination. These triggers could be added to the existing GWMP or included in a GSP, if needed. **Advantages/Disadvantages** – District believes existing GWMP is appropriate for managing identified groundwater concerns in the basin. Completing a GSP may provide more compliance with the Act, but will likely not add further benefit to managing groundwater quantity or quality that would justify its cost. The same groundwater management objectives can be achieved through the existing GWMP as required under a GSP. The resources needed to develop a GSP could also be better used to address existing groundwater concerns identified in the GWMP. BG noted that moving forward under the GWMP would not remove any powers and authorities from the GSA for conducting groundwater investigations. **Funding Concern-** Does managing the basin under a GWMP rather than a GSP make the District less competitive in seeking grant funds for implementation. District could potentially gain an advantage as other areas of the state are facing challenges in forming their GSAs. Having an Alternative GSP in place in by 2017, could benefit the District as Prop 1 implementation funds become available starting in 2017/2018. **Functional Equivalency** – District is in the process of determining the additional items that will need to be added to the GWMP to make it functionally equivalent to a GSP by the next 5-year review period (2019/2020). District is planning to



2016 GWMP Stakeholder Advisory Group Minutes

May 27, 2016

South Lake Tahoe, CA

demonstrate to DWR how it will bring the GWMP into substantial compliance with all of the groundwater management objectives of the Act. JB shared issues City is having with Prop 1 requirement of having Storm Water Resource Plan, which is very redundant with Load Reduction Plan, similar to the GWMP and GSP; just addressing remaining items, but has been uncooperative. City wishes District best of luck with DWR.

Expanded Outreach (Attachments 4 & 5): Lists of different public water systems were introduced for discussion. Attachment 4 - list of groundwater users from District's GSA Formation Notification to DWR. IB expressed desire to better inform small water systems about current groundwater management activities and engaging a representative on the SAG. Potential advantages to joining SAG – greater communication, exchange of information (e.g., water quality concerns, potential mutual well interferences), shared interest in a sustainable resource. Potential outreach ideas- 1) use District mailing list of Private Well Owners; 2) engage Tahoe Meadows Homeowners Association (TMHOA); 3) Fallen Leaf Lake Homeowners Association?

Side Discussion: JB pointed out that GSA Formation Notification (STPUD, August 2015) did not indicate any disadvantaged communities (DAC) within the groundwater basin. That is not an accurate statement. Large portion of the groundwater basin include economically disadvantaged communities. Lukins water service is identified as a disadvantaged community. LN pointed out that definitions for DACs differ between state agencies; as such the definition applied depends on the agency responsible for administering funding.

Fringe Areas: Fringe Areas are areas within the groundwater basin, which lie outside the District's service area boundaries. Most of the parcels within the fringe areas are public lands. Under the Act, the County is the default GSA for these areas. District needs to show that the GWMP covers the entire extent of the groundwater basin. District is working to develop an agreement with the El Dorado County Water Agency (EDCWA) that would allow these areas to be managed under the GWMP. This agreement needs to be completed before the end of 2016, to support of an Alternative GSP submittal.

Groundwater Modeling: The Phase 1 modeling work was completed in February; primarily focused for the groundwater basin and surrounding water. Report is available on District website. The District approved funding to continue the groundwater modeling program, and Phase 2a will be complete by the end of June. The model evaluation completed in June will also include a recharge analysis which is part of the groundwater vulnerability assessment being completed for the Basin. DRI is updating the MODFLOW and GSFLOW models through the 2015 water year and will start developing the predictive transient models for climate change analysis. These models will be used to simulate conditions from 2015 to 2100 (SGMA requires a 50 year



2016 GWMP Stakeholder Advisory Group Minutes

May 27, 2016

South Lake Tahoe, CA

planning horizon). Dr. Greg Pohll, DRI, will be invited to provide an update on the modeling work at the next SAG workshop.

Urban Water Conservation: On May 18, along with approval of new GSP regulations, SWB also approved modifications to the Urban Water Conservation Regulations. Copies of a Technical Fact Sheet were made available to the SAG. A link at the bottom of the FS is to the State Water Board Information portal on the urban water use conservation regulations.

District and water purveyors will need to provide a Water Supply Reliability Estimate by June 15. The water supply reliability estimate requires an assessment of the current estimated amount of available water supply. For TVS Basin, that would be the amount of groundwater estimated to be in storage. The assessment assumes an additional 3 dry years and water demands similar as for the 2013-14 water years. Given the estimated amount of groundwater in storage, meeting the water reliability requirements should not be an issue. During discussion of this topic it inquired whether the District would continue instituting water conservation measures, regardless of whether there was sufficient groundwater in storage to meet demands over the 3-year horizon. The District has added some items to its existing conservation codes and added staff for educational outreach. It plans to stay with the water conservation program it's had in place since 2007 and may eliminate time-of-day restrictions that were enacted during 2015.

GWMP GIS; Eric Ingbar (EI), Gnomon; Two questions were posed to the SAG; 1) Is a public interface needed for viewing source water protection zones and potential contaminating activity (PCA) sites ?; and 2) Is a secure interface needed for water purveyors/regulators for sharing confidential information. A short questionnaire to identify the types of information that each agency can share was proposed; information types may be categorized as confidential and non-confidential. An open interface was also discussed that would allow all groundwater users to share water quality information with the public, if desired. Confidential information may be protected under the Public Records Act, as these would be working records and not archived (needs follow-up and further thought).

South Y Extraction Well Study (Presentation)

A Power Point presentation was used to provide an update, with preliminary data, on the District's South Y Extraction Well Suitability Investigation. The investigation was conceived following the presentation of contaminant information provided by Lisa Dernbach, LRWQCB



2016 GWMP Stakeholder Advisory Group Minutes

May 27, 2016

South Lake Tahoe, CA

(LD) during the April 2015 SAG Workshop. During this workshop, the SAG suggested that the District consider conducting an investigation using the Lukins Brothers Water Company (LBWC) Well #4 to complement the source area investigation being planned by the LRWQCB. The purposes and objectives of the well investigation are to; 1) Identify Contaminant Pathways; 2) Define aquifer parameters; and 3) Characterize water quality for treatment system design. The LBWC #4 is an inactive well that was drilled in the 1960s. This well was removed from service due to PCE Contamination (in 1994), which was identified in this well, when first sampled for PCE in 1989. The Rockwater Apartments Well was also included in this well study. The PCE contaminant plume extends from the "Y" as far north as the Tahoe Keys Water Company No. 1 and No.2 Wells.

Slides were presented showing the work completed and the findings from the passive sampling, well video-scan, step-test, constant rate pumping /recovery test, vertical flow profiling and capture zone for an extraction well derived from information collected during the investigation. Remaining items to complete the investigation include completing the WQ data evaluation for the Treatment System Pre-design and the project technical report that is expected by the end of June 2016. JL1 and JL2 expressed interest in reviewing the draft report and meeting with the Consultant (GEI Consultants) as the report is finalized.

JL-2 noted that the Consultant is also compiling historical data to show the extent of PCE contamination throughout the South Y Area in conjunction with the Extraction Well Suitability Investigation. This work will also be completed by the end of June.

Prop 1 GCP Funding (Attachment 6 through 11)

LN presented information on the Prop1 Groundwater Cleanup Grant (GCP) funding program. This funding could be used for wellhead treatment or other plans for cleanup of contamination at the Y, among other projects. The GCP is currently accepting pre-applications through June 2016. Prop 1 requires that proposed projects be also identified in Integrated Regional Water Management Program. Tahoe IRWM is currently accepting new projects. LN recommended that SAG complete IRWM Project templates and submit to LN, ASAP to be included in project list. Project descriptions can be fairly broad to be listed, further detail can be provided after listing. LN will provide a copy of the GCP Pre-Application for SAG projects. The SAG expressed interest in applying for this funding.

SAG Discussion: BG identified Lisa as the contact for South Y PCE Cleanup and Abatement. Her report will pursue LT Laundry Works (LTLW), etc. for contaminant delineation and abatement. LD will need funding. BG believes it would be worthwhile to explore companion funding for this



2016 GWMP Stakeholder Advisory Group Minutes

May 27, 2016

South Lake Tahoe, CA

work. Question was raised whether it would make sense to avoid spending public dollars until after the LTLW delineation work is completed. BG believes that a lot of work has already been completed (since 1989), etc. Liability issues are still under discussion. Other data to support other potential side liability is being pursued. There will be opportunity for significant amount of discussion to focus on what the upcoming work could be, and how funding could be used. LN felt partnering with LRWQCB would make the application stronger and increase leverage. LTLW is named in the CAO; however, there is significant variability in the interpretation of the adequacy of the data to assign liability. LD is the appropriate point of contact for discussion of RPs for collaboration on the GCP application.

JL2 discussed potential projects for TKWC. These include additional wellhead treatment for TKWC Well Nos. 1 and 2 in order to provide adequate water supply to meet water demands and fire flows for TKWC service area. JL2 expressed concern with the levels of contamination found in the LBWC #4 Well and the movement of this contamination toward the TKWC wells. A project that would cut-off this groundwater contamination would be welcome.

JL1 discussed potential projects for LBWC, this would include treatment at LBWC #4 as well as a storage tank (allowable in SEZ?). LBWC has applications for wellhead treatment at LBWC #2 and #5. Using inactive private wells as extraction wells (Stanford Camp / Eloise Avenue Wells / Rockwater Well?) may be another project to consider.

IB noted need for plume containment at LTRLW site as a potential project. Uncertain if this is a requirement under CAO. IB suggested that the SAG start a working group to define the project(s) for the GCP funding application. LN will work with JL1 and JL2 on completing IRWM Project Descriptions for Tahoe IRWM Project List.

TRPA Regulations (Attachment 12)

TRPA staff (RC and Shay Navarro) requested input from SAG on TRPA ordinances and policies with a nexus to water and groundwater. Input is being sought on possible code changes and would like to understand the SAG's priorities with regard to ordinances that effect water conservation efforts.

Presented code ordinances related to water, as follows;

- 30.4.60: Artificial turf counted as 25% partial exemption. SAG recommended this be changed to 0% (County, Keys, City, etc.). JL-2 suggested that TRPA also consider new rules encouraging use of native plants.



2016 GWMP Stakeholder Advisory Group Minutes

May 27, 2016

South Lake Tahoe, CA

- 36.5.2 Landscape Screening Requirement. SAG suggested other alternatives (e.g., earth berm, boulders, fencing) should be considered in-lieu of landscaping to conserve water.
- BMP Infiltration Exemption for known contamination areas; TRPA is working to get PCA spatial data from District.
- 60.4.8 No change needed.
- 60.1.3. B. Storm Water Constituents. A lot of the listed constituents are not groundwater concerns. TRPA should consider findings of District Storm Water Hydrocarbon Investigation (completed in mid-2000s); O&G low solubility and not mobile in groundwater environment; may want to consider replacing with other more appropriate constituents of concern (e.g. TPH –extractible or TPH- diesel). IB to send copy of Storm Water report to RC.
- 60.3.3. C.1. Source Water Protection Ordinance – uses a 600 foot fixed radius. Fixed radius is not adequate for large public water system production wells. Would like TRPA to consider using source water production zones that are appropriate for the wells production rate such as used in the District’s Source Water Protection Area Map under the GWMP. IB believes there is language in the TRPA ordinance that would allow this change. Source Water Protection Area Map is used primarily as a tool to identify and prioritize potential threats to groundwater wells.
- Sustainability Action Items; District will have an update of its water reuse and recycled water program in the next few years. All viable options will be put on the table and re-evaluated. Currently, a schedule has not been established for this evaluation.
- Rain Barrel Program (RBP) District through Tahoe IRWM (?) received a Prop. 84 grant for TRCD to implement a RBP in the basin.
- Low -Flow Shower Heads – District provides when grant funds are available.
- Turf Buy-Back – District does use when grant funds are available (through Tahoe Sierra IRWM program).
- 4-25 – As District evaluates water demand and sewer capacity on a project-specific basis, is this necessary? Building codes also require low-flow fixtures.
- Climate Change impact on Water Supply– being addressed through groundwater model evaluation.
- 5-19: Groundwater Vulnerabilities – Any TRPA funding available for investigations related to this item?
- 6-15: District standard water restrictions are not limited by time of day.

NEXT STEPS

The following items were identified for further action during the Workshop;



2016 GWMP Stakeholder Advisory Group Minutes

May 27, 2016

South Lake Tahoe, CA

- District will develop a mailer to use and distribute to private well owners (e.g. Tahoe Meadows, FLL and Rainbow Tract areas).
- Eric Ingbar will prepare and send SAG a GIS Sharing Questionnaire.
- LN will head the pre-application process and get that completed by June 15th. The Pre-Application should be reviewed by LD (LRWQCB) and get her input regarding the responsible party piece. Also need to know what they plan to do under the CAO and cleanup and abatement account.
- IB will send Storm Water Report to Rebecca and provide draft South Y Report to SAG.
- IB to schedule a Technical Report Review meeting with the consultants once the draft South Y Extraction Well Suitability Investigation report is distributed and prior to it being finalized (BG noted that LD expressed interest in obtaining a copy of final report).
- JL2 will share PCE Historical Data Compilation Report with SAG.
- LD is requesting a planning meeting with interested parties regarding next steps for source area investigation in South Y Area.

MEETING ADJOURNED (12:00 PM)



SIGN-IN SHEET

South Tahoe Public Utility District

TAHOE VALLEY SOUTH BASIN (6-5.01) GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

STAKEHOLDERS ADVISORY GROUP WORKSHOP No.1

May 27, 2016
(9:00 AM - 12:00 PM)

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