

Interested Parties

In forming the West Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (WTS GSA) all local water and land use agencies that are eligible to form a GSA within the proposed service area were engaged in the process; each agency determined their individual level of participation in GSA governance. Through this process, agencies developed an understanding of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the role of Groundwater Management Agencies in the SGMA process, and chose to either be GSA Members, Associate Members, or to participate as members of the public. The GSA Joint Powers Authority also provides for new Members to join, or for Associate Members to become Members, enabling agencies to modify their participation level in the future, should they wish to do so.

GSA meetings of the Board and Technical Advisory Committee are public meetings, conducted pursuant to the Brown Act, to encourage participation and facilitate communication and collaboration amongst Members, Associate Members, and other interested parties.

Pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.8(a)(4), the WTS GSA will consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP or “Plan”) in compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Plan (“Act”). These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:

(1) Agricultural Users.

The WTS GSA Members provide surface water to support much of the agricultural demand within the proposed GSA boundary. However, there are a small number of individual landowners that rely on groundwater in dry years to support agricultural uses. Agricultural water users are well represented by WTS GSA Members and Associate Members, including Turlock Irrigation District (TID), Stevinson Water District, as well as Stanislaus and Merced Counties which have established relationships with agricultural water users in their respective jurisdictions. TID often holds growers meetings and coordinates with agriculturally based organizations and commodity groups within its service area. Stevinson Water District coordinates with landowners within its service area. County agricultural commissioners and their staff in particular, as well as other county staff, interact regularly with agricultural water users within the WTS GSA area. WTS GSA Members that serve agricultural water users will continue to collaborate and communicate with these interests in the development of the Plan.

(2) Domestic Well Owners.

There are numerous domestic well owners that rely on groundwater for their domestic supply in the GSA area. The WTS GSA Members have existing relationships with these domestic well owners. The WTS GSA is represented by ten (10) Board members, each of whom represents specific geographic areas, some of which include domestic well owners. Through this representative process and existing relationships, WTS GSA will continue to collaborate and communicate with domestic well owners during the development of the GSP.

(b) Municipal well operators.

The Cities of Turlock, Modesto, Hughson, and Ceres are WTS GSA Members. These cities, along with the county water districts of Delhi and Hilmar, and the Denair Community Services District, which are also members, will represent the municipal well operators in the WTS GSA boundaries. The City of Waterford (representing the community of Hickman) and Keyes Community Services District have elected to be Associate Members and also represent municipal well operators in their role on the Technical Advisory Committee. In addition, other existing county water districts and community services districts have been involved with establishing the GSA, and have chosen to continue to be engaged in GSA activities as members of the public. WTS GSA will work with Merced and Stanislaus counties to identify any other municipal well operators and work with these entities as the GSP is developed.

(c) Public water systems.

WTS GSA will work with Stanislaus and Merced counties to identify any public water system within the GSA region that relies on groundwater supplies.

(d) Local land use planning agencies.

(1) Cities

The Cities of Turlock, Modesto, Ceres, and Hughson are all Members of the WTS GSA. Each of these Cities will represent their respective land use interests at the WTS GSA.

(2) Counties

Stanislaus and Merced Counties are each Members of the WTS GSA. Each County will represent their respective land use interests at the WTS GSA.

(3) County Water Districts

Delhi and Hilmar County Water Districts are Members of the WTS GSA. Each of County Water Districts will represent their respective land use interests at the WTS GSA.

(4) Community Services Districts

Denair Community Services District is a Member of the WTS GSA and Keyes Community Services District is an Associate Member of the WTS GSA. Each of these Community Services Districts will represent their respective land use interests at the WTS GSA.

(e) Environmental users of groundwater.

WTS GSA Members have existing working relationships with environmental groups on river management, habitat restoration and other projects. WTS GSA plans to continue this approach, building upon existing relationships, to collaborate with local environmental organizations, along with state and federal regulatory agencies, and other environmental interests.

(f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.

WTS GSA Members provide surface water to many lands within the proposed GSA boundaries. Several WTS GSA Members have strong background in recharging water to the groundwater basin and

promoting conjunctive use programs. WTS GSA Members will continue in these efforts and also work with other surface water suppliers in the Basin, to determine the extent to which surface and groundwater are interconnected in the Basin.

(g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.

WTS GSA Members have historically coordinated with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) on various studies, and continue to work with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in managing operations of Don Pedro Reservoir. The WTS GSA will continue to work closely with federal agencies in the development of groundwater management in the proposed GSA area.

(h) California Native American Tribes.

There are no native tribes within the proposed GSA boundary area.

(i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.

WTS GSA has identified disadvantaged communities within the proposed boundaries of the GSA using the DWR disadvantaged communities mapping tool. WTS GSA plans to work with its Member agencies to incorporate input from these communities and develop collaboration with these groups.

(j) Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency.

Members of the WTS GSA are entities that participate in monitoring and reporting groundwater in the Basin currently. In addition, Members of the WTS GSA, and other water agencies within the subbasin are members of the Turlock Groundwater Basin Association (TGBA), which is an organization that was initially formed in 1995 to provide a forum for local agencies to work together and to develop an initial basinwide Groundwater Management Plan for the Turlock Groundwater Basin. Since that time the TGBA has continued to be a forum to coordinate groundwater management activities, and is currently the monitoring entity for California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) compliance. Through its common membership with the TGBA, the WTS GSA is working closely with other entities monitoring and reporting groundwater data in the Basin. The WTS GSA will continue to work with these entities, and outreach to other interested parties that may be monitoring to coordinate and communicate as the GSP is developed.

The WTS GSA and other stakeholders' roles and responsibilities will be further considered and defined as the GSA continues to meet and as the Plan is developed. The WTS GSA welcomes feedback from the state, any of the agencies or organizations listed herein, and any other interested stakeholders.