

## Interested Parties

In forming the Merced Irrigation Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MIUGSA), all local water and land use agencies that are eligible to form a GSA within the proposed service area were engaged in the process. All agencies opted to share in the governance for the groundwater management of their collective service areas through a MOU. Through this process, agencies developed an understanding of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the role of Groundwater Management Agencies in the SGMA process, and their expected responsibilities as a member of the MOU. To fit this form of governance, each agency held its own public hearings to confirm to create their needed specific GSA service area with the intent to file as a single GSA, MIUGSA, for the purpose of groundwater management in unison with sister agencies, cosigner of the MOU. Furthermore, the parties joined the MOU with the understanding they may change the form of their governorship in the future, if conditions warrant.

Once approved by DWR, GSA meetings of the Board and Technical Advisory Committee are public meetings conducted pursuant to applicable law, 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 MIUGSA 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.

Surface water provided by MID to its customers supports much of the agricultural demand within the proposed GSA boundary. Agriculture relies on groundwater to varying degrees across the region in most years to support agricultural uses. However, there are a number of individual landowners that relied solely on groundwater to support their agricultural uses. Agricultural water users are represented by the MIU GSA, more specifically MID, and to a lesser extent by the urban agencies. MID has an active advisory committee that is informed of ongoing District activities including SGMA, and in return it provides guidance and recommendation to MID Board and staff. MID holds growers meetings and coordinates with agriculturally based organizations and commodity groups within its service area. MID communicates and coordinates with the County of Merced, and local and regional related representatives in regards to various agricultural activities (e.g. UC Extension, USDA, and East San Joaquin Water Quality Coalition). MIU 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 MIU GSA members have existing relationships with domestic well owners. Each MOU member is responsible to continue representation of land owners relying on domestic wells within their service areas into the future.

(b) Municipal well operators.

The cities of Merced, Atwater, and Livingston are MIU GSA Members. These cities, along with the community services districts of Planada and Le Grand, and Winton Water and Sanitary District represent the municipal well operators in the MIU GSA boundaries. These agencies have a long history of tracking and sharing groundwater demand activity and groundwater conditions with the rest of the agencies under the Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interests, and existing MOU created under the auspice of AB3030, SB 1938, SB 1672. These agencies are expected to expand their role and participation in the development and implementation of the GSP.

(c) Public water systems.

MIU GSA will work with appropriate local agencies to identify any public water system within the GSA region that relies on groundwater supplies.

***(b) Local land use planning agencies.***

***(1) Cities***

The Cities of Merced, Atwater, and Livingston are all Members of the MIU GSA. Each of these Cities will represent their respective land use interests at the MIU GSA.

***(2) Counties***

The MIU GSA is located within Merced County, however the County is not a member of the MIU GSA and there are no White Areas within the proposed MIU GSA boundary. However, the MIU GSA will coordinate with Merced County, in addition to other GSAs in the basin, on groundwater related issues in the formation of the GSP, as required by SGMA.

***(3) County Water Districts***

There are no County Water Districts, however there is a water and sanitary district agency within the MIU GSA. Winton Water and Sanitary District is a Member of the MIU GSA, and will represent its service area's interests at the MIU GSA.

***(4) Community Services Districts***

Planada and Le Grand Community Services Districts are both Member of the MIU GSA. Each of these Community Services Districts will represent their respective service area's interests at the MIU GSA.

***(c) Environmental users of groundwater.***

MIU GSA Members have existing working relationships with environmental groups on river management, habitat restoration and other projects. MIU 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.

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

MIU GSA Members provide surface water to many lands within the proposed GSA boundaries. Certain MIU GSA Members have strong background in recharging water to the groundwater basin and promoting conjunctive use programs. MIU 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.

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

MIU 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 New Exchequer Reservoir and received grant funding from the USBR for water improvement projects. The MIU GSA will continue to work closely with federal agencies in the development of groundwater management in the proposed GSA area.

***(f) California Native American Tribes.***

There are no known lands owned or managed by California Native American Tribes within the proposed GSA boundary area. If in the future such interests are discovered, they will be included as an interested party.

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

MIU GSA has identified disadvantaged communities within the proposed boundaries of the GSA using the DWR disadvantaged communities mapping tool. MIU GSA plans to work with its Member agencies to incorporate input from these communities and develop collaboration with these groups. Members of the MIU GSA have collaborated in their work towards the disadvantaged communities through their Merced Integrated Regional Water Plan, and they intend to expand on that effort.

***(h) 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 MIU GSA are entities that participate in monitoring and reporting groundwater in the Basin currently. In addition, members of the MIU GSA, and other water agencies within the subbasin are members of the Merced Area Groundwater Pool Interests (MAGPI), which is an organization that was initially formed in 1997 to provide a forum for local agencies to work together and to develop an initial basin-wide Groundwater Management Plan for the Merced Groundwater Basin. Since that time the MAGPI 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 memberships within the MAGPI, the MIU GSA is working closely with other entities monitoring and reporting groundwater data in the Basin. The MIU 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 MIU 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 MIU GSA welcomes feedback from the state, any of the agencies or organizations listed herein, and any other interested stakeholders.