

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 25, 2022

Special Meeting

10:00AM

AGENDA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87833027708?pwd=ZElrenFtQkhGZjY0b1MwM1I5Sk1pdz09>

Meeting ID: 878 3302 7708
Passcode: 422014

Dial in: +1 669 900 6833

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Crisis, and as authorized by Assembly Bill 361, Committee Members will participate in this meeting offsite via Zoom meeting. Members of the public who wish to provide comment or observe the meeting may join the Zoom meeting.

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. STATE OF EMERGENCY TELECONFERENCE FINDINGS

Action Item: The Technical Advisory Committee will consider the circumstances of the State of Emergency and determine whether to make the following findings:

1. The State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and
2. State or Local Officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Public opportunity to speak on any matter of public interest within the Agency's jurisdiction including items on the Agency's agenda. Testimony limited to three minutes per person.

4. MEETING MINUTES

November 19, 2021

5. DWR COMMENTS ON MERCED GSP

6. LAND REPURPOSING PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- a. Landowner survey results
- b. Target areas

Alternate formats of this agenda will be made available upon request by qualified individuals with disabilities. Appropriate interpretive services for this meeting will be provided if feasible upon advance request by qualified individuals with disabilities. Please contact the Secretary at (209) 385-7654 for assistance and allow sufficient time to process and respond to your request. Copies of agendas and minutes will be available at the Merced County Community and Economic Development Department and at www.countyofmerced.com/MercedSubbasinGSA.

7. WELL CONSISTENCY POLICY UPDATE

8. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO GSA BOARD

9. NEXT MEETING

10. ADJOURNMENT



**MERCED SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY MEETING OF THE
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES FOR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 19, 2021

The special meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) was called to order at 09:00 a.m., on November 19, 2021 via Zoom Meeting due to the COVID-19 crisis and as authorized by Assembly Bill 361.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

All attendees did roundtable introductions.

Committee Members Present:

Julia Berry
George Park
Blake Nervino
Lou Myers
Bob Kelley
Randal Edwards

Consultants Present:

Greg Young, Tully and Young
Chris Heppner, EKI

Staff Present:

Lacey McBride, Water Resources Manager
Desiree Dobbs, Recording Secretary

II. STATE OF EMERGENCY TELECONFERENCE FINDINGS

TAC to determine whether to make the findings:

1. The state of the emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and
2. State or Local Officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing

NO QUORUM. NO ACTION TAKEN.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Lacey McBride provided updates on three items.

1. SGMA GSP evaluation released on November 18, 2021
2. Public Workshop outcome
3. Prop 68 Grant request for extension from January to mid-February and project collection for funding.

IV. MEETING MINUTES

TAC members had no changes to the minutes from September 29, 2021.

Suggested correction to adjournment time from 11:03 p.m. to 11:03 a.m. on the minutes dated October 26, 2021.

NO QUORUM. NO ACTION TAKEN.

V. MSGSA ROLE IN COUNTY WELL PERMITTING

Lacey McBride provided a summary of MSGSA's role in the update to Merced County's well permitting and general guidance from the Board. TAC reviewed current County process under the Groundwater Mining and Export Ordinance and County well permit application to discuss concerns and considerations to data collection for the MSGSA to make consistency determination on well permit applications.

Greg Young asked the TAC to consider if the Merced County application is complete enough for the GSA to make a consistency determination or if more information is needed.

Julia Berry suggested including questions about water quality, potential perforations and groundwater level and sharing data from test wells with the GSA.

Bob Kelley suggested adding location of well in respect to Sustainability Zone and above/below the Corcoran Clay.

Blake Nervino suggested including questions about original history/capacity of wells to help well owners get original capacity.

Mr. Young asked the TAC to consider if overall acre feet or rate is more important in water usage.

Mr. Park commented that the rate is mostly irrelevant.

Mr. Young suggested that if rate is irrelevant, lengthy history may not be necessary and asked the TAC to consider how much history will be needed on wells.

Ms. Berry suggested including future pumping projection and detailed information about well-intended use, such as type of crops/ type and age of trees, to gauge consumption.

George Park suggested using most recent years of usage, limiting per farm unit rather than individual well and adding an allowance to replace multiple old wells with one well of the same production.

Mr. Kelley suggested having well users install meters to collect usage data and limiting acre foot extraction per year on replacement wells in areas of concern.

Mr. Nervino inquired if there would be restrictions to districts/ public agencies and what would restrict districts from moving wells for more efficiency.

Mrs. McBride responded that the possibility of increased pumping could stop districts from expanding.

Mr. Meyers suggested collecting parcel level consumption data.

Mr. Young suggested knowing which parcels will be served by the public wells, to avoid more than historic consumption.

Ms. Barry suggested adding a notice, with an acknowledgement line, to the application which informs well owners that there may be limits on well extraction and including questions about alternative water sources, with specific examples such as, “neighbors well”, “district well” and “back-up well”.

Mr. Heppner suggested adding questions about the back up well usage, to avoid allowing the well to become an additional well.

Ms. Berry suggested adding information about which well data collection methods are acceptable to the GSA.

Conversation overview by Mrs. McBride. Mrs. McBride commented that there seems to be TAC interest in collecting information on test wells, location relative to the Sustainability Zones and the Corcoran Clay, proposed future pumping, anticipated changes in land use, agency wells moving within district boundaries and information about alternative sources of water, with examples for the applicant. Also suggesting inclusion of a statement that wells will not have undesirable results and inclusion of a statement about limits on pumping to either the application or the consistency determination letter. Mrs. McBride commented that there is no TAC quorum but commented that the discussion would be informally shared with the Board.

VII. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO GSA BOARD

NO QUORUM. NO ACTIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS TO BE PROVIDED TO THE GSA BOARD BY THE TAC FROM THE NOVEMBER 19, 2021 TAC MEETING.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting scheduled for January 2022.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.