

**SUMMARY REPORT FOR
TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2018**

ATTENDEES: Ken Schmitt, Dee Jasper, Kathy Wood-McLaughlin, Carole Combs, Brandon Spain, Matt Hurley, Deanna Jackson, Julie Allen

The meeting began with self-introductions, those in attendance were Ken Schmitt, TCWA's Hydrologist; Dee Jasper, TCWA's Engineer; Matthew Hurley, TCWA Chairman; Deanna Jackson, TCWA Secretary/Treasurer; Kathy Wood McLaughlin, BLM; Carole Combs, Tulare Basin Wildlife Partners; and Brandon Spain, Hancock Farmland Services.

Matt Hurley led the group discussion beginning with an overview of Tri-County Water Authority's (TCWA's) formation. TCWA is a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between Angiola Water District, Deer Creek Storm Water District, and Kings County; additional Districts could be added in the future, as warranted. TCWA is in two separate Subbasins, Tulare Lake Subbasin and Tule Subbasin.

The Tule Subbasin Technical Committee is currently a MOU between six Groundwater Sustainable Agencies (GSAs); TCWA, Pixley Irrigation District, Lower Tule Irrigation District, Delano Earlimart Irrigation District, Eastern Tule GSA and Alpaugh Irrigation District. R. L. Schafer, R L Schafer and Associates, and David DeGroot, 4Creeks, are Tule Subbasin's Technical Committee coordinators. The Tule Subbasin has agreed to function as a consensus based MOU group while completing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) required Coordination Agreement. The Tule Subbasin GSAs are currently required to reach agreement on all aspects of the Coordination Agreement to proceed. The MOU group's Attorney is working on writing a dispute resolution process to be included in the Coordination Agreement. Thomas Harder, the hydrologist hired to work on behalf of the Subbasin, has completed an analysis of the Subbasin's inflow and outflow as well as overdraft numbers for the Subbasin and individual GSAs. Thomas Harder is currently working on a basin wide model and portions of the Coordination Agreement. David DeGroot is completing the remaining Coordination Agreement sections.

The Tulare Lake Subbasin is comprised of 5 GSAs; TCWA, El Rico, Southwest Kings, South Fork Kings, and Mid-Kings. They have hired David Bean, AMEC Foster Wheeler, to complete a hydrological model of the Subbasin and are working towards the creation of one Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Tulare Lake Subbasin, which most likely will include management chapters for the individual GSAs. They have sent out a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a single engineering firm to write the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Subbasin.

Each of the Subbasins are expected to receive a grant of \$1,500,000 to be used in the Tule Subbasin MOU group for development of the Coordination Agreement and technical data, and in the Tulare Lake Subbasin to develop their technical data and Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The awards should be out in mid-February.

Groundwater Sustainability Plans are due for submission, to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), by January 31, 2020. The plans have a 90 day public review period before they are

eligible for submission to DWR, because of which the plan draft should be completed no later than summer 2019.

The Committee discussed its Governance and Chairman Hurley asked for nominations or volunteers who would be interested in leading the Stakeholder group in the future, no decision was made. The desire to increase attendance of the meetings was discussed. It was noted the Committee did not have a row crop representative or a dairy representative in attendance. All attendees agreed to reach out to their contacts within the TCWA service area, send contact information to be added to the email list, and help increase participation at the next meeting. The Stakeholder Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee will work together and will be responsible for providing valuable feedback to the Board of Directors as they make decisions regarding the development the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

The committee decided designing a timeline to show critical points for Advisory Committee input on GSP development would be vital, and TCWA's engineer, Dee Jasper, was tasked with completing a timeline and process for both committees to utilize. The group discussed how to properly document the committee's process and if an outside party should be utilized. Carole Combs mentioned utilizing a firm such as Provost and Pritchard to manage an Outreach and Communication Plan to fulfill the committee's outreach function.

The Committee discussed critical projects and Chairman Hurley commented that all ideas should be brought to the committee for consideration, including any projects for recharge, water management, import, injection wells, etc. Cooperation with adjacent GSAs and possible collaboration on projects would be welcome. Brandon Spain spoke on behalf of Agricultural interests and conveyed that ag is interested and willing to work on projects as a partner with the GSA, especially on projects which center on additional water supply.

TCWA's Proposition 218 ballot is out, the public hearing and ballot reading are scheduled for March 1, 2018. The duty of the TCWA Board will be to budget the funds which will most likely be billed at \$10 per acre for the first year, \$9 per acre for the second year, and \$5 per acre thereafter. TCWA also intends to seek additional funding through possible grant opportunities.

The Committee agreed to move the next meeting to March 7, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.