

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

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

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 Lake Basin Wildlife Partners; and Brandon Spain, Hancock Farmland Services.

Matt Hurley led the group discussion beginning with an overview of the Tule Subbasin Technical Committee's progress to date. The Tule Technical Committee is currently a MOU between six GSA's; 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 Technical Committee's 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 Groundwater Sustainable Agencies (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. TCWA Technical Committee will begin work in this Subbasin on reviewing the technical data and TCWA's management chapter.

Each of the Subbasins are expected to receive a grant of \$1,500,000 to be used by the Tule Subbasin MOU group for development of the Tule 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.

The TCWA Technical Committee will analyze the data and processes of the Subbasins' Technical Committees and give feedback and suggestions to TCWA's Board of Directors. 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 Tule and Tulare Lake Subbasins' hydrological models will be kept separate for reporting and planning, and the Technical Committee could choose to utilize the Subbasins' modeling or choose to complete a model of its own. The Committee will consider how to best incorporate the Tule Subbasin's Coordination Agreement into its GSP. Deanna Jackson will provide scheduling information for Tulare Lake and Tule Technical Committee meetings to Ken Schmitt and Dee Jasper who will participate at the technical level and report up to the Board of Directors information and recommendations for approval.

This will be an adaptive process with data gathering and basin level project development as well as GSA level project development. Projects to be considered for inclusion in the GSP should have a component that would address land subsidence and wells should be mapped above and below the Corcoran Clay to better gauge the cause and effect of such pumping. Lidar, a method of using satellite surface deflection, could be used to monitor subsidence in place of an extensometer. Minimum thresholds for four of the six undesirable results, identified in SGMA, which pertain to Tule and Tulare Lake's Subbasins must be determined for each plan. (Sea water intrusion and stream depletion do not apply to these basins.) Ken Schmitt asked that GIS mapping for TCWA include the location of undeveloped lands, Federal and State lands. Dee Jasper agreed to work with David Clark (GIS mapper) to better define the plan area and Kathy Wood McLaughlin offered the Bakersfield BLM office as a possible reference for maps. Committee Governance was discussed and Dee Jasper will be composing the Technical Committee's agendas and critical path timeline for task completion.

TCWA's Proposition 218 ballot is out, the public hearing and ballot reading is scheduled for March 1, 2018. The duty of TCWA's 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 10:00 a.m.