SUMMARY REPORT FOR
TRI-COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 7, 2018

ATTENDEES: Dee Jaspar, Ken Schmidt, Carole Combs, Kathy Wood McLaughlin, Brandon Spain, Matt Hurley, Deanna Jackson, Julie Allen, Mike Nordstrom, David Clark

The meeting began with self-introductions, those in attendance were Ken Schmidt, TCWA's Hydrologist; Dee Jaspar, TCWA's Engineer; Matthew Hurley, TCWA Chairman; Deanna Jackson, TCWA Secretary/Treasurer; Kathy Wood McLaughlin, BLM; Carole Combs, Tulare Lake Basin Wildlife Partners; Brandon Spain, Hancock Farmland Services, Julie Allen; Mike Nordstrom, Angiola WD Board Member; and David Clark, Mapping Consultant. The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed the TAC Summary Report from the January 24, 2018 meeting.

Dee Jaspar presented a power point overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act which included a brief history of SGMA and groundwater legislation. Mr. Jaspar defined the undesirable results which must be addressed including; (1) Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply if continued over the planning and implementation horizon. Overdraft during a period of drought is not sufficient to establish a chronic lowering of groundwater levels if extractions and recharge are managed as necessary to ensure that reductions in groundwater levels or storage during a period of drought are offset by increases in groundwater levels or storage during other periods. (2) Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage. (3) Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion. (4) Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality, including the migration of contaminant plumes that impair water supplies. (5) Significant and unreasonable land subsidence that substantially interferes with surface land uses. (6) Depletions of interconnected surface water that has significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water. The Tule and Tulare Lake Subbasins have indications from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) that two of these undesirable results are not considered applicable, those being seawater intrusion and depletion of interconnected surface water.

Mr. Jaspar reviewed the TAC Roadmap for Preparation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan which included an outline of the Technical Advisory Committee's goals: define a course of action, identify problem areas, identify measuring protocol (with the goal of Sustainable Groundwater Management), and identify how problem areas will be addressed. The TAC discussed its objective of identifying projects to be incorporated in the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).

Ken Schmidt provided an overview on hydrology as it pertains to developing the GSP. He divided groundwater into two parts, hydrological conceptual model and groundwater conditions. There was a discussion of how to distinguish the upper aquifer from the lower aquifer. Mr. Schmidt discussed a data driven monitoring system, including plotting water levels on a map to differentiate the upper and lower aquifers. The TAC discussed the use of a conceptual model and

SGMA requirements. Mr. Schmidt explained his preference of applying Darcy's Law which utilizes change in storage estimates and groundwater flows to meet the conceptual model requirements. This option may require consulting with DWR and making sure the correct parameters are used.

Mr. Schmidt has separated TCWA into three management areas; western (no wells, clay, salty water, some sands), northern (including the Angiola WD wellfield, on the boundary of the lakebed), southeast (out of the lakebed and with the least clay of the three areas). TCWA spans two counties and two subbasins. It will have 3 management areas with differing hydrology: confined aquifers, unconfined aquifers and areas with both confined and unconfined aquifers. The Tulare Lake portion of GSA has data gaps due to very few wells being located in that area, and may require the addition of monitoring wells. There was a discussion regarding unconfined and confined aquifers and their association with Corcoran Clay layers. Mr. Schmidt referred to a study completed by Santa Clara Valley which addressed confined and unconfined aquifers.

The TAC discussed adopting monitoring protocols, developing data and reporting, developing a data management system, and describing the plan area and density of wells. The TAC discussed how its GSP will be combined with the contributions of Thomas Harder in the Tule Subbasin. The TAC agreed that one of its goals is to meet and/or exceed monitoring network standards for the subbasins. Mr. Hurley stated SGMA requires data gathering and identification of data gaps. The first five year implementation period will be used to gather data to fill the data gaps. Mr. Jaspar is working on mapping the GSA area, the TAC suggested Tulare County LAFCO maps, previous mapping completed by Provost & Pritchard and the subscription to LandIQ as possible mapping references.

Water budgets with regards to current quantities, historical quantities and projected quantities were discussed by the TAC. Mr. Schmidt will define the effect of different hydrologic years on groundwater levels. Historical data will be used as a baseline for future projections including surface water supplies. The TAC will consider flows from Deer Creek, White River, and Poso Creek and decide how those measurements will be incorporated in the GSP. Angiola Water District has detailed hydrologic information, but there are significant data gaps for Deer Creek Storm Water District's service area. During the first five year implementation period of the plan TCWA will begin to fill in the gaps, recognizing SGMA is driven by data and changes will be made accordingly as more data is available.

Mr. Schmidt estimated that the hydrology will be completed by this summer and after its completion TCWA's team will beginning writing the GSP.

The next Technical Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2016 at 10:00 A.M.