

McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency (MAGSA)

Amer Hussain | June 3, 2020

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consultants



June Board Meeting

- Introduction to Geosyntec Team
- Project Scope and Overview
- Communications and Outline Plan



Project Manager — Amer Hussain, PE



- Principal and California registered professional engineer based in Fresno with over 25 years of experience in the southern Central Valley
- Project manager for South Fork Kings GSA SGMA implementation: coordination with surrounding GSAs, negotiations to locate additional water supply, improvements to conveyance structures, and deep groundwater recharge through ASR wells
- Also working with private landowners on SGMA response

Scoping and Strategy Lead — Bob Anderson



- Senior principal and hydrogeologist with over 30 years of experience in groundwater resource planning.
- Leads Geosyntec's SGMA initiative including Borrego, Salinas, Santa Ynez Basins,
- Lead technical advisor to the South Fork Kings GSA on Tulare Lake GSP.
- Prior experience in the Columbia River Basin conducting similar watershed scale groundwater planning and agricultural water management assessments.

Water Resources Engineer — Kristin Reardon, PhD, PE



- Water resources engineer with more than 20 years of experience, specializing in studies to support decision-making for water resource managers and communicating complex technical issues to diverse audiences
- As a lead author of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan 2017 Update, Kristin focused on flood policy issues
- Kristin has worked with irrigation districts in the San Joaquin Valley, the California Department of Water Resources, and the US Bureau of Reclamation

Outreach Task Lead — Dave Ceppos

Facilitation — Malka Kopell



- Dave Ceppos is a managing senior mediator and manager of Sacramento State's Consensus and Collaboration Program (CCP) and oversees CCP's extensive portfolio of water policy and stakeholder outreach efforts, including work with 35 different GSAs. Dave currently acts as facilitator of record for the Chowchilla GSA and is also working in the Madera, and Kaweah subbasins.

- Malka has over 30 years of experience collaborating with communities throughout California and nationally with meeting facilitation, conflict resolution, and process design. Malka is the lead facilitator and public engagement advisor for the Madera GSA and is also working with the adjacent Chowchilla GSA.



Surface Water Rights and Legal Support — Gwyn-Mohr Tully and Greg Young, PE (Tully and Young)



- Licensed attorney in California with extensive experience in surface and subsurface hydrology, law and policy. He has evaluated water rights, contractual water obligations, negotiated water transfers, and water settlements throughout CA.
- Gwyn wrote an Amicus Brief to the California Supreme Court in *Barstow v. Mojave* on the fundamental underpinnings of CA water rights law.

- Registered civil engineer with over 30 years experience in water resource management. Greg provides expertise to local agricultural and urban water purveyors, public agencies, non-profits and private interests on SGMA compliance, water asset management and water rights reporting.
- Currently, Greg is the lead technical strategist for SGMA efforts in Madera County and Merced County.



Water Transfer Economics — Steve Hatchett

Regional Economics — Duncan MacEwan



- Senior economist and project manager with over 30 years of experience specializing in water resources, agriculture, mathematical modeling, statistical analysis, benefit-cost analysis, cost allocation, CEQA/NEPA support, and regional economic impacts

- Principal economist and managing partner of ERA Economics; specializes in the economics of water resources and agriculture.
- Lead economist on several GSPs in high and medium priority groundwater sub-basins
- Works with clients to assess the value of water assets, evaluating third party impacts of water transfers, and evaluating the impacts of alternative demand management strategies.



What we are doing

- Describing components of a groundwater market
- Preparing a range of alternatives, requirements and options for a MAGSA groundwater market
- Evaluating constraints and opportunities for surface water usage in MAGSA
- Listening to stakeholder outreach on preferences and concerns

What we are NOT doing

- Formalizing a groundwater allocation
- Initiating a water market
- Conducting water transactions
- Negotiating water agreements



What are the components of a market?

Allocations

- Identify and assign ownership to different sources of groundwater
- Includes any water imports and projects

Basin Conditions

- Sustainability indicators
- Technical, stakeholder, and political considerations

Trading Structure

- The marketplace where buyers and sellers exchange groundwater credits

Market Rules

- Participation
- Trading limits, carry-over
- Prevent/mitigate unintended outcomes

Monitoring & Enforcement

- Method for tracking groundwater use, trades, and enforcing allocations

Market Administration

- Entity that oversees the groundwater market
- Development costs, operating costs, and funding sources

Market Reporting

- Transaction documentation
- Price discovery
- Confidentiality

Communications and Outline Plan

- **Four main elements:**
 - Initial Inquiry
 - Technical Workshops
 - Public Communications
 - Focused Stakeholder Engagement

- Purpose: to assess and confirm potential information needs and stakeholder concerns
- Informal stakeholder interviews
- Stakeholder survey
- Standing GSA meetings
- Timing: April-July 2020

- Purpose: to provide select opportunities during project development to engage with stakeholders in a group to provide information and get feedback
- Content: overview of a water market strategy, relationship to various GSP projects, alternative approaches to combining surface water and groundwater marketing, updates on surface water projects, etc.
- Timing: 3 Workshops -currently planned for July 2020, October/November 2020, March/April 2021

- Purpose: get the word out broadly and provide additional feedback opportunities
- Utilizing and coordinating the communication methods currently used by MAGSA (website, listserv, MAGSA Board meetings, Stakeholder Committee meetings, etc.)
- Timing: throughout

- Purpose: to better understand stakeholder concerns and to more fully engage beyond technical workshops, MAGSA board meetings, etc.
- Smaller interviews conducted by third-party neutral consultants
- Timing: throughout



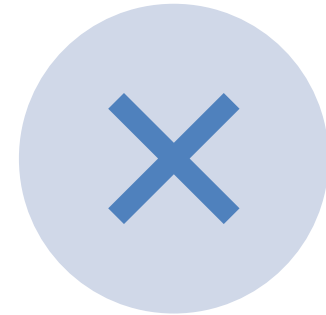
Next Meeting



TECHNICAL WORKSHOP
SCHEDULED IN JULY



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
ON ALLOCATIONS



COMPARISON OF VARIOUS
EXISTING MARKETS

Questions

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