

Attachment 9-3

FINAL PROGRESS REPORT

South Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan Development and Coordination

PROJECT INFORMATION

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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The following sections provide a description of work performed for this project during the period from July 1, 2008 to November 31, 2011. It is important to note that the project was put on hold for a period of nine months—from March 2009 to December 2009—due to the state funding freeze during that period.

Task 1.0 – South Area Water Council Coordination and Management

In 2008, the South Area Water Council (SAWC) established the SAWC Plenary, a broad stakeholder involvement effort that met on a regular monthly schedule. The SAWC Plenary has accomplished the following:

- Seek feedback and guidance on the development of the GMP, and
- Develop a stakeholder-supported Governance body.

THE CONSULTANT, Robertson-Bryan, Inc., provided technical support to the plenary group in the form of educational materials related to surface and groundwater issues, both general and regionally specific; and presentation of GMP and IRWMP information. Based on the technical information developed in Task 3.0, THE CONSULTANT prepared and presented technical information to the group mentioned above in response to group comments and feedback.

Throughout the SAWC Plenary process, interaction and collaboration with other local, state, and federal agencies was achieved. The SSCAWA General Manager, with assistance from THE CONSULTANT, provided representation of SAWC efforts to other agencies, such as the Regional Water Authority / Sacramento Groundwater Authority, Central Sacramento Groundwater Authority, Northeast San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking Authority, and others.

Task 2.0 – Stakeholder Outreach Program

SSCAWA has prepared a Stakeholder Outreach Plan that provided a guide to all outreach efforts for the SAWC process. THE CONSULTANT assisted in preparation of technical presentation materials for use in outreach meetings and public workshops that were conducted during the project period. THE CONSULTANT also provided assistance to the SSCAWA GM for a public hearing required to legally adopt a Resolution of Intent to develop the groundwater management plan or its equivalent. The SSCAWA GM, with assistance from THE CONSULTANT, prepared a draft resolution for the agencies adopting the groundwater management plan. THE CONSULTANT assisted in the preparation of a hearing presentation for the Resolution of Intent. The SSCAWA GM presented the presentation at the public hearing sponsored by the adopting agencies.

Task 3.0 – Develop Groundwater Management Components

The objective of the South Basin GMP is to provide an evaluation of the groundwater basin and to develop a program for maintaining a reliable groundwater supply.

Task 1.1 Water Resources Setting

An in-depth review of available water supplies (surface, ground, recycled, municipal, agricultural, and imported water sources) and their uses in the South Basin was prepared in 2008. Collected data included land use information and associated water demands for identified uses. A water supply balance was developed for existing conditions.

The information developed on existing water and land use patterns was entered into the Sacramento County Integrated Groundwater and Surface Water Model (IGSM) to provide an accurate depiction of existing groundwater levels in the planning area. THE CONSULTANT's subcontractor, WRIME, prepared a report summarizing the results of IGSM update and recalibration. The IGSM is an integral tool for use in evaluating groundwater level responses from expected growth patterns, as well as proposed water management projects.

Task 1.2 Basin Management Objectives

The SAWC Plenary developed BMOs, which aligned with the principal objectives of the plenary mission and goals. The principal goal is to provide a basin management framework that will allow for the implementation of water management alternatives that can be implemented and revised as various water supply sources become available in the future.

A draft BMOs was prepared and presented to the SAWC Plenary and other Working Groups designated by the Plenary. The BMOs were modified to include stakeholders' comments to prepare final BMOs. The following was described for each BMO:

- How meeting the BMO will increase long-term beneficial use supply reliability; and
- Existing or planned management actions to meet BMOs.

Task 1.3 Monitoring Protocols and Plan

A water resources monitoring plan that allows for effective and timely monitoring of BMOs was developed. The monitoring plan is capable of assessing the status of the basin and predicting responses in the basin from future water management actions. The monitoring plan includes the following major components:

- Monitoring for groundwater levels
- Monitoring for groundwater quality trends
- Land surface elevation monitoring
- Surface water-groundwater interaction monitoring
- Protocols for collecting groundwater data

Task 1.4 Develop Conjunctive Use Management Strategies

The Plenary Committee developed and evaluated alternatives for groundwater management that will facilitate achieving some of the BMOs, primarily conjunctive use and groundwater recharge. Alternatives are projects that could be reasonably implemented solely by the Implementation Authority or in conjunction with other stakeholders in the study area.

The SacIGSM Model was used to simulate a baseline (No Action condition) and three alternative groundwater management strategies. The focus of these simulations was a comparative analysis.

These strategies will also help fulfill the goals of the American River Basin IRWMP.

Task 1.5 Implementation and Financing Plan

SAWC Plenary developed an implementation plan of the GMP. The purposes of this implementation plan are to guide groundwater management efforts and carry out the proposed activities outlined in the BMOs section of the GMP.

The implementation plan components include Basin-wide Management Actions, Governing Structure, Annual Review and Report, Financing Mechanisms, Implementation Schedule and future re-evaluation of the GMP.

Task 1.6 Documentation of Public Involvement

The South Sacramento Basin GMP was completed as an open process with public participation, consistent with CWC §10750 et seq. SSCAWA as the lead agency documented the public involvement in this GMP. The effort to provide an opportunity for public input included public scoping sessions; public workshops and meetings on the Draft GMP; and formal meeting on the Final GMP. A 60-day review period was provided for public review of the Draft GMP document. Following the review period, the lead agency(s) prepared and published responses to all comments received on the GMP to address comments received from public and agencies.

Task 4.0 – Final Completion of South Basin Groundwater Management Plan

The information developed in the preceding tasks provides the basis for the GMP and that information and adopted components was compiled into the GMP report. The final GMP report conveyed all the information necessary for stakeholders and local and regional groundwater manager to understand basin conditions, BMOs, local and regional water management strategies, and plans for implementation of the components of the plan.

Task 5.0 – Project Management

Overall management of the SAWC effort required the management and coordination of MOU Partners, SAWC Plenary, stakeholders; prime and subconsultant’s contracts; technical and facilitation staff resources; tasks, budget, and timeline management; and quality management of all products resulting from the process. Other activities included preparation of monthly and quarterly activities summary and progress reports, invoicing and budget tracking.

CONCLUSIONS

In accordance with AB 3030, California Water Code (CWC) § 10750 et seq., SSCAWA has developed the South Basin GMP to provide a framework under which all users of the aquifer can move toward a commonly held set of goals and objectives concerning groundwater use and protection. The plan includes specific goals and objectives, and an action plan to provide a “road map” for the governance body as the steps necessary to manage the basin are taken in coordination with the various stakeholders.

Table 1. Planned and Final Schedule

SCHEDULE																									
South Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan																									
Task	Description	2008				2009				2010				2011											
		1 Qtr	2 Qtr	3 Qtr	4 Qtr	1 Qtr	2 Qtr	3 Qtr	4 Qtr	1 Qtr	2 Qtr	3 Qtr	4 Qtr	1 Qtr	2 Qtr	3 Qtr	4 Qtr								
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	South Area Water Council Coordination and Management																								
1.1	Meeting Coordination and Support																								
1.2	Coordination with Local, State, and Federal Agencies																								
1.3	Technical Support for Negotiation of Governance Structure																								
2	Stakeholder Outreach Program																								
2.1	Stakeholder Outreach Plan																								
2.2	General Outreach Materials																								
2.3	Public Hearings																								
3	Develop Groundwater Management Components																								
3.1	Water Resources Setting																								
3.2	Basin Management Objectives																								
3.3	Monitoring Protocols and Program																								
3.4	Development of Conjunctive Use Management Strategies																								
3.5	Implementation and Financing Plan																								
3.6	Document Public Involvement																								
4	Final Completion of South Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan																								
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5	Project Management																								
5	Project Management																								
	Planned																								
	Actual																								