



Kaweah Sub-Basin Management Team Meeting Summary

January 30, 2018, 1:30pm-4:00 pm

Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District, 2975 N. Farmersville Blvd. – Farmersville Ca

The following is a summary of Kaweah Sub-Basin Management Team discussions and next steps. Action items are flagged as follows:

Individual Action Items

Agreements or Recommendations to GSAs

Action Items:

- Team members, to update GSAs on SkyTEM and explore individual GSA interest in pursuing SkyTEM at next GSA meetings.
- GEI, Inc. to keep Team informed of SkyTEM, ongoing.
- Team members discuss the designation management areas beyond GSA boundaries at next at individual GSA meetings. Discussions to focus on what policy impactions need resolved, what information is needed to make a formal decision on management areas. GSAs to make decision on management areas as soon as possible but within the next three months.
- Team members shall introduce the topic of GSA positions on water apportionment and water budgets. GSAs to identify what questions and technical information they need to evaluate later decisions on this topic.
- GEI shall develop a technical framework regarding how to space out Sub-Basin water budget as well as how management areas may be designed within the Sub-Basin and within the individual GSAs. This framework **shall not** include water supply or water budget estimates solely how apportionment or management areas designation may occur and what technical factors may go into determining the apportionment.
- Convener/Facilitator shall develop meeting highlights for conversion into Newsletter. Meeting highlights distributed to Team within 1 week.
- Team to review highlights and approve newsletter information within 1 week, to distribute to stakeholders by 14th of the following month.

Meeting Summary:

Role Call, Introductions, and Meeting Logistics.

Management Team Members and alternates present:

Leslie Caviglia, alternate for Joe Carlini, Mid-Kaweah GSA

Paul Hendrix, Mid-Kaweah GSA

Don Mills, Greater Kaweah GSA

Mike Hagman, East Kaweah GSA



Denise England, County of Tulare/Greater Kaweah GSA
Tom Weddle, East Kaweah GSA

Management Team Members Absent: Larry Peltzer, Mark Larson, Randy Groom, and Joe Carlini

GSA Consultants:

Stephanie Lucero, California State University of Sacramento
Mathew Klinchuch, Provost and Pritchard
Craig Moyle, Stantec
Chris Petersen, GEI, Inc.
Michelle Ricker, GEI, Inc.
Tim Nicely, GEI, Inc.
Larry Rodriguez, GEI, Inc., via telephone.

Introductions

Facilitator, Stephanie Lucero, California State University of Sacramento, called the meeting to order and reviewed GSA representatives. Ms. Lucero reviewed the Agenda and outlined methods the process for Public Comment.

- After each agenda item the convener or facilitator will ask if there are any public comments relating to an agenda item after hearing from Team members. The public may address the Management Team on any item relevant to the Kaweah Sub -Basin coordination effort. The facilitator/convener shall manage time for public comment as needed to meet agenda timeframes. Public comment discussions are incorporated into this summary as elements of discussions.

GSA Updates

Each of the GSAs provided an overview of their individual GSA activities including pertinent updates on GSP development and Public Outreach and Engagement. All three GSAs are coordinating with the GSP consultant, GEI, Inc., who is working on the coordinated components of the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs). Each of the GSAs described ongoing individual GSP activities and planning for development of their respective Outreach and Engagement Plans.

Mid-Kaweah GSA (MKGSA)

GEI, Inc is serving as the consultant for MKGSA's individual GSP. Mr. Hendrix emphasized the plan to have coordinated work paid by each of the GSAs on a 1/3 basis, while individual GSAs paying for remaining work on their GSPs through grant funding and individual GSA contributions. MKGSA is focusing on coordination efforts among the three GSAs to develop those coordinated portions of the Sub-Basin GSPs. MKGSAs has its standing advisory committees in place and are working on their Outreach and Engagement Plan with assistance from consultant Craig Moyle.



East Kaweah GSA (EKGSA)

Provost and Pritchard is serving as the consultant for EKGSA. Mike Hagman provided an overview of EKGSA activities. EKGSA anticipates the GSAs portion of GSP development costs to be shared based on acreage. EKGSA has designated Lindmore Irrigation District to administer executive management of the EKGSA. EKGSA is focusing efforts on data gathering for their GSA to supplement the Water Resources Investigation Report (WRI) covering most of the Kaweah Delta Conservation District areas. EKGSA has focused efforts on collecting various data types and published materials outlining the hydrology of the area.

EKGSA spent the last six months working on their Communications and Engagement Plan. This was finalized, but is a living document subject to revision. Trilby Barton, is the lead for EKGSA's Communications and Engagement Plan.

Greater Kaweah GSA (GKGSA)

Greater Kaweah GSA is working with GEI, Inc. for their individual GSP. GKGSA split costs of GSP development among the GKGSA member entities. GKGSA is working on filling the executive director role for the GSA, job description posting is anticipated for June or July 2018. Outreach and Engagement Plan development is currently underway by consultant Craig Moyle.

More details on individual GSA activities are available on the individual GSA websites:

- <http://www.ekgsa.org/>
- <https://www.midkaweah.com/>
- <http://greaterkaweahgsa.org/>

GSA Management Team Administration

The Team reviewed ongoing coordination and management needs after expiration of the existing facilitation services sponsored through the County of Tulare. Team members discussed the need to develop an internal process they could continue without additional consultant support. Members also emphasized utilizing a process that ensured consistency with their respective GSA Board meetings and protocols.

Administration Agreements are as follows:

- Paul Hendrix, Mid-Kaweah GSA shall serve as the custodian of records for Team meetings.
- Individual Team members shall coordinate meeting logistics and moderate meeting discussions through a "convener" to be chosen among the Team members. The convener will rotate every two meetings from January through December 2019, unless the Team agrees to refine the convening process. Ms. Lucero will support these conveners, consistent with the June 30, 2018 under the existing Tulare County contract.



- The next Team meeting will be held February 26, 2018 from 9am- 11:30 am. Starting March 21, 2018, the Team shall meet on a monthly basis, every third Wednesday of the month from 9:00 am-11:30am. Meetings shall be held at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2800 W. Burrel Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291.

The Team did not feel the need to seek approval of these recommendations through their respective GSAs.

[Sub-Basin Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\) – Review](#)

Paul Hendrix (Mid-Kaweah GSA) provided an overview of the MOU that guides activities and formation of the Management Team. Mike Hagman (East Kaweah GSA) emphasized that all of the individual GSA representatives serve as a clearinghouse of information relating to the MOU. The MOU and Team activities shall be focused on developing recommendations for development and implementation of the Sub-Basin Coordination agreement.

[Consultant Presentation – GEI, Inc.](#)

[Prop 1 Funding Update](#)

Team members announced that the Prop 1 grant proposal submitted on behalf of the sub-basin was submitted on time and we were waiting for an announcement of award from DWR. After the meeting, DWR posted that the sub-basin grant proposal was on the list of recommended proposals to award \$1,500,000 to the entire Kaweah Sub-Basin.

GEI, Inc. also shared possible opportunities for funding through recent and upcoming legislation. Funding options are related to water quality, desalination, and SGMA project implementation.

[Basin Setting and Available Data](#)

GEI, Inc. is serving as the consultant preparing the coordinated portions of the individual GSPs. Their consultants presented current information and proposed outcomes of basin setting and data needs. The presentation emphasized the availability of significant data through the Water Resources Inventory conducted by Kaweah Delta Conservation District (Kaweah Delta). Data was developed through well logs and seismic data, but it is not complete. Consultants demonstrated where gaps exist. The available data is solely within Kaweah Delta boundaries, emphasizing the need for greater data outside those boundaries. Provost and Pritchard announced that the EKGSA has collected a substantial portion of its needed data due to federal water contractors' data collection over the years. Remaining gaps are in Tulare County "White Areas" which exist predominantly in the EKGSA and GKGSA service areas.



SkyTEM

Tim Nicely with GEI, Inc. shared information about a new data collection technique through Stanford University. Work was already done by Stanford for Tulare Irrigation District (within MKGSA). The presentation illustrated that SkyTEM offers an opportunity to better understand how water moves and is stored within the Sub-Basin. Mr. Nicely did emphasize limitations of the data in some areas of the Sub-Basin. Mr. Nicely discussed costs of doing additional fly overs for other portions of the Sub-Basin. The State is considering subsidizing half of the \$300k cost for the study, leaving the Sub-Basin to cover remaining costs. However, after initial testing of SkyTEM the state may support fly overs for the entire San Joaquin Valley and make data available to Subbasins. Team members discussed feasibility of pursuing SkyTem for the Subbasin. Team members determined that additional discussion was required before recommendations could be developed. Discussions included:

- Consideration whether a 1/3 split of remaining costs was worthwhile for all Sub-Basin GSAs. Particularly for MKGSA who has most available data through initial SkyTEM testing.
- The uncertainty of data and availability of SkyTem data for the 2020 GSP deadline.
- The possibility that, if the SkyTem system proves successful, data may be available at no cost for future GSP updates.

Team members agreed to share the SkyTEM project with their individual GSAs, but emphasized that no recommendations be developed by the Team until further information is available.

Action Item: Team members, to update GSAs on SkyTEM and explore individual GSA interest in pursuing SkyTEM.

Action Item: GEI, Inc. to keep Team informed of SkyTEM.

Water Supply Accounting and Water Budget Apportionment

Management Areas

GEI, Inc reviewed work they are doing to determine Sub-Basin wide Water Supply as well as Water Supply for individual GSAs. Mr. Petersen emphasized the need to confirm as soon as possible whether individual GSAs will also want to designate management areas for water supply. GEI recommended that the decision occur within the next three months if the GSAs want to incorporate management areas within their GSPs. Each of the GSAs emphasized their varying levels of willingness to develop recommendations at this time and the need for individual GSA decisions on the management area question. Discussion highlights include:



- The need for individual GSAs to determine policy decisions, technical issues, and legal implications of designating management areas.
- Individual GSAs need an idea of who management areas may be developed (i.e. what makes sense with current basin setting and data).

Action Item: Team members shall bring this topic to their individual GSA for discussion to identify when a management area decision may be possible (i.e. what policy impacts need resolved, what information is needed to make a formal decision on management areas).

Action Item: GEI shall develop a framework of how management areas may be designed within the Sub-Basin and within the individual GSAs. This framework **shall not** include water supply estimates for proposed management areas, only consideration of where management areas may exist with existing data and information.

Water Supply Accounting

There was discussion around when the question of how to account for water supply. GSAs discussed the need for better understanding of the technical framework based on existing data and work already conducted by Fugro. EKGSA asked the GSAs to start discussing the topic of naturally occurring recharge and the Sub-Basins natural water quantity. EKGSA, specifically outlined the need for each GSA to determine what they consider acceptable in formulating the control variables for developing this number. The question of how groundwater can be apportioned within the Sub-Basin was discussed. EKGSA stressed the need for GSAs to develop their positions on this issue to prepare for future coordination discussions. The Team agreed that the GSAs should start discussing this issue immediately, but acknowledged the need for additional information.

Action Item: Team members shall bring this topic to their individual GSAs to start identifying the issues for discussion relating to apportionment and water budgets. GSAs to identify what questions and technical information they need to evaluate later decisions on this topic.

Action Item: GEI shall develop a technical framework regarding how to space out Sub-Basin water budget. Similar to the management area information, this framework **shall not** include water budget estimates, only consideration of where budgeting may be determined and factors for determining water budget.

Next Steps & Future Activities

Due to meeting time constraints, the Team pushed discussion of the 90 day work plan to the February meeting.



9. Other Business

Mr. Hagman of EKGSA stressed the need to keep the public informed regarding Sub-Basin activities. He recommended that the GSAs develop a joint statement regarding Sub-Basin actions. The Team discussed options for developing a newsletter. Draft newsletter attached as Appendix B.

The Team Agreed that meeting highlights will be developed within 1 week of each Team meeting. These highlights will serve as the basis for a newsletter update of activities focusing on meeting Agreements and topics for future discussion among the GSAs. The individual GSA Management Team members will review and approve these highlights for distribution on GSA websites and individual Outreach and Engagement Plans.

Action Item: Convener/Facilitator shall develop meeting highlights for conversion into Newsletter for posting by the 14th of the following month.



Appendix A



Appendix B. Proposed Highlights/Newsletter

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)

Kaweah Sub-Basin Activities

Kaweah Sub-basin coordination is carried out through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that each Kaweah Subbasin GSA approved. Management Team (Team) formation was memorialized in the MOU to support coordination of SGMA compliance among the three GSAs and coordinated activities among the GSAs in the development of Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs).¹

The Team's first official convening under the MOU occurred on January 30th at the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District Board Room. Meeting highlights are summarized below.

The Team agreed to Paul Hendrix, Mid-Kaweah GSA serving as the custodian of records for Team meetings.

Team members agreed to coordinate meeting logistics and moderate meeting discussions through a "convener" to be chosen among the Team members. The convener will rotate ever two meetings from January through December 2019, unless the Team agrees to refine the convening process.

The next Team meeting will be held February 26, 2018 from 9am- 11:30 am.

Starting March 21, 2018, the Team shall meet on a **monthly basis, every third Wednesday of the month from 9:00 am-11:30am**. Meetings shall be held at the Tulare County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2800 W. Burrell Avenue, Visalia, CA 93291.

Team members announced that the Prop 1 grant proposal submitted on behalf of the sub-basin was submitted on time and we were waiting for an announcement of award from DWR. After the meeting, DWR posted that the sub-basin grant proposal was on the list of recommended proposals to award \$1,500,000 to the entire Kaweah Sub-Basin.

Sub-Basin consultants presented current information relating to elements of the GSP that will be coordinated among the Sub-Basin GSAs. Discussion highlights are as follows:

¹ The MOU outlines the formation of a Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee (Subbasin TAC) and a Management Team (Team). The Subbasin TAC shall be made up of two representatives from each GSA and advise the GSAs on technical matters. Team shall be made up of three representatives from each GSA, collectively carrying one vote. The team shall develop recommendations to the GSAs on all matters associated with coordinated development of common data and materials for the Subbasin GSPs.



A majority of needed data was available through the Water Resources Investigation (WRI) conducted by Kaweah Delta Conservation District. This data was supplemented by research of available data reports by EKGSA through their federal water contractor's data. Additional data is still needed in "White Areas" within EKGSA and GKGSA service areas.

DWR is considering a new technology (SkyTEM) that can fill in some data gaps and a better understand how water moves and is stored within the Sub-Basin. However this technology will cost the GSAs some additional funding and may not be available in time to support the 2020 deadline for GSP development. GSAs will review the technology and decide next steps on an individual basis.

GSAs will introduce discussions on the following topics to better inform discussion at future Team meetings:

- Designation of management areas within individual GSA boundaries.
- The policy, technical, and legal issues and implications for designating management areas.
- Water supply apportionment and water budgeting.

Team members acknowledged that additional technical information is needed before GSA decisions can be made on these issues, but stressed the importance of starting these discussion early to support coordination of perspectives.

Ways to Get Involved:

- Contact your GSA and sign- up as an Interested Party
- Attend meetings of the individual GSAs
- Inform others about the GSA efforts
- Learn more about SGMA by visiting www.water.ca.gov/groundwater.

GSA Contact Information:

East Kaweah GSA – www.EKGSA.org (Michael Hagman - mhagman@lindmoreid.com)

Greater Kaweah GSA – www.KDWCD.com (Mark Larsen - mlarsen@kdwcd.com)

Mid-Kaweah GSA – www.MidKaweah.com (Paul Hendrix – jph@tulareid.org)