

### Stanislaus & Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency

1231 11<sup>th</sup> Street | Modesto, CA 95354 Email: strgba@mid.org

STRGBA GSA AGENDA August 10, 2022 (1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.) Webinar Digital Platform <u>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82844864384</u> By phone: 1-669-900-9128 Webinar ID: 828 4486 4384

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#### Stanislaus & Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency 1231 11th Street | Modesto, CA 95354 Email: strgba@mid.org

- 1. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions (Four agencies needed for a quorum)
- Business from the Public Who: Public Expected Outcome: Interested persons are welcome to introduce any topic within the Agency's jurisdiction. Matters presented under this heading may be discussed but no action will be taken by the Agency at this meeting.
- Topic: Remote Teleconferencing Participation [Action Item] Who: Gordon Enas, Committee Expected Outcome: Approval
- Topic: Approve Meeting Minutes for 6/8/22 [Action Item] Who: Eric Thorburn, Committee Expected Outcome: Approval
- 5. Topic: Public Outreach Update Who: Samantha Wookey, Committee Expected Outcome: Discussion
- Topic: Tracking Impacts to Domestic Wells, Spring 2022 GSP Monitoring Event, and GSP Implementation Project Who: Phyllis Stanin, Committee Expected Outcome: Discussion
- 7. Next Meeting September 14, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom
- 8. Items too late for the agenda



**GSA Meeting Date:** August 10, 2022

Subject:	Brown Act Provisions for Remote Teleconferencing Participation in Meetings during a Declared State of Emergency.
Recommended Action:	Resolution Approving and Confirming a Continuing State of Emergency Arising from the STRGBA GSA's Emergency Declaration During March 2020 (and Subsequent State and County Orders) due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Further Authorizing Remote Conference Meetings of the STRGBA GSA's Governing Body Pursuant to the Provisions of the Brown Act and Duly Issued Laws and Orders from the State Related to the Pandemic and Operations for Governing Body Meetings
Background and Discussion:	All meetings of the STRGBA GSA are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963) and related state laws and orders, so that any member of the public may attend either virtually or in- person as the case may be to participate and watch the GSA's governing body conduct GSA business.
	The Brown Act makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a governing body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions, such as when a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558. It is further required that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or, the governing body meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.
	Such conditions now exist in the STRGBA GSA, specifically, a State of Emergency has been proclaimed pursuant to Government Code Section 8625 that the COVID-19 Pandemic has strained the State's healthcare system and workforce and that state and local health departments must use all available preventative measures to combat the spread of COVID-19. As a consequence of the declared emergency, the STRGBA GSA does hereby find that the governing body of the STRGBA GSA shall conduct their meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54953, as authorized by subdivision (e) of section 54953, and that such governing bodies shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of section 54953.

Alternatives, Pros and Cons of Each	Pros: Allow GSA meetings to continue to meet while taking all available preventative measures to combat the spread of COVID-19.
Alternative:	Cons: Requiring GSA meetings to be held in-person would violate the proclaimed State of Emergency and potentially expose meeting attendees to COVID-19.
Concurrence:	The actions proposed by this resolution have already been adopted by several of the GSA member agencies.
Fiscal Impact:	Since GSA is currently holding all meetings by remote conferencing, the resolution will create no new or additional fiscal impact.
Recommendation:	Resolution making the following determination:
	Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.
	Section 2. Proclamation of Local Emergency. The Governing Body hereby proclaims that a local emergency exists throughout the GSA, and that the governing body meeting in person could present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees due to the prevalence of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Stanislaus County and the state, such that the GSA reserves the right to continue virtual meetings and/or conduct in-person meetings consistent with local health guidance or duly issued orders.
	Section 3. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The Governing Body and its Chairman and designees of the GSA are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including, conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.
	Section 4. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) September 14, 2022, or (ii) such time the Governing Body adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the governing bodies of the GSA may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 54953.

### Attachments: Supporting documents attached:

Resolution Presentation Other supporting docs None attached

Note: Original contracts and agreements are housed in the GSA Secretary's Office, phone (209) 526-7360.



#### DRAFT

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-07**

### RESOLUTION CONFIRMING A CONTINUING STATE OF EMERGENCY ARISING FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND STANISLAUS COUNTY ORDERS DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING REMOTE CONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE STRGBA GSA'S GOVERNING BODY PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE BROWN ACT AND DULY ISSUED LAWS AND ORDERS FROM THE STATE RELATED TO THE PANDEMIC AND OPERATIONS FOR GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS.

WHEREAS, the STRGBA GSA is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of its governing body; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the STRGBA GSA are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963) and related state laws and orders, so that any member of the public may attend either virtually or in-person as the case may be to participate and watch the GSA's governing body conduct GSA business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, a required condition is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation is made when there is an actual incident, threat of disaster, or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the jurisdictions that are within the GSA's boundaries, caused by natural, technological, or human-caused disasters; and

WHEREAS, it is further required that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or, the legislative body meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, such conditions now exist in the GSA, specifically, a State of Emergency has been proclaimed pursuant to Government Code Section 8625 that the COVID-19 Pandemic has strained the State's healthcare system and workforce and that state and local health departments must use all available preventative measures to combat the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, since most restrictions from the State of California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy were lifted on June 15, 2021, the average daily case rate of COVID-19 in Stanislaus County has increased 9-fold and the testing positivity rate has risen 4-fold, though those conditions may change daily and weekly; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the declared emergency, the STRGBA GSA does hereby find that the governing body of the GSA shall conduct their meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54953, as authorized by subdivision (e) of section 54953, and that such legislative bodies shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of section 54953; and

WHEREAS, the GSA reserves the option to attend in-person meetings consistent with local health officer directives or to continue a practice of remote meetings that still allow multiple options for public participation.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE STANISLAUS AND TUOLUMNE RIVERS GROUNDWATER BASIN ASSOCIATION GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS,

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

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### **MEETING MINUTES**

June 8, 2022 (1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The following members of the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency (STRGBA GSA) attended via Zoom: Modesto Irrigation District: Gordon Enas

> Michael Renfrow Michael Riddell

Michael Pitcock

Christy McKinnon

Eric Thorburn

Modesto Irrigation District: Oakdale Irrigation District: City of Oakdale: City of Riverbank: City of Waterford: Stanislaus County:

### **Other Attendees:**

Alexis Stevens Liz Elliott, Todd Groundwater Hilary Reinhard Samantha Wookey, MID Douglas Maner Ed Franciosa, MID Emily Sheldon, OID Julia Berry Craig Moyle

### 2. Business from the Public

Maner asked about Governor Newsom's Executive Order banning water extractions from streams and rivers. Enas stated MID received a curtailment order from the State Water Resources Control Board and is working with TID on a response.

- **3.** Approve 5/11/22 Meeting Minutes [Action item] Enas moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by McKinnon, to approve 5/11/22 meeting minutes. Motion carried.
- **4. Remote Teleconferencing Participation [Action item]** Renfrow moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Riddell, to approve remote teleconferencing participation through July 13, 2022. Motion carried.

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### 5. 2023 Operating Budget [Action item]

Enas stated Article 6 of the STRGBA GSA MOU requires a budget to be drafted and submitted to the STRGBA GSA committee each June. The 2023 Draft budget totals \$206,000 and includes budget items such as the preparation of the Annual Report, updating the Groundwater Model and preparing grant proposals.

Riddell moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alvarez, to approve the 2023 Operating Budget.

#### 6. Well Permitting Review Process

McKinnon moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Riddell, to approve the Well Permitting Review Process.

- > Maner asked for more clarity regarding Governor Newsom's executive order.
- Reinhard asked several questions regarding the well permit applications. Thorburn stated the GSA is not approving the well construction, but is only ensuring that the well does not conflict with the GSP.
- Henderson asked who is responsible for verifying that the actions taken are in compliance with the GSP. Thorburn stated, the GSP doesn't address well permitting.
- **7.** Letter of Support City of Modesto's Municipal Groundwater Supply Contamination Renfrow moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Riddell, to approve the Letter of Support.

#### 8. Next meeting

July 13, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

9. Items too late for the agenda N/A





# TRACKING IMPACTS TO DOMESTIC WELLS, SPRING 2022 GSP MONITORING EVENT, AND GSP IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT MODESTO SUBBASIN GSP

### STRGBA GSA MEETING



AUGUST 10, 2022

### PRESENTATION OUTLINE





GSP Monitoring and Reporting Program Results - Spring 2022

GSP Implementation Project and SGM Grant Application







## GSP IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES DOMESTIC WELLS

- GSP Implementation addressing Data Gaps
- Domestic Well Data and Impacts
  - 2015-2017 drought more than 150 Domestic Well failures; since 2015 more than 200 domestic wells drilled – likely replacing most of the failed wells
  - Need to better understand location and status of active domestic wells to avoid future widespread impacts
  - Incorporate recent DWR tools for locating and tracking impacts to domestic wells from groundwater level declines



# DWR TOOLS FOR TRACKING POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO DOMESTIC WELLS

- Dry Well Reporting System (https://mydrywell.water.ca.gov/report/)
  - Reporting tool for private domestic well problems (not for residents served by a public water system)
  - Track statewide reports of dry domestic wells
  - Local agencies can sign up to be notified for dry wells in their county
  - California Groundwater Live (<u>https://sgma.water.ca.gov/CalGWLive/</u>)
    - Direct links to other DWR websites including reported dry wells
    - Interactive maps with groundwater levels, including seasonal and long-term trends
    - Well infrastructure, subsidence, and other tools
  - Dry Well Susceptibility Tool (https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/f2b252d15a0d4e49887ba94ac17cc4bb)
    - Basins with wells prone to water supply shortages
    - Interactive mapping tool identifies areas within high percentages of vulnerable wells (linked to current groundwater levels)









### DWR DOMESTIC DRY WELL REPORTING SYSTEM REPORTED DOMESTIC DRY WELLS SINCE JANUARY 2022



### Modesto Subbasin

- Reports of 4 dry wells since GSP submitted
- Issues began in April (2 wells) and June (2 wells)
- Water supply for 1 well resolved (interim solution)
- Eastern Principal Aquifer

deep)

 Most well depths unknown (well near Waterford 87 ft



# California Groundwater Live

- Automatically links to dry wells website
- Provides interactive maps for dry wells
- Also includes maps on water levels and trends, subsidence, and statistics
- Also links to New
   DWR Domestic Well
   Susceptibility Tool





# SUSCEPTIBLE AREAS FOR DRY DOMESTIC WELLS



Dry Well Susceptibility Dashboard California Groundwater Live Website Dry Domestic Well Susceptibility by

Dry Well Susceptibility Percentile

Domestic wells present, not

0 - 10th Percentile (Low density of susceptible wells)

- 10 20th Percentile
- 20 30th Percentile
- 30 40th Percentile
- 40 50th Percentile

- 80 90th Percentile
- 90 100th Percentile (High density of susceptible wells)

### Susceptibility based on:

- Domestic well locations
- Well depths
- Local groundwater level conditions



## RESOURCES AND ASSISTANCE FOR DOMESTIC WELL OWNERS

- Resources for well owners being posted on STRGBA website
  - County Office of Emergency Services
  - Self-Help Enterprises (selfhelpenterprises.org)
    - Technical and financial resources for drinking water supply including emergency services, water well modification/replacement, and access to clean water
    - Recipient of funding from Statewide and Regional "SAFER" programs (Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity and Resilience)
- DWR to provide additional "guidance" (interactive, online tool?) regarding domestic well impacts – tentative schedule Fall 2022



### PRESENTATION OUTLINE

DWR Tools for Tracking Impacts to Domestic Wells





GSP Monitoring and Reporting Program Results - Spring 2022

GSP Implementation Project and SGM Grant Application







# GSP Groundwater Level Monitoring

### GSP Semi-Annual Monitoring Events

- Spring seasonal high groundwater levels; Feb I Apr I5
- Fall seasonal low groundwater levels; Sep I Nov 30
- Relatively long monitoring intervals consider irrigation schedules that vary with annual hydrologic conditions
- GSP Semi-Annual Reporting to DWR
  - Due July I (Spring) and January I (Fall)
  - Upload to Monitoring Network Module (MNM) on the SGMA portal



Measuring Static Water Level at MW-IS



## Spring 2022 Monitoring Event

- Spring 2022 Ist GSP monitoring event
- Measured elevations in 58 representative monitoring wells (RMWs)
- Most water levels measured February 2022; I RMW measured in June (MW-6S)
- 4 USGS Wells measured for first time in >10 years (OFPB-2, FPA-2, MRWA-2, and MRWA-3)
- 3 RMWs not measured due to down-hole equipment problems (Wood, Cavil, Quesenberry)
- Updated hydrographs with Spring 2022 data to examine sustainable management criteria



MW-8 installed 2021



# SPRING 2022 – MINIMUM THRESHOLDS (MTS)

### Chronic Lowering of Water Levels

- Above MT: 47 wells
- Below MT: II wells
- I9% of measured RMWs below the MT; (3 wells not measured)

### Interconnected Surface Water

- Above MT: 16 wells
- Below MT: 3 wells

(16% RMWs below MT; I not measured)





# INTERIM MILESTONES (IMS) FOR MODESTO RMWS

### MT Exceedances were anticipated;

- Drought conditions have persisted into 2022
- Water levels continue to decline in eastern RMW wells
- Projects and Management Actions will take time to support MT water levels
- Significant declining trends were expected to continue
- Accordingly, 2027 IMs designated below the MTs for some wells

SGMA allows GSAs to define Interim Milestones as a "glide path" to sustainable management



## Spring 2022 – No IM Exceedances

### Chronic Lowering of Water Levels

- I4 wells with Interim Milestones (IMs)
- No wells exceeded their IM during Spring 2022

### Interconnected Surface Water

- 5 wells with Interim Milestones (IMs)
- No wells exceeded their IM during Spring 2022





# DEFINITION OF UNDESIRABLE RESULTS

### **Chronic Lowering of Water Levels**

- At least 33% of RMWs exceed the MT (historical low)
- In three (3) consecutive Fall monitoring events for a Principal Aquifer.

### **Interconnected Surface Water**

- At least 33% of RMWs exceed the MT (Fall 2015)
- In three (3) consecutive Fall events for the Tuolumne or Stanislaus rivers
- At least 50% of RMWs exceed the MT (Fall 2015)
- In three (3) consecutive Fall monitoring events for the San Joaquin River







# SPRING 2022 Western Upper Principal Aquifer



All RMWs above MTs
Groundwater levels stable



## Hydrographs Western Upper Principal Aquifer



- Spring 2022 water level is near the MO
- Groundwater levels above MT since 2015-2016 drought levels



## Hydrographs Western Upper Principal Aquifer



- Spring 2022 water level near the MO
- Water levels measured in new RMW since Spring 2021



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# Spring 2022 Western Lower Principal Aquifer



- 20% RMWs below MT
  - 4 wells > MT
  - I well < MT</p>



# Hydrographs Western Lower Principal Aquifer



- Spring 2022 water level below the MT
- New RMW monitored since Spring 2021



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## Hydrographs Western Lower Principal Aquifer



- Spring 2022 water level near the MO
- First measurement at this USGS well since 2009



## Spring 2022 Eastern Principal Aquifer



- 28% of RMWs below MT
  - 26 wells > MT
  - I0 wells < MT</p>
  - 3 wells not monitored Spring 2022
- Water levels continue to decline in east



## HYDROGRAPHS EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



- Spring 2022 water level between MT and MO
- Most wells in western portion of Eastern Principal Aquifer have relatively stable levels since 2014



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## Hydrographs Eastern Principal Aquifer



- Spring 2022 water level below the MT
- Decreasing water levels since first measurement in 2005
- Similar declines in nearby wells



## Hydrographs Eastern Principal Aquifer



- Spring 2022 water level below the MT
- Eastern wells have highest rates of water level declines
- Declining water levels since 2008



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## Spring 2022 Interconnected Surface Water



### San Joaquin River

0 of 2 below MT (0% below MT)

Stanislaus River

2 of 8 below MT (25% below MT)

**Tuolumne River** 

 I of 9 below MT (II% below MT)
 I not measured TOD



## HYDROGRAPHS INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER



- Spring 2022 water level is slightly above MT
- Recent water level declines due to drought conditions



### Hydrographs

### INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER



- Spring 2022 water level below the MT
- Spring 2022 levels didn't rise above Fall levels as much as had occurred in the past



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## HYDROGRAPHS INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER



- Spring 2022 water level is slightly above MT
- Fall 2021 water level fell below the MT for the first time





# PUTTING THESE RESULTS IN PERSPECTIVE

- First monitoring event since the GSP was submitted; projects and management actions will need time to be implemented
- Continuing declines from persistent drought conditions; MT exceedances are expected
- Even with drought, water levels above the MTs in 81% of the RMWs
- Undesirable results have not been triggered.
  - Requires 3 consecutive Fall measurements for Chronic Lowering of GW
  - Requires 3 consecutive Fall measurements for Interconnected SW
- No wells are below IMs



### PRESENTATION OUTLINE

DWR Tools for Tracking Impacts to Domestic Wells



GSP Monitoring and Reporting Program Results - Spring 2022









# GSP Project Development Underway

- OID working with Non-District East (NDE) Management Area (MA) parties on plans for new water delivery infrastructure
- Contracts with parties to commit to water purchase



- Out-of-District Water Sales Program Terms and Conditions approved 8/2/2022
- Complete project details in time for SGM Round 2 Grant Application Fall 2022



## GSP Project Development Underway 10-Year OID Out-of-District Water Sales Program

### **OOD** Water Sales Program Terms and Conditions (approved August 2, 2022)

- Limited to applicants of the previously proposed 5-year OOD Program (up to +/-14k acres, +/-7.5k in Modesto Subbasin)
- No impact to in-district OID constituents
- Enrollment period closes September 2, 2022
- Final agreement to be signed by applicants upon completion of CEQA (MND anticipated)
- Option for construction of new private water delivery infrastructure at applicants' expense
- Potential for renewal for an additional 10-year period upon request at OID's sole discretion
- First water deliveries anticipated in +/-March 2023 w/ ramp up to full scale in +/-3 years as new infrastructure is installed
- Up to 25k AF anticipated to be made available (+/-20k in the Modesto subbasin)
- Commitment by participants for annual purchase of a minimum of 1.5 AF per irrigated acre when surplus water is available
- \$200/AF w/ a 3% annual escalator

## GSP Project Development Underway 10-Year OID Out-of-District Water Sales Program

### Preparation of an OID grant application for Round 2 SGM Grant Program

- Funding for application preparation approved on August 2, 2022
- Enlargement of OID's Paulsell Lateral (Project)
  - Increase capacity of +/-5 mi of open ditch, tunnels and culverts from 30 cfs to +/-150 cfs
  - Anticipated >\$20M Project design and construction cost
  - LOS and surface water supply benefits for Tier I/II in-district lands (+/-5K acres)
  - OOD supply benefits (+/-4k acres) when surplus surface water is available
  - Storm water recapture benefits?
- OID to fund grant application preparation and administration expenses
- Letters of support will be formally requested from GSA member agencies



### **QUESTIONS?**



