



**EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN
GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

2025 GSP Update

November 8, 2023

Recognizing the Issues at Hand...

- Time
 - Final Update must be submitted in 14 months
- Cost
 - Update cost is very likely more than double what ESJGWA has in reserves
- Education
 - Need to educate GSAs as to what elements of the SOW & costs are driven by DWR expectations vs. what elements might be nice to have for future benefit
 - Other subbasins are already several months in and we can learn how they are planning to meet expectations and the associated cost

Agenda

- 2025 Update Schedule
- Elements of the 2025 Update
 - 2 document approach
 - Must have's
 - Nice to have's
- Budgeting for 2025 Update
- Next Steps

2025 Update Schedule

2025 Update Schedule



Elements of the 2025 Update

Background & Context

- DWR released *A Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, & Plan Amendments* on 10/30
- Periodic Evaluations
 - Required every 5 years
 - Progress report to DWR on GSP implementation
 - To be stand alone documents
- Plan Amendment
 - Revisions to GSP to incorporate changes, new information
 - Requested redline versions of revised chapters and clean version of entire revised GSP
 - Same requirements for adoption as for original GSP

Periodic Evaluation Outline

1. Executive Summary
2. Description of New Information/Data
 - Summarize data
 - Discuss whether new information warrants changes to GSP
 - Indicate whether those changes lead to a Plan Amendment.
3. Status of Groundwater Conditions Relative to SMC
 - Compare groundwater conditions to SMC
 - Discuss progress made towards achieving groundwater sustainability
 - If progress has not been made, the potential reasons and provide a description of how the GSA intends to get the basin back on track
 - Forecast the likelihood of achieving interim milestones or measurable objectives within the next evaluation cycle
4. Explain how recommended corrective actions were addressed with a Plan Amendment and indicate where the changes can be found in the amended GSP

Periodic Evaluation Outline (Cont'd)

5. Summarize GSP Implementation/Status of PMAs

- Describe ongoing projects that have carried over during the evaluation cycle and projects that broke ground but have not become operational
- Discuss whether the PMAs in the original GSP are still relevant and feasible and any challenges or setbacks that have prevented or delayed implementation of PMAs
- Discuss significant new information relative to GSP PMAs, including if they are no longer necessary and were dropped, a new project was added, or a project has been delayed.

6. Updated Basin Setting

- Incorporate new information or changes in water use
- Explain the major cause of any significant new changes in the understanding of the basin setting

7. Assessment of the GSP Monitoring Networks for each SMC

- Discuss assessment and any related improvements to the RMNs

8. Describe New GSA Authorities Gained, Established, or Exercised

- Provide information describing any enforcement or legal actions taken in the basin
- Demonstrate how these components of GSP implementation will help GSAs reach sustainability.

Periodic Evaluation Outline (Cont'd)

9. Describe Outreach and Engagement Activities and Coordination with Other Agencies

- Summarize coordination efforts and activities that occurred between GSAs in hydrologically connected basins, land use agencies, and federal, state, and local agency coordination that was related to SGMA implementation
- Provide an assessment of public comments submitted after the initial Plan submittal or during the evaluation cycle
- Describe how the GSAs responded to the comments and implemented the relevant changes
- Evaluate and verify that the methods described in the Outreach & Engagement Plan are relevant to implementation and are being maintained and updated

10. Other Information

- Provide any additional information to help described progress made towards achieving the sustainability goal, including consideration of adjacent basins, challenges not previously discussed and legal challenges.

11. Summarize Proposed or Completed Revisions to the GSP Elements

GSP Amendment

- Required to formalize changes to GSP, ensure a GSP is up to date, and continue engage interested parties on GSP implementation
- Period Evaluation criteria says to “Explain how recommended corrective actions were addressed with a Plan Amendment and indicate where the changes can be found in the amended GSP” indicating need for GSP Amendment
- Required to address the 8 Corrective Actions contained in DWR’s determination letter and incorporate AEM data into HCM

Required Modifications for Plan Amendment – “Must Haves”

- Explanations/Modifications to address corrective actions
- Updated/improved ESJ WRM model to incorporate new data
- Revisions to subsidence Representative Monitoring Network and SMC to use direct subsidence monitoring data (CA2)
- Updated water budgets with recalibrated model (CA3)
- Updated/revised ISW Representative Monitoring Network and SMC (CA6)
- Improved groundwater quality Representative Monitoring Network (CA7)
- Updates to individual GSP chapters and appendices as needed

State Board Comments on Tulare Lake Basin

- A “robust” well mitigation plan is needed to address impacts for both groundwater levels and quality
- Need to address how declining groundwater levels may affect subsidence and groundwater quality
- Clear path to stopping subsidence and declining groundwater quality and what measures will be taken to address exceedances at interim milestones
- Need to commit to demand management and consider basin recharge as a backup

Recommendations for Additional Tasks – “Nice to Haves”

- Optimized Representative Monitoring Networks for all SMC (instead of just subsidence, ISW and groundwater quality)
- Domestic Well Mitigation Program

Outreach Expectations

- GSP Implementation Expectations:
 - Engage interested parties, the public, and beneficial users to provide updates on basin conditions during annual reporting
 - Regularly share groundwater management information
 - Solicit feedback on projects and management actions prior to and during implementation
 - Collect public comments during Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendment drafting
- Periodic Evaluation to:
 - Evaluate Communications & Engagement (C&E) Plan and revise if needed
 - Notice and engage the public on the draft Periodic Evaluation (similar to plan adoption)
 - Coordinate between Subbasin GSAs, with GSAs in hydraulically connected basins, with land use agencies, and with federal, state & local agencies
- Plan Amendment to include:
 - Outreach and engagement, including notification to list of interested persons
 - Proper public notification (90 days) and address comments and requests for consultation
 - Adoption by a governing board at a public meeting

Recommended Approach to Outreach

- Periodic Evaluation (recommended by DWR)
 - Solicit input from basin stakeholders on GSP implementation, projects and management actions
 - Provide public review period for Periodic Evaluation
 - Respond to public comments and include comments/responses to DWR
- Plan Amendment
 - Outreach and engagement, including notification to list of interested persons (required)
 - Proper notification of city and/or county (90 days) and address comments and requests for consultation (required)
 - Public review of amended GSP and address comments (recommended)
 - Adoption by a governing board at a public meeting (required)

Budgeting for 2025 Update

Other Basin Fees for 2025 Update

Basin	Base Cost	Modeling Cost	Outreach Cost	Total Cost
2020 Basin	\$1.05M	\$300K	\$155K	\$1.5M
2020 Basin	\$950K	\$1M	\$150K	\$2.1M
2022 Basin	\$910K	\$130K	\$200K	\$1.24M
2022 Basin, awaiting GSP approval	\$790K	\$440K	\$125K	\$1.35M

Notes:

- *Modeling costs are very basin specific*
- *All costs developed prior to release of DWR's 10/30 Guidance*

Initial Scope for Accelerating 2025 Update

1. Process AEM Data

- Survey completed April 2022, dataset published May 2023

2. Revise HCM

- Faults/structural features based on AEM & fault studies
- Geologic stratigraphy based on TSS monitoring wells

3. Evaluate ESJWRM Updates

- Model layering
- Delivery areas
- Land use
- Farmington Reservoir
- Begin research on changes to datasets



Not to
exceed
\$60,000

Can We Leverage Existing Funding?

- Prop 68 – \$50K in “Financing Plan” funding
 - Develop list of non-project related GSP implementation items (studies, data gaps, etc.) to be implemented through 2030 and identify how much & when GSAs will need to raise money to support those items
 - Can be rolled into update to provide map towards implementation (something DWR wants to see!)
- Facilitation Support Services
 - We have a draft C&E Plan from Stantec (September 2023)
 - How can we effectively use DWR’s service to our advantage?

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Today
 - Approve initial task order?
- December 13 Steering Committee Meeting
 - Discuss remaining Scope & Budget for 2025 Update
- January 10 GWA Board Meeting
 - Approve remaining Scope & Budget for Update

Thank you!