
MEMORANDUM

TO: YSGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: YSGA EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SUBJECT: STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

DATE: JUNE 15, 2018

CC: YSGA WORKING GROUP

BACKGROUND

Under the requirements of SGMA, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must consider interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater. As a result, the GSP development needs to consider effects to other stakeholder groups in or around the groundwater basin with overlapping interests (DWR Guidance Document for GSP Stakeholder Communication and Engagement, 2018).

GSP REGULATIONS

DWR's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Regulations require that GSAs document in a communication section of the GSP the opportunities for public engagement and active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the subbasin (GSP Regs §354.10). A description of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the subbasin, including the land uses and property interests potentially affected by the use of groundwater in the basin, the types of parties representing those interests, and the nature of consultation with those parties must be documented in the GSP. Additionally, the GSP must include a list of public meetings, and all comments received and responses provided during GSP development.

GSP's Regulations require a communication section to include the following:

1. An explanation of the YSGA's decision-making process.
2. Identification of opportunities for public engagement and a discussion of how public input and response will be used.
3. A description of how the YSGA encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the subbasin.
4. The method the YSGA shall follow to inform the public about progress implementing the Yolo Subbasin GSP, including the status of projects and actions.

YOLO SUBBASIN GSP PLANNING PROCESS

In addition to the members of the YSGA, all the landowners/groundwater users in the subbasin are considered stakeholders. During the formation of the YSGA, member agencies worked together to develop a list of interested parties/stakeholders who were notified of meetings and workshops. Since the development of this stakeholder database, the YSGA has updated information on stakeholder participation and scheduled meetings.

Throughout the GSA formation process, stakeholder involvement was facilitated through conducting farmer surveys, information gathering meetings with YSGA entities, public SGMA workshops, and the development of groundwater management case studies. Additionally, the <http://yologroundwater.org> website has been and continues to be updated with pertinent meeting information.

The stakeholder communication and engagement portion of the Yolo Subbasin GSP is captured in two tasks of the GSP Work Plan: 1) Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement and 2) Public Notification and Communications.

1. The Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement task includes developing a stakeholder database, hosting participatory planning workshops, and coordinating with neighboring GSAs.
2. The Public Notification and Communications task includes updating the public website, developing a Communication and Engagement Plan, and conducting public workshops.

The YSGA will host six participatory planning workshops to facilitate the development and articulation of sustainable management criteria and the respective thresholds, along with projects and management actions that will be necessary for successful local management of the Yolo Subbasin.

The YSGA's Communication and Engagement Plan (Plan) will capture work that has already begun and will build upon previous progress to improve public understanding of the SGMA legislation. The Plan will also present opportunities for public involvement and the dissemination of information to the public. The Plan will likely elaborate on the outline below:

1. Set goals and desired outcomes
2. Identify audiences
3. Audience survey and mapping
4. Message and talking points
5. Venues for engaging
6. Implementation timeline
7. Evaluation and assessment (DWR Guidance Document for GSP Stakeholder Communication and Engagement, 2018).

Cost Estimate: \$482,890

\$93,281 Proposition 1 Grants Funds

\$228,215 USDA Grant Funds

\$161,394 Agency Cost Share = \$90,794 Historical + \$70,600 Future

Schedule: June 2017 – July 2020; Communication and Engagement Plan Draft expected *March 2019*