Technical Committee Meeting
November 7, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
River Garden Farms, 41758 County Road 112, Knights Landing, CA 95645

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Introductions

2. Approve Agenda and Adding Items to the Posted Agenda: In order to add an item to the agenda, it must fit into one of the following categories: a) A majority determination that an emergency (as defined by the Brown Act) exists; or b) A 4/5ths determination that the need to take action that arose subsequent to the agenda being posted.

3. Approval of Technical Committee (TC) Minutes: September 5, 2019 meeting minutes (attached) will be approved by consensus through email communications. Please comment by 11/8/19, page 2 - 5

4. Public Comment: The public may address the Committee relating to matters within the WRA’s jurisdiction.

5. Member Information & Future Agenda Items: Committee members are invited to report on current issues/activities and recommend topics for future meetings.

6. Project Tour: Reactivating the Floodplain, River Garden Farms, Project information Sheet, pages 6 - 7

7. Next TC Meeting Date: Thursday, January 2, 2020, LOCATION: YCFC&WCD, 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, CA 95695

8. Adjourn

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing agenda for the November 7, 2019 meeting of the Technical Committee for the Water Resources Association of Yolo County was posted by November 1, 2019 at the office located at 34274 State Highway 16, Woodland, CA and was available to the public during normal business hours.

Donna L. Gentile
Board Secretary & Administrative Coordinator

Directions to River Garden Farms: 41758 County Road 112, Knights Landing, CA 95645

From Woodland take HWY 113 into Knights Landing. Your GPS will want you to turn on CR 99E. This is not recommended, because it is a rough gravel road.

HWY 113 into Knights Landing:
Turn LEFT on 4th street. That will turn into HWY 45.
Stay on HWY 45 for approximately 2.5 miles.
Turn RIGHT on County Road 112.
Follow for 1.1 miles and red brick building on your left is the office. We are meeting in the tan building behind the red brick building

Google Map to site
MINUTES of Technical Committee (TC) Meeting  
Water Resources Association of Yolo County  
September 5, 2019, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Committee Members:  
Elisa Sabatini, Yolo County, TC Chair  
Barrett Kaasa, DWR  
Jeanette Wrysinski, Yolo County RCD  
Heather Brown, City of Davis  
Carol Scianna, City of Winters  
Kristin Sicke, YCFC&WCD  
Max Stevenson, YCFC&WCD  
Matt Cohen, City of Woodland  
Tim Busch, City of Woodland  
Donna Gentile, WRA

Other Attendees:  
Dave Pratt

Member Agencies Absent:  
RD 2035  
UC Davis  
City of West Sacramento  
Dunnigan Water District

1. CALL TO ORDER & Introductions at 9:10 a.m. by Max Stevenson, Acting Chair. Elisa Sabatini arrived at 9:15 a.m.

2. APPROVAL AGENDA & Adding Items to Posted Agenda: The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVE TC MEETING MINUTES: Previous meeting minutes emailed to the TC for review with today’s agenda. Comments on the draft 5/2/19 minutes are due by 9/6/19 and will be approved by consensus.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT: No comments.

5. CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF WATER RESOURCES (DWR) Update: Barrett Kaasa, gave an update on DWR topics and answered questions. His summary notes are below.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)  
Basin Prioritization of Modified Basins  
- Final Prioritization release expected the end of Summer 2019

Technical Support Services (TSS)  
- TSS application period is still open. GSP Initial Notification must be submitted. More information and applications can be found here: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement  
- Funds can be used for monitoring well installation, geophysical logging, geologic logging, groundwater level monitoring training, borehole video logging, and other field activities.  
  - Max informed that two Civic Spark grant interns will be starting next week and will be project managing the TSS in support of groundwater activities related to the Yolo SubbasinGroundwater Agency (YSGA)

Facilitation Support Services (FSS)  
- GSA’s developing GSPs are eligible to receive funding for identification and engagement of interested parties, meeting facilitation, interest-based negotiation/consensus building, and public outreach facilitation  
- More information can be found here: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement
Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Alternative Plans

- Decisions on alternative plans to groundwater sustainability plans were announced July 17th, 2019.
- The assessments consist of a staff report and either a signed findings document, for approved alternatives, or a letter with a concise summary of the deficiencies that result in the alternative not being approved.
- For basins where an alternative is not approved, the release started a 30-day period for those submitting agencies to notify the department in writing if there is information in their original submittal that addresses the deficiencies. This 30-day period is not an opportunity for the submission of new or supplemental data; only information contained in the original (i.e., as of January 1, 2017) submittal will be considered.
- If a written response is submitted to the Department within those 30 days, DWR will review that response and either (a) confirm the original recommendation from the staff report or (b) modify the staff report if information was missed during review. In either case a signed findings document will then be issued no later than 60 days following the close of the 30-day initial response period.
- Assessments, FAQs, and next steps can be found here: https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Alternatives

Grants

Prop 68 Sustainable Groundwater Management Planning Grants

- The FINAL Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP) released 9/9/19. Templates for the Work Plan, Budget and Schedule are posted. These can all be found here: https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater
- In this round there will be approximately $47.25 Million available to fund GSP completion with prioritization for basins that did not receive prior GSP planning funding. An implementation round will have at least $88 million and the PSP is expected to come out in 2020.
- Please see the updated SGM Grant Program schedule here: https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Grants-And-Loans/Sustainable-Groundwater

Other

- CV Salts Committee and DWR are still determining whether GSAs will be required to incorporate CV Salts information in their GSPs. Currently the CV Salts program does not have funding, however if this element is incorporated into GSPs they might be able to secure some funding. Max shared that Vickie Kretsinger, Luhdorff & Scalmanini has good suggestions how similar water quality mandates can be coordinated by the CV Salts, SGMA, GSP and Irrigated Lands programs - “coordinate don’t duplicate”.
- DWR’s North Central Region will be re-vamping their in-house water quality groundwater collection program and welcomes any recommendations how the program could improve their collection process

6. FUNDING UPDATES:

- Elisa reported that guidelines for the 4th round of grant funding for Statewide parks will be released in late spring 2020. It is targeted for rural communities. Cities are not eligible to apply, only counties, non-profits, and tribes.
- Jeanette reported on the Yolo County RCD’s 2-year planning grant for Arundo eradication throughout Yolo county. They are applying for Phase 1 implementation funding through the Wildlife Conservation Board’s Stream Flow Enhancement Program (Prop. 1).
- Elisa reported on the Small Communities Flood Risk Reduction Implementation funding ($30 million); guidelines released in October with funding applications due in November 2019. The County is planning on applying for $29.7 million. They are the only applicant with four project studies completed.
- Yolo County was successfully awarded ~$200,000 for their Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) recreational park planning project. They will be initiating an 18-month outreach process to engage the public about the type of park wanted.
7. WATER LEGISLATION, REGULATORY ISSUES & DELTA UPDATE:
Kristin reported that the YCFCWCD’s temporary permit process for their groundwater recharge project is moving forward, which would require compliance with the GSP. She mentioned that agriculture is not supporting SB 1 which would roll back the environmental safety standards to pre-Trump administration standards. This would also impact the Voluntary Agreements and the “Delta water tunnels” project. Elisa mentioned a recent news article that she will forward to Donna after today’s meeting.

8. UPDATE on YOLO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER AGENCY (YSGA) & Working Group Activities: Kristin Sicke reported that there aren’t any updates from the Working Group because they haven’t met since April. Some work is being done behind the scenes. Hopefully there will be more activity in the next month or two. Kristin answered questions about the status of the YSGA and WRA merging at some point in the future. It has yet to be determined how best to do this.

9. REGIONAL PROJECT UPDATES:
   a) Westside-Sacramento Regional Water Management Group Coordinating Committee (CC) Activities: Jeanette Wrysinski reported that the CC will be meeting in Yolo next week on 9/11 at 10 am at the YCFCWCD and gave highlights of agenda topics. The CC is continuing to support Lake County’s efforts to prepare for their Proposition 1 grant application submission. Jeanette also reported on the activities of the Roundtable of Regions IRWM group.
   b) Yolo FloodSAFE 2.0: Kristin provided history on the first Yolo FloodSAFE project that focused on the Lower Cache Creek Feasibility Study. Yolo FloodSAFE 2.0 has been initiated by Yolo County and the YCFC&WCD to focus on the flooding problems experienced in rural areas of Western Yolo county. This effort is being funded by both agencies. Elisa informed that the County continues to submit grant applications to Cal OES to secure funding for this effort.
   c) Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration Project: Elisa reported on this project that promotes lowering a section of the Fremont Weir to improve outcomes for salmon migration. This long-time Yolo County project was approved last month, and they have entered into a tolling agreement with the State.
   d) Update on Aquifer Storage & Recovery System (ASR) Program: Tim Busch, City of Woodland, gave an update on their ASR program (PPT presentation: http://www.yolowra.org/meeting_technical.html). Tim gave some background on Woodland’s water supply system and the formation of the Woodland Davis Clean Water Agency (WDCWA) in 2009. Starting in 2016 the cities of Woodland and Davis and UC Davis partnered to provide treated surface water from the Sacramento River to their customers as part of the Davis-Woodland Water Supply Project. Tim explained Term 91 water right curtailments that requires water permittees to cease diverting water when the State Water Resources Control Board gives notice that Term 91 is in effect. Term 91 becomes effective when Delta flows are insufficient to meet water quality standards. In addition to their primary water right, WDCWA purchased an additional 10,000 ac-ft senior water right in 2010 to supplement water supplies during the summer months. However, if Lake Shasta Reservoir doesn’t achieve a certain level of storage by March, then WDCWA’s senior water right is subject to Critical Year cutbacks. Their 10,000 ac-ft diversion limit is reduced by 25% during critical year conditions.

Woodland’s ASR Program was instituted more than 5 years ago to ensure that the City can provide adequate water supply and quality for its residents. ASR wells provide an inexpensive way to store large quantities of water underground that involves the direct injection of surface
water supplies into the aquifer for later recovery and use. He illustrated how injection and extraction are conducted through ASR wells with an informative graphic. Woodland is well suited for ASR due to the characteristics of the aquifer and how the water moves underground. Tim explained how they monitor the constituents in the water in Woodland’s distribution system and their geochemical testing process. Water quality is monitored by sampling at designated monitoring and ASR wells during all operational phases. Since starting ASR operation, the City has stored 1.2 billion gallons (target storage volume achieved on June 2, 2019). It is estimated that 30% of the initial injected water is stored in a buffer zone between the native groundwater and the treated surface water stored in the aquifer. The City is determining the best location for additional monitoring wells to store water for future supply demands. He highlighted that the Program has been recognized for its engineering excellence both locally and nationally. Tim answered questions.

10. MEMBER INFORMATION & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – Elisa reported on SAFCA’s Bryte Landfill Remediation Project. If there is any interest a 30-minute project tour could be arranged.

Future Agenda Items Suggested:
- SEI Update on WEAP model
- DWR/CVFPP Projects Identified in Yolo County
- RD108’s Flow Meter Program
- RD 2035 Sacramento River Joint Intake facility tour

11. NEXT REGULAR TC MEETING DATE: November 7, 2019, 9 to 10:30 am, Project tour of River Garden Farms, Knights Landing (weather permitting)

12. ADJOURN at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Gentile
Administrative Coordinator & Board Secretary
Floodplain Reactivation in the Sacramento River Basin for Fish and Wildlife: Working Lands on Both Sides of the Levees

Farmland (primarily ricelands), wildlife refuges, and the bypasses designed for flood protection can all be managed to work together for dynamic conservation and to mimic the historical floodplains in the Sacramento River Basin, while continuing to provide flood protection for cities, rural communities and landowners throughout the region. Spreading out and slowing down water across this landscape mimics natural flows and provides multiple benefits year-round by allowing farmers to cultivate rice and other crops for humans during the spring and summer, habitat for wild birds, reptiles, and other fauna in the fall, and food for migratory birds and native fish species in the winter. This novel, holistic water management strategy can bring our ecosystem to life through the careful interaction of water, sun and land. To visualize the opportunities for reactivating our floodplains, see the map on the back of the page.

Landowners throughout the Sacramento River Basin are committed to projects that will advance floodplain reactivation to improve habitat for fish and wildlife, while maintaining their farming and managed wetland operations. The historical floodplain has been divided by levees, yet there are actions that can be taken by landowners on both sides of the levees that will reactivate the historical floodplain:

- lands within the footprint of the current flood protection system—the Wet-Side of the levees; and
- fields outside the current flood protection system—the Dry-Side of the levees—that were part of the historical floodplain.

The combination of these different actions will mimic natural, shallow, long-duration flood patterns and restore the ecological process that drives healthy and productive aquatic ecosystems. Together, Wet-Side and Dry-Side water management strategies show tremendous promise for fish and wildlife populations on working lands.

Within the Flood Protection Footprint (Wet-Side of Levees)

Projects within the flood protection bypasses create managed seasonal wetland habitat on agricultural lands that include perimeter berms and water-control structures, increasing the duration of flood events and allowing the water residence time necessary for aquatic food web production. These projects will provide volitional passage for salmon to enter and exit the floodplain fields at will, providing access to
high food-density foraging opportunities, refuge from predators, and an unimpeded migration corridor to the Golden Gate. Inundation of the floodplain will occur during the late fall and winter months allowing for continued farming during the growing season. These projects will be operated in conjunction with new enhanced fish passage at various weirs to increase the frequency of floodplain activation and optimize adult fish passage through the bypasses. Wet Side projects have the potential to create about 20,000 acres of fish-accessible floodplain habitat.

Examples of these projects are Nigiri 2.0 and Dos Rios.

Outside the Flood Protection Footprint (Dry-Side of Levees)

Fish cannot access aquatic habitats beyond the Wet-Side of the levee, but managed aquatic habitats on farm fields and other managed wetlands (duck clubs and refuges) on the Dry-Side can still benefit fish through food production. Dry-Side projects re-activate historical floodplains by diverting water from the rivers to flood fields during the fall and winter. Holding water on these fields for several weeks produces abundant zooplankton and invertebrates (fish food). Fields are then periodically drained, transporting the food and water back to the river ecosystem supporting fish and wildlife. Dry Side projects have the potential to re-integrate several hundred thousand acres of historical floodplain food web production back into the Sacramento River Basin ecosystem where fish need food to be healthy.

Examples of these Fish Food projects are River Garden Farms, Montna Farms, RD 108, and RD 1500/Sutter Mutual Water Company.

To learn more about the coalition advancing these efforts, see Reactivating our Floodplains.