

MEETING NOTES

SANTA MONICA GSP STAKEHOLDER MEETING

WEBINAR

MARCH 18, 2021 FROM 5:30 PM TO 7:00 PM

Workshop Goals:

- Provide stakeholders with an update on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development process.
- Provide stakeholders with an update on the groundwater modeling and groundwater budget for the Santa Monica Subbasin
- Provide stakeholders with an overview of the sustainability indicators and relationship to potential undesirable results in the Santa Monica Subbasin.
- Collaboratively identify stakeholder concerns and issues to be addressed during the development and implementation of a SGMA-compliant GSP.

1. Welcome and Introductions (5:30 to 5:40)

Dr. Jill Weinberger, project manager with Dudek, introduced the panelists.

2. Santa Monica Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (5:40 to 6:30)

- Where are we in the process of developing a GSP?

The discussion started with a presentation of the background on SGMA, and the Santa Monica Subbasin ranking by DWR. Dr. Weinberger also presented the general contents and purpose of the GSP and the current status of the GSP development.

- Numerical groundwater modeling and water budget update.

Dr. Singh presented the background of the USGS numerical model, which is a regional model for the entire Los Angeles coastal basin. The GSP uses the model to assess conditions in the Santa Monica Subbasin portion of the model domain. The predictive model uses a 50-year hydrology, based on historical climate, but adjusted for climate change factors provided by DWR for the GSP. Recharge was scaled using a regression relationship developed by the USGS. Ocean and coastal boundaries were adjusted for predicted sea-level rise and future groundwater production was developed in conjunction with the City of Santa Monica. Overall change in groundwater storage varies with hydrologic conditions in the future simulations, which hold pumping constant.

INTERA also conducted a sensitivity analysis of the USGS model to better understand uncertainty in the model predictions and assess the potential to fill data gaps.

- Sustainability indicators and undesirable results overview.

Dr. Weinberger presented how the model results will be incorporated into the sustainability indicator analysis and analysis of undesirable results in the Subbasin. Undesirable results will be related to the six sustainability indicators (groundwater elevation, groundwater in storage, seawater intrusion, groundwater quality, land subsidence, and interconnected surface water and groundwater). Undesirable results are defined in SGMA as the effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the Subbasin that cause significant and unreasonable impacts to the sustainability indicators. The GSA, with input from stakeholders, gets to define what constitutes a significant and unreasonable impact. These are quantified by defining representative monitoring points, minimum thresholds, and the conditions under which a basin-wide impact would be defined as significant and unreasonable.

- Next steps.

The next steps are to wrap up the water budget discussion and incorporate the future modeling results into the GSP, select the representative monitoring points, assign minimum thresholds and measurable objectives, define the undesirable results, and release the public draft of the GSP. This draft is anticipated to be released in late spring/ early summer of this year. There will be at least 2 more public workshops – one on June 17, 2021, before the public draft is released, and one during the public comment period (likely in August) for stakeholders to continue to shape the GSP.

3. Questions, Concerns, and Issues

Dudek, INTERA, and the City of Santa Monica participated in the a question and answer period with stakeholders. Dr. Lisette Gold is available to discuss questions and concerns raised by stakeholders throughout the GSP development. The next stakeholder meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2021.

4. Meeting Wrap-up

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Go to the Santa Monica Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Website:

<https://www.santamonica.gov/gsp>