

**Kings River East-Alta Management Zone Pilot Study Steering Committee Meeting
March 7, 2019 Meeting Notes**

A meeting of the Steering Committee was held at the Alta Irrigation District Boardroom at 2:00 PM. In attendance at the meeting were:

Charlotte Gallock—Kings River Water Quality Coalition
Eric Athorp—Kings River Water Quality Coalition
Richard Meyerhoff—GEI Consultants
Vicki Kretsinger—Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers
Donald Ikemiya—Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association
Sarah Rutherford—Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association
Clay Rodgers—Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Adam Laputz—Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Walter Plachta—Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Anne Littlejohn—Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (phone)
Debra Dunn—Westlands Water District
Chad Wegley—Alta Irrigation District/Kings East GSA
Justin Mendes—Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
Joey Giordano—The Wine Group
JP Cativiela—Cogent Consulting and Communications
Mike Tietze—Formation Environmental (phone)
Paul Boyer—Self-Help Enterprises
Liesbet Olaerts—Self-Help Enterprises
Debi Ores—Community Water Center (phone)
David Cehrs—Grower
Gerben Leyendekker—Dairyman
Ed Boertje—Dairyman

1) Introductions/Agenda Review: Overview of meeting purpose and goals.

2) Participant Outreach:

- Charlotte noted that the current venue does not accommodate the current participant list, and that a new venue will be selected for the next meeting in April.

3) Preliminary Identification of Permitted Dischargers in and near Pilot Study Area:

- Richard began his discussion with an initial determination of permitted dischargers, beginning with a review of Regional Board databases (incomplete list, not completely vetted). The growers covered by the ILRP are covered via coalition participation. Review of the Management Zone boundary as determined in the February 13, 2019 meeting, whereas the boundary is the East Kings GSA.
- Outreach to permitted dischargers, and determine nitrate control practices for those who wish to participate in the Management Zone option.
- Desired outreach effort is to deal with representative groups, rather than discharger by discharger. Discussed a slide showing types of dischargers within the Management Zone. Boundaries may be adjusted to account for dischargers located next to current proposed boundary.

- Debi Ores: Inquired about Irrigated Land members, Charlotte indicated that they would participate through the Kings and Kaweah coalitions.

4) Initial Groundwater Quality Assessment and Identification of Areas with Wells Exceeding Nitrate Objective:

- JP: Asked that the list be consolidated such that individual dairies are not listed on the discharger list, rather that they be listed under a Dairy Representative Monitoring program.
- Vicki began with a review of the previously completed studies under CV SALTS. Importance of creating Management Zones that are not "islands" within the priority basin. Also mentioned potential linkage to SGMA efforts.
- Data source discussion (specifically DACs/DUCs), domestic well data, State small water systems (5-14 connections), and permitted discharge sites. Work with SGMA models in development.
- Several slides outlining other Agencies within the Management Zone area, plus public water systems.
- Quick discussion of depth to groundwater within the Kings Basin, and the differences in how the maps compare depending on the data sources. Locally generated data is preferred. Also a review of CV SALTS mapping of water quality in the upper and lower groundwater zones.
- A map was produced that showed septic system density. Adam Laputz discussed the General Order governing septic systems, and how they are constructed for permitting purposes. Counties are the lead agencies for this Order.
- Quick discussion of Phase II of Alta Isotope study, showing man-centric chemistries in sampled wells.
- Summary of publically available data shown on next slide, with a brief discussion that QA on this data is incomplete (single readings, sudden increases in other data).
- Comparison of water quality data that contained depth data vs. all other available data showed that only 14% had depth data.
- Maps showing DAC/DUC and domestic well locations in relation to CV SALTS studies and the limitations of the data.

5) Early Action Plan:

- Discussion of requirements for Early Action Plan to provide a temporary clean water source. Discussion of CURES program used on the Central Coast (Salinas Valley) region.
- Debi Ores: Resistance to attempts to conduct surveys of groundwater quality can be significant, as the residents may misinterpret the purpose of the survey (trust that the surveyor is not reporting "other" data (immigration status, e.g.) to someone else.
- Next discussion was about the Replacement Water Settlement Agreement as part of a temporary solution and a component of an Early Action Plan. Plan must include substantial community support. The requirement that city approvals are needed for permitting does give community buy-in, but all interested parties must be included in the final discussions.
- There was a brief discussion on the domestic well sampling program. There was a misconception that the testing is being paid for by the Coalitions; under the program, domestic well testing for wells on enrolled parcels is a grower responsibility, not a coalition one.

6) Project Schedule:

- Grant Timelines vs. Regulatory Timelines
 - Grant covers the preparation of a draft Preliminary Management Zone Proposal (due August). Once Basin Plan Amendments are approved by the State Board, the regulatory timelines become effective.
- Adam thinks that BPA will take up on April-May; Office of Administrative Law will review in 60 days. Board has up to 1 year to issue Notices to Comply, but could be much sooner. Individual growers will not receive a notice to comply, but the Coalitions will.
- Asked that advance copies of Notice to Comply letters be provided.

7) Posting of Pilot Study Materials

- Materials to be posted at www.kingsriverwqc.org

8) Action Items

- Post Materials on website
- Modify discharger tables
- Get Counties involved

9) Future Meetings

- Doodle poll or calendar review
- Third Thursday of Each Month (AM): April 18, 2019 @ 9 am
- Propose next 3 meeting dates at bottom of agenda