

**Kings River East-Alta Management Zone Pilot Study Steering Committee Meeting
April 18, 2019 Meeting Notes**

A meeting of the Steering Committee was held at the Dinuba Parks & Recreation Center Multi-Purpose Room at 9:00 AM. In attendance at the meeting were:

Clay Rodgers, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Walter Plachta, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
David Cehrs, Grower
Joey Giordano, The Wine Group
Kyle Schmidt, The Wine Group
Justin Mendes, Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
Gerben Leyendekker, Dairyman
Maria Herrera, Self-Help Enterprises
Paul Boyer, Self-Help Enterprises
Donald Ikemiya, Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association
Roy Jimenez, County of Fresno
Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Milk Producers Council
Charlotte Gallock, Kings River Water Quality Coalition
Eric Athorp, Kings River Water Quality Coalition
Jarrett Winther, Kings River Water Quality Coalition
Soua Lee, Kings River Conservation District
Richard Meyerhoff, GEI Consultants
Vicki Kretsinger, Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers
Sarah Rutherford, Kaweah Basin Water Quality Association
Anne Littlejohn, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (phone)
Mike Tietze, Formation Environmental (phone)
Debi Ores, Community Water Center (phone)
Denise England, County of Tulare (phone)
Charles Gardner, The Catalyst Group (phone)

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

2) Initial Groundwater Quality Assessment - Update:

- Vicki Kretsinger referred to the presentation slides handout and reported on interim updates to groundwater quality assessment. Surface and groundwater quality data are continuing to be compiled. A source of data is expected to come from the County of Fresno.

3) Refinement of Areas with Potentially High Nitrate - Update:

- Vicki referred to the presentation slides handout and provided an overview of areas with potentially high nitrate. This included information on public water systems, domestic wells, public water supply wells, and Ag wells that exceed the MCL for nitrate.
- It was asked whether the next step would be to compare wells that are near septic systems and wells at different depths. Vicki answered that the preliminary Management Zone Proposal would not go to that level of detail. The Early Action Plan would address temporary solutions to areas affected by nitrate contamination.

4) Early Action Plan:

- Richard provided an overview of the Early Action Plan (EAP) requirement.
 - The EAP is to provide temporary solutions that will eventually lead to more permanent solutions as the Management Zone Plan is implemented.
 - At the March Committee meeting, it was discussed that the methodology used in the Salinas Valley to identify potentially affected residents included use of GIS and County parcel data. Once affected residents were identified, they were contacted about the option to test their water supply. The Steering Committee expressed that this approach would be too rigorous for this area. An alternative approach would need to be developed.
 - Richard Meyerhoff held a conference call with Self Help Enterprises and Community Water Center to discuss approached by the two organizations to identify potential residents to help them get safe drinking water.
 - Paul Boyer shared about the County of Tulare water bottle program and well testing in DACs.
 - Maria Herrera shared that through a Prop 1 IRWM Grant, the County of Tulare is working with Provost & Pritchard to develop a Preliminary Needs Assessment Report that includes inventory of DACs in Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Kern County and their water needs.
 - A temporary solution in the EAP would include the installation of water kiosks. Charlotte Gallock shared that the Kings River Water Quality Coalition has agreed to construct three kiosks, of which, one would be installed in the Alta area. One of the biggest hurdle in getting small communities to agree to install these water kiosks is the concern about drawing people to the area that would potentially increase crime in these small communities.
 - The Committee discussed alternative mechanisms to provide water to residents who may not have the means or capability to get to a kiosk such as a water bottle service program.
 - Richard noted that the next step is to bring to the Committee a strawman of the EAP.

5) Identification of Permitted Dischargers in Kings Groundwater Subbasin:

- Richard referred to a handout with a list of permitted dischargers and provided an overview of the how the list was compiled and how outreach would be conducted to those dischargers. The list of permitted dischargers was shortened by summarizing them into groups rather than listed individually. Richard worked with Anne Littlejohn with the Central Valley Water Board to refine the list to ensure its accuracy.
- During the month of May, outreach will be conducted to the dischargers on the list to inquire about their interest in participating in the Management Zone. The reason for this is because one of the pieces for the Management Zone Proposal is to summarize the nitrate practices or treatment process that is being done now. Care should be taken to not include facilities that do not want their information in the Proposal.

6) Public Education & Outreach Opportunity (with Catalyst Group)

- Richard introduced Charles Gardner with the Catalyst Group. The Catalyst Group is tasked through a portion of the grant contract to provide public education and outreach related to the pilot program.

- As the pilot projects move towards implementation, outreach and education materials will need to be developed to reach a broader audience. Charles asked the Committee for input on the kind of information and materials that would best assist the Committee in moving forward with implementing the EAP and Preliminary Management Zone Proposal. Additionally, the Catalyst Group would work to compile lessons learned from the pilot project so it can be shared with other areas that would be developing their own Management Zones. Feedback from the Committee included:
 - Targeted outreach about the EAP to communities that would potentially require an alternative water supply.
 - Host public meetings at local elementary schools.
 - Outreach to both participants of the Management Zone and recipients of the benefits of the Management Zone Proposal.
 - Provide bilingual materials.
 - Encourage early involvement of all potentially affected parties in the development of Management Zones.

7) Status of Posting Pilot Study Materials

- Past meeting materials have been posted to the Kings River Water Quality Coalition website at <http://kingsriverwqc.org/cv-salts/>. Future meeting materials will also be made available on the website.

8) Next Meeting

- The next meeting was set for June 13, 2019 at 1:00 pm at the Dinuba Parks & Recreation Center Multi-Purpose Room.