

Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee (GSPAC)
Inaugural Meeting, via Zoom conference call
May 11, 2021, 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Meeting Summary

The Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee (GSPAC) met on May 11, 2021 via Zoom videoconference. Below is a summary of key items discussed during the meeting. This document is not intended to be a meeting transcript; it focuses on the main points of the group’s discussion and highlights action items and recommendations that arise from the meeting. The agenda and full recording of the videoconference meeting will be available on the Lake County Water Resources website.

ACTION ITEMS

- Provide GSPAC members with copies of the Brown Act guidance provided by Nicole Johnson, Lake County Counsel’s Office, Deputy County Counsel office.
- For all GSPAC meetings and related topics, comments may be submitted to the committee via email at water.resources@lakecountyca.gov – Please include “GSPAC” in the subject line of all related emails.

GSPAC RECOMMENDATIONS

- During this meeting, no recommendations were made as guidance for the Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Board of Directors.

1. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Member	Status
Brenna Sullivan	Lake County Farm Bureau	Present
Pat Scully	Scully Packing Company	Present
David Weiss	Bella Vista Farming Company	Present
Peter Windrem	Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch	Present
Kyle Reams	Kelseyville Unified School District	Present
Sarah Ryan	Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians	Present
Scott Hornung	Lake County Special Districts	Present
Marina Deligiannis	Lake County Watershed Protection District	Present

2. GSPAC OVERVIEW

Stantec Facilitation Support Services (FSS) Facilitator Maritza Flores Marquez provided an overview on the Big Valley GSPAC. Background was provided on how the Big Valley GSA was created via a resolution in August 2019. The governing body of the GSA is made up of the sitting members of the County of Lake Board of Supervisors, who also serve as the Board of Directors of the Lake County Watershed Protection District. The Big Valley Basin GSPAC convened in this meeting was established via Charter by the Board of the Big Valley GSA. The goal of the Big Valley GSA and its resulting GSP is to keep groundwater management at the local level.

3. REVIEW OF BROWN ACT REQUIREMENTS

Lake County Counsel's Office, Deputy County Counsel Nicole Johnson provided a presentation on the Brown Act requirements and protocols. The Brown Act applies to local government business that must be conducted at open and public meetings. Requirements, guidance, and potential violations of the Brown Act were reviewed.

Sarah Ryan asked for clarification on what constitutes a quorum. Ms. Johnson stated that for the eight-member GSPAC, a quorum consists of five members.

Peter Windrem asked if three committee members could get together prior to a meeting to discuss a topic that would be presented to the GSPAC. Ms. Johnson explained that three members would not create a meeting, but any deliberation, discussion, and decisions should be done in a public meeting.

Peter Windrem asked if he was precluded to talk to another committee member about a topic that will come up in the GSPAC. Ms. Johnson stated that deliberation cannot be done privately outside the public eye, as outlined in the Brown Act. Information can be shared but deliberation cannot occur. If there is a member that is an expert on a subject, and information is asked to be shared to one person in preparation for a meeting, this would be acceptable as it does not involve deliberation. The information should be shared with all members and then made available to the public.

4. GSPAC CHARTER AND MEETINGS

Stantec Facilitation Support Services, Facilitator Christy Clark provided an overview of the GSPAC Charter and meetings. On April 27, the County of Lake Board of Supervisors, as the designated Board of Directors of the Big Valley GSA, accepted a Charter establishing the GSPAC. The GSPAC charge and scope is to act in an advisory role as the Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is being developed. The GSPAC membership consists of beneficial users and for uses of groundwater in Big Valley Basin.

It was noted that three spots on the GSPAC are marked "open" for the following types of beneficial users: Environmental/ Ecosystem, Disadvantaged Community, and Private Users – domestic well owner. These open seats will be filled if someone expresses an interest in serving on the GSPAC. The only parameters is that the individual is local to Big Valley Basin and that she or he has working knowledge of groundwater issues and water resources within Lake County. The addition of any new GSPAC member will require an amendment to the Charter, which will need acceptance from the Lake County Board of Supervisors.

GSPAC meetings will be held on a regular basis and they will be noticed ahead of time in accordance with the Brown Act. GSPAC meetings will strive to be respectful of GSPAC members' and the public's time by clearly stating the agenda items, meeting goals, and providing time for public comment. The GSPAC chartered body will serve through January 31, 2022—which is the GSP submission date for Big Valley Basin.

5. GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (GSP) TECHNICAL CONTRACTOR PRESENTATION

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) Project Manager Eddy Teasdale gave a presentation on Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development. The presentation touched on the following: introducing the LSCE-Stantec technical contractor team, reviewing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), GSP required tasks, and the overall schedule for GSP development.

Brenna Sullivan asked a question regarding the hydrologic models that will be used, inquiring if these models would include different irrigation rates between varying crops. Mr. Teasdale explained that the technical team will consult 2018 land-use data, allowing the technical contractor team to make assumptions on the variety of agricultural demands. He stated that if there is specific land use/irrigation rates available for analysis, that should be provided to the contract team, so they'll have high-resolution data to include in the models.

6. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

To conclude the presentations made, the facilitation team invited GSPAC members to ask any clarifying questions related to the agenda items.

Sarah Ryan asked a question regarding filling the GSPAC open seats, wondering why there would need to be an amendment to the Charter if those seats are already identified as open in the Charter. Ms. Clark stated that the Charter amendment would add the name(s) of the member(s) that would be filling the open seat(s), per direction given in the Charter document. The amended Charter would then be presented to the County of Lake Board of Supervisors for acceptance. If there is more than one person interested in a specific open seat, the GSPAC would then consider who should fill the open seat by seeking consensus on individuals to recommend.

Peter Windrem called everyone's attention to the Brown Act clarification provided by Ms. Johnson in the meeting's group chat window (visible to all meeting attendees). The clarifying text provided further insight into what constitutes a meeting and the application of the Brown Act to GSPAC members' conversations outside of a publicly noticed meeting.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments during this meeting.

8. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.