

**Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee (GSPAC)**  
**Meeting via Zoom conference call**  
**June 25, 2021, 11:00 a.m.–1:30 pm**

**Meeting Summary**

The Big Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee (GSPAC) met on June 25, 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 is available on the Lake County Water Resources website.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- Ms. Deligiannis to contact Erin Smith from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to get clarification on the Scotts Valley Boundary.
- For all GSPAC meetings and related topics, comments may be submitted at any time to the committee via email at [water.resources@lakecountycalifornia.gov](mailto:water.resources@lakecountycalifornia.gov). Please include “GSPAC” in the subject line of all related emails.

**GSPAC RECOMMENDATIONS**

- No recommendations were made at this meeting.

**1. ROLL CALL**

<b>GSPAC Attendee Name</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Status</b>
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
Valerie Nixon	Lake County Land Trust	Present
Sky Hoyt	Groundwater Well Owner	Present
Marina Deligiannis	Lake County Watershed Protection District	Present

**2. REVIEW AND APPROVE MAY 28, 2021 MEETING SUMMARY**

GSPAC Lead Marina Deligiannis asked if there were any questions or comments on the meeting summary—there were none. She made a motion to approve the meeting summary as presented. Mr. Windrem made the first motion, and Mr. Reams seconded the motion. The meeting summary will be posted on the Lake County Water Resources’ website.

### **3. BIG VALLEY GROUNDWATER UPDATES**

Marina Deligiannis provided an update on the current groundwater conditions and drought. She stated that Water Resources is developing an interactive map with all wells that will show the observed current and historical groundwater trends. The GSPAC and interested parties list will be informed once this tool is available. The lake level as of June 24 was *-0.11 ft R* lower in comparison to the year 2020.

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) Project Manager Eddy Teasdale provided an overview of the request to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for Technical Support Services (TSS). He stated that the TSS program is a similar submission process to the Facilitation Support Services (FSS) provided by DWR. Under the TSS program, Water Resources can work with DWR to collect water quality samples from existing wells, since there is a lack of water quality data from some wells. Data will be taken from 15 to 20 wells to incorporate into the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Water Resources may request the installation of monitoring wells to address data gaps.

*Sky Hoyt asked about the water quality factors that will be looked at in this process. Mr. Teasdale stated that the technical team will look at general constituents such as boron, nitrates, arsenic, and metals. Mr. Hoyt stated that in his experience bicarbonates have been an issue. Mr. Teasdale stated that bicarbonates will be added to the list of water quality constituents to analyze.*

*Brenna Sullivan asked if nitrate/nutrient monitoring will be completed as well. Mr. Teasdale stated that the nitrate monitoring will be completed. Sarah Ryan added that nitrates have been an issue in the past and they should be monitored during the process.*

*Ngodoo Atume with Clean Water Action stated that DWR has a hierarchy of water quality constituents for each region. A list should exist for Big Valley Basin that can be referenced. Regarding the number of wells that will be sampled to get water quality data from the TSS program, she inquired if there were programs already in Big Valley Basin that are collecting this data? Mr. Teasdale stated that the production wells have some info, and some wells have some data. The new data collected will be used to supplement the data available; the technical team has capitalized on the data available.*

*Sarah Ryan stated that there are public water systems and state small systems, and asked if water quality data from them has been collected? Mr. Teasdale stated that the technical team has gone through the state database to obtain the water quality data available.*

LSCE Project Manager Eddy Teasdale provided highlights on the analyses of submitted GSP. The GSP evaluations released by DWR were from four critically overdrafted basins that submitted their GSP in January 2020. Information gleaned from the released GSP evaluations will be integrated into the development of the Big Valley Basin GSP.

*Ms. Ryan asked if any of the thresholds developed by the locals for undesirable results were rejected. Mr. Teasdale stated that the information released on the GSPs was preliminary feedback, each entity has been granted the opportunity to resolve any issues that were flagged by DWR.*

### **4. GSPAC EDUCATION AND DISCUSSION**

LSCE Project Manager Eddy Teasdale gave a presentation on groundwater modeling. The groundwater model tied to the GSP is anticipated to be running by the end of summer.

*Pat Scully asked how the boundary was set between Scotts Valley Basin and Big Valley Basin. Mr. Teasdale stated that the boundaries were based on the outlines provided by DWR. Scotts Valley Basin will be included in the model domain.*

*Peter Windrem questioned the boundary presented for Scotts Valley as well and finds it unlikely that Scotts Valley is hydrologically connected to Big Valley Basin. Mr. Teasdale stated that Scotts Valley could have been ignored in the model and groundwater model boundary conditions before it gets into Scotts Valley—it represent locations in the model where water flows into or out of the model region due to external factors. However, the technical team felt that it would be beneficial to include Scotts Valley in the groundwater model to represent the boundary conditions more accurately between Scotts Valley and Big Valley Basin. Ibrahim Khadam, Stantec Planning Lead from the technical team, added that the boundaries presented for Scott's Valley and Big Valley Basin were defined by DWR's Bulletin 118 when the groundwater basins were defined, the technical team did not define those boundaries. Mr. Windrem disagreed with the boundary presented for Scotts Valley. Some GSPAC members believe that the Scotts Valley and Big Valley Basin are hydrologically connected while others disagree. Brenna Sullivan stated that Scotts Valley may include south Lakeport in the Scotts Valley boundary developed by DWR. GSPAC would like additional clarification on the Scotts Valley boundary. Ms. Deligiannis will work with Erin Smith from DWR to get clarification on the Scotts Valley boundary.*

*Ms. Ryan asked if the California Data Exchange Center (CDEC) gauge was looked at? Mr. Teasdale said yes, all of that info will be tied to the groundwater model.*

*Ms. Ryan asked how data gaps from the stream gauges will be handled. Mr. Teasdale stated that they work with the data available and then extrapolate to fill the data gaps. At this point, the technical team is adding the inputs to the groundwater model and collecting data.*

*Ms. Sullivan asked if the groundwater model will be calibrated to Lake County-specific irrigation data that was shared with the technical team or if it will use general crop data. Mr. Teasdale stated that Lake County-specific data will be used. Ms. Sullivan stated that the technical team will need to consider how to handle walnuts that are dry farmed. Mr. Teasdale said that this will be integrated in the historical, current, and future water budgets that will be developed.*

*Sky Hoyt asked if sprinkler frost protection has been looked into and how it will fit in models. This will have a value integrated in the models.*

LSCE Senior Hydrogeologist John McHugh gave a presentation on database management systems. A data request was sent out in May to all GSPAC members. Any data that can be shared with the technical team should be shared as soon as possible. Any data available should be sent to Lake County Water Resources Program Coordinator William Fox, who will share any data with the technical team.

LSCE Project Manager Teasdale gave a presentation on groundwater budgets.

## **5. GSP SECTION REVIEW**

Stantec GSP Documentation and Production Lead, Megan Murray, provided an update on development of the GSP sections. She thanked everyone for providing feedback and is currently integrating and addressing all comments received for Section 1 and 2.1. All comments received have been logged, once all comments have been addressed and integrated into the documents, the comment log will be shared with

the GSPAC. It was also noted that once the comment log is shared with the GSPAC, Sections 1 and 2.1 will be made available to the public.

*Mr. Hoyt asked if the comments received would be discussed on this call. Ms. Clark stated that if there was time, the group could raise and discuss comments. All comments will be shared via the comment log.*

*Mr. Hoyt is on a radio show, Fire and Drought, and he has heard that the groundwater around the lake is sealed from Clear Lake, such that Clear Lake does not contribute to the groundwater supply. He asked the technical team what the current understanding on the connectivity of Clear Lake with groundwater supply is. Mr. Teasdale stated that they have no answer at the moment, the technical team is in the process of understanding the system through data collection.*

*Ms. Ryan stated that there is an ongoing project where tap water is being sampled from private wells on the lake and near shore wells (areas not on the public water system). From this project, it has been seen that cyanobacteria has been seen in shore wells, 50 feet off the shoreline. The data is showing connectivity since groundwater wells typically do not have cyanobacteria. Mr. Teasdale stated with the groundwater model the technical team will be able to have a better understanding of the fluxes observed.*

*Mr. Hoyt asked where water enters the groundwater basin. He stated that it would be helpful to recharge the groundwater basin, but if there is too much recharge, he wondered if that would have negative impacts on wildlife. Mr. Teasdale stated that this will be addressed with the developed water budgets.*

Project Manager Teasdale gave an overview of GSP Section 2.2.2 “Groundwater Conditions.” This section includes groundwater level trends under different years and seasons along with groundwater quality. This section will be available for review in a couple of weeks.

*Ms. Ryan said she had a conversation with Lake County Environmental Health, and she stated that there are no regulations on where wells can go in. In relationship to possible contamination, the only setback that is required by regulations is to septic systems.*

*Ngodoo Atume with Clean Water Action asked if there will be maps that show land subsidence. Mr. Teasdale stated that there will be.*

## **6. FUTURE GSP SUBCOMMITTEE AND AD HOC MEETINGS**

Project Manager Teasdale gave an overview of the GSP subcommittee/ad hoc meetings that will be formed, as an additional way to inform the GSP development process. GSPAC meeting participants were asked to state their interest in joining a subcommittee/ad hoc group. Below is a summary of who is interested in participating in the respective meetings, as participants stated in the chat function of the GSPAC meeting.

			Proposed Subcommittee/Ad Hoc Meetings				
Individual	Affiliation	GSPAC Member	Integrated Hydrologic Modeling	Projects and Management Actions	Sustainable Management Criteria	Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems	GSP Implementation/ Finance
Sarah Ryan	Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians,	x	x	x	x	x	
Scott Hornung	Lake County Special Districts	x	x	x	x		
Marina Deligiannis	Lake County Watershed Protection District	x		x			x
Kyle Reams	Kelseyville Unified School District	x					
Brenna Sullivan	Lake County Farm Bureau	x	x		x		
Peter Windrem	Chi Council for the Clear Lake Hitch,	x			x		
David Weiss	Bella Vista Farming Company	x	x	x	x		
Pat Scully	Scully Packing Company	x	x		x		
Valerie Nixon	Lake County Land Trust	x				x	
William Fox	Lake County Watershed Protection District					x	
Yuliya Osetrova	Lake County Watershed Protection District		x				
Bethany	FlowWest, Environmental Consultant		x		x	x	
Maritza Flores	Stantec, FSS/ GSP Facilitation Team		x		x		x

*Mr. Hoyt asked if in-person meetings will be held. Ms. Clark stated that future meetings will be a hybrid format, offering participants the ability to call in, even as meetings may transition to being held in-person.*

*Ms. Deligiannis asked if long-term stakeholder engagement and outreach is another subcommittee/ad hoc group that could be formed or included under the GSP Implementation/Finance group.*

These groups will be scheduled over the next several weeks. The timeline for these groups will be shared in the July GSPAC meeting.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Ngodoo Atume with Clean Water Action asked for clarity and understanding on the stakeholder engagement going on, especially with the domestic well owners, community members, and Disadvantaged Communities. How are they participating? Ms. Clark stated that having a representative for the Disadvantaged Communities is important and there is an open seat in the GSPAC for their representation. At any time someone can take this seat, people are encouraged to share that this seat is open. There is an ongoing need for people to understand domestic wells, and there will be a future public meeting offering the community education and resources on domestic wells. The domestic well seat has been filled by Sky Hoyt. Ms. Atume stated that having one person with a domestic well does not really represent what is happening, everyone should be involved. The minimum thresholds that will be set may not work for everyone. Ms. Clark stated that the non-governmental organization (NGO) collaborative document put forward on previous submitted GSPs is being used as guidance for Big Valley Basin.*

*Ms. Deligiannis stated that Lake County Water Resources will be doing a better job in posting the GSPAC meetings, to encourage more community involvement by posting on Facebook, and sharing with radio stations and newspapers. The GSPAC meetings for the rest of the year are set, with the exception of November and December that fall on holidays; alternatives dates will be discussed for those months. The next GSPAC meeting will be held Friday, July 23, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.*

*Ms. Deligiannis stated that the GSPAC Charter amendment was approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Charter amendment included adding Sky Hoyt and Valerie Nixon to the GSPAC members and revising the references to Big Valley Subbasin as the Big Valley Basin.*

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.