

# Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #1

## Meeting Summary

Wednesday, August 19, 2020  
 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
 Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

### Attendees

#### Technical Advisory Committee Members

- Ava Moussavi, Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
- Chad Blais, City of Norco Public Works Department
- David Vigil, Home Garden County Water District
- Eric Lindberg, California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Santa Ana Region
- Jacque Casillas, Vice Mayor, City of Corona
- Katie Hockett, City of Corona Department of Water and Power
- Roberta A. Reed, 3M Industrial Mineral Products Division
- Timothy Ballon, All American Asphalt
- Tom Moody, City of Corona Department of Water and Power
- Wes Speake, Councilmember, City of Corona

#### City of Corona Department of Water and Power Staff

- Kristian Alfelor
- Melissa Estrada-Maravilla

#### Consultant Team

- Chad Taylor, Todd Groundwater
- Phyllis Stanin, Todd Groundwater
- Alyson Scurlock, Kearns & West
- Jack Hughes, Kearns & West
- Joan Isaacson, Kearns & West

### Summary

#### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Tom Moody, General Manager at the City of Corona Department of Water and Power, welcomed all to the first meeting of the Temescal Groundwater Sustainability Agency Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). He introduced Todd Groundwater, Carollo Engineers, and Kearns & West as the consultants assisting the Temescal Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Temescal GSA) with preparation of the Temescal Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Temescal GSP) and meeting facilitation.



## 2. Overview of Meeting Agenda

Joan Isaacson serving as TAC meeting facilitator, Kearns & West, led roundtable introductions for all attending. Isaacson thanked all for attending since their expertise, track record of working collaboratively with other agencies and organizations, and relationships with communities and other stakeholders would be very valuable throughout preparation of the Temescal GSP. She then reviewed the meeting agenda (see Appendix A), noting that the meeting would focus on an introduction to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Temescal GSP workplan and schedule, Outreach and Stakeholder Involvement Communications Plan, and TAC members' roles.

## 3. Orientation to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Chad Taylor, Senior Hydrogeologist at Todd Groundwater, presented the background and purpose of SGMA, an overview of the Temescal Basin and Temescal GSA, and the Temescal GSP development timeline. SGMA is California State legislation that establishes requirements and specifies deadlines for achieving and maintaining groundwater sustainability. These requirements include forming a GSA and preparing a GSP to facilitate local groundwater management informed by stakeholders. SGMA requires that groundwater basins designated as medium (such as the Temescal Basin) or high priority form GSAs and file GSPs by January 31, 2022 and subsequently demonstrate sustainable groundwater management by 2042. See page 10 in Appendix B for map of the Temescal Basin. Sustainability, as defined in SGMA, is the local management and use of groundwater in a way that can be maintained without experiencing undesirable results. SGMA requires evaluation of undesirable results in consideration of six sustainability indicators which are chronic lowering of groundwater levels; reduction of groundwater storage; degradation of water quality; depletion of interconnected surface water affecting beneficial uses; land subsidence affecting land uses; and seawater intrusion.

Taylor explained that the City of Corona, the City of Norco, and Home Gardens County Water District formed the Temescal GSA in 2017 through a memorandum of understanding. The Temescal GSA will work with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the TAC, consultants, residents, local public, and other agencies and stakeholder organizations during the Temescal GSP preparation. The Temescal GSA has begun the process of developing and implementing a GSP for the Temescal Basin, including data gathering and review, preparation of a Draft Plan Area Chapter, and preparation of an Outreach and Stakeholder Involvement Communications Plan. For more information on the Temescal GSA, see pages 11 through 12 in Appendix B.

### Discussion/Q&A

The team opened the floor for questions and discussion. Taylor listed two discussion questions for consideration: 1) What have you heard about groundwater and/or SGMA and what do you think are some important groundwater management issues? 2) Are you aware of any data or studies we should review during GSP preparation? Discussions, comments, and questions are summarized below.

- The State of California requires local municipal organizations to serve as GSA partners, so private companies are not eligible, but they can participate in GSP preparation in other ways.
- The Temescal Basin has a current Groundwater Management Plan and the majority of water after a rainfall event goes to local recharge. This is interesting, and we should find a way to inform the public on how this happens in the Temescal Basin, so they can know about it and understand it.



- The fact sheet sent prior to this meeting was great. The public should know that the GSA agencies have been and are good stewards of our groundwater.
- Other GSPs have considered what it would mean to decrease water use in the future and that is a concern this TAC should think about.
- It is important that TAC members work with and train others in their agency or organization in consideration of the 2042 sustainability mark so that there is capacity for someone to provide input over 20 years.
- Let's not shy away from talking about Direct Potable Reuse and Indirect Potable Reuse projects as part of this process. They can be hard to talk about but should be talked about sooner rather than later as they are a big part of groundwater replenishment.

#### 4. Summary of Groundwater Sustainability Plan Workplan and Schedule

Taylor provided a summary of the Temescal GSP workplan and schedule. The Temescal GSP will build from past and existing management activities, including the 2008 Groundwater Management Plan. Major Temescal GSP elements include data compilation; plan area; hydrogeologic conceptual model; groundwater model; sustainability goals and criteria; management actions, projects, and monitoring; and plan development. Data compilation and a Draft Plan Area Chapter are already complete. The next steps are to develop the hydrogeological conceptual model, assess current and historical groundwater conditions, and construct a numerical groundwater model. These will be used to calculate groundwater budgets and sustainable yield, so that it is known how much groundwater is available for use. After that comes the creation of sustainability goals and criteria, which define what sustainability means in the Temescal Basin. Next, management actions will be identified to meet sustainability goals and criteria and a monitoring program will be established.

Taylor reviewed the Temescal GSP preparation schedule noting that there will be four TAC meetings total and three public workshops and a presentation of the Draft GSP during the process. The Draft Temescal GSP will be made available for public review in Summer 2021. The final Temescal GSP will be completed by Fall 2021 prior to submittal to DWR. See pages 13 through 16 in Appendix B for more information on the Temescal GSP workplan and schedule.

#### Discussion/Q&A

There were no questions or comments from the TAC members for this agenda item.

#### 5. Outreach and Involvement

Jack Hughes, Kearns & West, provided an overview of the purpose, objectives, and components of the Outreach and Stakeholder Involvement Communications Plan. The purpose is to provide a framework for integrating public and stakeholder outreach and involvement into the Temescal GSP preparation. The objectives include making sure all stakeholders are informed of the Temescal GSP process and how they can get involved; providing meaningful opportunities for stakeholders and the public to learn and provide input; involving the diverse communities and stakeholders of Corona, Norco, and Home Gardens; and ensuring a transparent process. An important component is involving communities and stakeholders with diverse groundwater interests.

Hughes reviewed the planned outreach and involvement activities included in the plan and how they would be aligned with the Temescal GSP planning steps. The public will have opportunities to get information and provide comment during the public workshops and/or during the presentation on Temescal GSP updates provided during the City Council or Board of Directors meetings of each



respective Temescal GSA member. There will also be three public workshops. Each workshop will be accompanied by several methods of pre-workshop outreach to boost attendance and circulate information such as emails, social media posts, and distributing fact sheets.

Hughes noted the importance of engaging underrepresented communities throughout the Temescal GSP process. He displayed areas in the Temescal Basin that DWR has identified as Disadvantaged Communities and Severely Disadvantaged Communities. The consultant team has talked with local community leaders to discuss strategies and best practices for conducting engagement with underrepresented communities and what community organizations will be important to partner with.

Hughes then overviewed the outreach materials being developed in preparation for the first public workshop. The Temescal GSA website ([www.CoronaCA.gov/Groundwater](http://www.CoronaCA.gov/Groundwater)) will serve as a hub for project information and updates. It will include a comment form for anyone to contribute input during the Temescal GSP process. The Temescal GSA fact sheet (see Appendix C) introduces broader groundwater concepts to bring public awareness to local groundwater resources in addition to information about SGMA and the Temescal GSP. The first public workshop is tentatively scheduled for September 29, 2020 and will be held virtually. See pages 17 through 24 in Appendix B for more information on outreach and involvement.

## Discussion/Q&A

Hughes posed the following questions for discussion: 1) How can we reach more of your community members, constituents/other stakeholders, and the public in our pre-workshop outreach? 2) How might you be able to help us spread awareness of the first public workshop?

- The TAC discussed what stakeholders had already been identified. A working list has been developed that includes many agencies, businesses, private pumpers, and other stakeholders upstream and downstream, as well as those in neighboring basins. TAC members can suggest additional interested parties to add. The website, via the comment page, provides an additional option for anyone interested in signing up for updates.
- The TAC discussed if the project team had target numbers for engagement in underrepresented communities in mind. There are no target numbers for engagement.
- One question asked was, how many members of the public attended public meetings for other GSPs? A member of the consultant team stated that the public attendance at public meetings for other GSPs varies. Depending on the Basin, attendance has ranged from zero members of the public and several agency representatives to many members of the public and agency representatives.
- The idea of a focus group was also mentioned. One suggestion was to incentivize participation by offering gift cards or coupons. People in line at bi-weekly food drives at city hall could be engaged. Another idea was to encourage people to answer a one-question survey that drives them to the project website. TAC members discussed options for what that question could be.
- The TAC noted that the fact sheet was very good but might be a little too dense, and it could maybe be reduced to one-page with English on one side and Spanish on the other.

## 6. Role of the Technical Advisory Committee

Isaacson explained the role of the TAC and reviewed the TAC Protocols and Operating Principles document (see Appendix D), which was provided to TAC members before the meeting. The general purpose of the TAC is to provide input and guidance to the Temescal GSA and consultant team during





the development of the Temescal GSP. TAC members represent diverse groundwater interests and will work collaboratively to contribute input towards long-term sustainable management of the Temescal Basin, communicate with additional stakeholders and community members about the Temescal GSA, Temescal GSP process, and SGMA, review material and participate in ongoing discussions, and help to publicize public involvement activities. TAC members were asked to provide a general confirmation of the operating protocols and to reach out to the project team contact (Melissa Estrada-Maravilla) if they saw any red flags.

## Discussion/Q&A

There were no questions or comments from the TAC members for this agenda item.

## 7. Public Comment

No members of the public provided comment.

## 8. Next Steps and Final Comments

Isaacson summarized next steps for the TAC members. Following this meeting, Estrada will send out the Draft Plan Area Chapter of the Temescal GSP for TAC members to review. The consultant team will continue preparing the technical analyses. Comments on the Draft Plan Area Chapter of the Temescal GSP are due to the GSA on September 4, 2020. Additional next steps are preparing for the upcoming public workshop tentatively scheduled for September 29, 2020 and the next TAC meeting on November 18, 2020.

## Discussion/Q&A

- The time for the first public workshop was discussed. A start time before 6:00 p.m. would be good as it is difficult to conduct a virtual public workshop later in the evening. Also, the timing of future workshops could be alternated to see what works best.

