

Mokelumne Collaborative Group (MCG) Meeting #18 Summary

February 13, 2015

Organizations represented

Amador County	North San Joaquin Water Conservation District
Amador Water Agency	San Joaquin County
Calaveras County	San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Calaveras County Water District	San Joaquin Farm Bureau
Calaveras Planning Coalition	Sierra Club, SF Bay Chapter
California Sportfishing Protection Alliance	Stockton, City of
Delta Fly Fishers, Inc.	Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority
East Bay Municipal Utility District	Woodbridge Irrigation District
Foothill Conservancy	
Jackson Valley Irrigation District	
MyValleySprings.com	

Key Decisions

- Mokelumne and Stormwater sections of the Water Availability Analysis were approved.
 - Environmental assessment on concept 7b (Raise Lower Bear Feasibility) was approved.
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Action Items

- RMC: edit Concept 1a title to read “Re-Introduction of Fall-Run Chinook Salmon Upstream of Pardee Reservoir.”
 - Climate Change Workgroup: convene to discuss distilling available information on climate change.
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- San Joaquin County: present in March about groundwater recharge and in-lieu recharge work performed for the Eastern San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.
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Summary

I. January Meeting Summary and Brief Update

Meeting #17 (January 2015) summary was approved by consensus and will be posted onto the public portion of the website.

RMC provided an update on the Modeling Workgroup, including that the group has discussed the concepts that have been modeled and incorporated comments on the modeling.

RMC also provided an update on the Policies and Initiatives Workgroup, including that the workgroup has compiled proposed policies which are ready for the MCG's review. It was requested that the groundwater policy (Policy 9d) not be reviewed by the MCG as there is not yet consensus among the workgroup on this policy. Once consensus within the workgroup has been reached, the policy will be submitted to the MCG for review.

RMC provided an update on Concept 1a (Anadromous Fish), including that discussions with Amador Water Agency, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, and Foothill Conservancy led to consensus on the updated project description. One edit was recorded during the meeting and the title will be changed to read "Re-Introduction of Fall-Run Chinook Salmon Upstream of Pardee Reservoir." It was noted that AWA requested that an analysis of the project under climate change conditions be included. CSPA remarked that climate change extends beyond this one particular concept and that other concepts may require a similar analysis. It was suggested that available information regarding climate change from Integrated Regional Water Management Plans (IRWMPs) from the Mokelumne-Amador-Calaveras Region and the Eastern San Joaquin Region be summarized and included in MokeWISE. After some discussion, it was decided that representatives from East Bay Municipal Utility District, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, Foothill Conservancy, Calaveras Planning Coalition, San Joaquin County, and the California Department of Water Resources would convene to distill available information and further discuss climate change as it relates to MokeWISE.

RMC provided an update on Concept 4c (San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking and Exchange), including that discussion with San Joaquin County, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, and Foothill Conservancy led to consensus on a proposal for moving the concept forward. It was proposed that

Concept 4c be moved to a parallel track to allow additional development. This parallel track would include additional modeling and further discussions of the concept with MCG members that are interested in participating. It was explained that the concept would not be included in the preferred MokeWISE portfolio, but that a new concept (4e) would be considered for inclusion. Concept 4e (San Joaquin Groundwater Banking and Exchange Conceptual Modeling and Feasibility Work), as stated in the proposed description made available to the MCG, would continue the work that would begin in the parallel track. In response to a suggested edit, a sentence has been added to the description that articulates that storage would provide a regional benefit. It was suggested that concepts 4a and 4e be combined to ensure that one feasibility study captures all potential sources. San Joaquin County offered to present in March explaining the work that was done in the Eastern San Joaquin Integrated Regional Water Management Plan regarding source water for groundwater recharge and in-lieu recharge.

A new concept submitted by the Calaveras Planning Coalition was discussed by the MCG. The concept proposes assessing the feasibility of transporting wastewater from the East Bay and Contra Costa County to the San Joaquin Valley for irrigation and/or groundwater recharge. After some discussion, it was suggested that each individual breakout group discuss and decide if the new concept should be added to Concept 4a as a supply source.

II. Portfolio Breakout Discussion

RMC presented an overview of the portfolio breakout discussion process, including the new proposed approach for conducting preliminary engineering. RMC explained that the purpose of the breakout discussion group is to identify a list of projects that would under further development. The concepts selected for further development would undergo preliminary engineering which may include scope definition, mapping, and conceptual engineering plans for some infrastructure. RMC explained that the level of preliminary engineering will depend on the number of concepts selected for focused work.

A revised schedule was presented showing how the proposed preliminary engineering would be incorporated. In March, draft preliminary engineering for each of the concepts selected during this meeting will be presented to the MCG, with finals prepared for the April MCG meeting.

RMC explained during the small group breakout, each group would be given a worksheet to identify concepts that the group feels have low, medium, and high value, as well as projects that the group “can live with.” There was discussion about the subjective nature of the word “value” and RMC provided several considerations for the small groups, including the extent to which a concept meets MCG objectives, how the concept might be positioned for funding, and

how well the concept reflects a regional balance of benefits. Under the “can live with it” category, the group could live with it as-is, could live with it if additional refinement is completed, or could not live with it under any circumstances.

RMC re-iterated that the process should be completed by consensus and should not include voting of any kind.

III. EBMUD Presentation on Reservoir Operations

East Bay Municipal Utility District provided an overview of the District’s reservoir operations, including how and when the District makes decisions about releases from Pardee and Camanche Reservoirs, as well as the requirements mandating those releases. This presentation will be posted to the protected portion of the website.

IV. MCG Decision on Portfolio

Each of the three small groups met to discuss each concept and complete the worksheet provided by RMC. After each group had completed the exercise, RMC presented the concepts that received a high value by any group and a “yes, can live with it” by all groups.

Concepts in group 4 (Groundwater Management) and concepts in group 7 (Surface Water) were addressed by the group in an effort to reach consensus. After some discussion, it was decided that Concept 4c (San Joaquin County Groundwater Banking and Exchange) be moved to the parallel track and that Concept 4a (Groundwater Banking within the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin) and Concept 4e (San Joaquin Groundwater Banking and Exchange Conceptual Modeling and Feasibility Work) be combined into one concept that would evaluate multiple sources for groundwater banking and exchange. Additionally, it was decided that the proposed concept submitted by the Calaveras Planning Coalition be revised to a feasibility study looking at potential uses for wastewater from the East Bay and Contra Costa County. After further discussion, it was decided that this concept would be combined with concepts 4a and 4e.

After some discussion, there was a proposal to combine concepts 7b (Raise Lower Bear Reservoir Feasibility Update and Preliminary Engineering), 7c (Surface Storage Regional Assessment), 7d (Re-operation of Existing Storage), and 7e (Optimization of Calaveras County Reservation) into one concept titled “Water Supply Reliability for Amador and Northern Calaveras Counties.” It was further suggested that Concept 7d not be combined and be developed as a stand-alone concept.

The following concepts were approved for preliminary engineering by the MCG:

- 2a: Municipal Recycled Wastewater Recharge Program

- 2b: Constellation Winery Wastewater Reuse
- 2c: Amador County Regional Reuse
- 4a: Groundwater Banking within the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin
- 4b: Amador and Calaveras Counties Hydrologic Assessment
- 4d: North San Joaquin Water Conservation District Infrastructure Improvements
- 5a: Regional Urban Water Conservation Program
- 5b: Regional Agriculture Conservation Program
- 7b-7e: Water Supply Reliability for Amador and Northern Calaveras Counties
- 7d: Re-operation of Existing Storage
- 8a: Jeff Davis Water Treatment Plant Replacement
- 8b: Rehab of Transmission Main
- 8c: Barney Way Septic System Conversion
- 8d: Lake Camanche Village Recycled Water Project

V. Revised Benefit Allocation Methodology

This discussion was postponed to the March meeting to allow more time for small group discussion.

VI. Wrap-Up and Action Items

None.