



Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency Agenda Transmittal

Agenda Item: 5

Subject: Approach to Implementation of Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Funded Projects

Contact: Christina Buck

Phone: 552-3593

Meeting Date: 8/24/2023

Regular Agenda

Department Summary: In December 2022, the GSA submitted a grant application to the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program to fund six components for \$7.367 million. Applications were reviewed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Financial Branch and a draft award list was released in May 2023 that recommended partial funding for about \$5.527 million to the GSA for the work included in the application. The component not recommended for funding was the Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Analysis and Site Evaluation project. Final awards have not yet been released but are anticipated in the next month or so. Next steps include establishing a grant agreement between the GSA and DWR, conducting a competitive process (Request for Proposals) to select consultants to conduct the work, and executing contracts with consultants for each project. Our understanding at this time is that all grant projects must be completed by mid-2026. In order to get work underway as soon as possible once final awards are announced and a grant agreement is in place, staff is seeking board direction on the approach to implement the grant funded activities.

Staff has regrouped some of the tasks from the grant application into comprehensive and cohesive projects that could be conducted under multiple consultant contracts. The attached table shows the recommended projects and their detailed tasks and budgets. These are consistent with tasks and budget numbers included in the grant applications resulting from project development last fall and Board action in November 2022. They have however been shifted around and recombined differently. In addition, some of the tasks/projects have been identified for implementation by Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation (DWRC). As a member agency, DWRC intends to continue to provide technical assistance related to technical aspects of the Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) (monitoring, modeling, annual reports, project development) and leadership regarding inter-basin coordination throughout Butte County and the region. The attached presentation slides outline the proposed projects and approach.

The following are Proposed Projects to be implemented by the Wyandotte Creek GSA:

1. GSP Data Gaps and Refinements
2. Outreach Program
3. Regional Conjunctive Use Project

The following are Proposed Projects to be implemented by DWRC as specified in a subrecipient agreement:

1. Inter-basin Coordination and Modeling
2. Data Management System Enhancement
3. Annual Reports
4. Fee Study

The subrecipient agreement would also include grant funds for the DWRC to conduct grant administration and project management on behalf of the GSA and to provide technical assistance on Groundwater Sustainability Plan updates. The subrecipient agreement is anticipated to total \$930,000 over the grant implementation period. A subrecipient agreement with Thermalito Water and Sewer District would also be drafted for their Plant Capacity Upgrade project (\$2.318 million).

Fiscal Impact: None

Staff Recommendation: Provide direction to staff to begin Request for Proposals process and drafting the subrecipient agreements for the Proposed Projects, once DWR announces final awards.

Proposed Projects- SGM Grant Program Draft Awards

v. 8/16/2023

Wyandotte Creek GSA Projects (thru grant agreement with DWR)

#	Project Title	Tasks	Budget	Project Total
1	GSP Data Gaps and Refinements	Develop Approach for Interconnected Surface Water SMC	\$ 200,000	\$ 1,808,750
		Five-Year GSP Evaluation Report	\$ 175,000	
		Landowner Access Agreement/Site Access		
		Multi-Completion Monitoring Wells Planning		
		Shallow Wells and Stream Gages Planning	\$ 70,000	
		Multi-Completion Monitoring Wells Installation		
		Shallow Wells and Stream Gages Installation	\$ 1,200,000	
		Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Biological Field Surveys		
		Create Community Monitoring Plan and Equip Volunteer Wells with Monitoring Equipment		
		Community Monitoring Data and Visualization	\$ 118,750	
Community Monitoring Program Engagement and Education				
Inter-basin Coordination- Monitoring Network	\$ 45,000			
2	Outreach Program	Outreach and Education Program		\$ 90,000
		Inter-basin Coordination	\$ 70,000	
		Grower Education and Outreach	\$ 20,000	
3	Regional Conjunctive Use Project	Intra-Basin Water Exchange Feasibility Study: Planning and Feasibility		\$ 380,000
		Agricultural Surface Water Supplies Feasibility Study: Planning and Feasibility		
		Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Piloting Program: Planning and Feasibility	\$ 280,000	
		Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Pilot Program	\$ 100,000	
Sub-Total				\$ 2,278,750

Butte County Water and Resource Conservation Projects (thru Subrecipient Agreement w/ GSA)

#	Project Title	Tasks	Budget	Project Total
1	Interbasin Coordination and Modeling*	Sac River- Inter-basin Coordination - Joint Analysis & Eval. of GSPs	\$ 190,000	
		Feather R- Inter-basin Coordination - Joint Analysis & Eval. of GSPs	\$ 190,000	
		Update Butte Basin Groundwater Model (BBGM)	\$ 100,000	
		Stakeholder Outreach	\$ 10,000	\$ 490,000
2	DMS Enhancement	Data Management System (DMS) Enhancements		\$ 125,000
3	Annual Reports	Prepare Annual Reports (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)		\$ 155,000
4	Fee Study	Conduct a Fee Study for Long-term Financing of the Wyandotte Creek GSA		\$ 100,000
5	Grant Administration	Grant admin, reporting, invoicing, project management		\$ 200,000
6	Technical Assistance to Support GSP Updates			
		Develop Approach for ISW SMC/Five-Year GSP Evaluation Report		\$ 100,000
Subrecipient Total				\$ 930,000

* Note: Project funded in part by Vina grant and Wyandotte Creek grant. Wyandotte Creek share is \$250,000



Approach to Implementation of SGM Grant Program Funded Projects

Christina Buck
 Wyandotte Creek GSA Board
 August 24, 2023

Wyandotte Creek- Draft Award

#	Component Name	Task #	Task Title	Budget	Budget Category
1	Grant Administration		Grant Administration	\$ 200,000	
2	GSP Implementation, Outreach, and Inter-basin Coordination Activities			\$ 1,175,000	Total
		1	Conduct a Fee Study for Long-term Financing of the Wyandotte Creek GSA	\$ 100,000	b
		2	Prepare Annual Reports (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)		d
		3	Response to DWR GSP Determination		d
		4	Develop Approach for Interconnected Surface Water Sustainable Management Criteria (ISW SMC)		d
		5	Five-Year GSP Evaluation Report		d
		6	Update Butte Basin Groundwater Model (BBGM)		d
		7	Data Management System (DMS) Enhancements		d
		8	Inter-basin Coordination - Conducting Joint Analysis and Evaluation of GSPs	\$ 1,005,000	d
		9	Outreach and Education Program		e
		10	Inter-basin Coordination	\$ 70,000	e
3	Regional Conjunctive Use Project			\$ 400,000	Total
		1	Intra-Basin Water Exchange Feasibility Study: Planning and Feasibility		b
		2	Agricultural Surface Water Supplies Feasibility Study: Planning and Feasibility		b
		3	Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Piloting Program: Planning and Feasibility	\$ 280,000	b
		4	Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Pilot Program	\$ 100,000	c
		5	Grower Education and Outreach	\$ 20,000	e
4	Monitoring Network Enhancements			\$ 1,433,750	Total
		1	Landowner Access Agreement/Site Access		b
		2	Multi-Completion Monitoring Wells Planning		b
		3	Shallow Wells and Stream Gages Planning	\$ 70,000	b
		4	Multi-Completion Monitoring Wells Installation		c
		5	Shallow Wells and Stream Gages Installation	\$ 1,200,000	c
		6	GDE Biological Field Surveys		d
		7	Create Community Monitoring Plan and Equip Volunteer Wells with Monitoring Equipment		d
		8	Community Monitoring Data and Visualization	\$ 118,750	d
		9	Community Monitoring Program Engagement and Education		e
		10	Inter-basin Coordination	\$ 45,000	e
5	Thermalito Water Treatment Plant Capacity Upgrade			\$ 2,318,534	Total
		1	Construction		c
				\$ 5,527,284	TOTAL AWARD

The Work Ahead

Phase 1: Next 6 months

- Confirm Projects and role of implementing agencies
- Establish Grant Agreement with DWR (GSA<->DWR)
- Establish Subrecipient agreements
- Release project specific Request for Proposals (RFPs), establish/coordinate selection committees, select consultants, and execute contracts

Phase 2: Early 2024 thru Spring 2026

- Ongoing project management (coordinate with consultant/Management Committee/WAC/Board, project outreach, grant reporting/invoicing)

Staff recommends Butte County manages the grant and provides project management (funded by the grant) on behalf of the GSA

Proposed Projects

1. GSP Data Gaps and Refinements
 2. Outreach Program
 3. Regional Conjunctive Use Project
 4. Interbasin Coordination and Modeling
 5. Data Management System (DMS) Enhancements
 6. Fee Study and Annual Reports
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- Wyd Crk
GSA
- Dept. of
Water &
Resource
Conservation

GSA Projects

Project Title	Tasks	Budget	Project Total
GSP Data Gaps and Refinements	Develop Approach for Interconnected Surface Water SMC	\$ 200,000	
	Five-Year GSP Evaluation Report	\$ 175,000	
	Landowner Access Agreement/Site Access		
	Multi-Completion Monitoring Wells Planning		
	Shallow Wells and Stream Gages Planning	\$ 70,000	
	Multi-Completion Monitoring Wells Installation		
	Shallow Wells and Stream Gages Installation	\$ 1,200,000	
	Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem Biological Field Surveys		
	Create Community Monitoring Plan and Equip Volunteer Wells with Monitoring Equipment		
	Community Monitoring Data and Visualization	\$ 118,750	
Community Monitoring Program Engagement and Education			
Inter-basin Coordination- Monitoring Network	\$ 45,000	\$ 1,808,750	
Outreach Program	Outreach and Education Program		
	Inter-basin Coordination	\$ 70,000	
	Grower Education and Outreach	\$ 20,000	\$ 90,000
Regional Conjunctive Use Project	Intra-Basin Water Exchange Feasibility Study: Planning and Feasibility		
	Agricultural Surface Water Supplies Feasibility Study: Planning and Feasibility		
	Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Piloting Program: Planning and Feasibility	\$ 280,000	
	Agricultural Irrigation Efficiency Pilot Program	\$ 100,000	\$ 380,000
	Sub-Total		\$ 2,278,750

Butte County Projects

As a member agency and partner with the GSA, Butte County would implement these projects. The projects would be managed by Butte County Department of Water and Resource Conservation Staff.

1. Inter-basin Coordination and Modeling - for Vina and Wyandotte Creek (\$490K)
2. Data Management System Enhancements (\$125K)
3. Annual Reporting – existing contract with Luhdorff & Scalmanini (LSCE) (\$155K)
4. Fee Study – existing contract with LSCE (\$100K)

1. Inter-basin Coordination and Modeling

Sac River- Inter-basin Coordination - Conducting Joint Analysis and Evaluation of GSPs	190,000	
Feather R- Inter-basin Coordination - Conducting Joint Analysis and Evaluation of GSPs	200,000	
Update Butte Basin Groundwater Model (BBGM)	100,000	
Stakeholder Outreach	xxxx	\$ 490,000

Note: Wvd Creek grant share is \$250,000

Proposed GSA Subrecipient Agreement with Butte County

- Specifies the tasks/deliverables within the DWR Grant Agreement that will be implemented by Butte County. It outlines the associated budget, deliverables, and schedule of those projects.

Agreement to Include:

1. Project Management and Grant Administration (\$200K)
2. Technical Assistance to support GSP Updates (\$100K)
3. Inter-basin Coordination and Modeling (\$250K)
4. Data Management System Enhancements (\$125)
5. Annual Reporting and Fee Study (\$155K and \$100K)

Total Agreement Amount: \$930,000

Subrecipient Agreement with Thermalito Water and Sewer District (TWSD)

- Project: TWSD Plant Capacity Upgrade (\$2.318M)

Recommended Board Action

- Confirm Proposed Projects for GSA and Butte County (see summary table)
- Provide direction to staff to begin RFP process and drafting the subrecipient agreements once DWR announces final awards

Buck, Christina

From: Ostrovskiy, Nikolay <NOstrovskiy@buttecounty.net>

Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 2:12 PM

Subject: Well Permit Data through Q3 of Water Year 2023

Hello,

Attached is the well permit summary report which includes data through Quarter 3 of Water Year 2023 (April 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023). Please note that our office continues with data clean-up efforts that started in 2020 which will be reflected in the increase of water well permit finals.

Highlights for this quarter:

- Decrease in destruction/repair/deepening permits
- Data indicates decrease of reported dry wells compared to previous quarter (only 1 dry well reported).
- Data indicates majority of dry wells occurring in Chico with average well depth of 108 feet.
- Majority of new wells subject to Executive Order N-7-22 (Drought Order) appear to be within the Butte Subbasin (areas of Nelson, Richvale, Biggs and Gridley).

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Nikolay Ostrovskiy

Program Manager, Land Use & Solid Waste

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