

# **DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**

## **Pauma Valley Groundwater Basin**

### **Community Meeting**

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 | Pauma Valley, CA

*Prepared by the Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP), CSU Sacramento*

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#### **A. Background**

In September 2014, Governor Brown signed the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), marking a fundamental shift in the management of water resources in California. Under the legislation local agencies have been charged with the responsibility to form groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) to create and implement groundwater sustainability plans (GSP) leading to sustainable groundwater basins. The ultimate goal is to create a GSA(s) and GSP(s) that is responsive to the interests of beneficial uses and groundwater users while simultaneously protecting the long term reliability of the resource.

To assist with this effort in the Pauma Valley Groundwater Basin (PVGB) and assess stakeholder interests, concerns and goals for GSA formation, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has provided professional facilitators from the California State University Sacramento's Center for Collaborative Policy (Center) to conduct a series of community meetings and stakeholder interviews.

The feedback received by stakeholders and at community meetings will help all parties understand the range of perspectives, areas of agreement and disagreement, and issues that must be resolved in the GSA formation process and subsequent GSP development. Success will ultimately depend on the commitment and participation of a large number of people and organizations throughout the development and implementation process.

## B. Opening & Meeting Objectives

Marina Pischolish, Center for Collaborative Policy (CCP) facilitator, opened the meeting, welcomed the community and reviewed the agenda. The purpose of this meeting was to provide the Puuma Valley community with an update on efforts to form a GSA for the basin. Meeting goals were as follows:

- a. Review key details of the SGMA legislation re: GSA formation and its function.
- b. Update the community on progress being made by the PVGB GSA Work Group.
- c. Understand competitive versus collaborative problem solving processes, and why it matters.
- d. Learn the view of Tribes, Private Pumpers and Mutual Water Companies regarding the PVGB GSA.
- e. Seek feedback on a draft proposal for PVGB GSA Values, Design Principles, and Points of View.
- f. Clarify next steps and the next community meeting date.

Meeting participants were each provided with a Public Comment/Feedback form, use of which was optional. An anonymous summarization of completed forms and written comments collected can be found in **Appendix A**.

Workshop information, including the PowerPoint presentation can be accessed via the San Diego County Website at: <http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/SGMA/san-luis-rey-valley.html>

## C. SGMA and the Job of the GSA

Using PowerPoint slides, Meagan Wylie, CCP facilitator, provided an overview of:

- SGMA legislation
- The GSA formation process
- Roles and responsibilities of a GSA
- Proposed single GSA approach for the PVGB

The members of the Pauma Valley GSA “Workgroup” were also reviewed. It was emphasized that while many of these members are likely participants in the GSA, this Workgroup is not officially the GSA. The Workgroup is currently working to determine who else should be involved, and how it may structure the GSA.

## D. GSA Decision Making Matters

Dr. Pisolish next provided a brief introduction to the basic principles of, and importance of, collaborative decision making. She explained the following, and how the concepts relate to the PVGB GSA formation process:

- Special interest advocacy versus collaborative dialogue
- Positions versus interests
- Simple majority rule versus sufficient agreement for success
- Dynamics of group decision-making

Following this discussion, participants were asked to turn to their neighbors, share their thoughts, and answer questions 1 and 2 on their feedback forms.

## E. Feedback from Tribes, Private Pumpers and Mutual Water Companies

### Tribes

Chairman Bo Mazzetti, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians and President, San Luis Rey Indian Water Authority, provided an update on Tribes' interest in engagement, related to the PVGB GSA formation effort. He sought to clarify and correct any perception that the five Tribes located within the upper portion of groundwater basin are not involved in the SGMA process. At this time, they are closely following the GSA workgroup efforts and GSA formation process, while simultaneously determining how myriad Tribal laws and regulations tie into SGMA. Tribal representatives have been communicating with community members on an informational and Advisory-level basis. They have interest in a SGMA Tribal Advisory Group, "off to the side" of the GSA, as expressed by Chairman Mazzetti. Furthermore, the Tribes agreed that Lori Johnson has kept them adequately informed of the progress in forming a GSA for the Valley, and they are comfortable with the current process, going forward. They currently do not desire a more active role in the workgroup conversations. It is the Tribes' intention that once the PVGB GSA is formed, they will become more involved. In this way, their engagement will be a more focused group of individuals.

Chairman Mazzetti noted that when, and if, the Tribes should desire to formally join the PVGB GSA will be determined on a Tribe-by-Tribe basis. He further commented that the Tribes all recognize and appreciate the need to work together on the issue of water. Water is a global issue; one person's water use affects the availability to all others.

Dr. Pisolish further noted that a task of a GSA is to conduct hydrogeologic studies to thoroughly and accurately characterize its groundwater basin. Information and data provided by the Tribes would complete the characterization of the basin. If, when and how such data will be shared between involved parties is one matter that will be addressed in the future, following

the formation of the PVGB GSA.

### Private Pumpers and Mutual Water Companies

Dr. Piscalish provided an overview of initial feedback on SGMA and PVGB GSA formation process received to date by private pumpers and mutual water companies. During the stakeholder assessment process, Dr. Piscalish spoke with as many as 20 individuals, selected to represent a broad and diverse set of representatives of this larger stakeholder group. As many of the comments and concerns shared by private pumpers and mutual water companies were similar, general themes were presented as collective feedback. Questions from Stakeholders were also shared. For details, please refer to the PowerPoint slides.

Following this overview, meeting participants were asked to again turn to their neighbors, share their thoughts, and answer questions 3 and 4 on their feedback forms.

## F. Pauma Valley GSA: A Work in Progress

During the last GSA Workgroup meeting, proposed *values, design principles*, and key voices to include in the GSA were developed. These ideas were shared with community members. Additionally, Dr. Piscalish explained the purpose and need for a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) agreement. For additional details, please refer to the PowerPoint slides.

Following this overview, meeting participants were asked to again turn to their neighbors, share their thoughts, and answer questions 5 through 8 on their feedback forms.

## G. Open Discussion and Comment Period

*Unless otherwise noted, responses were provided by CCP Staff.*

- A community member who resides in the Rancho Pauma Mutual Water Company (RPM) service area expressed apprehension toward the possibility of having the current PVGB Workgroup member from Yuima MWD serve on the formal GSA as his representative due to negative past history. He would like RPM to have a voice in the process, or a seat at the GSA table.
  - The concern was recognized, and it was validated that Mutuels want a voting representative(s) in the GSA, and representative that they put forward to fill that role. Approximately 8-10 other persons representing small Mutuels raised their hands in concurrence with this sentiment. The number and nature of pumper and mutual representation, as well as the process by which representatives will be is not yet known.
- The County of San Diego has the desire and the ability to participate in the GSA because of its land use responsibilities. Land use, development, and population will all change over time. How will these factors play into the overall goal of achieving sustainability,

and how will land use factors be considered in the basin's water budget? Are there other things that could come into play beyond land use control that would affect the water budget?

- SGMA is an enormous undertaking, and the implementation of it is highly complicated. There are some answers that are not yet known, that will be determined by practical use or implementation, with course correction required along the way. These questions may be beneficial for a future PVGB Technical Advisory Group, if formed.
- **Comment:** DWR very recently released their draft Best Management Practices (BMPs). BMPs are intended to provide clarification, guidance, and examples to help GSAs develop the essential elements of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the sustainable management of groundwater. The Draft Best Management Practices and meeting agendas are available for viewing and download at <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/bmps.cfm>
- Is there anything more in terms of outreach, communication, information sharing, etc. that the GSA Workgroup can do to keep connected and engaged with the Tribes?
  - **Chairman Mazzetti:** The outreach and communication is being conducted, and the Tribes are well informed. There is nothing additional to suggest at this time. Once the GSA is formed, there may be new suggestions to make.

## H. Next Steps and Closing

Over the coming weeks, the GSA Workgroup will meet to continue discussions on developing a GSA structure that is responsive to community feedback and the requirements of SGMA.

The County of San Diego now has a website where SGMA public meeting information is posted: <http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/SGMA/san-luis-rey-valley.html>. The County plans to upgrade the website in the near future to allow for posting of associated meeting materials. The GSA Workgroup may decide with discretion which of their non-public meetings can be posted to the County website.

The next PVGB Community Meeting will be on **January 12, 2017**.

## APPENDIX A: Public Comment Form Responses

Please note that completion of these Comment Forms was entirely optional; not all meeting participants elected to complete a form, or answer all questions. The forms were intended to provide a general sense of community members' points of view on the items discussed at the meeting. Comments provided were transcribed directly from written forms.

1. I understand the goal(s) of SGMA and what our community must do to comply with the legislation.

<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	1	0 Responses
	2	1 Response
	3	3 Responses
	4	6 Responses
	5	6
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	6	13 Responses

2. I support the goal of our PV GSA working in a collaborative manner, i.e., striving for full participation, mutual understanding, inclusive solutions and shared responsibility.

<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	1	0 Responses
	2	0 Responses
	3	2 Responses
	4	2 Responses
	5	7 Responses
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	6	18 Responses

3. I agree with the feedback offered by mutual water companies and private pumpers.

<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	1	0 Responses
	2	0 Responses
	3	2 Responses
	4	6 Responses
	5	4 Responses
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	6	11 Responses

4. In addition to the feedback offered by mutual water companies and private pumpers, I say...

- I agree with all that was brought up; challenge is getting all to work together.
- To your point about misinformation and getting ahead of that... spot on. And to reiterate, I am very nervous about the future of my farming operation and hope/trust that the GSA will have my "voice/concerns/likes" in mind as they progress.

- 20 people is a very small sample of people [mutual and private pumpers] to talk to. Though the feedback hit on almost everything.
- What does having “a voice” mean for mutual water companies? Does it equal a vote? What happens if our current representative doesn’t represent our interests?
- When this GSA is formed, are the leaders voted in or is by usage? If you collect fees how do you charge, by usage? Is there more than one GSA in the basin?
- Please ensure private pumpers without imported water are part of the discussion and not just lumped in as private pumpers who have access to another water source.
- I strongly want a voice and a vote for RPM. RPM has 1,000 customers. Its interests are diverse – people, farming, etc. *(multiple comments received)*
- Mutual water companies need to be included, meaning have a voice and a vote in the GSA.
- Votes are everything. Opinions matter but votes count.
- When is it appropriate to consolidate agencies?
- I think inclusion into the formation process is essential for all the different stakeholder interests to ensure their feedback is incorporated. This would entail an immediate change in the makeup of the “workgroup.”
- Need to consider health and safety in water cutbacks.
- Are there outside of the basin solutions that can be brought in?
- More information is needed to make a better decision at this time.
- What if Tribes do not participate? Has the State any “higher” authority and plan for execution of and enforce SGMA without Tribal participation?
- Still have major concerns that there are more and larger “straws” in the ground that are pumping more groundwater that until now was more available to long term valley growers. The water table is already negatively impacted and to some degree this effort seems “too little, too late.”
- Most hard decisions will be based on the “water budget” – that is calculations for the San Luis Rey groundwater basin. If the budget of inflows and outflows is wrong, it won’t work.
- Curtail SDG&E in water damage. Curtail SDG&E if fire starts by under grounding.
- It is unclear to me what specific options are for review of compliance. It is unclear what individual homeowners can do to contribute. Timetables seem unrealistically short.
- Verification and accuracy of data (inputs and outputs); measurements for use; baselines and timelines

**5. I support the draft Values proposed by the Work Group to guide the GSA formation.**

<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	1	2 Responses
	2	0 Responses
	3	2 Responses
	4	5 Responses

	5	9 Responses
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	6	8 Responses

- Commit to regulation
- Include collaboration as a value
- To add one more: be respectful and educated about Tribal (federal) water rights and how that plays into SGMA.

**6. I support the Design Principles proposed by the Work Group to guide the GSA formation.**

<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	1	2 Responses
	2	1 Response
	3	2 Responses
	4	4 Responses
	5	12 Responses
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	6	5 Responses

- Don't have particular representatives
- I would make amendment – that it should include not just Tribes' "needs" but also their (federal) water rights- this is something that should be written into what's considered.
- Does not include enough scientific basis.

**7. I agree with the "Critical Voices" identified in today's presentation by the Work Group.**

<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	1	2 Responses
	2	0 Responses
	3	1 Response
	4	4 Responses
	5	9 Responses
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	6	8 Responses

**8. Do you think there are "key stakeholders" that are not represented or over-represented? If so, list them.**

- Are the higher usage groups represented by everyone? It looks like they will be the enforcement majority. They sit at the head of the room looking like they will lead.
- I think Municipals are over-represented relating to the amount of groundwater that they manage.
- May need to coordinate with upstream users – even those outside of the basin: Vista Water District (Lake Henshaw, Warner Springs, etc.) Gravity has a role in groundwater charging. *(multiple comments)*
- Yes, water users in the SLR watershed who are outside the Bulletin 118 basin boundary.



- RPM should be represented (*multiple comments*)
- Thank you for putting in stewards of natural resources and the environmental/conservation voices, since that often gets forgotten but is critical.

**9. Topics to address at future SGMA community meetings should include: \_\_\_\_\_. Or additional comments to share.**

- How are some of the other GSAs proceeding? Share some of their ideas.
- We need a democratic organization; the leaders need to be voted in.
- Recognizing historical conservation efforts by agencies in an effort to relieve basin pumping. E.g. there are voices that believe that they've already gone above and beyond to support sustainable groundwater management.
- Progress on adhering to the outlined principles.
- More stakeholder input.
- How to ensure deadlines are reached?
- Develop critical paths to be completed by when.
- Put "Phases" on the overall objectives.
- In a continuing drought, should our timeline for guidelines or assessment and mitigation be implemented sooner?
- Basin water versus fractured rock water – does SGMA apply to fractured rock?
- Need understanding of how groundwater is recharged (rain levels, gravity...?)
- Uplands areas (directly outside basin edges) are important to be considered throughout the process, since these are often important recharge areas, to be protected.
- Need more information on how Tribal water concerns will impact any efforts or requirements by private pumpers and mutuals.
- Land use planning by the County – future homes, nurseries and businesses that will create additional "water withdrawals."
- Thank you. Best/most informative public meeting to date.