



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

# SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE

715 P Street | Sacramento, CA 95814 | P.O. Box 942836 | Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

December 9, 2021

John Brodie, Point of Contact  
Delta-Mendota Subbasin  
842 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Banos, CA 93635

RE: Delta-Mendota Subbasin - 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Dear John Brodie,

As the Point of Contact responsible for communication among the various Plan Managers within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (Subbasin), the Department of Water Resources (Department) is contacting you to thank you for submitting your groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) for evaluation and assessment as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Throughout the Subbasin, six separate GSPs were prepared by 23 groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) pursuant to a required coordination agreement. Collectively, the six GSPs and the coordination agreement will, for discussion and evaluation purposes, be treated and referred to as the Plan for the Subbasin. This letter provides a preliminary update of the Department's evaluation and assessment of the Plan.

Department staff have substantially completed a review of the six GSPs covering the Subbasin and the materials considered to be part of the coordination agreement. While this letter is not a final determination, Department staff have identified several deficiencies which will preclude the Department's approval of your Plan. The final determination and assessment will be provided to you and posted to the SGMA Portal no later than January 23, 2022. The assessment will describe the deficiencies precluding approval and determine that the Plan is incomplete. The deficiencies described in the forthcoming official written assessment will have accompanying corrective actions that the GSAs must address within 180 days from issuance.

Ahead of receiving the final determination and assessment for your Subbasin, we encourage your GSAs to review the deficiencies associated with the plans prepared for other subbasins in the San Joaquin Valley, which are documented in previously issued letters; the letters are posted to the SGMA Portal.<sup>1</sup> Deficiencies for your Subbasin will include similar themes, and may include other items, such as deficiencies related to coordination among the GSPs. The Department recommends that you begin to coordinate with your Subbasin's GSAs, their governing boards, applicable technical advisory committees, and interested parties to discuss tentative approaches to addressing deficiencies.

Once the Department issues the official written assessment, your Subbasin will have the opportunity to resubmit materials to address the deficiencies within 180 days. After the Department reviews those materials, the Plan could be subsequently approved if the GSAs have taken corrective actions to sufficiently address the deficiencies identified. Alternatively, after consultation with the State Water Resources Control Board, the Department could determine the Plan to be inadequate if the GSAs have not taken sufficient actions to correct the deficiencies. The inadequate determination would provide an opportunity to develop a Plan that satisfies the requirements of SGMA while under the oversight of the State Water Resource

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/status>

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Control Board until Plan implementation can return to local control.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Sustainable Groundwater Management Office staff by emailing [sgmps@water.ca.gov](mailto:sgmps@water.ca.gov). We look forward to scheduling a meeting with you once the final determination and assessment are posted in late January.

Thank you,

*Paul Gosselin*

Paul Gosselin  
Deputy Director of Sustainable Groundwater Management