

INTRODUCTION

Derrick Williams with Montgomery and Associates, GSA Consultant assisting in writing the GSP for the Paso Basin, has sent out the four attached documents describing potential approaches to Projects and Management Actions for addressing supplementing groundwater or reducing groundwater use. The two messages below are excerpts from emails that accompanied the four review documents:

FIRST:

#1. A fact sheet that outlines the approach to implementing projects and management actions in the Paso Robles subbasin. These are our current opinions on a viable way forward. We are presenting these ideas as a starting point for discussions. We realize that this approach will change based on feedback from GSAs and their constituents.

This fact sheet should serve as a basis for public discussion. Because this is for public consumption, we have tried to avoid project detail that might sidetrack public conversation. The point of this fact sheet is to prompt discussion on the overarching approach, not details of particular projects.

#2. We've also attached a list of points of discussion that relate to some of the assumptions and ideas in this fact sheet. You can use these points of discussion to prompt conversation with your Board of Directors or your constituents. We believe these are some of the issues that will be of concern to various constituents in the Subbasin. As we state on the points of discussion document, we do not need to come to agreement on all these points. However, we should identify conceptual agreements on these points to make sure there is an agreed to process after the GSP is adopted.

SECOND:

We have attached two more documents that supplement the information in the Projects and Actions Fact Sheet. The Fact Sheet was intentionally written at a high level. Our goal is to prompt public discussion and engage stakeholders around the general structure of implementing projects and management actions. We intentionally avoided adding too much detail to the Fact Sheet to keep the initial conversations and public input at a programmatic level. It is important that we get public buy-in to the overall projects and management action framework before we adjust project details.

We realize however that some members of your GSA and members of the public may be interested in additional details. Therefore, we are providing these two supplemental documents.

#3. This document provides additional detail on the potential water supply projects included in the fact sheet. Each project includes a discussion of assumptions underpinning the project costs, potential technical difficulties with the project, estimated project costs, and a map of the project area. These are conceptual level costs only and there are many assumptions that will need to be refined. While the costs are rough, they do provide a method for comparing various projects.

#4. document is named “Pumping Fees Example”. This document provides a theoretical example of how the water charge framework will be implemented; and what the fees might mean financially to an individual grower. This document is presented as a series of slides. As with the supplemental projects information, there are a number of assumptions in this document that are not applicable to all growers. The example included in this document assumes that no agricultural growers reduce their pumping and the future overdraft is addressed by retiring land and importing water from two sources. The final slide shows the per-acre cost to an example grower, and the impact that per acre cost has on the growers bottom line. It is important to acknowledge that there are many assumptions in these calculations, however we believe it is important to illustrate example costs that growers may incur in the future, and how this program leads to sustainability while growers remains profitable.

We believe the Fact Sheet remains the primary document for engaging public conversation about projects and management actions. We reiterate that these public conversations must start immediately.

If you have any questions about these two supplemental documents, do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

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