

ATASCADERO BASIN

Groundwater
Sustainability Agency



Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Meeting Time: 4:30 p.m.

Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting
Connect via web to attend:

<https://zoom.us/j/95264108041?pwd=Y1ZlOG1nRUJlOUtBdVdCMlY3WTl0QT09>

Meeting ID: 952 6410 8041

Passcode: 605626

Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 952 6410 8041

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Order of Business
Executive Committee members may request to change the order of business.
5. Introductions
6. General Public Comments
The Executive Committee invites members of the public to address the committee on any subject that is within the purview of the committee and that is not on today's agenda. Comments shall be limited to three minutes.

7. Consent Agenda

The following items are considered routine and non-controversial by staff and may be approved by one motion if no member of the Executive Committee wishes an item removed. If discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by an Executive Committee member and will be considered separately. Questions or clarification may be made by the Executive Committee members without removal from the Consent Agenda. Individual items on the Consent Agenda are approved by the same vote that approves the Consent Agenda unless an item is pulled for separate consideration. Members of the public may comment on the Consent Agenda items.

- a. Minutes – February 4, 2021

8. Old Business:

9. New Business:

- a. GSP Section 9, Projects & Management Actions
- b. GSP Section 10, Implementation Plan
- c. Request for Future Items
- d. Next Meeting: July 7, 2021, 4:30 p.m.

10. Informational Items

- a. DWR Prop 1 Grant Progress Report, Q1 2021

11. Adjournment

ATASCADERO BASIN

*Groundwater
Sustainability Agency*



TO: Executive Committee

FROM: GSA Staff/ John Neil, Atascadero Mutual Water Company

DATE: April 7, 2021

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 7.a, Minutes from February 4, 2021 Meeting

The Executive Committee (Committee) of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) held a meeting on Wednesday, February 4, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. via streaming video conference call due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Roll Call: Chairperson Grigger Jones called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Present at the Committee meeting were Voting Members Jones, Navid Fardanesh, Susan Funk, and Debbi Arnold. A quorum (minimum of 4 voting representatives) of the Committee was established. Voting Members John Hamon and Rob Rossi and Non-voting Member Tom Mora were absent.

Participating Staff and Consultants:

Atascadero Mutual Water Company – John Neil

City of Atascadero – Lara Christensen

City of Paso Robles – Christopher Alakel (*)

County of San Luis Obispo – Angela Ford

Walnut Hill Mutual Water Company – Mark Gabler

Templeton Community Services District – Jeff Britz

GEI Consultants – Mike Cornelius and Lydia Holland

GSI Water Solutions – Paul Sorensen

Others in attendances: John Hollenbeck, Bob Roos, Laurie Smoot (*), Dale Ouimette (*), Gary Turnquist (*)

(*) indicates part-time attendance

Order of Business: The Committee Members reviewed the order of the meeting's agenda and confirmed to conduct the meeting as presented in the agenda.

Introductions: Chairperson Jones introduced new voting member Susan Funk from the City of Atascadero to the Committee, replacement for former City of Atascadero voting member Roberta Fonzi.

General Public Comments: Chairperson Jones opened public comment and, seeing none, closed public comment.

Consent Agenda:

Agenda 7.a: October 7, 2020, Meeting Minutes – The Committee reviewed the minutes from the October 7, 2020, meeting. No discussion or changes were noted.

Voice vote of Voting Members: Ayes – Jones, Fardanesh, and Arnold. Nays – none. Abstained – Funk. Motion carried.

Agenda 7.b: Notice – AMWC Urban Water Master Plan Update – John Neil, General Manager with Atascadero Mutual Water Company, presented this item. No discussion occurred and the notice was received.

Old Business Agenda: (None)

New Business Agenda:

Agenda 9.a: GSP Section 8, Sustainable Management Criteria – Neil and Mike Cornelius with GEI Consultants presented the agenda item. The draft sustainability goal for the Atascadero Basin is:

The goal of the Atascadero Basin GSP is to sustainably manage groundwater resources over the long term for the benefit of Basin stakeholders. This GSP outlines the approach using information developed for this GSP to achieve a sustainable groundwater resource and continue to avoid undesirable results throughout the 20-year SGMA implementation horizon and beyond, while meeting the water supply needs of Basin stakeholders. In adopting this GSP, it is the express goal of the GSA to balance the needs of all groundwater uses and users in the Basin. We have been and will continue to integrate projects and management actions with the natural system in the Basin to operate the Basin sustainably.

Cornelius identified the six statutory sustainability indicators that a GSA shall monitor to track and compare against Sustainability Management Criteria (SMC) established by the GSA. Five of these six sustainability indicators that apply to the Basin include:

1. Chronic lowering of groundwater elevations levels
2. Reduction in groundwater storage
3. Degraded water quality
4. Land subsidence
5. Depletion of interconnected surface water

The sixth sustainability indicator, sea water intrusion, is not applicable to the Basin.

Cornelius stepped through all five of the sustainability indicators and presented the technical basis for establishing Minimum Threshold and Measurable Objectives for each. The Committee members' questions were addressed by both Neil and Cornelius. Cornelius reminded the stakeholders to submit all comments of the various chapters of the GSP into the communication portal at <https://portal.atascaderobasin.com/>.

Chairperson Jones opened the item for public comment, and after seeing none, closed public comment. Voting member Fardanesh moved for the recommended action, and the motion was seconded by voting member Funk. Voice vote of Voting Members: Ayes – All. Nays – none. Motion carried.

Agenda 9.b: Request for Future Items – The Committee did not offer any suggestions for future agenda items.

Agenda 9.c: Next Meeting: April 7, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. – The Committee did not offer any comments regarding the next scheduled meeting.

Informational Items:

Agenda 10.a: DWR Prop 1 Grant Progress Report – The Committee did not offer any comments.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Jones adjourned the meeting at 6:19 p.m.

Submitted by: _____
Committee Member Rossi, Secretary

DRAFT

ATASCADERO BASIN

*Groundwater
Sustainability Agency*



TO: Executive Committee

FROM: GSA Staff/ John Neil, Atascadero Mutual Water Company

DATE: April 7, 2021

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9.a, GSP Section 9, Projects & Management Actions

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize staff to post Section 9, Projects & Management Actions, of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan on the Communications Portal for a 45-day public comment period.

DISCUSSION:

This section of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) describes the projects and management actions that will be developed and implemented in the Basin to continue to ensure sustainability.

Because the Basin is currently being managed sustainably, as evidenced by historic groundwater levels in the Basin, there are no projects or management actions that are required to achieve sustainability at this time. Some future projects and management actions may assist in improving the understanding of the groundwater system to enhance the overall water management capability in the Basin to continually meet existing and new requirements and accountability for improved and more efficient water management.

Given the nature of the need, most projects and management actions will be implemented with an as-needed, adaptive-management approach, with decisions based largely on funding availability and identified need at the time. The projects and management actions identified in this section are supported by the adaptive management strategy described in Section 10, which allow for the GSA to respond to unexpected changes in conditions so that potential future undesirable results can be avoided.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The progress report included in this agenda package includes a summary of costs incurred to date for preparation of the GSP. Fifty percent of the cost to develop the GSP, including preparation of the sustainable management criteria, will be funded through a Proposition 1 grant awarded to the GSA by the Department of Water Resources, with the remaining costs being a local match.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Draft GSP Section 9, Project & Management Actions

Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Draft Section for Public Comment

Section 9

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Projects and Management Actions

Released for Comment April 8, 2021

Comments for this draft document are being collected via an electronic form available online at www.atascaderobasin.com. If you require a paper form to submit via US mail, please contact Atascadero Mutual Water Company at 5005 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422.



Thank you for your interest in sustainable groundwater management.



Consulting
Engineers and
Scientists



Draft Atascadero Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Projects and Management Actions

Section 9

DRAFT

April 2021



Prepared for: Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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9. Projects and Management Actions

The participating agencies of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) agree to work together to protect the groundwater resources of the Atascadero Basin (Basin) to meet the current and future beneficial uses in the Basin by developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that conforms with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The hydrologic conditions and hydrogeologic setting of the Basin and ongoing proactive water management have demonstrated the resilient nature of the Basin and avoidance of groundwater overdraft conditions. As a result, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has designated the Basin as very low basin priority that is being sustainably managed.

This section describes the projects and management actions that will be developed and implemented in the Basin to continue to sustainably operate the Basin in accordance with §354.42 and §354.44 of the SGMA regulations.

Because the Basin is currently being managed sustainably, as evidenced by historic groundwater levels in the Basin, there are no projects or management actions that are required to achieve sustainability. Some future projects and management actions may assist in improving the understanding of the groundwater system to enhance the overall water management capability in the Basin to continually meet existing and new requirements and accountability for improved and more efficient water management.

Given the nature of the need, most projects and management actions will be implemented with an as-needed, adaptive-management approach, with decisions based largely on funding availability and identified need at the time. The projects and management actions identified in this section are supported by the adaptive management strategy described in Section 10, which allow for the GSA to respond to unexpected changes in conditions so that potential future undesirable results can be avoided.

9.1 Summary of Projects

Because the Basin is currently managed sustainably there are no projects that are required to achieve sustainability. However, there are some projects that are desired to fill existing data gaps and to enhance the GSA's understanding of the Basin.

9.1.1 *Supplement the Monitoring Network*

The existing monitoring network and Representative Monitoring Network are presented in Section 7 (Monitoring Networks) of this GSP. The GSA identified data gaps using guidelines in

the GSP regulations and Best Management Practices (BMPs) published by DWR on monitoring networks (DWR, 2016). Plans to fill those gaps are outlined below.

9.1.1.1 Groundwater Level Monitoring Improvements

The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (County) has been monitoring groundwater levels county-wide on a semi-annual basis for more than 50 years to support general planning and for engineering purposes. Groundwater level measurements are taken once in the spring and once in the fall. The monitoring takes place from a voluntary network of wells. The voluntary monitoring network has changed over time as access to wells has been lost or new wells have been added to the network. Routine monitoring of groundwater levels is conducted by the County in the Basin. The monitoring network also includes private wells in the Basin that are monitored under confidentiality agreements. These wells are not shown on GSP maps and figures.

The existing GSP groundwater level monitoring network satisfies the requirements cited in DWR's BMP. However, hydrogeologists working with the GSA have identified two areas in the Basin where the network could be enhanced. These data gaps are in the Paso Robles formation aquifer and Salinas River alluvial aquifer in locations where existing private agricultural and domestic supply wells exist.

The GSA will take the initial steps to fill these data gaps by reaching out to the private well owners in these areas to assess their willingness to participate in the monitoring program. Notices will also be placed on the project website to inform the public and other agencies regarding the expansion of the monitoring network. The GSA will investigate incorporating existing wells into the monitoring network to the extent that they meet the needs and requirements of the monitoring program.

This activity will be completed within the first five years of implementation to supplement the existing monitoring network to continue improving the understanding of aquifer conditions, support development of the groundwater model, and monitor conditions to assess compliance with the sustainable management criteria if the newly added well(s) are included as a Representative Monitoring Site. This activity supports the development of the best available information in the basin and helps reduce the uncertainty of the basin setting and groundwater conditions.

Because this activity focuses on using existing wells there are no permitting or regulatory processes required. The GSA will plan to get permission from the well owners to allow their information to be included in the voluntary network so the data from the well may be shared with the public, otherwise the information will be collected under the confidentiality agreement.

This activity will be directed by the purveyors in the Basin, or the County as part of their normal operations, to there is no anticipated additional cost for this activity.

9.1.1.2 Groundwater Quality Monitoring Improvements

The GSP groundwater quality monitoring network is based on existing supply wells and there are no spatial data gaps in the network. There is adequate spatial coverage in the network for both principal aquifers to assess impacts to beneficial uses and users. The primary data gap is that well depth and construction information for many wells in the monitoring network is unknown. The GSA will try to fill this data gap by trying to match wells included in the groundwater quality monitoring network with well logs.

This activity supports the development of the best available information in the basin and helps reduce the uncertainty of the basin setting and groundwater quality conditions by providing additional understanding of the water quality within the primary aquifers. This activity will be completed within the first five years of implementation for the wells currently in the groundwater quality monitoring network. Because this activity focuses on using existing wells there are no permitting or regulatory processes required. This activity will be directed by the purveyors in the Basin, or the County as part of their normal operations, so there is no anticipated additional cost for this activity.

9.1.1.3 Identify New Monitoring Wells for Incorporation into the Groundwater Level Monitoring Network

The GSA will investigate the need for new monitoring wells on an as-needed basis, to the extent existing wells cannot fill groundwater level data gaps. These wells can fill gaps spatially, with depth, or gaps related to Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) and surface water/groundwater interaction. Additionally, the wells may provide locations to assist in aquifer testing and may provide additional locations for water quality monitoring. The GSA will evaluate the need for new monitoring wells in the very shallow subsurface to improve the understanding of GDEs and surface water/groundwater interaction.

This activity will be completed within the first five years of implementation to supplement the existing monitoring network to continue improving the understanding of aquifer conditions. This activity supports the development of the best available information in the basin and helps reduce the uncertainty of the basin setting and groundwater conditions by filling data gaps in the basin setting and monitoring basin conditions.

This activity will be directed and paid by the GSA and may have costs ranging from \$50,000 to \$200,000 over the five-year period. Because this activity focuses on new wells there will be some permitting or regulatory processes required. Notices will also be placed on the project website to inform the public and other agencies regarding the potential expansion of the monitoring network.

9.1.2 Develop a Groundwater Model

A groundwater model will need to be developed specific to the Basin and surrounding watersheds to improve the basin understanding to support ongoing sustainable management of the Basin. The model will need to reflect the latest groundwater basin boundaries identified in the 2016 Basin Boundary Modification. The model should account for the water demands of the beneficial users in the Basin and represent surface and subsurface inflows from the surrounding watersheds. The model should correlate with the model used in the adjacent Paso Robles Subbasin to reflect boundary conditions between the two basins.

Once developed, the model will be the primary technical tool in overall groundwater management, including supporting GSP updates and implementation. Scheduled within the first 5 years of implementation, the GSA will lead development of the model. The model will be updated as needed, but no less than every 5 years, to maintain an accurate representation of groundwater management activities and their impact on the groundwater resources within the Basin.

This activity will be completed within the first five years of implementation to continue improving the understanding of aquifer conditions and management considerations in the Basin and assess and potentially refine the sustainable management criteria. This activity supports the development of the best available information in the basin and helps reduce the uncertainty of the basin setting and groundwater conditions.

There are no regulatory or permitting requirements to develop the groundwater model. This activity will be directed and funded by the GSA and may have costs ranging from \$200,000 to \$300,000. Actual costs to develop the groundwater model will need to be refined based on developing the modeling goals and objectives.

Notices will also be placed on the project website to inform the public and other agencies regarding the development of the groundwater model.

9.2 Summary of Management Actions

The stakeholders of the Basin have actively managed the Basin for many years prior to and following the signing of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in 2014. Currently the Basin is identified a very low priority basin based on the 2019 DWR Basin Prioritization. As a result of the Basin status and ongoing groundwater management activities, implementation of many of the actions identified in this GSP will occur on an as-needed basis to maintain the sustainable groundwater conditions of the Basin.

In general, basin-wide management actions will apply to all areas within the Basin and reflect basic GSP implementation requirements such as monitoring, reporting, and outreach, including necessary studies and early planning work; monitoring and filling data gaps with additional monitoring sites; and annual reports and GSP updates. Area-specific management actions may be implemented in those areas experiencing persistent issues that may not support the continuing sustainable management of the Basin. An adaptive management approach will be implemented to identify the specific actions necessary to meet local needs and support basin-wide sustainable groundwater management.

9.2.1 Basin-Wide Management Actions

The GSA will take the initial steps on the Basin-wide management actions associated with monitoring and reporting information associated with implementation of the GSP described below.

To information stakeholders and interested parties of these activities' notices will also be included in billing statement issued by water purveyors. Those individuals not receiving water from one of the waters providers in the Basin will be contacted by mail. This approach has been used during the development of the GSP. Additionally, a notice will be placed on the project website to inform the public and other agencies regarding of the status of these activities.

This activity will be completed on an as-needed basis throughout the first five years of implementation. This activity supports the development and distribution of the best available information in the basin and helps inform other agencies, basin stakeholders and interested parties.

There are not permitting requirements associated with this activity. This activity will be directed by the purveyors in the Basin, or the County as part of their normal operations, to there is no anticipated additional cost for this activity.

9.2.1.1 Monitoring, Reporting, and Outreach

Monitoring, reporting, and outreach reflect the core functions that the GSAs need to provide to comply with SGMA regulations. The GSAs will direct the monitoring programs outlined in Section 7 to track Basin conditions related to the five sustainability indicators that are applicable to the Basin. Data from the monitoring programs will be routinely evaluated to ensure sustainability is maintained or to identify whether undesirable results are on the horizon. Data will be maintained in the Data Management System (DMS). Data from the monitoring program will be used by the GSA to guide decisions on management actions in the Basin. Data will be used to prepare annual reports to Basin stakeholders and the DWR. The reports will provide

information to guide decisions on projects that may affect the Basin. Reports will comply with DWR submittal requirements and will be signed by a GSA authorized party. Data will be organized and available to the public to document Basin conditions relative to Sustainable Management Criteria (Section 8).

9.2.1.2 De Minimis Self-Certification

A system that allows for *de minimis* basin extractors to self-certify that they extract two (2) acre-feet or less per year for domestic purposes will be developed for the purposes of implementing the GSP.

9.2.1.3 Non-De Minimis Extraction and Reporting Program

This GSP calls for a program that will require all non-*de minimis* extractors to report extractions annually and use a water-measuring method satisfactory to the GSA in accordance with Water Code Section 10725.8. It is anticipated that the GSA will develop and adopt regulations to implement this program. The GSA will adopt water duty factors representative of various land uses within the basin to estimate groundwater extractions. These duty factors will be developed using metered data from properties with representative land uses.

9.2.1.4 Annual Reports (SGMA Regulation §356.2)

Annual reports will be submitted to DWR starting on April 1, 2022. The purpose of the report is to provide monitoring and total groundwater use data to DWR, compare monitoring data to the sustainable management criteria, and to report on management actions and projects implemented to maintain sustainability. Annual reports will be available to Basin stakeholders.

9.2.1.5 5-Year GSP Updates and Amendments (SGMA Regulation §356.2)

In accordance with SGMA regulatory requirements (§356.4), five-year GSP assessment reports will be provided to DWR starting in 2027. The GSA will evaluate the GSP at least every five years to assess whether it is maintaining the sustainability goal in the Basin. The assessments will include a description of significant new information that has been made available since GSP adoption or amendment and whether the new information or understanding warrants changes to any aspect of the plan.

9.2.1.6 Develop Public Data Portals and Coordinate on Data

The Basin is included in the County-wide Groundwater Data Management System (DMS) being developed for San Luis Obispo County to manage data collected and used to support groundwater management activities in the groundwater basins located within the County. The DMS is needed to meet SGMA requirements (§352.6). The DMS will be used to store collected data needed to support the management and reporting of SGMA for the Basin. The DMS will need regular updates of the data collected for the Basin.

This activity is scheduled to be completed on a regular basis, anticipated to be twice a year, to enter water level and other data into the DMS to keep it current to support various reporting requirements.

9.2.1.7 Continued GDE Evaluation

GDEs are defined in the GSP regulations as “ecological communities or species that depend on groundwater emerging from aquifers or on groundwater occurring near the ground surface.” A process was performed to identify potential GDEs, as separate from vegetation that may receive water supplies from other sources.

The analysis was based on the best available science, including the NCCAG database and information on the local near surface hydrogeologic conditions as well as the connectivity between rivers and streams and the shallow aquifer. Rooting depths of the nearby vegetation was also considered in the GDE evaluation.

Scheduled within the first 5 years of implementation, the GSAs will consider analyzing a combination of shallow groundwater level data and remote sensing data on vegetative cover to further analyze any relationship between lower groundwater levels and reduced GDE health.

9.2.1.8 Estimation of Groundwater Uses

Metering groundwater production has been avoided due to the high initial and ongoing costs and the limited benefits of metering compared to available methods for estimating production. However, while domestic use can be estimated based on population and per-capita use, and agricultural use can be estimated based on crop type, self-supplied groundwater uses can be more difficult or impossible to estimate.

The initial approach is to conduct a study using existing metered wells at selected agricultural locations of various crop types to assess the accuracy of agricultural groundwater use. These estimates could utilize California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) data from the Atascadero Station (Station 163) to refine these estimates.

9.2.2 Specific Management Actions

Area-specific management actions may be implemented to target a localized area or aquifer to continue to meet local needs while supporting sustainable operation of the Basin. Some of the management actions listed below may be implemented as-needed based on implementation of our adaptive management approach.

9.2.2.1 Supplemental Supplies from Nacimiento Water Project

Several of the water purveyors within the Basin entered Water Delivery Entitlement Contracts with the County to participate in the Nacimiento Water Project (NWP). The NWP annual water supply allocations listed in Table 9-1 are for the purveyors in the Basin. As described in Section

6 (Water Budgets) during the current water budget period, representing the 2012-2016 period, the deliveries from the NWP ranged from 730 to 4,790 acre-feet per year and averaged 2,160 acre-feet per year. If needed in dry years, additional deliveries from the NWP could be imported to support groundwater pumping from the alluvial aquifer.

Table 9-1 Nacimiento Water Project Allocations

NWP Participants	Allocations (AFY)
AMWC	3,244
City of Paso Robles	6,488
Templeton CSD	406
SMR MWC	80
Total	10,218

Source: 2016-2018 Resource Summary Report Volume I of II – Findings and Recommendations San Luis Obispo County General Plan Public Review Draft page 16¹

This activity is part of normal operations and will be implemented annually by each NWP Partner throughout GSP implementation. This activity provides the greatest opportunity in the Basin to provide additional water supplies into the Basin to support sustainable groundwater management. This activity uses existing facilities and operations so no additional permitting or regulatory processes required. This activity will be directed by the NWP Partners in the Basin, of their normal operations and is part of their operating costs, to there is no anticipated additional cost for this activity. The actual operations will be documented and reported to DWR, other agencies, and the public in the GSP annual reports.

¹ Same link as footnote 4 page 16

9.3 Projects and Management Actions Implementation

The Basin will implement projects and management actions under an adaptive management strategy when opportunity and funding are available. The GSA developed the two matrices below to support the decision-making process for initiation of projects and management action. Table 9-2 provides a summary of the status, criteria for implementation, the potential range of costs and the benefits of each project and management action. Table 9-3 summarizes how each project and management action will address the sustainability indicators for the Atascadero Basin.

Table 9-2. Projects and Actions Implementation Matrix

Activity	Status	Implementation Timing/ Criteria for Implementation	Range of Costs	Accrual of Benefits
PROJECTS				
Supplement the Monitoring Network	Ongoing	As needed	Considered to occur within existing operational costs.	Continuous improvement of monitoring network to support understanding of basin conditions
Groundwater Levels	Ongoing	Near-term. To occur within first 5 years	Considered to occur within existing operational costs.	Fill groundwater level monitoring data gaps.
Groundwater Quality	Ongoing	Near-term. To occur within first 5 years	Considered to occur within existing operational costs.	Improve understanding of water quality in primary aquifers
New Monitoring Well Identification	As Needed	Near-term. To occur within first 5 years	Considered to occur within existing operational costs.	Fill groundwater level monitoring data gaps.
Develop a Groundwater Model	Planned	Near-term. To occur within the first 5 years.	\$200,000 to \$300,000	Provide updates to first GSP update. Continually benefits from updated information to improve groundwater management.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS (BASINWIDE)				
De Minimis Self Certification	Planned	Near-term. To occur within the first 5 years.	Less than \$50,000 over first 5 years.	Improve understanding of groundwater pumping amounts in Basin.

Non-De Minimis Extraction and Reporting Program	Planned	Near-term. To occur within the first 5 years.	Less than \$50,000 over first 5 years.	Improve understanding of groundwater pumping amounts in Basin.
Annual Reports	Planned to comply with SGMA requirements.	Near-term. To occur Each year.	Estimated at \$50,000 for initial annual report. Less than that for following years.	Provide annual updates of continued sustainable management of Basin.
5-Year GSP Updates and Amendments	Planned to comply with SGMA requirements.	Near-term. To occur within the first 5 years.	Estimated at \$250,000 to \$300,000.	Provide updated state of the basin and documentation of sustainable groundwater management of Basin.
Develop Public Data Portals and Coordinate on Data	Ongoing	Near-term. To occur Each year.	Considered to occur within existing operational costs.	Continuous throughout GSP implementation. Evaluated through coordination activities and improvements to data management.
Continued GDE Evaluation	Planned	Near-term. To occur within the first 5 years.	\$50,000 to \$100,000 over first 5 years.	Improve understanding GDE's in basin and surface water-groundwater interaction.
Estimation of Groundwater Uses	Planned	Near-term. To occur within the first 5 years.	Less than \$50,000 over first 5 years.	Improve understanding of groundwater pumping amounts in Basin.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS (AREA-SPECIFIC)				
Supplemental Supplies from Nacimiento Water Project	Ongoing	To occur each year as part of normal operations. May be modified to address drought conditions	Considered to occur within existing operational costs.	Continuous throughout GSP implementation.

Table 9-3 Adaptive Management Strategy by Sustainability Indicator

Activity	Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels	Degraded Water Quality	Land Subsidence	Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water
PROJECTS				
Supplement the Monitoring Network	Continuation of existing monitoring network to continue improving the understanding of aquifer conditions and groundwater movement to monitor for meeting sustainable management criteria.	Continuation of groundwater level monitoring to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators.	Continuation of groundwater level monitoring to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators.	Continuation of existing monitoring network to continue improving the understanding of aquifer conditions and groundwater movement to monitor for meeting sustainable management criteria.
Groundwater Levels	Further improvement of monitoring network to better understand aquifer conditions.	Further improvement of monitoring network to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators	Further improvement of monitoring network to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators	Further improvement of monitoring network to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators
Groundwater Quality	Not applicable	Further improvement of monitoring network to better understand aquifer conditions.	Not applicable	Not applicable
New Monitoring Well Identification	Further improvement of monitoring network in order to better understand aquifer conditions.	Further improvement of monitoring network to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators	Further improvement of monitoring network to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators	Further improvement of monitoring network to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators
Develop a Groundwater Model	Atascadero Basin groundwater model will improve the understanding of the basin and groundwater management.	The groundwater model will improve the improve the ability to manage quality changes driven by upwelling or changes in flow direction.	The groundwater model will improve the improve the ability to manage groundwater levels, which influences the risk of subsidence.	The groundwater model will improve the improve the ability to understand and manage surface water depletions.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS (BASINWIDE)				
De Minimis Self Certification	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels.	Not applicable	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels, which influences the risk of	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels, and the related depletions.

			subsidence.	
Non-De Minimis Extraction and Reporting Program	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels.	Not applicable	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels, which influences the potential of subsidence.	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels, and the related depletions.
Annual Reports	Openness and transparency of GSP showing continued sustainable management.	Openness and transparency of GSP showing continued sustainable management.	Openness and transparency of GSP showing continued sustainable management.	Openness and transparency of GSP showing continued sustainable management.
5-Year GSP Updates and Amendments	Continued and improved sharing of data across organizations, including data to support indicators.	Continued and improved sharing of data across organizations, including data to support indicators.	Continued and improved sharing of data across organizations, including data to support indicators.	Continued and improved sharing of data across organizations, including data to support indicators.
Develop Public Data Portals and Coordinate on Data	Improved data maintenance, data access, data sharing, and transparency.	Improved data maintenance, data access, data sharing, and transparency.	Improved data maintenance, data access, data sharing, and transparency.	Improved data maintenance, data access, data sharing, and transparency.
Continued GDE Evaluation	Improves the understanding of how GDEs relate to the groundwater aquifer accessed by pumping. May allow for refinement of how GDEs are incorporated into the criteria.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Improvement in the understanding of the interaction of deep and shallow groundwater conditions may benefit understanding of depletions.
Estimation of Groundwater Uses	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels.	Not applicable	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels, which influences the risk of	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels, and the related depletions.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS (AREA-SPECIFIC)				
Supplemental Supplies from Nacimiento Water Project	Provides operational flexibility to manage groundwater levels in the Basin to meet sustainable management criteria.	Provides operational flexibility to manage groundwater levels in the Basin to meet sustainable management criteria.	Provides operational flexibility to manage groundwater levels in the Basin to meet sustainable management criteria.	Provides operational flexibility to manage groundwater levels in the Basin to meet sustainable management criteria.

DRAFT

ATASCADERO BASIN

*Groundwater
Sustainability Agency*

TO: Executive Committee

FROM: GSA Staff/ John Neil, Atascadero Mutual Water Company

DATE: April 7, 2021

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 9.b, GSP Section 10, Implementation Plan

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize staff to post Section 10, Implementation Plan, of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan on the Communications Portal for a 45-day public comment period.

DISCUSSION:

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that groundwater sustainability plans (GSP) include a section that outlines how the GSA will implement its GSP. The implementation plan developed for the Atascadero Basin is based on the GSA's current understanding of conditions in the basin. The plan includes consideration of projects and management actions identified in Section 9 of the GSP and other non-project and management actions that are needed to successfully implement the GSP including the following:

- GSP implementation, administration, and management
- Implementation of the monitoring program described in Section 7, Sustainable Management Criteria
- Reporting, including annual reports and 5-year evaluations and updates
- Ongoing implementation of adaptive management strategies
- Funding

The Atascadero Basin has been effectively managed for many years prior to the signing of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in 2014 and currently has a very low priority based on the 2019 Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin Prioritization. As a result of the Basin status and ongoing groundwater management activities, implementation of much of the GSP will occur on an as-needed basis to maintain sustainable groundwater conditions of the basin.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The progress report included in this agenda package includes a summary of costs incurred to date for preparation of the GSP. Fifty percent of the cost to develop the GSP, including preparation of the sustainable management criteria, will be funded through a Proposition 1 grant awarded to the GSA by the Department of Water Resources, with the remaining costs being a local match.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Draft GSP Section 10, Implementation Plan

Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Draft Section for Public Comment

Section 10

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

Released for Comment April 8, 2021

Comments for this draft document are being collected via an electronic form available online at www.atascaderobasin.com. If you require a paper form to submit via US mail, please contact Atascadero Mutual Water Company at 5005 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 93422.



Thank you for your interest in sustainable groundwater management.



Consulting
Engineers and
Scientists



Draft Atascadero Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Section 10

DRAFT

April 2021



Prepared for: Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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10. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

This section is intended to serve as a conceptual roadmap for the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) to start implementing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) over the first five years and discusses implementation effects in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulations sections 354.8(f)(2) and (3).

The implementation plan provided in this chapter is based on current understanding of Atascadero Basin (Basin) conditions and includes consideration of projects and management actions included in Section 9, as well as other actions that are needed to successfully implement the GSP including the following:

- GSP implementation, administration, and management
- Reporting, including annual reports and 5-year evaluations and updates
- Adaptive management strategies
- Funding
- Evaluation of Effects

10.1 GSP Implementation, Administration, and Management

The Basin was actively managed for many years prior to the signing of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in 2014 and is currently a very low priority basin based on the 2019 Department of Water Resources (DWR) Basin Prioritization. As a result of the Basin status and ongoing groundwater management activities, implementation of much of the GSP will occur on an as-needed basis to maintain the sustainable groundwater conditions of the Basin.

Several projects and management actions are scheduled to be fully or partially completed within the first five years:

- Identify existing wells for incorporation into the groundwater level monitoring network
- Identify and install new dedicated monitoring wells for incorporation into the groundwater level monitoring network to fill data gaps
- Refine our understanding of the relationship between groundwater levels and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) health, which may include the installation of very shallow monitoring wells near potential GDEs
- Develop a groundwater model for the Basin
- Continue to utilize imports from the Nacimiento Water Project to continue sustainable management of the Basin

- Improve public access to groundwater data
- Implement adaptive management activities if a triggering event occurs, as described in Section 10.3

To meet the requirements of SGMA, implementation of the GSP will require additional effort and coordination among the *GSA Forming Parties* and *Participating Parties* in the Basin.

- The GSP calls for GSAs to routinely provide information to the public about GSP implementation and ongoing sustainable management of the Basin.
- The GSP calls for a website to be maintained as a communication tool for posting data, reports, and meeting information. The website may also include forms for on-line reporting of information needed by the GSAs (e.g., annual pumping amounts) and an interactive mapping function for viewing Basin features and monitoring information.

10.2 Reporting

Reporting to be performed as part of GSP implementation includes development of annual reports and development of five-year evaluations, which could lead to updates of the GSP.

10.2.1 Annual Reports

Annual reports must be submitted by April 1st of each year following GSP adoption, except years when five-year or periodic assessments are submitted. The GSA will compile information relevant to annual reports and the Basin Point of Contact will coordinate collection of information and submit a single annual report for the Basin to DWR.

Annual reports will be developed to address current needs in the Basin and the requirements of SGMA. Modifications may include additional information and presentation of data over the prior water year (October 1 – September 30). An annual groundwater fact sheet will be developed for dissemination of information to the public.

Annual reports are anticipated to include three key sections: General Information, Basin Conditions, and Implementation Progress.

10.2.1.1 General Information

General information will include an executive summary that highlights the key content of the annual report. As part of the executive summary, this section will include a map of the Basin, a description of the sustainability goal, a description of GSP projects and their progress, as well as an annual update to the GSP implementation schedule. Key required components include:

- Executive Summary
- Map of the Atascadero Basin

10.2.1.2 Basin Conditions

Basin conditions will describe the current groundwater conditions and monitoring results in the Basin. This section will include an evaluation of how conditions have changed over the previous year and will compare groundwater data for the water year to historical groundwater data.

Pumping data, effects of project implementation (if applicable), surface water flows, total water use, and groundwater storage data will be included. Key required components include:

- Groundwater level data from the monitoring network, including contours of seasonal high and seasonal low levels
- Maps for the principal aquifers
- Hydrographs of elevation data at representative monitoring sites
- Groundwater extraction data
- Surface water supply data by sector and source
- Total water use data
- Change in groundwater storage, including maps for the aquifer
- Subsidence rates and associated survey data

10.2.1.3 Implementation Progress

Progress toward successful GSP implementation will be included in the annual report. This section of the annual report will describe the progress made toward achieving interim milestones as well as implementation of projects and management actions. Key required components include:

- GSP implementation progress, including proposed changes to the GSP
- Progress toward maintaining the Basin sustainability goal

Development of annual reports to this GSP will begin following the end of the water year, September 30, and will include an assessment of the previous water year. The assessment will be submitted to DWR on April 1st of the following calendar year. The 2021 annual report covering water year 2021 will be submitted by the GSA by April 1, 2022 Prior to the first five-year assessment to this GSP, which is to be submitted to DWR in January 2027, five annual reports for the Basin will be submitted to DWR between 2022 and 2026.

10.2.2 *Five-Year Evaluation Reports*

An evaluation of the GSP and progress toward meeting the approved sustainability goals will occur at least every five years and with every amendment to the GSP. A written five-year evaluation report (or periodic evaluation report) will be prepared and submitted to DWR. A list with descriptions of the information to be included in the reports is provided below.

10.2.2.1 Sustainability Evaluation

A Sustainability Evaluation will contain a description of current groundwater conditions for each applicable sustainability indicator and will include a discussion of overall sustainability in the Basin. Progress toward achieving interim milestones and measurable objectives will be included, along with an evaluation of status relative to minimum thresholds. If any of the adaptive management triggers are found to be met during this evaluation, a plan for implementing adaptive management as described in the GSP will be included.

10.2.2.2 Plan Implementation Progress

A Plan Implementation Progress section will describe the current status of project and management action implementation and whether any adaptive management actions have been implemented since the previous report. An updated project implementation schedule will be included, along with any new projects developed to support the sustainability goal of the GSP and a description of any projects that are no longer included in the GSP. The benefits of projects and management actions that have been implemented will be described and updates on projects and management actions that are underway at the time of the report will be documented.

10.2.2.3 Reconsideration of GSP Elements

As additional monitoring data are collected, land uses and community characteristics change, and GSP projects and management actions are implemented, it may become necessary to reconsider elements of this GSP and revise the GSP as appropriate. GSP elements to be reassessed may include subbasin setting, management areas, undesirable results, minimum thresholds, and measurable objectives. If appropriate, a revised GSP completed at the end of the five-year assessment period will include revisions informed by the outcomes of the monitoring network and changes in the Basin, including changes to groundwater uses or supplies, and outcomes of project implementation.

10.2.2.4 Monitoring Network Description

A description of the monitoring network will be provided, and data gaps will be identified. An assessment of the monitoring network's function will be included, along with an analysis of data collected to date. If data gaps are identified, the GSP will be revised to include a method for addressing these data gaps, along with an implementation schedule for addressing gaps and a description of how the GSA will incorporate updated data into the GSP.

10.2.2.5 New Information

New information available since the last five-year evaluation or GSP amendment will be described and evaluated. If the new information should warrant a change to the GSP, this will also be included, as described previously in Reconsideration of GSP Elements.

10.2.2.6 Regulations or Ordinances

A summary of the regulations or ordinances related to the GSP that have been implemented by DWR or others since the previous report will be provided. The report will include a discussion of any required updates to the GSP.

10.2.2.7 Legal or Enforcement Actions

Legal or enforcement actions taken by the GSA in relation to the GSP will be summarized, including an explanation of how such actions support sustainability in the Basin.

10.2.2.8 Plan Amendments

A description of amendments to the GSP will be provided in the five-year evaluation report, including adopted amendments, recommended amendments for future updates, and amendments that are underway.

10.2.2.9 Coordination

Ongoing coordination will be required among the GSA Adopting and Participating Agencies, as well as between the GSA and GSAs in Paso Robles Subbasin. The five-year evaluation report will describe coordination activities between these entities such as meetings, joint projects, or data collection efforts. If additional neighboring GSAs have been formed, existing GSAs have been modified, or changes in neighboring subbasins have occurred since the previous report that result in a need for new or additional coordination within or outside the Basin, such coordination activities will also be included and discussed.

10.2.2.10 Reporting to Stakeholders and the Public

Significant outreach activities associated with the GSP assessment and resultant updates will be documented in the five-year evaluation report.

10.3 Adaptive Management Strategies

As part of implementation, adaptive management strategies will be considered for implementation if designated trigger events occur. Triggers for implementation of adaptive management allow for a variety of actions, ranging from coordination and monitoring to management of groundwater extractions and recharge. Triggering events are based on monitoring results and are set in relation to the sustainable management criteria described in Section 8.

10.3.1 Adaptive Management Triggers

The purpose of this adaptive management approach is for the GSA to take necessary action to investigate the cause of observed groundwater level exceedances at the local management level and provide a framework for response to prevent reaching the minimum threshold. Adaptive

management will also occur should other sustainability indicators approach minimum thresholds, even though local management levels are not defined for these other indicators. For other indicators, adaptive management is triggered when minimum thresholds are exceeded, even if not in the percentages or timing defined as undesirable results.

10.3.2 Trigger Response

If a single observation exceeding the local management level or minimum threshold at a representative monitoring site is recorded, the monitoring entity will report this exceedance to the GSA. The GSA will flag the representative monitoring site where the exceedance is observed and bring the flagged monitoring site to the attention of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will consider the results of an investigation of the exceedance performed by the GSA to determine if it is a locally driven change in conditions, or representative of a long-term, Basin-wide change in conditions. The Executive Committee will advise the GSA on a recommended course of action which may include working with water managers near the site. The GSA will take the action it determines to be necessary, including corrective action, additional study, or management modification, if any, in the area influencing the monitoring site.

10.3.3 Corrective Actions

Corrective action to better understand or mitigate impacts may include increased monitoring frequency, coordination and information sharing with overlying land use planning agencies or other water management entities to determine the cause of exceedances, augmenting alternate water supplies for the area, providing additional recharge, and addressing changes in natural recharge in the area. In extreme cases, halting or reducing groundwater pumping in the depths and areas influenced by the representative monitoring site may be considered until conditions recover. Given the current, historical, and projected sustainable nature of the Basin and given the cost associated with developing detailed response plans, details of these adaptive management actions will be further developed only if conditions suggest a reasonable potential for implementation of such strategies.

The corrective action or information gathering will be deemed successful in returning the Basin to sustainable conditions when monitoring indicates that conditions are above the local management level or minimum threshold, or that the issue was a result of localized conditions.

10.3.4 Public Notice and Outreach

Public notice of exceedances of the local management level or minimum threshold at an individual monitoring site will first be made via a web page or public data portal, to the extent developed at that time. Notice will also be provided as an agenda item at associated Forming Parties' or Participating Parties' board or city council meeting or Executive Committee meeting. Actions taken regarding discussion of the cause or corrective action to be taken to improve conditions will be considered during the GSA Executive Committee meetings. Additionally, any exceedances relative to the minimum thresholds and status compared to the other sustainable

management criteria will be reported to DWR in annual reports under this GSP, which will be publicly available following submission to DWR.

10.3.5 *Permitting and Regulatory Process*

Implementation of this adaptive management strategy itself is not anticipated to require permitting or regulatory approvals. However, actions or projects resulting from a need to improve conditions relative to the local management level or minimum threshold will be subject to the appropriate permitting and regulatory processes, if any, and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

10.3.6 *Adaptive Management Strategy Benefits*

The primary benefit anticipated as a result of this adaptive management strategy is continued sustainable groundwater management and maintaining the sustainability goals established for this GSP. Expected benefits also include continued cooperative management of groundwater conditions among the GSA participants. Benefits will be evaluated based on observed groundwater conditions following implementation of this adaptive management strategy and evaluation of long-term conditions at, or improved relative to, the local management level or minimum threshold. An additional benefit of the adaptive management strategy is avoidance of high-cost, restrictive management efforts unless clearly needed as indicated by data and analysis of the data.

10.3.7 *Adaptive Management Responsibilities*

Implementation of the adaptive management strategy will be conducted by the GSA. The Forming and Participating Parties will inform the Executive Committee of exceedances of the local management levels or minimum thresholds and will provide analysis, as needed, to the Executive Committee to identify the cause for the exceedance, whether it is localized or indicative of long-term, regional trends, and the corrective actions, if any, needed to return conditions to those above the local management level. The Executive Committee acts in an advisory role in the effort. The Forming and Participating Parties will take into consideration the Executive Committee's recommendation when implementing actions.

10.3.8 *Status and Timing*

This adaptive management strategy will commence as monitoring activities described in this GSP begin for the purpose of assessing conditions relative to the established sustainable management criteria. If exceedances of the local management level or minimum threshold occur, the management process described above will take place and corrective action or additional study will be initiated by the GSA and put in place until conditions are improved. The accrual of benefits is expected to be continuous throughout the GSP implementation timeframe.

10.3.9 Legal Authority

The GSA adopting this GSP is responsible for the sustainable management of groundwater based on the power and authority granted under the California Water Code. As such, the adopting GSA has the authority to take action deemed appropriate within its legal authority to maintain sustainable groundwater conditions within the Basin.

10.3.10 Costs

Costs associated with this adaptive management strategy include staff time, consultant costs, contractor costs, transportation costs for in-person meetings (if necessary), monitoring and data collection, and actions associated with corrective management. Given the nature of adaptive management, including the broad range of actions that could be taken, these costs cannot be estimated at this time. GSA participants are expected to perform the monitoring and data collection tasks associated with GSP implementation and absorb these costs into their ongoing operations budgets.

10.3.11 Technical Justification

Management of sustainability indicators relative to the established sustainable management criteria is crucial to maintain sustainable conditions within the Basin. It is anticipated that Basin conditions will fluctuate around the established measurable objectives and that long-term trends will demonstrate continued sustainable conditions throughout the Basin across sustainability indicators. This adaptive management strategy outlines a uniform procedure for the GSA to follow in the unprecedented event that collected measurements indicate conditions may be approaching local management levels or minimum thresholds, which protect against undesirable results. With a procedure in place to guide the GSA, early detection and correction of unsustainable conditions is likely to occur.

10.3.12 Reducing Uncertainty

This adaptive management strategy addresses subbasin uncertainty by providing a flexible framework to address potential exceedances of local management levels and minimum thresholds should conditions within the Basin change as a result of unforeseen circumstances.

10.4 Funding

Implementation of this GSP is estimated to cost approximately between \$100,000 and \$200,000 per year. The costs of specific projects and management actions will like vary year by year based in part on needed adaptive management activities and may potentially add between zero dollars to \$300,000 per year or more. Some of these costs are already being incurred through existing groundwater management efforts by GSA participants in their existing operational budgets

10.4.1 GSP Development Funds

Development of this GSP was partially funded through a Proposition 1 Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant from DWR, along with in-kind contributions from the Forming and Participating Parties in the process. The implementation of the GSP, including projects and management actions, will be funded through available grant funding as well as existing revenue streams provided by the Parties.

10.4.2 GSP Implementation Funding Support

As described above, there are substantial costs associated with GSP implementation for the Basin, including costs within the first five years of implementation. Some of these costs are already being incurred through existing groundwater management. While the GSA in the Basin has the powers and authority to impose fees and assessments, other funding sources will be sought by the GSA to reduce the local financial burden. Examples of available other funding sources include various state grant programs through DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and federal sources such as the Reclamation grant programs.

San Luis Obispo County, the City of Paso Robles, and Atascadero Mutual Water Company have been successful in pursuing past grant funding, such as through DWR's Local Groundwater Assistance Fund, Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP) implementation and planning grant programs, and Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant programs. The continued availability of state and federal grant funding to implement this GSP will aid in continued sustainable groundwater management of the Basin. The GSA will track and pursue grant opportunities to fund groundwater sustainability activities and local water infrastructure projects. These projects may include supporting the actions described in this section, or other relevant activities. The nature of projects included in grant applications will depend on the nature of the grant, including allowable projects and projects that are most likely to receive funding.

Implementation of management actions will vary by available funding programs and projects eligible to receive funding. As available outside funding opportunities are identified that fit the needs of the Basin relative to this GSP, the project proponent and the GSA will be notified of the potential to pursue funding. The appropriate entity will then be identified to develop the grant application and associated materials. Grant application materials will be prepared, and proper public notice and outreach will take place to provide opportunity for public comment as specified by the grant program identified. After the grant application is submitted and funding awards have been announced, the successful grant recipient will work with the funding agency to develop a grant agreement to receive funds and maintain funding eligibility. Proper noticing of activities or work products produced with the awarded grant funds will take place according to the grant agreement and funding program guidelines. Details regarding the implementation process for a project will vary by funding program and agreements in place between the funding agency and project proponent. Such activities will take place as funding opportunities are available and as grant agreements are active.

On an as-needed basis, the GSA will track and pursue appropriate funding opportunities through various outside funding sources to implement elements of this GSP. Tracking of outside grant opportunities will be on-going throughout GSP implementation and timing will be highly dependent on available funding programs as well as project status for which funds are being sought. Table 10-1 summarizes potential grant programs or local funding sources that may be used for GSP implementation along with an assessment of the likelihood that the funding source could be obtained to help fund GSP implementation.

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Table 10-1. Potential Funding Sources for GSP Implementation

Funding Source	Likelihood
General Funds or Capital Improvement Funds (of Project Proponents)	High – General or capital improvement funds are set aside by agencies to fund general operations and construction of facility improvements. Depends upon agency approval.
Proposition 68 grant programs administered by various state agencies	Medium – Grant programs funded through Proposition 68, which was passed by California voters in June 2018, are expected to be applicable to fund GSP implementation activities. Grant programs are expected to be competitive. Round 3 is expected to be announced in summer 2021.
Integrated Regional Water Management implementation grants administered by DWR	Medium – Proposition 1 Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grants are expected to be announced in late 2021.
WaterSMART Program grants administered by Reclamation	Medium – Programs include Water and Energy Efficiency Grants (WEEG), Drought Response Program grants, Applied Science grants, and more. In 2021, \$42 million was awarded for WEEG projects alone. Examples of funded projects include canal lining/piping, municipal metering, supervisory control, and data acquisition (SCADA) systems, water storage, water recharge, well construction, and more. Funding is typically available annually or twice a year.
Regional Conservation Partnership Program grants administered by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service	Medium –The 2018 Farm Bill established the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) as a standalone program with \$300M available annually. Once a lead agency executes an RCPP agreement producers and landowners can participate in RCPP funding. The announcement for the next round of RCPP Classic funding is expected to be released in summer 2021. Eligibility requirements will be included in funding announcement.
Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program administered by USDA	Likelihood – Long-term, low-interest loans and grants available for drinking water systems, disposal, and storm water drainage in rural areas (population of 10,000 or less). Applications are accepted year-round.

10.5 GSP Implementation Effects

10.5.1 *Effects on Existing Land Use*

The projected water budget (Section 6) accounts for modest increases in municipal and agricultural water demands that include potential changes in land use but is not likely to limit planned land uses. However, all such regulations will need to be consistent with the applicable statutory constraints, including those described in Water Code Section 10726.4(a)(2) which provides that such regulations shall be consistent with the applicable elements of the city or county general plan, unless there is insufficient sustainable yield in the Basin to serve a land use designated in the city or county general plan and Water Code Section 10726.8(f) which states that nothing contained in SGMA or in a GSP shall be interpreted as superseding the land use authority of cities and counties.

10.5.2 *Effects on Water Supply*

GSP implementation will not significantly alter the existing water supply of the Basin. If entities opt to develop optional water supply projects as outlined in Chapter 9, the Basin's water supply could increase.

10.5.3 *Effects on Local and Regional Economy*

GSP implementation is not expected to impact economic conditions since the Basin is already operated sustainably.

ATASCADERO BASIN

*Groundwater
Sustainability Agency*



TO: Executive Committee

FROM: GSA Staff/ John Neil, Atascadero Mutual Water Company

DATE: April 7, 2021

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 10.a, Proposition 1 Grant Progress Report

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Receive report.

DISCUSSION:

The Proposition 1 Grant awarded to the GSA for the preparation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan requires quarterly progress reports. Progress Report 6 for the period Q1 2021 is attached.

ATTACHMENTS:

A. Progress Report 06, Q1 2021

Grantee Name: Atascadero Mutual Water Company
Grant Agreement No.: 46-12646
Progress Report No.: 6
Reporting Period: 1/1/2021 TO 3/31/2021
Prepared: 4/1/2021

Project: Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

1. Project or Component Description

Develop a SGMA-complaint Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Atascadero Area Groundwater Subbasin of the Salinas Valley Basin identified as Basin No. 3-004.11 in the Department of Water Resources' Bulletin 118 ("Atascadero Basin").

2. Project Progress

Budget Category (a): Grant Administration

- Updates on All Tasks (activities accomplished during the reporting period)
 - Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted

Activity	% complete
Prepared & submitted Grant Amendment 01, approved by DWR	100
Prepared & submitted Invoice 01 to DWR	100
Revised Invoice 01 per DWR comments, provided compiled add'l backup information	100
Prepared & submitted Progress Report 02 to DWR covering 2019 Q2 – 2020 Q1	100
Prepared & submitted Invoice 02 to DWR covering 2019 Q2 – 2020 Q1	100
Prepared & submitted Progress Report 03 to DWR covering 2020 Q2	100
Prepared & submitted Invoice 03 to DWR covering 2020 Q2	100
Prepared Progress Report 04 to DWR covering 2020 Q3	100
Prepared Invoice 04 to DWR covering 2020 Q3	100
Prepared Progress Report 05 to DWR covering 2020 Q3	90
Prepared Invoice 05 to DWR covering 2020 Q3	90
Prepared Invoice 06 to DWR covering 2021 Q1	70
Prepared Invoices for GSA Participants pro-rata share of GSP development costs	100

- Impediments to Completion of Task
 - There are no anticipated impediments to the future completion of Category A tasks.
- Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.
 - Issues associated with the form of the information required by the DWR have been addressed. The amount of information submitted with Inv 03 and future invoices is far more manageable than that submitted with Invoices 01 & 02.

Budget Category (b): Stakeholder Engagement

- Updates on All Tasks (activities accomplished during the reporting period)
 - Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted

Activity	% complete
GSA Executive Committee meeting, 04/03/2019	100
Developed and distributed stakeholder survey. The survey was mailed to every property owner in the Atascadero Basin who does not obtain water service from one of the GSA participant water purveyors.	100
Distributed Communication and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan) outline	100
Deployed version 1.0 of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Communication Portal (GCP), which is linked to the www.atascaderobasin.com website. The GCP documents C&E Plan implementation; tracks stakeholders and interested parties, meetings, and; and collects public comments on draft documents. Full GCP Deployment will include reporting module and enhanced agency usability.	100
GSA Executive Committee meeting, 10/02/2019	100
Posted Sections 4 & 5 of the GSP on the www.atascaderobasin.com website for the public comment via the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Communication Portal (GCP), which is linked to the website.	100
Send notice re: cancelation of January 8, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting	100
Cancel April 1, 2020 Executive Committee due to Corona virus: noticed on website and GCP. Notify interested parties' list of meeting cancelation using GCP.	100
Reviewing options for Stakeholder outreach and coordination meeting in response to COVID-19 pandemic	100
Provide progress report to Executive Committee and post on GCP	100
Conduct Working Group meeting on June 24, 2020.	100
GSA Executive Committee meeting, July 1, 2020. Notify interested parties' list of meeting using GCP. The Executive Committee was a virtual meeting. Notice of the meeting was sent out to the 250 unique interested parties included in the Stakeholder list of the Groundwater Communication Portal. Posted Section 7 of the GSP on the www.atascaderobasin.com website for the public comment via the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Communication Portal (GCP), which is linked to the website.	100
Prepared draft of stakeholder notification post card and questionnaire in preparation of workshop on Sustainable Management Criteria to be held in November 2020 and compiled results.	100
GSA Executive Committee meeting, 10/07/2020	100
Hold stakeholder workshop on GSP Section 8 – Sustainable Management Criteria	100
Coordinate with Executive Committee staff on rescheduling the next EC meeting from January 6, 2021 to February 4 to allow time to consider comments made by the Water Board on the Paso Robles Basin GSP that may be applicable to the Atascadero Basin GSP. Post notice of rescheduled meeting on the communications portal.	100
GSA Executive Committee meeting, 02/04/2021	100
Posted Section 8, Sustainable Management Criteria on the communications portal for 45-day public comment period. The comment period closed on March 29, 2021. Several comments	100

were received via the Groundwater Communication Portal, and others were provided outside the Portal.	
Prepare agenda package for 04/07/2021 Executive Committee meeting	75
Draft GSP Sections 9 (Projects and Management Actions) and Section 10 (Implementation Plan) have been completed and provided to the Working Group for review and will be provided to the Executive Committee Meeting for the 04/07/2021 Meeting with the goal of releasing the chapters for public review.	

- Impediments to Completion of Task
 - The COVID19 pandemic still affects stakeholder outreach task during this period resulting from by preventing in-person attendance at workshops and executive committee meetings. Virtual public meetings will continue to be used to allow people to participate.
- Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.
 - At this point, there is sufficient time in the project schedule to absorb the delays caused by the pandemic. We are working out the details of holding meetings via webinar due to the continued social distancing orders that are anticipated.

Budget Category (c): GSP Development

- Updates on All Tasks (activities accomplished during the reporting period)
 - Milestones or Deliverables Completed/Submitted

Activity	% complete
Circulated draft GSP Section 1 (Introduction) for stakeholder review and comment	100
Circulated draft GSP Section 2 (Agency Information) for stakeholder review and comment	100
Prepare draft GSP Section 3 (Description of Plan Area) for Executive Committee review and released for stakeholder review and comment	100
Prepare draft GSP Section 4 (Basin Setting) for working group and Executive Committee review prior to releasing section for stakeholder review and comment	100
Prepare draft GSP Section 5 (Groundwater Conditions) for working group review and Executive Committee review prior to releasing section for stakeholder review and comment	100
Obtain historical water quality data from municipal agencies in basin	100
Developed approach to groundwater dependent ecosystems evaluation	60
Review consultant task orders for the Phase 2 work, which includes preparation of the following sections of the GSP over the next three quarters and execute task orders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Water Budget 7. Monitoring Network 8. Sustainable Management Criteria 9. Projects & Management Actions 10. Implementation Plan 	100

Prepare GSP Section 7 and forward administrative draft to working group for review and comment.	100
Prepare historical water budget for GSP Section 6 and forward administrative draft to working group for review and comment.	100
Develop assumptions for preparation of future water budget for GSP Section 6 and forward to working group for review and comment.	100
Develop outline of GSP Section 8 for review/workshop to be held at the July 1, 2020 Executive Committee meeting	100
Completed draft of GSP Section 6 and posted on the Communications Portal for 45-day public comment period.	100
Held stakeholder workshop on GSP Section 8 on November 18, 2020	100
Prepared draft of GSP Section 8 for review at February 4, 2021 Executive Committee meeting	100
Posted Section 8, Sustainable Management Criteria on the communications portal for 45-day public comment period. The comment period closed on March 29, 2021.	100
Prepared Section 9, Projects & Actions, and Section 10, Implementation Plan, for review by working group and Executive Committee at its meeting on 04/07/2021	80

- Impediments to Completion of Task
 - There were delays in rolling-out some sections of the GSP due to the inability to hold workshops and public meetings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Describe activities that negatively or positively impacted the schedule and/or budget. If Change Orders (COs) have been approved, describe the reason for those and how the situation was resolved.
 - Progress is still being made on the various sections of the GSP. At this point, there is sufficient time in the project schedule to absorb the delays caused by the pandemic. The project schedule was updated to reflect this delay and was posted on the Portal and sent to interested parties.
 - The EC hearing scheduled for January 6, 2021 where action would be taken on releasing the public draft of Section 8, Sustainable Manager Criteria, was delayed by one month to allow GSA staff to consider comments made by the Water Board on the Paso Robles Basin GSP that may be applicable to the Atascadero Basin GSP.

3. Activities for next reporting period:

Insert general statement of what work is expected to be completed during the next invoice period. Or, insert a column in the table below that provides an estimated due date for the deliverables.

Budget Category (a): Grant Administration

Activity
Awaiting DWR approval of Invoice 05 to DWR
Awaiting DWR approval of Progress Report 05 to DWR
Prepare & Submit Invoice 06 to DWR
Prepare & Submit Progress Report 06 to DWR

Budget Category (b): Stakeholder Engagement

Activity
Hold April 7, 2021, Executive Committee meeting via webinar
Hold working group meeting in advance of April 7 Executive Committee meeting to review agenda and Sections 9 & 10 of GSP
Post Sections 9 & 10 on the communications portal for public review

Budget Category (c): GSP Development

Activity
Finalize Sections 9 & 10 of the GSP, post on communications portal, and solicit public input
Collect gaging data and begin to populate data management system
Complete groundwater dependent ecosystems initial assessment
Begin to assemble final draft GSP from existing sections
Incorporate public comments on draft GSP sections into the final draft

Insert general statement of what work is expected to be completed during the next invoice period. Or, insert a column in the table below that provides an estimated due date for the deliverables.

4. Project Cost Update:

Estimated project costs incurred 01/01/2021 – 03/31/2021	\$80,000
Total funding match billed through 12/31/2020	\$560,294
Total grant share billed through 12/31/2020	\$405,146
TOTAL	\$1,045,000

5. Other Major Issues:

There are no major issues or hindrances to completing the GSP on time and within budget.

Appendix A

Status of Required Deliverables

TABLE 1: Deliverable Table for Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan				
Budget Category Item#	Budget Category Work Items for Review	Estimated Due Date	% Of Work Complete	Date Submitted
(a)	Grant Administration			
	Invoices and associated backup documentation, Inv 05 (waiting for DWR approval)	2/1/2021	70%	
	Progress Report 05 (waiting for DWR approval)	2/1/2021	70%	
	Draft and Final Grant Completion Report	12/31/2021	0%	
(b)	Stakeholder Engagement			
	Communication and Engagement Plan		100%	4/3/2019
	Atascadero Groundwater Communication Portal		100%	4/3/2019
(c)	GSP Development			
Task 1	Section 1. Introduction to Atascadero Basin GSP		100%	4/3/2019
Task 2.1	Section 2. Agency Information		100%	4/3/2019
Task 2.2	Section 3. Description of Plan Area		100%	7/10/2019
Task 2.3	Section 4. Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model		100%	10/2/2019
Task 2.4	Section 5. Groundwater Conditions		100%	10/2/2019
Task 2.5	Section 6. Water Budget		100%	10/13/2020
Task 2.6	Section 7. Monitoring Networks		100%	7/8/2020
Task 2.7	Section 8. Sustainable Management Criteria	3/21/2021	100%	
Task 2.8	Section 9. Projects and Management Actions	5/5/2021	70%	
Task 2.9	Section 10. Implementation Plan	5/5/2021	70%	
Task 2.10	Section 11. Notice and Communications	5/5/2021	70%	
Task 2.11	Section 12. Interagency Agreements	7/7/2021	0%	
Task 2.12	Section 13. Reference List	7/7/2021	30%	

TABLE 1: Deliverable Table for Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan				
Budget Category Item#	Budget Category Work Items for Review	Estimated Due Date	% Of Work Complete	Date Submitted
Task 2.13	Draft GSP	9/1/2021	20%	
Task 2.14	Final Draft GSP and associated GSP content	11/1/2021	0%	

Appendix B

Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination Documentation

Provide a description of all outreach and stakeholder meetings/events conducted for the reporting period. Ensure that the activities described below provides enough justification of the costs included in the invoice (both reimbursement and cost share) especially if the Grant Agreement does not have separate deliverables to justify the costs. Information provided in this Appendix can include, but not be limited to, sign in sheets, agendas, meeting notes, copies of presentation materials, photos of meetings, etc.

These Events include:

- *February 4, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting*



Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

Meeting Date: Thursday, February 4, 2021
Meeting Time: 4:30 p.m.
Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting
Connect via web to attend:
<https://zoom.us/j/97678936447?pwd=anZld2lrN1hiTGRKbGRkT1RMNkpUQT09>
Meeting ID: 976 7893 6447
Passcode: 213619
or
Dial by your location
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 976 7893 6447
Passcode: 213619

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Order of Business
Executive Committee members may request to change the order of business.
5. Introductions
6. General Public Comments
The Executive Committee invites members of the public to address the committee on any subject that is within the purview of the committee and that is not on today's agenda. Comments shall be limited to three minutes.

- *Screen Shot of Communications Portal that Section 8 – Sustainable Management Criteria is available for review and comment.*

Welcome to the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Communication Portal

The County of San Luis Obispo, Templeton Community Service District, City of Atascadero, City of Paso Robles, Atascadero Mutual Water Company, and others have entered into a memorandum of agreement creating a groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) for the Atascadero Basin in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to prepare a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP).

The primary purpose of this Groundwater Communication Portal (GCP) is to facilitate communication with interested parties so they may participate in plan development.

Use the GCP to participate:

- View the calendar to see planned events
- Register for an event to receive updates if the event details change
- Sign up as an Interested Party to be notified when a new event or document is posted

The Executive Committee meets regularly to provide updates on GSP activities. Meetings are open to the public. Parties interested in the management of groundwater in the Atascadero Basin are encouraged to attend.

[Register as interested party](#)

Documents Open for Comment

- [Atascadero GSP DRAFT Section 8](#)

Comment Period Closed

- Atascadero DRAFT Communication and Engagement Plan
- Atascadero GSP DRAFT Section 1
- Atascadero GSP DRAFT Section 2
- Atascadero GSP DRAFT Section 3
- Atascadero GSP DRAFT Section 4
- Atascadero GSP DRAFT Section 5
- Atascadero GSP DRAFT Section 6
- Atascadero GSP DRAFT Section 7

Comments on draft sections of the GSP are being collected through an online form. There is a 30 day or longer public comment period for each section. Use the button below to submit a comment during the public comment period for each section.

[Submit Comment](#)

The list of Attendees at February 4, 2021, Executive Committee Meeting. May not reflect all meeting participants because some join and drop off during the meeting.

Name (Original Name)	User Email	Join Time	Leave Time
Lydia Holland	lholland@geiconsultar	2/4/2021 16:21	2/4/2021 18:18
John Neil (Atascadero Mutual Wat	info@amwc.us	2/4/2021 16:21	2/4/2021 18:18
Robert Jones	grigger@robertmjones	2/4/2021 16:21	2/4/2021 18:18
Mike Cornelius		2/4/2021 16:21	2/4/2021 18:18
	18054662428	2/4/2021 16:22	2/4/2021 18:18
John Hollenbeck		2/4/2021 16:22	2/4/2021 18:18
Bob Roos		2/4/2021 16:26	2/4/2021 18:18
Christopher Alakel		2/4/2021 16:26	2/4/2021 17:54
Debbie Arnold	darnold@co.slo.ca.us	2/4/2021 16:26	2/4/2021 18:18
Laurie		2/4/2021 16:26	2/4/2021 17:27
Navid		2/4/2021 16:26	2/4/2021 18:18
Paul Sorensen		2/4/2021 16:26	2/4/2021 18:18
Jeff Britz		2/4/2021 16:27	2/4/2021 18:18
Angela Ford# County Public Works		2/4/2021 16:27	2/4/2021 18:18
Susan Funk	susan.funk@charter.n	2/4/2021 16:28	2/4/2021 18:18
	16512469296	2/4/2021 16:29	2/4/2021 18:18
Dale Ouimette	dale.ouimette@gmail.	2/4/2021 16:29	2/4/2021 17:36
Mark Gabler		2/4/2021 16:32	2/4/2021 18:18
Lara Christensen		2/4/2021 16:34	2/4/2021 17:43
Gary Tornquist	garyt@alumni.caltech.	2/4/2021 17:05	2/4/2021 18:18

February 11, 2021 Email blast from Atascadero Groundwater Communications Portal re: public comment periods on GSP Section 8 Sustainable Management Criteria.

March 22, 2021 Email blast from Atascadero Groundwater Communications Portal re: public comment periods on GSP Section 8 Sustainable Management Criteria. This is a second reminder that there is one more week to submit comments.

Email blast from Atascadero Groundwater Communications Portal re: February 4, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

Announcement from Atascadero Groundwater Communications Portal re: the February 4, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

The screenshot shows the Atascadero Groundwater Communication Portal (GCP) interface. The header includes navigation links for Home, Calendar, Documents, and Sign In. The main content area is titled "GSA Executive Committee Meeting" and includes a description of the virtual meeting. A "Virtual Meeting" section provides a Zoom link, meeting ID (976 7893 6447), and passcode (213619). A "Date and Time" box specifies the meeting on February 04, 2021, from 04:30 PM to 06:00 PM. A "Virtual Attendance" box contains the Zoom link, meeting ID, and passcode. A "Registration is not open" button is visible. The footer contains contact information and copyright details.

Announcement from Atascadero Groundwater Communications Portal re: the April 7, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting

The screenshot shows the Atascadero Groundwater Communication Portal (GCP) interface for the April 2021 Executive Committee Meeting. The header includes navigation links for Home, Calendar, Documents, and Sign In. The main content area is titled "APRIL 2021 Executive Committee Meeting" and includes a description of the virtual meeting. A "Join Zoom Meeting" section provides a Zoom link, meeting ID (952 6410 8041), and passcode (605626). A "Date and Time" box specifies the meeting on April 07, 2021, from 04:30 PM to 06:00 PM. A "Virtual Attendance" box contains the Zoom link, meeting ID, and passcode. A "Register Now" button is visible. The footer contains contact information and copyright details.

Appendix C

GSP Development Activities

Provide a description of the GSP development activities conducted for the reporting period. Provide enough description to justify the costs included in the associated invoice for both reimbursement and cost share. Describe the decisions made, milestones achieved, etc. Also include any setbacks encountered along the way.

Section 8 – Sustainable Management Criteria	Posted GSP Section 8 on the Communications Portal for a 45-day public comment period. The comment period closed on March 29, 2021.
Section 9 – Project & Actions	Prepare draft of Section 9 for review by working group and for presentation to Executive Committee on April 7, 2021.
Section 10 – Implementation Plan	Prepare draft of Section 10 for review by working group and for presentation to Executive Committee on April 7, 2021.

Appendix D

Project Photographs

Appendix E

Invoice Projections

Agreement Number: 4600012646						
PIN#: 3860-Po1-229						
\$850,758	Funding Match					
\$809,250	Grant Share		<i>italicized = actual</i>			
\$1,660,008	Total					
Calendar Year	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total	
	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	Apr. 1- Jun. 30	Jul. 1- Sep. 30	Oct. 1- Dec. 31		
2019 Grant Share	\$90,829	\$75,038	\$60,153	\$17,462	\$243,482	
2020 Grant Share	\$23,322	\$52,815	\$41,369	\$44,158	\$161,664	
2021 Grant Share	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$275,000	
				sub-total	\$680,146	
2019 Funding Match	\$379,962	\$41,789	\$31,993	\$14,897	\$468,641	
2020 Funding Match	\$13,222	\$27,924	\$25,763	\$24,744	\$91,653	
2021 Funding Match	\$30,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$165,000	
				sub-total	\$725,294	
				Total	\$1,405,440	