

A meeting of the GFWD was opened in person and telephonically on February 20, 2023 at 1:30 PM.

PRESENT: In person: Michael Naito, Seth Kirk, and Don Roberts  
Call-in: Paul Stewart; Garth Pecchenino - QK Consulting  
ABSENT: Diane Kirk, Nick Davis  
PUBLIC: Present: Lakhwinder Brar - Landowner  
Call-in: None

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On a motion by M Naito and a second by P Stewart, the minutes of the regular meeting of January 16, 2023 were unanimously approved as emailed. On a motion by P Stewart and a second by M Naito, the minutes of the Special meeting of January 27, 2023 were unanimously approved as emailed.
3. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: No potential conflicts were identified.
4. GSA/GSP (SGMA): Garth reviewed the attached memo on the latest meeting on the response to the DWR letter of deficiencies for the Madera Subbasin. Garth advised that DWR primary concerns are issues relating to possible domestic well failures and ground subsidence. There needs to be a common plan for dealing with the domestic well but the group agrees that each GSA would deal with this issue independently. DWR thinks subsidence and ground water levels go together. Although for GFWD this does not coordinate. There is a reevaluation of the ground water models with adjustments for local conditions. The interconnection of different ground water levels needs more data on the methodology.

Don reported on the January Subbasin meeting he attended in late January. The main issue was Madera Irrigation District's letter to Madera County regarding issues with County GSP. There was no consensus from the discussion. Each GSA will have their own narrative on the matter. Still awaiting minutes of the meeting from John Davis POC. Garth to follow up to try to get more info. The only real agreement at that meeting was each GSA would work to submit their response to DWR's letter by the deadline and the group would start having meetings to work on the 5-year plan updates starting in April. Garth advised he will have everything ready to submit to the POC on March 1<sup>st</sup> with a draft to the Board. The final data for submittal will be for Board authorization at the March meeting. DWR may require a Resolution by the Board and will provide a draft for action.

Don advised that several landowners have new plantings and the District will get this information to Garth asap.

5. WATER SUPPLY: Don gave an update on the 2022 water supply. The District took 2,123 AF of Uncontrolled Season CI 2 water from Jan 18<sup>th</sup> - Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 or 88 ½ AF per day.

B of R made Uncontrolled Restoration Flow (URF) in the amount of 1,568 AF at \$23/AF available to GFWD starting Feb 10<sup>th</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>. This water is to be paid for at the time of commitment. The time period of use can change with little notice. There will be no refunds on unused water. Don plans to use this from starting Feb 10<sup>th</sup> until the first week in March. It is anticipated there will be more URF and CI 2 water available in March and beyond.

Several landowners are taking water at no charge. No water from the SJR deliveries has reached Cottonwood Creek. Earlier water was diverted to the Secara Reservoir and the Gravelly Ford Canal north of CWC.

Davis Vineyards has a turnout on the pipeline from MID spill to the District's south line. They contracted with MID for purchasing water for recharge on the "white area" vineyards. Any unused water becomes available to GFWD at no charge. They are also putting water for recharge on the orchard in GF. GFWD will get credit for recharge for all the water entering the District.

6. SYSTEM MAINTENANCE: Madera Pumps serviced the District pumps. There was a minor problem with VSP on Pump 2 at the river, but it was easily corrected. Unable to operate the hub-end gate valve at Ave 4 ½ and Rd 21. There are also 3 leaks in the south line. The District has contracted with Cal-West Rain to make repairs. Still awaiting a schedule.
7. MADERA REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP: The group proceeded to the election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman. The nominations of Carl Janzen for Chairman and Kristi Robinson for Vice Chairman were made and seconded. At this point Bobby Macaulay, Madera County Supervisor indicated he would not mind serving as the Chairman or Vice Chairman since he was the the new District 5 Supervisor replacing Tom Wheeler who served as Chairman for several years. Bobby M was nominated as Chairman and Carl J withdrew his nomination. Bobby Macaulay was elected as Chairman and Kristi Robinson was elected Vice Chairman. The highlights of the meeting were :
  - RWMG to acquire their own Zoom account
  - Update of projects
  - Updated project list
  - County Drought Plan discussion
8. ANNEXATION REQUEST: Don reported all proponents had been provided with the current LAFCO Fee Schedule which will be adjusted slightly upward effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. The attached LAFCO Annexation Criteria was also provided to these landowners. Don will provide everyone with a copy of the GFWD documents used on the previous annexation to the District. No action was taken.
- 9 . FINANCIAL REPORT: (a) The Board was presented with a summary of the February 20 2023 bills, the February 20, 2023 summary of the District's Temporary Investments and the February 2023 Income & Expenses for the year, along with the monthly totals of Temporary Investments for 2021, 2022 and 2023. On a motion by M Naito and a second by P Stewart, the Board voted unanimously to approve payment of the February bills in the amount of \$122,111,86.  
  
(b) 2022 Year End Financial Report of Income and Expenses - Don advised he had not included an amount of SGMA/GSA costs nor the Prop 218 income. This will be a March Agenda item.
10. CORRESPONDENCE & MANAGER'S REPORT: The District again received a request for a \$300 contribution to the San Joaquin Valley Ag Water Committee. Don advised years ago we attended the meetings when the MidValley Canal was still a consideration. The group now meets twice a year at ACWA which GFWD does not attend. No action taken.
11. BOARD COMMENTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None
12. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting declared adjourned at 2:25 PM.  
Next scheduled meeting is for Monday March 20, 2023 at 1:30 PM. It is anticipated the meeting will be in person attendance with telephone call-in option.

Agenda item 4 p1



MEMO

**Date:** February 17, 2023  
**To:** Gravelly Ford WD  
**From:** Garth Pecchenino  
**Subject:** GSA/GSP SGMA  
**cc:** Name or delete

**Project No.:** 180035

4b. Incomplete Letter from DWR on GSP's for Madera Basin

The direction by DWR staff is that all four GSP's should read as if it was one GSP for the Basin, therefore meaning that there has to be coordination and the same language in all the GSP's as to the Methodology/Approach on the topic areas required by SGMA guidelines.

The Technical Group has been working to develop the methodology and approach on all the response items to the DWR Incomplete letter. The key areas are as follows:

Coordination Agreement – This includes agreement on the Methodology/approach for the Sustainability goals, Water budget & Sustainable yield. The sustainable yield in the basin is directly tied to Undesirable Results, the four GSP's did not have similar goals or language on this topic.

Since it appears the direction from DWR is all around the protection of private domestic wells and as was the goal of SGMA the protection of valuable infrastructure (Public water systems, bridges, roads, canals, etc.), and the main issue that can cause damage is subsidence, with groundwater levels being tied to subsidence. The importance of the water balance in the basin and the import of surface water flows to reduce and level off the decline of groundwater levels.

The water model for the basin is being proposed to be used to address this topic and provide for a stabilization of the basin by 2040, this would be the stabilization of groundwater levels and the reduction of subsidence.

The Key to achievement is the implementation of projects that address groundwater levels and subsidence. As for the Domestic well mitigation program, it has been proposed to have a basin wide approach and that each GSP area handles the associated costs within their GSP area, thus if there is a domestic well failure in the area of the GFWD GSP then GFWD would mitigate and cover the necessary costs for the replacement of the domestic well or the proportionate cost.

The GSP revision is to use the same approach/Language by all GSP's for Undesirable Results, Minimum Thresholds and the Sustainable management criteria.

I have been putting forward your view that the approach/language has to be such that it allows GFWD to use the data and characteristics of the Gravelly Ford area to be able to represent the nature of the area from the data in the Gravelly Ford area.

Agenda item 4 p2



MEMO

PAGE 2 OF 2

This being said, part of SGMA is that one basin or sub basin has to coordinate with the adjacent basin and not cause undo effects to that adjacent basin. The water model is looking to reduce impacts to Public wells and other key infrastructure, I have asked that since Gravelly Ford is not close enough to such infrastructure that the reduction in groundwater levels be looked at from this prospective and that the levels do not need to be restricted as in the model for the protection of key infrastructure. Attached is a Hydrograph of a Gravelly Ford well showing the proposed threshold for the groundwater level and the additional buffer, I have asked the Model staff to review this and provide a larger buffer due to the criteria above and other factors, both Root Creek and Newstone agreed with my approach, the water model is not providing clarification for the location of the smaller GSA's but applying the same criteria across the whole basin, they have agreed to review this and add in adjustments to the model.

Ken Schmidt Memo:

- 1a. The Pumpage is currently being estimated on the crop consumption based on crop ET, the basis being followed is the same as Ken's response, in the GSP and the Annual Reports.
- 1b. The data from the last three years will be used to determine overdraft as directed by Ken's memo note and reflected in the annual report.
- 1c. I will confirm with Ken on the sustainable yield, this approach has been the same from his original report to the District, with he data collected on the 24 wells in the District.
2. We will conduct another subsidence survey of all the wells in the coming month along with the groundwater levels and use this data first to see the trend of the subsidence, prior to taking on the installation of any monitoring wells.
3. This approach that Ken described in his Memo is what the water model is to reflect, I have requested this information from the Water Model staff to review and provide to Ken.
4. Ken does not like Water Models, but the DWR Staff relies on them for all the basins, the best approach is that the District continues to provide data from the basin and not allow the Water Model staff to make assumptions as to the levels and have a Water model that does not reflect the true conditions in the District boundary. Then comment on the outcomes of the Water model in the annual reports based on the criteria stated in Ken's memo, using only the water-level changes and specific yields to determine groundwater overdraft. The changes will be compared to the results of the model.

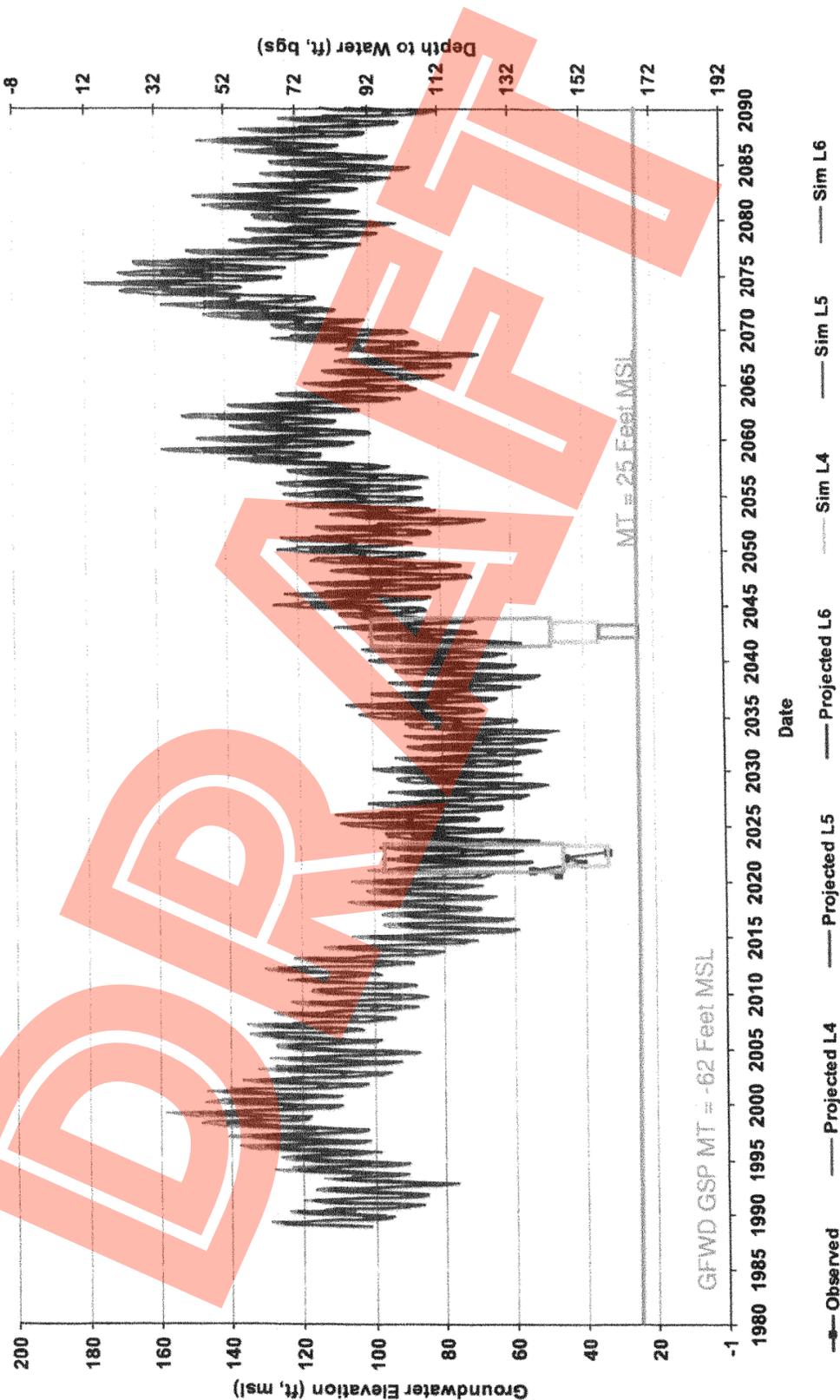
End of Report

GAP

Agenda item 4 p3

Well Name: GFWD 209  
Depth Zone: Unknown  
Subbasin: Madera  
GSE (ft, msl): 191

Total Depth (ft bgs):  
Perf. Top (ft bgs):  
Perf. Bottom (ft bgs):  
Top Model Layer: 4  
Bottom Model Layer: 6



Agenda Item 8 p1

TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Don Roberts

January 16, 2023

RE: LAFCO Annexation Criteria

The following criteria would be applicable to the several annexation requests being evaluated by the District.

1. Lands do not have to be adjacent to District boundaries.
2. Lands within 2 miles of the District boundaries may be annexed.
3. Lands within the GFWD Sphere of Influence would be a separate annexation process. LAFCO application, fees and legal descriptions are all required as well as approval by GFWD.
4. Land outside the GFWD Sphere of Influence would be a separate annexation and all lands in the process would be a single annexation process.
  - a) LAFCO application, fees and legal descriptions are all required as well as approval by GFWD.
  - b) An amendment in the GFWD Sphere of Influence would be required. Currently these lands are within Madera Irrigation District Sphere of Influence, and a concurrence in the amendments would be required from MID.
  - c) A Municipal Service Review would be required by the proponents which will include reimbursing LAFCO for consultant fees to evaluate MSR submitted. Attached is a Table of Contents of the MSR information required.

Agenda Item 8 p2



**GRAVELLY FORD WATER DISTRICT**

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**Board of Directors**

Steven Emmert, Pres.  
Seth Kirk, V. Pres.  
Kenneth Basila  
Diane Kirk  
Paul Stewart

**Manager**

Don Roberts

**MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW**

Gravelly Ford Water District requests an amended Municipal Service Review for the area Proposed for Annexation to the District and the area Proposed for an Amended Sphere of Influence.

Agenda Item 8 p3

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>SECTION 1.0</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1	Municipal Service Review Purpose .....	1
1.2	Background .....	1
1.3	The Issue .....	2
<b>SECTION 2.0</b>	<b>GROWTH AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR THE AFFECTED AREA</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>SECTION 3.0</b>	<b>DISADVANTAGED UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>SECTION 4.0</b>	<b>PRESENT AND PLANNED CAPACITY OF PUBLIC FACILITIES, SERVICES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN ANY DISADVANTAGED UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>SECTION 5.0</b>	<b>FINANCIAL ABILITY OF THE DISTRICT TO PROVIDE SERVICES</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>SECTION 6.0</b>	<b>STATUS OF AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SHARED FACILITIES</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>SECTION 7.0</b>	<b>ACCOUNTABILITY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE NEEDS</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>SECTION 8.0</b>	<b>ANY OTHER MATTER RELATED TO EFFECTIVE OR EFFICIENT SERVICES</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>SECTION 9.0</b>	<b>WRITTEN DETERMINATIONS FOR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE</b> .....	<b>4</b>
9.1	Present and Planned Land Uses .....	4
9.2	Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services .....	4
9.3	Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Services .....	5
9.4	Existence of Social or Economic Communities of Interest .....	5
	<b>REVIEW OF AGENCIES SPHERE OF INFLUENCE</b> .....	<b>5</b>
	<b>DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>MAPS</b>		
	Map 1 - Gravelly Ford Water District Boundaries - prior to annexation - confirmed	
	Map 2 - Gravelly Ford Water District - Existing Boundary & Sphere of Influence	
	Map 3 - Gravelly Ford Water District Boundaries - after annexation	
	Map 4 & 5 - Gravelly Ford Water District - Proposed Sphere of Influence Boundaries	
<b>APPENDIX - Gravelly Ford Water District Financial Constraints and Opportunities</b>		
	Gravelly Ford Water District Basic Financial Statements	
	Independent Auditor's Report	

Agenda Item 8 p4

## SECTION 1.0 - INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Municipal Service Review Purpose

A Municipal Service Review (MSR) is a comprehensive assessment of the ability of existing local government agencies to effectively and efficiently provide municipal services to residents and users. The form, contents, and requirements of an MSR are specified in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH Act) and in the State of California's Local Agency Formation Commission MSR Guidelines, published in August 2003.

The CKH Act requires all Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCo), including Madera LAFCo, to prepare an MSR for each of its incorporated cities and its special districts. The fundamental role of LAFCo is to implement the CKH Act, which was adopted into law in order to encourage the logical, efficient, and most appropriate formation of local municipalities, service areas, and special districts. MSRs are to be completed every five years, and must be completed prior to, or in conjunction with, an update of a city or special district Sphere of Influence or before LAFCo initiates any reorganization of the boundaries of a special district.

This MSR is intended to provide Madera Local Agency Formation Commission (Madera LAFCo) with all the relevant information related to the operation and management as well as changes of boundaries and Sphere of Influence of the Gravelly Ford Water District as a result of the proposed annexation of approximately 393 acres bordering the San Joaquin River.

### 1.2 Background

The present day Gravelly Ford Water District had its beginnings in the late 1940's in Madera County. Landowners in the area were desirous of receiving a water supply from the Bureau of Reclamation. As the Bureau could not sell water to an individual, it was necessary to form an alliance. The association took form as a "stock company" with shares being sold for \$9.00 per share. These shares entitled each landowner to purchase water. The water was received from the San Joaquin River through the old Miller & Lux Canal now called the Gravelly Ford Canal.

This method of water delivery continued for some years until the Bureau of Reclamation gave notice that the Association needed to have a contract for Central Valley Project Water. This required the formation of a water district and negotiations with the Bureau for the water supply contract.

The landowners proceeded to form the Gravelly Ford Water District pursuant to Division 13 of the California Water Code. The District was officially formed by action of the Madera County Board of Supervisors on August 21, 1961. The District is a landowner-voter district that was formed to:

- Provide water to the landowners of the District
- Enable contracting with the Bureau of Reclamation for delivery of Central Valley Project Water from the San Joaquin River either directly or indirectly
- Obtain water from Cottonwood Creek

The original District contained 10,550 acres more or less and is generally located south of the San Joaquin River at Road 22 to Road 17 and Ave 9 on the north. The east boundary is irregular along Roads 20 and 21 from Avenue 4 to Avenue 9. The west boundary is irregular among Roads 16 and 18 from Avenue 4 to Avenue 9.

In 1981, 388 acres were detached and in 1988, 1,910 acres were detached leaving approximately 8,300 acres in the current District.