

White Wolf Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors

Agenda
March 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Public may attend in-person, via telephone, or Web-based service:

In Person: Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District Headquarters
12109 Highway 166
Bakersfield, CA 93313

Or Virtual Option:

Go To Meeting: <https://meet.goto.com/911605181>
Call by Phone: (872) 240-3311 Access Code: 911-605-181

Remote participation by a Director will also occur at:
5260 N Palm Suite #421
Fresno, CA 93704

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Recognition of Guests**
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 7, 2023**
4. **Updates on actions discussed or authorized on February 7, 2023 (EKI)**
 - a. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation activities
 - i. February 2023 groundwater levels
 - ii. Water Year (WY) 2022 Annual Report
 - b. Round 2 Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program Grant Application
 - c. Projects/Management Actions (P/MAs) Committee
5. **Discuss and re-consider tiered PM/A committee structure and efficiency of merging meetings – *Board Action Item***
6. **Discuss and consider EKI Task Order #10 WY 2023 GSP Implementation Support – *Board Action Item***
7. **Correspondence**
8. **Public Comment**

At this time, the public may address the Board on any item not appearing on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Comments will be limited to three minutes.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Angelica Martin (661) 663-4262.

**White Wolf Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Agenda
March 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**

- 9. Consider and provide direction on future agenda items**
- 10. Closed Session – *Anticipated litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2))—1 item.***
- 11. Report out of Closed Session**
- 12. Adjourn**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, please call Angelica Martin (661) 663-4262.

**White Wolf Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopoa Water Storage District
12109 Highway 166, Mettler, CA 93313**

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 2023

Location: Remote and In-Person

Meeting Commenced at 1:02 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tito Martinez, George Cappello, Jeff Mettler, Jon Reiter, Jeff Giumarra.

ALTERNATES: None

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Allen Lyda.

PUBLIC AND STAFF: John Gaugel from Wonderful, Brad DeBranch from Bolthouse, Anona Dutton, and Christina Lucero, from EKI, Jeevan Muhar, and Sam Blue from AEWSD, Maryse Suppiger from Manulife, Nicole Bona, Robert Velasquez with Tejon Ranch, Robbin Smith from Wonderful Citrus, Tim Gobler from Trinitas, Matt Owens from DWR, Sheridan Nicholas with WRMWSD, and Legal Counsel Alan Doud, were present.

Resolution 2023-02, which Authorizes Remote Teleconference Under AB361, was presented for consideration and approval. The board approved the action, and on motion by Director Mettler and seconded by Director Reiter, Resolution 2023-02 was approved. The motion was carried upon roll call vote for approval.

Legal Counsel gave a presentation of AB2449, which is now part of the Brown Act and a new rule for remote Board Director participation in a meeting.

President Martinez did a recognition of guests and asked this item to be number two in the agenda. The draft meeting minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 3, 2023 were presented by Ms. Martin. On motion by Director Reiter and seconded by Director Mettler, the minutes were approved. The motion was carried upon roll call vote for approval.

Director Reiter asked about the possibility of changing the meeting to a different day of the month. Due to AB 361 not applying anymore it will be complicated for him to attend in person. After a brief discussion on different options but no change was agreed on due to various complications. Director Cappello also had questions regarding the new rule, and it was made clear that a remote participation did not count for quorum.

Robert Velásquez presented the financial report. He explained that due to the low funds and forecasted expenses a funding requirement was needed. The funding requirement per district would be \$66,667. On Motion by Director Cappello, seconded by Director Mettler, the cash call was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Christina Lucero and Anona Dutton from EKI gave a presentation starting with an update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation activities, as well as a summary of recent GSP approvals, the initiation of the Project/Management Actions Committee, and round 2 of Multibenefit Repurposing Program Grant solicitation, and letters of support.

The next item was directly related to the presentation, Resolution 2023-03, a Resolution for Filling Application for Grant Funds Pursuant to the Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program. After a brief discussion, Director Mettler motioned to approve, seconded by Director Cappello, Resolution 2023-03 was unanimously approved by the Board upon roll call vote.

Item 9 of the agenda, Evapotranspiration Data Options to Support WY 2022 Annual Report, was brought forward for Board consideration and approval. After a brief discussion, Director Reiter motioned to approve the proposal, seconded by Director Mettler, the proposal was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

There was one correspondence to report. An email from the Kern Subbasin outreach on Basin Study coordination.

There were no public comments.

There was no closed session.

The White Wolf GSA was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Angelica Martin, Secretary, White Wolf Subbasin GSA

Approved by: White Wolf Subbasin GSA Board of Directors

Dated: February 7, 2023



White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
Tejon-Castac Water District
Wheeler Ridge-Maricopa Water Storage District
Kern County

AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Date: 3 March 2023

To: Board of Directors, White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)

From: Angelica Martin, Secretary, White Wolf GSA

Item: 6. Discuss and consider EKI Task Order #10 Water Year (WY) 2023 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Support

SUMMARY

Recommendation: Approve EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI)'s Task Order #10 WY 2023 GSP Implementation Support

Fiscal Impact: \$324,000 (\$108,000 per District)

BACKGROUND

The White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) is required to conduct ongoing implementation once the GSP has been adopted and submitted. The GSP was adopted on 25 January 2021 and is currently undergoing review by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The GSP identifies the following key technical aspects of GSP implementation all of which will occur to some degree during WY 2023: (1) Monitoring, Data Collection, and Data Gap Filling, (2) Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination, and (3) Reporting. As outlined in the GSP, each of these aspects have specific subtasks associated with them.

The White Wolf GSA is required by Title 23 California Code of Regulations (23-CCR) § 356.2 to submit an Annual Report to DWR by April 1 of each year following the adoption of the GSP. The WY 2023 Annual Report will cover 1 October 2022 through 30 September 2023. Certain data and analysis are required to extend from 1 January 2015 through 20 September 2023.

Furthermore, the GSP identified 24 potential Projects and/or Management Actions (P/MAs) that GSA member districts may want to pursue during GSP implementation in order to achieve sustainability in the White Wolf Subbasin (Basin). The GSA has initiated a P/MA committee to evaluate how P/MAs can best be implemented and make recommendations to the GSA Board. The P/MA Committee consists of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and a Board Ad-hoc Committee which will meet regularly and make recommendations to the GSA Board on how P/MAs can be successfully implemented.

DISCUSSION

This Task Order will involve conducting WY 2023 GSP implementation support through 1 April 2024. As part of WY 2023 GSP implementation support, each GSA-member district will be required to collect and provide specific data. The Technical Committee is working to transition all field work related activities to GSA-member district staff by the end of WY 2023. Any tasks anticipated during WY 2023 that are contingent on grant funds have not been included herein and will be brought forth to the GSA at a future time, after grant awards have been announced. Specific tasks for WY 2023 GSP implementation support will include:

- Data collection, compilation, and data gap filling efforts.
- Continued stakeholder engagement support including preparation and support for and attendance at monthly GSA Board meetings, a stakeholder workshop, and routine website maintenance.
- Intra-basin coordination including coordination with the ad-hoc technical committee to facilitate data collection and management efforts.
- Coordination with and preparation and support for the P/MA Committee.
- Inter-basin coordination with adjacent Kern County Subbasin GSAs, as needed.
- Preparation of the WY 2023 Annual Report, including groundwater flow model extension.
- Review of DWR determination letter on evaluation of the 2022 GSP.
- As-needed support.

Attached:

- EKI Task Order #10 - White Wolf Subbasin WY 2023 GSP Implementation Support

27 February 2023

Angelica Martin
Secretary of the Board
Tejon-Castac Water District
5665 Santa Elena Drive
Arvin, CA 93203

Subject: Task Order #10 – White Wolf Subbasin Water Year (WY) 2023 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Support
White Wolf Subbasin, Kern County
(EKI C3-050)

Dear Ms. Martin:

Tejon-Castac Water District (TCWD, District, or Client) has requested that EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI) prepare a scope to support WY 2023 GSP implementation activities for the White Wolf Subbasin (Basin) following the submittal of the GSP.

BACKGROUND

The White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) is required to conduct ongoing implementation once the GSP has been adopted and submitted. The GSP was adopted on 25 January 2021 and is currently undergoing review by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The GSP identifies the following key technical aspects of GSP implementation all of which will occur to some degree during WY 2023: (1) Monitoring, Data Collection, and Data Gap Filling, (2) Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination, and (3) Reporting. As outlined in the GSP, each of these aspects have specific subtasks associated with them.

The White Wolf GSA is required by Title 23 California Code of Regulations (23-CCR) § 356.2 to submit an Annual Report to DWR by April 1 of each year following the adoption of the GSP. The WY 2023 Annual Report will cover 1 October 2022 through 30 September 2023. Certain data and analysis are required to extend from 1 January 2015 through 20 September 2023.

Furthermore, the GSP identified 24 potential Projects and/or Management Actions (P/MAs) that GSA member Districts may want to pursue during GSP implementation in order to achieve sustainability in the Basin. The GSA has initiated a P/MA committee to evaluate how P/MAs can best be implemented and make recommendations to the GSA Board. The P/MA Committee consists of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and a Board Ad-hoc Committee, which will meet regularly and make recommendations to the GSA Board on how P/MAs can be successfully implemented.

The GSA applied for a DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Round 2 grant in December 2022 to help fund ongoing GSP implementation and select P/MAs. Draft awards are expected to be announced June 2023, final awards are expected to be announced in October 2023, and grant agreements are expected to be executed between November 2023 and January 2024.

Based on the above, EKI has prepared the scope of work outlined below for conducting WY 2023 GSP implementation support, including monitoring and data gap filling efforts, preparation of the WY 2023 Annual Report, and support for stakeholder engagement including the P/MA Committee. Additionally, we have included an as-needed support to cover additional technical work products, as directed by the GSA. Any tasks anticipated during WY 2023 that are contingent on grant funds have not been included herein and will be brought forth to the GSA at a future time, after grant awards have been announced.

SCOPE OF WORK

Task 1 – GSP Implementation

Task 1 consists of two subtasks dedicated to GSP implementation including on-going monitoring, data compilation, data gap filling efforts, and data assessment.

Subtask 1.1 – Data Gap Filling, Data Compilation, and Assessment (\$104,000)

Under Subtask 1.1, GSA member districts will be required to collect and provide specific data including, but not limited to, monthly and/or semi-annual water level measurements and/or data downloads from data loggers and annual water quality sampling data from the SGMA Monitoring Network. Additionally, the GSA will be required to upload groundwater elevation data from Representative Monitoring Wells (RMWs) to DWR’s SGMA portal twice a year (seasonal high measurement to be submitted by July 1st and seasonal low measurement to be submitted by January 1st). EKI will work with GSA member district staff to minimize field visits, with a goal of by the end of WY 2023 transitioning all field monitoring activities and equipment maintenance tasks to GSA member district staff.

Under Subtask 1.1, EKI will conduct the following technical work efforts:

- Data compilation, quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC), and Data Management System (DMS) updates for:
 - District-collected water level data collected from the Representative Monitoring Wells (RMW-WLs and RMW-ISWs) and supplemental monitoring sites (MW-WL and MW-ISW);
 - Downloaded water quality data from the public water system RMW-WQs from the State Water Board’s Drinking Water Watch website;
 - District-collected water quality data collected from the supplemental monitoring wells (MW-WQ);
 - EKI-collected high-frequency water level data from transducer data loggers;
 - EKI-collected El Paso Creek streamflow data from the stream data logger; and
 - Downloaded streamflow from the supplemental stream gauges from California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) and Kern County, as available.
- Semi-annual upload of seasonal high and seasonal low water level data to DWR’s SGMA portal by July 1st and January 1st respectively;
- Processing of other GSA member district-provided water use information, including surface water supply, delivery, diversions, and pumping;

- Processing of evapotranspiration (ET) data (e.g., from Land IQ or other);
- Download and processing of public water system pumping data available from the State Water Board's Electronic Annual Report website;
- Conduct the following field work activities, in coordination with the activities undertaken in Subtask 1.2, assuming a maximum of three field visits total:
 - Download high-frequency water level data from two transducers in the Principal Aquifer;
 - Coordination and oversight of land surveying at two benchmarks along the 850 Canal; and
 - Coordinate well census to confirm location, status, and construction details of pumping wells in the Basin.
- Download and processing of land surface elevation data from 34 supplemental land surface elevation monitoring sites along the California Aqueduct from DWR, two supplemental Global Positioning System (GPS) subsidence monitoring stations from UNAVCO, and DWR-provided InSAR data;
- Review and processing of interpreted Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) survey data produced by DWR; and
- Facilitate data collection and intra-basin coordination efforts, including participation in twelve (12) monthly Technical Committee meetings.

Subtask 1.2 – Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Monitoring (\$33,000)

Under Subtask 1.2, EKI will collect and process data associated with GDEs in the Basin, including:

- Conduct the following field work activities, in coordination with the activities undertaken in Subtask 1.1, assuming a maximum of three field visits total:
 - Download high-frequency water level data from three transducers in the shallow RMW-ISWs; and
 - Download stream flow data from El Paso Creek stream data logger.
- Download, compilation, and processing of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) GDE Pulse data.

Task 2 – Reporting

Task 2 consists of work efforts associated with reporting for SGMA compliance, including extending the White Wolf Groundwater Flow Model (WWGFM), writing and submitting the WY 2023 Annual Report, and reviewing DWR's determination letter.

Subtask 2.1 - Groundwater Flow Model Extension (\$29,000)

Subtask 2.1 involves extending and updating the WWGFM to run through September 2023. This involves updating all input files to include surface water delivery, pumping, ET, boundary conditions, and land use data between October 2022 and September 2023 compiled under Task 1, running the model, and post-processing results. The model results will be used to produce the change in groundwater storage maps and graphs required for the WY 2023 Annual Report.

Subtask 2.2 – Water Year 2023 Annual Report (\$22,000)

Subtask 2.2 involves: (1) drafting the WY 2023 Annual Report using the previous Annual Report template and data compiled in the tasks above, and (2) submitting the Annual Report to DWR. As part of annual reporting, the necessary graphics, tables, and descriptions required under 23-CCR § 356.2 will be produced. Where applicable and required, graphics will include information back to January 1, 2015. Furthermore, an assessment of WY 2023 water levels in comparison to the Sustainable Management Criteria will be conducted.

Subtask 2.3 – DWR Determination Letter Review (\$7,000)

DWR's assessment of the White Wolf 2022 GSP is anticipated to occur within WY 2023. EKI will provide review of DWR's determination letter on their evaluation of the 2022 GSP. If required, EKI will provide a proposed scope of work and task order to address DWR comments.

Task 3 – Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination

Task 3 involves facilitating stakeholder engagement and coordination efforts during WY 2023. Specifically, EKI will:

- Provide support including developing meeting agendas, presentations, and packets as applicable, and participate in the following stakeholder and public outreach venues:
 - Up to ten (10) monthly GSA Board meetings, assuming in-person attendance at up to three (3) meetings and that two monthly meetings will either be canceled and/or combined (e.g., November and December);
 - One in-person stakeholder workshop; and
 - Up to six (6) virtual monthly combined P/MA Committee TAC and Ad-hoc Board meetings. We have assumed that the Ad-hoc Board meetings will be combined with the TAC meetings for efficiencies.
- Conduct routine website maintenance for meeting noticing requirements; and
- Participate in inter-basin coordination efforts with GSAs in the adjacent Kern County Subbasin on an as-needed basis.

Task 4 – As-Needed Support

Task 4 includes as-needed, as-directed support for future grant solicitations, technical work to address any policy related questions, well permitting support, or technical studies, as directed by the GSA and/or Technical Committee. All work will be conducted on a time and materials basis in close coordination with the GSA.

PERSONNEL

EKI's staff members who will lead this project include Anona Dutton, P.G., C.Hg. (Officer), Christina Lucero, P.G. (Associate 1), and Sarah Gerenday, Ph.D. (Grade 2); grades in parentheses are for purposes of billing in accordance with the attached Schedule of Charges (see Attachment A). Other EKI staff members will be assigned to assist with the performance of the tasks as required to meet project commitments.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All work performed by EKI under this Task Order will be performed pursuant to the Terms and Conditions of our existing Agreement with Tejon-Castac Water District.

COMPENSATION

Inasmuch as the exact level of effort required to complete the above Scope of Work cannot be known precisely, EKI proposes to perform the work on a time and materials expense reimbursement basis in accordance with our current (2023) Schedule of Charges (Attachment A). As shown in Table 1, the estimated budget for this scope of work is \$324,000. We will inform you if the level of effort exceeds this anticipated amount. The estimated budget does not include costs directly paid by the GSA and/or GSA member-Districts, such as laboratory sampling or analytical costs, and procurement of the satellite ET data.

Table 1. Estimated Budget

TASK	Cost Estimate
Task 1 – GSP Implementation	\$137,000
Task 2 – Reporting	\$58,000
Task 3 – Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination	\$99,000
Task 4 – As needed support	\$30,000
TOTAL:	\$324,000

SCHEDULE

EKI is prepared to start work on the above Scope of Work immediately upon authorization to proceed. Task 1 will begin upon authorization and will continue through 1 April 2024. The groundwater flow model extension and annual reporting subtasks of Task 2 will be initiated around October 2023, with work continuing until the submittal of the WY 2023 annual report, due 1 April 2024. Under Task 2, we have assumed that DWR’s review of the GSP and determination will be released before 1 March 2024. Task 3 will begin upon authorization and will continue through 1 April 2024. Task 4 will begin upon authorization and continue on an as-needed, as-directed basis. EKI will inform the GSA of any issues that arise that may affect the schedule for completion or impact the anticipated level of effort.

We are happy to discuss the proposed approach and anticipated level of effort for this task and subtasks in more detail with you and look forward to working with you on this important project. If this Task Order meets with your approval, please sign where noted below and return a fully executed copy to our office to confirm authorization to proceed. Please call if you have any questions or wish to discuss this proposal in greater detail.

Angelica Martin
Tejon-Castac Water District
27 February 2023
Page 6 of 6



Very truly yours,

EKI ENVIRONMENT & WATER, INC.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anona L. Dutton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anona L. Dutton, P.G., C.Hg.
Vice President / Principal-In-Charge

AUTHORIZATION
TEJON-CASTAC WATER DISTRICT (CLIENT)

By _____

Title _____

Date _____

Attachments

Attachment A. 2023 Schedule of Charges

Attachment A

EKI Schedule of Charges, dated 2 January 2023

Client/Address: Tejon-Castac Water District
5665 Santa Elena Drive
Arvin, CA 93203



Proposal/Agreement Date: 16 January 2023

EKI Proposal/Project # C3-050

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES FOR EKI ENVIRONMENT & WATER, INC.

2 January 2023

<u>Personnel Classification</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Officer and Chief Engineer-Scientist	332
Principal Engineer-Scientist	320
Supervising I, Engineer-Scientist	309
Supervising II, Engineer-Scientist	298
Senior I, Engineer-Scientist	286
Senior II, Engineer-Scientist	275
Associate I, Engineer-Scientist	264
Associate II, Engineer-Scientist	248
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 1	231
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 2	218
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 3	200
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 4	178
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 5	157
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 6	138
Project Assistant	130
Technician	125
Senior GIS / Database Analyst	162
CADD Operator / GIS Analyst	144
Senior Administrative Assistant	159
Administrative Assistant	124
Secretary	104

Direct Expenses

Reimbursement for direct expenses, as listed below, incurred in connection with the work will be at cost plus ten percent (10%) for items such as:

- a. Maps, photographs, reproductions, printing, equipment rental, and special supplies related to the work.
- b. Consultants, soils engineers, surveyors, drillers, laboratories, and contractors.
- c. Rented vehicles, local public transportation and taxis, travel, and subsistence.
- d. Special fees, insurance, permits, and licenses applicable to the work.
- e. Outside computer processing, computation, and proprietary programs purchased for the work.

A Communication charge for e-mail access, web conferencing, cellphone calls, messaging and data access, file sharing, local and long distance telephone calls and conferences, facsimile transmittals, standard delivery U.S. postage, and incidental in-house copying will be charged at a rate of 4% of labor charges. Large volume copying of project documents, e.g., bound reports for distribution or project-specific reference files, will be charged as a project expense as described above.

Reimbursement for company-owned automobiles, except trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles, used in connection with the work will be at the rate of sixty cents (\$0.60) per mile. The rate for company-owned trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles will be seventy-five cents (\$0.75) per mile. There will be an additional charge of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per day for vehicles used for field work. Reimbursement for use of personal vehicles will be at the federally allowed rate plus fifteen percent (15%).

CADD and other specialized software computer time will be charged at twenty dollars (\$20.00) per hour. In-house material and equipment charges will be in accordance with the current rate schedule or special quotation. Excise taxes, if any, will be added as a direct expense.

Rate for professional staff for legal proceedings or as expert witnesses will be at a rate of one and one-half times the Hourly Rates specified above.

The foregoing Schedule of Charges is incorporated into the Agreement for the Services of EKI Environment & Water, Inc. and may be updated annually.