

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

Agenda April 2, 2024 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:
7058 N. West Ave.
Fresno, CA 93711

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Recognition of Guests**
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of March 5, 2024**
- 4. Financial Accounting Report (Robert Velasquez)**
- 5. California Department of Water Resources (DWR) SGMA Implementation Round 2 grant update (Angelica Martin)**
- 6. Updates on actions discussed or authorized on March 5, 2024 (EKI)**
 - a. Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation activities
 - i. March 2024 groundwater levels
 - ii. Dedicated monitoring well siting
- 7. Discuss and consider approval of EKI Task Order #12 Water Year (WY) 2024 GSP Implementation Support**
- 8. Correspondence**
- 9. 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.

10. Consider and provide direction on future agenda items

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
April 2, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.**

- 11. Closed Session** – *Anticipated litigation (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2))—1 item.*
- 12. Report out of Closed Session**
- 13. 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-Maricopa Water Storage District
12109 Highway 166, Mettler, CA 93313**

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, March 05, 2024

Location: Remote and In-Person

Meeting Commenced at 1:02 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tito Martinez, Jon Reiter, Dolores Salgado, Jeff Mettler.

ALTERNATES: Sheridan Nicholas, Jeevan Muhar

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Allen Lyda, Jeff Giumarra.

PUBLIC AND STAFF: Christina Lucero, Anona Dutton from EKI, Tim Gobler with Pomona, Laura Cattani, Allie, Gary Romoff and Jose Marin from Sun Pacific, Robert Velasquez with Tejon Ranch, and Legal Counsel Alan Doud.

President Martinez did a recognition of guests followed by the review of the draft meeting minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of February 13, 2024. On motion by Director Mettler and seconded by Director Salgado, the minutes were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Robert Velasquez gave a report on the financial statements. Mr. Velasquez informed the board that a cash call was necessary to cover expenses from March through May. The cash call was for \$165,000 thousand-dollar, equivalent to \$55,000 thousand-dollars per District. There was a question regarding grant funds. Ms. Martin explained the idea was to submit the first invoice packet to DWR by April 30th. DWR requires at least 45 days to review and send payment. Considering that time span, the first grant check would be received mid-June. Approval for the financials was motioned by Director Mettler and seconded by Director Salgado. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Ms. Martin informed the board that the Agreement for the SGMA Implementation Round 2 had been executed and the grant kick-off meeting had also taken place.

Christina Lucero provided an update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation activities. She presented the February 2024 water levels in the basin. She pointed out the increased water levels in the GDE area. The board asked if that was due to actions taken in the basin or due to precipitation. She explained it was due to precipitation. She also provided an overview of the 2023 Annual Report due for submittal to DWR April 1st. She presented total water used for WY 2023, and Director Reiter asked for further detail regarding the 17% groundwater pumping item. There was also discussion of how to incentivize those landowners who opted to pump groundwater regardless of surface water availability. Director Martinez asked if crop type can be identified and how much water applied versus the sources. Christina said she would look into it since that information was not in this presentation. She also asked the board if they were interested in a "big check" ceremony with DWR for the SGMA Implementation Round 2 grant award. After a brief discussion, the board agreed to have Christina schedule a ceremony. There was also a request from the board to visually examine the area surrounding the well (RMW-WWB-010) that tends to be under its MT.

There was no public comment.

Next scheduled board meeting is April 2, 2024

The Board did not have a closed session.

On motion by Director Mettler, seconded by Director Salgado, the White Wolf GSA meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Angelica Martin, Secretary, White Wolf Subbasin GSA

Approved by: White Wolf Subbasin GSA Board of Directors

Dated: April 2, 2024

WHITE WOLF GSA FINANCIAL INFORMATION

WHITE WOLF GSA - Year To Date Ending March 31, 2024

FUNDING	\$ 260,000	EKI		\$ 184,030
INTEREST INCOME	656	Young Woolridge		\$ 5,657
TOTAL FUNDING	260,656	Land IQ LLC		\$ 84,070
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - CONSULTING	\$ 184,030	Bank Fees		\$ 377
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - LEGAL	5,657	Other		\$ -
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - GENERAL	84,070			
FEES - OTHER	377			
OTHER	-			
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 274,134			
Net Change	\$ (13,478)			
Beginning Funds Available	\$ 73,150			
FUND AVAILABLE AT MARCH 25, 2024	\$ 115,945			
	\$ 1,115	O/S Checks		
	\$ 114,830			
ARVIN EDISON FUNDING PENDING	\$ 55,000			
	\$ 169,830			

YTD FISCAL YEAR 2024			
	FORECAST	BUDGET	VARIANCE
FUNDING	\$ 315,656	\$ 315,000	\$ (54,344)
EXPENDITURES	377,821	376,000	(101,866)
NET CHANGE	\$ (62,165)	\$ (61,000)	\$ 47,522



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: 27 March 2024

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

From: Angelica Martin, Secretary, White Wolf GSA

Item: 7. Discuss and consider approval of EKI Task Order #12 Water Year (WY) 2024 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Support

SUMMARY

Recommendation: Approve EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI)'s Task Order #12 WY 2024 GSP Implementation Support

Fiscal Impact: \$337,000 total:

- \$307,000 estimated grant reimbursable; and
- \$30,000 GSA responsible (\$10,000 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 identifies the following key technical aspects of GSP implementation all of which will occur to some degree during WY 2024: (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 2024 Annual Report will cover 1 October 2023 through 30 September 2024. Certain data and analysis are required to extend from 1 January 2015 through 20 September 2024.

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.

DISCUSSION

This Task Order will involve conducting WY 2024 GSP implementation support through 1 April 2025. As part of WY 2024 GSP implementation support, each GSA-member district will be required to collect and provide specific data. Specific tasks for WY 2024 GSP implementation support that are eligible for grant reimbursement will include:

- Data collection, compilation, and data gap filling efforts, including monthly groundwater level tracking against Sustainable Management Criteria and a GDE field mapping exercise.
- Continued stakeholder engagement support including preparation, support for, and attendance at monthly GSA Board meetings and P/MA Committee 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.
- Preparation of the WY 2024 Annual Report, including groundwater flow model extension.
- Grant administration support for quarterly progress reporting and invoicing.

Finally, there is an as-needed support task that is not eligible for grant reimbursement that would cover costs for 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.

Attached:

- EKI Task Order #12 - White Wolf Subbasin WY 2024 GSP Implementation Support

22 March 2024

Angelica Martin
Secretary of the Board
Tejon-Castac Water District, on behalf of the
White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency
5665 Santa Elena Drive
Arvin, CA 93203

Subject: Task Order #12 – White Wolf Subbasin Water Year (WY) 2024 Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation Support
White Wolf Subbasin, Kern County
(EKI C20014.03)

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 2024 GSP implementation activities for the White Wolf Subbasin (Basin) following the approval 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 was approved by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on 26 October 2023. The GSP identifies the following key technical aspects of GSP implementation all of which will occur to some degree during WY 2024: (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 2024 Annual Report will cover 1 October 2023 through 30 September 2024. Certain data and analysis are required to extend from 1 January 2015 through 20 September 2024.

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 GSA applied for and has been awarded a DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation grant through the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program, which was executed on 9 February 2024. The GSA was awarded funds for two construction projects, GSP reporting, data gap filling outreach, SGMA compliance activities, and grant administration.

Based on the above, EKI has prepared the scope of work outlined below for conducting WY 2024 GSP implementation support. Additionally, we have included a task for as-needed support to cover additional technical work products, as directed by the GSA. Any other grant-funded tasks anticipated during WY 2024 that are not mentioned above (i.e., dedicated monitoring well installation support) have not been included herein and will be brought forth to the GSA at a future time.

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 (\$79,000)

Under Subtask 1.1, the 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).

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 supplemental monitoring sites (MW-WL);
 - 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);
 - Downloaded streamflow from the supplemental stream gauges from California Environmental Data Exchange Network (CEDEN) and Kern County, as available.
- Develop monthly maps comparing groundwater levels to the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs);
- 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 from Land IQ;

- Download and processing of public water system pumping data available from the State Water Board’s Electronic Annual Report website;
- 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; and
- Facilitate data collection and intra-basin coordination efforts, including preparation for and participation in up to twelve (12) virtual monthly Technical Committee meetings.

Subtask 1.2 – Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) Monitoring (\$57,000)

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

- Process high-frequency water level data from three transducers in the shallow RMW-ISWs and stream flow data from El Paso Creek stream data logger. This scope assumes that GSA-member district personnel will collect and transmit the data to EKI.
- Download, compilation, and processing of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) GDE Pulse data.
- Sub-contract with a biologist to conduct field GDE mapping, and update the GDE inventory and map included in the 2022 GSP.

Task 2 – Reporting

Task 2 consists of work efforts associated with reporting for SGMA compliance, including extending the White Wolf Groundwater Flow Model (WWGFM) and writing and submitting the WY 2024 Annual Report.

Subtask 2.1 - Groundwater Flow Model Extension (\$30,000)

Subtask 2.1 involves extending and updating the WWGFM to run through September 2024. This involves updating all input files to include surface water delivery, pumping, ET, boundary conditions, and land use data between October 2023 and September 2024 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 2024 Annual Report.

Subtask 2.2 – WY 2024 Annual Report (\$25,000)

Subtask 2.2 involves: (1) drafting the WY 2024 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, a comparison of WY 2024 groundwater conditions to the applicable SMCs will be conducted.

Task 3 – Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination

Task 3 involves facilitating stakeholder engagement and coordination efforts during WY 2024. 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 (2) 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 ad-hoc P/MA Committee meetings.
- 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 – Grant Administration

EKI will support DWR SGMA Implementation grant administration tasks, including:

- Preparation of up to four (4) quarterly progress reports; and
- Support TCWD staff with preparation of up to four (4) quarterly invoices and associated backup materials.

Task 5 – As-Needed Support

Task 5 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), Brad Arnold (Grade 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 (2024) Schedule of Charges (Attachment A). As shown in Table 1, the estimated budget for this scope of work is \$337,000. 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	Estimated Grant Reimbursable Amount	GSA Responsible Amount
Task 1 – GSP Implementation	\$136,000	\$136,000	\$0
Task 2 – Reporting	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$0
Task 3 – Stakeholder Outreach and Coordination	\$76,000	\$76,000	\$0
Task 4 – Grant Administration	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
Task 5 – As needed support	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
TOTAL:	\$337,000	\$307,000	\$30,000

SCHEDULE

EKI is prepared to start work on the above Scope of Work immediately upon authorization to proceed. Tasks 1 through 4 will begin upon authorization and will continue through 1 April 2025. Task 5 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, on behalf of the
White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency
22 March 2024
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Very truly yours,

EKI ENVIRONMENT & WATER, INC.

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

AUTHORIZATION
TEJON-CASTAC WATER DISTRICT (CLIENT)

By _____

Title _____

Date _____

Attachments

2024 Schedule of Charges

**Client/Address: Tejon-Castac Water District, on behalf of the
White Wolf Groundwater Sustainability Agency**
5665 Santa Elena Drive
Arvin, CA 93203



Proposal/Agreement Date: 22 March 2024

EKI Proposal/Project # C20014.03

SCHEDULE OF CHARGES FOR EKI ENVIRONMENT & WATER, INC.

1 January 2024

<u>Personnel Classification</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Officer and Chief Engineer-Scientist	345
Principal Engineer-Scientist	333
Supervising I, Engineer-Scientist	323
Supervising II, Engineer-Scientist	310
Senior I, Engineer-Scientist	297
Senior II, Engineer-Scientist	286
Associate I, Engineer-Scientist	275
Associate II, Engineer-Scientist	259
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 1	241
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 2	227
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 3	209
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 4	187
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 5	165
Engineer-Scientist, Grade 6	144
Project Assistant	135
Technician	129
Senior GIS / Database Analyst	170
CADD Operator / GIS Analyst	148
Senior Administrative Assistant	162
Administrative Assistant	128
Secretary	108

Direct Expenses

Reimbursement for direct expenses, as listed below, incurred in connection with the work will be at cost plus fifteen percent (15%) 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.