

Indian Wells Valley – GSA Community Meeting

October 23, 2015

Questions and Answers

Q: When is the GSA and how is this GSA Board going to be selected?

A: Every eligible agency participating in the GSA will select their own member. The GSA will decide about the structure of the GSA Board.

Q: Will this GSA be locally based and who will it be funded?

A: Yes the GSA will be based locally. The members of the GSA will decide how the GSA will be funded.

Q: Will the GSA explore new water sources?

A: There will be a lot of components of the plan to help the GSA achieve sustainability. One of those components could be searching for new water sources. Prop 1 funds and additional grants through DWR and the Water Board could be used to “find” new water sources. (The individual who asked this question was the legislative representative representing the US Navy and stated the Navy would lobby Congress for additional funds to help find additional water sources.)

Q: The groundwater basin table slides looked to have shown areas where water levels were lower than others. Should wells in these lower areas be moved to other areas with larger amounts of groundwater?

A: The ground water basin table slides show water coming in and water going out. The GSA could move wells around to help with the local economic effect, but it is one water budget for the basin.

Q5: How often to this GSA have to “balance” the basin’s water budget?

A5: DWR choses a State average for achieving sustainability at 15-20 years.

Q6: Will the City of Ridgecrest and the Kern County Water Agency be a part of this GSA?

A6: The City of Ridgecrest will be a part of this GSA. The Kern County Water Agency will not be a part of this GSA, but they will still provide technical support.

Q7: Will there be funding assistance for this GSA?

A7: Proposition 1 set aside \$100 million of future local GSA’s to help them setup their GSPs. In the near future an additional \$10 million will be available for Counties to access for the GSA process.

Q8: Will the GSA consider the economic value of the use of the water in sustainable management decisions?

A8: Yes. The GSA can consider the economic value of use of the water.

Q9: Does the GSA have taxing authority?

A9: Yes. The GSA has that authority.

Q10: How are the GSA boundaries drawn?

A10: Areas are defined by the groundwater basins as identified Bulletin 118 from DWR.

Q11: Will the BLM be a part of the GSA?

A11: BLM has been invited to participate in the GSA formation process and any GSA meetings.

Q12: Will the tribes within the Indian Wells Water Groundwater Basin be a part of the GSA?

Q12: Yes. The tribe(s) have been invited to participate in the GSA formation process and GSA meetings.

Q13: Who will represent the “white areas” within the GSA boundaries?

Q13: The County of Kern.

Q14: Are current adjudicated basins exempt from SGMA?

Q14: Yes. Any basins that were adjudicated by 2015 are not subject to SGMA, but they will have to file water use reports. Additionally, any basin adjudicated after 2015, will be subject to SGMA.

Q15: Will DWR provide guidelines for the GSA formation to address fairness and representation in regards to population size?

A15: SGMA was created in part to give local governments and local agencies jurisdiction and control over the formation of GSAs and GSPs. DWR has very little control over how each GSA will organize how it represents their groundwater basin. However, DWR through SGMA will require a significant level of stakeholder involvement in regards to the creation of GSAs and GSPs. This is outlined in SGMA and it will be outlined in the regulations as well.