

COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM JULY 20, 2020 TO SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

Number	Subbasin	Chapter	Table	Page	Figure	Date	Commenter	Comment	Response	Action
1	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Chris Bunn	Re: ISP committee: There's no 180/400 group right now, how is their representation being handled? The SWIG focus is different than a 180/400 committee representative.	Donna Meyers: There is a lot of overlap with some of the represented subbasin members. The 180/400 is a completed plan. The idea with the integrated plan committee, trying to stack the plans and make them consistent. Currently, Board is in charge of the adopted 180/400. Don't need a planning committee for the 180/400. Plan to go with existing subbasin committee as proposed, and with as much overlap as there is, think there are enough people. Will bring this to board next week, can flag question.	
2	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Heather Lukacs	I appreciate this update. Will the subbasin see the draft chapters again? Will they see the draft before it goes out to the public?	Emily: Trying to show subbasin how their feedback is being received. Trying to get it back to the subbasin committee members before it goes out. It really boils down to timing. Will confirm that process.	
3	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Heather Lukacs	Is there a deadline to receive comments for the preliminary draft chapters?	Emily: We will be batching comments as they are received and then the tables will be published. We will let you know the cutoff date for comments in 2021 to be incorporated into the V2 draft.	
4	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Horacio Amezquita	Would be a good idea to have a workshop on water quality. We need a clearer picture of how water quality data will be handled. Seems like we don't know how the State water control boards are going to handle it. We don't know how many systems and private wells are contaminated. We need a clear picture of this. Would be good idea to have a workshop.	Comment received	
5	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Chris Bunn	Re: Subsidence: Is there an exception for earthquakes?	DW: We have included a lot of caveats, including "any change in land surface elevation due to lower groundwater levels is an undesirable result." So, if there's an earthquake or you relevel your land, that will not be included.	
6	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Ross Clark	If we did have subsidence, could that alter surface water flow and condition, and cause other water issues?	DW: In this subbasin, it would need to be significant. In the San Joaquin valley, it is an issue because the canals have lost capacity because they don't have the slope. In this subbasin, it could happen, but I'm not sure that in this subbasin it will be that important.	
7	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Robin Lee	Re: Depletion of surface water: I would still like to see tiger data superimposed so I can see it on the map. There's a map in Chapter 3 that is illegible. There is a place in Gabilan Creek where water flows year round, but I don't know where that boundary is so I can't see where it is. it would also be helpful to orient others to these locations.	DW: We did get that comment and we're going to get that data on. I apologize that we haven't put that data on yet.	
8	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Caroline Chapin	I feel that of all the SMCs, this is the one [surface water depletion] we don't have a lot of understanding on. I see in the chapters that this will be updated with the model. Would your recommendations or options change with the model? Is the data gap too big to make an educated guess?	DW: We are not unique in this. Statewide, this is noted as the SMC with limited data and limited understanding of the statement "significant and unreasonable." With the model, we'll have a little bit more clarity, but it will not change the options of how to manage what is significant and unreasonable.	
9	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Chris Bunn	Does SGMA require us to manage this SMC on behalf of flora and fauna?	DW: Our metric is not flow in a river, or height of water in a lake. We are not required to manage the flora and fauna, but we would be foolish to manage in a way that violates the ESA. We aren't strictly required to manage an ecosystem just the rate of depletion. No matter the decision we make, we will get push back from NMFS, TNC, etc. It is our job to balance all the needs of all GW users in the basin. There is no clear right/wrong answer, based on local preferences. Now remember, these GSPs are iterative. What we'll ask for at the next meeting are your preferences on direction. Don't focus on the perfect answer.	

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10	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Ross Clark	Our group has been involved in restoration work in the Natividad and Gabilan and Carr Lake is under phase 1 restoration now. I agree, we don't have enough understanding of the linkage between habitat support functions of surface water and the groundwater in this subbasin. Are there monitoring, or SW indicators, that would show some kind of impact of SW by management of GW? That way maybe we could manage based on those indicators. My group is also working on watershed restoration efforts that will enhance recharge. Especially for the 180/400, how does the clay layers interact with this system?	DW: Appreciate all those comments. If you bring those back to the next meeting as criteria for SMC, that's the direction we're looking for. In the 180/400 over the aquitard, we would manage it as a disconnected system. If truly perched water system, none of our actions would have impact. We treat as disconnected system.	
11	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Robin Lee	Re: Groundwater Elevations: I have a couple requests for data: median and mean domestic well depths. Some ALCO and CAL water wells have been closed, can we get a list of wells that have been closed and the reason why?	DW: We can look into the domestic wells data, but I'll have to look into the second request.	
12	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Ross Clark	Sustainable GW management has two components: the management of our subbasin does not affect other subbasin GW. I would focus those thoughts around maximum drawdown elevation because that could cause flow from other subbasins into our basin. From a sustainable management position, regardless of annual ft drop as something to monitor, isn't sustainable management making sure that during rainy season those elevations return to some prescribed elevation? Could we manage it to returning to winter GW elevation, versus setting base during summer pumping season?	DW: The first point, what is the impact of lowering GW levels with regard to other subbasins, we will get into that in a moment with SWI. Your second point, you are correct, managing basin to GW levels that are not overly influenced by pumping. MCWRA considers that their fall GW measurement. Other basins are managing to winter water levels. I think we should manage consistently throughout the basin, but yes, we don't want to be managing to late summer GW elevations.	
13	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Ross Clark	Would focusing on winter GW levels lead to better incentivizing and recognizing the value of recharge projects from watershed practices and projects?	DW: I think using fall or winter levels would help us show the benefit of recharge projects.	
14	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Horacio Amezcua	I think we should have a list of all wells that are being closed by contamination, not just ALCO or CAL water. If it's possible, it would be a good idea to have this list.	DW: I don't know if this is part of this presentation, but we are in contact with Enviro Health to get more data about this.	
15	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Robin Lee	Re: Groundwater Storage: I was wondering about the cone of depression in the east of Salinas, and its location on the map. If you could show us these changes and levels on the map, I would appreciate it.	Comment received	
16	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Chris Bunn	Every year, will the sustainable yield pumping data will be crunched?	DW: Probably not every year, probably on a 3-5 year basis. The frequency of this analysis will probably be influenced by project implementation.	
17	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Ross Clark	If you go back to the water budget, 83,000 AFY. This really goes to the scope of our environmental challenge. If we were able to identify projects that could increase infiltration by 7,000 AFY, we could say we were pumping sustainably?	DW: In broad general terms yes	
18	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Ross Clark	If we said there was a lot of pumping concentrated in one area, would it impact the rest of the basin? H2:H2O	DW: You have to meet all sustainability indicators at the same time.	
19	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Heather Lukacs	I was wondering if you could share more information on the measure of sustainable yield? How you came up with these numbers and some key assumptions.	DW: Yes, and there will be more information in the report. These numbers came from the preliminary model for the Valley, with some future simulations. The overdraft is based on the anticipated drop in water levels. As we go forward, we're hoping we have more access to the model so we can refine the these numbers. This will help us figure out how to get to sustainability. These numbers change considerably as we implement projects.	
20	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Heather Lukacs	We had a workshop and showed water levels. What stood out was that water levels in the eastside are so much lower than the other subbasins (1945-2018). To what extent do these estimates take into consideration historical conditions?	DW: These models take into account the historical conditions. This subbasin is very susceptible to drought.	
21	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Heather Lukacs	RE: The cone of depression, I echo Robin's comments that when we look at impacts to private wells, we need to look at distribution of private wells as it relates to the GW levels throughout the basin.	Comment received	
22	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Robin Lee	There was a proposed development called Rancho San Juan on N side. They identified Santa Rita creek upland as recharge area, and found sand lenses. They were going to keep that area as an ag reserve to balance their water budget. It would be helpful to have that information. We also talked about the ranch above the Gabilan that sold their 10,000 acres for conservation. Where is that? It would be helpful to see it and would be helpful for analysis.	Comment received	

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23	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Horacio Amezcuita	If you have to do a reduction of water extraction, how much land do you think is going to be affected? Any idea of how many acres?	DW: I do not know how many acres this would be. This would be assuming there was no other projects being implemented. If reducing pumping was the only project, then options would be: rotational fallowing? Buy land? Invest in irrigation efficiency? We would have to continue to have these discussions.	
24	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Horacio Amezcuita	I live near the Gabilan creek, there is a lot of water flowing and going to the river. Is there a way for the county to hold that water and then release it for recharge?	DW: Please bring this up when we talk about projects.	
25	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Ross Clark	I want to understand the next meeting and projects development	DW: We will discuss some projects, initial list, projects that have risen to the top and looking for feedback. But bring more ideas and we can discuss.	
26	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Ross Clark	How will those projects be developed? We've gone through similar processes in this watershed in the past through IRWM, Stormwater projects and work with the City of Salinas.	DW: We have looked at those plans and proposed projects.	
27	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Chris Bunn	Re: Seawater Intrusion: There's no discussion in this section on how the ES would affect the 180/400. Do we have an obligation to articulate that?	DW: You have an obligation to make sure plan doesn't prevent a neighboring subbasin from achieving sustainability. So, if you lower GW levels too much, and that may prevent the 180/400 from preventing SWI, they can say their neighbor is preventing them from reaching sustainability. To avoid that, this is why the ISP is so important, to work out any differences between the subbasins.	
28	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Horacio Amezcuita	How far away is SWI from the ES?	DW: Approximately 1mi, based on the map	
29	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Horacio Amezcuita	If it gets closer, where water is below sea level, can it contaminate the whole basin?	DW: Recall, it has not been moving much in the last several years. Also recall, there is a geologic difference between the two subbasins. SWI may not flow as easily into the ES as it has flowed through the 180/400. The geologic difference between subbasins may slow it down.	
30	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Horacio Amezcuita	Re: Degraded Water Quality: How are we going to monitor when a water system or a well gets contaminated? Does the regional water board or health dept inform the GSA? How will that work out?	DW: Every year we download data from Division of DW, and we have set up a relationship with the county as well. It will be an annual download.	
31	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Horacio Amezcuita	Will that data be available to the public?	DW: We will make data public that is already publicly available.	
32	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Heather Lukacs	Re: Degraded Water Quality: I appreciate the 3 bullet points. They are helpful for thinking about impacts to wells. I think in the 180/400 you have summary tables of how many wells had nitrate above the MCL. We would like the data for each well, so people can determine how close they are to wells that are at risk of going over MCL. It is a request to have baseline water quality data for all wells in the subbasin.	DW: We will take that comment under consideration.	
33	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Heather Lukacs	The only way to know is to know if there is going to be a significant and unreasonable impact, and what is happening at that well, you have to know what the water quality it at that monitoring point. Also trend data would be helpful and is available.	Comment received	
34	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Chris Bunn	Re: Draft chapter strategic comments: What is the cutoff date for input to version going to AC?	DW: You have quite a bit of time. We can incorporate comments submitted through April. If they are significant comments, we will not make significant changes at that time. We're looking for significant comments now so we can change direction if need be.	
35	Eastside					08/05/2020 Meeting	Ross Clark	Following up on GW/SW indicators. I think there's an opportunity to investigate indicators or monitor approaches to make sure we don't compromise our interconnected surface water through looking at habitat rigor and sustainability.	Comment received	
36	Eastside					8/26/20 Jotform	Robin Lee	Please provide watershed maps for the langley and eastside subasins before Sept 2. Also, provide map with tiger data.	Comment received	