



# Bulletin 74 Technical Advisory Committee Plenary Meeting #1 Summary

Plenary Meeting #1  
March 1, 2021, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting

## Meeting Summary

California Department of Water Resources (DWR) hosted the first DWR Bulletin 74 Update Project Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting with support from the Kearns & West facilitation team and Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) technical team. For a full list of attendees, please see the end of the meeting summary.

This meeting summary contains a general description of presentation topics and summaries of opening remarks, question-and-answer sessions, and TAC discussions.

## Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review

Julie Leimbach, facilitator from Kearns & West, welcomed attendees to the first TAC Plenary meeting. The meeting objectives were the following:

- Kick off and review the public engagement process for the DWR Bulletin 74 Update Project.
- Convene the TAC for the first time.
- Reflect collected interests and concerns and gather additional input.
- Review the TAC Charter and gather input.
- Review the Focus Group proposed issues areas.
- Provide background on DWR Bulletin 74 Update Project in context of groundwater management.

The TAC members answered the following two poll questions:

- Where are you Zooming in from?
- What sector do you represent?

### **Opening Remarks**

Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR Manager, Division of Planning, thanked TAC members for donating their time and bringing a broad diversity of expertise and experience. He noted that, unlike past well standard update efforts, DWR is fully resourced to complete this update process. The Bulletin 74 Well Standards Update Project is included in both DWR's Strategic Plan, in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Office strategic guidance, as well as the California Water Resilience Portfolio. The project will also improve the consistency among the well standards and merge the multiple update processes.

The TAC's work will inform the creation of a public review draft, which will provide an opportunity for more input. This will all be important in creating standards that are effective and prevent the contamination of our water resources, a key ingredient in ensuring we have sustainable groundwater resources.

### **DWR Well Standards within the Groundwater Context**

Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, LSCE President and Senior Principal Hydrologist, and Carl Hauge, Retired DWR Chief Hydrogeologist, presented on DWR Bulletin 74: California Well Standards (Well Standards) within the groundwater context.

Kretsinger Grabert presented on the following topics:

- DWR Bulletin 74 Update Project vision and mandate
- Other groundwater quality protection laws and programs
- Coordination between water quality programs
- Well structures as potential conduits for contaminants.
- Importance of TAC contributions

Hauge presented on the history of groundwater management and regulations and how they relate to the DWR Bulletin 74 Update Project. He

provided an overview of the following topics:

- Chronology of authorization for well standards
- Which issues are not included in well standards
- Minimum statewide standards
- The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Model Well Ordinance
- Other agencies with well standards
- Importance of preventing groundwater contamination

### **State Water Resources Control Board Model Well Ordinance Process**

John Borkovich, SWRCB Groundwater Monitoring Section Chief with the Division of Water Quality, presented on the Model Well Ordinance Process and noted the following:

- The SWRCB and Regional Water Boards, collectively referred to as the Water Boards, have assembled a team for this process, including staff from the Division of Water Quality, Division of Drinking Water, the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment (GAMA) Program, as well the Regional Water Boards.
- The Water Boards will update the Model Well Ordinance 12-16 months after the conclusion of the DWR Bulletin 74 Update Project.
- The process will include SWRCB approval and submittal to the Office of Administrative Law.

### **DWR Well Standards Vision and Plan**

Julie Haas, DWR Senior Engineer and Project Manager for the DWR Bulletin 74 Update Project, presented on the project vision and plan. She covered the following:

- History of stakeholder engagement in developing well standards
- DWR Bulletin 74 Update Project Team Composition
- TAC Purpose, Process, Schedule, Focus Groups, and Selection Process

Technical Advisory Group members then answered a series of questions about what was in and out of scope for the DWR Bulletin 74 Update Project.

Haas then reviewed the Project Vision and Guiding Principles.

## **TAC Interest Survey Results**

Leimbach presented the results of the TAC Interest Survey, which was filled out by prospective TAC members. Over 100 applicants representing a diversity of sectors responded to the survey. Leimbach presented a high-level summary of the interests submitted by TAC applicants.

## **Break**

## **Question and Answer Session**

Below is a summary of questions and comments on the proceeding section and the responses from the project team.

- Question (Q): When will the Draft (Geothermal Heat Exchange Well) Well Standards be made available for TAC members to review?
  - Answer (A): DWR has prepared an Administrative Draft of the Geothermal Heat Exchange Well Standards, however it is not releasing it yet, because it may be revised based on input collected during the Phase 1 Focus Groups (March – June 2021). Phase 1 Focus Groups are primarily reviewing current bulletins and research and gathering information and input. Phase 2 Focus Group members will be reviewing draft sections of the Well Standards, including the Draft GHEW Standards. The Updated Well Standards are scheduled to be released for Public Review by Fall 2022.
- Q: How long will TAC members have to review materials before Focus Group Meetings?
  - A: Focus Group members should review the Focus Group Syllabus, which includes a guide to important reference materials and watch the pre-recorded Preview Webinar. The Syllabus will be sent out 3-4 weeks before the first meeting of each Focus Group and the prerecorded Preview Webinar will be sent out 1 week before the first Focus Group meeting.
- Q: The Guiding Principles mention that DWR will use discretionary language in the Updated Well Standards when there is good reason to do so: Is it DWR's objective to set the level of discretion such that CEQA review is not triggered?
  - A: No, that is not our objective. DWR's objective is to prepare standards that are protective of groundwater quality. As noted in

the Guiding Principle, discretion has been built in intentionality because there is so much variability with each well. Local enforcing agencies are given flexibility in implementing the standards. DWR is aware that vague language can make the standards difficult to interpret and enforce. So, we will be revisiting language in the Well Standards in consideration of what will be protective and enforceable.

### **TAC Charter & TAC Process Goals and Rules**

Leimbach reviewed the TAC Charter and provided an overview of TAC purpose, roles and responsibilities, and schedule. She highlighted the following key points:

- The TAC will support DWR in an advisory capacity.
  - The TAC will provide input to DWR to develop updated Well Standards that are enforceable, protective, and based on the current state of knowledge and best practices.
  - DWR has final authority over the Updated Well Standards, which will be submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board for adoption into a Statewide Model Well Ordinance.
- The TAC will meet in two phases, which will be followed by the Public Review period. The meeting schedule has been posted to the TAC Box site.
  - Meeting materials for the TAC Plenary will be provided at least 1 week in advance.
  - Syllabus for Focus Groups will be sent out 3-4 weeks before the first meeting of each Focus Group and the prerecorded Preview Webinar will be sent out 1 week before the first Focus Group meeting.
  - Summaries for each meeting will be available 2 weeks following each TAC Plenary and Focus Group meeting.
  - Focus Groups will be the primary forum for providing input and discussing key unresolved issues.
  - TAC members are invited to observe any Focus Group meetings via the live stream link.
  - Primary and Alternate Focus Group members should coordinate

on attending meetings and sharing information.

- TAC members are expected to:
  - Prepare for and attend all TAC Plenary and Focus Group meetings.
  - Each Focus Group will be provided with a Meeting Syllabus which outlines key unresolved issues, discussion questions, and the reading materials and videos that have been posted to the Focus Group Box folder.
  - Collect input from and disseminate information to constituents.
  - Identify areas of uncertainty in the Well Standards.
  - Provide written feedback when requested.
  - Contribute to a rich discussion, research additional information, and learn about other TAC member interests. Consensus is not expected amongst TAC members.
- TAC Process Guiding Principles
- TAC Ground rules
- Guidelines for External Communications

### **Focus Groups and Issue Areas Overview**

Till Angermann, LSCE Principal Hydrogeologist, gave an overview of the topics that will be covered in the first two Focus Groups:

- Sealing Materials & Placement Focus Group Topics:
  - Sealing Material Selection
  - Radial Thickness of Seal
  - Maximum Aggregate Size for Cement-Based Sealing Material
  - Verification of Seal Placement
  - Provisions to Allow Alternate Sealing Materials
- Water Well Siting & Design Focus Group Topics:
  - Sealing Material Selection
  - Radial Thickness of Seal
  - Maximum Aggregate Size for Cement-Based Sealing Material

- Verification of Seal Placement
- Provisions to Allow Alternate Sealing Materials

### **TAC Charter Breakout and Report-Out**

The Technical Advisory Committee split into breakout groups to discuss questions and comments about the charter.

Leimbach reported on some of the questions and comments from the TAC Charter breakout sessions. Below is a summary of questions, comments, and responses.

#### General Comments

- Some TAC members were ready to approve the Charter.
- The Charter is well organized.
- Meeting summaries will be useful for the TAC members.

#### Focus Group Structure

- Q: Why are there five Focus Groups in the Phase 1 and four Focus Groups in Phase 2?
  - A: TAC members have not been assigned to the same number of Focus Groups. Focus Groups vary in size and composition due to different needs for sector representation and varying levels of interest.
- Q: What will the meeting structure of Focus Groups be?
  - A: Julie Leimbach will facilitate the Focus Groups and Julie Haas will synthesize and reflect back comments received during the meetings. Till Angermann and Scott Lewis will actively participate in the meetings.
- Q: How will DWR ensure that all ideas are heard?
  - A: DWR has intentionally made Focus Groups small enough to encourage discussion and representative of multiple sectors. The facilitator also has the responsibility to ensure all ideas are heard and documented.
- Q: How will we capture topics that fall outside of the scope of the Focus Group and TAC meetings? Will we keep a parking lot of topics?
  - A: DWR plans to develop a white paper with outstanding questions and recommended areas for future research. DWR will

consider using a “parking lot” to capture additional TAC input for this white paper.

- Q: How will consensus be documented?
  - A: The TAC is not expected to reach consensus. DWR will consider all input from TAC members and document areas of agreement and divergence.
- Q: Will any of these meetings be conducted in person?
  - A: Currently, all meetings have been planned as virtual meetings. The project team will consider in-person meetings if conditions improve.
- Q: When are different Focus Groups meeting?
  - A: The TAC and Focus Group meeting schedule is posted on the TAC Box Site.

#### Focus Group Members: Primaries and Alternates

- Q: Can TAC members attend different Focus Groups?
  - A: TAC members can observe any Focus Group meeting via the YouTube live stream. If appropriate, TAC members are encouraged to coordinate with primary or alternate Focus Group members as well. In the interest of promoting equitable and productive discussions, TAC members will not be able to change Focus Group assignments.
- Q: How do observers access materials for the Focus Group meetings?
  - A: Through the TAC Box Site via the link emailed to them. The Box link can be shared with individuals or groups but should not be posted to a website.
- Q: Where is the list of Focus Group primary and alternate members?
  - A: The roster for each Focus Group is on the Box site. These rosters will be updated shortly to reflect some recent changes to the TAC and Focus Groups.
- Q: If Focus Group members cannot attend a Focus Group meeting, can they assign their own alternates?
  - A: Focus Group members should notify the facilitation team if they cannot attend a meeting. The project team may first ask



another TAC member to serve as an alternate.

- Q: How do alternates watch Focus Group meetings?
  - A: If the primary member is attending the meeting, then alternates can watch via the YouTube live stream. It is important that only the primary or the alternate member attends the meeting to keep the Focus Groups small enough for productive discussions and avoid overrepresentation from any particular group.

#### Materials

- Q: Do the Focus Group meeting materials include the Draft Well Standards?
  - A: The Administrative Draft will not be available for review in Phase 1. The meeting materials include a syllabus with background information and discussion questions. Portions of the Administrative Draft language may be available for review by the Focus Groups in Phase 2. The DWR Project Team will consider the input from Phase 2 Focus Groups as it prepares the Public Review Draft.
- Q: Will there be action items for the Focus Groups?
  - A: Focus Group meetings may result in action items. For example, if Focus Group members identify new information or research, then there may be an action item for the Focus Group to share this information.
- Q: How do Focus Group members share additional reference material?
  - A: Focus Group members are invited to send additional reference material to Julie Haas or the Kearns & West Facilitation Team so that DWR can consider sharing with the rest of the Focus Group.

#### External Communications & Livestream YouTube

- Q: How is it possible to avoid having information sent to the media?
  - A: TAC members are asked to refrain from providing materials to the media so that views or perspectives are not attributed to other TAC members in the media out of context. The links to the Focus Groups materials and YouTube live streams are available to any interested party upon request.

- Q: Will the recordings of the TAC and Focus Group meeting live streams be made available for viewing?
  - A: TAC Plenary and Focus Group meetings will be live streamed on YouTube. The recordings will not be shared publicly and will only be used for notetaking purposes.

#### Draft Well Standards

- Q: Will DWR provide the rationale for any reduction in the explanatory language in the Updated Well Standards?
  - A: The Project Team is reducing explanatory language because DWR has received feedback asking to make the Well Standards language more concise. DWR will provide succinct documentation to explain the basis for these changes.
- Q: Will there be opportunities to review takeaways before the Updated Draft are developed?
  - A: At the end of each Focus Group meeting, the Kearns & West Facilitation Team will distribute high level meeting summaries, including takeaways. Focus Group members are invited to email the Facilitation Team if any key takeaways are missing from the summaries.

#### Model Well Ordinance Process

- Q: How will the Water Boards conduct outreach for the Model Well Ordinance process?
  - A: There will be a public process, including opportunities to provide comment. It will be important to work through the chain of command for comments, which may be limited to supervisors and senior district engineers. The exact opportunities for outreach and input are still to be determined.

#### Questions Not Addressed During the Meeting

The following question was not answered in the meeting, but a response was prepared for this summary.

- Q: What is the deliverable of the TAC process?
  - A: DWR will consider input from The TAC to produce a Public Review Draft. TAC members themselves will not produce a

deliverable. As stated in the Charter, "DWR may request written feedback on draft content during the TAC process, however, as a rule, all input should be provided during the TAC Focus Group meetings."

### **Review Next Steps & Action Items**

Leimbach thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Next Plenary TAC Meeting: Monday, June 21, 2021, 1:00 – 5:00 PM

### **Attendance**

\*Denotes California Groundwater Association Representative

+Denotes California Conference of Environmental Health Directors Representative

#Denotes Groundwater Resources Association of California Representative

### **Technical Advisory Committee**

- David Abbott, Consulting Geologist\*
- David Alaniz, San Bernardino County Department of Public Health+
- Ed Anderson, Baroid Industrial Drilling Products
- Juan Anzora, Orange County Health Agency
- Chris Beegan, State Water Resources Control Board
- Dana Booth, Sacramento County
- Jim Brookshire, Roadrunner Drilling & Pump Co., Inc.
- Kevin Brown, State Water Resources Control Board
- Aaron Button, State Water Resources Control Board
- Alexandra Calderon, San Bernardino County Department of Public Health+
- Bill Cameron, Valley Water
- Kassy Chauhan, Fresno Irrigation District/North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency
- Tom Christopherson, Groundwater Solutions Group LLC
- Chris Coppinger, Geoscience Support Services Inc.
- Bill De Jong, Torrent Resources
- Bill DeBoer, Montgomery and

Associates#

- Randy Dockery, Gregg Drilling LLC
- Mike Duffy, Valley Water
- Adrienne Ellsaesser, Blackwater Consulting Engineers, Inc.
- Larry Ernst, Affinity Engineering
- David Field, Orange County Water District
- Jim Finegan, Kleinfelder, Inc.
- Dave Fulton, Diamond Well Drilling
- Jacob Gallagher, Ellingson-DTD
- Christopher Guerre, CA Department of Toxic Substances Control
- Thomas Henderson, Eastern Municipal Water District
- Mark Howard, Layne Christensen Company
- Erin Huang, Jacobs
- Chris Hunley, Sacramento County Environmental Management Department
- Vicki Jones, Merced County Department of Public Health+
- Misty Kaltreider, Solano County, Department of Resource Management
- Kristine Kim, Riverside County, Department of Environmental Health+
- Russell Kyle, Kyle Groundwater
- Dave Landino, Landino Drilling\*
- Bill Leever, Orange County Water District
- Mike Maggiora, Maggiora Bros. Drilling\*
- Kevin McGillicuddy, Roscoe Moss Company
- Dan McGrew, Farwest Corrosion
- Steve McKim, American Construction and Supply, Inc.
- Tylor McMillan, Tylor McMillan's Well Service, LLC\*
- Lisa Meline, Meline Engineering Corporation
- Mark Metzner, Greensleeves LLC
- Mike Meyer, Michael Meyer Well Consulting\*
- Michelle Myers, Alameda County Water District
- Jane Nguyen, Orange County Health Care Agency+
- Travis Pacheco, Torrent Resources
- Keith Packard, East Bay Municipal Utility District

- Michael Palmer, de maximis, inc.
- Adam Questad, Geosyntec Consultants
- Greg Reyes, Riverside County, Department of Environmental Health+
- Ali Rezvani, State Water Resources Control Board
- John Ricker, County of Santa Cruz Health Service Agency (Retired)+
- Patrick Sarafolean, Minnesota Department of Health
- Mike Schumacher, Pacific Surveys, LLC
- Adnan Siddiqui, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region 4
- Ronald Sorenson, Sorensen Groundwater Consulting, Inc.
- Brandon Steets, Geosyntec Consultants
- Jim Strandberg, Woodard & Curran#
- Brian Villalobos, Geoscience Support Services Inc.
- Dave Vossler, West Yost
- Todd Wallbom, CA Department of Toxic Substances Control
- Jeremy Wire, Geoconsultants, Inc.\*

- Amy Woodrow, Monterey County Water Resources Agency
- Joe Zilles, Kleinfelder, Inc.

#### **Department of Water Resources (DWR)**

- James Albertoni
- Eric Gorman
- Julie Haas, Project Manager
- Jason Preece
- Mark Souverville
- Debbie Spangler
- David Sullivan

#### **Presenters**

- John Borkovich, State Water Resources Control Board
- Kamyar Guivetchi, DWR
- Carl Hauge, Retired DWR
- Vicki Kretsinger Grabert, LSCE

#### **Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE)**

- Till Angermann
- Scott Lewis

#### **Kearns & West Facilitation Team**

- Sharon Hu
- Jack Hughes
- Julie Leimbach