

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Agenda

When: 9:00 am, Friday, February 18, 2022
Where: [Via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83368944838](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83368944838)
Meeting ID: 833 6894 4838
Call in Number: 1-669-900-9128

PUBLIC COMMENT – Any member of the public may address the Board concerning any matter on the agenda before or during its consideration of the matter. Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person. For good cause, the Board Chair may waive these limitations.
ACCESSIBILITY - If you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact Austin Miller (CGA Secretary) before February 18, 2022 via email [info@CosumnesGroundwater.org] or telephone [916-526-5447] to discuss your accessibility needs.

Call to Order

1. Introductions
2. Determine if Quorum is Present

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Comment will be received at this time for items not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the agency. The Board will hear comment but may not take action on issues raised on non-agenda items. Limit of 3 minutes per speaker.

Action Items

3. Consent Items
 - a. Agenda – February 18, 2022
 - b. Minutes – January 21, 2022
 - c. Consideration of Findings Related to Remote Meetings Pursuant to AB 361
 - d. Financial Report – February 2022
4. Prop. 68 Monitoring Well Cost Share
5. GSP Annual Report Update
6. 2022 Monitoring Network Efforts
7. Cosumnes Subbasin Priority Projects/Activities
8. Citizen Advisory Committee
9. Long-Term Funding Mechanisms

Informational Items

10. CGA Administrative Update
11. Cosumnes Subbasin Watershed Coordinator Report
12. DWR North Central Regional Office Update
13. Upcoming Agenda Items
14. Director Comments

Adjourn Meeting

Agenda Item #3b

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2021, 9:00am
Via Zoom

Call to Order: 9:03 am

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Determine if Quorum is Present
 - a. Directors in Attendance: Rick Wohle, Mark Stretars, Leo VanWarmerdam, Don Notolli, Lindsey Liebig (Herb Garms was alternate until #6), Gary Thomas, Jay Vandenburg

Action Items

- 3) Consent Items
 - a. Agenda – January 21, 2022
 - b. Minutes – December 20, 2021
 - c. Consideration of Findings Related to Remote Meetings Pursuant to AB 361
 - d. Financial Report – January 2022

Director Thomas moved to approve all consent items.
Director Garms seconded the motion.
The motion passed with all in favor.
- 4) GSP Annual Report Update
Staff provided an update on the development of the Water Year 2019-2021 Annual Report that is due April 1, 2022. There are still outstanding data needs that the Watershed Coordinator will be contacting GSAs about.
- 5) 2022 Monitoring Network Efforts Update
The Board discussed 2022 monitoring needs (for future development of the Water Year 2022 Annual Report). By consensus, the Board directed Staff to prepare a Request for Proposals to find a consultant to perform Water Levels and Water Quality sampling for Water Year 2022 (monitoring events in May and October).
- 6) County of Sacramento Administrative Fees for Appeals
The Board discussed the County of Sacramento's administrative fees related to administering an agencies direct levy and processing appeals. There have been approximately 8 appeals to the groundwater sustainability fee that 5 GSAs in the Subbasin levied in Fiscal Year 2021-2022. Staff will work with GSAs to reach out to the County's Department of Finance to better understand what measures can be taken in the future to avoid as many appeals and additional administrative costs as possible.
- 7) Citizen Advisory Committee

Agenda Item #3b

The Board continued their discussion regarding forming a Citizen Advisory Committee to provide feedback to the Board on GSP implementation and directed Staff to prepare drafted formation documents in the next agenda packet.

8) Long-Term Budget Considerations

The Board discussed a variety of long-term revenue options and potential expenses. The Board directed Counsel to prepare a memo on funding authorities provided by SGMA.

Information Items

9) Cosumnes Subbasin Watershed Coordinator Report

The Cosumnes Subbasin Watershed Coordinator provided an update on a variety of projects throughout the Subbasin.

10) DWR North Central Regional Office Update

DWR Staff provided a monthly update on DWR activities.

11) Upcoming Agenda Items

No additional agenda items were identified.

12) Director Comments

No Director comments.

Adjourn Meeting

Director Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:14 am.

Director Wohle seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

The next regular meeting of the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority will on February 18, 2022 at 9:00 am at the Galt Police Department Community Meeting Room (or via Zoom).

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Financial Report

February 2022

<u>Expenses</u>		
Description	Source	Amount
Staff Support (SRCD, January)	Sloughhouse RCD	\$ 6,400.00
Staff Support (SSCAWA, January)	SSCAWA	\$ 6,380.00
Total Monthly Expenses		\$ 12,780.00

Revenue		
Description	Source	Amount
Invoiced: FY21/22 Member Contribution (1 of 1)	City of Galt	\$ 15,000.00
Invoiced: FY21/22 Member Contribution (1 of 1)	ACGMA	\$ 5,000.00
Invoiced: FY21/22 Member Contribution (1 of 2)	Sloughhuouse RCD	\$ 91,998.80
Total Monthly Revenue		\$ 111,998.80

Monthly Change	\$	99,218.80
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Agenda Item #4

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: February 18, 2022

Agenda Item #: 4

Agenda Item Subject: Prop. 68 Monitoring Well Cost Share

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: Stephen Julian, CGA Staff

Background

A DWR Prop. 68 grant was awarded in March 2020 that included installing monitoring wells. To better understand surface water/groundwater interactions, that support groundwater dependent ecosystems, a multi-depth monitoring well on a DWR owned property adjacent to New Hope Road is proposed for meeting the grant requirements. Well siting and access permitting has taken much longer than anticipated, but well installation is expected to begin in March or April 2022.

Attached

[DWR Grant Agreement \(link\)](#)

[Budget Amendment \(link\)](#)

[Prop. 68 Well Location Map \(link\)](#)

Discussion

When applying for this grant in 2019, well construction costs were significantly less expensive. Due to the regulatory permitting process and selecting the well location, the timeline was unexpectedly extended, and the project is expected to be approximately \$46,738 over budget. The County of Sacramento has agreed to pay permitting costs of approximately \$20,000 contingent upon CGA covering up to \$7,500.

Staff Recommendation

- Approve up to \$7,500 from the Data Gap (FY 21/22 Total Budget: \$25,000. Spent to date: \$0.) to be spent on this well installation.

Board action needed.

Agenda Item #5

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: February 18, 2022

Agenda Item #: 5

Agenda Item Subject: GSP Annual Report Update

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: Stephen Julian, CGA Staff

Background

At the December Board of Directors meeting, CGA entered into a contract with EKI to complete the 2022 Annual Report, due April 1, 2022.

Attachments

- [Annual Report Contract \(link\)](#)

Discussion

Considerable staff effort has been spent ensuring the necessary data has been collected for the Annual Report. At this time, the following data is still needed:

1. Water Levels for RMW-18 and RMW-19, ACGMA Carbondale and ACGMA Bamert Rd MW
2. Status report on Project and Management Actions (PMAs) progress (Agenda Item #9)

EKI is currently working on inputting collected data into the model.

Staff Recommendation

- Consider outsourcing DMS and data entry in future

No Board action needed.

Agenda Item #6

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: February 18, 2022

Agenda Item #: 6

Agenda Item Subject: 2022 Monitoring Efforts Update

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: Stephen Julian, CGA Staff

Background

At the January Board of Directors meeting, direction was given to prepare a Request for Proposals to complete the required semiannual groundwater monitoring. In 2021, SSCAWA contracted MLJ Environmental to perform monitoring in all GSAs except for Amada GSA and City of Galt GSA.

Attached

- Draft Request for Proposal: 2022 Groundwater Levels and Quality Monitoring

Discussion

The 2022 work proposal submitted by MLJ Environmental prior to the January board meeting was used as a template for the scope of work.

Staff Recommendation

- Approve the RFP and direct staff to solicit proposals (due by March 16, 2022 at 5pm).

Board action needed.

Agenda Item #7

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: February 18, 2022

Agenda Item #: #7

Agenda Item Subject: Cosumnes Subbasin Priority Projects/Activities

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: Stephen Julian, CGA Staff

Background

The Cosumnes Subbasin GSP outlines the Projects and Management Actions that the Subbasin will implement. In order to guide the Board, staff, GSAs, partners, and the public, more details regarding these projects and the next steps need to be identified.

Attachments

- Draft PMA Planning Process Overview
- Draft Cosumnes Subbasin Priority Projects List

Staff Recommendation

- Approve the PMA Planning Process Overview.
- Establish a PMA Committee to work with staff in developing a *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List* of projects and activities, guided by the PMA Planning Process Overview, that CGA will use to guide GSP implementation.

Agenda Item #7

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority PMA Planning Process Overview February 18, 2022

February 2022

Staff prepare an overview of the project planning process (this document) and a draft *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List* detailing all projects and activities laid out in the GSP and currently on the Subbasin's radar. This document would be a living document that is updated regularly to detail progress of project implementation.

Details to be included in *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List*:

- Project Name
- Lead Organization
- Project Description
- Relevant Sustainability Indicators Affected / Expected Benefits
- Status
- Timeline
- Estimated Cost (by phase)
- Potential Funding Sources
- Next Steps

Action Items:

- Approve the PMA Planning Process Overview.
- Establish a PMA Committee to work with staff in developing a *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List* of projects and activities, guided by the PMA Planning Process Overview, that CGA will use to guide GSP implementation.

Public Comment Opportunity:

- February 18, 2022 CGA Board of Directors Meeting

March 2022

Board provides feedback on draft *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List*.

- What projects/activities and details are missing?
- What other voices need to be included in the planning process and how should we plan to receive their input?

Action Items:

- Staff provides updated draft *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List* in March 21, 2022 Board of Directors' Meeting Agenda Packet.
- Board provides feedback on draft *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List*.
- Direct staff to solicit feedback on the *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List* from the Citizen Advisory Committee and partner agencies (GSAs, other local organizations, etc.).

Public Comment Opportunity:

Agenda Item #7

- March Projects Subcommittee Meeting
- March 21, 2022 CGA Board of Directors Meeting

April 2022: Solicit input from public and stakeholders.

Action Items:

- Staff continue to refine *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List*.
- Staff and GSA representatives solicit feedback from GSAs.
- Staff continue to implement Citizen Advisory Committee and prepare for initial meeting.

Public Comment Opportunity:

- April Projects Subcommittee Meeting
- April 18, 2022 CGA Board of Directors Meeting
- GSA Board Meetings in April

May 2022: Solicit input from public and stakeholders

Action Items:

- Staff continue to refine *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List*.
- Initial Citizen Advisory Committee meeting. CAC provides feedback on *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List*.
- Staff solicits feedback on *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List* from other partner organizations.

Public Comment Opportunity:

- May Projects Subcommittee Meeting
- May 16, 2022 CGA Board of Directors Meeting
- Initial Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting

June 2022: Update *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List*

Action Items:

- Feedback on the *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List* (from the Citizen Advisory Committee, GSAs, and other partner organizations) to date provided in June 20, 2022 CGA Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Packet. Board provides direction on edits to the *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List*.
- Plan a public workshop to receive feedback on the *Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Priority Projects List*.

Public Comment Opportunity:

- June Projects Subcommittee Meeting
- June 20, 2022 CGA Board of Directors Meeting
- Upcoming Workshop (TBD)



Project Priority List
Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
February 2022

DRAFT

Agenda Item #7

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Other PMAs	10

Agenda Item #7

PMA #1 Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD) Agricultural Flood Managed Aquifer Recharge (Flood-MAR)

Lead Organization:

Omochumne-Hartnell Water District

Project Description:

As part of the OHWD Agricultural Flood-MAR project, winter diversions will be applied on up to 1,800 acres of dormant vineyards, orchards, and other farmlands for recharge to increase groundwater levels and groundwater storage. Although the targeted farmlands are located directly north of the Cosumnes River (in the South American Subbasin [SASb]), as shown on GSP Figure PMA-1, the resulting storage changes are expected to increase groundwater levels in the Cosumnes Subbasin and provide an almost 700 AFY augmentation to groundwater storage. During Phase 2 of project implementation (anticipated to start in 2028), additional winter flood water from the American River will be delivered to the OHWD recharge area from Folsom Reservoir by way of the Folsom South Canal (FSC) to supplement the recharge from diversions under Phase 1.

Relevant Sustainability Indicators Affected / Expected Benefits:

Aquifer Storage Capacity

Phase 1 (2022-2028): 100 AFY

Phase 2 (2028-): 700 AFY

Status:

As of February 2022, DWR has not allowed diversions to take place under the temporary diversion permit held by OHWD.

Timeline:

Phase 1 (2022-2028)

Phase 2 (2028-)

Estimated Cost:

Current cost to CGA: \$0

OHWD cost-to-date:

Potential Funding Sources:

SAFCA application for DWR Multibenefit Drought Relief Program grant

South American Subbasin contribution

CDFW Streamflow Stream Flow Enhancement Program

DWR Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant

Next Steps:

Immediate: 2/1/22 - Temporary permit diversion granted; flooding can occur.

Near term: identify parcels for project expansion; outreach to landowners; Water Forum participation for conversations on using American River water in FSC

Long term: secure excess American River water; secure ability to utilize FSC for conveyance; SAFCA reservoir operation changes

Agenda Item #7

PMA #2 Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) Flood-MAR

Lead Organization:

Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Project Description:

The SAFCA Flood-MAR project includes augmenting Basin storage with excess flood water from the American River. The project involves changes in the current operation of Folsom Dam that allow dam operators to hold more water during the winter flood season and release this water down the Folsom South Canal (FSC) for storage in the South American and Cosumnes Basins. Recharge will be accomplished through a combination of spreading winter water on farm fields and infiltrating the water into the ground through a network of passive injection wells installed in the corridor along the FSC. The project will require substantial collaboration among federal, state, and local agencies. The details of these collaborations are described in the Groundwater Banking factsheet.

Relevant Sustainability Indicators Affected / Expected Benefits:

Aquifer Storage Capacity
Spreading: 4,000 AFY
Injection: 2,000 AFY

Status:

The first pilot project, Laguna Del Sol, will begin flooding a 3-acre field and injecting water into 1 dry well. Water is being delivered to the field and dry well via existing irrigation and domestic wells, thus, it is not limited to winter months. LWA has been contracted by OHWD to perform monitoring, focused on infiltration. Dry well installation will occur first week of March 2022.

Timeline:

Phase 1 (2022 to 2027)

Phase 2 (2028-)

Laguna Del Sol: 2022 -pilot project; 2023-2025 -expansion of project, limited to LDS property; 2025-2027 - expansion to other properties; 2028-2042 – full project implementation

Estimated Cost:

Laguna Del Sol (to date):
SAFCA Contribution: \$100,000
OHWD:
CGA: \$0

Potential Funding Sources:

SAFCA application for DWR Multibenefit Drought Relief Program grant
DWR Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant

Next Steps:

Immediate: dry well installation, connecting wells, installing monitoring equipment, project monitoring

Near term: conduct pilot studies to assess the feasibility of aquifer recharge in various locations throughout the Basin; outreach to landowners will be conducted to assess interest in participating in the recharge program; agreements for water deliveries to participating farm fields will be secured.

Long term: secure excess American River water; secure ability to utilize FSC for conveyance; SAFCA reservoir operation changes

Agenda Item #7

PMA #3 OHWD Cosumnes River Flow Augmentation

Lead Organization:

Omochumne-Hartnell Water District

Project Description:

The OHWD Cosumnes River Flow Augmentation PMA releases water from the FSC into the Cosumnes River during late-October through December when the Cosumnes River typically does not flow continuously between reaches. The discontinuity in surface flows impedes fish migration and spawning. The introduction of additional instream flows will support fish requirements and provide additional flows to increase leakage from the river that will recharge the Basin. A pilot project was completed in 2005, and full implementation is contingent on securing a water source and funding

Relevant Sustainability Indicators Affected / Expected Benefits:

Interconnected Surface Waters

17 cfs streamflow

Aquifer Storage Capacity

100 AFY

Status:

Timeline:

Phase 1 (2022 to 2027)

Phase 2 (2028-)

Estimated Cost:

Potential Funding Sources:

CDFW Streamflow Stream Flow Enhancement Program

DWR Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant

South American Subbasin contribution

Next Steps:

Near term: secure an agreement with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for Central Valley Project (CVP) water (or other source) for release into the Cosumnes River from the FSC

Agenda Item #7

PMA #4 City of Galt Recycled Water Project

Lead Organization:

City of Galt

Project Description:

The City of Galt currently provides secondary treated wastewater (recycled water) to more than 160 acres of nearby farmland for summer irrigation. This PMA will expand the program to apply more of the existing recycled water supply (secondary or tertiary treated as determined) to 640 acres of Basin farmland year-round.

Relevant Sustainability Indicators Affected / Expected Benefits:

Aquifer Storage Capacity
300 AFY

Status:

Timeline:

Phase 1 (2022 to 2027)
Phase 2 (2028-)

Estimated Cost:

Potential Funding Sources:

Next Steps:

Near term: agreements will be secured with landowners to expand the area of fields that will receive recycled water and the discharge permit from the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) will be modified to include year-round irrigation.

Long term: the application area will be expanded, and treated wastewater will be applied year-round

Agenda Item #7

PMA #5 Voluntary Land Repurposing

Lead Organization:

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Project Description:

Land repurposing involves primarily fallowing land with high water use crops (pasture, alfalfa, corn, etc.) to achieve groundwater savings. It might also include other methods of saving water such as conservation. Regardless of the method, verification of reduced water use would be documented. Fallowing could occur on a permanent basis or on a rotating basis. During the first 5 years of the GSP implementation, it is estimated that 750 – 1000 acres would be fallowed. Farmers would be compensated at an estimated \$350-400/acre for fallowing land or \$100-120/AF for implementing water saving conservation practices.

Relevant Sustainability Indicators Affected / Expected Benefits:

Estimates from CoSaNa suggest approximately 2700 AF/year could be saved during this first phase (2022-28) of GSP implementation from this PMA.

Status:

Timeline:

2022-23: Develop outreach program to assess farmers interest in program and determine acceptable compensation. Identify farms with high water use within basin. Estimated costs: No new costs, falls within responsibilities of staff

2023-24: Develop legal, administrative, and accounting infrastructure for the program. Sign contracts with farmers. Estimated costs: \$75,000 as program ramps up (CGA)

2024-28: Implement land repurposing program. Estimated costs depend on the number of farmers who sign up. Assuming we are able to enroll enough landowners to save 2700/AF/year, costs will total approximately \$1,500,000 over four years (maximum \$430,000 per year assuming full implementation, CGA).

In order to save ~2,700/AF/year, the estimated cost is approximately

Estimated Cost:

Potential Funding Sources:

- California Department of Conservation Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program

Next Steps:

2022-2023:

Identify parcels with high water use crops/high return on investment

- aerial imagery analysis
- Parcel owner table
- data verification

Landowner/grower outreach

- outreach material

Agenda Item #7

- public workshops
- interested parties list

Technical Analysis

Model Inputs

Program Costs

- Develop long-term project cost estimates
- Develop appropriate compensation rates

Legal

- Contract language

DRAFT

Agenda Item #7

PMA #6 Groundwater Banking and Sale

Lead Organization:

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Project Description:

This management action involves CGA's participation in a regional water bank. The Regional Water Authority (RWA) has formed a regional consortium of local organizations to create a regional groundwater bank. As part of CGA's recharge and fallowing/conservation programs, there is a need to develop a system for tracking the addition or withdrawal of groundwater. The recharge account would be created, in partnership with the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), through deposits of winter water imported from the American River. The fallowing/conservation account would be created through voluntary participation of interested Cosumnes Basin landowners. These accounts would be managed to permit withdrawals for export and sale under policies developed by CGA that ensure that at no point will the volume of the water withdrawn and sold exceed 30 percent of the volume of the water deposited, consistent with the estimates contained in the Cosumnes GSP. In addition to SAFCA and CGA, organizations engaging in the process are expected to include SMUD, the City of Sacramento, the County of Sacramento, the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority, Friends of the River, the Sierra Club, and the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS).

In conjunction with this process, SAFCA intends separately to engage in a series of discussion with urban water purveyors regarding their interest in participating in a regional water banking program, including the Cosumnes. Based on the interest generated by these discussions and the progress of the regional engagement process described above, CGA would join the discussions, establish a framework for the export of banked water, and flesh out the details of the Groundwater Banking Program. This work would be conducted by CGA members and/or staff on an in-kind basis with any costs for technical support likely being shared by SAFCA.

Relevant Sustainability Indicators Affected / Expected Benefits:

Status:

Timeline:

It will likely take several years (2022-28) to create the institutional arrangements necessary to implement the Groundwater Banking Program. The estimated timing of developing these arrangements is dependent on many factors, but the steps involved include:

2022-26: SAFCA is seeking grant funding to support a process of collaborative engagement through which local interests identify challenges and potential outcomes of a coordinated operation approach to water management for the Sacramento region that would among other things accommodate the Cosumnes Groundwater Banking Program. Using the existing Sacramento Water Forum negotiation structure, SAFCA will convene representatives of local flood and water management organizations and environmental groups and seek a consensus approach that can maximize multiple objectives.

Estimated Cost:

Potential Funding Sources

Next Steps:

Coordinate with water purveyor(s) and water rights holders
SAFCA
Water Forum
RWA

Agenda Item #7

Other PMAs

Other potential PMAs that may be considered by the GSAs include:

- Expand incentives to expand the voluntary land fallowing program, or shift land use to growing less water intensive crops (land repurposing);
- Provide technical and financial incentives that support landowners wanting to implement local water use efficiency/conservation projects;
- Explore multi-benefit opportunities for off stream impoundments to store floodwater, including potential stormwater diversions from the Cosumnes River to augment storage/recharge on the south side of the river;
- Coordinate with Agency and Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) partners working with willing landowners near the Cosumnes River to develop multi-benefit projects that offer recharge and agricultural and/or habitat preservation benefits;
- Explore recharge projects that utilize potentially available surface water from Amador County and existing infrastructure;
- Explore multi-benefit opportunities for diversions to interior Basin drainages to increase recharge from leakage and reconnect their lower reaches in the floodplains;
- Evaluate the efficacy of local recharge projects such as catch ponds, dry wells, seepage pits, and other water substitution practices. For example, a distributed network of dry wells throughout the Basin could help manage stormwater and increase groundwater recharge beneath private lands;
- Implement Low Impact Development practices in the City of Galt (including the use of dry wells to redirect stormwater runoff for recharge);
- Implement the Drought Resilience Impact Platform for verifying Basin pumping, conservation efforts and land repurposing effectiveness;
- Participate in regional water supply and water banking projects, such as the Harvest Water Project⁸³;
- Review implementation of the Deer Creek Hills Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project, initially proposed in 1997 as part of the water supply for the proposed Deer Creek Hills development, which utilizes high flows from the Cosumnes for ASR immediately north of the community of Rancho Murieta. Based on the initial application to appropriate water by permit with the SWRCB, 4,800 AFY of excess high flows (10 cfs max diversion rate) from the Cosumnes River (between November and June) would be diverted from the existing Rancho Murieta Community Service District Pump Station near Granlees Dam. The diversions are then injected into nearby private wells (consolidated aquifer) for storage and recovery at a later time; and,
- Construct a new well for Arcohe School and develop a groundwater recharge program for the students.

Agenda Item #8

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: February 18, 2022

Agenda Item #: #8

Agenda Item Subject: Updated CGA Contact Information

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: Austin Miller, CGA Staff

Background

At the December and January CGA Board of Directors meetings, the CGA Board provided direction on drafted formation materials for the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). Staff has revised the CAC overview and drafted a Code of Conduct and Application.

Reference Documents

Cosumnes Subbasin Public Communication & Engagement Plan:

<https://cosumnes.waterforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Cosumnes-CE-Plan-2021.12.02-Update.pdf>

DWR Guidance Document for GSP Stakeholder Communication and Engagement:

<https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Assistance-and-Engagement/Files/Guidance-Doc-for-GSP---Stakeholder-Communication-and-Engagement.pdf>

Attached

- Draft CAC Overview, v.2
- Draft CAC Application, v.1
- Draft CAC Code of Conduct, v.1

Staff Recommendation

- Approve the Citizen Advisory Committee Overview, Application, and Code of Conduct.
- Direct staff to solicit the application packet to interested applicants.

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)
Overview**

The Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) is responsible for implementing the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to meet the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements for the Cosumnes Subbasin. The sustainability goal of the Cosumnes Subbasin is to ensure that groundwater in the subbasin continues to be a long-term resource for beneficial users and uses including urban, domestic, agricultural, industrial, environmental, and others. Successful implementation for this long-term effort requires broad and ongoing coordination, collaboration, and engagement. More information about the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP can be found at: Cosumnes.WaterForum.org.

Purpose:

The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Cosumnes Subbasin, as established by the CGA Board of Directors, is convened to provide a productive venue for input from and information-sharing among the subbasin's diverse communities and interest. The CAC will serve an advisory role to the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) Board of Directors, to inform the Board's implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

Objective:

Develop a mutual understanding of and provide feedback on the implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Anticipated Activities:

- Quarterly meetings
- Review available data regarding groundwater conditions and progress on the implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP
- Provide feedback on discussions and technical work related to the Cosumnes Subbasin's monitoring network, Undesirable Results, Sustainable Management Criteria, and funding mechanisms
- Identify future information needs
- Discuss and support public outreach and engagement as applicable

Approach:

- The CGA will share draft materials related to from GSP implementation with the CAC. All draft materials will be informed by CGA Board discussions.
- CAC members will review and discuss draft materials and generate feedback to be shared with the CGA Board.
- Consistent with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the CGA Board will consider whether and how to incorporate CAC feedback. The CGA Board will regularly update the CAC on how its feedback informed its decision-making.

Discussion Focus:

Agenda Item #8

Each meeting will focus on a topic, or variety of topics, described below. There may be need for additional flexibility on topics.

- Funding Mechanisms
- Projects and Management Actions
- Outreach and Engagement
- Monitoring Network
- Sustainable Management Criteria

CAC Composition:

The CAC will be structured to reflect a range of interests and perspectives among water users and uses in the Subbasin. The Board will solicit a basic application to residents of the Subbasin. This application will ask for the individual's interest and experience in sustainable groundwater management. The Board will periodically review application. If the Board believes an applicant will be beneficial to the CAC, a formal invitation to join will be extended. CAC members will be expected to follow the CAC Code of Conduct. If the CGA Board find that someone has violated the CAC Code of Conduct, they have the right to remove individuals from their term on the CAC. Discussions of the CAC will be supported by contracted CGA staff, technical consultants (as funding is available), and a facilitation team from the DWR Facilitation Support Services program (if support is granted). The target size of the CAC is 12 people. Members will serve 2-year terms. In the initial year some 1-year terms will be offered to strive for staggered changes.

The CGA Board will draw on the following criteria when identifying CAC members:

- Demonstrated interest in sustainable groundwater management
- Ability to serve as an effective information conduit to others within the subbasin, both in terms of disseminating information and gathering broader input
- Demonstrated commitment to engaging in constructive dialogue with others
- Availability to attend CAC meetings on a regular basis

Additionally, invitations to the groups listed below may be extended from time to time if relevant topics are planned for discussion at specific meetings:

- NGOs: Cosumnes Coalition, The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense Fund, ECOS, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance
- STATE/FED AGENCY: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Bureau of Land Management (Cosumnes Preserve)
- LOCAL AGENCY: Sacramento-Amador Water Quality Alliance, RD-800, Sacramento County Farm Bureau, Sacramento County Cattlemen's Association,
- TRIBAL: Wilton Rancheria, Ione Band of Miwok Indians, Jackson Rancheria Band of Miwok Indians, and others
- Representatives from the South American and Eastern San Joaquin Subbasins

Ground Rules:

The CAC will generally rely on the ground rules outlined in the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority agreement and the Board's policies, with emphasis on these points:

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- The CAC is an advisory body. All final decisions will be made by the CGA Board.
- Focus on developing credible and timely information and understanding
- Foster thoughtful exchange of information and perspectives
- Identify areas of common interests and approach
- Consensus seeking

Roles and Responsibilities:

CAC members shall:

- be able to demonstrate a general knowledge of and involvement in the activities of priority interest related to the Cosumnes GSP and SGMA.
- review the CAC Overview (this document), CAC Code of Conduct, the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP website, and other documentation to become familiar with the current issues and their background.
- attend meetings adequately prepared to engage meaningfully in discussions.
- engage in CAC and GSP activities in accordance with the CAC Code of Conduct and other CGA governance documents, as applicable.
- be expected to commit to a 1- or 2-year term. Terms can be extended based on the mutual agreement of the CGA Board and CAC member.

Anticipated Work Product:

We anticipate a series of presentations to the CGA Board summarizing the CAC's key perspectives, recommendations, and areas of agreement and divergence on each of main topics discussed.

Anticipated Timeline:

January 2022 – February 2022:

- Development of CAC Overview, Code of Conduct, and Application

March 2022 – April 2022:

- Selection of CAC Members

April 2022 – June 2022:

- First CAC Meeting
-

Agenda Item #8

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Citizen Advisory Committee**

Committee Member Application

The Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) is soliciting applications for membership on the CGA Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC will serve as an advisory role to the CGA Board of Directors and provide direct feedback on implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Members will develop a mutual understanding of and provide feedback on a variety of aspects of the GSP including, but not limited to, funding mechanisms, projects and management actions, outreach, monitoring, and more. It is anticipated that the CAC will meet once quarterly.

If you are interested in serving on the CAC, please review the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP website, review the CAC overview, complete this application, and submit it to CGA Staff. The Application may be submitted in person to staff, mailed USPS, or emailed to the address below. Staff will then work with the CGA Board to put the consideration of new members on an upcoming agenda of the Board. Applicants will be invited to participant at that meeting but are not required to attend. You will be advised by the Board if you are appointed to serve as a CAC member.

Austin Miller, 8770 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624 Phone: 916-526-5447
Email: Austin@SloughhouseRCD.org

.....

NAME: _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS: _____

BUSINESS OR MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE (DAYTIME): _____ PHONE (EVENING): _____

Please provide a brief description of your background and qualifications and any other relevant documents you believe support your eligibility and nomination, including relevant experience and/or education, with particular emphasis on factors that demonstrate an interest in groundwater conservation, an ability to serve as a information conduit to a wider community of water users, and a demonstrated commitment to productive and collaborative dialogue. (Please include additional pages as needed.)

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**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Citizen Advisory Committee
Code of Conduct**

Presented as Draft: February 11, 2022

Members of the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority's Citizen Advisory Committee hereby agree to abide by the following:

- 1) Members will treat all persons in a fair and respectful manner when participating in the Board's activities and meetings, or related meetings with other groups, political entities, or organizations. Activities includes phone calls, digital meetings, and correspondence.
- 2) Members will act at all times in accordance with all applicable laws of the U.S.A. and the State of California in the performance of their duties.
- 3) Members will refrain from abusive conduct, including verbal attacks upon the character or motives of other Members, the CGA Board and staff, other groups, political entities, or the public.
- 4) Members will abide by the processes and rules established by the Board and this Code of Conduct.
- 5) The Committee exercises authority only collectively as a Committee. Individual members will not state that a matter is the Committee's policy, position, or opinion on a matter unless the matter has been previously approved by a majority of the Committee.
- 6) When speaking with the media, elected officials, or general public, CAC members are asked to represent only their own individual views (unless, as previously mentioned, the Committee has previously approved the matter by a majority of the Committee). CAC members should refer all press inquiries to CGA Staff.
- 7) Members will keep confidential CGA information that has been provided to them in confidence. Board members will not disclose confidential information without proper authorization from the Board as a whole or use such information to advance their personal, or private, financial interests.
- 8) As a consequence of violation of this Code of Conduct, the first violation shall result in a written warning to the member which states the facts of the violation. A second violation shall result in removal from the CGA Citizen Advisory Committee. Each violation should be documented in writing and approved by the majority of the Board.

I have read and agree to abide by this Code of Conduct.

Committee Member

Date

Agenda Item #9

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: February 18, 2022

Agenda Item #: #9
Agenda Item Subject: Long-Term Funding Considerations

To: CGA Board of Directors
From: Rebecca Smith, CGA Counsel

Background

At the January 2022 CGA Board meeting, the Board requested a general background of funding options and limitations for CGA's long-term planning process. The attached memo is responsive to that request and is intended to guide the Board's discussion and planning for future funding structures.

Attachments

- Memorandum: Long Term Funding Mechanisms – Overview

Staff Recommendation

- Review and identify general policy direction on priorities for fee structure (refer to attached memo).
- Direct staff to solicit a Request for Proposals (RFP) for consultants to develop long-term funding proposal.

MEMORANDUM

To: COSUMNES GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
From: REBECCA R.A. SMITH
Date: FEBRUARY 9, 2022
Re: **LONG TERM FUNDING MECHANISMS – OVERVIEW**

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) is a joint powers authority responsible for groundwater planning and coordination in the San Joaquin Valley Cosumnes River groundwater. CGA does not levy any direct fees on landowners. Instead, the CGA's budgeted operating costs are divided across its total irrigated acreage, and a proportionate share is assigned to each member. The methodology for calculating that cost share was outlined in a 2021 fee study authored by HDR. Members (each of whom serve as groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) for their own areas, relied upon that study to prepare their own fee programs to fund their participation in CGA.

CGA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) has been submitted to DWR, and the organization is now evaluating its long-term funding streams. This memorandum highlights structures that have been implemented in other basins, key legal considerations, and important policy and planning considerations for the Board as it moves forward to establish a sustainable funding stream. It is intended as a high-level overview to inform your discussion and planning. Each of CGA's members retains its own counsel, and you should consult with that counsel before implementing a fee program within your own agency.

General Structure & Key Provisions

Each CGA member holds the authority to levy charges under Water Code § 10730 (charges "to fund the costs of a groundwater sustainability program," levied before or after the adoption of a GSP) and § 10730.2 (fees specific to groundwater extraction from the basin, levied after the adoption of the GSP). These powers supplement the authority that those members already hold under their own organizing statutes to levy fees, taxes, and charges.

The way that a CGA member *exercises* that statutory authority is constrained by the California Constitution, and in particular Propositions 218 and 26. Enacted in 1997, Proposition 218 is a constitutional amendment that imposes notice and balloting requirements for the imposition of certain property-based fees and charges. Accordingly, an agency that has the authority under existing law to levy a charge in connection with property or property ownership must evaluate whether that levy triggers noticing and balloting requirements under Proposition 218. In 2010, Proposition 26 went on to identify certain categories of charge that are as a matter of law not taxes, and which are therefore exempt from the California Constitution's general requirement that taxes be put to a majority vote. These exempt forms of fee levy include assessments and fees

Agenda Item #9

levied under Prop 218, charges imposed for specific government services, and charges to recover the reasonable costs of regulatory programs.¹

Prop 26 and Prop 218's procedural triggers are extremely fact-dependent, and charges related to groundwater management and SGMA implementation have the potential to fall into multiple categories. For purposes of this Board's discussion and direction, three general categories of charge commonly used to fund SGMA implementation are identified below, together with an overview of their core requirements and real-world examples of their implementation.

1. "Property-Related" Fees

This category includes charges imposed "upon a parcel or upon a person as an incident of property ownership, including a user fee for a property related service." Property related fees are calculated based on the proportional cost of providing a service to a parcel (for example, groundwater management or water service). Property related fees are subject to *notice, hearing, and protest* requirements. A property-related fee for water service may proceed so long as a majority of property owners do not submit ballots in protest of the fee.

- Ex: Colusa County Groundwater Authority levies an annual charge of up to \$1.25 per acre against all parcels, to fund the ongoing costs of groundwater management (including GSP development & implementation). Approved by a protest ballot process in 2019.
- Ex: Glenn County Groundwater Authority follows a similar model, but provides for the Cities of Orland & Willows to make lump-sum contributions for their acreage, rather than levy charges directly on city residents.

2. Regulatory Fees

These are charges levied under an agency's police or regulatory power. They do not require the agency to demonstrate that users receive a benefit, but the fees (1) must not exceed the reasonable costs of the program for which the fee is charged; and (2) must not be levied for unrelated revenue purposes. These include, for example, well permitting fees. Regulatory fees are generally subject to some form of notice and hearing requirement within their authorizing statute, but are exempt from Prop 218 and the constitutional notice, hearing, and balloting requirements.

- Ex: Salinas Valley Basin GSA imposed a regulatory fee under Water Code 10730 of \$4.79/irrigated acre and \$2.26 per service connection to fund the costs of GSP development and implementation. Approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors in 2019.

3. Assessments

¹ See also Government Code §50076, providing that a "special tax shall not include any fee which does not exceed the reasonable cost of providing the service or regulatory activity for which the fee is charged and which is not levied for general revenue purposes."

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Assessments include a “levy or charge upon real property by an agency for a special benefit conferred upon the real property.” (Cal. Const., art. XIII D, § 2(b)). Funds a benefit that is not available to those not paying for the benefit or service, and must not exceed the reasonable cost of the proportional special benefit provided to each parcel. Assessments are subject to *notice*, *hearing*, and *balloting* requirements. For an assessment to proceed, a majority of affected properties owners must vote in favor of the assessment.

- Ex: Tri-County Water Authority imposes a special benefit assessment of up to \$7.53/acre on farmable parcels greater than 5 acres in size, based on the agencies’ determination that this category of property owner received a benefit from its groundwater management activities that was distinct from other groups. Approved by a majority vote of affected parcels in 2018. Additional \$10/acre-foot extraction fee imposed by majority protest ballot (i.e., as a property-related fee) in 2019.

Planning Considerations & Recommendations

Because long-term funding mechanisms have such a broad scope of potential implementation paths and structures, we suggest that the Board focus on a few policy and administrative decisions that can inform and direct its planning, no matter what ultimate form its long-term funding mechanism may take.

The Board should consider and provide direction regarding the following long-term funding priorities:

- Will each member be responsible for determining how to generate its “share” of the total budget, or will implementation be coordinated across members?
- Who will be responsible for implementing any new fees? Will CGA, or its members, be the fee-levying authority?
- What will the proposed fee fund? Will projects and management actions be included?
- Should properties/fee payers be differentiated, or is a flat charge across all lands more appropriate?
- Will there be charges on activities (for example, groundwater extraction) that should be included as part of the proposed fee structure?
- When should a long-term funding mechanisms be put into place, and how long should it continue?

Narrowing the focus in this way will enable CGA and its members to focus the efforts of consultants and staff in designing appropriate funding mechanisms to meet the needs of the agency. As the Board reaches consensus (or identifies major points of disagreement) on these issues, it should begin to solicit proposals consultants who can partner with it to design a compliant fee structure and adoption process that is consistent with those policy directives.

Agenda Item #10

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: February 18, 2022

Agenda Item #: #10

Agenda Item Subject: Administrative Update

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: Austin Miller, CGA Staff

Background

The Cosumnes Groundwater Authority's new website is now live: CosumnesGroundwater.org

Moving forward, all meeting notices and materials will be posted to this website.

The Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group Website (Cosumnes.WaterForum.org) will remain until March 31, 2022 by which point all materials will be transferred to CGA.

The primary contact information for CGA is:

- Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
- Attn: Austin Miller, CGA Administrator
- Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95
- 916-526-5447
- info@CosumnesGroundwater.org

Moving forward, all meeting notices and materials will be sent from the above email **((ADD THIS CONTACT INFORMATION TO YOUR CONTACTS))**.

Attachments

None.

Staff Recommendation

None.

Agenda Item #11

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: February 18, 2022

Agenda Item #: 11

Agenda Item Subject: Watershed Coordinator Report

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: Stephen Julian, CGA Staff

Annual Report/Monitoring

January and February were spent primarily gathering and inputting data into the DMS for the Annual Report. In the future, I suggest a more robust quality control/quality assurance program when handling data. I suggest monitoring results be digitized by the monitoring entity to limit the potential for errors when transcribing by CGA staff. Additionally, written procedures for non-CGA monitoring data collection, i.e. PWS, CASGEM, eWRIMS, should be developed to ensure that all data is gathered correctly.

Coordination

On February 17th, initial introduction meetings were held with Reclamation District 800 and The Nature Conservancy, with help from the Cosumnes Coalition. These meetings are to establish relationships for potential projects and grant opportunities in the future.

Project Priority List and factsheet development with significant help from Barbara Washburn.

Facilitation Support Services grant application – finalization of Tasks with Stantec.

Laguna Del Sol – coordination with SAFCA, Torrent Resources, Larry Walker and Associates.

Recharge Projects - CBEC – potential modeling tool for recharge and habitat locations

Subsurface NMR – Vista Clara will be onsite in March

February 2022 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

Grants

California Grants Portal

The California State Library, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources and other state grantmaking agencies, has launched the California Grants Portal – your one destination to find all state grant and loan opportunities provided on a first-come or competitive basis. Visit grants.ca.gov to find funding opportunities for you and your community.

DWR: DRAFT 2022 IRWM Grant Program Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package

We are pleased to announce the release of the DRAFT 2022 IRWM Grant Program Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (GL/PSP) for the Proposition 1 - Round 2 IRWM Implementation. The public comment period has been extended to February 18th, 2022. This solicitation will make **approximately \$192 million** in grant funding available for IRWM implementation projects. ***Please note that the draft identifies a March 2022 deadline for Cycle 1 as originally proposed in early 2021. DWR will update this deadline to later in 2022 in the final Proposal Solicitation Package based on the public comments collected.*** For more information on the Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Program, visit [Implementation Grant Program](#) or e-mail us at: dwr_irwm@water.ca.gov.

DWR: FINAL SGMA Funding Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has released the final [Guidelines](#) and [Proposal Solicitation Package](#) (PSP) for the [Sustainable Groundwater Management \(SGM\) Grant Program's](#) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Funding. Over \$350 million in grants will be available for planning and implementation projects to help regional groundwater agencies comply with the SGMA. **The Round 1 grant solicitation for Critically Overdrafted (COD) basins is now open.** Those potential applicants located within COD basins will be contacted by a SGM Grant Program team member to provide the required templates for applicants to use while applying for the grant program. The Round 1 solicitation will **end on February 28, 2022.**

DWR: \$200 Million Drought Funding to Support Small Communities

DWR released [guidelines](#) for how small water systems may apply for funds as part of the Small Community Drought Relief Program. Eligible projects must be designed to benefit small communities (< 3,000 connections or 3,000 AFY) located in counties under Governor Newsom's drought emergency proclamations or which the SWRCB may determine that drought conditions necessitate urgent and immediate action. Small communities impacted by the drought are encouraged to apply as soon as possible as funds will be dispersed on a first come first serve basis and can submit applications or questions to SmallCommunityDrought@water.ca.gov. This grant will fund projects that provide immediate or interim drinking water supplies such as hauled or bottled water deliveries, deepening of wells, new or temporary water tank storage, new pipelines and connections to more reliable nearby systems, etc. No local cost share is required. [More info can be found here.](#)

Department of Conservation: Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program DRAFT Guidelines open for comment

The Multi-Benefit Land Repurposing Program seeks to increase regional capacity to repurpose agricultural land to reduce reliance on groundwater while providing community health, economic wellbeing, water supply, habitat, renewable energy, and climate benefits. **A total of \$50 million will be available**, with up to \$10 million per basin. [Draft Grant Guidelines and links to January public workshops \(1/18, 1/19, & 1/20\) can be found here.](#) Public comments can be sent to shanna.atherton@conservation.ca.gov. **Public comment closed January 31, 2022 and application release expected 2/18/22 with submission due date of April 1, 2022.**

Public Comment Period Opens for Riverine Stewardship Grant Program

DWR has opened public comment period for the Riverine Stewardship Program: San Joaquin Fish Population Enhancement Program (SJFPEP) & Urban Streams Restoration Program (USRP) Grants Draft Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP). **The 45-day public comment period will close at 5 p.m. on March 14/15,**

February 2022 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

2022. The draft guidelines and PSP, as well as detailed information on the solicitation rules, procedures, and process can be accessed at the [Riverine Stewardship Program – Grants webpage](#). Transmitted comments should be sent to RSP@water.ca.gov.

White House Press release

The White House on January 31st released a guide for state, local, tribal and territorial governments to funding under the new bipartisan infrastructure law. The [press release and guide](#) can be found here.

CNRA Urban Greening Grant Program

The California Natural Resources Agency will be accepting proposals for the [Urban Greening Grant Program](#) from **February 7th, 2022 to March 28th, 2022** via the [System for Online Application Review \(SOAR\)](#). Final [grant guidelines can be found here](#). This competitive grant program intends to solicit project proposals for urban greening and urban forestry projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide multiple additional benefits. This program will give priority consideration to projects located within and benefitting disadvantaged communities. Approximately \$47.5 million in specified General Fund dollars are available.

Public Comment Period Now Open for Regional Climate Collaboratives Program Guidelines

The California Strategic Growth Council is pleased to invite public comment on [the draft guidelines for the Regional Climate Collaboratives \(RCC\) Program](#). The RCC program is a new grant program that will support under-resourced communities in securing and implementing funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. **Feedback received by the March 10, 2022** deadline will inform a final version of the guidelines, which SGC will post on its website in mid-April. You can inform the guidelines via written public comment by emailing TA@sgc.ca.gov.

Other state & federal grant websites for resources that may be helpful are:

- California Financing Coordinating Committee -- <https://cfcc.ca.gov/>, and
- CalOES grants -- <https://www.caloes.ca.gov/cal-oes-divisions/grants-management>
- US EPA -- <https://www.epa.gov/grants/specific-epa-grant-programs>, and
- Economic Development Administration -- <https://eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

Upcoming conferences, webinars, new reports and data

State Webinars on Low Income Household Water Debt Assistance

The California Department of Community Services (CSD) is hosting two informational webinars for water purveyors to provide an overview of the [California Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program](#) (LIHWAP) and details about how agencies can receive funding to help their low-income customers pay down water bill debt accrued during any time frame. CSD has \$116 million in one time funding for this program. Informational webinars will be held 2/15 noon-1 and 2/16 from 10-11, [register here](#).

DWR's Climate Change Program Resources -

DWR's Climate change program has lots of initiatives including resources for water managers. Check out their [webpage](#) and [factsheet](#) here.

NEW: Webpage for CA Water Plan Update 2023 Published by DWR

DWR has unveiled the new webpage for [California Water Plan Update 2023](#). The California Water Plan is updated every five years. It is the State's strategic plan for managing and developing California's water resources. Update 2023 will emphasize climate change adaptation, regional and watershed resilience, and water equity.

February 2022 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

Progress Report Issued on Implementation of the Water Resilience Portfolio

The progress that has been made on implementing California's [Water Resilience Portfolio](#) is detailed in a [new report](#) from the State. The portfolio was released 18 months ago by Governor Newsom as a water policy blueprint to build climate resilience. The progress report summarizes work done on 142 actions outlined in the portfolio.

DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board have released new [principles and strategies for groundwater management and drinking water wells](#). The document provides a framework for the development of drought-resistant communities. Approximately 82 percent of Californians rely on groundwater for some portion of their drinking water or other household uses. A [Spanish version](#) of the draft is available.

FIRO Workshop and Webinars in January and March

The next Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) Workshop will look at FIRO as a climate resiliency strategy. This is part of a webinar series hosted by the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes. The workshop will be held Wednesday, Jan.12 and the 8th annual workshop will be held March 21-24 (tentative). [More information can be found here.](#)

DWR Released California's Groundwater Update 2020 (formerly Bulletin 118) and California's Groundwater Live Online

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) today released the final [California's Groundwater – Update 2020 \(Bulletin-118\)](#), containing information on the condition of the State's groundwater, which is especially important with most of California facing ongoing drought conditions. DWR has also developed a companion web-based application called [California's Groundwater Live](#) (CalGW Live), leveraging the [California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Platform](#) (Open Data) to improve the access and timeliness of statewide groundwater information. The easy-to-use interface will make many of the data sets used in CalGW Update 2020 available in an interactive map format that will be updated regularly for viewing and downloading.

For more information, visit the updated [California's Groundwater website](#) Contact: CalGW@water.ca.gov

OpenET makes tracking water use data easier with satellite data

A space-based tool is ready to help track water in the western U.S. Using data from satellites, [Open Evapotranspiration](#) (OpenET) gives farmers and other water users information on how much of their water loss ends up as evapotranspiration. The OpenET data are available for 17 western states, including the Colorado River basin area.

Water Board: Drinking water needs assessments

For the first time, the State Water Resources Control Board has completed a comprehensive look at California water systems that are struggling to provide safe drinking water. [The needs assessment](#) identifies failing water systems and those at risk of failing. It also offers the most in-depth view of long-term drinking water safety the state has ever had.

SGMA

Newly Submitted GSP's Open for 75 Day Public Comment Period

Groundwater sustainability plans that have recently been submitted to the Department are now posted on the DWR [SGMA Portal](#). These plans are open to public comment for 75 days after the posted date. Below in the table are links to the submitted plans, counties they cover, and the public comment period end date. Information about how to comment on the plans can be found in a fact sheet in [English](#) and [Spanish](#). Public comments are welcomed and encouraged. A SGMA Portal account is not necessary to submit comments.

DWR Releases GSP Assessments for COD basins that submitted by January 2020

February 2022 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

DWR has now released the assessment for all COD basins that submitted GSP's in January of 2020. This included the approval of GSPs for the Santa Cruz Mid-County Basin, the 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin, North and South Yuba Subbasins, the Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Basin, Las Posas Valley and Indian Wells Valley. The following subbasin's GSPs were found incomplete on 1/21/22: Westside Subbasin, Delta-Mendota Subbasin, Cuyama Valley Basin, and Paso Robles Subbasin and on 1/28/22: Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin, Merced Subbasin, Chowchilla Subbasin, Kings Subbasin, Kaweah Subbasin, Tulare Lake Subbasin, Tule Subbasin, and Kern County Subbasin. The release of incomplete determination begins a 180 day timeline to correct identified deficiencies that that precluded approval. These assessments and notification letters, along with other pertinent information, can be viewed [here on the DWR SGMA Portal](#).

Week of Webinars on Statewide Groundwater Management Efforts

DWR is hosted a week of webinars on statewide groundwater management efforts. **All presentations were recorded, and the links are below and can also be found on the program webpage.**

- [2022 Groundwater Sustainability Plan \(GSP\) Submittal Workshop](#)
- [2022 Alternative 5-year Update Submittal Workshop](#)
- [Resources for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\) Implementation](#) (found under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Program Events tab)
- [Accessing Groundwater Data and Tools](#)

Dry Well Reporting Site

There is a website available to [report private wells going dry](#). Information reported to this site is intended to inform state and local agencies on drought impacts on household water supplies. The data reported on this site (excluding personal identifiable information) can be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#) or downloaded on the [CNRA Atlas](#). Individuals or local agencies can report water shortages and [a list of resources](#) are included on the [webpage](#). The reporting forms are available in both English and Spanish.

DWR is developing eight Proposition 68-funded technical projects

These projects include airborne electromagnetic surveys, improving groundwater elevation and quality monitoring networks, Statewide land use data collection, improved subsidence monitoring network, installing and maintaining stream gauges, maintaining and enhancing statewide well completion reports, managing and reporting sustainable groundwater information, and enhancing and maintaining DWR's modeling tools. Fact sheets on each project can be viewed under the "Prop 68" tab [here](#).

- [AEM webpage](#) contains information on the how the process works, safety, schedule, data submission by GSAs, TAC, pilot study data and more. Public webinar was held **June 8th 12:00 – 1:00**, a [recording can be viewed here](#) and [handouts can be downloaded here](#). **Sonoma Valley Basins were surveyed in November, 2021 and North San Joaquin and Southern Sacramento basins planned for surveying in April 2022.**
- [2018 Statewide Crop Mapping data](#) dataset builds on the 2014 and 2016 statewide crop mapping datasets DWR previously released and includes multi-cropping information. The 2018 dataset includes agricultural land use and urban boundaries for all 58 counties in California. Water year 2019 is planned to be released in 2022.
- [InSAR subsidence data](#) is now available [through October of 2020](#) and can be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#). The updated GIS services and data reports are also available [online](#). The next year of data, through Oct 2021 is expected to be released in February of 2022. Future data will be released on a quarterly basis.

Outreach and Educational Materials Available

February 2022 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

DWR's [SGMA Assistance and Engagement webpage](#) has added new communication and engagement toolkit items including:

- A new video – [Groundwater: California's Vital Resource](#) now available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Punjabi](#), and [Hmong](#)
- A Story Map for a non-technical audience – [Groundwater: Understanding and Managing this Vital Resource](#)
- [Guidance on Engaging and Communicating with Underrepresented Groundwater Users](#)
- [SGMA Communications: Media Relations and Social Media](#), including [DWR's Groundwater Media Contacts](#)
- "DWR's Assistance Role in Groundwater Management" video: [English](#) and [Spanish](#)

CASGEM to Monitoring Network Module Transition Frequently Asked Questions Available

The [CASGEM to Monitoring Network Module Transition Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) document covers questions related to the Groundwater Monitoring Law, the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program, a GSP's required monitoring, the SGMA Portal's Monitoring Network Module (MNM), and a basin's or subbasin's transition from the CASGEM Online System to the SGMA Portal's Monitoring Network Module .

Facilitation Support Services (FSS): [Funding still available](#)

- GSA's developing GSPs are eligible to receive funding for identification and engagement of interested parties, meeting facilitation, interest-based negotiation/consensus building, and public outreach facilitation
- More information [can be found here](#). Written translation services available in 8 languages for outreach materials (5,000 word maximum).

PUBLIC COMMENT - Tish Espinosa and Teresa Flewellyn

Why has the Sale of Water (Project #6, Sale of Water) been prioritized over outreach to locate future potential projects within the Cosumnes Subbasin?

CGA Response:

- The Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group included Project #6 in the Cosumnes Subbasin to generate outside funds to cover expenses of more projects within the Cosumnes Subbasin.
- It is the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors' intent to continuously explore potential projects that support groundwater sustainability and leverage funding from outside sources when possible to keep local costs down.

What information is available to show that continuing **Project outreach** efforts were performed throughout the

Plan development period, before the choice was made to piggy-back off projects developed by other agencies/groups outside our Subbasin? (Final Plan Projects #1, 2, 3, and #6)

CGA Response:

- A list of public meetings and workshops held during GSP development can be found in Appendix E of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP. Additional information regarding the Subbasins outreach can be found in Appendix D (Communication and Engagement Plan) of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP.

• **Clarifying my Comment intent:**

- We are asking what **specific Project outreach** was done to locate all options for potential/future project sites **within** the Cosumnes Subbasin during GSP development, other than land fallowing/repurposing.
 - How many landowners were sought out, contacted directly, and discussions were initiated during the Plan development process about implementation of future/potential projects on their parcel(s) prior to choosing the 6 projects shown in the Final GSP?
 - We are asking for information showing time and funds were allocated to determine the potential for actual, physical projects located within the Cosumnes Subbasin, and **all** options of potential projects were given fair consideration, other than land fallowing/repurposing.

What continuing efforts are being made at outreach to identify potential future Projects within, and controlled by the Subbasin?

CGA Response:

- Before long-term funding agreements can be developed, a better understanding of specific projects need to be developed. To do so, the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors intend to solicit input from local stakeholders. A Citizens Advisory Committee will be formed and supported by CGA and will provide direct feedback to the CGA Board. In addition to all Board of Directors' meetings
 - being open to the public, we anticipate holding a series of public workshops as we move throughout the project planning process.
- It is unclear if Cosumnes Subbasin stakeholder paid fees will be used to pay for, or subsidize the Final Plan Projects that are located outside of our Subbasin.

CGA Response:

- The current funding generated by Cosumnes Subbasin groundwater users (outlined in the Cosumnes Subbasin Fee Study) is being used for expenses laid out in the initial year CGA budget (Fiscal Year 21-22). No specific PMAs have been funded from these fees. At this time, we anticipate keeping a similar budget for Fiscal Year 22-23 to allow for time to develop project specifics, update the Cosumnes

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Subbasin Fee Study, and develop long-term funding agreements.

It is unclear if the Project partnership with SAFCA as identified in the Plan will require commitments that will have a negative impact on all, or part of the Cosumnes Subbasins retention of our water resources.

CGA Response:

• • It has been the intent of the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (and therefore the CGA Board) that no agreements/commitments will be made until a positive impact on the Cosumnes Subbasin's groundwater sustainability efforts is proven.

How can more than 1 Subbasin take credit for a Project's benefits in their Plans? (Projects 1, 2 and 3 are located in S. American Subbasin)

CGA Response:

• • To reiterate a commonly used metaphor: groundwater subbasins do not operate like a bathtub. Water moves in and out of subbasins all along their boundaries. Projects near these boundaries can have water pushed/pulled from one subbasin to another. Monitoring, testing, and installation of water test sites are not equally distributed throughout the Subbasin.

• • We are confident that the current Cosumnes Subbasin Monitoring Network meet DWR requirements for

distribution. That being said, we aim to continue to improve our network and would welcome discussing adding

any well within the Subbasin to the Network. Those interested should reach out to Stephen Julian

(Watershed

Coordinator).

What committees were available to stakeholders during the Plan development, and during administration of the SGWP Grant?

CGA Response:

• • ((Assuming this is in reference to the GSP development grants administered by the County of Sacramento.))

• • All Working Group meetings were open to the public (Appendix E of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP). Additionally, the Surface Water Advisory Committee, Projects and Management Actions Committee, and Long-Term Governance Committees held meetings with broader stakeholder involvement and were open to the public.

• **Based on information available on the CGA's website for these 3 named committees, we have the following additional questions:**

- **The Surface Water Advisory Committee/Group (SWAG) met 4 times, beginning in February 2020, with a final meeting on 2/26/21. We found the document titled Task Descriptions that was provided to the committee at the 1st meeting on 7/31/20. I am also including a copy of page 12 of DWR Grant Number 4600012903. (attachment 1 and 2)**
 - **Task Descriptions page 1 of 5 shows a high-lighted section of text referencing development of a Surface Water Advisory Stakeholder Group. This hi-lighted section is identical to page 12 of the DWR Grant named above. The formation of a Surface Water Advisory Stakeholder Group was a condition of receiving the DWR Grant #4600012903.**
 - **Please advise when the required Surface Water Advisory Stakeholder Group was formed, and who were the Cosumnes Subbasin stakeholders chosen to be included in this Group.**
- **The Projects and Management Actions Committee appears to have held 2 meetings, Jan 14, 2021, and Feb 15, 2021.**
 - **The meeting information available on the CGA website does not identify who the Cosumnes Subbasin stakeholder participants were on this committee.**
 - **Please provide information about recruitment efforts to secure stakeholder participation, and if in fact there were Cosumnes Subbasin stakeholders present on this committee.**
- **Long Term Governance Committee began Aug 18, 2020, last meeting shown as Aug 28, 2021.**
 - **Between 8/18/20 and 12/10/20, each meeting agenda identified participants, and attendees, none of whom are identified as Cosumnes Subbasin stakeholders. The 1/15/21 agenda shows**

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only the attendees, and from 2/8/21 through 8/28/21, none of these agendas identified participants or attendees.

- **Please provide information about recruitment efforts to secure stakeholder participation, and if in fact there were Cosumnes Subbasin stakeholders present on this committee.**
- Regarding DWR Guidance Document for Groundwater Sustainability Plan, Stakeholder Communication and Engagemen publication:
 - Page 12 shows Stakeholder Engagement Requirements by Phase. (*attachment 3*)
 - SGMA Code 10723.4 (Establish and Maintain List of Interested Parties), **please provide a copy of this required action.**
 - SGMA Code 10723(b) (GSA Formation, due 6/30/17), in addition to DWR notification of GSA Formation, it shows on the chart "a list of interested parties", and to "explain how those parties interests will be considered" was to be included with the GSA official notification. **Please provide evidence of these required actions.**

Per Exhibit C of the Grant, pg 16 of 41, Stakeholder participation is scheduled to end on 1/31/22, and the Citizens Advisory Committee is just being formed, why?

CGA Response:

- ((Assuming this is in reference to the GSP development grants administered by the County of Sacramento.))
- This grant, and all work performed by the Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group, was for the development of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP. Not the implementation. Development of the GSP formally comes to an end in January 2022 with the submission of the GSP to DWR. The Cosumnes Groundwater Authority was formed for implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP. This completely new organization was formed in late November 2021 after all GSAs executed a JPA. Forming the Citizens Advisory Committee has been one of the initial activities of the CGA Board and is intended to be a key outreach tool for all major CGA activities moving forward.

Will all existing committees be abolished and repopulated, allowing stakeholders in the basin to help think outside the box and not depend on SAFCA, water agencies, or water purveyors to develop our projects?

CGA Response:

- With the development of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP coming to an end the Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group, and all of its subcommittees, is also coming to an end. The Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group held their final meeting on January 19, 2022. Now, as the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority implements the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP, we plan to establish the appropriate committees to solicit input from all stakeholders in the Cosumnes Subbasin. Our first effort will be establishing the Citizens Advisory Committee, which the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors has discussed at every meeting since its inception in late November 2021.

- **In response:**
 - **Forming the first-ever Citizens Advisory Committee in 2022 does not appear to meet DWR requirements, nor Prop 1 & 68 Grant award requirements for stakeholder inclusion in the development process of the GSP.**
 - **No information is currently available on the CGA/JPA website demonstrating all required stakeholder inclusion requirements were met for GSP Development as defined by DWR, and per DWR Grant Number 4600012903.**
 - **The development of the Cosumnes Subbasin Final GSP consistently appears to have been via a hand-curated group of the same individuals populating the Plan development committees/groups. Exclusion of stakeholders allowed for only the selected group/committee members opinions and desires to be included in the Final Plan submitted to DWR. This subverts the intent of open and transparent processes.**
 - **Whether it be by a tax, fee, Grant, Bond, etc., the monies to fund Plan development came from a taxpayer. The first obligation the governing boards had was to the stakeholders, and**

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to make it possible for the stakeholders to be able to exercise their civil rights to fully participate in Plan development, to be an integral part of the choice of Projects the stakeholders wish to fund, and to continue to participate through the final implementation of the Plan.

- From personal experience, both Tish and I made more than 1 attempt each to be part of more than one group/committee prior to the Final Plan submission to DWR. Instead we were offered limited group/committee involvement that never transpired before the Plan was submitted. I can only assume that this was the same experience for any stakeholder that attempted to participate in Plan development. Open, accessible, and encouraged Stakeholder participation is required by DWR, and it is also the civil right of all stakeholders to be involved so as to have full knowledge of how the governing boards are serving the stakeholders interests.
- Instead of an open and transparent process, our Final Plan includes only the choices the Board(s) favored, choices that will be the burden of the stakeholders in the Cosumnes Subbasin today, and into the future.

I seek clarification regarding meeting activities (outside of scheduled public meetings) between Board Members and Stakeholders - are these activities required to be reported on, and shown on an Agenda as an action item, or Report to the Board, at the next scheduled public meeting?

CGA Response:

- • Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board Members do (and are encouraged) to engage with their stakeholders through their roles in their Groundwater Sustainability Agencies/member agencies. CGA Board Members are not required to report every activity they participate in but are expected to keep the Board up to date on any developments concerning CGA.

Budgets provided to date have not shown funds were/will be allocated for a fully transparent, and open hiring process for paid positions within the Cosumnes Subbasin.

CGA Response:

- • When the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority decides to hire their own staff, it will be through an open and transparent process. At this time, CGA has not started the cumbersome process of hiring our own staff. In December 2021 the CGA Board approved two agreements (with Sloughhouse RCD and Southeast Sac. County Ag. Water Authority) for staff support for the remainder of fiscal year 2021-2022.

Is the Board considering forming a hiring committee to ensure an open and transparent process is implemented to address current, and future needs for all paid positions within the CGA?

CGA Response:

- • This process has not yet been discussed by the Board, however, yes, it is assumed that a hiring committee would be formed to hire staff.

Update on the current progress of this (Laguna Del Sol) test site, i.e. monitoring results, Project specs, etc.

CGA Response:

- • Dry well installation will likely occur the first week of March. We will be monitoring in various ways: infiltration rates, soil moisture, water quality before recharge, water quality of surrounding wells during recharge
- Is SAFCA participating in funding of this (Laguna Del Sol) test site?
- • OWHD and SAFCA are currently working together on this pilot project. SAFCA funds are being used in the development of this project.

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Was this grant monies (re: Laguna Del Sol)?

CGA Response:

- • No CGA or grants funds have been spent on this project. Specifics of SAFCA funding should be addressed to the SAFCA Board of Directors.

Is an accounting available for review showing expenditures to date?

CGA Response:

- • No CGA funds have been spent for this project. Any question on funds expended should be directed to OHWD and SAFCA.