

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Agenda

When: 9:00 am, Monday, April 25, 2022

Where: ****LOCATION CHANGE****

Galt City Hall
380 Civic Drive
Galt, CA 95632

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83080550702>

Meeting ID: 830 8055 0702

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 April 25, 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 (5 minutes)
 - a. Agenda – April 25, 2022
 - b. Minutes – March 21, 2022
 - c. Consideration of Findings Related to Remote Meetings Pursuant to AB 361
 - d. Financial Report – April 2022
4. Projects Committee Composition Update (10 minutes)
5. Citizen Advisory Committee, Member Selection (20 minutes)
6. Long Term Funding (30 minutes)
7. Governor's Executive Order N-7-22 Overview (20 minutes)

Informational Items (25 minutes)

8. 2021 Cosumnes GSP Annual Report Update
9. Cosumnes Subbasin Watershed Coordinator Report
10. DWR North Central Regional Office Update
11. Upcoming Agenda Items
12. Director Comments

Adjourn Meeting

Agenda Item #3b

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2022, 9:00am

Call to Order: 9:05 am

- 1) Introductions
- 2) Determine if Quorum is Present
 - a. Directors in Attendance: Rick Wohle, Mark Stretars, Don Notolli, Lindsey Liebig, Gary Thomas, Mike Selling

Action Items

- 3) Consent Items
 - a. Agenda – February 28, 2022
 - b. Minutes – January 21, 2022
 - c. Consideration of Findings Related to Remote Meetings Pursuant to AB 361
 - d. Financial Report – February 2022

Director Thomas moved to approve all consent items.
Director Selling seconded the motion.
The motion passed with all in favor.
- 4) Resolution 2022-1: Resolution Recognizing Linda Dorn
Director Thomas moved to approve Resolution 2022-1.
Director Wohle seconded the motion.
The motion passed with all in favor.
- 5) Prop. 68 Monitoring Well Cost Share
Director Stretars moved to approve up to \$7,500 from the Data Gap budget to be spent on the Prop. 68 funded monitoring well.
Director Thomas seconded the motion.
The motion passed with all in favor.
- 6) GSP Annual Report Update
Director Selling moved approve and adopt the 2021 Cosumnes GSP Annual Report and to direct staff to submit the report to DWR.
Director Wohle seconded the motion.
The motion passed with all in favor.
- 7) Selection of Semiannual Groundwater Monitoring Service Provider
Director Selling moved to select the proposal from MLJ for up to \$27,000 and to give CGA Staff authority to expand the agreement to no more than \$30,000 without Board approval.
Director Wohle seconded the motion.

Agenda Item #3b

The motion passed with all in favor.

8) Governance and Outreach

Director Selling moved to adopt the presented draft policies.

Director Stretars seconded the motion

The motion passed with all in favor.

Director Selling moved to approve the CAC documents with the addition that it is a priority of the Board to have representatives from each GSA area.

Director Wohle seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

Director Whole moved to form a Projects Committee, comprised of appointees from each GSA, to develop the Cosumnes Subbasin Priority Projects List.

Director Stretars seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

9) Grant Applications and Letters of Support

Director Selling moved to direct staff to submit applications and letters of supports for the presented grant programs.

Director Stretars seconded the motion.

The motion passed with all in favor.

Information Items

10) Cosumnes Subbasin Watershed Coordinator Report

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

11) DWR North Central Regional Office Update

DWR Staff provided a monthly update on DWR activities.

12) Upcoming Agenda Items

No additional agenda items were identified.

13) Director Comments

No Director comments.

Adjourn Meeting

Chair Liebig adjourned the meeting by consensus at 11:25.

The next regular meeting of the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority will on April 25, 2022 at 9:00.

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Financial Report

April 2022

<u>Expenses</u>		
Description	Source	Amount
Staff Support (SRCD, March)	Sloughhouse RCD	\$ 6,400.00
Staff Support (SSCAWA, March)	SSCAWA	\$ 6,380.00
EKI - Annual Report (March)	EKI	\$ 23,930.92
Total Monthly Expenses		\$ 36,710.92

<u>Revenue</u>		
Description	Source	Amount
Total Monthly Revenue		\$ -

Monthly Change	\$ (36,710.92)
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Agenda Item #4

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: April 25, 2022

Agenda Item #: 4

Agenda Item Subject: Projects Committee Composition Update

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: CGA Staff

Background

On March 21, 2022, the CGA Board of Directors formed a Projects Committee, consisting of 1 representative from each GSA, to develop the Cosumnes Subbasin Priority Projects List to inform the implementation of groundwater sustainability projects. GSAs were directed to have their committee representatives identified by the April CGA meeting.

Next steps: Project Committee will need to identify an initial meeting date in May 2022.

Staff Recommendation

- Confirm committee representatives.

Agenda Item #5

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: April 25, 2022

Agenda Item #: 5

Agenda Item Subject: Citizen Advisory Committee

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: CGA Staff

Background

As of April 21, 2022, we received 4 applications from individuals interested in serving on the Citizen Advisory Committee. Additionally, staff has spoken with 3 other individuals who've expressed interest but have yet to apply.

Attachments:

- [CAC Applications](#)
 - Neil Dubrovsky
 - Teresa Flewellyn
 - Dave Means
 - Tish Espinosa

Staff Recommendation

- Select initial Citizen Advisory Committee members and direct staff to work with committee members to schedule an initial meeting in late May.

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Citizen Advisory Committee
Committee Member Application**

**Initial CAC Membership
Application review deadline:
April 20, 2022**

**Applications accepted on a
rolling basis.**

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

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NAME: Neil M Dubrovsky_____

Personal Info Removed

Applicant's GSA:

N/A: Address Provided Outside of Subbasin

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.)

I would like to participate in the CAC to represent the Environmental Council of Sacramento. As such, I would contribute my 34 years of experience in public service as a hydrologist for the United State Geological Survey. My focus throughout has been on large-scale assessments of water quality impacts of natural and human nonpoint sources, with the first 15 years spent in the Central Valley and northern California. I have an expert-level understanding of groundwater, SW/GW interaction, and geochemistry, as well as experience working with a wide range of stakeholder groups including agricultural interests in the San Joaquin Valley. Since planting trees in the Cosumnes River Preserve with my (now adult) children 20+ years ago, I have had an abiding appreciation for the landscapes in the basin, and looks forward to working toward a sustainable future. Thank you for considering me.

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Citizen Advisory Committee
Committee Member Application**

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

.....

NAME: Teresa Flewellyn

Personal Info Removed
Applicant's GSA:

Galt Irrigation District

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.)

I welcome an opportunity to be involved in helping with implementation and development of our Subbasin's groundwater sustainability Plan. I am very familiar with a rural lifestyle, and the critical importance of effectively managing our natural resources, and the significant consequences if we do not.

I have lived in Sacramento County for 63+ years, was raised in the Vineyard area of SE Sac County, and graduated from Elk Grove High School. I have been self-employed for over 40 years, and was fortunate that I was able to be a stay at home mom, and was able to be involved in leadership positions in PTA, Girl Scouts, Parents Advisory Council (Elk Grove Unified Administration), and Leader of the Herald 4-H Club for 5+ years as our daughter went thru school.

My time learning about SGMA from 2021 to today, has been engaging and enlightening, I look forward to learning more and helping to implement a Plan that will benefit us all.

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Austin Miller, 8970 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624 Phone: 916-526-5447
Email: info@CosumnesGroundwater.org

NAME: Dave Means _____

Personal Info Removed

Applicant's GSA:

Sloughhouse RCD

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.)

I am currently retired and have lived in Wilton 5 years. I'm very interested in the current condition and management of our groundwater. I have approximately 30 years of public land management experience, including 15 years with the Wildlife Conservation Board. Some pertinent experience with the Board involved projects in the San Joaquin Valley and near Susanville protecting groundwater recharge areas through conservation easements and fee acquisitions. Have helped acquire water rights for fisheries on several occasions; collaborated with numerous NGOS (TNC, DU, Rangeland Trust...), local land conservancies as well as Calif. Indian Tribes, protecting watersheds and restoring wetlands throughout the State. Other experience includes helping fund and develop water infrastructure projects. I've also worked closely with CA Fish and Wildlife, DWR, and other state and federal agencies on numerous habitat protection and restoration projects, including some within the Cosumnes River watershed. Public speaking, outreach and board presentations were all performed as part of the above work experience. Hope to hear back from you soon.

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Citizen Advisory Committee**

Committee Member Application

**Initial CAC Membership
Application review deadline:
April 20, 2022**

**Applications accepted on a
rolling basis.**

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

NAME: Tish Espinosa

Personal Info Removed
Applicant's GSA:

Galt Irrigation District

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.)

Resident of Herald - Well owner since 1994
B.S. Animal Production with minor in Agronomy
M.S. Agricultural Science with emphasis in Agronomy
Owner Cali Consulting Service - Agricultural /
Biological / Environmental Consultant

Agenda Item #6

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: April 25, 2022

Agenda Item #: 6

Agenda Item Subject: Long Term Funding

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: CGA Staff

Background

The CGA 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. Additionally, Staff has prepared draft budgets for next fiscal year (FY 2022-2023) assuming a budget structured around the 2021 Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Fee Study as well as a draft annual budget for the remaining fiscal years leading up to 5-year GSP update (FY 2023-2024 through FY 2026-2027).

Attachments

- [Draft Fiscal Year 22-23 Budget](#)
- [Draft Annual Budgets for Fiscal Years 23-24 to 26-27](#)
- [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.

Agenda Item #6

DRAFT FY 2022-2023 Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Budget
Expenses - Regulatory and Operational Costs

Activity	CGA Budgetted Expenses FY 21-22	FY 21-22 Year End (anticipated)	DRAFT FY 22-23 CGA Expenses
Establish Organization	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -
Funding Exploration	\$ 35,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 35,000
Monitoring	\$ 30,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 30,000
Data Management System	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ 10,000
Public Outreach	\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 20,000
Legal	\$ 30,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 30,000
Financial Audit	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000
Personnel	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 150,000
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Data Gaps	\$ 25,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 25,000
Annual Report	\$ 48,000	\$ 47,919	\$ 48,000
Post-GSP Fee Establishment	\$ 100,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 60,000
Other PMAs	\$ 20,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000
Contingency/Roll Over/5-year	\$ 8,185	\$ -	\$ -
Totals	\$ 444,185	\$ 257,419	\$ 446,000

Roll Over/5-year Update

\$ 186,766

Agenda Item #6**DRAFT FY 2022-2023 Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Budget**

Income - Member Contributions

GSA	FY 21-22 Contribution (Budgetted)	FY 22-23 Contributions (DRAFT)
City of Galt	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Amador CGMA	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Galt Irrigation District	\$ 161,807	\$ 161,807
Clay Water District	\$ 21,889	\$ 21,889
OH Water District	\$ 24,893	\$ 24,893
Sloughhouse RCD	\$ 150,762	\$ 150,762
County of Sacramento	\$ 64,834	\$ 64,834
Total	\$ 444,185	\$ 444,185

Expenses and Income Overview

Category	FY 21-22 Year End (Anticipated)	FY 22-23 (Draft)
Expenses	\$ 237,419	\$ 486,000
Income	\$ 444,185	\$ 444,185
Difference	\$ 206,766	\$ (41,815)
Year End Balance	\$ 206,766	\$ 164,951

Agenda Item #6

Draft Long Term Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Expenses

Activity	FY23-24	FY24-25	FY25-26	FY26-27 (GSP Year 5)
Regulatory and Operational Expenses				
Funding Exploration	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
Monitoring	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Data Management System	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Public Outreach	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Legal	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Financial Audit	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Personnel	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
Data Gaps	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Annual Report	\$ 48,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 48,000
5-Year Update	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000
Address State Comments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Post-GSP Fee Establishment	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Misc.	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Contingency	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Regulatory and Operational Expenses Totals	\$ 443,000	\$ 443,000	\$ 443,000	\$ 443,000
Projects and Management Actions Expenses				
Will be refined through development of Cosumnes Subbasin Priority Projects List Development				
PMA #1 - OHWD Flood-MAR	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
PMA #2 - SAFCA Flood-MAR	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
PMA #3 - OHWD Flow Augmentation	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
PMA #4 - City of Galt Recycled Water	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
PMA #5 - Voluntary Land Fallowing	\$ 150,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
PMA #6 - Groundwater Banking	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Other PMAs	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Projects and Management Actions Expenses Totals	\$ 650,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Total Estimated Expenses	FY23-24	FY24-25	FY25-26	FY26-27 (GSP Year 5)
Regulatory and Operational Expenses	\$ 443,000	\$ 443,000	\$ 443,000	\$ 443,000
Projects and Management Actions Expenses	\$ 650,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Total Estimated Expenses	\$ 1,093,000	\$ 1,443,000	\$ 1,443,000	\$ 1,443,000

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 #6a

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 #7

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: April 25, 2022

Agenda Item #: 7

Agenda Item Subject: Governor's Executive Order N-7-22 Overview

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: CGA Staff

Background

On March 28, 2022 Governor Newsom issued Drought Executive Order N-7-22 that included new well permitting requirements for local agencies to prepare for and lessen the effects of drought conditions:

“9. To protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not:

a. Approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium- or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan; or

b. Issue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

This paragraph shall not apply to permits for wells that will provide less than two acre- feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, or that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.”

County of Sacramento GSA staff is coordinating a meeting with the County of Sacramento Environmental Management Department (well permitting authority) and subbasin representatives from the Cosumnes, South American, North American, and Solano Subbasin to discuss their response and procedures for complying with the new Executive Order.

Attachments

- [Executive Order N-7-22](#)
- [CA Dept. of Water Resources, Drought Well Permitting Requirements](#)

Staff Recommendation

1. None.

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

WHEREAS on April 12, 2021, May 10, 2021, July 8, 2021, and October 19, 2021, I proclaimed states of emergency that continue today and exist across all the counties of California, due to extreme and expanding drought conditions; and

WHEREAS climate change continues to intensify the impacts of droughts on our communities, environment, and economy, and California is in a third consecutive year of dry conditions, resulting in continuing drought in all parts of the State; and

WHEREAS the 21st century to date has been characterized by record warmth and predominantly dry conditions, and the 2021 meteorological summer in California and the rest of the western United States was the hottest on record; and

WHEREAS since my October 19, 2021 Proclamation, early rains in October and December 2021 gave way to the driest January and February in recorded history for the watersheds that provide much of California's water supply; and

WHEREAS the ongoing drought will have significant, immediate impacts on communities with vulnerable water supplies, farms that rely on irrigation to grow food and fiber, and fish and wildlife that rely on stream flows and cool water; and

WHEREAS the two largest reservoirs of the Central Valley Project, which supplies water to farms and communities in the Central Valley and the Santa Clara Valley and provides critical cold-water habitat for salmon and other anadromous fish, have water storage levels that are approximately 1.1 million acre-feet below last year's low levels on this date; and

WHEREAS the record-breaking dry period in January and February and the absence of significant rains in March have required the Department of Water Resources to reduce anticipated deliveries from the State Water Project to 5 percent of requested supplies; and

WHEREAS delivery of water by bottle or truck is necessary to protect human safety and public health in those places where water supplies are disrupted; and

WHEREAS groundwater use accounts for 41 percent of the State's total water supply on an average annual basis but as much as 58 percent in a critically dry year, and approximately 85 percent of public water systems rely on groundwater as their primary supply; and

WHEREAS coordination between local entities that approve permits for new groundwater wells and local groundwater sustainability agencies is important to achieving sustainable levels of groundwater in critically overdrafted basins; and

WHEREAS the duration of the drought, especially following a multiyear drought that abated only five years ago, underscores the need for California to redouble near-, medium-, and long-term efforts to adapt its water management and delivery systems to a changing climate, shifting precipitation patterns, and water scarcity; and

WHEREAS the most consequential, immediate action Californians can take to extend available supplies is to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent from their 2020 levels by implementing the commonsense measures identified in operative paragraph 1 of Executive Order N-10-21 (July 8, 2021); and

WHEREAS to protect public health and safety, it is critical the State take certain immediate actions without undue delay to prepare for and mitigate the effects of the drought conditions, and under Government Code section 8571, I find that strict compliance with various statutes and regulations specified in this Proclamation would prevent, hinder, or delay the mitigation of the effects of the drought conditions.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, in accordance with the authority vested in me by the State Constitution and statutes, including the California Emergency Services Act, and in particular, Government Code sections 8567, 8571, and 8627, do hereby issue the following Order to become effective immediately:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The orders and provisions contained in my April 21, 2021, May 10, 2021, July 8, 2021, and October 19, 2021 Proclamations remain in full force and effect, except as modified by those Proclamations and herein. State agencies shall continue to implement all directions from those Proclamations and accelerate implementation where feasible.
2. To help the State achieve its conservation goals and ensure sufficient water for essential indoor and outdoor use, I call on all Californians to strive to limit summertime water use and to use water more efficiently indoors and out. The statewide Save Our Water conservation campaign at SaveOurWater.com provides simple ways for Californians to reduce water use in their everyday lives. Furthermore, I encourage Californians to understand and track the amount of water they use and measure their progress toward their conservation goals.
3. By May 25, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) shall consider adopting emergency regulations that include all of the following:
 - a. A requirement that each urban water supplier, as defined in section 10617 of the Water Code, shall submit to the Department of Water Resources a preliminary annual water supply and demand assessment consistent with section 10632.1 of the Water Code no later than June 1, 2022, and submit a final annual water

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supply and demand assessment to the Department of Water Resources no later than the deadline set by section 10632.1 of the Water Code;

- b. A requirement that each urban water supplier that has submitted a water shortage contingency plan to the Department of Water Resources implement, at a minimum, the shortage response actions adopted under section 10632 of the Water Code for a shortage level of up to twenty percent (Level 2), by a date to be set by the Water Board; and
- c. A requirement that each urban water supplier that has not submitted a water shortage contingency plan to the Department of Water Resources implement, at a minimum, shortage response actions established by the Water Board, which shall take into consideration model actions that the Department of Water Resources shall develop for urban water supplier water shortage contingency planning for Level 2, by a date to be set by the Water Board.

To further conserve water and improve drought resiliency if the drought lasts beyond this year, I encourage urban water suppliers to conserve more than required by the emergency regulations described in this paragraph and to voluntarily activate more stringent local requirements based on a shortage level of up to thirty percent (Level 3).

- 4. To promote water conservation, the Department of Water Resources shall consult with leaders in the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors to develop strategies for improving water conservation, including direct technical assistance, financial assistance, and other approaches. By May 25, 2022, the Water Board shall consider adopting emergency regulations defining "non-functional turf" (that is, a definition of turf that is ornamental and not otherwise used for human recreation purposes such as school fields, sports fields, and parks) and banning irrigation of non-functional turf in the commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors except as it may be required to ensure the health of trees and other perennial non-turf plantings.
- 5. In order to maximize the efficient use of water and to preserve water supplies critical to human health and safety and the environment, Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended, with respect to the directives in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Order and any other projects and activities for the purpose of water conservation to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought, and any permits necessary to carry out such projects or activities. Entities that desire to conduct activities under this suspension, other than the directives in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Order, shall first request that the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency make a determination that the proposed activities are eligible to be conducted under this suspension. The Secretary shall use sound discretion in applying this Executive Order to ensure that the suspension serves the purpose of accelerating conservation projects that are necessary to address impacts of the drought, while at the same time

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protecting public health and the environment. The entities implementing these directives or conducting activities under this suspension shall maintain on their websites a list of all activities or approvals for which these provisions are suspended.

6. To support voluntary approaches to improve fish habitat that would require change petitions under Water Code section 1707 and either Water Code sections 1425 through 1432 or Water Code sections 1725 through 1732, and where the primary purpose is to improve conditions for fish, the Water Board shall expeditiously consider petitions that add a fish and wildlife beneficial use or point of diversion and place of storage to improve conditions for anadromous fish. California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 1064, subdivisions (a)(1)(A)(i)-(ii) are suspended with respect to any petition that is subject to this paragraph.
7. To facilitate the hauling of water for domestic use by local communities and domestic water users threatened with the loss of water supply or degraded water quality resulting from drought, any ordinance, regulation, prohibition, policy, or requirement of any kind adopted by a public agency that prohibits the hauling of water out of the water's basin of origin or a public agency's jurisdiction is hereby suspended. The suspension authorized pursuant to this paragraph shall be limited to the hauling of water by truck or bottle to be used for human consumption, cooking, or sanitation in communities or residences threatened with the loss of affordable safe drinking water. Nothing in this paragraph limits any public health or safety requirement to ensure the safety of hauled water.
8. The Water Board shall expand inspections to determine whether illegal diversions or wasteful or unreasonable use of water are occurring and bring enforcement actions against illegal diverters and those engaging in the wasteful and unreasonable use of water. When access is not granted by a property owner, the Water Board may obtain an inspection warrant pursuant to the procedures set forth in Title 13 (commencing with section 1822.50) of Part 3 of the Code of Civil Procedure for the purposes of conducting an inspection pursuant to this directive.
9. To protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not:
 - a. Approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium- or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability

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Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan; or

- b. Issue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

This paragraph shall not apply to permits for wells that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, or that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

10. To address household or small community drinking water shortages dependent upon groundwater wells that have failed due to drought conditions, the Department of Water Resources shall work with other state agencies to investigate expedited regulatory pathways to modify, repair, or reconstruct failed household or small community or public supply wells, while recognizing the need to ensure the sustainability of such wells as provided for in paragraph 9.
11. State agencies shall collaborate with tribes and federal, regional, and local agencies on actions related to promoting groundwater recharge and increasing storage.
12. To help advance groundwater recharge projects, and to demonstrate the feasibility of projects that can use available high water flows to recharge local groundwater while minimizing flood risks, the Water Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards shall prioritize water right permits, water quality certifications, waste discharge requirements, and conditional waivers of waste discharge requirements to accelerate approvals for projects that enhance the ability of a local or state agency to capture high precipitation events for local storage or recharge, consistent with water right priorities and protections for fish and wildlife. For the purposes of carrying out this paragraph, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division, and Chapter 3 (commencing with section 85225) of Part 3 of Division 35 of the Water Code and regulations adopted pursuant thereto are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought. This suspension applies to (a) any actions taken by state agencies, (b) any actions taken by local agencies where the state agency with primary responsibility for the implementation of the directives concurs that local action is required, and (c) permits necessary to carry out actions under (a) or (b). The entities implementing these directives shall maintain on their websites a list of all activities or approvals for which these provisions are suspended.
13. With respect to recharge projects under either Flood-Managed Aquifer Recharge or the Department of Water Resources Sustainable

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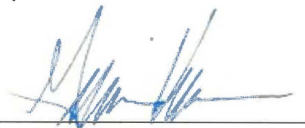
Groundwater Management Grant Program occurring on open and working lands to replenish and store water in groundwater basins that will help mitigate groundwater conditions impacted by drought, for any (a) actions taken by state agencies, (b) actions taken by a local agency where the Department of Water Resources concurs that local action is required, and (c) permits necessary to carry out actions under (a) or (b), Public Resources Code, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended to the extent necessary to address the impacts of the drought. The entities implementing these directives shall maintain on their websites a list of all activities or approvals for which these provisions are suspended.

14. To increase resilience of state water supplies during prolonged drought conditions, the Department of Water Resources shall prepare for the potential creation and implementation of a multi-year transfer program pilot project for the purpose of acquiring water from willing partners and storing and conveying water to areas of need.
15. By April 15, 2022, state agencies shall submit to the Department of Finance for my consideration proposals to mitigate the worsening effects of severe drought, including emergency assistance to communities and households and others facing water shortages as a result of the drought, facilitation of groundwater recharge and wastewater recycling, improvements in water use efficiency, protection of fish and wildlife, mitigation of drought-related economic or water-supply disruption, and other potential investments to support short- and long-term drought response.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as soon as hereafter possible, this Order be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Order.

This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any rights or benefits, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, against the State of California, its agencies, departments, entities, officers, employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 28th day of March 2022.



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

SHIRLEY N. WEBER, PH.D.
Secretary of State



Drought Well Permitting Requirements

Drought Executive Order N-7-22

On March 28, 2022 Governor Newsom issued [Drought Executive Order N-7-22](#) that included new well permitting requirements for local agencies to prepare for and lessen the effects of drought conditions (Action 9).

Well Permitting Authority and Groundwater Management Oversight

In California, regulatory authority over well construction, alteration, and destruction activities resides with local agencies (cities, counties, or water agencies), who have the authority to adopt a local well ordinance. Well permits are administered and enforced by local agencies (or local enforcing agencies, [LEAs](#)), often the Department of Environmental Health within a given county.

With the enactment of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ([SGMA](#)) in 2014, local public agencies – called [groundwater sustainability agencies](#) or GSAs – formed to provide specific oversight and management of groundwater resources, and to achieve sustainable groundwater management within 20 years through the development and implementation of groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) and associated projects and management actions. The local GSAs are required to include in their GSPs a discussion of how they will coordinate these efforts with local land use authorities, including local well permitting agencies.

Drought Well Permitting Requirements

Local well ordinances authorize the conditions for agencies to issue a well permit or permit modification. Given the record drought conditions the state has faced over the last three years, Drought Executive Order N-7-22 requires additional actions be taken by local well permitting agencies prior to issuing a well permit.

Excerpt of Action 9 from Drought Executive Order N-7-22:

9. To protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not:

a. Approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium- or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan; or

b. Issue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

This paragraph shall not apply to permits for wells that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, or that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

Local well permitting agencies retain existing well permitting authorities, including reviewing and administering well permits. Under the Executive Order Action 9, local well permitting agencies must take the following steps during the well permitting process for wells intending to extract groundwater:

1. Consultation with the GSA – If the proposed well would be in a high or medium priority groundwater basin, the well permitting agency must consult with the GSA and receive written verification from the GSA that the proposed well location is generally consistent (not inconsistent) with the applicable GSP and will not decrease the likelihood of achieving the sustainability goals that the GSAs have developed under SGMA.
2. Permit Evaluation – For every well permit application, the local well permitting agency must determine before issuing a well permit that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells and is not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

These requirements do not apply to wells that pump less than 2 acre-feet per year (de minimus users) and wells that exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in [section 116275](#) of the Health and Safety Code.

State Resources Available to Local Agencies

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) provides technical and other support services to local agencies to support decision-making. The following resources are available to help local agencies navigate the well permitting requirements in this Drought Executive Order:

- To find the **groundwater basins subject to SGMA** and classified as medium or high priority: [Basin Prioritization Dashboard](#)
- To find the **Groundwater Sustainability Agency** managing the applicable basin or area of the basin: [GSA Map Viewer](#)
- To find the **Groundwater Sustainability Plan** adopted by the local Groundwater Sustainability Agency: [GSP Map Viewer](#)
- To view **existing nearby wells** (domestic, irrigation, public supply and reported dry wells): [California's Groundwater Live – Well Infrastructure](#)
- To view **groundwater levels and trends**: [California's Groundwater Live – Groundwater Levels](#)
- To view **subsidence data** and nearby infrastructure: [California's Groundwater Live – Subsidence Data](#)

For more information or questions, please contact DWR's Sustainable Groundwater Management Office at: SGMPS@water.ca.gov.

For more information about the State's Drought Response and Assistance, please visit drought.ca.gov.

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: April 25, 2022

Agenda Item #: 8
Agenda Item Subject: 2021 Cosumnes GSP Annual Report Update

To: CGA Board of Directors
From: CGA Staff

Background

The Annual Report for Water Year 2021 has been completed and submitted to DWR. During the March CGA board meeting, direction was given to staff to address certain questions and concerns.

Discussion

1. Water usage of Ag and Ag Res were combined in the report
 - Ag Res estimated water use: 8,000 AF
 - Ag estimated water use: 125,100 AF
2. RMW-WL16 Minimum Threshold Exceedance
 - GSP Section 15.8
 - Awaiting spring water level measurement
 - Increased monitoring to determine trend line
3. “Developed” water usage
 - WY21 – 16,200 AF
 - ~6% increase from average (15,300 AFY)
 - Table WB-5
 - Includes both urban and industrial(aquaculture)

No Board action needed.

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: April 25, 2022

Agenda Item #: 9

Agenda Item Subject: Watershed Coordinator Update

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: Stephen Julian, Watershed Coordinator

Monitoring

MLJ contract was agreed upon. Spring water level measurements are being collected. Measurements will be presented at the May meeting.

Annual Report

Aim to complete Annual Report by January of each year. CGA/GSAs can review and raise questions/concerns

Projects

The Nature Conservancy Bird Return Program. Multibenefit – recharge and habitat. Funding for flooding fields. Currently coordinating with Sacramento Valley Conservancy and Cosumnes Coalition on program details.

<https://birdreturns.org/>. [Colusa County Bird Return Program](#)

No Board action needed.

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April 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.

The California Financing Coordinating Committee is hosting two free virtual funding fairs on May 17 and May 25

This is a great opportunity for local government employees, water industry professionals, city planners, economic development and engineering professionals, water and irrigation district managers, financial advisors, project consultants, and California Native American tribes to learn about current available infrastructure grant, loan, and bond financing programs through federal and state agencies. The afternoon session includes time to speak directly with state and federal program staff about your project and issues affecting your community. [More information here.](#)

USBR: WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects: Reclamation Grant Opportunity

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law contains \$400 million over five years for WaterSMART grants, including small-scale water efficiency projects. **In 2022, Reclamation is making \$160 million available** and will release other funding opportunities this spring. The funding opportunity released today is available at www.grants.gov by searching for opportunity number R22AS00195. **Applications are due on April 28, 2022, at 4 p.m. MDT.** Eligible applicants include states, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, or any other organization with water or power delivery authority in the Western United States or territories. An applicant is eligible for up to \$100,000, and the total project costs should be \$225,000 or less. [More information here.](#) 50% non-federal match is required.

USBR: WaterSMART Drought Grants for Fiscal Year 2023

USBR has a number of grants to fund drought response including contingency planning (applications due April 14), resiliency projects (applications due June 15) and emergency response. [More information can be found here.](#)

ICARP Grant Programs

Three new grant programs were authorized under the 2021 State Climate Budget to fund local, regional, and tribal **climate adaptation and resilience efforts** across the state. [More information including registration for listening session webinars can be found here.](#)

- The ICARP Adaptation Planning Grant Program will invest \$25 million over multiple funding rounds for local, regional, and tribal governments to support climate adaptation and resilience planning activities.
- The ICARP Regional Resilience Planning and Implementation Grant Program will invest \$250 million over multiple funding rounds to scale regional climate resilience solutions.
- The ICARP Extreme Heat and Community Resilience Grant Program will support local and regional heat adaptation by investing \$100 million in extreme heat and urban heat island mitigation activities.

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.

NEW: April 2022, the White House released a Rural Playbook to help state, local, Tribal and territorial governments in rural areas unlock the benefits from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (aka the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/BIL-Rural-Playbook-.pdf>

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

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

Webinar Series: EPA hosting Grant Webinar Series

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment is pleased to announce the launch of a new webinar series. The webinar series, which will take place over three weeks starting in April, is intended for grant applicants and recipients. Participants will hear from EPA staff about key aspects of the grants process and have the opportunity to submit questions. **Click for registration links to the follow webinars: [Competition Process](#) (April 28), [Developing a Budget](#) (May 5th), and [Financial Management](#) (May 10). All will be held 2-3 pm Eastern Time.**

Webinar: LiDAR Stakeholder Workshop

On Monday, **May 16th, from 9 a.m. to Noon PDT**, the [California Water Data Consortium](#) and co-conveners (listed below) will host a virtual cross-sector gathering to build common ground and collaboration on needs and uses of LiDAR derived products in California. [Register here](#). Goals of the workshop include:

- Launch creation of a common, publicly accessible list of derived product types of interest across sectors, to:
- Stimulate collaboration, where appropriate, on shared derived products

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.

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. **The second meeting of the Policy Advisory Committee will be May 4th from 9-12, [registration here](#).**

DWR Awards \$180 Million to Communities Statewide for Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Projects

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced its second phase of funding through the [Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant program](#). The program will provide financial assistance to 62 projects throughout the state to tackle drought impacts on human health and safety, protect fish and wildlife resources, and support other public benefits, such as ecosystem improvements. Of the \$180 million in funding, half will support various types of water supply projects including groundwater, surface water, recycled water, and supply reliability. The other half of the awarded funds will finance projects focused on water conservation, groundwater recharge, water quality, and habitat restoration. Included in the awards are five projects benefiting Tribes and 38 projects benefitting underrepresented communities.

Electronic Annual Reports for Public Water System Representatives

The Electronic Annual Report (EAR) to the State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water (DDW) on the operation of your public water system during the past year (2021) will be released on March 21, 2022. You will be able to access the new [EAR Portal](#) using the following link: <https://ear.waterboards.ca.gov/>. Once it is released, the 2021 EAR is due to be submitted by May 21, 2022.

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

DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board have released [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.

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

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) 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. NEW drought related features added to domestic and irrigation well dashboards on CA Groundwater Live: The first new feature is a series of new interactive well density layers that summarize the number of domestic and irrigation well completion reports (WCRs) received by the Department over various time periods since 1977. The other new feature has added monthly well statistics for both domestic and irrigation types. This feature allows users to compare the number of new domestic and irrigation wells installed month-by-month since 1977.

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. NEW: Free webinar training series June 1, 8 and 15th 2022 ([more information and registration link here](#)).

SGMA

Groundwater Conditions Report for Water Year 2021 Released

On March 11, 2022, the Department of Water Resources (DWR, Department) released [Groundwater Conditions Report – Water Year 2021](#). The report summarizes groundwater conditions across California and includes information on groundwater levels, land subsidence, new well infrastructure, and dry well reports. The reported information is based on available data from DWR databases, as of January 14, 2022. To view the latest groundwater conditions, please visit [California's Groundwater Live](#).

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

DWR has now released the assessment for all COD basins that submitted GSP's in January of 2020. 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](#). The Department has updated the SGMA Portal's GSP Reporting System to allow the resubmission of incomplete GSPs and, if applicable, Coordination Agreements. The User Manual may also be viewed and downloaded on the [SGMA Portal Resources Page](#) or at the following link: [User Manual](#).

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

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 surveys completed 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 2021](#) and can be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#). The updated GIS services and data reports are also available [online](#). Future data will be released on a quarterly basis.

Outreach and Educational Materials Available

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 \(5,000 word maximum\).](#)