

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

**Groundwater Management Services
(Beginning July 2022)**

Proposals Due: June 14, 2022



Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

8970 Elk Grove Blvd.

Elk Grove, CA 95624

info@CosumnesGroundwater.org

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Request for Qualifications**

SECTION 1 - INVITATION TO RESPOND

The Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) is seeking the services of a qualified agriculture and natural resources consultant to assist CGA in developing a voluntary irrigation water conservation program in the Cosumnes Subbasin and exploring opportunities for implementing small scale groundwater recharge projects in suitable locations throughout the Subbasin. The desired qualifications include knowledge of irrigated lands practices in the Cosumnes Subbasin and the California Central Valley generally; experience in devising and testing irrigation management best practices for a variety of crop types including pasture; familiarity with land repurposing opportunities that result either in reduced water use (crop substitution, rotational fallowing, installation of solar panels, etc.) or increased groundwater infiltration (small catchment ponds, passive injection wells, etc.); ability to connect with land managers and incorporate local conditions and experience into recommended land and irrigations system improvements; and availability to begin work in July, 2022 to assist us with the development of a grant proposal to obtain funding from the California Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program (Implementation Round 2).

Proposals will be accepted via email: Stephen Julian at sJulian@cosumnesgroundwater.org by **5:00 pm on June 14, 2022.**

SECTION 2 – GENERAL INFORMATION

Authority Organization and Operations

The Authority overlays the Cosumnes Subbasin, medium priority subbasin, located in the southern portion of Sacramento County, and part of Amador County. The Authority is a JPA consisting of the 7 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within the subbasin, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District ([website](#)), Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District ([website](#)), Galt Irrigation District ([website](#)), Clay Water District ([website](#)), City of Galt ([website](#)), Amador County Groundwater Management Authority ([website](#)), and Sacramento County ([website](#)), and has been designated to implement the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

The Cosumnes Subbasin currently encompasses approximately 43,000 acres of land that is irrigated by approximately 120,000 acre-feet on an annual basis. The irrigated lands include vineyards (which account for approximately 23 percent of the applied water); orchards (4 percent); field crops (23 percent); and pasture (50 percent). Consistent with the recently adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the subbasin, during the next five years CGA is looking to implement a voluntary demand reduction program, augmented to the extent feasible by small scale recharge projects, that would reduce the annual volume of groundwater extracted from the subbasin for irrigation purposes by about 3 to 5 percent (gross) as determined through acceptably reliable methods of accounting for water savings. The program would be incentive based with all costs to be covered by a combination of CGA fees, state grants, and contributions from others.

SECTION 3 – PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following tasks are a preliminary list of tasks the consultant would carry out in coordination with CGA Staff, Board, and relevant committees. Qualified consultants may include support for all tasks or a subset of tasks.

Task 1: Voluntary Land Repurposing

- Utilizing aerial imagery analysis and other software to analyze land use and estimated water use, identify potential parcels with high water use within the Subbasin and develop an outreach program to explore land repurposing opportunities and assess interest of individual farmers in supporting and participating in a land repurposing program
- Develop a list of land repurposing methods specific to the Cosumnes Subbasin that would support groundwater sustainability
- Provide direction and support in developing appropriate legal, administrative, and accounting infrastructure for a land repurposing program
- Assist CGA Staff in pursuing grant funding, on an as needed basis, to augment local fees in covering the costs for planning and implementation of the land repurposing program

Task 2: Conservation/Water Use Efficiency

- Assist CGA in gathering ideas and interest of farmers, especially those with high water use crops, in conservation efforts
- Identify specific conservation practices relevant to farmers in the Subbasin (specific practices/actions to improve irrigation efficiency; ex: field leveling, drip irrigation, etc.)
- Develop a list of accounting methods for water saved on a farm-by-farm basis
- Assess feasibility of compensation to farmers for implementing conservation practices.
- Identify federal, state, and local resources and/or programs that would assist CGA/farmers in implementing conservation practices
- Assist CGA Staff in pursuing grant funding, on an as needed basis, to augment local fees in covering the costs for planning and implementation of a conservation program

Task 3: Small Scale Recharge Projects

- Work with relevant CGA committee to gather ideas for distributive, small-scale projects to support other aquifer recharge efforts
- Assess the potential benefit of distributive recharge projects as well as costs and financing options
- Assist CGA Staff in incorporating proposed projects into grant applications on an as needed basis

Task 4: Data collection, data gaps, and groundwater monitoring to support refinement of numeric model

Work with CGA staff and committees to address data gaps to support improvement of hydrologic model

- Review and correct aerial imagery analysis
- Identify lands dependent on surface water irrigation
- Review analysis and aerial extent of cropland, ET, and estimated water use
- Analyze existing data and conduct additional geophysical surveys to estimate the extent of inferred clay bed in the southern portion of the basin

- Assess the hydraulic connection between the principal aquifer and perched aquifers along the Cosumnes River
- Assess the current monitoring network and identify potential additions
- Activate surface water gauges along Dry Creek and Cosumnes River
- Expand paired multi-depth monitoring sites along the boundaries of the subbasin

Task 5. Public Outreach

Ensuring the public is included in this planning process is of utmost importance. Support for two (2) public workshops, development of an informational sheet(s), and development of other outreach tools should be anticipated.

Task 6. Project Management

Coordinate with the Authority as necessary. Invoices will be submitted monthly by the 15th of the following month.

SECTION 4 – REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Knowledge of irrigated lands practices in the Cosumnes Subbasin and/or the California Central Valley in general;
- Experience devising and testing irrigation management best practices for a variety of crop types including pastures;
- Familiarity with land repurposing opportunities that result in reduced water use (crop substitution, rotational fallowing, installation of solar panels, etc.);
- Knowledge of groundwater infiltration practices (small catchment ponds, passive injection wells, etc.)
- Ability to connect with land managers/farmers and incorporate local conditions and experience into recommended land and irrigations system improvements; and
- Availability during the summer and fall of 2022

SECTION 5 – SCHEDULE

Project Schedule

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
CGA Issues RFQ	May 27, 2022
Deadline for Responses	June 14, 2022
Interviews	Starting June 27, 2022
Anticipated Contract Start Date	July 2022

Inquiries

All inquiries concerning this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) must be directed in writing to Stephen Julian at sJulian@CosumnesGroundwater.org.

SECTION 6 – SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

Cover Letter

The submittal shall be transmitted with a cover letter that includes the name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address of the firm with point of contact.

Resumes

Provide resumes of no more than two pages that summarizes responsible personnel's experience, education, knowledge, skills, and abilities for each individual.

Submittal

Include in the Submittal:

- Identification of the tasks to be supported and a brief explanation of the applicant's experience related to each task.
- List of any subcontractors to perform any stated duties and their qualifications
- Identification of the individuals that will be responsible for performing the work including a description of each individual's expected contribution and a summary of their experience, education, specialized training, certificates or licenses obtained that demonstrates their fitness for this work.
- A list of at least three references from private entities or public agencies that the company has performed work for. Please provide a name, address, telephone number, fax number and e-mail address for a contact person for each reference. It is the intention of the Authority to verify all references prior to making the final selection.
- Any additional information considered relevant in assessing the firm's qualifications and experience.

Address Submittal To:

Stephen Julian at sJulian@CosumnesGroundwater.org by 5:00 pm on June 14th, 2022.

SECTION 7 – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Term of Agreement

The term of the agreement shall be Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023). If the grant is funded, there is the possibility that the contract will be extended, subject to the review of our attorney.

Standard Terms and Conditions

The following clauses, in substantially the form presented, will be made part of a contract the selected company will be expected to sign. It is anticipated that modifications and additions may be required once a Contractor has been selected.

1. Termination and Breach of Contract: The Authority may terminate the Contract for the breach of any covenant, term and condition of the Contract by the Contractor, its officers, agents or employees, provided the breach is not cured within ten (10) days after written notice thereof is presented to Contractor. In the event that the Contract is for any reason terminated for cause by the Authority, Contractor shall be liable to the Authority for the expense of the Authority arranging to obtain any services provided herein from an alternative source. The Authority may terminate this Contract after thirty (30) days notice

for any reason. If the Authority terminates this Contract without cause as provided for herein, Authority shall be liable for the reasonable value of Contractor's work up to the effective date of the notice. The Authority's determination of the reasonable value of the Contractor's work shall be final.

2. Time of the Essence: Time shall be of the essence with respect to each term and condition of the Contract.
3. Indemnity: Contractor agrees to fully indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Authority, its officers, employees and agents from any and all loss, damage, liability, claim, demand, or cause of action whatsoever resulting from or alleged to have arisen out of or have resulted from any act or omission of Contractor, its officers, employees, agents, independent contractors, or representatives in the performance of this Contract.
4. Independent Contractor: In the performance of the work herein provided for, Contractor shall be, and, is an independent contractor and is not an agent or employee of the Authority. The Authority has and shall retain the right to exercise full control and supervision of the services to be rendered to the Authority and full control over Contractor in the performance of all services hereunder. The Contractor shall be solely responsible for all matters relating to the payment of its employees, and all other regulations governing such matters.

Workers' Compensation Insurance Requirements: In addition to any other form of insurance required under the terms of this Contract, the Contractor shall maintain Workers' Compensation insurance with statutory limits for any employees of the Contractor. If any owner or employee is not covered by Workers' Compensation insurance, the Contractor shall provide a statement to the Authority to that affect. The Contractor shall agree to fully indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Authority, its officers, employees and agents from any and all workers' compensation claims by any owner, employee or subcontractor of the Contractor in the performance of this Contract.