

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: CosumnesGroundwater.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
- Provide feedback on the development and implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin Priority Projects List
- 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.
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Discussion Focus:

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, with the goal of representation from the jurisdictional area of each GSA. 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

The CAC is one of several forums for bringing together diverse interests. Not all stakeholders may desire or have the capacity to participate in CAC meetings; therefore, other forums and methods (e.g., other committee meetings, organizational briefings, etc.) are part of the CGA's overall communication and engagement plan strategy ([link to the C&E Plan](#)).

Additionally, to help enhance the CAC's understanding of groundwater sustainability topics, invitations for specific CAC meetings may be extended to the groups below from time to time if relevant topics are planned for discussion at that specific meeting:

- 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 Cattleman's Association,
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- 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:

See the [CGA Governance and Decision-Making Process](#) visual for more information on how the CAC will impact decisions of CGA. 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:

- 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:

March 2022:

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

April 2022 – May 2022:

- Selection of CAC Members

May 2022 – June 2022:

- First CAC Meeting
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Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Citizen Advisory Committee
Code of Conduct

Adopted: March 21, 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



Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) Governance and Decision-Making Process

working draft (4/5/22)

