



PUBLIC COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT PLAN

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER
MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA) IN THE
COSUMNES SUBBASIN

C&E Plan Implementation (2018-2022)
Version: 12.02.2021

Cosumnes.WaterForum.org

Communication and Engagement (C&E) Plan Document Tracking

Table I. C&E Plan Version Tracker

Version	Brief Description
Original (October 2017) [Link]	Original Working Draft C&E Plan created
Update (March 2019) [Link]	Updated for GSP Development
Update (Summer 2021) [Link]	Updated for GSP Implementation
Update (Fall 2021) Current Version	Updated for GSP Implementation

Table of Contents

C&E Plan Document Tracking.....	1
Table of Contents	1
List of Figures	2
List of Tables	2
Glossary of Common Terms Related to the Cosumnes Subbasin	3
Communication & Engagement Plan Content	
I. Purpose, Outcome, and Goals	5
li. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Cosumnes Subbasin	6
lii. Outreach Roles.....	8
Iv. How Public Input Is Used.....	9
V. Stakeholders in the Cosumnes Subbasin	10
Vi. Community & Engagement Forums	11
Vii. Communication Tools	14
Viii. Evaluation and Assessment	16
Appendices	
Appendix A: Governance	17
Appendix B: Summary of Cosumnes Outreach & Engagement Activities	19
Appendix C: Cosumnes Subbasin Stakeholders and Anticipated / Potential Engagement.....	23
Appendix D: Tribal Engagement Guidance.....	29
Appendix E: Disadvantaged Communities Engagement Guidance.....	32
Appendix F: Media Contacts List.....	37
Appendix G: Potential Venues List.....	38
Appendix H: Cosumnes Subbasin Informational Handouts	39
Appendix I: Outreach Materials During GSP Development	44
Appendix J: Potential GSA Outreach Tasks	48

List of Figures

Figure 1. SGMA Implementation Milestones	5
Figure 2. Map of the GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin.....	6
Figure 3. SGMA Engagement Requirements by Phase	19
Figure 4. October 2017 Factsheet SGMA Update and Introduction	39
Figure 5. December 2018 Factsheet SGMA Update.....	39
Figure 6. July 2020 Factsheet Groundwater Conditions	40
Figure 7. March 2021 GSA Contacts & Glossary Handout	40
Figure 8. March 2021 Factsheet Well Owners.....	41
Figure 9. March 2021 Factsheet Projects.....	41
Figure 10. June 2021 Factsheet GSP Implementation & Funding.....	42
Figure 11. August 2021 Handout Draft GSP Comment Period Guidance.....	42
Figure 12. August 2021 Handouts Draft GSP Summary Handouts	43
Figure 13. Example of Event Flyer	45
Figure 14. Example of Event Postcard Mailer	46
Figure 15. Example of Event Tri-Fold Mailer	47

List of Tables

Table 1. C&E Plan Version Tracker	1
Table 2. Contact Information for GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin	9
Table 3. SGMA Engagement Opportunities, Milestones, and Progress to Date in the Cosumnes Subbasin	20
Table 4. List of Cosumnes Subbasin Stakeholders and Anticipated Level of Engagement and Potential Focused Strategies.....	23

Glossary of Common Terms Related to the Cosumnes Subbasin

C&E Plan	Communication & Engagement Plan
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee – a potential to-be-formed advisory committee that will help implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP
CBI	Consensus Building Institute - The organization that currently facilitates Cosumnes SGMA implementation
CGA	Cosumnes Groundwater Authority – JPA for the seven GSAs to lead GSP implementation (formed November 2021)
DAC / SDAC	Disadvantaged Community / Severely Disadvantaged Community
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EKI	The firm that currently serves as independent technical consultant for the Cosumnes Subbasin
ESJGA	Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority
Galt ID	Galt Irrigation District (link) - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin
GDE	Groundwater dependent ecosystem
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
ISW	Interconnected surface water
JPA	Joint Powers Authority – refers to the CGA, the potential implementation entity being discussed by the Working Group
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NOI	Notice of Intent
OHWD	Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (link) - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin
PIO	Public Information Officer
Prop. 1 / Prop 68	Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 (state grant funding for sustainable groundwater planning and projects)
SGA	Sacramento Groundwater Authority
SGMA	California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (link)
SRCD	Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin

SSCAWA	Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority (link)
SWAG	Surface Water Advisory Group – multi-stakeholder advisory body that met in 2020-2021 to discuss and provide input on the draft GSP-related to interconnected surface waters
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	Cosumnes Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee – An advisory body, with representatives from each of the seven GSAs, that develops recommendations for approval by the Working Group
TM	Technical Memorandum – Summary documents produced by EKI to inform Working Group discussions and decision-making
WF	Sacramento Water Forum (link)
WG	Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group

I. Purpose, Outcome, and Goals

Purpose: The purpose of this Communication and Engagement (C&E) Plan is to share information, foster active engagement, solicit informed feedback, and develop widespread support for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation in the Cosumnes Subbasin (See [Appendix A](#) for background on the governance organization for SGMA implementation in the subbasin). The subbasin’s approach to outreach and public engagement is informed by the CA Dept. of Water Resources’ (DWR) Guidance Document for Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Stakeholder Communication and Engagement ([link](#)). See [Appendix B](#) for SGMA stakeholder engagement requirements by phase.

The purpose of SGMA is to ensure local sustainable groundwater management in medium- and high-priority groundwater basins statewide. **The Cosumnes Subbasin is a medium-priority basin, subject to SGMA implementation.** The Cosumnes Subbasin’s GSP will be submitted to DWR by January 2022.

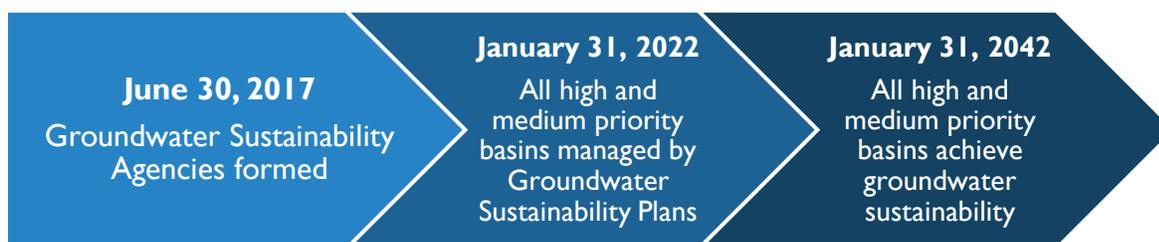


Figure I. SGMA Implementation Milestones

Outcome: The desired outcome for this Communication and Engagement Plan is to achieve adoption and implementation of the GSP with input from and in consideration of the Cosumnes Subbasin’s diverse people, economy, and ecosystems.

Plan Duration: Communication and engagement within the subbasin is important not only during the GSP development phase (2018-2022), but also during the GSP implementation phase (2022-2042). The same principles described in this C&E Plan are expected to guide stakeholder communication and engagement during the twenty-year GSP implementation period. This C&E Plan was initially drafted in 2019 to support GSP development C&E, then updated in 2021 to describe a responsive communications approach for the GSP implementation phase and expected to be updated as appropriate during the GSP implementation period.

Plan Goals: SGMA requires Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) to consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, and to encourage involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the subbasin during GSP preparation and implementation. The goals of the C&E Plan are to:

- Enhance understanding and inform the public about water and groundwater resources in the Cosumnes Subbasin, the purpose and need for sustainable groundwater management, the benefits of sustainable groundwater management, and the need for a GSP.
- Engage a diverse group of interested parties and stakeholders and promote informed feedback from stakeholders, the community, and groundwater-dependent users throughout the GSP preparation and implementation process.
- Coordinate communication and involvement between GSAs (Board and staff) and the general public.

- Employ a variety of outreach methods that make public participation easy and accessible. Hold meetings at times and venues that encourage broad participation.
- Respond to public concerns and provide accurate and up-to-date information.
- Manage the public engagement process in a manner that provides maximum value to the public and an efficient use of GSA and local agency resources.

II. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Cosumnes Subbasin

GSA Formation and GSP Development

Seven GSAs (composed of local public agencies with water supply, water management, and land use responsibilities) were established in the Cosumnes Subbasin (see map and table below) during 2017:

- Amador County Water Management Authority [[Website](#)]
- City of Galt [[Website](#)]
- Clay Water District [[Website](#)]
- Galt Irrigation District [[Website](#)]
- Omochumne-Hartnell Water District [[Website](#)]
- Sacramento County [[Website](#)]
- Sloughouse Resource Conservation District [[Website](#)]

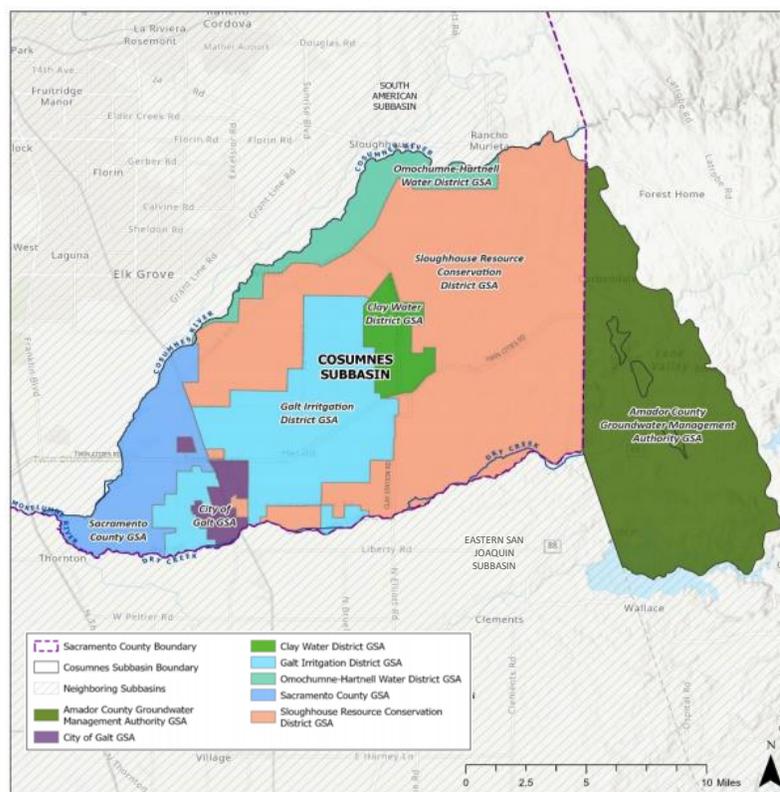


Figure 2. Map of the GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin

Together the seven GSAs formed the **Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group** (Working Group). The Working Group was guided by two framework agreements on how the GSAs would work together during development of a groundwater sustainability plan (Refer to [Appendix A](#) for these governance documents or directly view the [Framework Agreement Phases 1 & 2](#); [Framework Agreement Phases 3 & 4](#)). The Working Group strove for full unanimity when discussing the administrative draft, the public review draft, and the final GSP. Each GSA retained final authority as to whether or not it approved the final GSP.

Committees

During various stages of GSP development, the Working Group relied on several temporary committees consisting of subsets of the Working Group GSA members, including the Technical Advisory Committee, Communications / Outreach & Engagement Committee, Long-Term Governance Committee, Ad Hoc Committee, Projects & Management Actions (P/MA) Committee, Tribal Outreach Committee, and Monitoring Committee. Committees are meetings* where GSA representatives develop recommendations for the Working Group to consider and make final decisions.

Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group

The Working Group also convened a multi-stakeholder Surface Water Advisory Committee (SWAG) to discuss GSP development as it related to interconnected surface waters and groundwater-dependent ecosystems. Three of the seven GSAs (Sacramento County, OHWD, and SRCD) participated in SWAG meetings to support interbasin discussions and as liaisons for the Working Group. SWAG meetings were open to the public and met four times in 2020-early 2021. [[View SWAG overview factsheet](#)]

Additional Support

During GSP development, the work of the GSAs was coordinated and supported by the Water Forum and facilitated by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI)¹. The GSAs retained EKI Environment and Water, Inc. (EKI), a consultant with expertise in groundwater, to assist in developing the GSP. These services were supported by Prop 1 and Prop 68 grant funding.

In 2021, the GSAs retained the services of a Watershed Coordinator through the California Department of Conservation Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator Grant awarded to the Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority (SSCAWA). SSCAWA is comprised of three of the GSAs (OHWD, Clay WD, and GID) (sscawa.org). The Watershed Coordinator Program is intended to help improve groundwater sustainability while promoting better watershed management, river flow, connectivity, and ecosystem function in the Upper Cosumnes Watershed and Upper Mokelumne Watershed in all or portions of the Cosumnes and South American Subbasin.

GSP Implementation

In November 2021, the seven GSAs entered into a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) establishing the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) to oversee GSP implementation (See [Appendix A](#)). The CGA is expected to form a staff-level working committee under the leadership of

¹ The Water Forum (waterforum.org) is a diverse group of business and agricultural leaders, citizen groups, environmentalists, water managers and local governments working together to protect the region's water supply. The Consensus Building Institute (cbi.org) is a nonprofit organization with decades of experience helping leaders collaborate to solve complex problems.

the CGA. The Cosumnes Working Group is expected to meet per the Working Group [Framework Agreement](#) until GSP submittal and the CGA JPA is established.

III. Outreach Roles

Subbasin-Wide

GSP Development

Note: During GSP development, the Cosumnes SGMA Working Group and its committees had several key outreach roles and responsibilities, most notably:

The Cosumnes SGMA Working Group's outreach responsibilities included receiving/considering input from the public and stakeholder groups such as the SWAG, providing direction and guidance to the Outreach & Engagement/Communications Committee and for C&E Plan implementation, reporting on public/stakeholder comment shared with the GSA Boards and other outreach / engagement discussions, and making recommendations on outreach and engagement to GSA Boards for consideration.

The Outreach & Engagement / Communications Committee (O&E Committee), comprising one representative per GSA, managed and guided stakeholder outreach and engagement, with input and direction from the Working Group.

The Tribal Outreach Committee, comprising of the Cosumnes PIO and Watershed Coordinator, formed in December 2020 to increase outreach efforts during the final stages of GSP development with input and direction from the Working Group.

GSP Implementation

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA)

The JPA (referred to as the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority or CGA) formed in Fall 2021. Once established, the CGA is expected to further define its outreach roles.

Committees / Working Groups / Advisory Groups

CGA Committees and Advisory Committees are expected to form under the guidance and direction of the CGA. Once established, the CGA will further define the outreach responsibilities of these entities.

Subbasin Point of Contact / Public Information Officer - The Cosumnes Subbasin Public Information Office is the external communications representative and serves as a general point of contact for the subbasin, and each GSA has designated a GSA point of contact (see **Table 2**). Refer to [Appendix A](#) for further description on the roles and responsibilities of the Cosumnes PIO.

Current Cosumnes Public Information Officer and General Point of Contact:
Austin Miller, info@SloughhouseRCD.org

(Previously, the Water Forum served as the subbasin's point of contact during GSA formation and GSP development.)

Watershed Coordinator – The Watershed Coordinator outreach responsibilities include conducting meetings and outreach for projects related to the GSP. The Watershed Coordinator and the Cosumnes PIO often coordinate to support outreach and engagement activities for the Cosumnes Subbasin.

Current Watershed Coordinator

Stephen Julian, stephen@wackmanconsulting.com; CosumnesGSP@gmail.com*

**The Watershed Coordinator serves as the primary contact for receiving/managing public comments on the Draft GSP using the CosumnesGSP@gmail.com email account.*

GSA-Specific

Each GSA is responsible for GSA-specific outreach and notifications in compliance with SGMA (Refer to [Appendix B](#) for more information on SGMA engagement requirements).

The **GSA Board of Directors/Supervisors (GSA Boards)** are elected or appointed officials with each GSA Board serving as its respective GSA Governing Body that has final approval authority for its GSA and how the GSA will develop and implement the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP. Refer to the GSAs’ website for more information of member composition. In regards to outreach, GSA Boards are responsible, as appropriate, for:

- Confirming and overseeing implementation of the C&E Plan
- Entering into agreements with other public agencies to codify agency-to-agency engagement activities for the development and implementation of the GSP
- Considering the recommendations of the Working Group (or JPA, once formally established) and its committees, staff, and advisory groups
- Receiving and considering public comments made verbally and in writing.

GSA Points of Contact

Each GSA has a designated point of contact to address questions specific to that GSA (See **Table 2** below for contact information to date).

Table 2. Contact Information for GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin

Groundwater Sustainability Agency	Contact Information
Amador County Groundwater Authority	Rick Ferriera, rferriera@amadorwater.org , 209-257-5284
City of Galt	Mark Clarkson, mclarkson@ci.galt.ca.us , 209-366-7260
Clay Water District	Gary Silva Jr., soilstoppers@yahoo.com , 209-481-4407
Galt Irrigation District	Leo VanWarmerdam, Galtirrigationdistrict@gmail.com , 209-914-1140
Omochumne-Hartnell Water District	Mike Wackman, info@ohwd.org , 916-682-5958
Sacramento County	Linda Dorn, dornl@saccounty.net , 916-874-1085
Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District	Austin Miller, info@SloughhouseRCD.org , 916-526-5447

IV. How Public Input is Used

The GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin are committed to keeping the **public involved** by providing the public with comprehensive, accurate and timely information about SGMA and by **providing multiple opportunities for public input and engagement**. The public should be able to understand SGMA’s

GSP requirements and provide recommendations on plan formation and SGMA implementation. The primary opportunities for public involvement are through attendance, presentations, and public comment periods at CGA meetings, Working Group / Technical Advisory Committee meetings, stakeholder advisory groups (e.g., SWAG), periodic public workshops where public input will be synthesized and brought back to the GSAs for consideration, and through one-on-one or small group conversations with affected water users. Representatives of affected water users will be invited to make periodic presentations at meetings to foster in-depth discussion of GSP-related topics.

V. Stakeholders in the Cosumnes Subbasin

SGMA (Section 10723.2) calls for consideration of all interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as quoted directly below:

The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

- a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:
 1. Agricultural users
 2. Domestic well owners
- b) Municipal well operators
- c) Public water systems
- d) Local land use planning agencies
- e) Environmental users of groundwater
- f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies
- g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands
- h) California Native American Tribes
- i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems
- j) Entities listed in Section 10927 that are monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency
- k) Neighboring GSAs

GSAs will also conduct outreach to engage public agencies (including fire departments and Cal Fire), treaty lands, and other interested parties.

The Stakeholder table in [Appendix C](#) organizes stakeholders by use category, applicable GSA(s), and potential strategies for engagement. This table will continue to be updated based on public workshops, small outreach meetings with Cosumnes Subbasin stakeholders, etc.

VI. Community & Engagement Forums

To truly engage the public in development of a GSP that is science-based, complex, technical, and includes achievable outcomes, GSAs will strive to meet these overall objectives:

- Educate the public in compelling ways. Communicate what may often be complex concepts in simple and compelling ways with graphics and examples.
- Manage expectations. Avoid “anything goes” meetings that might pursue unrealistic and impractical approaches.
- Demonstrate how the input received has been incorporated into the plan or process – an important piece to the communication puzzle.
- Remain focused on results. Understand objectives of each public meeting and facilitate the achievement of those objectives.

This Communication and Engagement Plan outlines several key forums and pathways for fostering public awareness and informed public input into plan development and implementation, including:

Subbasin-Wide

GSP Development

SGMA Working Group Meetings – Working Group meetings have been open to the public and have designated public comment periods at each meeting; the intent is to ensure that the GSAs have the opportunity to hear regularly from interested parties on topics under discussion. As previously mentioned, the Working Group has convened additional temporary committees as warranted, including the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Long-Term Governance Committee, and the multi-stakeholder Surface Water Advisory Group (SWAG).

Meets third Wednesday of each month, between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm at Galt Police Department Community Room, 455 Industrial Drive, Galt, CA (unless otherwise posted at [Cosumnes.waterforum.org/meetings](https://cosumnes.waterforum.org/meetings) and emailed to interested parties list; Working Group has been meeting virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions since March 2021)

Advisory Group / Committee Meetings

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – TAC meetings were open to the public and encourage active participation by regional stakeholders. The intent was to ensure that the GSAs hear regularly from interested parties on topics under discussion. Additionally, representatives of affected water users were invited to make periodic presentations at TAC meetings to foster in-depth discussion of GSP-related topics. View [TAC Terms of Reference](#) document for more information. TAC meetings were merged with Working Group meetings since late 2017

Meets third Wednesday of each month, between 9:00 am and 12:00 pm at Galt Police Department Community Room, 455 Industrial Drive, Galt, CA 95632 (unless otherwise posted at [Cosumnes.waterforum.org/meetings](https://cosumnes.waterforum.org/meetings) and emailed to interested parties list)

Long-Term Governance Committee – The Long-Term Governance Committee was a temporary group focused on developing governance and fee approaches for consideration by the Working Group. The group is expected to transition into an Implementation Committee to delve into GSP implementation-related issues as needed.

The temporary group met approximately monthly or as needed. Meetings were held virtually. Meeting information is announced via the website (Cosumnes.WaterForum.org) and on SRCD's website (SloughhouseRCD.org)

GSP Implementation

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Meetings – Cosumnes Groundwater Agency (CGA) are open to the public. This section will be updated as needed per direction from the CGA.

Meets third Monday of each month at 9:00 am at the Community Conference Room, Galt Police Department, 455 Industrial Dr., Galt, CA 95632 (unless otherwise posted at [Cosumnes.waterforum.org/meetings](https://cosumnes.waterforum.org/meetings) and emailed to interested parties list).

Anticipated Committees

Standing Advisory Body – The CGA will assess the need, focus and structure of standing or ad hoc stakeholder advisory bodies on an ongoing basis to support GSP development. The CGA will revisit this option during later phases of GSP development and transitioning into GSP implementation.

To date, possible advisory committees include:

- Surface Water Advisory Group (SWAG)
- Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

Public Workshops – Periodic public workshops throughout the subbasin will shape the overall process for SGMA implementation by providing an opportunity for broad stakeholder education, participation and input. Public workshops are expected to take place both in individual GSA service areas and basin-wide, as needed. Public workshops are specifically designed for members of the public and stakeholders who are interested in groundwater to learn about and provide input into GSP development and SGMA implementation. Major decision points on SGMA implementation will be vetted at the workshops. GSA members are encouraged to participate in (or at least attend) all workshops to demonstrate the cross-GSA collaboration and ensure consistency in message.

Workshop dates will be emailed to the interested parties list, posted to cosumnes.waterforum.org/meetings, advertised via media notices, and shared through partner organization's blogs and email lists.

Project Website – The Water Forum currently maintains a website, cosumnes.waterforum.org, that contains presentations and information from all CGA meetings, Working Group/TAC meetings, stakeholder advisory group meetings, and public workshops. The website offers a standing opportunity for any interested water users and members of the public to provide ongoing comment. See below for further information about the website. (Note: this site is likely to change as the effort shifts to implementation. Any updates will be widely distributed.)

GSA-Specific

GSA Board Meetings – Each of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin hold monthly board meetings that are publicly noticed and open to public attendance, with opportunity for public comment. These meetings afford participants opportunity for direct input into a GSA’s SGMA decision-making process.

- **Amador County Groundwater Authority** Board of Directors meets on the first Monday of the month in the Amador Water Agency Board Room, 128000 Ridge Road, Sutter Creek, CA 95685.
- **City of Galt** City Council meets every first and third Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. City of Galt GSA issues are held jointly.
- **Clay Water District** Board of Directors meets quarterly at Herald Fire Protection District, 11620 Clay Station Rd, Herald, CA.
- **Galt Irrigation District** Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of the month at its office, 12716 Herald Rd, Herald, CA.
- **Omochumne-Hartnell Water District** Board of Directors meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am at 7513 Sloughouse Road, Elk Grove, CA.
- **Sacramento County** Board of Directors meets at least twice per month on various Tuesdays at 9:30 AM. GSA topics are scheduled as necessary. Meetings are also held on select Wednesdays at various times.
- **Sloughouse Resource Conservation District** Board of Directors meets meets 2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm at the Rancho Murieta Community Service District Office, 15160 Jackson Rd, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683.

Public Meetings/Hearing - Public meetings and hearings are formal opportunities for people to provide official comments on programs, plans and proposals. SGMA requires that a public meeting be held prior to the adoption of a fee and that public hearings are held for the adoption of GSP elements, the final GSP, and amendments to the GSP. There are also legal requirements for public hearings for some fee/rate options. Public meetings and hearings are an important forum for people to share viewpoints and concerns, but often occur at the end of a process, when only one option is under consideration. Each GSA will hold required public meetings and hearings, but will also use less formal public workshops (described above) to solicit feedback and information early in the process. Notice of public meetings and hearings will be posted by each GSA. General updates are posted on cosumnes.waterforum.org; this site is likely to change as the effort shifts to implementation. Any updates will be widely distributed.

Public Notices - In addition to the public notice required for fee adoption, SGMA requires that, prior to initiating the development of a GSP, GSAs must provide a written statement describing the way interested parties may participate in the development and implementation of the GSP. As outlined in this Communication and Engagement Plan, there will be a variety of opportunities for people to participate in the development and implementation of the GSP, including workshops, public hearings, providing comments at GSA, CGA, and Working Group meetings, and through written comments.

VII. Communication Tools

The following describes communication tools to support subbasin-wide communication and engagement. Refer to [Appendices B-K](#), which outline specific communication and engagement activities completed to date, strategies, examples, and other communication and engagement resources to support SGMA implementation.

NOTE: The following describes communication tools utilized during GSP development. This section will be updated after the CGA provides further direction on communication tools and processes.

GSP Development

Interested Persons Email List

SGMA mandates the creation of an interested persons list. CBI (facilitator) sent periodic email updates to the list, particularly leading up to and following each CGA, Working Group/TAC, and public meeting. Interested parties could [sign up](#) on the website, and staff from all agencies and stakeholders could contribute names of organizations, agencies, and individuals. Whenever individuals inquired about the process or attend a meeting, the project team added them to the list upon request. The list was broad and includes anyone who would like to stay informed about SGMA activities. To date, the list has more than 500 subscriptions.

In addition to the interested persons email list, the Water Forum/Cosumnes PIO worked with each GSA to identify organizations interested in providing more in-depth briefings and presentations to the TAC, Working Group or both on GSP-related topics. The Water Forum/PIO maintained regular contact with these organizations and their designated representatives.

Website – cosumnes.waterforum.org

The current project website, cosumnes.waterforum.org, is an information repository for the Cosumnes Subbasin groundwater planning process. Background and educational information, meeting materials to date, and a schedule of relevant meeting dates are available on the site. The site also includes a [link](#) for interested persons to sign up for regular updates on SGMA-related activities within the subbasin. A new website is expected to be developed for GSP implementation (still serving as an information repository and email list subscription tool).

Meeting Summaries

During GSP development, the Water Forum and facilitation team developed meeting summaries (notes, briefs, or overviews) following each Working Group / TAC meeting, SWAG meeting, or public workshop. The website contains a publicly accessible archive of all meeting summaries to-date. GSAs and interested parties are able to share key outcomes with their organizations and interested parties.

Talking Points

At the direction of the Working Group, the Water Forum/PIO and O&E Committee developed and updated shared talking points to support GSAs in conveying a consistent, unified message across GSAs and throughout the subbasin. Talking points were organized by category (e.g., governance; public engagement) and drafted with guidance from GSAs. Talking points provided foundational information upon which GSAs could elaborate.

Informational Materials, Developed at Milestones

Informational materials, including fact sheets ([Appendix I](#)), were critical for successful education and the circulation of consistent, accurate information. The Water Forum, PIO, Watershed Coordinator, facilitation team, and O&E Committee developed a range of materials that were Cosumnes Subbasin-

specific as well as capitalize on materials developed by other water expert resources (e.g., State of California, entities involved with GroundwaterExchange.org, etc.) when available. All materials were posted to cosumnes.waterforum.org.

Cosumnes Subbasin Stakeholder Survey and Landowner Data Request Form

In January 2019, each GSA distributed a groundwater survey ([link](#)) and data request form ([link](#)) to landowners in its jurisdiction to obtain stakeholder information that could improve the understanding of beneficial users and uses of groundwater, as well as other parties interested in groundwater management in the Cosumnes Subbasin. Answers provided to these questions was helpful in supporting the development of a more accurate, fair, and useful GSP. For many local residents, this mailing served as a first opportunity to learn about SGMA in the Cosumnes Subbasin. Mailings included a Cosumnes Subbasin Fact Sheet and directed recipients to cosumnes.waterforum.org to learn more.

Direct Organizational Briefings

As appropriate, CGA/Working Group members and other staff conduct briefings for stakeholder organizations to expand outreach to interested groups or inform a broad section of the community that might not otherwise attend a public workshop or would benefit from in-depth dialogue. Interested organizations are encouraged to contact the PIO, Watershed Coordinator, or GSAs to arrange a briefing.

Advertising Public Engagement Opportunities

The Water Forum, PIO, Watershed Coordinator, facilitation team, and O&E Committee worked to ensure that Cosumnes Working Group outreach efforts were comprehensive in reaching any and all interested stakeholders. Outreach approaches were and will continue to be updated as new and better ways to reach interested parties are identified. To date, public engagement opportunities were advertised using strategies such as:

- **Email blasts to the Interested Parties list** – Interested parties can sign up to receive updates and information about upcoming engagement opportunities.
- **One-paragraph update** – Text that Working Group members can incorporate into organizational newsletters, blogs, and Facebook posts to reach interested parties.
- **Website** – Date and location of public meetings and workshops will be highlighted on the cosumnes.waterforum.org homepage.
- **Social media engagement** – Local groups and individuals should consider using social media to amplify outreach materials and advertise public engagement opportunities.
- **Other outreach media**, such as bulletin boards, flyers at community gathering sites, etc., can also be used as a way to reach out to community members.

Other announcement methods have been employed such as use of meeting flyers, press releases and direct mailings to residents to ensure interested parties are kept apprised of recent key decisions and upcoming public engagement opportunities. [Appendix B](#) documents Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA outreach activities and press coverage of SGMA in the Cosumnes Subbasin to date.

Outreach Tracker

Working Group members may choose to document completed outreach activities via an online outreach tracker to serve as a central repository for tracking all outreach and engagement activities conducted to-date. The intent of this tracker would be to provide a transparent mechanism for all interested parties to see the range of activities and input provided to the GSAs.

View current online form at www.surveymonkey.com/r/cosumnesoutreach

VIII. Evaluation and Assessment

Any communication strategy should include opportunities to check in at various points during implementation to ensure that it is meeting the communication and engagement goals complying with SGMA. These check-ins should occur at least on an annual basis and explore:

- a. What worked well?
- b. What didn't work as planned?
- c. Meeting recaps with next steps
- d. Lessons learned

Appendix A: Governance

GSP Development and Submittal

Finalized Aug/Sept 2018 - [Cosumnes Working Group Framework Agreement – Phase 1 & 2](#)

Phase 1 – GSP Foundation

Phase 2 – Basin Characterization and Analysis

Finalized Mar 2020 - [Cosumnes Working Group Framework Agreement – Phase 3 and 4](#)

Phase 3 – Sustainability Planning Phase

Phase 4 – GSP Preparation and Submittal Phase

GSP Implementation

Approved for GSA approval Nov 2021 - [JPA Agreement to form the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority \(without signatures\)](#)

CGA Board of Directors:

GSA	Representative
Amador County Groundwater Management Authority GSA	Representative: Gary Thomas Alternate: Rick Ferriera
Clay Water District GSA	Representative: Rick Whole Alternate: Gary Silva
City of Galt	GSA Representative: Jay Vandenburg Alternate: Mike Selling
Galt Irrigation District GSA	Representative: Leo VanWarmerdam Alternate: John Mulrooney
Omochumne-Hartnell Water District GSA	Representative: Mark Stretars Alternate: Kurt Kautz
County of Sacramento GSA	Representative: Don Notolli Alternate: Linda Dorn
Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District GSA	Representative: Lindsey Liebig Alternate: Herb Garms

Cosumnes Public Information Officer (External Communications Representative) -- Roles & Responsibilities

The Public Information Officer and External Communications Representative served the same function, just operated under different titles at different periods of GSP development due to staffing changes. Language below is the direct text presented and approved by the Working Group at the February 17, 2021 meeting. These Roles & Responsibilities will be updated as needed by the Working Group and its successor JPA during GSP implementation.

External Communications Representative

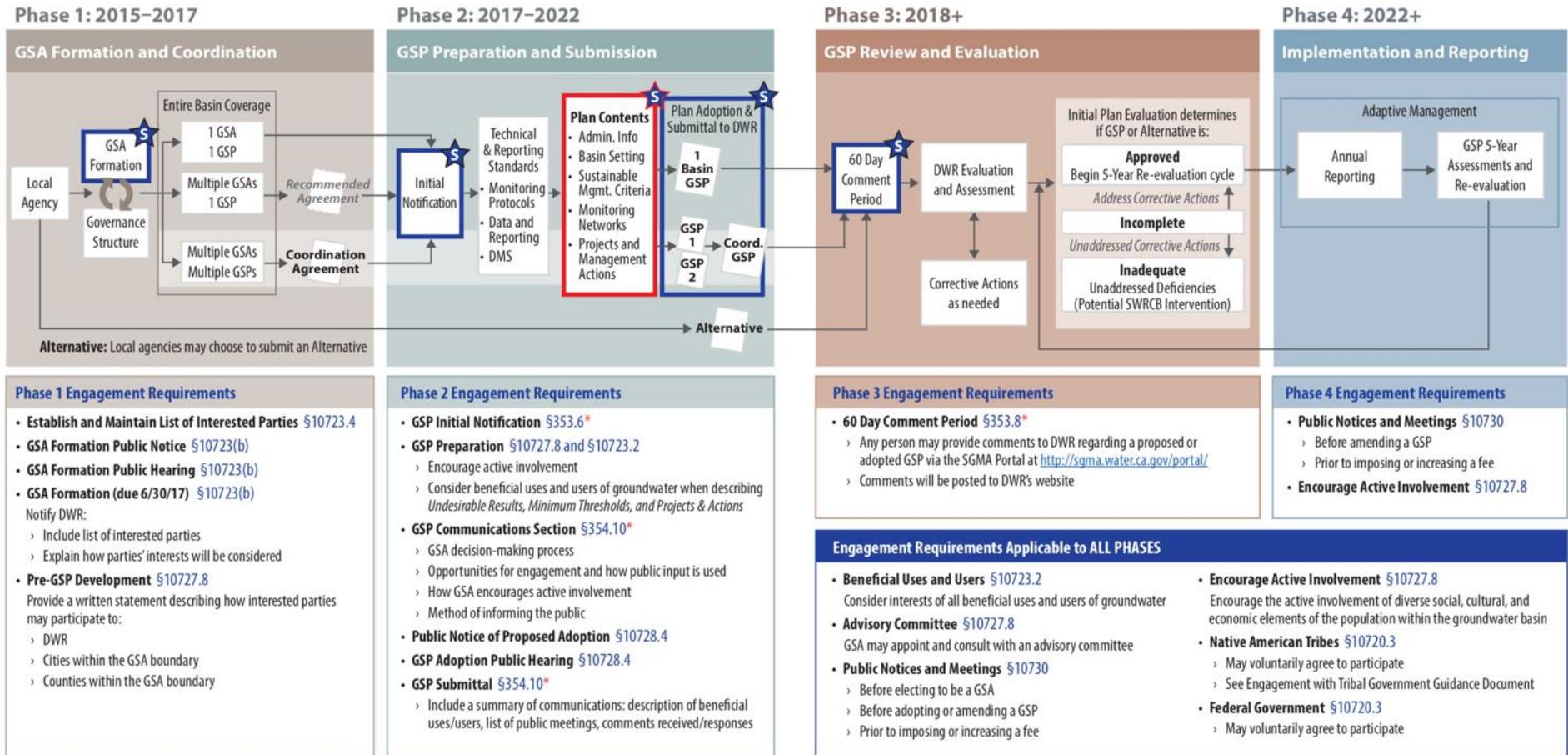
The External Communications Representative (Communications Rep) serves as the main point of contact for receiving and responding to requests for information from external entities (members of the public, media, etc.). The Communications Rep has the authorization to speak on behalf of the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group in a way that is consistent with the [Working Group Framework Agreement](#), the Outreach & Engagement Plan (2019), and the following roles and responsibilities:

- (1) Represent the decisions and positions agreed upon by the Working Group and not express their own or their organization's opinion when representing the Working Group.
- (2) As appropriate, consult and work with the Outreach & Engagement Committee, Working Group, and/or consultants (currently Water Forum, EKI, and CBI) to develop and distribute (or oversee development and/or distribution of) external communications and resources as needed.
- (3) Track media contacts and results.
- (4) Refer the media to the appropriate GSAs for inquiries related to the GSAs' projects or actions.

External Communication Process/Protocols

- (1) As outlined in the Framework Agreement, each GSA is responsible for guiding outreach and engagement efforts within their respective jurisdictions.
- (2) The Working Group has final decision-making authority on the Communications Rep position and term.
- (3) Requests from media for Working Group-related comments or appearances should be directed to the Communications Rep.
- (4) When talking to the press, Working Group members are asked to represent their own GSA views only. Only the Communications Rep may speak for the Working Group. Any member may speak about the Working Group.
- (5) Working Group media releases should be developed and distributed by the Communications Rep in coordination with the Outreach & Engagement Committee (or appropriate parties) using a standard media release form developed by the committee. They will be distributed to the Working Group for comment before distribution (excluding generic meeting/event announcements or generic media announcements with previously agreed upon language).
- (6) The Communications Rep will report any media contacts and the results to the group at the next Working Group meeting, or by email distribution if timely reporting is prudent.
- (7) Working Group members should give public credit to the Working Group for contributions to a member or joint action when discussing activities in public or with media.
- (8) Working Group members should notify the Planning Team and Communications Rep if the news media is expected to attend a Working Group meeting.

Appendix B: Summary of Cosumnes Outreach & Engagement Activities



Stakeholder Input
 Stakeholders should be informed throughout the development of Plan Content

Code References: §(#) = SGMA, §(#)* = GSP Regulations

Figure 3. SGMA Engagement Requirements by Phase

Table 3. SGMA Engagement Opportunities, Milestones, and Progress to Date in the Cosumnes Subbasin

Note: This is a work in progress.

Timeframe	Milestone or Stage	Required Community Engagement Under SGMA	Communication Strategies	Status (as of August 2021)
GSA Formation (2015-2017)	During GSA governance development (developed by June 30, 2017)	Notice of Intent (NOI) of GSAs' Formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide notice of GSAs' outreach resources: website, email listserv, calendar of District Board and Groundwater Commission meetings Develop and continue to update list of interested parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2016-June 2017: Monthly SGMA Working Group and TAC meetings 2016-June 2017: GSAs submitted NOI for formation (refer to DWR SGMA GSA portal) March 2017: First public workshop Interested parties list developed for whole subbasin
Shortly After GSA Formation	After identification of outreach responsibilities among GSA entities	Notification of GSAs' formation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSA Board and Working Group meetings Email notices and updates Newspaper notice of public workshop(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2016: Monthly Working Group began; open to the public May 2017: TAC began to meet; open to the public July 2017: Cosumnes Subbasin website launched (cosumnes.waterforum.org)
Before GSP Planning Activities	Prior to beginning GSP development	Provide to the public and State, notice of intent to begin GSP planning and description of opportunities for interested parties to participate in GSP development and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public workshop(s) GSA Board and Working Group meetings Email notices and updates Newspaper notice of public workshop(s) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2016 to Present: Working Group/TAC meetings open to the public (TAC merged with WG meetings in 2018) October 2017: Three public workshops held in Jackson, Wilton, Galt
Between Notice of GSP Planning and January 31, 2022	During GSP development	Public workshops, public meetings, GSA Board meetings, Working Group meetings and other opportunities providing stakeholder avenues to participate in GSP development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public workshops and/or public meetings on GSP development. GSA Board and Working Group meetings Email notice of public workshops / meetings Newspaper notices of public workshops / meetings Updates and information on GSP development at standing meetings Disseminate updates via interested parties list, websites social media, outreach partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 2016 to Present: Regular GSAs' Board meetings June 2016 to Present: Monthly WG and TAC meetings, noticed via interested parties list and at cosumnes.waterforum.org/meetings (TAC merged with WG meetings in 2018) June 2016 to Present: WG Committees (Long-Term Governance, Outreach & Engagement, GSP Ad Hoc, P/MAs, Monitoring, etc.) regularly report committee discussions and any recommendations for WG consideration and guidance at the regular monthly WG meetings. These temporary committee meetings consist of a subset of WG members and supporting staff; external experts periodically invited to participate as needed. March 2017 to Oct 2021: Series of seven public workshops held during GSP development; noticed via

				<p>interested parties list, website, printed flyers, and outreach partners. Individual GSAs also noticed via methods that may have included social media posts, press releases; mailed postcards/flyers sent out depending on GSA and/or at key milestones during GSP development.</p>
<p>During GSP development</p>	<p>Active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the subbasin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide email notices and updates • Update website regularly • Convene regular GSA Board and Working Group meetings • Identify and communicate opportunities for public engagement on GSP development, (providing clear messages that GSA retains legal responsibility for final GSA and GSP-related decisions) • Develop consistent, coordinated messages and talking points • Arrange for technical support to stakeholder groups through presentations or workshops conducted by GSA representatives/staff • Develop content appropriate to the audience and their interests, ensuring information can be easily understood • Utilize updated interested party stakeholder list, GSA listservs delivered via email and/or U.S. Mail, outreach partners mechanisms for communications and other media outlets such as newspaper and radio to provide notices • Strategically engage local, special SGMA identified groups • Utilize local channels and meetings to identify and communicate opportunities for public engagement and/or public comment during meetings on GSP development • Leverage and support local agencies and community organizations in disseminating information and engaging stakeholders, including through existing community meetings, newsletters, websites, and social media • Organize public meetings around concrete impacts to specific stakeholders • Develop additional, locally-targeted communication strategies to engage difficult-to-reach communities and community members 	<p>IN ADDITION TO ACTIVITIES LISTED ABOVE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017 to Present: Website regularly updated and modified (e.g., new dedicated Funding, GSP, and GSP Comment Period webpages; new factsheets and other informational resources; etc.); website modified in 2021 to be available in multiple languages • 2017 to Present: interested parties list regularly updated (comment form on website and updated after public workshops) • 2017 to Present: Communication and Engagement Plan developed and updated, containing C&E strategies and guidance, key messaging, etc. • 2017 to Present: GSA members and consultants held periodic briefings/discussions as needed with various stakeholder groups (e.g., neighboring subbasin technical consultants in So. American and E. San Joaquin, NGOs like The Nature Conservancy (TNC), community groups like Rancho Murieta, etc.) • November 2018: CBI conducted one-on-one outreach calls with representative subset of interested parties in the subbasin to get input into Outreach and Engagement Plan • January 2019: GSAs sent a direct mailing containing Subbasin Fact Sheet and Stakeholder Survey (or a link to these documents) to all landowners in the subbasin and received more than 210 survey responses. View survey findings. • March-April 2019: Public workshops in Amador, Wilton and Galt • April 4, 2019: Technical consultant EKI held a Groundwater Modeling Classroom to educate GSA representatives and members of the public about groundwater modeling (presentation, video recording). • August 21, 2019: Technical consultant EKI held a Geophysical Workshop to educate GSA representatives and members of the public (video recording). • August 2020: Public webinar on basin conditions • July 2020 to Feb 2021: Multi-stakeholder Surface Water Advisory Group (SWAG) convened to discuss ISW and GDEs; open to the public. • Dec 2020: Tribal workshop (open to public) to offer GSAs guidance on engaging Tribes (Refer to Appendix E for more specifics on Tribal engagement) 	

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2021: Hybrid public workshop (webinar + simulcast at locations in Herald and Rancho Murieta) on potential progress and tracking/evaluating progress (SMCs) • May 2021: Direct mailings sent containing information about June public webinar and workshop • June 2021: Public webinar and public workshop in Herald on Plan implementation and funding. • Aug 2021-Oct 2021: Direct mailings sent containing information about the Draft GSP comment period and public workshops; public webinars and public workshops for the Draft GSP; developed several resources including a GSP summary brochure, news op-ed, GSP Comment Guide handout, customized to particular issues and stakeholders, etc.
GSP Adoption or Amendment (initial GSP adoption no later than 1/31/22)	Prior to GSP adoption or amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide notice to cities and counties within Plan area • Consider comments provided by the cities and counties • Accommodate requests for consultation received from the cities and counties within 30 days 	SEE ABOVE	IN ADDITION TO REGULAR MEETINGS AND UPDATES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice to cities and counties and informal briefing invitation to Tribes sent August/September 2021. • GSP summary brochure updated for GSP implementation and submitted to DWR for Spanish translation (expected early 2022). • Public comments on the Draft GSP posted on the website. Comments received and proposed responses were discussed on rolling basis at Working Group meetings (September-November). • November 29, 2021: Initial meeting of the CGA to lead GSP implementation • November 2021: C&E Plan updated
	Prior to GSP adoption or amendment	No sooner than 90 days following public notice, hold public hearing/ public workshop	SEE ABOVE	IN ADDITION TO REGULAR MEETINGS AND UPDATES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public hearings at GSA Board meetings scheduled for December and early/mid-January to approve adoption and submission of the final GSP.

Media Coverage of GSP Development in the Cosumnes Subbasin

October 25, 2017: Galt Herald article – “Groundwater Workshop Tomorrow”

October 18, 2017: River Valley Time article – “Groundwater Workshop Slated in Wilton on Oct. 24”

January 2, 2019: Amador Community Media article – “Local Agencies Launching Survey on Subbasin Groundwater Usage”

March 31, 2021, Galt Herald article – “Groundwater status, plan discussed at meeting”

September 22, 2021, Galt Herald article – “Area groundwater subject of workshop”

Appendix C: Cosumnes Subbasin Stakeholders and Anticipated / Potential Engagement

Note: This is a work in progress.

*The “Anticipated Level of Engagement & Potential Strategies” column is intended to provide greater clarity on the purpose of engagement and offer ideas for focused engagement. The list is not meant to be fully comprehensive nor commit or limit parties to these strategies. Refer to the C&E Plan Communication Tools section for an overall list of strategies.

Table 4. List of Cosumnes Subbasin Stakeholders and Anticipated Level of Engagement and Potential Focused Strategies

Uses / Users / Interest Category <i>(example of stakeholders listed below)</i>	Amador	City of Galt	Clay WD	Galt ID	OHWD	Sac. County	SRCD	Anticipated Level of Engagement & Potential Focused Strategies*
Agricultural – Crops, Ranchers, Dairy, Grape								<p>Purpose Inform and involve to foster sustainable management of groundwater and consider viability of agricultural economy.</p> <p>Potential Focused Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize outreach partners Project partnerships Expanding monitoring network
Amador County Farm Bureau	•							
Amador Grape Growers	•							
Cattlemen’s Association							•	
E&J Gallo Winery						•		
Galt Historical Society		?				•		
Sacramento County Farm Bureau			•	•	•	•	•	
Sacramento-Amador Water Quality Alliance	•					•		
U.C. Cooperative Extension-Central Sierra	•						•	
Individual property owners	•		•	•	•	•	•	
Aquaculture								<p>Purpose Inform and involve to foster sustainable management of groundwater and consider viability of aquaculture economy.</p> <p>Potential Focused Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding monitoring network Project partnerships
Aquaculture Association							•	
CDFW Aquaculture Program								
Stolt Sea Farms	•				?			
Fresh Water Fish Company							•	
Passmore Farms					•			

Uses / Users / Interest Category <i>(example of stakeholders listed below)</i>	Amador	City of Galt	Clay WD	Galt ID	OHWD	Sac. County	SRCD	Anticipated Level of Engagement & Potential Focused Strategies*
Private / Ag-Res								
Lake Camanche Village Homeowners Association	•							<p>Purpose Inform and involve to better understand impacts to users (e.g., those with relatively lower groundwater use and oftentimes shallower wells).</p> <p>Potential Focused Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens Advisory Committee • Neighborhood social media platforms
Private well users	•		•	•	•	•	•	
Wilton Action/History Group					•		•	
Community Water System								
Amador Ranch	•							<p>Purpose Inform and involve to collaborate to ensure sustainable water supplies.</p> <p>Potential Focused Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize outreach partners • Periodic briefings / updates upon request
JVID	•							
Environmental & Ecological								
Cosumnes Coalition					•	•	•	<p>Purpose Inform and involve to consider / incorporate potential ecosystem impacts to GSP process.</p> <p>Potential Focused Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding monitoring network • Project partnerships • Information and tools sharing • Updates with the Surface Water Advisory Group
Cosumnes River Preserve						•		
Foothill Conservancy	•							
Historic McFarland Ranch						•		
The Nature Conservancy					•	•	•	
Permaculture Association							•	
Rancho Seco Park							•	
Sacramento County Parks & Recreation						•		

Uses / Users / Interest Category <i>(example of stakeholders listed below)</i>	Amador	City of Galt	Clay WD	Galt ID	OHWD	Sac. County	SRC	Anticipated Level of Engagement & Potential Focused Strategies*
Industrial								
Amador Chamber of Commerce	•							<p>Purpose Inform and involve in assessing impacts to users and support a stable economy.</p> <p>Potential Focused Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize outreach partners • Periodic briefings / updates upon request
Galt Chamber of Commerce		•						
Urban								
City of Lone	•							<p>Purpose Inform to improve awareness of sustainable groundwater management and understanding related to common issues of concern (e.g., reliable access to drinkable water and long-term resilience to drought impacts)</p> <p>Potential Focused Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mailers to property owners in the subbasin • Citizens Advisory Committee • Neighborhood social media platforms
City of Galt		•						
Rancho Murieta							•	
Individual property owners		•						
Tribal								
Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians	•							<p>Purpose Inform, involve, and consult with Tribal governments</p> <p>Potential Focused Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct inquiry / invitation to explore level of desired participation • Periodic briefings / updates upon request • Refer to Appendix D for additional information
Lone Band of Miwok Indians	•							
Wilton Rancheria					•			
Jackson Rancheria of Miwuk Indians	•							
<p>(Above list includes Tribes who have expressed interest in Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA implementation at some point to date. This list will be updated as needed per communications with Tribes)</p>								

Uses / Users / Interest Category <i>(example of stakeholders listed below)</i>	Amador	City of Galt	Clay WD	Galt ID	OHWD	Sac. County	SRC	Anticipated Level of Engagement & Potential Focused Strategies*
Economic Development								
Amador Chamber of Commerce	•							Purpose Inform and involve to support a stable economy Potential Focused Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize outreach partners • Periodic briefings / updates upon request
Galt Chamber of Commerce		•						
Sacramento County Agriculture Commissioner			•	•	•	•	•	
Human Right to Water / Disadvantaged Communities								
Community Water Center	•	•	?	?	?	•	?	Purpose Inform and involve to provide safe and secure groundwater supplies to all communities reliant on groundwater Potential Focused Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mailers to property owners in the subbasin • Translated materials / website • Seek expertise to expand/improve outreach • Citizens Advisory Committee • Neighborhood social media platforms
New Current Water	•	•	?	?	?	•	?	
Disadvantaged Communities	•	•				•		
Federal / State Lands								
California Department of Fish and Wildlife						•		Purpose Inform, involve, coordinate, and collaborate to ensure sustainable management of groundwater. Potential Focused Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding monitoring network • Project partnerships • Information and tools sharing • Updates with the Surface Water Advisory Group
California Department of Transportation				•			•	
California Department of Water Resources						•		
California State Lands Commission						•		
California Wildlife Conservation Board						•		
Other California State agencies/offices		•		•		•	•	
US Bureau of Land Management						•		
US Bureau of Reclamation							•	

Uses / Users / Interest Category <i>(example of stakeholders listed below)</i>	Amador	City of Galt	Clay WD	Galt ID	OHWD	Sac. County	SRCD	Anticipated Level of Engagement & Potential Focused Strategies*
Natural Resources Conservation Service							•	
Other Federal agencies/offices		•	•	•	•		•	
Land Use								
Cosumnes Community Planning Advisory Council					•	•	•	Purpose
Amador County Planning Department	•							Consult and involve to ensure land use policies support the GSP; there are no conflicting policies between the GSPs and local government agencies; improve public awareness of sustainable groundwater management
Sacramento County Planning Department						•		Potential Focused Strategies
								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefings to Boards / leadership • Staff-level intra-agency coordination
Integrated Water Management and Inter-basin Coordination								
Lower Cosumnes Resource Conservation District						•		Purpose
South American Subbasin					•	•	•	Inform, involve, and collaborate to improve regional sustainability; ensure GSP implementation will not adversely affect adjoining subbasins. The JPA is expected lead overall inter-basin coordination; specific GSAs may choose to pursue specific coordination/partnership discussions as appropriate.
Eastern San Joaquin Valley Basin	•	•		•		•	•	Potential Focused Strategies
								<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential projects partner • Information and tools sharing • Updates with the Surface Water Advisory Group

Engagement and Outreach Partners

In addition to communication tools identified in this C&E Plan, other organizations can also partner to assist the GSAs reach its communication and engagement goals (e.g., broadening awareness, serving as ambassadors and liaisons for the GSP goals, sharing best available data/tools, partnering on projects, jointly seeking funding, etc.). These partners may include, but are not limited to:

- County Farm Bureaus
- Amador, El Dorado, Sacramento (AES) Cattle Women & Cattlemen's Association
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Cosumnes Coalition
- ECOS
- Aquaculture contacts
- Monitoring Technical Support Services (TSS) well owners
- New Current Water
- UC Extension (UCCE)
- Federal and state agencies (e.g., DWR, CDFW, BLM, etc.)
- County and city departments
- Local papers / newsletters (e.g., Wilton Roundup, River Valley Times, Galt Herald, etc.)
- Local community groups (e.g., Rancho Murieta Community Services District, community Facebook and Next Door groups)

Appendix D: Tribal Engagement Guidance

Meaningful tribal outreach, dialogue, and consultation is a shared obligation of the GSAs in the applicable subbasin areas where tribal lands exist.

Tribes in the Cosumnes Subbasin

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) identified 14 Tribes in Amador and Sacramento Counties that may have an interest in groundwater management in the Cosumnes Subbasin:

- Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians*
- Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians
- Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe
- Jackson Rancheria Band of Miwok Indians*
- Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe
- Tsi Akim Maidu
- Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians*
- Lone Band of Miwok Indians*
- Jackson Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians*
- The Confederated Villages of Lisjan
- United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria*
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California*
- Wilton Rancheria Indian Tribe*
- Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation*

Asterisk (*) indicates federally recognized Native American Tribes.²

Outreach Steps

The following outlines potential outreach activities the GSAs may choose to pursue as a coordinated subbasin or as individual GSAs. This does not commit GSAs to specific tasks nor preclude them from pursuing other strategies aligned with the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP, CGA governance documents, and the C&E Plan.

Phase I

1. Confirm that the Native American Tribes identified above are correctly posed for SGMA outreach. [Complete. NAHC identified 14 Tribes in Amador and Sacramento Counties]
2. The GSAs will prepare background materials related to Native American tribal outreach and engagement. The material will include a compilation of past Native American tribal outreach methods, goals, and results (including primary points of contact). The materials will include SGMA-related obligations for GSAs pursuant to SGMA, and interests and goals as they relate to tribal outreach and potential participation in sustainable groundwater management planning (see *Relevant DWR Information* below). [Ongoing effort. Outreach presentation occurred Dec 2020]
3. The GSAs will conduct an initial, informal communication with tribal primary points of contact to clarify interest in communicating formally regarding SGMA and tribal interests; request advice about appropriate avenues for outreach; and identify next steps. In the event a tribal representative cannot be contacted within 45 days, the District will consult with DWR's Office of Tribal Policy Advisor for guidance (Anecita Agustinez, DWR Tribal Policy Advisor - Anecita.Agustinez@water.ca.gov). [Complete. Informal communications sent to 14 Tribes in 2021 during GSP development and Draft GSP review]
4. Following successful initial communication with the Native American Tribes, the GSAs will facilitate the implementation of the next steps identified in #3. Actions may include preparation of a formal letter from the Board to each of the tribes, involvement of other GSAs with the tribes, and/or establishing a consultation framework. [ongoing effort]

² Source: <https://www.ihs.gov/california/index.cfm/tribal-consultation/resources-for-tribal-leaders/links-and-resources/list-of-federally-recognized-tribes-in-ca/>

Phase II

[Work in progress; to be updated per CGA direction for GSP implementation]

1. Continue to periodically send direct inquiries/invitations to explore level of desired participation.
2. Periodically conduct briefings/updates upon request.
3. Continue to use other forms of communication and information sharing beyond electronic communications. To date, this has included direct mailings, phone calls, and/or in-person informal discussions.
4. Continue to refine/maintain the list of Tribes identified above and maintain a updated contact information for each Tribe.
5. Continue to maintain the Cosumnes Subbasin website as an online database and document repository to increase access to information.

Summary of Cosumnes Subbasin Outreach Activities

[Work in progress, more information will be provided as it becomes available]

Ongoing

- Tribal contacts invited to subscribe to the Interested Parties list and attend meetings
- Those subscribed to the Interested Parties list receive event notices

GSP Development

- Water Forum engaged Tribes in 2015 prior to GSA formation
- Periodic tribal participation at Working Group meetings
- Tribes interviewed in CBI stakeholder engagement assessment (2019)
- NAHC contacted to confirm/update list and received contact information for 14 Native American Tribes that may have an interest in groundwater management in the subbasin
- Informal training workshop to GSAs on tribal engagement [[Link to presentation slides](#)]
- Invitation letters mailed and emailed to Tribes (per the NAHC list) in early 2021 to explore Tribes' interest in participating in the GSP development process [[Link to template letter](#)] and in August/September 2021 to notify them of release of the Draft GSP for public comment.

Relevant DWR Information

SGMA Section 10720.3. ...any federally recognized Indian Tribe, appreciating the shared interest in assuring the sustainability of groundwater resources, may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a groundwater sustainability plan or groundwater management plan under this part through a joint powers authority or other agreement with local agencies in the basin. A participating Tribe shall be eligible to participate fully in planning, financing, and management under this part, including eligibility for grants and technical assistance, if any exercise of regulatory authority, enforcement, or imposition and collection of fees is pursuant to the Tribe's independent authority and not pursuant to authority granted to a groundwater sustainability agency under this part.

Guidance Document for Sustainable Management of Groundwater: Engagement with Tribal Governments [[Link](#)]

Discussion Questions Relating to Tribal Governments Engagement with GSAs [[Link](#)]

Must a local agency exclude federal and tribal lands from its service area when forming a GSA?

No, federal lands and tribal lands need not be excluded from a local agency's GSA area if a local agency has jurisdiction in those areas; however, those areas are not subject to SGMA. But, a local agency in its GSA formation notice shall explain how it will consider the interests of the federal government and California Native American Tribes when forming a GSA and developing a GSP. DWR strongly recommends that local agencies communicate with federal and tribal representatives prior to deciding to become a GSA. As stated in Water Code §10720.3, the federal government or any federally recognized Indian Tribe, appreciating the shared interest in assuring the sustainability of groundwater resources, may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a GSP or groundwater management plan through a JPA or other agreement with local agencies in the basin. Water Code References: §10720.3, §10723.2, §10723.8

Tribal Outreach Resources

The follow are links to agency tribal outreach resources and considerations, each of which captures important principles and resources for tribal outreach. A short summary of key outreach principles can be found below.

- ◆ [CalEPA Tribal Consultation Policy Memo \(August 2015\)](#)
- ◆ [DWR Tribal Engagement Policy \(May 2016\)](#)
- ◆ [CA Natural Resources Agency Tribal Consultation Policy \(November 2012\)](#)
- ◆ [SWRCB Proposed Tribal Beneficial Uses](#)
- ◆ [CA Court Tribal Outreach and Engagement Strategies](#)
- ◆ [Traditional Ecological Knowledge resources](#)
- ◆ [Water Education Foundation Tribal Water Issues](#)

Key Outreach Principles³

- ◆ Engage early and often
- ◆ Consider tribal beneficial uses in decision-making (identified by region [here](#)); identify and seek to protect tribal cultural resources
- ◆ Share relevant documentation with tribal officials
- ◆ Conduct meetings at times convenient for tribal participation with ample notifications
- ◆ Request relevant process input/data/information from tribes
- ◆ Empower tribes to act as tribal cultural resources caretakers
- ◆ Designate a tribal liaison(s) where appropriate
- ◆ Share resources for tribal involvement as is feasible
- ◆ Develop MOUs where relevant
- ◆ Be mindful of the traditions and cultural norms of tribes in your area

Key Outreach Partners/Liaisons

The following are potential partners for Tehama County tribal SGMA outreach:

- ◆ [SGMA Tribal Advisory Group \(TAG\)](#): “The Tribal Advisory Group (TAG) includes tribal leadership, subject matter experts, and technical and non-technical members of local, academic, and tribal governments that are actively engaged in local groundwater management and will be key in local implementation of SGMA. TAG members will be responsible for distribution of information and resources to their respective tribes and organizations.”
- ◆ [California Indian Water Commission, Inc.](#)
- ◆ [DWR Office of Tribal Advisor](#)
- ◆ [DWR Northern-Central Regional Office Contact](#)

³ Principles extracted and summarized from best practices and other outreach sources noted in “Outreach Resources” section above.

Appendix E: Disadvantaged Communities Engagement Guidance

Important consideration will continue to be given to encouraging community participation in disadvantaged communities (DACs) within the Cosumnes Subbasin, and ensuring accessible and transparent meetings especially in those communities with limited access to digital resources.

Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) in Cosumnes Subbasin

Three of the GSAs have disadvantaged communities within their GSA boundaries in the Cosumnes Subbasin:

- City of Galt
- Sacramento County
- Amador County

Approximately 9% of the Basin (18,236 acres) is covered by DWR-designated DACs or severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs), including 8,263 residents of the City of Galt (U.S. Census Bureau 2018). Of these 8,263 Galt residents, approximately 5,133 are designated as DACs and approximately 3,130 are designated as SDACs. The additional DACs occur within farmlands, non-irrigated lands, and small rural residential areas in the most western portion of the Basin.

Outreach Steps

The following outlines potential outreach activities the GSAs may choose to pursue as a coordinated subbasin or as individual GSAs. This does not commit GSAs to specific tasks nor preclude them from pursuing other strategies aligned with the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP, CGA governance documents, and the C&E Plan.

Phase I

1. Use [DWR Disadvantaged Communities Mapping Tool](#) or other geographic information system technology to help identify disadvantaged, severely disadvantaged and economically distressed communities within the Cosumnes subbasin. [Complete. See Figure PA-10 from GSP below]
2. GSAs share insights on engaging with members of these communities from past projects or efforts. Also consider the key outreach principles identified below. [ongoing effort]
3. Review catalog of existing outreach materials. Modify as necessary to fit the needs of each community. This may include translating select materials into one or more languages. Develop additional materials if advantageous. [ongoing effort]
4. Identify potential points of contacts / outreach partners for DAC engagement. See preliminary list of partners below. Conduct an initial, informal communication with organizational points of contact to clarify interest in engaging DAC communities on SGMA; request advice about appropriate avenues for outreach; and identify next steps.

Phase II

[Work in progress; to be updated per CGA direction for GSP implementation]

1. Periodically conduct additional stakeholder identification and assessments. Invite newly identified S/DAC contacts to subscribe to the Interest Parties list and attend meetings.
2. Modify outreach materials (such as informational fact sheets and event notifications) to better suit the needs of S/DAC communities.
3. [Budget permitting] Develop bilingual postcard or mail campaign to inform S/DAC community members of GSP implementation and ways to stay involved.
4. Engage in regular communications with community-based organizations (CBOs) and potential outreach partners seen as trusted messengers within the S/DAC communities to share timely updates related to GSP implementation and actively seek community feedback and engagement on related efforts.

5. Hold regular public hearings, workshops, and meetings related to GSP implementation efforts, and publicize meetings adequately and with advanced notification.
6. Offer options for communication and information sharing beyond electronic communications. This may include in-person meetings and workshops hosted within S/DAC communities to provide stakeholders opportunities to meet and discuss with the GSAs, maintaining a post office mailing address for submission of written comments, phone calls with actively engaged individuals, and similar.
7. Convene Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) that will include at minimum one representative from the S/DAC community.
8. Continue to maintain the Cosumnes Subbasin website as an online database and document repository to increase access to information.

Summary of Cosumnes Subbasin Outreach Activities

[Work in progress, more information will be provided as it becomes available]

Ongoing

- DAC contacts invited to subscribe to the Interested Parties list and attend meetings
- Those subscribed to the Interested Parties list receive event notices
- Press releases and/or news articles developed to advertise public workshops
- GSAs regularly identify and employ specific outreach strategies (e.g., mail event postcards) that seem most effective and feasible, customized to different phases and key moments in SGMA implementation.

GSP Development

- 2019 Stakeholder survey sent out to all landowners in the subbasin
- DAC and SDAC communities identified based on data from DWR DAC Mapping tool, 2018 Census tract
- Bilingual (Spanish) SGMA documents developed by DWR and other NGOs posted to the website.
- Informal discussions held in 2020 and 2021 with community engagement experts like New Current Water to advise how to broaden outreach, particularly due to COVID impacts
- 2020 and 2021 public webinars posted to YouTube, which can be translated into different languages in closed captions
- Website updated in 2021 to be available in multiple languages (currently Spanish, Chinese, Hmong, and Vietnamese)
- Postcards / event notices mailed to all landowners in the subbasin to advertise workshops related to topics of greatest interest to most of the land owners (e.g., June 2021 workshop on Plan implementation / funding and Draft GSP webinars and workshops).
- GSP Summary Brochure updated for GSP implementation and submitted to DWR for Spanish translation.
- Exploring convening a Citizens Advisory Committee to inform GSP implementation.

GSP Implementation

- *To be updated beginning in February 2022 following GSP Adoption and Approval.*

Relevant DWR Information

Guidance on Engaging and Communicating with Underrepresented Groundwater Users [\[Link\]](#)

DWR recognizes that there are groups or communities of groundwater users that have been historically and frequently left out from decision-making with regard to sustainable groundwater management. These groups include, but are not limited to: disadvantaged communities, private domestic well owners, small growers and farmers, Tribes, and communities on small water systems. All beneficial uses and users of groundwater must

be part of the effort to achieve sustainability, and engagement should occur with all entities that could be affected by the implementation of a GSP.

California Water Code 10723.2 The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as those responsible for implementing groundwater sustainability plans.

23 Cal. Code Regs. §354.10 Notice and Communication. Each Plan shall include a summary of information relating to notification and communication by the Agency with other agencies and interested parties including the following: (a) a description of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin, including the land uses and property interests potentially affected by the use of groundwater in the basin, the types of parties representing those interests, and the nature of consultation with those parties.

Outreach Resources

Tools for identifying DAC communities include:

- ◆ [DWR Disadvantaged Community Mapping Tool](#)
- ◆ [DWR Economically Distressed Areas Mapping Tool](#)
- ◆ [State Water Board Human Right to Water Portal](#)
- ◆ [CalEnviroScreen](#)
- ◆ [US Census Bureau Data Portal](#)

DAC Communications Best Practices and similar reference publications:

- ◆ [DWR Guidance on Engaging and Communicating with Underrepresented Groundwater Users](#)
- ◆ [Local Government Commission Best Practices for Virtual Engagement Guide](#)
- ◆ [Self Help Enterprises webpage](#) on SGMA engagement for DACs
- ◆ [Self Help Enterprises Technical Assistance Program](#)
- ◆ Clean Water Action's [Collaborating for Success: Stakeholder Engagement for SGMA Implementation](#)
- ◆ Water Education Foundation's [Solving Water Challenges in DACs: A Handbook to Understanding the Issues in California and Best Practices for Engagement](#)

Key Outreach and Engagement Principles⁴

- ◆ Decisions that impact DACs must be done with their guidance and input, and agencies should ensure that community residents are able to give meaningful input into the process.
- ◆ Partner with local community-based organizations as trusted messengers.
- ◆ Target outreach materials and approach appropriately by tailoring communications to the community's needs. Be mindful of language and cultural differences.
- ◆ Be aware of communities' level of access to computers, internet, and phone connections.
- ◆ Engage early and often. Reach out to community-based organizations and other stakeholders who may be in direct communication with residents early to help make sure that residents are informed and notified through multiple channels about options for public meetings.
- ◆ Understand who the target audience is (e.g., with whom you will be meeting) to understand where and when to meet (such as during the day vs. evening meetings)
- ◆ Conduct meetings at times convenient for public participation with ample notifications.
- ◆ When possible, travel to the target community to meet them in their locale.
- ◆ One-on-one meetings with individual communities and stakeholders may be more appropriate than trying to meet with several entities in one location.

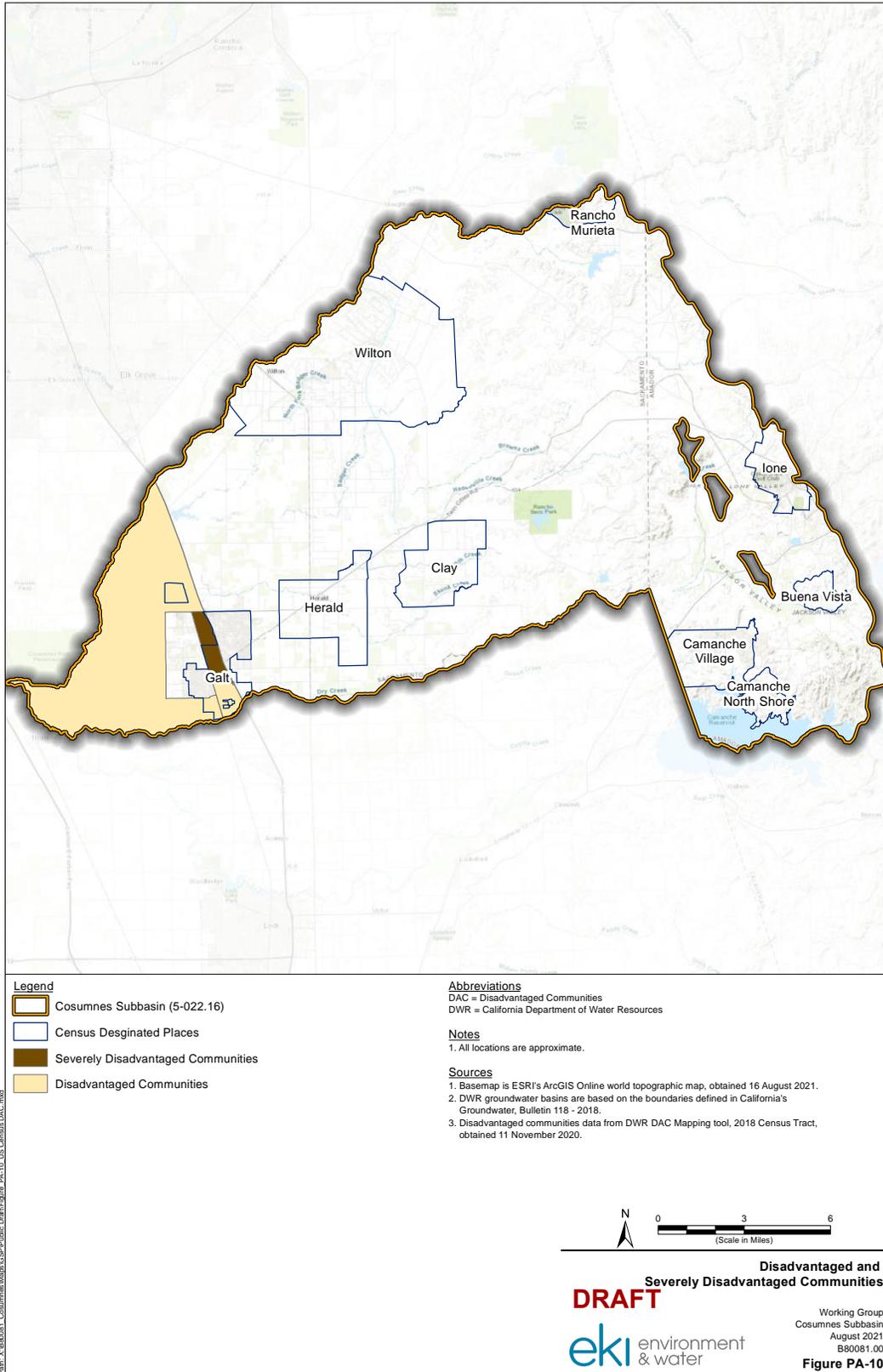
⁴ Principles extracted and summarized from best practices and other outreach sources noted in "Outreach Resources" section above.

- ◆ For virtual meetings, provide multiple options for teleconferencing, with two-way communication options that allows either computer-users or phone-users to engage. Consider using separate teleconference lines or audio channels to meet language access needs.
- ◆ Several meetings may be required to engage new communities and involve them in the SGMA process.
- ◆ Provide in-meeting translation and translated materials to the maximum extent possible.
- ◆ Though there may be commonalities across regions, each community/DAC/tribe/water system/stakeholder has unique and individualized water-related concerns.

Key Outreach Partners/ Liaisons

The following lists potential partners for outreach to DACs in the Cosumnes subbasin:

- ◆ [Self Help Enterprises](#)
- ◆ [Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability](#)
- ◆ [Clean Water Action](#)
- ◆ [The Nature Conservancy](#)
- ◆ [Audubon California](#)



Appendix F: Media Contacts List

[NOTE: This is a work in progress]

ABC 10	desk@news10.net,
Amador Community News	ACNEditor@gmail.com,
CBS 13	news@kovr.com .
Elk Grove Citizen	Lance and Cameron
Fox	news@fox40.com
Galt Herald	Bonnie Rodriguez editor_galtherald@herburger.net
KCRA 3	mozdaglar@hearst.com .
KVGC Radio	news@kvgcradio.com;suzie@kvgcradio.com;jim@kvgcradio.com
Ledger Dispatch	jmitchell@ledger.news
Lodi News-Sentinel	scotth@lodinews.com
River Valley Times	Bonnie Rodriguez, rvt.hpi@gmail.com
TSPN TV	news@tspntv.com .
Wilton News	Gene Rose, rosarancho@frontiernet.net
Wilton Roundup	Facebook group (B Washburn and K Beasley)

Appendix G: Potential Venues List

[NOTE: This is a work in progress. Not all locations have been fully explored for meeting viability.]

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the GSAs to meet virtually for over a year during GSP development. As in-person meeting options became available, the GSAs acknowledged the need to support virtual participation options during certain meetings such as public workshops. The following table summarizes potential venues in the subbasin for various meetings / workshops and identify key logistical amenities, particularly audio-visual capabilities that support virtual and in-person participation.

General Area in the Basin	Name & Address	Capacity	Contact	Amenities	Notes
Northern	Rancho Murieta (RM) – RM Country Club (Board Room or Murieta Room)	24 (Board) 200+ (Murieta)	Hannah St. Clair (916) 354-3420 hannah@ranchomurietaacc.com	Projection screen, tables and chairs, wifi	Past hybrid public workshop(s) held at this location
Northern	Rancho Murieta – RM Operating Engineers training rooms	?			More research needed
West/Central	Wilton – Wilton Community Center	200	parkevents@saccounty.net	Projection screen, tables and chairs, kitchen, outdoor platform, wifi (inconsistent bandwidth)	Past in-person public workshop(s) held at this location
Central	Herald – Herald Fire Station (indoor hall and open, Fire Apparatus Bay)	80 (Hall) 200+ (Bay)	Lindsey Liebig	Tables and chairs, wifi; coordinate with Lindsey for AV	Past hybrid public workshop(s) held at this location
South/Central	Galt – Galt Police Dept Community Room	~30	Austin Miller (Cosumnes PIO)	Projector and screen; tables and chairs; wifi (inconsistent bandwidth)	Past hybrid Working Group meetings held at this location
South/Central	Galt – Littleton Community Center	350	(209) 366-7180		More research needed
South/Central	Galt – Chabolla Community Center	350+	(209) 366-7180		More research needed

Appendix H: Cosumnes Subbasin Informational Handouts

Documents are available for download on the website. Click on the image to directly view/download.

Figure 4. October 2017 Factsheet | SGMA Update and Introduction

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the Cosumnes Subbasin

Shaping Local Control of Groundwater

Effective January 1, 2015, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) establishes a robust framework for the sustainable management of groundwater resources for the first time in California's history. SGMA's intent is to achieve sustainable groundwater conditions statewide and to locally manage groundwater basins while minimizing state intervention to only when necessary. The preservation of local management of the region's groundwater is a fundamental principle for implementing SGMA in the Cosumnes Subbasin.

SGMA recognizes that management is most effective when done at the local level by local agencies with adequate information, tools, resources, and authorities. Your involvement and input is key to ensuring a thoughtful, locally driven plan for the Cosumnes Subbasin.

What is the driver of SGMA?
Groundwater is a critical component of the state's water supply portfolio. If effectively managed, this resource will help protect communities, farms, and the environment against the impacts of prolonged dry periods and climate change.

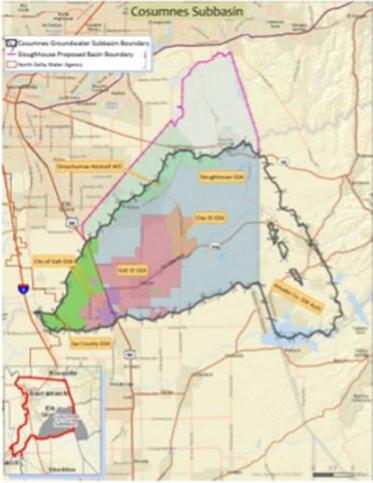
There are 515 groundwater basins and subbasins in California, contributing close to 48% of California's annual water supply in an average year and close to 60% in extensive dry or drought years. The state has designated 127 of the 515 basins and subbasins as High and Medium priority - meaning they are not considered by the state to be in a sustainable condition. Designated medium-priority, the Cosumnes Subbasin is one of those 127 basins.

What is legally required under SGMA?
After GSA formation, the next step in SGMA implementation is the development of one or more Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) by the subbasin's GSA. Developing a GSP will be a significant undertaking that will likely take two to four years. The heart of every subbasin's GSP will be a reliable strategy to achieve its self-defined sustainability goal without causing "undesirable results," which include significant - unreasonable:

Surface Water Depletion
Significant Groundwater Depletion
Excessive Land Subsidence

The GSP will describe the subbasin's current groundwater uses and conditions, including groundwater levels, water quality and connections to surface waters. It must also outline a planning and implementation horizon, include monitoring and management of the basin, and strategies to avoid any overdraft. GSPs will not establish or determine groundwater rights. The final step for SGMA is the implementation of the GSP to achieve basin sustainability over a 20-year timeframe, by 2042. Most importantly, the amount of groundwater pumped cannot exceed the amount of water recharged, with conditions measured against a 2015 benchmark.

cosumnes.waterforum.org | October 2017



Who is responsible for SGMA in the Cosumnes Subbasin?
SGMA recognizes that management is most effective when done at the local level by local agencies with adequate information, tools, resources, and authorities. As such, SGMA requires that one or more local agencies implement SGMA at the local level, with the state as a backup if necessary. These local agencies, called Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), are responsible for developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2022 and ensuring that groundwater is being managed sustainably by 2042. GSAs are given both the mandate and broad array of tools to regulate groundwater in their basin. Those tools will include the ability to limit extractions and to impose fees related to groundwater use.

Over the next four years, the following seven GSAs will work together as the Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group ("Working Group") to develop one or more GSPs by Jan 31, 2022. The Working Group is guided by a near-term framework agreement that describes how the GSAs will work together in the next six to twelve months. In autumn 2017, the Working Group will begin to develop a governance agreement that will guide decision-making in 2018 and beyond.

- City of Galt
- Clay Irrigation District
- Omoichumne-Hartnell Water District
- Sacramento County (representing any unincorporated areas)
- Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
- Amador County Groundwater Authority

At the Working Group's direction, the subbasin has hired an independent technical advisory team led by Anoma Dutton from EXI Environment and Water. Efforts to implement SGMA are supported by the **Sacramento Water Forum**, a diverse group of business and agricultural leaders, citizen groups, environmentalists, water managers and local governments working together to protect the lower American River and the region's water supply.

Timeline - Learn more at Groundwater.Ca.gov

June 30, 2017

Form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

2022

Complete Groundwater Sustainability Plans

2042

Achieve Groundwater Sustainability

For More Information: Tom Gehring, Water Forum, tgehring@waterforum.org | cosumnes.waterforum.org

Figure 5. December 2018 Factsheet | SGMA Update

Managing Our Local Groundwater

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in the Cosumnes Subbasin

A new law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), was passed in 2014 to protect groundwater from depletion and overuse. Under this law, groundwater users in the Cosumnes Subbasin can help shape how this vital resource is used - everything from defining what constitutes sustainable groundwater usage to determining what steps local agencies will take to ensure there is a balance between long-term supply and use.

What Does SGMA Require?

Groundwater basins must be managed by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

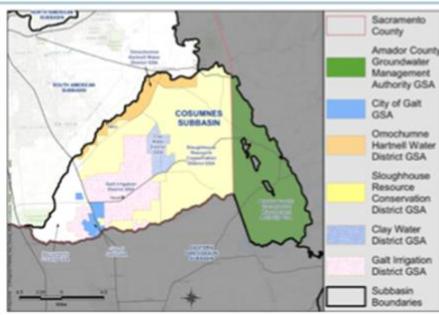
- There are seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin (see map). Together they form the Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group, which meets monthly to work on the development of a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP).

What is contained in a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)?

A GSP must assess groundwater quantity and determine if there is a balance between water coming in and water leaving the subbasin. If it is determined that groundwater supplies are being depleted over time, the Plan must contain a strategy to reverse this trend and ensure long-term sustainability of the water available to businesses, residences, farms, ranches and ecosystems.

The GSP must also assess groundwater quality, surface water depletion, land subsidence and other sustainability indicators and propose measures to correct any "undesirable results." In the Cosumnes subbasin, we are just beginning to develop this plan.

Cosumnes Subbasin's GSP is planned for submittal to CA Dept. of Water Resources by Jan. 2022



Contact information for seven GSAs working together to develop a GSP for the Cosumnes Subbasin:

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)	Contact Information
Amador County Groundwater Authority	Gene Mancebo, gmancebo@amadorwater.org , 209-257-5245
City of Galt	Mark Clarkson, mclarkson@ci.galt.ca.us , 209-366-7260
Clay Water District	Gary Silva Jr., gsilvastoppers@yahoo.com , 209-481-4407
Galt Irrigation District	Leo VanWarmerdam, leowr1@hotmail.com , 209-914-1140
Omoichumne-Hartnell Water District	Mike Wackman, mkwconsulting@outlook.com , 916-685-5368
Sacramento County	Linda Dorn, dorn@bacounty.net , 916-874-1085
Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District	Amanda Watson, sloughhouseRC@gmail.com

The work of the GSAs is coordinated by the Water Forum, an organization formed 25 years ago to mediate regional water issues. The GSAs have retained EXI, a consultant with expertise in groundwater, to assist in developing the GSP. The Water Forum maintains a website, cosumnes.waterforum.org, that contains presentations and information from all Working Group meetings.

How might SGMA affect me?
SGMA divides users into two groups: domestic and agricultural. Domestic users (single well, no crops or large landscapes) are not subject to metering, but may need to participate in GSP implementation efforts. Agricultural users are unlikely to experience changes if it is determined through the GSP that subbasin groundwater supplies are stable and sustainable in the long-term. However, if it is determined that groundwater is being depleted, projects or management actions will have to be implemented to bring the basin into long-term sustainability. Such actions could include monitoring of groundwater pumping.

Online Survey
As an initial effort to gather information about groundwater use in the basin, we request you take a brief **online survey** that will be used by our consultant to begin to develop the GSP. Please go to cosumnes.waterforum.org to take the short survey or download it and send in as hardcopy. Addresses are available by contacting your representative GSA, as listed above.

How Can I Get More Information?

- Sign up for the interested parties email list at cosumnes.waterforum.org/get-involved.
- Contact your local GSA, attend their meetings, or request a representative speak to your local group.
- Attend a monthly SGMA Working Group meeting. Info on all meetings is posted at the link above.
- Attend a public workshop. Workshops will be scheduled periodically in all local communities.

For more info contact your local GSA rep or John Lowrie at the Water Forum, jmlowrie@waterforum.org
cosumnes.waterforum.org

Figure 6. July 2020 Factsheet | Groundwater Conditions

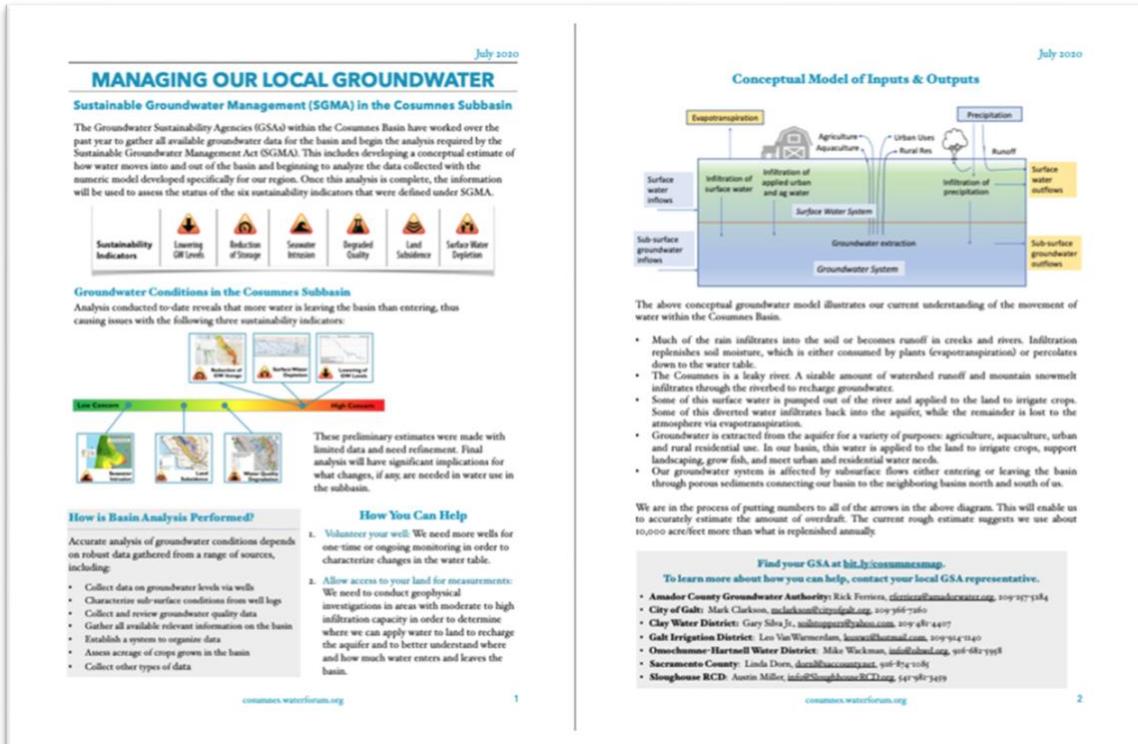


Figure 7. March 2021 | GSA Contacts & Glossary Handout

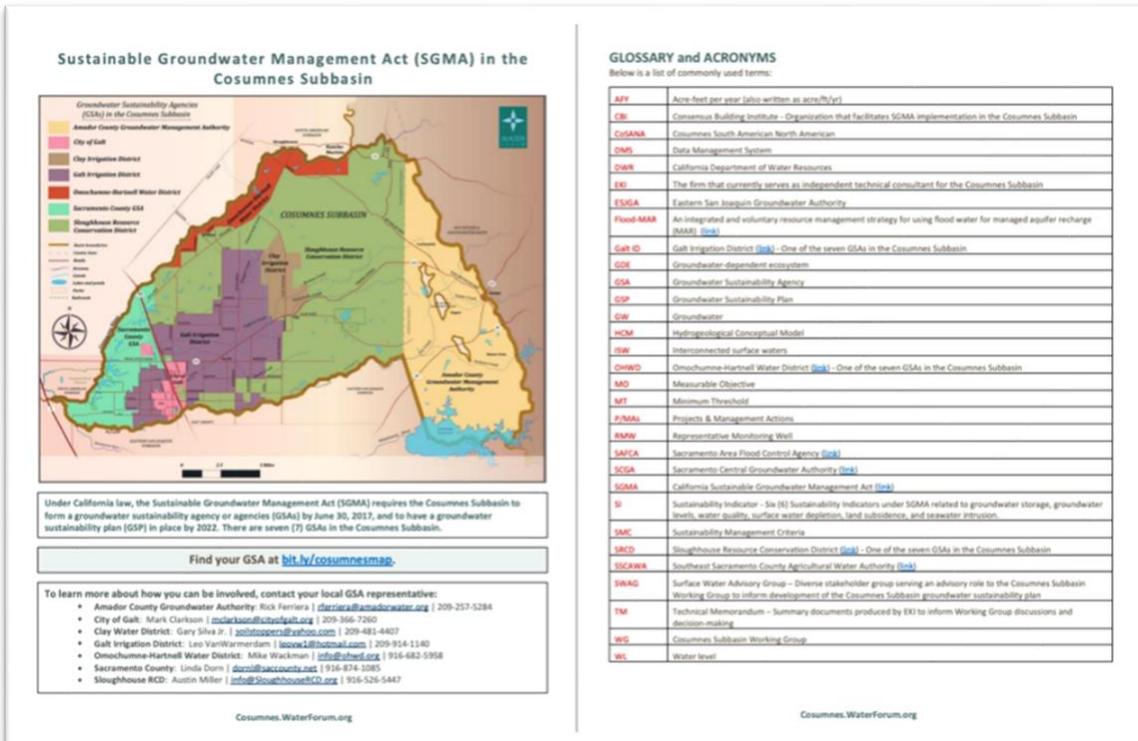


Figure 8. March 2021 Factsheet | Well Owners

Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Cosumnes Subbasin: Now is a critical time for Well Users to Get Involved



Whether you have a well on your property or live in a community that pumps groundwater from a well into your home, decisions will be made soon that may impact you. The Cosumnes Groundwater Sustainability Plan will be finalized this year. Providing a roadmap for how groundwater will be managed for the next two decades, the plan is expected to include:

- Compensation to growers willing to take land out of production (voluntary fallowing).
- Projects to pump new sources of water into the ground (recharging).
- A description of how plan implementation, projects, and management actions will be funded.

Why are we talking about wells?

Groundwater—water stored in underground basins called aquifers—is an important resource that provides drinking water, allows agriculture to flourish, and supports a healthy environment. But California's frequent droughts and over-reliance on pumping are depleting groundwater. It is so severe in some areas of the state that land is sinking as aquifers collapse.

Signed into law in 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA - pronounced Sigma) requires the adoption of local plans that will bring groundwater supply and demand into balance. The goal statewide is to stop removing more water out of underground aquifers than is being replenished (by nature or by humans). If local areas are unable or unwilling to come up with an effective plan, the law empowers the State to step in with its own plan, which will almost certainly be both more restrictive and more costly for local residents.

Where is the Cosumnes Subbasin?



The Cosumnes Subbasin extends south of the Cosumnes River to the San Joaquin County border along Dry Creek and west from the Delta to the foothills of Amador County. To find where you are in the subbasin, view this interactive map: bit.ly/CosumnesGSAsContactsMap

What are options being considered for our plan?

Although the Cosumnes Subbasin has both urban (the City of Galt) and rural residential areas (Wilton and Herald), much of the 210,000 acres is devoted to agriculture. Because we want to protect both the character and the economy of our area, we are being guided by three strategies:

1. Protect/enhance the amount of water available for all uses, including a healthy environment.
2. Find cost-effective solutions that meet legal requirements and keep fees low.
3. Minimize the amount of acreage that is taken out of agricultural production.

Options presented during a public workshop on March 24 will include ways to put more water into the aquifer (recharge) and ways to reduce water usage (fallowing land that is now irrigated).

How are you likely to be impacted?

The good news is that an effective groundwater sustainability plan would mean that most people will be able to count on their wells even in dry years. **But there are costs to implement and monitor whatever plan is adopted.** A funding plan that spreads costs among users without creating a heavy burden is under development and will be shared in a public workshop and local agency hearings later this year.

Will meters be required?

SGMA does not authorize the requirement that domestic well users install meters on their wells. Meters are allowed to be placed on ag wells; however, current plans are to find ways to assess water use without meters.

What can you do to provide input?

- 1 Become informed about requirements of the plan.**
Go to Cosumnes.WaterForum.org for details about planning efforts in the Cosumnes Subbasin.
- 2 Learn about the options under consideration, including costs and benefits.**
Attend a public workshop at 6:30pm on Wednesday, March 24, 2021. Register at bit.ly/CosumnesGMA_Mar24. Sign up at Cosumnes.WaterForum.org/get-involved to get emailed updates.
- 3 Tell your representatives what you think after you see the options.**
Go to bit.ly/CosumnesGSAsContactsMap to determine which agency represents you and how you can contact that agency with your input.



Provide input during a **March 24th, 2021 workshop.**
Learn more at Cosumnes.WaterForum.org



Provide input during a **March 24th, 2021 workshop.**
Learn more at Cosumnes.WaterForum.org

Figure 9. March 2021 Factsheet | Projects

Proposed Projects to reach sustainability in the Cosumnes Subbasin

March 2021



Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin has been declining for decades, with recent estimates suggesting that an average of more than 10,000 acre feet annually are pumped out of the basin than are returned to the aquifer. In compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, a state law passed in 2014, groundwater stakeholders and local agencies have identified proposed projects and management actions to stop the overuse of groundwater. This factsheet provides the most recent information for potential projects and management actions under consideration. These are still in early phases of development and may be refined as the Subbasin does more work to more fully flesh out these projects and engage in discussions with water users in the Subbasin.

Groundwater Sustainability Project Principles

- Minimize the amount of fallowed farmland
- Minimize fees to rural residential and agricultural properties
- Emphasize a voluntary approach to management

Project Spotlight: Working with SAFCA



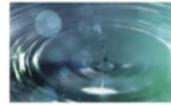
Over the past few decades, SAFCA - the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency - has played a major leadership role in multi-billion dollar water projects like improving Folsom Dam and shoring up levees in Natomas, the Pocket area along the American River. They know how to take big projects and turn them into reality.

The FloodMAR project - MAR stands for Managed Aquifer Recharge - takes advantage of winter floodwater on the American River. Projections show that in 4 out of every 10 years, the federal Bureau of Reclamation is going to see 125,000 acre/ft of excess winter floodwater flowing out of the American River and off to the ocean. That's water the federal Bureau of Reclamation, which operates Folsom Dam, can't use to meet its environmental and contractual obligations.

Under FloodMAR, the excess winter floodwater would be diverted down the Folsom South Canal for aquifer recharge in the South American and Cosumnes subbasins to be stored until it is needed. The Bureau's incentive to approve the FloodMAR project is that they would get a portion of the stored water for their use to address conditions in the Delta. The incentive for the Cosumnes Subbasin to participate is that there would be enough water to eliminate a large part of our annual overuse of groundwater.

It is exactly the type of multi-beneficial project that state and federal officials are looking for as solutions to California's ongoing water woes. During dry times, it would provide more water for ag users, urban water purveyors, and environmental purposes. Both state and federal grants to help construct different parts of the infrastructure will likely be available.

Proposed Projects & Management Actions

<h4>DEMAND REDUCTION</h4> <p>Reducing the amount of groundwater that is pumped</p> <p>Voluntary Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fallowing land for compensation • Cutting back on water use 	<h4>SUPPLY AUGMENTATION</h4> <p>Recharging the aquifer through smaller, local projects and participating in the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) managed aquifer recharge program</p> <p>Proposed Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using treated wastewater from the City of Galt on agricultural properties • Benefiting from recharge projects on the north side of the Cosumnes River • Obtaining winter floodwater in partnership with SAFCA 	<h4>REVENUE GENERATION</h4> <p>Proposed projects will create additional revenue to fund conservation efforts in the basin</p> <p>Sale of Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selling water to an urban water purveyor, when excess water is available, to generate revenue to fund projects within the subbasin
---	---	--

Monitoring Groundwater Conditions

Knowing what is going on deep underground in the Cosumnes Subbasin is vital, both to creating a credible groundwater management plan now and to implementing it effectively over time. That meant it was important early in the planning process to establish a network of monitoring wells, including one off Keating Road in Wilton (pictured at right).



To determine if we are working successfully toward our goal of returning the water table to 2015 levels, we need to monitor groundwater regularly. A series of wells have been selected throughout the basin to make that assessment. In some cases, new, dedicated monitoring wells have been constructed, using grant funds obtained by local agencies, to ensure that all areas of the basin are represented.

Newly constructed monitoring well, to be used in the Cosumnes monitoring network.



For more information, go to Cosumnes.WaterForum.org



For more information, go to Cosumnes.WaterForum.org

Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Cosumnes Subbasin: Implementation and Funding

Whether you have a well on your property or live in a community that pumps groundwater from a well into your home, decisions will be made soon that may impact you. The first draft of the Cosumnes Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) will be released in the coming months. Providing a roadmap for how groundwater will be managed for the next two decades, the plan includes:

- A path toward achieving groundwater sustainability by 2042.
- Projects to pump new sources of water into the ground (recharge).
- A description of how plan implementation, projects, and management actions will be funded.

Why are we talking about groundwater?

Groundwater is an important resource that provides drinking water, allows agriculture to flourish, and supports a healthy environment. But California's frequent droughts and over-reliance on pumping are depleting groundwater. Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin is dropping at an average rate of 1 foot/year. The State's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014 requires local agencies to develop a plan to sustainably manage groundwater over the long term.

How will we pay for implementing the plan?

Year 1 Funding

Due to legal restrictions, only fees to cover administrative costs can be assessed prior to submitting the GSP. For fiscal year 2021-22, a usage fee (-\$10/irrigated acre) will be assessed to cover administering the early phase of the GSP. This Year 1 Usage Fee will mainly be paid by farmers and ranchers, the main users of groundwater in the basin. Ag-res parcels with irrigated pastures, vineyards, or orchards may also be assessed.

Usage fees will be adopted through legal processes with opportunities for public input. Public notices and public meetings before GSA boards will occur prior to implementing the fee. Please contact your local GSA for more information on this process.

Long-Term Funding

Years 2022-2042

Once the GSP has been submitted to the State, the work will move into high gear. To fund the administration of the plan and the projects that will help us achieve sustainability over the long haul, two types of fees will be levied.

Project Costs will be paid by a Usage Fee

At this time, the estimated usage fee will be about \$10/irrigated acre. Some of the key projects include:

- Conducting feasibility studies
- Developing a groundwater bank
- Paying farmers to voluntarily fallow land
- Participating in water recharge programs

See our "Projects Factsheet" available on our website for more information about the project and management actions that are being considered.

Administrative Costs will be paid by a Parcel Fee

Starting in Year 2, the administrative costs will be covered by a parcel fee. There will be some new administrative tasks, such as five-year plan updates; however, responsibilities and expenses will remain similar to Year 1. These expenses will be shared by farmers, owners of small acreage (ag-res), and residents of the cities within the basin.

Estimated 5-Year Cost Summary Table

Fiscal Year (FY)	Administrative Costs	Project Costs	Total Annual Costs
FY 21/22	\$495,000	\$330,000	\$735,000
FY 22/23	\$465,000	\$685,000	\$1,150,000
FY 23/24	\$470,000	\$655,000	\$1,120,000
FY 24/25	\$325,000	\$675,000	\$1,000,000
FY 25/26	\$495,000	\$675,000	\$1,170,000

Revenue to pay project costs includes local usage fee and external funding sources. Cost estimations are subject to change.

Amador County GSA and the City of Galt GSA plan to include groundwater management costs in their broader fee program and provide an annual contribution to the subbasin. As a result their final fee structure will be different than other areas in the subbasin.

What happens if we fail? State Intervention

If the local GSAs are unable to implement a plan that meets state requirements, the State Water Resources Control Board will step in to manage the subbasin. If this occurs, the State could charge up to \$300/well/year for all groundwater extractors and up to \$55/acre-foot of water pumped.

The local GSAs are working hard to avoid State Intervention and these high costs.

What's Next?

At this time, the amount of the Year 2 parcel fee is unclear. A consultant has been hired to develop the fee program and ensure that it is fair, and that the benefits align with the fees. One thing is clear however - in 2022 the GSAs will need undergo another fee adoption process to have the resources needed to implement the GSP. Public meetings will be held to review the specifics.

Learn more and stay involved!
CosumnesWaterForum.org

Learn more and stay involved!
CosumnesWaterForum.org

Figure 11. August 2021 Handout | Draft GSP Comment Period Guidance

Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin

Public Comment Period Open Upcoming Public Meetings

Draft Plan Public Comment Period Aug 18 - Oct 20

Visit CosumnesWaterForum.org to view the Draft GSP and learn how to submit comments.

Comments due: 10.20.2021

Public Meetings Aug 26 | Sept 16 | Oct 6

Draft GSP Overview Meetings (two methods for participating):
Webinar | August 26, 6:30-8:00
In-Person Workshop, two time slots (location TBD)
 September 16, 3:30-5:00p; or
 September 16, 6:30-8:00p

Follow-Up GSP Webinar (for follow-up questions / comments)
 October 6, 6:30-8:00p

Go to CosumnesWaterForum.org to register for events.

Questions about an upcoming event? Contact Stephen Julian at CosumnesGSP@gmail.com or 254.640.0155
 Si necesita solicitar alojamiento para asistir a un próximo evento, incluidos los servicios de traducción, comuníquese con Stephen Julian a CosumnesGSP@gmail.com o al 254.640.0155

We look forward to seeing and connecting with you!
 Learn more at CosumnesWaterForum.org

Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan Comment Period

The Draft GSP for the Cosumnes Subbasin is Available for Review

The Cosumnes Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are pleased to announce the Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Cosumnes Subbasin is available for public review and comment as of August 18th, 2021. This 60-Day Public Comment Period will end on October 20, 2021, when the Draft GSP will become a key milestone for implementing the state-mandated Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

We invite you to learn about the Cosumnes Groundwater Sustainability Plan and provide comments with your feedback.

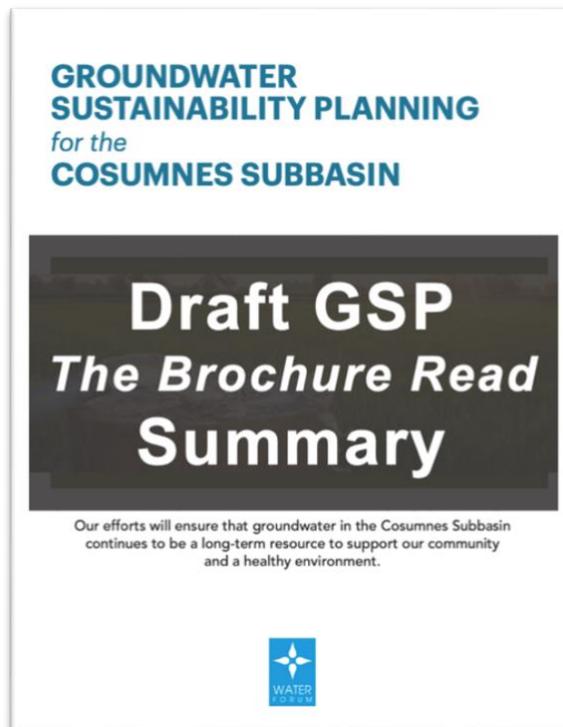
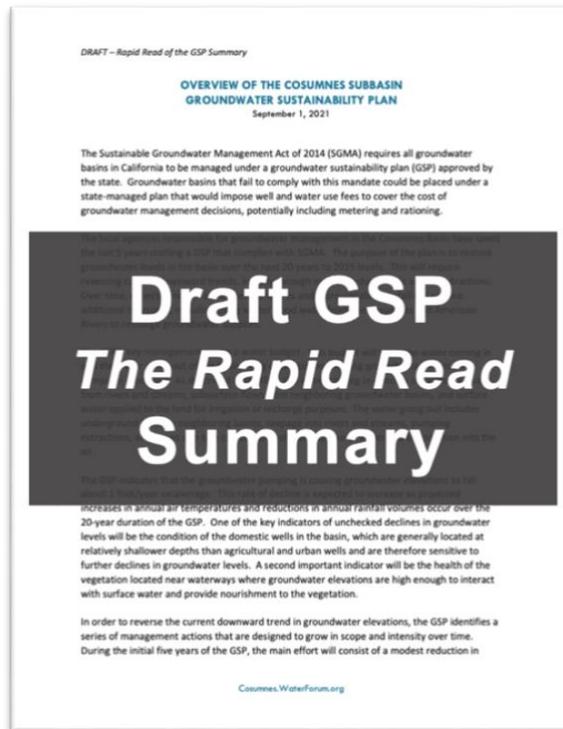
Submit a comment through one of three methods:

1. **Submit comment(s) via Online form.**
 Visit CosumnesWaterForum.org/draft-gsp-comment-period to access the form.
2. **Submit multiple comments by email.**
 Visit CosumnesWaterForum.org/draft-gsp-comment-period to access the comment form to attach with your email.
3. **Mail Comments to the Watershed Coordinator** (post-date by October 20, 2021)
 Cosumnes Subbasin GSP
 c/o: Stephen Julian
 1970 Elk Grove Blvd.
 Elk Grove, CA 95624

Important Notes:

- You can submit multiple comments.
- Remember to submit comments by **October 20, 2021, 11:59 p.m.**
- We strongly encourage you to attend the public webinars / workshop. Visit CosumnesWaterForum.org for event information.
- If you have trouble finding or accessing information listed here, contact the Watershed Coordinator Stephen Julian CosumnesGSP@gmail.com / 254.640.0155

Two types of handouts created – a two-page “Rapid Read” and a 10-page “Brochure Read”



Appendix I: Outreach Materials During GSP Development

Emails to Interested Parties List

[\[View Example 1 – Event Announcement\]](#)

[\[View Example 2 – Event Reminder\]](#)

Archive of recent email notices: <https://us12.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=a63f56898809294696c156940&id=c45d21958f>

Stakeholder Survey & Landowner Data Request Form

In 2019, a Basin Factsheet and Stakeholder Survey were sent to all unique addresses (based on parcel data) in SRCD, City of Galt, Galt ID, and Clay Water District GSA boundaries. 211 responses were received.

[\[View survey\]](#)

[\[View data request form\]](#)

Event Flyers

Figure 13. Example of Event Flyer

**Public Workshop:
Managing
Groundwater
in the Cosumnes
Subbasin**

**TWO OPPORTUNITIES
TO PARTICIPATE**

**Virtual Webinar
June 2nd
6:30-8:00pm**

**In-Person Workshop
June 3rd
6:30-8:00pm
at Herald Fire Station #87**

Choose to attend either the virtual webinar or the in-person meeting. The same material will be covered at both meetings.

Go to **Cosumnes.WaterForum.org** to register for either event.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan
In response to a state law enacted in 2014, a roadmap for how groundwater will be managed over the next two decades will be finalized this year. The goal is to stop removing more water from underground aquifers than is replenished each year by nature or humans.

What is in the plan?
With a target of 20,000 acre-feet per year, the Cosumnes Subbasin plan includes projects that put more winter flood water into the aquifer (recharging) and options that reduce usage (volunteers who fallow agricultural land or restrict pumpage).

What is the impact on you?
The good news is that an effective plan will mean that people will be able to count on their wells even in dry years. But there are costs to implement and monitor whatever plan is adopted.

What will be discussed?
At this workshop, local agencies will present the proposed approach for long-term implementation of the plan, including the fee approach to support plan implementation.

Who should attend?
Everyone who has a well or receives well water in their home.

Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin
Register for the public workshop at <http://Cosumnes.WaterForum.org>

Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin
Register for the public workshop at <http://Cosumnes.WaterForum.org>

Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin
Register for the public workshop at <http://Cosumnes.WaterForum.org>

Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin
Register for the public workshop at <http://Cosumnes.WaterForum.org>

Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin
Register for the public workshop at <http://Cosumnes.WaterForum.org>

Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin
Register for the public workshop at <http://Cosumnes.WaterForum.org>

Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin
Register for the public workshop at <http://Cosumnes.WaterForum.org>

Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin
Register for the public workshop at <http://Cosumnes.WaterForum.org>

Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin
Register for the public workshop at <http://Cosumnes.WaterForum.org>

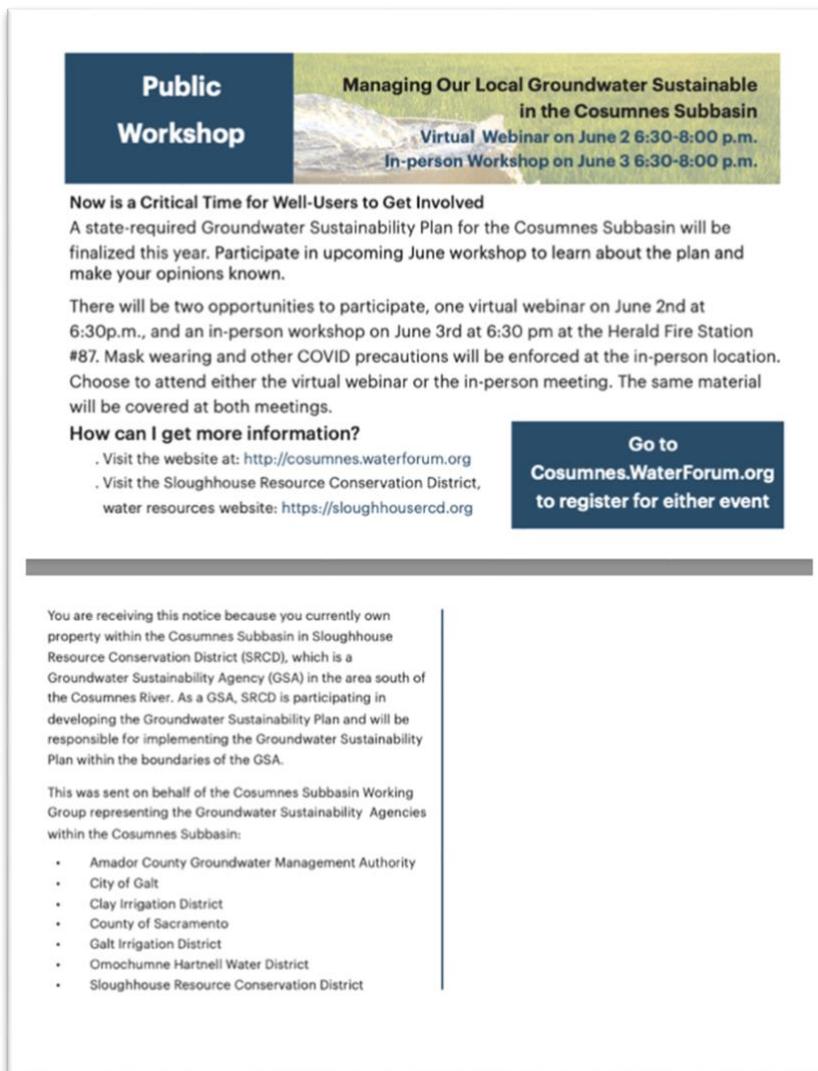
Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin
Register for the public workshop at <http://Cosumnes.WaterForum.org>

Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin
Register for the public workshop at <http://Cosumnes.WaterForum.org>

Example Mailers

Note: Individual GSAs decided if / when to mail materials within their GSA boundaries during GSP development. In some instances, individual GSAs may have decided other methods were more cost-effective (e.g., newspaper article, website postings, social media, etc.). In 2019, a Basin Factsheet and Stakeholder Survey were sent to all unique addresses (based on parcel data) in SRCD, City of Galt, Galt ID, and Clay Water District GSA boundaries. In 2021, event notices were mailed to all unique addresses in the Cosumnes Subbasin for the June 2021 workshop on GSP Implementation and Funding and for the Draft GSP workshop series during the 60-day comment period.

Figure 14. Example of Event Postcard Mailer



The image shows a postcard mailer for a public workshop. The top section has a dark blue box on the left with the text "Public Workshop" in white. To the right is a green box with a landscape image and the text "Managing Our Local Groundwater Sustainable in the Cosumnes Subbasin". Below this, it lists "Virtual Webinar on June 2 6:30-8:00 p.m." and "In-person Workshop on June 3 6:30-8:00 p.m.". The main body of the postcard contains the following text:

Now is a Critical Time for Well-Users to Get Involved
A state-required Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Cosumnes Subbasin will be finalized this year. Participate in upcoming June workshop to learn about the plan and make your opinions known.

There will be two opportunities to participate, one virtual webinar on June 2nd at 6:30p.m., and an in-person workshop on June 3rd at 6:30 pm at the Herald Fire Station #87. Mask wearing and other COVID precautions will be enforced at the in-person location. Choose to attend either the virtual webinar or the in-person meeting. The same material will be covered at both meetings.

How can I get more information?
. Visit the website at: <http://cosumnes.waterforum.org>
. Visit the Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District, water resources website: <https://sloughousercd.org>

Go to Cosumnes.WaterForum.org to register for either event

You are receiving this notice because you currently own property within the Cosumnes Subbasin in Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD), which is a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) in the area south of the Cosumnes River. As a GSA, SRCD is participating in developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and will be responsible for implementing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan within the boundaries of the GSA.

This was sent on behalf of the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group representing the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies within the Cosumnes Subbasin:

- Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
- City of Galt
- Clay Irrigation District
- County of Sacramento
- Galt Irrigation District
- Ormochumne Hartnell Water District
- Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

Figure 15. Example of Event Tri-Fold Mailer

Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

Share your thoughts and connect



Upcoming public meetings



Draft Plan available for comment



Attend webinars or workshops. Learn how to share input and stay involved.

Submit comments by Oct 20, 2021

Cosumnes Subbasin, Watershed Coordinator
 Obi: Cosumnes SGMA Working Group
 8970 Elk Grove Blvd.
 Elk Grove, CA 95624

PRESENTED BY
 STANDARD & POETTER
PAID
 ENCINITAS, CA 92024

endorse
first last
address
city, st zip

Sustainable Groundwater Planning
 Do you live in the Cosumnes Subbasin?
Now is a key milestone to share your input!

Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan available for public comment

Public webinars and workshops August-October





Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin

Public Comment Period Open
 Upcoming Public Meetings

Draft Plan Public Comment Period
 Aug 18 – Oct 20

Visit Cosumnes.WaterForum.org to view the Draft GSP and learn how to submit comments.

Comments due: 10.20.2021

Public Meetings
 Aug 26 | Sept 16 | Oct 6

Draft GSP Overview Meetings (two methods for participating):
Webinar | August 26, 6:30-8:00
In-Person Workshop, two time slots (location TBD)
 September 16, 3:30-5:00p; or
 September 16, 6:30-8:00p

Follow-Up GSP Webinar (for follow-up questions / comments)
 October 6, 6:30-8:00p

Go to Cosumnes.WaterForum.org to register for events.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
 In response to a state law enacted in 2014, a roadmap for how groundwater will be managed over the next two decades will be finalized this year. The goal is to balance the amount of groundwater pumped with the amount that is replenished each year by nature or humans. The Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan is available for public review and comment through October 20, 2021.

Why do we need a plan?
 Extended drought and historic overpumping threaten the long-term future of groundwater resources necessary to support our needs, including urban, domestic, agricultural, industrial, and environmental. The State requires local agencies to develop and adopt a GSP by January 2022. If the Cosumnes Subbasin fails to meet state-mandated requirements, the State may intervene at a much higher cost than if we retain local control.

What is in the plan?
 With a target of increasing groundwater recharge by 20,000 acre-feet per year, the Cosumnes Subbasin plan includes projects that put more winter flood water into the aquifer (recharging) and options that reduce usage.

What is the impact on you?
 The good news is that an effective plan will mean that people will be able to count on their wells even in dry years. But there are costs to implement and monitor whatever plan is adopted.

Who is developing the GSP?
 Since 2017, seven local agencies have been working together to develop the GSP with support and input from subject-matter experts, stakeholders, and the community. View this handout to learn who is your local agency representative and how you can contact them: bit.ly/CosumnesContactsJanuary2021

Questions about an upcoming event? Contact Stephen Julian at CosumnesGSP@gmail.com or 254.640.0155
 Si necesita solicitar alojamiento para asistir a un próximo evento, incluídos los servicios de traducción, comuníquese con Stephen Julian a CosumnesGSP@gmail.com, o al 254.640.0155

 **We look forward to seeing and connecting with you!**
 Learn more at Cosumnes.WaterForum.org

Cosumnes.WaterForum.org

47

Appendix J: Potential GSA Outreach Tasks

[NOTE: This is a work in progress]

This appendix is intended to help identify and map out specific issues and strategies that the GSAs may consider during GSP implementation. **This does not commit GSAs to specific tasks nor preclude them from pursuing other strategies aligned with the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP, CGA governance documents, and the C&E Plan.**

Methods

The following are methods that have emerged as highly effective and/or strongly recommended by GSAs, consultants and other subject matter experts, partners, stakeholders, and the public. As mentioned above, the list does not commit the GSAs to specific tasks nor preclude them from pursuing other strategies.

- Outreach-specific webpage/contact information on each GSAs' website specific to groundwater/SGMA questions
- Popular social media platforms / accounts
- Surveys
- One-on-one communication
- GSA Board meetings
- Partners and collaborative forums – (e.g., Water Forum)
- Briefings w/ regulators, inform on funding opportunities (e.g., SGM Grant Program)

Issues

The following are topics that have emerged as prominent issues of interest based on discussions among the GSAs, consultants and other experts, partners, stakeholders, and the public. The form and purpose of communication and engagement will depend on the issue and affected stakeholders. As mentioned above, the list does not commit the GSAs to specific tasks nor preclude them from pursuing other strategies.

- Project and management actions feasibility and implementation
- Fee program and other long-term funding mechanisms
- Regional/Watershed planning
 - Interbasin coordination
- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems and Interconnected Surface Waters
- Coordination with land use planning and development entities
- Future conditions (e.g., drought trends)
- Groundwater vs. surface water use
- Impacts on shallow wells
- Socioeconomic impacts
- Public input opportunities: confirming their interests are being conveyed and considered during the GSP implementation process
 - Community Input (e.g., Citizens Advisory Committee)
- Underrepresented and hard-to-reach communities (e.g., DACs, Tribes, etc.)
- Addressing other data gaps identified in the GSP (e.g., better understanding nature, location, and construction of active wells, verify DWR Well Completion Reports, etc.)