# <u>Cosumnes Groundwater Authority</u> Meeting of the Board of Directors Agenda

When: 9:00 am, Monday, August 15, 2022

- Where: Galt Police Department Community Room 455 Industrial Drive Galt, CA 95632
- Zoom: <u>Via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82092601862</u> Meeting ID: 820 9260 1862 Call in Number: 1-669-900-9128

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Any member of the public may address the Board concerning any matter on the agenda before or during its consideration of the matter. Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person. For good cause, the Board Chair may waive these limitations.

ACCESSIBILITY - If you have a disability and require a reasonable accommodation to fully participate in this event, please contact Austin Miller (CGA Secretary) before the day of the meeting via email [info@CosumnesGroundwater.org] or telephone [916-526-5447] to discuss your accessibility needs.

# Call to Order

Introductions / Determine if Quorum is Present

 Agenda Overview

# Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

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

# Action Items

- 2. Consent Items (5 minutes)
  - a. Minutes July 18, 2022
  - c. Consideration of Findings Related to Remote Meetings Pursuant to AB 361
  - d. Financial Report August 2022
- 3. Projects Committee Update (20 minutes)
- 4. Memorandum of Agreement: Grant Writing Services from SAFCA (15 minutes)
- 5. Long Term Funding (20 minutes)
- 6. Outreach and Engagement (20 minutes)
- 7. Governor's Executive Order N-7-22 (15 minutes)

# Informational Items (20 minutes)

- 8. CGA Staff Report
- 9. DWR North Central Regional Office Update
- 10. Upcoming Agenda Items
- 11. Director Comments

# Adjourn Meeting

Meeting Minutes July 18, 2022, 9:00am

# Call to Order: 9:04 am

- 1) Introductions / Determine if Quorum is Present
  - a. Directors in Attendance: Rick Wohle, Mark Stretars, Don Notolli, Lindsey Liebig, Gary Thomas, Jay Vandenburg, John Mulrooney

# Action Items

- 2) Consent Items
  - a. Agenda July 18, 2022
  - b. Minutes June 20, 2022
  - c. Consideration of Findings Related to Remote Meetings Pursuant to AB 361
  - d. Financial Report July 2022

Director Thomas moved to approve all consent items. Director Mulrooney seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

3) Reauthorization of Legal Counsel

Director Thomas moved to authorize Rebecca Smith/Downy Brand to serve as CGA legal counsel through fiscal year 2022-2023. Director Stretars seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

4) Projects Committee Update

Director Notolli moved direct staff to enter into an agreement with the EKI Team not to exceed \$35,000. Director Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

5) Long Term Funding

Director Thomas moved to direct staff to enter into an agreement with the SCI Consulting team not to exceed \$80,000. Director Notolli seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

- 6) Governor's Executive Order N-7-22 Update Director Notolli moved to have a chair appointed ad hoc committee meet to discuss preliminary thoughts on complying with the executive order. Director Thomas seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.
- 7) Outreach and Engagement

Staff provided an update on outreach and engagement efforts.

# **Information Items**

- Cosumnes Subbasin Watershed Coordinator Report The Cosumnes Subbasin Watershed Coordinator provided an update on a variety of projects throughout the Subbasin.
- DWR North Central Regional Office Update DWR Staff provided a monthly update on DWR activities.

10) Upcoming Agenda Items

- CGA comments on water transfers
- EKI Scope of Work/Timeline
- SCI Consulting Scope of Work/Timeline
- Delta Conveyance Project
- Overview of Critically Overview GSP Review Process

#### 11) Director Comments

No Director comments.

#### **Adjourn Meeting**

Chair Liebig adjorned the meeting by consensus at 11:20.

# Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Financial Report

August 2022

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

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

Monthly Change \$ (12,780.00)

Agenda Date:	August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
Agenda Item #:	3
Agenda Item Subject:	Projects Committee Update
To:	CGA Board of Directors
From:	CGA Staff

# **Background**

# Technical Consultants

During the July 20, 2022, PMA Committee meeting, a detailed Scope of Work was presented by Staff. With input from the Committee, staff worked with EKI to further refine the Scope of Work to reflect expected levels of effort and budgets. As directed by the CGA Board, staff worked with EKI to develop a scope of work commiserate with the CGA budget. The PMA Committee met again on August 11, 2022, with EKI present. The Committee reviewed the final Scope of Work and discussed the EKI Team, Staff, and Committee levels of effort for the preparation of the Priority Projects List and SGMA Implementation Grant application. Additional discussion surrounding modeling was had. Staff will be preparing questions with input from the CGA Board, committees, and the public for the Regional Water Authority meeting referenced below.

# CoSANA Model

# Links: 2021 CoSANA Report

 Regional Water Authority (RWA), the administrator of the Cosumnes-South American-North American Integrated Water Resources Model (CoSANA), will be giving a presentation to the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS) on August 24, 2022, and the meeting is open to the public. CGA staff invite anyone interested to send their suggested questions for that meeting to <u>info@CosumnesGroundwater.org</u> for staff to take to the meeting. Meeting information will be available here: <u>https://www.ecosacramento.net/what-we-do/committees/water-committee-supportingmaterials/</u>

# **Attachments**

• <u>Scope of Work</u>

# **Staff Recommendation**

• None. Discussion item only.

#### DRAFT SCOPE OF WORK

#### Introduction

The Cosumnes Subbasin GSP identifies a Phase 1 (2022-2028) goal of 2,700 acre-feet/year reduction of groundwater pumping. The Priorities Project List focuses on the Phase 1 activities by CGA intended to achieve the groundwater pumping reduction. This Scope of Work supports the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) in their update and refinement of the Priorities Project List which will be relied upon for future funding opportunities including the upcoming SGMA Implementation Grant submittal.

#### Task 1: Finalize Scope and Work Plan

The EKI Team (EKI Environment & Water [EKI], Larry Walker and Associates [LWA], and LandIQ) will assist the CGA Board, committees, staff, and partners to identify Voluntary Land Repurposing, Conservation/Water Use Efficiency, and Recharge Project program needs including estimated implementation costs. Task 1 finalizes the task descriptions, assigns appropriate Team members, and allocates the level of effort commensurate with CGA funding (\$35,000).

#### Task 2: Farmer/Public Outreach

Support CGA outreach activities to evaluate interest in Land Repurposing, including fallowing, and Conservation/Water Use Efficiency programs. The CGA will solicit ideas and feed-back for methods and approaches that improve agricultural - including aquaculture – water use with a focus primarily on the highest demands for water. The EKI Team will help develop a detailed Land Repurposing/Conservation survey, prepare related solicitation materials, and support CGA during their public workshop.

#### **Task 3: Voluntary Land Repurposing**

Summarize representative crop types/categories, irrigation methods, application efficiency, and consumptive use of water in the Cosumnes Subbasin. Develop baseline groundwater consumption estimate based on current (2020) land use conditions and identify potential alternative land use conditions to achieve groundwater pumping reduction goals. Explore potential landowner compensation methods for review by CGA and summarize funding sources that could support a Land Repurposing program.

#### Task 4: Conservation/Water Use Efficiency

Identify conservation and water use efficiency strategies applicable to conditions in the Cosumnes Subbasin. Evaluate representative compensation methods to incentivize landowner participation. The EKI Team will summarize results for CGA review and assist CGA identify available funding sources to support the program.

#### Task 5: Recharge Projects

The EKI Team will summarize and scope out applicable groundwater recharge methods and practices and develop methods to estimate the cost-benefit ratio of potential conceptual projects. Project descriptions shall focus on small scale projects with locations distributed throughout the Cosumnes Subbasin and their integration with existing recharge projects under consideration. The EKI Team will coordinate with CGA Staff to integrate information gathered from CGA member GSAs and/or partners.

# Task 6: Data collection, data gaps, and groundwater monitoring to support refinement of numeric model

The EKI Team will assist CGA update and prioritize the existing list of data gaps by identifying methods, level of effort, and approximate costs to implement the data gap filling effort. The planning effort will include integration of aerial imagery, updated land use, water demand, and the hydrogeological framework to refine the CoSANA model and direct long-term funding decisions.

#### Task 7: Priority Project List

The EKI Team will assist the PMA committee update the Phase 1 Priority Projects List based on the results of Tasks 2 through 6. The EKI Team will incorporate technical and cost information into the project descriptions for the PMA committee to integrate with results from their Public Outreach effort. The updated list will be presented to the CGA and when accepted inform CGA's Phase 1 activities for the period 2022-2028. The EKI Team will assist CGA Staff to develop a Report summarizing Phase 1 activities and the work completed under this Scope of Work.

#### Task 8: Support Grant Writer

The EKI Team will provide technical descriptions and cost estimates from Tasks 2 through 7 to support the Grant writer preparing the SGMA Implementation Grant application.

#### Task 9: Project Management

Routine project management tasks including budget management and invoicing.

#### Project Schedule

The EKI Team is prepared to start work on the above Scope of Work immediately upon authorization to proceed. It is expected that the PMA Committee will meet throughout July and August in preparation for an early/mid-September public workshop. Following the public workshop, the EKI Team will incorporate edits to the Project Priority List and assist the Grant Writer in the SGMA Implementation Grant application as described above under Task 7. The EKI Team will assist CGA staff present the Priority Projects List to CGA Board of Directors and seven (7) GSAs during a public meeting.

#### **Compensation for Consulting Services**

Inasmuch as the exact level of effort required to complete the above Scope of Work cannot be known precisely, EKI proposes to perform the work on a time and materials expense reimbursement basis. A breakdown of the estimated budget is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Proposed	l Project Budget <sup>1</sup>
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ТАЅК	Cost (% of budget)
Task 1 – Finalize Scope and Work Plan.	5%
Task 2 – Public Outreach.	10%
Task 3 – Voluntary Land Repurposing.	10%
Task 4 – Conservation/Water Use Efficiency.	10%
Task 5 – Recharge Projects.	10%
Task 6 – Data collection, data gaps, and groundwater monitoring to support numerical model refinements.	10%
Task 7 – Priority project list.	5%
Task 8 – Support Grant Writer.	10%
Task 9 – Project Management.	10%
TOTAL <sup>2</sup>	100%

1. Percent allocations are approximate. The funding levels will be refined and finalized as part of Task 1.

2. The current budget for planning purposes is \$35,000.

Agenda Date:	August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
Agenda Item #:	4
Agenda Item Subject:	MOA: Grant Writing Services from SAFCA
To:	CGA Board of Directors
From:	CGA Staff

# **Background**

At the May 2022 CGA Board of Directors meeting, Gary Bardini, Director of Planning for the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), shared SAFCAs interest in groundwater sustainability. During the meeting SAFCA offered to provide grant writing services to CGA for preparation of an application for the <u>Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater</u> <u>Management Grant Program</u> (anticipated to open Fall/Winter). To formalize this arrangement, SAFCA and CGA staff have drafted a memorandum of agreement (MOA).

# **Attachments**

- <u>SAFCA presentation from May 2022 CGA Board Meeting</u>
- Draft Memorandum of Agreement for Grant Writing Services

# **Staff Recommendation**

• Authorize CGA staff to enter into the agreement with SAFCA for grant writing services.

Agreement No. \_\_\_\_\_

# Memorandum of Agreement Between

# The Cosumnes Groundwater Authority and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency For Grant Preparation Services Related to the California Department of Water Resources' Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program for Implementation of Adopted Groundwater Sustainability Plans

This Memorandum of Agreement ("MOA") between the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency ("SAFCA") and the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority ("CGA") (collectively, "Parties") shall be effective as of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

# RECITALS

WHEREAS, SAFCA is a joint powers agency created under the SAFCA Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement dated January 17, 1991 and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency Act, California Water Code Appendix Sections 130 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, CGA is a joint powers agency created by the seven Groundwater Sustainability Agencies with authority and responsibility under the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA) for sustainably managing groundwater use in the Cosumnes Basin; and

WHEREAS, SAFCA is exploring opportunities to re-operate reservoirs in the American River watershed to provide more space for flood control in the most severe flood events; and

WHEREAS, SAFCA believes that its ability to secure state funding for such reservoir reoperation will be greatly enhanced if this effort produces multiple benefits beyond flood risk reduction including the benefit of making water stored in Folsom Reservoir available under appropriate circumstances for increasing groundwater recharge in the South American and Cosumnes Basins; and

WHEREAS, CGA has adopted and is planning to implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Cosumnes Basin that anticipates the benefits of the increased groundwater recharge that could be made possible by SAFCA's reservoir reoperation program; and

WHEREAS, the Parties recognize that numerous technical and institutional barriers must be overcome in order to link SAFCA's reservoir reoperation program to CGA's groundwater recharge effort; and WHEREAS, the Parties further recognize that the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program for implementation of adopted GSP's ("Implementation Grant Program") could provide funding to address a number of these barriers; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to collaborate in preparing a request to receive Implementation Grant Program funding for activities that would facilitate implementation of the Cosumnes Basin GSP.

NOW, THEREFORE the Parties agree as follows:

# AGREEMENT

1. <u>Grant Preparation</u>. CGA agrees to serve as the grant applicant. Toward that end, SAFCA agrees to provide CGA with the grant writing services of Mick Klasson, a planning and grant writing consultant who has provided services to SAFCA for more than 20 years and has been successful in securing several million dollars in grants to support SAFCA's flood risk reduction and related activities. At SAFCA's expense, which the Parties anticipate will not exceed \$20,000, Mr. Klasson will prepare the GSP Implementation grant as directed by CGA staff and in accordance with the Implementation Grant Program guidelines adopted by DWR.

2. <u>Technical Support</u>. CGA agrees to provide the technical support needed for Mr. Klasson to prepare the grant request. This support will consist of technical material, project descriptions, maps, data, institutional commitments, and other information relevant to the grant request gathered by CGA staff and consultants retained by CGA focusing on CGA's priorities for grant funding including land repurposing to reduce groundwater demand, groundwater recharge, monitoring tools and activities to fill GSP data gaps, and other activities as may be determined to facilitate GSP implementation.

3. <u>Timing</u>. The Parties anticipate that DWR will solicit GSP Implementation grant requests sometime in the fall of 2022 allowing 45 to 60 days for the requests to be tendered. If the supporting technical information is available, Mr. Klasson believes the grant can be written in 30 days. Institutional commitments to the extent they are required will be obtained by CGA well in advance of the grant request deadline.

4. <u>Notice</u>. Any notice pertaining to the performance of this MOA should be delivered by mail or e-mail to the following individuals:

For SAFCA: Gary Bardini, Director of Planning Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency 1325 J Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor Sacramento, CA 95814 BardiniG@saccounty.net

For CGA:

Austin Miller, Administrator Cosumnes Groundwater Authority 8970 Elk Grove Blvd. Elk Grove, CA 95624

5. <u>Termination</u>. Either Party may terminate this MOA at any time by providing notice to the other Party of the decision to terminate and the cause therefor. Otherwise, this MOA will terminate upon submittal of the GSP Implementation grant request to DWR.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto enter into this MOA as of the date first set forth above.

Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority** 

Austin Miller, Administrator

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

By:

Richard M. Johnson, Executive Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_

Rebecca Smith, CGA Counsel

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Jeremy Goldberg, Agency Counsel

Agenda Date:	August 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2022
Agenda Item #:	5
Agenda Item Subject:	Projects Committee Update
To:	CGA Board of Directors
From:	CGA Staff

# **Background**

The CGA Board selected SCI Consulting to work with CGA to develop a fee study in July 2022. Ryan Aston with SCI Consulting will be giving an introductory presentation that will discuss the timeline and process for developing a fee study.

# **Attachments**

• Introductory Presentation Slides from SCI Consulting

# **Staff Recommendation**

• None. Discussion item only.

# Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

# Fee Study Development

Introductory Presentation

Ryan Aston, SCI Consulting Group



#### 1

# Project Goals

- Identify the Authority's funding needs through the 5-Year Fee Period
- Obtain and Develop All Data Relevant for the Development of the Fee Structure
- Engage the Community in Order to Identify Local Preferences and Perspectives
- Provide Recommendations to the Board on a Fee Structure that Meets all Legal Requirements and Fulfills the Authority's Financial Needs





# Non-De Minimis Groundwater Extractors

- Charges placed only on GW users that extract > 2 AF annually
  - De Minimis Users not charged

#### All Groundwater Extractors

- Charges placed on all direct GW users
  - De minimis users included

# Considerations: Who Pays?

- Alternative Option (Hybrid)

  Charges placed on Direct GW users and all Subbasin parcels
- Utilize DWR Priority Point Allocation to assign portions of GSP implementation costs to two buckets:
  - Direct GW users

#### ightarrow All parcels within Subbasin

• Must be established that fee is not a tax



# August-October 2022:

Data and budget development; Identify initial recommendations; First Board Workshop

- Identify financial needs
- First Board workshop will provide valuable input on key issues
- Review, update and development of databases
- Develop funding option recommendations, including pros and cons
- Done in conjunction with staff and stakeholders

November 2022: Draft fee structure presented to Board

• Based on initial data gathering, Board input, and financial needs, a draft fee structure with recommendations will be presented

# **Dec 2022-Mar 2023:** Conduct community meetings and second Board Workshop; Refine fee structure

- Further Develop rates and fee schedules
  - Iterative process
- Engage community on key aspects of fee structure
- Includes meetings with Board, staff, and stakeholders



# April 2023: Final Fee Study presented to Board

- Develop final fee study
- Board consideration of fee study and possible fee adoption

Agenda Date:	August 15, 2022
Agenda Item #:	6
Agenda Item Subject:	Outreach and Engagement
To:	CGA Board of Directors
From:	CGA Staff

# **Background**

CGA and CBI Staff will be preparing to hold a public workshop in October. As the first public workshop of the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority, the workshop will highlight our efforts to date as well as community feedback on projects. To assist staff in preparing for the workshop, a joint PMA and Citizen Advisory Committee meeting will be held in the coming months to discuss workshop topics and outreach strategies.

Additionally, in response to feedback from the Citizen Advisory Committee, PMA Committee, and other stakeholders, CGA staff is scheduling webinars to share more information about CGA and groundwater sustainability efforts. The next webinar will be:

#### Webinar: Cosumnes Groundwater Projects Overview

Date:	August 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2022
Time:	2:00pm-3:30pm
Goals:	1) Develop shared understanding of background, purpose, status, and next steps for potential projects that aim to support the Cosumnes Subbasin groundwater sustainability goals.
	2) Foster the CGA Board, PMA Committee, and Citizen Advisory Committee ability to hold informed discussions about the Prioritiy Projects List.
	3) Discuss implications for public outreach and engagement (ex: FAQs, methods, messaging, outreach partners, etc.)
Zoom Registration: https://us02web.zoon	n.us/meeting/register/tZcrdu2srj8qGNZ50J1WQpUrLxJx6qG482pF

# **Staff Recommendation**

- Attend/watch and promote upcoming workshops and other outreach efforts to GSA Boards and constituents.
- Provide feedback to inform planning the upcoming webinars and public workshop.

Agenda Date:	August 15, 2022
Agenda Item #:	7
Agenda Item Subject:	Governor's Executive Order N-7-22 Overview
To:	CGA Board of Directors
From:	CGA Counsel and Staff

# **Background**

In March of 2022, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-7-22, pertaining to a continuing drought emergency in California. Paragraph 9(a) of the Order provides that during the drought emergency, a well permitting authority cannot approve permits for certain groundwater wells or well alterations without obtaining specific verifications from the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) responsible for managing that area. In particular, the well permitting agency must obtain a written verification that (among other things) the proposed well or well alteration is "not inconsistent with" the GSP for that groundwater basin. The full text of the Order and its required findings are attached to this report.

CGA does not issue well permits and is not itself a GSA. However, each of its members are GSAs responsible for managing their respective jurisdictions. As well permits covered by the Order are filed in those jurisdictions, the CGA members will need to decide how to comply with the Order in their respective jurisdictions.

In your June and July meetings, you asked staff to prepare a proposed template that members might be able to refer to in making these determinations, based on samples used in other basins. That sample is attached here. It includes (1) a template resolution; (2) a draft form of acknowledgement from the landowner; and (3) a template verification to provide to the well permitting agency. **Each GSA is individually responsible for its own determinations under the Order.** These materials are intended as a resource for members, and no member is required to implement them. Still, we are hopeful that they will be useful a useful coordination resource as GSA embarks on its efforts to comply with the Order.

# **Attachments**

- <u>GSA Consistency Verification Template</u>
- <u>GSA Compliance Resolution Template</u>
- Draft Well Permit Review Process Graphic

# **Staff Recommendation**

• None. Discussion item.

#### [GSA Letterhead]

#### EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22 PROPERTY OWNER ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

Well Application #:	Applicant Name:	Date Submitted:
County/APN:	Well Location:	Phone/Email:

#### Property Owner Acknowledgment (verify and check each box upon acknowledgment and agreement):

I acknowledge that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires that [Name] (the "GSA") is
required to manage groundwater in the [Subbasin] (the "Subbasin") pursuant to an adopted groundwater
sustainability plan (GSP), and has groundwater management authority over the lands identified in Well Application #
(the "Well Application").

- I acknowledge that Section 9.a. of Executive Order N-7-22 directs that a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in the Subbasin cannot be approved without written verification from the GSA that groundwater extraction from the proposed well will not be inconsistent with the GSP's minimum thresholds and will not decrease the likelihood of achieving the GSP's measurable objectives and sustainability goals.
- □ I acknowledge that pursuant to the adopted GSP for this Basin, the GSA has established minimum thresholds and measurable objectives for the Subbasin, and has the authority to limit extractions within its jurisdiction, including extractions from any well permitted pursuant to the Well Application.
- □ I acknowledge that a well permit issued by the County does not guarantee the extraction of any specific amount of groundwater now, or in the future. Similarly, a permit does not guarantee the maintenance of any defined water level or water quality in the Subbasin.
- □ I acknowledge that the GSA is not responsible for or otherwise liable for any costs, investments, or payments related to any groundwater well, including pumping fees, extraction limits, costs related to well failure, well deepening, or increased maintenance, replacement, or operational costs.
- □ I acknowledge that the findings and verification made by the GSA pursuant to Executive Order N-7-22 are based on the information provided in the Well Application and this Property Owner Acknowledgment, and that such determinations are subject to modification or revocation at any time the GSA receives other relevant, material information.
- □ I agree to hold the GSA harmless and indemnify the GSA for any liability, including attorney fees, costs, or penalties stemming from or related to the County's issuance of a permit for Well Application #\_\_\_\_\_.

I acknowledge that the undersigned is either the Property Owner of the land on which a well is proposed to be located, or a representative authorized to sign on the Property Owner's behalf.

By signing below, I hereby certify that the acknowledgments above are understood and accepted and will be incorporated into the terms and conditions of any well permit issued pursuant to the Well Application.

Printed Name:	 

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22 GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CONSISTENCY VERIFICATION FORM

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (the "GSP") for the [Subbasin] (the "Subbasin"), establishes minimum thresholds and measurable sustainability goals for the Subbasin. Pursuant to Section 9.a. of Executive Order N-7-22, [Name] (the "GSA") has considered the proposed location, purpose, depth, and pumping contemplated in Well Application # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (the "Well Application") relative to the GSP's minimum thresholds and sustainability goals and current groundwater conditions, and makes the following findings:

#### Groundwater Sustainability Agency Findings (check all that apply):

- The Well Application seeks to alter or replace an existing groundwater well within the Subbasin, for which no increase in total groundwater pumping by the altered or replaced well is contemplated.
- The Well Application seeks to install a new groundwater well or to alter or replace an existing groundwater well, in which an increase in total groundwater pumping by the altered or replaced well is contemplated.
- □ The GSA <u>VERIFIES</u> that the proposed [installation / alteration] of a groundwater well pursuant to the Well Application, and the extraction therefrom, would not be inconsistent with the sustainable groundwater management program established in the adopted GSP for the Subbasin, and such extraction would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the Subbasin.

The GSA **IS UNABLE TO VERIFY** that the proposed **[installation / alteration]** of a groundwater well pursuant to the Well Application, and the extraction therefrom, would not be inconsistent with the sustainable groundwater management program established in the adopted GSP for the Subbasin, and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal.

The findings and written verification provided herein are based upon review of the adopted GSP for the [Subbasin], and the information and representations contained in the attached Well Application and Property Owner Acknowledgment. Such determinations are subject to modification or revocation at any time the GSA receives relevant, material information, though the GSA has no obligation to notify the Property Owner or the County of any change to any finding upon which this verification is based. By issuing a well permit, the County accepts and acknowledges the GSA's compliance with Executive Order N-7-22.

I hereby verify that the GSA has reviewed the attached Well Application and Property Owner Acknowledgment in compliance with Executive Order N-7-22, and have marked each box above as applicable.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Title:				 

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# RESOLUTION 2022.XX

# A RESOLUTION OF THE [GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY] ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES TO COMPLY WITH EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22 PARAGRAPH 9(a) REGARDING GROUNDWATER WELL PERMITS IN THE COSUMNES SUBBASIN

**WHEREAS**, on October 19, 2021, pursuant to Executive Order N-10-21, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist statewide due to the ongoing drought, and;

**WHEREAS,** on March 28, 2022, Governor Newsom issues Executive Order N-7-22, reaffirming the State of Emergency proclaimed in October 2021 and ordering that said proclamation and related proclamations "remain in full force and effect," and;

**WHEREAS**, paragraph 9 of Executive Order N-7-22 requires that a well permitting authority make certain findings and obtain specific verifications prior to issuing a permit for certain wells or well modifications; and

**WHEREAS**, given the ongoing drought emergency declared and reaffirmed by Executive Orders N-10-21 and N-7-22, and the provisions of Executive Order N-7-22, the [GSA] finds that it is necessary and appropriate to develop, adopt, and implement a procedure for compliance with paragraph 9(a) of Executive Order N-7-22, as set forth in this Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority ("Agency") is a public entity created by a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement ("JPA") executed by the seven exclusive GSAs within the Subbasin to implement SGMA and the GSP, and;

**WHEREAS**, in the interest of a consistent application of review processes across the Basin, the [GSA], in collaboration with other Agency members and stakeholders, has developed a standardized set of criteria and processes for the implementation of the Executive Order N-7-22 paragraph 9.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of Directors of the [GSA] hereby resolves that:

- 1. The above findings are facts that are true and correct and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.
- 2. The GSA's verification and findings under Executive Order N-7-22 paragraph 9 shall be supported by the permit application, any supplemental information provided by the well permitting authority, and a Property Owner Acknowledgement in substantially similar form as the one attached hereto as Exhibit A ("Supporting Materials").
- 3. If, on the face of the Supporting Materials, staff can determine that the proposed well or well modification (1) repairs or replaces an existing well; (2) will not result in a net increase of groundwater extractions in the basin; and (3) is not located in an area in which the minimum thresholds outlined in the GSP are already in exceedance, staff are

authorized to issue a verification pursuant to the Executive Order. In all other instances, the Supporting Materials must be presented to the Board for review and verification.

- 4. In the alternative, the Board may, in its discretion as the governing body of the GSA, direct that <u>all</u> well permit applications subject to the Executive Order be presented directly to the Board for review and verification.
- 5. The verification provided by the GSA shall be in substantially the same form as the one attached hereto as Exhibit B.
- 6. If the GSA cannot provide the verification required under Paragraph 9, it may (1) notify the well permitting authority that it is unable to provide the verification; or (2) request additional information from the applicant.
- 7. If additional information or analysis is required in order to provide the required verification, the GSA may recover its costs from the applicant. Staff are directed to provide a proposed schedule of fees to the Board consistent with this Resolution.
- 8. Staff are directed to take all actions necessary and proper to implement the provisions of this Resolution, including but not limited to coordinating with the other GSAs and the County, as appropriate, to ensure compliance with Executive Order N-7-22 paragraph 9(a).

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: NOES: ABSENT: ABSTAIN:

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am the duly appointed and acting Secretary of the [GSA], and that at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the [GSA] held on \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2022 that Resolution 2022.\_\_\_\_ was adopted and has not been rescinded or amended since the date of its adaptation and that it is now in full force and effect.

Secretary

Date



Agenda Date:	August 15, 2022					
Agenda Item #:	8					
Agenda Item Subject:	CGA Staff Report					
To:	CGA Board of Directors					
From:	CGA Staff					

# Watershed Coordinator Report

- Monitoring Well Access Agreements: CGA Staff are working to organize GSA monitoring well access agreements ahead of the October monitoring event. GSAs will need to work with Staff to ensure all monitoring wells are accessible in October.
- The dry well at Laguna Del Sol has been installed. Monitoring details are being finalized and the pilot project is expected to be operational before the end of the month.
- The CARCD DOC Multibenefit Land Repurposing Grant application is continuing to be developed. The grant application window is expected to be open and closed by the end of the calendar year.

# **Delta Conveyance Project**

Links: Project Website

- DWR is holding three virtual public hearings to receive comments on the Draft EIR (September 13, 22, and 28) and will be accepting written comments through October 27, 2022.
- On August 11, 2022, the Delta Counties Coalition released a response to the Governor's newly release <u>Water Supply Strategy</u> and the Delta Conveyance Project. <u>Read response here.</u>

# Water Forum

Links: Water Forum Website | Water Forum 2.0 Information

• CGA staff are tracking conversations regarding the Water Forum 2.0 agreement.

# AB 2201 – GSA: Groundwater extraction permit: verifcation

Links: AB 2201 CA Legislative Info Website

• On August 8, 2022, AB 2201 was referred to the suspense file.

California Grants Portal

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

#### DWR: IWRM Grant Funding Final Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package Announced

We are pleased to announce the release of the FINAL 2022 IRWM Grant <u>Program Guidelines</u> and <u>Proposal</u> <u>Solicitation Package</u> for the <u>Proposition 1 - Round 2 IRWM Implementation Grant</u>. This solicitation will make approximately \$193 million in grant funding available for IRWM implementation projects. For more information on the Proposition 1 IRWM Implementation Grant Program, visit Implementation Grant Program or e-mail us at: <u>dwr\_irwm@water.ca.gov</u>. <u>Application deadlines are August 19, 2022 and February 1, 2023</u>.

#### CA Wildlife Conservation Board: Pre-Application form now available

WCB uses a single continuous grant application process for all proposed projects. The process begins with a Pre-Application (Word). Applicants do not need to determine which WCB Grant Program or Funding Source to apply to; rather, WCB staff will determine that during application review. <u>General grant guidelines</u> and <u>more</u> <u>information about WCB grants</u> can be found here.

#### White House Press release

The White House on January 31<sup>st</sup> released a guide for state, local, tribal and territorial governments to funding under the new bipartisan infrastructure law. The press release and guide can be found here.

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

#### ICARP Grant Programs

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

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

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

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

#### Upcoming conferences, webinars, new reports and data

NEW: California's Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future

August 11, 2022 Governor Newsom announced a new strategic document to manage water in the face of a projected 10% reduction in supplies over the next 20 years. The strategy calls for investing in new sources of

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water supply, accelerating projects and modernizing how the state manages water through new technology to increase water supply and adapt to more extreme weather patterns caused by climate change. The <u>full strategy</u> <u>document</u> can be found here and a <u>press release here</u>.

#### NEW: New Web-Based Mapping Tool Showing Nearly 3,000 Groundwater Sustainability Projects

The Department of Resources (DWR) is pleased to announce the development of a new web-based interactive mapping tool that will allow the public to explore thousands of groundwater projects initiated in California over the last decade. There are various filters to quickly identify projects in a basin, subbasin, legislative district, county, and many others. The tool focuses on project benefits and effectiveness in relationship to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Sustainability Indicators. The Press Release with more information on the tool and other resources provided by DWR can be found here. The web tool can be viewed here.

#### Webinar #2 on County Drought Plan Requirements for State Small Water Systems and Domestic Wells

DWR and the State Water Resources Control Board will host a series of webinars on their development of a guidebook for preparing county drought plans. The plans will focus on helping small water systems and rural communities. The <u>first of the four webinars was Thursday</u>, June 2 and the <u>recording can be viewed here</u>. The webinar included a review of the requirements in <u>Senate Bill 552</u> that cover drought planning. **The second webinar will be held Wed August 31**<sup>st</sup> from 1-3 pm and can be <u>registered for here</u>.

#### FREE Leak Detection for Small Water Systems

Protecting California's water supply is more important than ever as we brace for another year of drought conditions. The California Rural Water Association (CRWA), in partnership with the Department of Water Resources, is offering FREE leak detection surveys for small water systems. If you are a small (including Tribal) water system with 3,000 connections or less, sign up for a free leak detection survey today! Please contact Ruby Viramontes at: rviramontes@calruralwater.org to get started.

#### Executive Order N-7-22

On March 28, 2022 Governor Newsom signed <u>Executive Order N-7-22</u>, which **included new well permitting requirements (Action 9) as well as CEAQ exemptions and permit streamlining for FloodMAR projects** (Action 13). The materials including a fact sheets, recording and presentation materials from the April 13th and a self-certification form for the CEQA waiver are now posted on DWR's Drought Webpage, under the 'Drought Well Permitting Requirements' and the 'CEQA Suspension on Groundwater Recharge Projects' accordion dropdowns: <u>https://water.ca.gov/water-basics/drought</u>.

#### NEW: Bagley-Keene Open Meetings Act Teleconferencing Authorization Extended Until July 1, 2023

<u>Senate Bill (SB) 189, Item (20)</u>, which was approved by Governor Newsom on June 30, 2022, authorizes state entities to hold public meetings, subject to specified notice and accessibility requirements, through teleconferencing and making public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to the public, as specified. The bill would suspend certain requirements of existing law, including the requirements that each teleconference location be accessible to the public and that members of the public be able to address the state body at each teleconference location. The bill also sunsets these provisions as of July 1, 2023.

#### The connection between Flood-MAR and an executive order

The <u>connection between flood-managed aquifer recharge</u> (Flood-MAR) and Governor Newsom's <u>Executive</u> <u>Order N-7-22</u> will be discussed at the <u>next Lunch-MAR meeting on Wednesday</u>, July 6. The executive order was issued in March and includes State agency actions for responding to the drought. The meeting will cover the potential implications for Flood-MAR projects. <u>To view the recording</u> email <u>Francisco.Guzman@water.ca.gov</u>

DWR's Climate Change Program Resources

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DWR's Climate change program has lots of initiatives including resources for water managers. Check out their <u>webpage</u> and <u>factsheet</u> here.

#### Webpage for CA Water Plan Update 2023 Published by DWR

DWR has unveiled the new webpage for <u>California Water Plan Update 2023</u>. The California Water Plan is updated every five years. It is the State's strategic plan for managing and developing California's water resources. Update 2023 will emphasize climate change adaptation, regional and watershed resilience, and water equity. Video recordings of the meetings <u>are available here</u>.

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

California's Groundwater Live: Up-to-date data on groundwater conditions, well installations and subsidence The Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the final <u>California's Groundwater – Update 2020</u> (<u>Bulletin-118</u>), containing information on the condition of the State's groundwater, DWR has also developed a companion web-based application called <u>California's Groundwater Live</u> (CalGW Live), leveraging the <u>California</u> <u>Natural Resources Agency Open Data Platform</u> (Open Data) to improve the access and timeliness of statewide groundwater information. The easy-to-use interface will make many of the data sets used in CalGW Update 2020 available in an interactive map format that will be updated regularly for viewing and downloading. For more information, visit the updated <u>California's Groundwater website</u> Contact: <u>CalGW@water.ca.gov.</u>

#### OpenET makes tracking water use data easier with satellite data

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

#### Delta Conveyance

**DRAFT EIR Now Available for public review and comment through October 27, 2022.** Members of the public and other interested parties can submit comments on the Draft EIR in the following ways: Email: deltaconveyancecomments@water.ca.gov, Online: www.deltaconveyanceproject.com, U.S. Mail: CA Department of Water Resources, Attn: Delta Conveyance Office, P.O. Box 942836, Sacramento, CA 94236-0001 or during Virtual Public Hearing: Provide verbal public comment at a virtual public hearing. Public hearings will be held on the following dates. More information can be found here.

- Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, September 22, 2022, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 28, 2022, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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The key aspects of the <u>Delta Conveyance Project</u> are illustrated in a <u>new story map</u> published by DWR. In addition to covering the elements of the conveyance project, the story map provides a tour of the State Water Project and its vital role in delivering to 27 million Californians, 750,000 acres of farmland, and businesses throughout California. There are also links to resources that provide expanded information on various topics. 3 new videos are available as well.

- Episode 1: What is Delta Conveyance?
- Episode 2: <u>Why is California's Major Water Supply at Risk?</u>
- Episode 3: <u>How Will the Delta Conveyance Project Protect our Water Supplies?</u>

# SGMA & Drought

# Update Your GSA and GSP Manager Point of Contact Information in DWR's SGMA Portal

If your GSA and/or GSP Plan Manager Point of Contact (POC) is not current, or you are not sure, please visit the SGMA Portal to ensure that your contact information is up-to-date. When logged in, the Portal allows edits to be made to previously submitted contact information. If you have SGMA Portal questions, please email them to: <u>GSPSubmittal@water.ca.gov</u>.

#### Public Comment Period Opens for Re-Submitted Groundwater Sustainability Plans with 'Incomplete' Determinations

The revised GSPs in response to the Incomplete determination have been re-submitted to the Department and are now posted on the DWR SGMA Portal. These plans are open to public comment for 60 days after the posted date. Plans for the Cuyama, Paso Robles Area, Delta Mendota, and Westside basins have a comment end date of 9/19/22. Eastern San Joaquin, Merced, Chowchilla, Kings, Kaweah, Tulare Lake, Tule and Kern County subbasins have a comment deadline of 9/30/22.

#### Dry Well Susceptibility Map

The DWR, in coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board, has developed an interactive mapping tool, called the Dry Well Susceptibility Tool. This tool identifies areas within groundwater basins that may be prone to water supply shortages in drinking water wells. State and local agencies and well owners can use this tool to anticipate where wells may go dry based on historical conditions to inform drought preparedness decision-making. To use this tool, navigate to <u>California's Groundwater Live website</u> and click the <u>Dry Domestic Well</u> <u>Susceptibility tab</u>. A fact sheet on this tool, as well as DWR's Dry Well Reporting System, <u>is available here</u>.

#### Dry Well Reporting Site

There is a website available to <u>report private wells going dry</u>. Information reported to this site is intended to inform state and local agencies on drought impacts on household water supplies. The data reported on this site (excluding personal identifiable information) can be viewed on the <u>SGMA data viewer</u> or downloaded on the <u>CNRA Atlas</u>. Individuals or local agencies can report water shortages and <u>a list of resources are included on the webpage</u>. The reporting forms are available in both English and Spanish. Local agencies can now sign up to receive notifications of any dry wells reported in their area. To sign up please email <u>sgmps@water.ca.gov</u>.

#### DWR is developing eight Proposition 68-funded technical projects

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

- <u>AEM webpage</u> contains information on the how the process works, safety, schedule, data submission by GSAs, TAC, pilot study data and more. Public webinar was held June 8<sup>th</sup> 12:00 1:00, a recording can be viewed here and handouts can be downloaded here. Sonoma Valley Basins were surveyed in November, 2021 and North San Joaquin and Southern Sacramento surveys completed in April 2022. The raw resistivity data has been published to CNRA Open Data portal and the full interpreted data should be available in early 2023.
- <u>2019 Statewide Crop Mapping data</u> was released in July of 2022 and includes multi-cropping information. The 2019 dataset includes agricultural land use and urban boundaries for all 58 counties in California.
- **InSAR subsidence data** is now available <u>through January of 2022</u> and can be viewed on the <u>SGMA data</u> <u>viewer</u>. The updated GIS services and data reports are also available <u>online</u>. Future data will be released on a quarterly basis.

Outreach and Educational Materials Available

DWR's <u>SGMA Assistance and Engagement webpage</u> has added new communication and engagement toolkit items including:

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

Facilitation Support Services (FSS): Funding still available

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