

Farmer's Survey

This survey was prepared by the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority. The purpose for the survey is to gauge local awareness of the state requirement for groundwater sustainability, gather information on water use practices and methods, measure landowner willingness/interest in participating in Demand Reduction and Supply Augmentation programs, and get a sense for the compensation level needed to adequately incentivize farmer/landowner participation. The information gained from the survey will be used to help identify approaches/options to reduce groundwater pumping in the Cosumnes Basin that are consistent with the interests of farmers/landowners.

Current Water Management

1. What crops do you grow, how many acres and what irrigation method(s) are used?

Crop Type	Acres	Irrigation Method

2. What type of water management practices are being used (e.g., soil moisture testing, plant testing/pressure bombs, drip irrigation, estimating ET, monitoring water use, none, etc.)?
3. Is the drought having an effect on your farming operation? If Yes, how so and what alterations have you made to your farming practices as a result of the drought?

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in the Cosumnes Subbasin Knowledge

4. Are you aware that as a result of the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) has been adopted for the Cosumnes Subbasin?

Yes No Not Sure

If yes, what are your thoughts about the Groundwater Sustainability Plan? Please note any specifics regarding your thoughts.

I like the plan – please specify _____

I am glad there is planning to manage our groundwater, but I do not like details of the plan

I don't have an opinion, favorable or unfavorable, about the plan

I do not like the plan – please specify _____

Other, please specify _____

5. Would you like to know more about the Groundwater Sustainability Plan?

Yes No Not Sure

If yes, what is your preferred way of learning more about the Plan?

Written description sent to your home via US Postal Service (note address)

Written description sent to you via email (note email address)

In-person meeting/gathering

Zoom meeting

Other, please specify _____

6. Are you aware that the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) Board of Directors meet regularly once a month (3rd Monday) and invite public participation?

Yes No Not Sure

If no, please visit the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority website:
<https://www.cosumnesgroundwater.org/meetings/>

Future Water Conservation

7. The Cosumnes Groundwater Sustainability Plan calls for approximately 2-5% annual reduction (from baseline average) in the amount of groundwater applied to irrigated land in the Basin for each of the next five years. Would you be open to finding ways to reduce pumping by 3% on your farm?

Yes No Maybe

Would assistance from a Farm Advisor (Ag Extension Agent or similar) help or do you feel you could accomplish this on your own?

Would appreciate help Can do this without outside advice Not sure

If you were to reduce water use by 3%, how much impact would this have on your farm income?

Significant Moderate Minor None Not sure

To implement water conservation practices, would you need some form of financial assistance?

Yes No Not sure

Additional comments:

8. Groundwater Sustainability Plans in other parts of the Central Valley are exploring opportunities for land repurposing to reduce groundwater pumping. Repurposing land could involve the following: crop shifting, periodic fallowing, dryland farming, long term fallowing and using land for other purposes, such as solar. Some forms of compensation might be available for these forms of repurposing.

Have you considered land repurposing?

Yes No Not sure

Would you be interested in considering land repurposing in the future?

Yes No Not sure

If Yes, on how many acres?

Less than 20 acres 20-100 acres 100 – 500 acres

Which types of repurposing are of greatest interest to you? Check all that apply.

Switching to a crop with lower water needs

Short term (less than 2 years) following on a set schedule

Long term following, converting land to solar, habitat, or other use

Dryland farming (wheat, triticale, etc.)

Other Explain _____

9. Compensation for farmers who implement land repurposing is being considered.

If you were to fallow land on a long-term basis, what do you think would be a reasonable yearly compensation?

\$100/acre \$200/acre \$300/acre \$400/acre

Other

If you were to switch to growing a low water use crop or dryland farming, what form of compensation would you most prefer?

Monetary

Reduction in Fees assessed by the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

A combination of the above

Other forms of compensation, please specify _____

Supply Augmentation

10. Do you have surface water rights?
 Yes No Not sure

**Expand questions

Additional Questions

Are you interested in participating in a focus group regarding farming practices and water management?
 Yes No

If yes, please provide your contact information below:

Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Physical Address and/or farmed parcel locations:

Would you like to share more information with the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority to help refine groundwater models and reduce data gaps? If yes, please provide information below such as: parcel numbers and/or number of acres demand reduction practices are being implemented on; baseline groundwater pumping amounts (no demand reduction practices) and groundwater pumping amounts after demand reductions practices were implemented; etc... OR contact Stephen Julian, Cosumnes Watershed Coordinator, at SJulian@CosumnesGroundwater.org.

End of Survey

Thank you for participating in this vital step of information gathering.

The Cosumnes Groundwater Authority welcomes public participation as we strive to reach groundwater sustainability. The CGA holds a Board Meeting every 3rd Monday of the month. Please visit <https://www.cosumnesgroundwater.org/> to find the latest meeting information as well as information about the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and the 7 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the subbasin.

For more information, please contact Stephen Julian and/or Austin Miller at info@CosumnesGroundwater.org.

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