

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Meeting of the Board of Directors
Agenda

When: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, Friday, February 17, 2023

Where: Galt Police Department Community Room
455 Industrial Drive
Galt, CA 95632

Zoom: [Via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88948334293](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88948334293)
Meeting ID: 889 4833 4293
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

1. Introductions (*5 minutes*)
 - a. Determine if Quorum is Present
 - b. Three-month look ahead **and** agenda overview

Consent Calendar

2. Consent Items (*5 minutes*)
 - a. Agenda – February 17, 2023
 - b. Minutes – January 23, 2023
 - c. Minutes – February 6, 2023
 - d. Consideration of Findings Related to Remote Meetings Pursuant to AB 361
 - e. Financial Report – February 2022

Regular Business Action Items

3. Member Contributions Funding Agreement (20 minutes)
4. Outreach and Engagement Team Update

Informational Items (*50 minutes*)

5. CGA Counsel Report
6. CGA Staff Report

7. DWR North Central Regional Office Update
8. Upcoming Agenda Items
9. Director/Member GSA Comments

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items *(Limit of 3 minutes per speaker.)*

10. Public Comment: *Comment will be received for items not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the agency. The Board will hear comment but may not act on issues raised on non-agenda items.*

Adjourn Meeting

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2022 - 9:00am

Call to Order: 9:15 am

- 1) Introductions / Determine if Quorum is Present
Directors in Attendance: Rick Wohle, Herb Garms, Gary Thomas,
Jay Vandenburg, John Mulrooney, Mark Stretars

Action Items

- 2) Consent Items
 - 1.1. Agenda – January 23, 2023
 - 1.2. Minutes – December 19, 2022
 - 1.3. Consideration of Findings Related to Remote Meetings Pursuant to AB 361
 - 1.4. Financial Report – January 2022

Director Thomas moved to approve all consent items.
Director Mulrooney seconded the motion.
The motion passed with all in favor.
- 3) Review of Received Audit Services Proposals
Director Thomas moved to enter into an agreement with Richardson & Company for 1 year for \$9,500 max with an option to renew.
Director Garms seconded the motion.
The motion passed with all in favor.
- 4) Draft Long Term Funding Study
The Board heard from SCI Consulting, groundwater fee consultants, on draft methodology/scenarios the CGA could pursue. The Board scheduled a special meeting for February 6th, 2023 to further discuss the presentation and methodology options for moving forward.

Information Items

- 5) Outreach and Engagement
Staff provided an update on work performed by the Outreach & Engagement Team who are planning on holding two public workshops/open house info sessions in February 2023. CGA Staff encourage GSAs to promote the Farmers Survey, February workshops, and to consider GSA specific outreach activities coordinated with the subbasin-wide CGA efforts.
- 6) Status of Annual Report Development
EKI Environmental presented an information update on the technical efforts associated with the annual report development and monitoring network.
- 7) Board Governance and Budgeting

This item was table for a future agenda.

8) Flooding and Groundwater

This item was table for a future agenda.

9) Funding Opportunities

This item was table for a future agenda.

10) CGA Staff Report

CGA Staff provided an update on other activities not covered on the agenda.

11) DWR North Central Regional Office Update

DWR Staff provided a monthly update on DWR activities

12) Upcoming Agenda Items

13) Director Comments

Directors provide verbal updates on GSA activities.

14) Public Comment

Adjourn Meeting

Chair Carter adjourned the meeting by consensus at 12:18 pm

DRAFT

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

Meeting Minutes
February 6, 2022 - 9:00am

Call to Order: 9:06 am

- 1) Introductions / Determine if Quorum is Present

Directors in Attendance: Gary Silva, Pat Hume, Herb Garms, Gary Thomas,
Jay Vandenburg, John Mulrooney, Mark Stretars (Vice Chair), Chris Hunley (Chair)

Action Items

- 2) Cosumnes Subbasin Funding Study Development

Chair Hunley led the Board through a discussion regarding the funding methodology presented by SCI Consulting. While the key points of agreement were to proceed with a split fee type approach with a flat irrigated acres rate and a budget of approximately \$805,000 annually. While there was general consensus for this approach, the Board still has questions regarding the budget specifics and how potential grant would be considered, how irrigated acres covering multiple parcels would be impacted, and what implementing procedures would be required.

- 3) Outreach and Engagement

The O&E Team provided a brief update regarding preparation for upcoming workshops.

- 4) Funding Opportunities

Staff provided a written update on a variety of upcoming funding opportunities

Adjourn Meeting

Chair Hunley adjourned the meeting by consensus at 11:30 pm

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Balance Sheet

As of February 13, 2023

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	\$108,682.35
Total Current Assets	\$108,682.35
TOTAL ASSETS	\$108,682.35
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$16,599.63
Total Current Liabilities	\$16,599.63
Total Liabilities	\$16,599.63
Equity	\$92,082.72
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$108,682.35

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Unpaid Bills

All Dates

DATE	AMOUNT	MEMO/DESCRIPTION
Austin Miller (916) 526-5447 02/06/2023	200.00	Farmer Survey Incentive (January)
Total for Austin Miller	\$200.00	
Downey Brand (916) 444-1000 02/06/2023	3,619.63	General Counsel - December 31, 2022
Total for Downey Brand	\$3,619.63	
Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (916) 526-5447 02/06/2023	6,400.00	SRCD - January 2023 Admin Services Contract
Total for Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District	\$6,400.00	
SSCAWA 02/01/2023	6,380.00	SSCAWA - January 2023 Watershed Coordinator Contract
Total for SSCAWA	\$6,380.00	
TOTAL	\$16,599.63	

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: February 17, 2023

Agenda Item #: 3
Agenda Item Subject: Member Contributions Funding Agreement

To: CGA Board of Directors
From: CGA Staff

In November 2021 the seven Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (CGA) in the Cosumnes Subbasin entered into an [“Initial Funding and Revenue Agreement for Implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan”](#) to fund the initial year of the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority. In May 2022 the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board adopted the [Fiscal Year 2022-2034 Budget](#). CGA Staff has drafted the attached amendments to the Initial Agreement to authorize the current year member contribution payments.

Staff Recommendation:

- Adopt an agreement to authorize member contribution payments.

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
~~INITIAL FUNDING AND REVENUE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION~~ AGREEMENT FOR
IMPLEMENTATION OF A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

This ~~initial Funding and Revenue~~ Member Contribution Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into by and between the seven Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) of the Cosumnes Subbasin, which are: Amador County Groundwater Management Authority ("Amador"), City of Galt ("City"), Clay Water District ("Clay"), Sacramento County Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("County")¹, Galt Irrigation District ("Galt ID"), Omochumne-Hartnell Water District ("OHWD"), and Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District ("Sloughhouse RCD"), each of which is a "Party" to or a "Member" of this Agreement.. Each of the parties to this Agreement shall individually be referred to as the "Party," or collectively, as the "Parties." This Agreement is effective as of the date the last Party signs the Agreement.

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, The Parties entered into and duly adopted a Framework Agreement in 2017 under which the Parties agreed to submit the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) no later than January 31, 2022, which is the deadline for submission under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Following GSP submission, the Parties will begin implementation of the GSP; provided, that the governing boards of each Party approve the GSP, and

WHEREAS, the Parties entered into a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to form the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA), a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), on the last date a Party signed the JPA, and

WHEREAS, the Parties now desire to enter into this Agreement to ~~address the first year of funding to~~ support the joint exercise of powers agreement ("Joint Powers Agreement") establishing the

¹The County of Sacramento and Sacramento County Water Agency combined constitute Sacramento County Groundwater Sustainability Agency and together will be treated as a single party to this agreement.

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
~~INITIAL FUNDING AND REVENUE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FOR
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CGA as a JPA in order to achieve the goals as identified in JPA Recital E, for implementing the GSP in the Cosumnes Subbasin; and

WHEREAS, the Parties have or intend to individually or collectively assess fees on irrigated acres, or contribute an agreed upon amount related to the amount of groundwater pumped in their respective jurisdictional boundaries, to generate estimated revenue in the amount of FOUR HUNDRED ~~FORTY FORTY-TWO~~ THOUSAND, ~~ONE SEVEN~~-HUNDRED ~~EIGHTY THREE FIVE~~ DOLLARS (\$~~444,425,185,730~~) for ~~the first year of GSP implementation (“First Year GSP Implementation Costs”); February 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022, Fiscal Year 2022-2023,~~ and

~~WHEREAS, through the CGA the Parties intend to engage one or more consultants to develop and complete the SGMA First Annual Report and additional activities including, but not limited to, those listed in Exhibit 1 attached hereto, for the first year of GSP implementation pursuant to SGMA; and~~

WHEREAS, the estimated cost per Party for ~~preparation and submittal of the Annual Report~~ CGA related work is included in Exhibit 1 (Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Fiscal Year ~~2022-2023~~ Estimated Expenses), which also itemizes other estimated costs for the ~~first~~ next year of GSP implementation, ~~in the total amount of the First Year GSP Implementation Costs.~~

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties, on the terms and conditions herein set forth, hereby agree as follows:

TERMS:

1. Subject to the direction and prior approval of the Parties through the CGA JPA, the Authority, or designated GSA, shall execute an agreement or agreements with one or more

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
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Consultants to conduct the activities as listed in, but not limited to, Exhibit 1, pursuant to the terms below.

2. The Parties shall each pay their proportionate share of the estimated First Year GSP Implementation Costs for their GSA, as delineated in Exhibit 2 hereto ("Fiscal Year 2022~~1~~-2023~~2~~ Member Contributions"). The total amount described in Exhibit 2 shall be considered the JPA Budget for Fiscal Year 2022~~1~~-2023~~2~~, per Section 5.1 of the JPA Agreement.

3. Should the fees generated by individual GSAs assessments for Fiscal Year 2022~~1~~-23~~2~~ fall short of the anticipated amount, then that GSA's Member Contribution (as reflected in Exhibit 2) and the total budget shall be reduced to match the revenue received, or otherwise identified by JPA.

4. A Party, or other entity, may contribute funding to compensate for any budget shortages-.

5. Should the Fiscal Year 2022~~1~~-2023~~2~~ Member Contribution funds collected by the JPA Treasurer from the GSA Members be less than anticipated then the overall budget will be reduced to match the revenue received.

6. In the event that any additional entity becomes a Party to the JPA or this Agreement, or contributes money for GSP implementation, JPA Section 4.2(1) shall govern the amount of the new Party's contribution and the proportionate decrease and refund of the other Parties' respective contributions, if any, or specify what JPA activities the new Party's contribution will fund in addition to what has been funded by the existing Fiscal Year 2022~~1~~-2023~~2~~ Member Contributions.

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
~~INITIAL FUNDING AND REVENUE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FOR
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7. The JPA's retention of consultants under this Agreement is contingent and expressly dependent on the condition precedent that the CGA JPA receives the full amount of Fiscal Year 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Member Contributions from each GSA. If the CGA JPA does not receive the full amount of Fiscal Year 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Member Contributions identified in Exhibit 2, the contributing Parties may seek a reduction in the overall budget identified in Exhibit 1.

8. Each Party shall make payment of its Fiscal Year 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Member Contribution to the CGA as identified in Exhibit 2 by either: (1) two installment payments totaling the amount of the total Fiscal Year 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Member Contribution for such GSA, with the first payment due within 30 days of receiving fees collected from the first distribution of the direct levy on Sacramento County tax rolls and the second payment due within 30 days of receiving fees collected from the second distribution of the direct levy on Sacramento County tax rolls or, (2) full payment of the Fiscal Year 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Member Contribution within 30 days of receiving fees collected from the first distribution of the direct levy on Sacramento County tax rolls and-

9. In-kind contributions are appropriate and recognized as satisfactory to meet the cost share requirements of a Party. Any in-kind contributions proposed to be substituted, in whole or in part, for monetary payment of a Party's Fiscal Year 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Member Contribution must be part of the fiscal year 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ approved budget and approved in advance by the CGA Board of Directors.

10. GSP implementation expenses accrued by a Party before the adoption of this Agreement are appropriate and recognized as creditable towards that Party's Fiscal Year 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Member Contribution requirement. Any previously accrued expenses, e.g. monitoring costs from 2021, proposed to be credited or substituted for all or part of a Party's 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Member

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
~~INITIAL FUNDING AND REVENUE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FOR
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Contribution must be part of the fiscal year 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ approved budget and approved by the CGA Board of Directors.

11. In the event that the actual costs ~~to complete the first year of GSP implementation~~ are less than the TOTAL estimated cost set forth in Exhibit 1, the remaining funds held by the JPA shall be refunded to each GSA based on their proportional share of Fiscal Year 202~~21~~-202~~32~~ Member Contributions, or placed in reserve, as determined by the CGA Board of Directors.

12. Reserves, defined as any excess funds in fiscal year 2~~21~~-2~~32~~, or any funds from costs being less than JPA Member Contributions, may be used to fund an amendment, or successor agreement, to this Agreement, or refunded to GSAs, as determined by the CGA Board of Directors.

13. To the extent there is any conflict between the terms of this Agreement and the JPA the JPA shall control.

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
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Exhibit 1: Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Fiscal Year 2022~~1~~-2023~~2~~ Expenses
~~Year One Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation~~

FY 2022-2023 Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Budget -
Adopted June 2022

Expenses - Regulatory and Operational Costs

<u>Activity</u>	<u>FY 22-23 CGA Expenses</u> <u>(Adopted June 2022)</u>	
<u>Establish Organization</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>-</u>
<u>Funding Exploration</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>35,000</u>
<u>Monitoring</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>30,000</u>
<u>Data Management System</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>10,000</u>
<u>Public Outreach</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>20,000</u>
<u>Legal</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>30,000</u>
<u>Financial Audit</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>15,000</u>
<u>Personnel</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>150,000</u>
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>3,000</u>
<u>Data Gaps</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>25,000</u>
<u>Annual Report</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>48,000</u>
<u>Post-GSP Fee Establishment</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>100,000</u>
<u>Other PMAs</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>20,000</u>
<u>Contingency</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>10,000</u>
<u>Totals</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>496,000</u>

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
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IMPLEMENTATION OF A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

<u>Expense</u>	<u>JPA Expense Amount</u>	<u>DOC DWR Grants SAFCA Contribution</u>
Establish Organization	\$25,000	
Prepare DWR Grant*	\$35,000	\$5,000
Monitoring	\$30,000	
Data Management System	\$15,000	
Public Outreach*	-	\$10,000
GSA Coordination	\$20,000	
Legal	\$30,000	
Financial Audit	\$20,000	
Personnel	\$90,000	
Data Gaps	\$25,000	
Annual Report	\$53,000	
Contingency	\$1,185	
Post GSP Fee Establishment	\$100,000	
Voluntary Fallowing*	-	\$15,000
Ag MAR**	-	\$160,000
GW Banking***	-	\$40,000
Total	\$444,185	\$230,000

* Department of Conservation (DOC) Grant Funding

** DOC, DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Office Grants, and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA) Contribution

*** DOC Grant, SAFCA Contribution

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
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**Exhibit 2: Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Fiscal Year 20221-20232
 GSA Estimated Revenue and Contributions
 Other ~~DOC/DWR Grants and SAFCA Contributions~~**

Source	FY 22-23 Contributions (Adopted June 2022)	Adjustments Based on FY 21-22 Actuals	Adjustment + 5%
City of Galt	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 14,250
Amador CGMA	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,750
Galt Irrigation District	\$ 161,807	\$ 156,749	\$ 148,912
Clay Water District	\$ 21,889	\$ 21,737	\$ 20,651
OH Water District	\$ 24,893	\$ 23,241	\$ 22,079
Sloughhouse RCD	\$ 150,762	\$ 148,402	\$ 140,982
County of Sacramento	\$ 64,834	\$ 55,601	\$ 52,821
Total Member Contributions			
	\$ 444,185	\$ 425,730	\$ 404,443

<u>GSA</u>	<u>Estimated Revenue and Contribution Amount</u>
City of Galt	\$15,000
Amador Groundwater Authority	\$5,000
Galt Irrigation District	\$161,807
Clay Water District	\$21,889
Omochumne Hartnell Water District	\$24,893
Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District	\$150,762
County of Sacramento	\$64,834
Total JPA Revenue/Contributions	\$444,185
OTHER	
	<u>Estimated Amount</u>
SAFCA Contributions and DOC/DWR grants	\$230,000
Total	\$674,185

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
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Amador County Groundwater Management Authority, a GSA organized under the laws of the State of California

By _____

Date: _____

Agenda Date: _____

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

Reviewed and approved by Counsel

By _____

Gregory Gillott, Counsel for GSA

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
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~~IMPLEMENTATION OF A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN~~

City of Galt, a California Municipal Corporation
and GSA organized under the laws of the State
of California

By _____
Lorenzo Hines Jr., City Manager

Date: _____

Reviewed and approved as to form:

By: _____
Frank Splendorio, Interim City Attorney

Reviewed and approved as to content:

By: _____
Mike Selling, Public Works Director

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
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Clay Water District, a GSA organized under the laws of the State of California

By _____

Date:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Resolution Number: _____

Reviewed and approved by Counsel

By

Rebecca Smith, Counsel for GSA

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
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~~IMPLEMENTATION OF A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN~~

Galt Irrigation District, a GSA organized under
the laws of the State of California

By _____

Date:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Resolution Number: _____

Reviewed and approved by Counsel

By

Rebecca Smith, Counsel for GSA

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
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~~IMPLEMENTATION OF A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN~~

Omochumne-Hartnell Water District, a GSA
organized under the laws of the State of California

By _____

Kurt Kautz, Chairman

Date:

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Resolution Number: _____

Reviewed and approved by Counsel

By

Rebecca Smith, Counsel for GSA

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
~~INITIAL FUNDING AND REVENUE MEMBER CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FOR~~
~~IMPLEMENTATION OF A GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN~~

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY**, a political
subdivision of the State of California

By: _____
Michael L. Peterson, Director
Department of Water Resources
Public Works & Infrastructure

Date: _____

Signed by the Director under the
authority delegated by
Resolution Number 99-0327.

Agreement approved by
Board of Supervisors:

Agenda Date:

Item Number: _____

Reviewed and Approved by County Counsel

By: _____
William C. Burke, County Counsel

Date: _____

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCIES
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**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation
District**, a GSA organized under the laws of
the State of California

By _____

Herb Garms, Chair

Date: _____

Agenda Date: _____

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

Reviewed and approved by Counsel

By _____

Scott Morris, Counsel for GSA

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: February 17, 2023

Agenda Item #: 4
Agenda Item Subject: Outreach and Engagement Team

To: CGA Board of Directors
From: CGA Staff

Workshops:

- Saturday, March 4th, 2023, 10am-12pm, Wilton Community Center
- Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 5pm-7pm, Herald Fire Hall
- We have scheduled two public workshops/open house events to engage the community on a variety of groundwater sustainability topics. Interested community members and stakeholders will learn more about project planning efforts and the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority's first year as an organization. Partner organizations will also be present to share groundwater related information and resources.
- The Outreach and Engagement Team has provided the draft posters being developed for review. Please send any suggested revisions to Teresa Flewellyn or Barbara Washburn (O&E Team co/chairs) or CGA Staff ASAP.

Farmer Survey:

- The main purpose for the survey is to assess the interest of farmers/ranchers in participating in efforts to reduce water use as well as parallel efforts to increase water supply by engaging in managed aquifer recharge. We would also like to understand the types of incentives farmers would consider in exchange for their participation.
- CGA Staff plan to work with the CGA Projects Committee and the Outreach & Engagement Team to consolidate the survey findings and to develop a memo to help identify approaches/options to reduce groundwater pumping/increase recharge in the Cosumnes Subbasin that are consistent with the interests of farmers/landowners.
- The survey is completely confidential, and you are not obliged to answer all the questions. Link: <https://forms.gle/CTXJLDV3VBX56UMaA>



What is the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority?

In November 2021, seven Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Cosumnes Subbasin formed the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA). With the responsibility of implementing the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, the CGA is the agency guiding groundwater sustainability with the Cosumnes Subbasin.

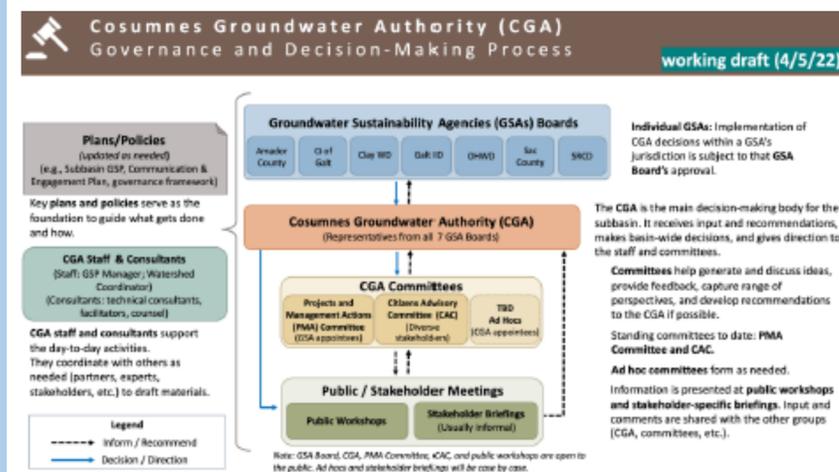


Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

The seven GSA's, working together, agreed upon the following goal to guide their efforts: "The Sustainability Goal of the Cosumnes Subbasin (Basin) is to ensure that groundwater in the Basin continues to be a long-term resource for beneficial users and uses including urban, domestic, agricultural, industrial, environmental and others. This goal will be achieved by managing groundwater within the Basin's sustainable yield, as defined by sustainable groundwater conditions and the absence of undesirable results."

The GSP was submitted to the Department of Water Resources in January of 2022. Each year, an Annual Report detailing the current groundwater conditions is produced. Every five years, the GSP will have larger, more substantial updates.

Organization of the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority



Seven Agencies Working Together

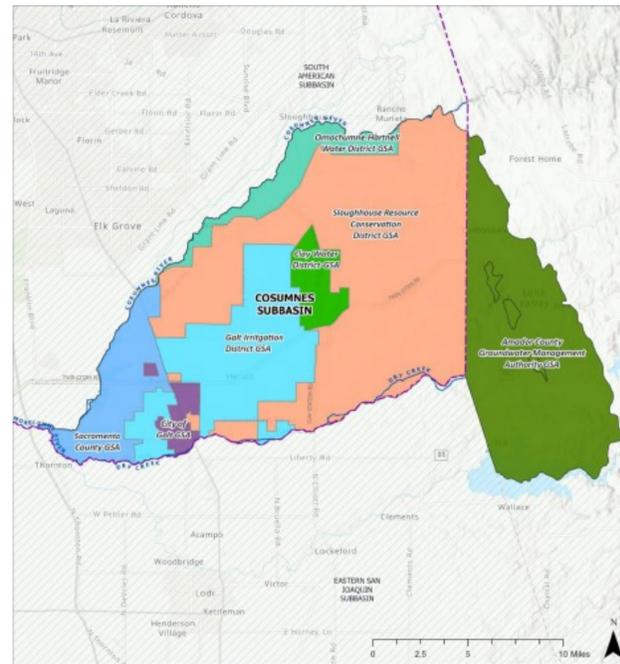
The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, or SGMA, divided California into Sub-basins. Within each Subbasin, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) were created. In the Cosumnes Subbasin, those seven agencies which became GSAs are:

- Amador County Groundwater Management Authority GSA
- City of Galt GSA
- Clay Water District GSA
- Galt Irrigation District GSA
- Omoichumne Hartnell Water District GSA
- Sacramento County GSA
- Sloughouse Resource Conservation District GSA

Each Subbasin is required to have one, or more, Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP). The plans are large, technical documents that outline the current and expected conditions of the subbasin and a path to achieve groundwater sustainability.

Who makes up the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority?

Each of the seven GSAs have elected a primary and secondary representative to represent their GSA during CGA meetings. Those members selected make up the CGA Board of Directors.



What does the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority do?

CGA is tasked with the responsibility of implementing the GSP. Each year, groundwater monitoring is conducted. Projects that will help achieve sustainability are identified in the GSP. The CGA is the hub for these projects by working with the GSAs and aiding, or leading, sustainability efforts. Most importantly, the CGA is a central meeting place for all things groundwater. Monthly Board and Committee meetings keep the GSAs and public informed, and public participation in the process is highly encouraged.

How is the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Funded?

Before the formation of the GSP, the seven GSAs worked together in a "Working Group". A state grant was awarded to the group for the development of the GSP. Following the formation of the GSP, a budget was agreed upon and each GSA contributed an amount of money proportional to their groundwater extraction. The CGA continues to meet and update their budget as needed. However, in accordance with California Water Code section 10730, each GSA retains the ability to assess a fee on groundwater users.

Additionally, the CGA is aggressively pursuing grant funding to offset the cost to land owners. In December of 2022, a \$4.2 million dollar grant application was submitted by the CGA to the Department of Water Resources. If awarded, the grant funding would be used to further develop sustainability projects, improve groundwater data collection, and increase stakeholder outreach and education opportunities.



Director	Appointing Organization
Rep: Gary Thomas Alt: Rick Ferreira	Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Rep: Rick Wohle Alt: Gary Silva	Clay Water District
Rep: Jay Vandenburg Alt: Mike Selling	City of Galt
Rep: Leo VanWarmerdam Alt: John Mulrooney	Galt Irrigation District
Rep: Mark Stretars (Vice Chair) Alt: Kurt Kautz	Omoichumne-Hartnell Water District
Rep: Pat Hume Alt: Chris Hunley (Chair)	County of Sacramento
Rep: Herb Garms Alt: Lindsey Carter	Sloughouse Resource Conservation District





Historic and Current Groundwater Conditions

Introduction

The Cosumnes Groundwater Basin encompasses approximately 210,300 acres in the northern region of the San Joaquin Valley Basin, within Amador and Sacramento Counties. Adjacent subbasins include the South American Subbasin (SASb), which lies to the north and west, and the Eastern San Joaquin (ESJ) Subbasin, which lies to the south. The eastern boundary of the Basin is defined by the Sierra Nevada foothills. The western portion of the Basin extends to the edge of the Delta. Approximately two-thirds of the Basin is covered by native or riparian vegetation and one-quarter by irrigated agriculture. The most abundant agricultural land uses are vineyards, pasture, and grain. Cities, Ag-Res, and aquaculture uses, totaling approximately 18,000 acres, constitute just under 9% of the total Basin area.

Who Uses How Much Water

The total amount of water pumped in 2021 increased by about 11% over recent years, largely due to the drought. Most of the water in the Cosumnes basin is used for irrigated agriculture. Major crops include grapes, pasture, various types of forage grown for hay, and fruit and nut trees. Fish farms are the second biggest user of water. The most important fish cultivated is the sturgeon, and the caviar produced by these fish. In many cases, waste water from these fish farms is used to irrigate crops or for hydroponic growth of lettuce and other vegetables. Domestic or ag-res users pump a small amount of water relative to the total.

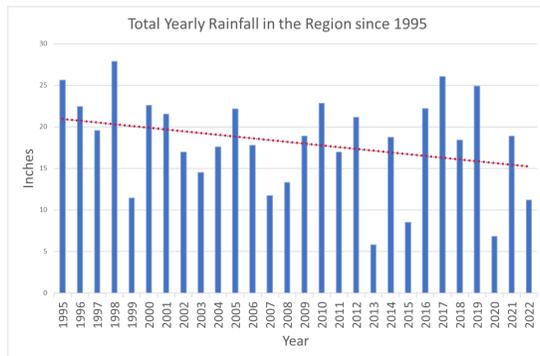
Sector	2021 Water Pumped (AF/yr)	% Used by Each Sector
Ag-Res	8,000	5
Aquaculture	11,000	7
Urban	5,200	4
Ag	125,000	84
TOTAL	148,200	100%

Water Use by Sector

Estimates of water use by sector as calculated from the 2021 Cosumnes Groundwater Authority's Annual Report. Total use increased by over 15,000 acre feet per year from 2020.

Precipitation Trends

Rainfall amounts have been decreasing in the recent past. This has meant that less water is percolating into the ground than in the past. Over the past 10 years, the average rainfall was 14" compared with the long term average of 18"/year.



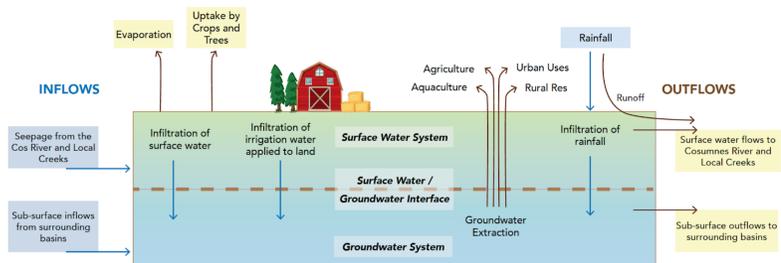
INFLOWS: Rain is the main source of groundwater. Additionally, water seeping into the aquifer from the Cosumnes River and local creeks as well as subsurface flow from surrounding basins also adds to our groundwater.

Lastly, about 25% of water applied for irrigation purposes ends up percolating back into the aquifer.

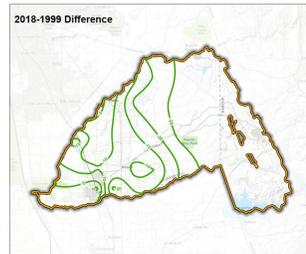
OUTFLOWS: Groundwater extraction for agriculture, aquaculture, urban, and rural residential uses is the major source of outflow.

Part of the agricultural extraction of groundwater is lost to evaporation and another portion is taken up by crops and trees (transpiration). Trees that surround local creeks and the Cosumnes River also account for a small portion of groundwater loss. In addition, some of the groundwater flows into local waterways as well as surrounding groundwater basins.

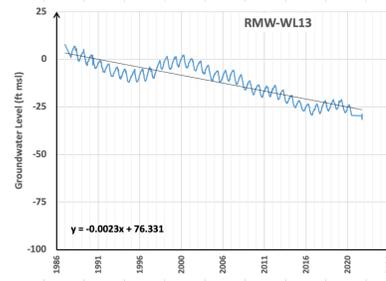
The sum total of the inflows and outflows leaves us with approximately -10,000 acre-feet/year deficit.



Changes in GW elevation 1999-2018. This figure illustrates the change in the water table over the last 20 years. The change has been greatest on the eastern side of the valley portion of the basin. The farther west you go, less and less of a decline has been observed.



In 2022, nine domestic wells were reported to DWR's Dry Well Reporting System as having gone dry within the Cosumnes Basin. More wells could have been affected, but never were reported. To learn more, see <https://data.cnr.ca.gov/dataset/dry-well-reporting-system-data>.



Groundwater levels have been declining at a rate of about 1 foot/year.

Domestic well RWM-WL13 has the most extensive record of readings of the depth of the water table (indicated by water level elevation of WLE in the figure) showing a decline of about 35 feet over the last 40 years. Another domestic well in the monitoring network showed a decline of 4 feet in the past 6 months. This change is likely largely associated with the drought, which was not captured in the data shown in the figure below. There is variability in the rate of decline from well to well, but on average the rate is 1 ft./year.

GWE stands for ground water elevation, measured relative to the mean sea level, not below the surface of the ground. To make this measurement the top of the well is open and a long, weighted tube is dropped into the well. When it beeps, the tip of the tube has hit water, reflecting the water surface elevation or depth of the water table.

	Inputs into the aquifer (AFY)	Outflows from the aquifer (AFY)
Deep percolation of applied irrigation water and rain water	104,800	
Leakage to groundwater from waterbodies	34,700	
Subsurface flow from adjacent watersheds	4,800	
Seepage from groundwater to water bodies		-16,400
Flow out of the Cosumnes into adjacent basins		-7,300
Pumpage		-131,200
Total	144,300	-154,900

The table above contains a rough water budget for the Cosumnes Basin, showing inputs and removal of groundwater.

The values are based on a 20 year average (1999-2018) identified in the Cosumnes GSP. More recent years show greater losses. Input from water bodies refers to leakage of water from Camanche Reservoir and local streams. The net loss averages about 10,000 AFY (acre-feet/year). We lose over 7,000 AFY to either the South American or Eastern San Joaquin subbasins. This is because groundwater follows a gradient, it does not function like a bathtub. On average, about 5,000 AFY leaves our aquifer and heads north to the South American basin. This suggests that recharge on the north side of the Cosumnes River will slow down the northward migration of groundwater. Recharge projects being conducted by OHWD, one of the GSAs in the Cosumnes and South American basin, will help reduce the amount of groundwater that migrates north.

Total extraction of water has increased in recent years

The upper figure shows the changes in groundwater storage or the volume of the groundwater since 2015. There has been a decrease in the amount of water in the aquifer in recent years. In 2021, for example, there was a decline of over 66,000 AF. The previous year, it declined over 42,000 AF. These recent declines have likely been linked to the drought – less infiltration and more extraction or pumping.

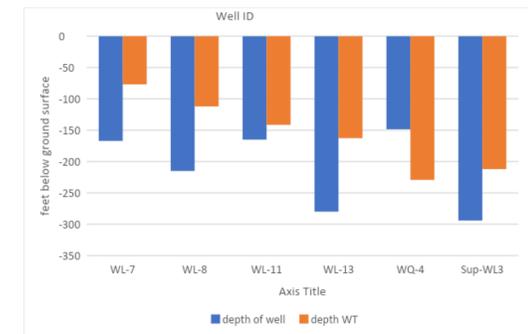
The lower figure illustrates how pumping has increased in recent years and contributed to the decline in storage of water in the aquifer. In 2021, domestic, agricultural, and other pumping resulted in a withdrawal of almost 150,00 AF. The decrease in rainfall, shown in a previous figure, is the other part of the story.



Note: Bars on these two graphs are different colors to reflect the type of water year. Green= wet year, yellow=average, pink=dry year, red=very dry year. The line in the upper graph represents the cumulative storage change since 2015, the year the groundwater law (SGMA) went into effect. We have lost over 60,000 AF water from the aquifer since 2015.

Current status of domestic wells in our monitoring network

Many people are concerned about domestic wells going dry because they are generally shallower than agricultural wells. This figure illustrates the depth of the domestic wells (blue) as well as the depth of the water table (orange). In four of the six cases, the well is at 25% deeper than the water table; currently a stable situation. However, in two cases, WL-11 and WQ-4, either the water table is below the well casing or very close to it. These wells were either deepened or replaced. Shallower wells are more susceptible to the impacts of drought and groundwater overdraft.



Conclusion

Groundwater has been declining for decades in the Cosumnes basin. In recent years, the condition has been exacerbated by the drought, which resulted in increased groundwater pumping. Shallow domestic wells are impacted by this situation more than deeper production wells. On average, a decline in the water table of about 1 foot/year has occurred over recent decades, with greater levels of decline in recent years. The Cosumnes Groundwater Authority has applied for millions of dollars of grants to test various methods and approaches to turn the situation around. See other posters for details on these plans.



Options Being Considered for Managing Groundwater Use

Introduction

During the next 4-5 years, implementation of the Cosumnes Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) will involve evaluating various approaches to conserving farmland while actually reducing the amount of groundwater pumping that is needed to sustain the productivity of this land. This focus on demand reduction will complement efforts to pursue recharge projects aimed at increasing groundwater supplies. Recharge projects usually involve building infrastructure and obtaining necessary permits, a process that could take many years to bear fruit. In the meantime, conservation efforts could allow us to take the first steps toward slowing the Cosumnes groundwater basin's ongoing decline. The GSP has set a target of reducing groundwater pumping for farmland irrigation by about 3 percent over the next few years.

CGA has submitted multiple large grants to fund conservation and recharge demonstration projects. We have been led to believe we have an excellent chance of receiving funding. On the conservation side, three main categories of programs are envisioned in the basin:

- **Land repurposing** – converting agricultural land currently using large amounts of groundwater to other purposes that use less water. Examples include growing crops with low water needs and dryland farming for winter wheat, triticale, or other crops.
- **Conservation** – involves continuing to grow the same crops but using different irrigation techniques or schedules. Examples include deficit irrigation, where the irrigation volume is reduced by about 10%, or installing more efficient water delivery systems.
- **Rotational fallowing** – involves periodically resting the land so no/little water is applied. Examples include fallowing a portion of a field for a year or permanently fallowing a whole field by replacing crops with solar arrays.

It is important to note that ALL of these efforts are 100% voluntary. We are exploring ways to incentivize farmers to participate.



Weather station used to measure ET.

Source: Land IQ

Quantifying Water Savings

For any type of conservation program to work, we need to be able to quantify water savings. Most farmers do not want to use meters so we have identified an alternative method of quantification – field based measurement of evapotranspiration. Evapotranspiration or ET is that portion of the water that is applied to a crop that is either lost to the atmosphere or absorbed by the plant. In our basin, that amounts to about 75% of applied water. The remaining 25% percolates back into the aquifer.

To quantify savings, weather stations will be installed at various locations that collect information on precipitation, humidity, and other factors. When combined with satellite imagery on crop type and area, companies like Land IQ, can estimate the amount of applied water with a precision of about 5%. That means if a farmer reduces water use by 10%, we should be able to quantify this savings.

Land Repurposing

We will identify a handful of interested farms who grow high water use crops who are open to trying to grow alternative crops with low water use. A portion or all of the land on these farms will be repurposed for dryland farming or low water use crops or no-till farming or other alternatives of interest to the farmer. Changes in water use will be assessed. This information will lay the basis for estimating basin-wide savings that might be achieved through land repurposing. A manual will be prepared summarizing the findings.

Agave: The New Drought-Tolerant California Crop?

UC Davis to Study Agave Sustainability

by Emily C. Dooley | August 11, 2022



Conservation

There are multiple water conservation practices that will be evaluated in the coming years. They include measuring groundwater production and water application, irrigation scheduling strategies, and conservation methods for high water use crops (e.g., pasture). The specifics will be determined by the interests of the farmers. Although the majority of groundwater in the basin is used by farmers, rural residential land owners can also contribute to groundwater conservation. This can be done by minimizing the size of turf or lawns to a minimum and using drip irrigation.

One project we have applied for grant funds to implement is a pilot study, conducted under the directions of UC Ag Extension, to assess the effects of deficit irrigation on pastureland. Three sets of two fields, side by side, will be irrigated either in the normal fashion or with one less application of water, about a 10% overall reduction. Samples of forage will be collected and analyzed for weight, nutritional content, and variety. After two years, we should have a good estimate of the impacts of deficit irrigation, given the growing conditions in the basin, on forage productivity. This information will help us determine appropriate compensation for farmers willing to reduce water use on pastureland.



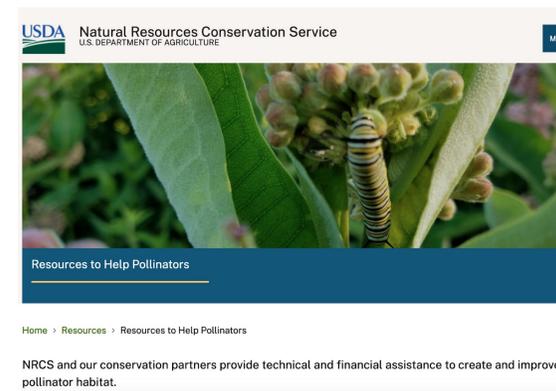
Alfalfa field along the Cosumnes River



Pasture along the Cosumnes River

Rotational Fallowing

Allowing irrigated cropland to rest for a year or more has the potential to immediately save water and help reduce groundwater overdraft. Based on the response of a farmer's survey, we will determine if there is an interest among some farmers to participate in such a program. Similar programs are currently being implemented in the southern San Joaquin Valley and in the Delta. Alternatives to irrigating a field could involve building solar arrays, 'rewilding' for wildlife, or using it for pollinator habitat, which would likely require only a small amount of irrigation in the driest periods of the year.



Conclusion

It is the view of some Ag Extension Specialists at UC Cooperative Extension that implementing various conservation practices could save up to 10% of the groundwater currently being used. They base this opinion on their experiences working with farmers in other groundwater basins. If we could achieve cooperation among the vast majority of farmers, such a reduction in pumping would be a major contributor to our efforts to reach our sustainability goal – the amount of water withdrawn from the basin equals the amount replenished. However, at this time, it is unclear if this path will be fruitful or if supply augmentation might be a more worthwhile path forward. Our strategy for the next 5 years is to EXPLORE ALL OPTIONS, and determine which projects and management actions will be supported by farmers and achieve the water savings needed to get the water budget into balance by 2042, as required by law.



Options Being Considered for Taking Advantage of Floodwater to Recharge the Aquifer

The Cosumnes Groundwater Sustainability Plan emphasized aquifer recharge as the key way we plan to address the groundwater deficit. The complementary approach to this is groundwater conservation and land repurposing, addressed at another station.

Background

As our climate changes, winter rainfall patterns in the Cosumnes basin are also changing. We are experiencing more prolonged dry periods and more intense rainfall events like the recent one we just experienced in late December-January, 2023. These changes affect groundwater supplies. In dry years, more pumping is needed to sustain crops. Winter rainfall helps restore groundwater levels, but this impact is lessened if the rainfall comes in a series of extreme events. When the soil gets saturated, much of the rain runs off into creeks, floods our roads and property, and less and less of it recharges the aquifer.

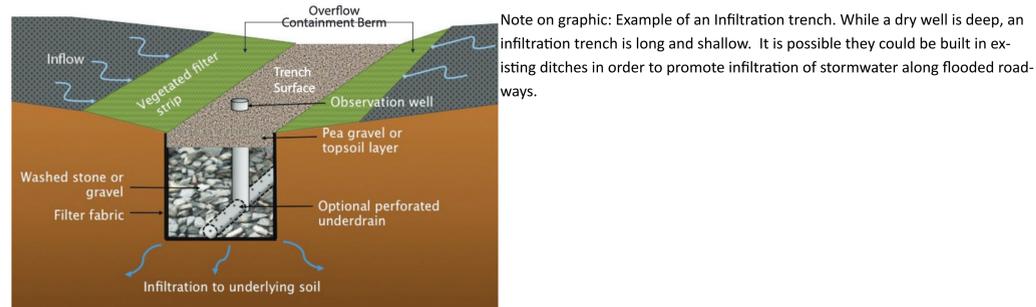
To address this issue, CGA has applied for a grant to evaluate different strategies for better capturing winter rainfall for groundwater recharge. They are:

- Capturing high flows from interior creeks such as Laguna and Dry Creeks, and infiltrate it either through dry wells or spreading across farm fields (pic)
- Capturing rainwater and runoff from fields and ditches along roadways and infiltrate it (PIC)
- Importing winter flood water from the American River via the Folsom South Canal and infiltrate it in dry wells or in spreading it on fields.

Capturing flows from interior creeks

This approach involves figuring out how to move winter runoff from local creeks such as Laguna and Dry Creeks, to adjoining floodplains and agricultural lands to increase the amount of runoff that infiltrates into the aquifer. This could be accomplished with engineered weir structures, pumps, pipes, landscape modifications, and strategically placed infiltration wells. Preliminary estimates suggest there might be as much as 20,000 AFY available for this purpose.

CGA has applied for a grant to test these ideas. We plan to first determine the best locations for diversions from the creek and associated modifications to increase recharge potential. We will then test the capacity for infiltration, initially using groundwater pumped from ag wells. Based on these findings, we plan to then divert water from the creeks onto fields and/or into infiltration wells. This step involves getting many permits and having appropriate weather.



Local or on-farm recharge

This strategy involves identifying site-specific opportunities for recharge where winter rainfall is already producing measurable amounts of standing water. These areas could include lower elevation areas on farmland where water tends to pool and areas along roadways that collect water. During the December-January storms, many roadways flooded, resulting in temporary closures. These locations could be modified through landscaping and installation of infiltration wells and trenches or other similar devices to increase the rate at which the standing waters are drawn down. Not only would such facilities promote aquifer recharge, but they would also mitigate public health and safety risk created by road closures and reduce damages and inconveniences associated with standing water.

Import water from the American (winter flood water)

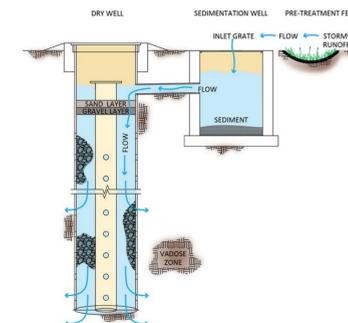
This approach takes advantage of existing infrastructure to capture winter runoff in the American River watershed and convey it down the Folsom South Canal (FSC) to the Cosumnes Basin, as outlined in our Groundwater Sustainability Plan. These plans are still in their infancy, since there are many unknowns at this time. But the basic idea is that water would then be pumped out of the canal and delivered to either a) infiltration wells installed in the right of way along the FSC and/or b) managed flooding of agricultural lands in areas of the basin near the FSC.

Preliminary calculations suggest as much as 16,000 AFY on average might be available to deliver to our basin. For this to occur, we will need to develop institutional relationships with many other regional water agencies, obtain water rights to the winter flood water, and get approval to use the FSC to convey the water. None of this will be easy or simple. But one of the distinct benefits of this water is that it would be relatively inexpensive.

But first, we need to ensure that IF we do get this water that we can efficiently get it in the ground via field spreading and/or infiltration wells. We plan to use funds from the Dept. of Water Resources grant (if funded) to evaluate infiltration capacity.



Below: one example of a dry well. Water from roadside ditches flows into a sedimentation chamber which captures particles and associated pollutants, then the water flows into a dry well which penetrates clay layers, releasing the water into a layer of gravel and stones. Many other designs are possible. This is one factor we plan to explore over the next few years.



Conclusion

There are both great opportunities as well as challenges to conducting aquifer recharge in the Cosumnes Basin.

Opportunities for recharge in Cosumnes include:

- We have a large capacity in the aquifer to store more water
- Our local creeks receive substantial uncontrolled run-off in rain storms
- There is existing infrastructure connecting the basin to reservoir storage facilities on the American River: Folsom South Canal
- Many farms with crops that could tolerate winter inundation with water

However, there are also some challenges to performing recharge, including:

- The soils in our basin are generally poor for infiltrating water so unclear if field spreading will work
- We will need additional infrastructure such as dry wells, pipes, pumps to realize our goals
- We will need to engage in complex negotiations to achieve institutional alignment and obtain water rights to American River water.



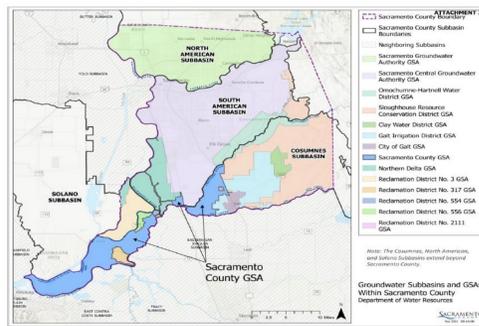
What is SGMA and why does it matter to me?

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) is a three-bill package that passed the California state legislature and was signed into California state law by Governor Jerry Brown in September 2014. Its purpose is to ensure better local and regional management of groundwater use and it seeks to have a sustainable groundwater management in California by 2042. It emphasizes local management and formed groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) from local and regional authorities.



Key Provisions of SGMA

- Protection of water rights:** Existing water rights are protected, SGMA does nothing to “determine or alter surface water rights or groundwater rights under common law or any provisions of law that determines or grants surface water rights”.
- Consideration of multiple stakeholder interests:** Groundwater Sustainability Agencies must consider and conduct outreach to a broad range of stakeholders, such as beneficial users of water, environmental interests, disadvantaged communities, tribes, and others.
- Provides new authorities to Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to manage groundwater:** Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are granted authority for Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to conduct investigations, determine the sustainable yield of a basin, measure and limit groundwater extractions, impose fees for groundwater management, and enforce the terms of a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP).
- Increases coordination between land use planning agencies and Groundwater Sustainability Agencies:** Planning and zoning laws are amended to require increased coordination between land use planning agencies and groundwater sustainability agencies regarding groundwater plans and updates and modifications of General Plans.
- Increases availability of information while ensuring privacy protection:** The legislation requires access to groundwater information for a groundwater basin be provided to the Department of Water Resources; however, information related to individual groundwater pumpers is limited.
- State oversight and involvement:** The legislation allows for intervention by the State Water Board if a Groundwater Sustainability Agency does not complete a groundwater sustainability plan by the mandated deadline (2020 or 2022); the Groundwater Sustainability Plan is deemed inadequate by the Department of Water Resources and the deficiencies remain inadequately addressed; or the groundwater sustainability plan is being implemented and simply does not work. In these cases, the State Water Board is authorized to create an interim plan that will remain in place until the GSA is able to reassume responsibility.



Who is responsible for implementing SGMA locally?

- SGMA requires that all groundwater basins designated as high or medium priority establish Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to manage their groundwater basin.
- Any public agency with water or land use responsibilities can be a Groundwater Sustainability Agency; these include cities, counties, municipal water districts, irrigation districts, community services districts, resource conservation districts, and water conservation districts.
- In its simplest form, a groundwater basin can be managed by a single Groundwater Sustainability Agency that develops a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan. However, some groundwater basins have more than one

What does SGMA Regulation require?

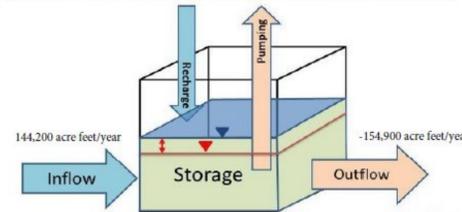
- January 31, 2020: Groundwater Sustainability Plans must be adopted for those basins designated as critically over drafted, and January 31, 2022 for all other remaining groundwater basins designated as high and medium priority.
- 2040/2042: All groundwater basins designated as high or medium priority must attain sustainability.



Do Domestic and Ag/Res Wells fall under SGMA?

- Generally, domestic well users meet the SGMA definition of a de minimis extractor, defined as “a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less (of groundwater) per year.” Most households with a domestic well that are not watering crops or large areas of landscape are likely de minimis extractors; however, under certain circumstances, SGMA may apply.
- Whether or not SGMA applies to a domestic well owner, the implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan will mean changes in the management of groundwater with potentially wide-ranging effects. All stakeholders in a groundwater basin subject to SGMA are encouraged to participate.

Change in Storage (+/-) = Inflow – Outflow
Change in Bank Balance (+/-) = Income – Expenses
SGMA requires a sustainable balanced budget

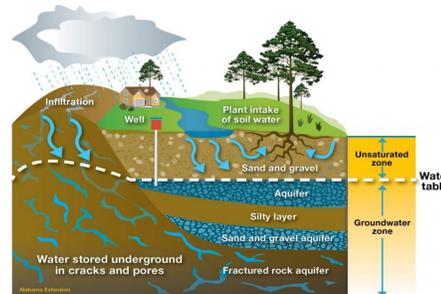


Results in the graphic above represent an annual overdraft of approximately 10,000 acre feet per year

Why is it important SGMA regulates Groundwater?

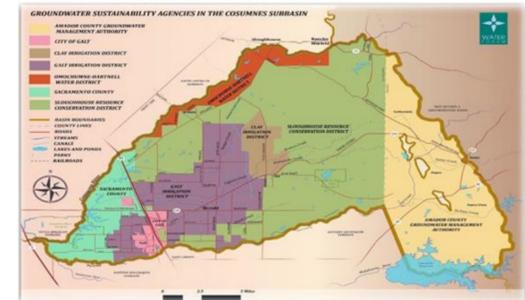
Groundwater is an important source of water stored in the earth beneath our feet, in spaces between sand, soils, and fractured rock known as an aquifer. Layers of aquifers make up a groundwater basin. During an average year, California's 515 alluvial groundwater basins and subbasins contribute approximately 38 percent toward the State's total water supply. During dry years, groundwater contributes up to 46 percent (or more) of the statewide annual supply, and serves as a critical buffer against the impacts of drought and climate change. Many municipal, agricultural, and disadvantaged communities rely on groundwater for up to 100 percent of their water supply needs. We mostly access groundwater through wells and pumps, and it is a crucial buffer against drought when surface water levels, like that in lakes and reservoirs, are running low.

- When groundwater is extracted in excess of what nature recharge efforts can replenish, groundwater elevations drop. Drops in groundwater levels can cause wells to go “dry”, creating a need to deepen a well, or the drilling of a new well. Over-pumping of our aquifer on a continued basis has several negative consequences such as groundwater level declines, land subsidence, reduction of groundwater storage, and water quality issues. Additionally, seawater intrusion and disruption of interconnect surface-water can impact a Basin.
- Between 1999 and 2018, Groundwater levels in the Cosumnes Subbasin have dropped as much as 25 feet in some areas.



The Cosumnes Subbasin

- Designated as a Medium Priority Basin by the Department of Water Resources based on population size.
- Our Local Groundwater Agency is the **Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA)**. The CGA is the lead agency for the entire Subbasin, and coordinates with the 7 Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA's) in the Basin
- Each GSA has 1 appointed, and 1 alternate member that make up the 14 member **Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board**



What is the Cosumnes Subbasin doing to protect our Groundwater?

- Conservation Efforts** – continued efforts to conserve water to maintain aquifer “balance” between inflows and withdrawals
- Projects and Partnerships** – determine the best options for future implementation of aquifer recharge projects, explore the potential of delivery of water from outside the Basin
- Active Basin wide Monitoring** – full and active monitoring of volunteer groundwater wells, test wells, local rivers, creeks and streams will tell us our current aquifer conditions



Laguna Del Sol Test Dry Well, Omochumnes-Hartnell Water District PMA

What can I do and where can I find more information?

All GSAs are legally required to consider all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, including domestic, agricultural, municipal, environmental, tribes, and disadvantaged communities; it is critical that local water users participate in the process to ensure the management changes address the diverse needs and priorities of the region. A Groundwater Sustainability Plan developed through robust involvement with all stakeholders within the basin will ensure the Plan's success.

- Sign up for CGA Meeting notifications at www.cosumnesgroundwater.org
- Join the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), find the application at www.cosumnesgroundwater.org
- Attend your GSA (Groundwater Sustainability Agency) meetings, find your GSA on the map link at www.cosumnesgroundwater.org
- SGMA resources and learning materials are available through the Department of Water Resources at www.water.ca.gov
- Visit drought.ca.gov for water shortage assistance information that may be available in your area.
- Complete your mailed Farmers Survey, link found at www.cosumnesgroundwater.org

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: February 17, 2023

Agenda Item #: 5
Agenda Item Subject: CGA Counsel Report

To: CGA Board of Directors
From: CGA Staff

The following is a brief update on items of interest from CGA Counsel since your last regular Board meeting. Counsel will present an oral report at the Board meeting.

Board Governance: At the Board's request, we have prepared sample policies for various aspects of board governance. These policies are derived from the best practices generated by the California Special Districts Association, though in many cases they have been edited down and streamlined for use in CGA. Policies will be vetted by the Board Chair, then pushed out to the full Board for review, comment, and adoption.

Brown Act & Remote Meeting Updates: Effective February 28, 2023, remote meeting participation will no longer be conducted under AB 361. Board members who wish to participate in a meeting remotely have two options:

1. List the remote meeting location on the agenda, and make the remote meeting location available to the public.
2. Participate pursuant to AB 2449, if eligible for an excused absence. Remote participation location does not need to be noticed in advance, but this option may only be used twice annually for each Board member.

Remote meeting compliance will require close coordination with staff to meet noticing requirements. Please contact staff as soon as possible if you believe that you will not be able to participate in person at any meeting.

Public Official Compliance Reminders:

- All Board members should submit Form 700s for CGA's records on or before April 1.
- Board members are reminded that Public Official Ethics Training (AB 1234) must be completed every two years, and certificates of completion should be provided to CGA for its records, as well. If you need training, please contact staff.

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

Agenda Date: February 17, 2023

Agenda Item #: 6
Agenda Item Subject: CGA Staff Report

To: CGA Board of Directors
From: CGA Staff

Annual Report Update

Woodard and Curran staff are running the COSANA model and generating outputs. EKI will present the model results and Annual Report during the regularly scheduled March CGA Board meeting.

Monitoring Update

Spring water level sampling address sampling inconsistencies present in previous monitoring events. GSA's should review their monitoring well access agreements and ensure up to date well owner contact information is available. Below is a table showing each well that did not get sampled and mitigating actions being taken.

[Monitoring Summary \(link\)](#)

Drought Plan Working Group

SB 522 requires a county wide Drought and Water Shortage task force be maintained to address water shortage issues at a local level. Sacramento County Office of Emergency Services has started the Drought Plan Working Group create a framework for the task force. CGA staff has participated in the initial meeting and will continue to work with its partners in the creation of the task force and action plan.

Funding Study Development

Following the direction provided at the February 6th Special Board Meeting, CGA leadership, staff, counsel, and consultants are putting together a draft fee study for the Board review.

REVISED Fee Study Timeline



February 2023 DWR Updates (from DWR's North Central Region Office)

Grants

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 grants.ca.gov to find funding opportunities for you and your community.

Department of Conservation Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program FINAL guidelines now available

The [Department of Conservation](#) (DOC) is pleased to announce the release of the [Round 2 \(FY 22/23\) Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program \(MLRP\) Guidelines](#). To date, the program has received \$90 million in appropriations. **This current Round (Round 2) includes \$40 million to the Department to fund groundwater sustainability projects that reduce groundwater use, repurpose irrigated agricultural land, and provide wildlife habitat.** An applicant workshop will be held February 22 from 1-2 pm, [registration here](#) and the applications will be due March 29, 2023.

Reclamation makes \$80 million available for watershed health: WaterSmart Program

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is making [approximately \\$80 million](#) in funding available for water management and restoration projects that will result in significant benefits to ecosystem or watershed health. A maximum grant of \$3 million is available for each project; work on projects must be completed within three years. The funding is being made available as part of Reclamation's [WaterSMART program](#). The Bureau of Reclamation will host a webinar on Monday, February 6, 2023, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. MST to discuss eligible applicants and project types, program requirements, and the evaluation criteria for the Environmental Water Resources Projects funding opportunity and the upcoming Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration Program. Click [here](#) to join the live event or use the same link to watch a recording after the completion of the live event.

NEW SWRCB: Three workshops set for drinking water grant guidelines

A series of [three public workshops](#) will be held next month to discuss the [draft Expedited Drinking Water Grant Funding Program Guidelines](#) developed by the State Water Resources Control Board. [The program](#) provides an expedited process for public agencies to obtain grants for high-priority projects. The workshops will be held on Feb. 6, in Riverside; on Feb. 7, in Sacramento; and on Feb. 8, in Visalia.

Fish and Wildlife Providing \$200 million for multi-benefit projects

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is making more than [\\$200 million in funding available](#) for multi-benefit projects that promote ecosystem restoration and protection. The funding will be distributed among projects that enhance salmon resiliency, promote [nature-based solutions](#), or address the effect of climate change. Applications can be submitted using [a new online portal](#).

Water tank program for dry wells

DWR in partnership with CalOES, DGS, and Water Boards has a new tank program for domestic wells that have gone dry. Eligible Applicants Include: public agencies, public utilities, special districts, colleges and universities, mutual water companies, nonprofit organizations, federally recognized tribes and state tribes listed on the NAHC's consultation list. Under the program, 2,500 gallon tanks are pre-purchased by DWR. The program includes funding for the tanks to be delivered to residence and connected to their existing plumbing with a small pump, and for water hauling to fill the tanks to meet basic health and sanitation needs. For more information contact: smallcommunitydrought@water.ca.gov or Alena Misaghi at (559) 230-3309.

DWR Division of Multi-Benefit Initiatives Delta Levees Special Flood Control Projects 2022: **Coming Soon**

The intent of this Project Solicitation Package is to provide funding for public benefit in accordance with Section 12311 of the California Water Code for Multi-Benefit projects in the California Delta and parts of the Suisan Marsh. Projects targeted for this grant are those that promote levee improvement, habitat enhancement, seismic

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resiliency, and/or export water supply reliability. **Up to \$37 million will be available and the solicitation is expected to open in Spring of 2023.** [More information here.](#)

Cal FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grants

CAL FIRE announces the solicitation of the FY 2022-2023 Wildfire Prevention Grants Program on December 14, 2022. California's 2022-23 budget allocates up to \$120 million to CAL FIRE's Wildfire Prevention Grants Program. Applications need to be submitted no later than March 15, 2023 by 3:00 PM PST. Please see the [Wildfire Prevention Grants Webpage](#) for a complete overview. Sacramento contact: WPgrants@fire.ca.gov.

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 -- <https://eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>

Upcoming conferences, webinars, new reports and data

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 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 [full strategy document](#) can be found here and a [press release here](#).

[Under this directive DWR is partnering with SWRCB to fast-track efforts to capture flood waters to recharge groundwater basins.](#) The State's efforts reached a milestone January 6 when the State Water Board approved a six-month permit that will enable multiple landowners to divert excess flows from Mariposa creek near the City of Merced to recharge a key groundwater basin. The Merced Project permit, the first approved under a new pilot regulatory assistance program, is expected to pave the way for future projects to allow water from wet-weather storms to be captured and diverted. The permit application authorizes multiple diversions by multiple landowners of up to 10,000 acre-feet of water from the creek during periods of high flows that would otherwise likely flow through the system. Currently there are five applications pending, with two more projected to be approved next week. The remaining three are going through a public noticing process.

[A fact sheet on DWR Regulatory Assistance: Temporary Water Rights for Groundwater Recharge can be found here.](#)

NEW: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Issues Delta Conveyance Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Public Review

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Delta Conveyance Project for public review. The [document is available here](#) and the USACE Draft EIS public review and **comment period lasts until February 14, 2023.** USACE's Draft EIS assesses the exact same proposed Delta Conveyance Project analyzed in the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), available for public review July 27, 2022 - December 16, 2022. USACE's Draft EIS is different from DWR's Draft EIR as follows:

- The Draft EIS complies with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Draft EIR complies with the California Environmental Policy Act (CEQA).
- NEPA is a federal law and USACE is the federal lead agency for preparation of the Draft EIS, while CEQA is a state law and DWR is the state lead agency for preparation of the Draft EIR.

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Nothing published in USACE's Draft EIS changes what has been published in DWR's Draft EIR. The Draft EIS is not an update to the Draft EIR. They are stand-alone documents.

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 Luis Carmona at: lcarmona@calruralwater.org or 916-283-8509 x109 to get started.**

Executive Order N-7-22

On March 28, 2022 Governor Newsom signed [Executive Order N-7-22](#), 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: <https://water.ca.gov/water-basics/drought>.

DWR's Climate Change Program Resources

DWR's Climate change program has lots of initiatives including resources for water managers. Check out their [webpage](#) and [factsheet](#) here.

California's Groundwater Live: Up-to-date data on groundwater conditions, well installations and subsidence

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the final [California's Groundwater – Update 2020 \(Bulletin-118\)](#), containing information on the condition of the State's groundwater, DWR has also developed a companion web-based application called [California's Groundwater Live](#) (CalGW Live), leveraging the [California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Platform](#) (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 [California's Groundwater website](#) Contact: CalGW@water.ca.gov.

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, [Open Evapotranspiration](#) (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.

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: GSPSubmittal@water.ca.gov.

DWR Launches Interagency Task Force as Part of Advance Planning for Drought

Department of Water Resources (DWR) is officially launching a standing Drought Resilience Interagency and Partners (DRIP) Collaborative, which will include members of the public. Community members and water users are encouraged to apply. The DRIP Collaborative will include a total of 26 members, comprising state agency

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representatives and two appointees from each of the following groups: local governments, community-based organizations, Tribes, nonprofit technical assistance providers, the general public, agriculture, environmental representatives, public water systems, small water suppliers or urban water agencies, and experts in land use planning, water resilience, or water infrastructure. **DWR is accepting Letters of Interest until February 24, 2023**, and DWR will announce selected members of the DRIP Collaborative in spring 2023. Interested parties can visit the [DWR website](#) for more information on how to submit Letters of Interest.

NEW: DWR Releases GSP Determinations

The 1/26/23 release includes the approval of GSPs for the Santa Rosa Plain Subbasin, Petaluma Valley Basin, and Sonoma Valley Subbasin in Sonoma County and the Napa Valley Subbasin in Napa County. The assessments can be viewed here on the DWR SGMA Portal. These plans are approved with recommended corrective actions that the groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) will need to address in their next plan update, due in January 2027.

Groundwater platform announces expanding list of partners

A coalition of organizations and State agencies have announced [expansion in the number of partners](#) in for the [Groundwater Accounting Platform](#). The platform was initially developed in partnership with the Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water District. Now the platform is adding three new pilot project partners from Merced, Santa Cruz, and Yolo counties. Information from the platform is designed to help groundwater agencies with efforts to prevent dry wells and water supply shortages.

SB552: DWR's Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool Demo on Domestic Wells and State Smalls

As part of its technical assistance to support SB 552 implementation, DWR developed the [Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool](#) to provide the foundational data and information statewide to counties for their water shortage risk assessment. DWR will provide an overview of information contained in the Water Shortage Vulnerability Scoring and Tool, and provide a demonstration for data and tool navigation and potential use by counties for their corresponding water shortage risk assessment. The webinar will be held February 22 from 1-3 pm, [registration required](#).

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 [California's Groundwater Live website](#) and click the [Dry Domestic Well Susceptibility tab](#). A fact sheet on this tool, as well as DWR's Dry Well Reporting System, [is available here](#).

Dry Well Reporting Site

There is a website available to [report private wells going dry](#). 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 [SGMA data viewer](#) or downloaded on the [CNRA Atlas](#). Individuals or local agencies can report water shortages and [a list of resources are included on the webpage](#). 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 sgmps@water.ca.gov.

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

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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 [here](#).

- [AEM webpage](#) 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 8th 12:00 – 1:00**, a [recording can be viewed here](#) and [handouts can be downloaded here](#). Draft Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) resistivity **data for the entire Central Valley have been published** on the [California Natural Resources Agency Open Data Portal](#). The dataset can also be viewed online on the [AEM Data Viewer](#). DWR's AEM surveys will continue this Spring. Visit the AEM Survey Schedule webpage for more information on the tentative data publication dates.
- [2019 Statewide Crop Mapping data](#) 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 through October 1 of 2022** and can now be viewed on the [SGMA data viewer](#). The updated GIS services and data reports are also available [online](#). Future data will be released on a quarterly basis.

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 [can be found here](#). [Written translation services available in 8 languages for outreach materials \(5,000 word maximum\)](#).