

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes | June 14, 2023

Meeting Materials

<https://www.cosumnesgroundwater.org/meetings/committee-meetings/>

Meeting-in-Brief / Outcomes

- The second meeting of the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on June 14, 2023, in person at 5:30pm with an option to participate via Zoom. A quick, round-the-room and via Zoom, introduction took place from both Staff and committee members. Staff provided a committee overview to remind members the purpose of CAC as well our overall goals. A video on [Groundwater: California's Vital Resource](#) was played and shared.
- CGA Board Chair, Chris Hunley, provided a recap on past accomplishments of the CAC in CGA's first year of existence as well as a look ahead as to what we hope to accomplish in the future.
- CGA Staff, Austin Miller and Stephen Julian, provided an update on Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Conditions and GSP Implementation.
- CGA Staff shared the [DWR SGMA Grant Program](#) Round 2 [draft funding determination](#).
- The group discussed the 2023-2024 Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule. The next two meetings are tentatively scheduled for September 20, 2023 and December 6, 2023.

Items identified for next meeting

- Discussion on recharge and a presentation involving a recharge map of the subbasins
- Overview of DWR SGMA Grant Round 2 recipients.
- Groundwater conditions (monitoring event findings or drought impacts).
- What is root purpose of this whole exercise from SGMA on down - what is our goal and where are we at in achieving that goal.
- More information about the fee study, monitoring network, and funding opportunities.
- Education for the general community and ag-residential community on water use by sector and how best to conserve (best management practices).
- Identify a Chair/representative for the CAC to report out at upcoming Board meetings.

Meeting Overview

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) Administrator (Austin Miller), Admin. Support (Brittany Friedman), CGA Board Chair (Chris Hunley), and CGA Watershed Coordinator (Stephen Julian), welcomed participants to the second CAC meeting.

SGMA 101

Chris Hunley, the CGA Board Chair, discussed the mandated SGMA regulations and the timeline associated with it. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is currently reviewing the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) (12 medium/high priority GSPs have been reviewed and approved to date). CGA will need to respond to GSP comments as part of the DWR Determination and Review of the GSP, likely in the Fall. In 2027, there will be the first 5-year update to the GSP. The committee examined the SGMA maps of Sacramento County, breaking down the 4 subbasin boundaries as well as the 7 GSA areas.

Reflecting on CGA's First Year

Chris Hunley provided an update/reflection on accomplishments from 2022/early 2023 for the CGA Board, PMA Committee, CAC and more:

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Board/Operations

- CGA organization, meeting policies, and protocols developed and implemented
- Formation/charge for committees and ad hocs - PMA, CAC and O & E team
- Hiring or contracting staff and consultants - Staff: Plan Manager, Watershed Coordinator, Legal Counsel, Additional Admin Support, Consultants
- Monitoring network stewardship and providing various letters of support
- Funding - irrigated acreage fee, budgets, draft fee study, etc.
- Grants and other support - DWR SGMP, DOC, etc
- Special meetings/workshops - long-term funding, fee study, etc.

Projects and Management Actions Committee

- Framework for projects implementation plan discussion (potential projects, pathways, partners, data gaps, etc.)
- Interviewed technical consultants
- Project-related O&E and DWR grant

Citizen Advisory Committee

- 8 members, new to SGMA implementation in Cosumnes
- Overall O&E strategies
- Issues of interest (e.g., projects)

Outreach and Engagement Committee

- PMA and CAC members w/ CGA staff support
- Public workshops, general O&E

Consultants

- Mar: Monitoring (MLJ)
- Mar: Facilitation (CBI, no cost to CGA [DWR FSS])
- Aug: Technical (EKI team)
- Aug: Fee Study (SCI team)
- Sept: DWR SGMP grant writer (Mick, no cost to CGA [SAFCA])
- 2023: Audit services

Other

- Website launched and 550+ mailing list subscribers
- CBI stakeholder interviews
- Informational webinars
- Surveys: Meeting feedback form, farmers/landowners survey
- Public workshop planning

Well Permitting

Discussion on the changes of how to obtain a well permit and GSAs' efforts to comply with [Executive Order N-3-23, Action 4](#). The committee was interested in the sustainability aspect of overseeing and reviewing well permits and how environmental impact reports or additional data could play a role in the future of approving/denying a well permit. The committee is also curious about metering as part of a future process in collecting data.

Chelsea Spier of DWR provided feedback on how the Executive Order N-3-23 would be coordinated amongst stakeholders and noted that DWR will provide some guidance/synopsis of how others have approached this topic.

CGA FY 23-24 Work Plan at a Glance

There is a suggestion that when the committee meets, we look at the upcoming fiscal year work plan as a guide to what the committee discusses and provides feedback on. This not only provides a way to stay on track at meetings but also ensures relevancy to the Board's efforts.

CAC Purpose & Objective

- To provide a productive venue for input from, and information-sharing among, the subbasin's diverse communities and interests.
- To serve an advisory role to the CGA Board of Directors, to inform the Board's implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).
- Develop a mutual understanding of, and provide feedback on, the implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP.

Anticipated CAC Activities

The goal is for the committee to meet quarterly going forward and to have a representative speak at the Board meeting on the committee's behalf. One important note was on the Outreach and Engagement team and the ongoing, needed support they covet as they continue to plan and implement workshops, meet and generate new ideas. The committee discussed possible future activities, specifically in terms of O & E: newsletter, sharing materials via workshop, flyering, in-person meetings, mail, etc.

- Meetings: Quarterly, ~2 hours each
- Provide feedback on the development and implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin Projects and Management Actions
- Review available data regarding groundwater conditions and progress on the implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP
- Provide feedback on discussions and technical work related to the Cosumnes Subbasin's monitoring network, Undesirable Results, Sustainable Management Criteria, and funding mechanisms
- Identify future information needs
- Discuss and support public outreach and engagement as applicable

Cosumnes GSP Implementation

Stephen Julian and Austin Miller provided an update on Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Conditions and GSP Implementation. A Water Year 2022 [Annual Report](#) Recap was shared on groundwater conditions with data on groundwater extraction (agricultural vs. developed), net change in storage, monitoring access and improvement on monitoring data (conducted 2x in 2022), etc. This past year was categorized as a critically dry year so there was more severe groundwater extraction.

Stephen Julian discussed [interconnected surface waters](#). Groundwater may play an important role in surface water ecosystems such as streams, springs, seeps, and wetlands. In those cases, groundwater pumping can exacerbate stream depletion and impact wetland ecosystems. EKI Environment and Water provided data on monitoring well hydrographs and a map of the thresholds of metered wells in the subbasin. Some of the wells have been monitored for quite a long time while others are quite new and do not have enough data to make an assumption/assessment of. The wells that do have enough data, have shown that the water levels have gone down, some to their minimum threshold (MT) or below. An undesirable result occurs when the MT is reached at least 2 years in a row.

Staff also discussed the Cosumnes-South American-North American Groundwater(CoSANA) Model, based on DWR's finite-element Integrated Water Flow Model. The Water Budget evaluation period for this model is from 1999-2014 but it does include further back historical data. This data does articulate that we are in a deficit and can be used to model future scenarios and determine project goals (note: the model is not perfect but a helpful tool). There is no public database for irrigation method, at the moment. The North American Subbasin was

awarded ~\$700,000 from a California Department of Water Resources grant to update their model and perhaps we may be able to benefit from the knowledge they acquire (or perhaps we can identify another grant opportunity). We can update our model/fill in gaps annually but only during the 5-year Update process is this likely feasible due to financial constraints.

Stephen Julian discussed the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP Section 10.5.3 which addresses data gaps. The project committee, along with EKI will be looking at data gaps with a hope to fill them whether it be through establishing more participants in our Monitoring Network and/or through future grant programs. Staff is attempting to make data sharing a more user-friendly process so that GSAs and members of the public can provide parcel specific information that can then be integrated into our process and provide more accurate data.

Austin Miller provided an overview on how we got to where we are today, sharing the guiding principles for Projects and Management Actions (PMAs), and looked towards future projects and goals. PMAs should help achieve the GSP's Sustainability Goal: To ensure that groundwater in the Subbasin continues to be a long-term resource for beneficial users and uses including urban, domestic, agricultural, industrial, environmental and others. 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 CAC looked at CGA's Phase 1 and Phase 2 approach to projects. Tackling feasibility studies to investigate managed aquifer recharge potential, groundwater banking, use of recycled water during Phase 1 will be complementary to implementing demand management projects/programs.

Upcoming CGA board meetings will hopefully discuss new grant programs/approaches to generate funds to implement these projects. Working with socially disadvantaged groups and providing more of a diverse program for local farmers may assist us in receiving future grant funds (worth noting that these grants are quite competitive).

Highlighting what CGA the GSA's still have on deck for funding, SRCD applied to the California Department of Conservation (DOC) Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP) which would provide funds for land repurposing (cover crops, recharge, solar, carbon farming, etc.) Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD) is applying for a California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP) grant that, if funded, will provide ~\$3 million for on-farm implementation for water demand efficiency projects. There has also been discussion for targeted conservation pledges for local landowners and farmers/ranchers in an attempt to curb water waste and decrease fees for projects in the future.

Next Steps

Committee members generally expressed appreciation for the convening of the CAC, and questioned how CAC input will be meaningfully considered, particularly with the group only meeting quarterly. They would like to meet more frequently. CGA staff will report back to

CGA at their June meeting with the input from the CAC, and will reach out to CAC members about supporting planning of upcoming public workshops focused on projects and funding, tentatively to take place in August or September.

Upcoming Meetings & Engagement Opportunities

- **PMA Committee** Meeting in July 2023
- **O&E Committee** Meeting in July 2023
- **Public Workshop** Tentatively mid September
- **CAC Meeting 3:** September 20, 2023
- **CAC Meeting 4:** December 6, 2023
- **CAC Meeting 5:** March TBD, 2024
- **CAC Meeting 6:** June TBD, 2024

Meeting Attendance

CAC Committee

Dave Means	Tish Espinosa
Neil Dubrovsky	Tom Malson
Mark Nelson	Belinda Ellis
Teresa Flewellyn	

Member Gary McEnerney was unable to attend.

Staff and Consultants: Austin Miller – CGA Administrator, Brittany Friedman – SRCD Support Staff, Stephen Julian – CGA Watershed Coordinator, and Chris Hunley – CGA Chair; Chelsea Spier – CA DWR.

Other: Delores Gregorio

Glossary of Common Terms

AFY	Acre-feet per year (also written as acre/ft/yr)
ACGMA	Amador County Groundwater Management Authority – One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin [amadorwater.org]
C&E Plan	Communication & Engagement Plan (C&E is also sometimes referred to as "O&E" or "Outreach and Engagement")
CAC	Citizens Advisory Committee – an advisory committee that supports implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP
CBI	Consensus Building Institute - organization that facilitates SGMA implementation in the Cosumnes Subbasin [cbi.org]
CGA	Cosumnes Groundwater Authority – JPA for the seven GSAs to lead GSP implementation (formed November 2021)
Ci of Galt	City of Galt – One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin [ci.galt.ca.us]
Clay WD	Clay Water District - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin [sscawa.org/clay-water-district]
CoSANA	Cosumnes, South American, and North American Groundwater Subbasins (CoSANA) Model – Numerical groundwater model shared by the three regional Subbasins, upon which groundwater management actions in the GSP are based, developed by EKI
DAC / SDAC	Disadvantaged Community / Severely Disadvantaged Community
DWR	California Department of Water Resources – the SGMA regulating and assisting state agency [water.ca.gov]
EKI	The firm that developed the GSP as an independent technical consultant for the Cosumnes Subbasin
ESJGA	Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority
Flood-MAR	An integrated and voluntary resource management strategy for using flood water for managed aquifer recharge (MAR) [water.ca.gov/Programs/All_Programs/Flood-MAR]
Galt ID	Galt Irrigation District - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin [gid.specialdistrict.org]

GDE	Groundwater-dependent ecosystem
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
HCM	Hydrogeological Conceptual Model
ISW	Interconnected surface waters
JPA	Joint Powers Authority – refers to the legal agreement uniting the GSAs into the CGA
MO	Measurable Objective
MT	Minimum Threshold
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NOI	Notice of Intent
O&E	Outreach and Engagment (O&E is also sometimes referred to as "C&E" or "Communication and Engagement")
OHWD	Omochumne-Hartnell Water District - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin [ohwd.org]
PIO	Public Information Officer
PPL	Project Priorities List – refers to list of PMAs to be prioritized for implementation; a living document
PMAC	Projects & Management Actions Committee

PMAs	Projects & Management Actions
Prop 1 / Prop 68	Proposition 1 and Proposition 68 (state grant funding for sustainable groundwater planning and projects)
RMW	Representative Monitoring Well
Sac County GSA	Sacramento County GSA – One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin [waterresources.saccounty.net/Pages/Sacramento-County-Groundwater Sustainability-Agency.aspx]
SAFCA	Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency [safca.org]

SCGA	Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority [scgah2o.saccounty.net]
SGA	Sacramento Groundwater Authority
SGMA	California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act [water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater Management]
SI	Sustainability Indicator - Six (6) Sustainability Indicators under SGMA related to groundwater storage, groundwater levels, water quality, surface water depletion, land subsidence, and seawater intrusion.
SMC	Sustainability Management Criteria
SRCD	Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin [sloughhousercd.org]
SSCAWA	Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority [sscawa.org]
SWAG	Surface Water Advisory Group – multi-stakeholder advisory body that met in 2020-2021 to discuss and provide input on the draft GSP-related to interconnected surface waters
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) – the SGMA enforcing state agency [waterboards.ca.gov]
TM	Technical Memorandum – Summary documents produced by EKI to inform Working Group discussions and decision-making
UR	Undesirable Result
WF	Sacramento Water Forum [waterforum.org]
WG	Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group, the entity that created and convened the CGA