



Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Outreach & Engagement Committee Meeting
Agenda

When: Tuesday, July 25, 2023 - 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Where: Galt Police Department Community Room
455 Industrial Way
Or via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89589317737>
Meeting ID: 895 8931 7737

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.

Committee Purpose:

The Outreach and Engagement (O&E) Committee for the Cosumnes Subbasin, as established by the CGA Board of Directors, is convened to provide a productive venue for developing and discussing the CGA’s outreach efforts and implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin Outreach and Engagement Plan. The O&E Committee will serve an advisory role to the CGA Board of Directors, to inform the Board’s implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP.

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. CGA Work Plan and Committee Charter Review
3. Farmer Survey Next Steps
4. Newsletter Development
5. Planning for a Late Summer or Early Fall Workshop/Event
6. Regular Meeting Dates and Committee Report Out

Adjourn Meeting

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
O&E Committee Meeting**

Agenda Date: July 25, 2023

Agenda Item : #2 - CGA Work Plan and Committee Charter

To: O&E Committee

From: CGA Staff

Committee Charter

In May 2023 the CGA Board of Directors adopted the Outreach and Engagement (O&E) Committee Charter. This document is designed to articulate expectations and responsibilities for committee members, staff, and board members. As detailed in the charter, the O&E Committee is convened to provide a productive venue for developing and discussing the CGA's outreach efforts and implementation of the [Cosumnes Subbasin Outreach and Engagement Plan](#). The O&E Committee will serve an advisory role to the CGA Board of Directors, to inform the Board's implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP.

Committee Members

- Teresa Flewellyn (Chair)
- Barbara Washburn
- Chris Hunley
- Belinda Ellis
- Mark Stretars
- Gary Silva

Overview of 2023 - 2024 Work Plan

To guide our work for the next year, CGA Board Chair and Staff have been developing an [Annual Work Plan](#) document that is aligned with SGMA deadlines, committee charters, and CGA's adopted budget. This is intended to be a guiding document that will likely be adjusted as we progress throughout the year. It is our intent to regularly update this document as appropriate.

As indicated on the Work Plan, it is our intent to schedule informational sessions on various topics related to groundwater and SGMA implementation. These informational sessions may be scheduled during regular board or committee meetings, special events/meetings, public workshops, or other formats as appropriate and as time/resources allows. CGA Staff is developing a list of topics that directors, GSAs, and stakeholders have expressed interest in:

- Well Permitting Criteria
- Cosumnes-South American-North American (CoSANA) Model / Groundwater Modeling
- Land Use/Groundwater Use Dashboard
- Telemetry Monitoring Systems
- Monitoring Network Improvements
- Regional Sanitation's Harvest Water Project

- Planning 101
- Conservation Efforts/Best Management Practices
- DWR Flyover AEM Data
- Dry Wells and Other Managed Aquifer Recharge Efforts
- Interconnected Surface Waters and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority Outreach and Engagement Committee Charter

The Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) is responsible for implementing the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to meet the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requirements for the Cosumnes Subbasin. The sustainability goal of the Cosumnes Subbasin is 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. Successful implementation for this long-term effort requires broad and ongoing coordination, collaboration, and engagement. More information about the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP can be found at: CosumnesGroundwater.org.

Purpose:

The Outreach and Engagement (O&E) Committee for the Cosumnes Subbasin, as established by the CGA Board of Directors, is convened to provide a productive venue for developing and discussing the CGA's outreach efforts and implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin Outreach and Engagement Plan. The O&E Committee will serve an advisory role to the CGA Board of Directors, to inform the Board's implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP.

Anticipated Activities:

- Quarterly meetings (July, October, January, April), additional meetings as needed will be scheduled. Standing meeting dates should be selected at the first O&E Committee meeting following the adoption of this charter.
- Provide feedback on updating and implementing the Cosumnes Subbasin Outreach and Engagement Plan
- Discuss and support public outreach and engagement as applicable

Approach:

- The O&E Committee will determine a Committee Chair. The Committee Chair can either be an O&E Committee member or a CGA Staff person. The Committee Chair will work with CGA Staff in developing a meeting agenda, facilitating the Committee meeting, and providing reports to the CGA Board on the Committee's key perspectives, recommendations, and areas of agreement and divergence on each of main topics discussed.
- The CGA will share draft materials related to GSP implementation and outreach with the O&E Committee. All draft materials will be informed by CGA Board discussions.
- O&E Committee members will review and discuss draft materials and generate feedback and recommendations to be shared with the CGA Board.
- The CGA Board will consider whether and how to incorporate O&E Committee feedback. The CGA Board will regularly update the O&E Committee on how its feedback informed its decision-making.

Discussion Focus:

Each meeting will focus on a topic, or variety of topics, described below. There may be need for additional flexibility on topics.

- Projects and Management Actions
- Outreach and Engagement
- Monitoring Network
- Local Groundwater Conditions

O&E Composition:

The O&E Committee will consist of volunteers appointed by the CGA Board Chair. The O&E Committee is one of several forums for bringing together diverse interests. Not all stakeholders may desire or have the capacity to participate in O&E Committee meetings; therefore, other forums and methods (e.g., other committee meetings, organizational briefings, etc.) are part of the CGA's overall communication and engagement plan strategy ([link to the C&E Plan](#)).

Additionally, to help enhance the O&E Committee's understanding of groundwater sustainability topics and outreach efforts, invitations for specific O&E Committee meetings may be extended to other stakeholders and organizations from time to time if relevant topics are planned for discussion at that specific meeting.

Open Meetings and Brown Act Compliance:

The O&E Committee will serve as a standing committee and will follow open meeting requirements detailed in the California Brown Act. This includes:

- Committee meetings are open to the public.
- Regular committee meeting agendas and materials will be posted to the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority and emailed to interested stakeholders at least 72 hours in advance.
- Special committee meeting agendas and materials will be posted to the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority and emailed to interested stakeholders at least 24 hours in advance.

Ground Rules:

See the [CGA Governance and Decision-Making Process](#) visual for more information on how the O&E Committee will impact decisions of CGA. The O&E Committee will generally rely on the ground rules outlined in the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority agreement and the Board's policies, with emphasis on these points:

- The O&E Committee is an advisory body. All final decisions regarding CGA work will be made by the CGA Board
- Focus on developing credible and timely information and understanding
- Foster thoughtful exchange of information and perspectives
- Identify areas of common interests and approach
- Consensus seeking

Roles and Responsibilities:

O&E Committee members shall:

- be able to demonstrate a general knowledge of and involvement in the activities of priority interest related to the Cosumnes GSP and SGMA.
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- review the O&E Committee Charter (this document), Code of Conduct, the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP website, and other documentation to become familiar with the current issues and their background.
 - attend meetings adequately prepared to engage meaningfully in discussions.
 - engage in O&E Committee and GSP activities in accordance with the Code of Conduct and other CGA governance documents, as applicable.
 - be expected to commit to a 1- or 2-year term. Terms can be extended based on the mutual agreement of the CGA Board and O&E Committee member.
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**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
O&E Committee Meeting**

Agenda Date: July 25, 2023

Agenda Item : #3 – Farmer Survey Next Steps

To: O&E Committee

From: CGA Staff

Background

Staff is provided an update on the Farmer’s Survey that was sent out in February 2023 to the CGA Board. There were several discussions about how to build on these efforts and the importance of having good data for future projects and fee study development.

View Survey here: [Farmer's Survey](#)

Recommendations

Provide feedback and/or suggestions on improvements for this survey

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Farmer Survey Results & Summary



Overview

- Mailed Surveys: 208
- Returned Surveys: 14
- Response Rate: 8%
- Typical mailed survey response rate: 5%-30%
 - Likely represent those who have stronger opinions
 - Larger representation of farmers will likely need personal interviews conducted by a neutral party (facilitator, student intern, etc.).

General information: survey respondents

Crop Type	Acres	Irrigation Method	Responses	% of total
Pasture/hay	3687	Flood	9	64
Corn/Silage	1220	Flood	3	21
Vines	1085	Drip	4	29
Aquaculture	345	N/A	1	7
Vegetables	14	Drip	1	7
Total: 6351 (14% Cosumnes/Sac Co. Irr. Acres)				

- All familiar with SGMA and the GSP
 - 43% liked plan
 - 36% had no opinion
 - 27% didn't like plan and/or some of the details
- About ½ were interested to learn more

*Since the PMA/CAC meeting, 2 additional surveys were submitted.

320 acres of almonds

80 acres of pasture

175 acres of walnuts



Key points from survey: Future Water Conservation

~50% were interested in finding ways to reduce GW pumping on their farm

- About 1/2 said they could figure this out themselves
- About 1/3 said they would like help (farm advisor, extension)

~45% said reducing water use would have a significant impact on their farms

- 57% would require some type of financial assistance
- Remainder- none (14%) or - not sure/no response

50% of respondents had considered land repurposing


- 1/3 said they would consider in the future, most on 20-100 acres

Water Conservation key points:

- Many interested in switching to lower water use crop (4); interest in short (1) and long-term(1) fallowing, and dryland farming (1)
 - Compensation for fallowing needed: median value: \$400/acre
 - Compensation in the form of fee reduction most popular



Supply Augmentation: Key Points

- ~50% of respondents had surface water rights but did not fully utilize them.
 - About 1/3 of respondents expressed interest in Ag-MAR, another 1/3 needed more info to evaluate.
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PMA and O&E Committee Discussion Points

- Tree crops not represented
- GSA Board members should fill out survey
- Tie survey results to decision making process in mailed description
 - i.e. fee structure
- Partner with Sacramento-Amador Water Quality Alliance
- Make direct phone calls/set up third-party interviews/focus group

Discussion Points – Land Repurposing

- Some appetite for the consideration of Land Repurposing
- Keep all land repurposing options open
- Ensure understanding there will not be mandatory following
- How to make solar smart/multi beneficial
- Bidding process to set price
- Focus on results of land repurposing, not overall acreage
 - Feasibility projects
 - Must make practical sense

Discussion Points – Conservation and Water Use

- What method of incentives would motivate for reduced water use?
 - Monetary incentives; Less need for technical assistance
- How to capture voluntary water savings results
- How to capture deep percolation as part of the on-farm water budget
- Conservation: Add visual inspection/learned experience as a conservation effort

Discussion Points - Supply Augmentation

- Landowners with riparian water rights might be willing to explore managed aquifer recharge
- More information needed on potential recharge locations

Recommendation

- Provide status update to CGA Board
- GSA Board members fill out survey
- Limit spending until grant awards
- Clean-up forms and questions
- In-person follow-up questionnaire

Specific questions and responses

What type of water management practices do you currently use (e.g., soil moisture testing, plant testing/pressure bombs, drip irrigation, estimating ET, monitoring water use, none, etc.)?

- Soil moisture test: 5/35%
- Drip: 3/21%
- Monitor water use: 2/14%
- Adjust duration of irrigation: 1/7%
- Tail-water reuse: 2/7%

Is the drought having an effect on your farming operation? If Yes, how so and what alterations have you made to your farming practices as a result of the drought?

- Yes: 11/78%

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

Yes: 14/100%

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

6/ 43% I like the plan – please specify

1/7% I am glad there is planning to manage our groundwater, but I do not like details of the plan

5/36% I don't have an opinion, favorable or unfavorable, about the plan

3/20% I do not like the plan – please specify

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

Yes:64%

No:7%

Not Sure:21%

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

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

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

3 In-person meeting/gathering

1 Zoom meeting

1 Other, please specify __

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

Yes: 10/64%

No: 3/21%

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

7/50% Yes

4/30% No

3/20% Maybe

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

5/36% Would appreciate help

7/50% Can do this without outside advice

1/7% Not sure

Suggestions from the committee meeting

- Tree crops not represented
- GSA Board members should fill out survey
- Tie survey results to decision making process in mailed description
 - i.e. funding
- Partner with Sacramento-Amador Water Quality Alliance
- Make direct phone calls/set up third-party interviews/focus group

If you were to reduce water use by 3-5%, how much impact would this have on your farming operation?

6/43% Significant 2/14%Moderate 2/14% Minor 1/7% None 3/21%Not sure

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

8/57% Yes 2/14%No 2/14%Not sure

Have you considered land repurposing?

7/50 Yes 6/43 No 1/7% Not sure

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

5/36% Yes 5/36 No 2/14% Not sure

If Yes, on how many acres?

2/14% Less than 20 acres 4/29% 20-100 acres 1/7% 100 – 500 acres

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

4 _____ Switching to a crop with lower water needs

1 _____ Short term (less than 2 years) fallowing on a set schedule

1 _____ Long term fallowing, converting land to solar, habitat, or other use

1 _____ Dryland farming (wheat, triticale, etc.)

1 _____ Other Explain recycle surface water reduce GW pumping – from aquaculture

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

- 5 Monetary
- 4 Reduction in Fees assessed by the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies
- 3 A combination of the above
- 1 Other forms of compensation, please specify property tax credit_
- 1 Blank

Do you have surface water rights?

6/43% Yes 6/43% No ___ Not sure

Do you use them? 2 Yes 1 No

Would be consider flooding your field(s) with winter floodwater to help recharge the aquifer? You would be compensated for the use of your field.

4 / 33% Yes 4 / 33% No/Blank 4/33% Need more information

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
O&E Committee Meeting**

Agenda Date: July 25, 2023

Agenda Item: #4 – Newsletter

To: O&E Committee
From: CGA Staff

Background

The Committee and Board have discussed producing and distributing a newsletter to share key information related to SGMA and local groundwater conditions. CGA Staff would like support from the Committee in developing the content for these. We'd like to get a newsletter out in early August to promote upcoming public workshops.

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
O&E Committee Meeting**

Agenda Date: July 25, 2023

Agenda Item : #5 – Planning for a Late Summer/Early Fall Workshop/Event

To: O&E Committee

From: CGA Staff

Background

Staff would like to hold another round of public workshops/open house in September. In addition to inviting a variety of partner organizations (GSAs, other local agencies, etc.), CGA would prepare information on groundwater conditions and project status, similar to our February/March events.

Tentative dates (still need to make reservations):

- Evening, Wednesday, September 27, 2023 – Herald Fire Hall
- Morning, Saturday, September 23, 2023 – Dillard Community Center

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
O&E Committee Meeting**

Agenda Date: July 25, 2023

Agenda Item : #6 – Regular Meeting Dates and Committee Report Out

To: O&E Committee

From: CGA Staff

Meeting Dates:

- Workshop Ad-hoc Meetings
 - AS NEEDED
- Regular Committee Meetings
 - 2nd Tuesday, Every 3rd Month
 - September 12, 2023
 - December 12, 2023
 - March 12, 2024
 - June 11, 2024

Committee Report Out:

The CGA Board will have a standing agenda item during their regular meetings for committee reports. We ask that 1 representative from the Committee come prepared to share updates on the committee's efforts.