

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Citizens Advisory Committee

Meeting Notes | September 20, 2023

Meeting Materials

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

Meeting Overview

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (CGA) Administrator Austin Miller and CGA Secretary Brittany Friedman welcomed participants to the third CAC meeting. Staff conducted a brief overview of the agenda as well as past efforts that have been made at previous meetings.

Informational Presentation: California Water Watch

Chelsea Spiers from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) attended and presented to the Committee the Dashboard of California Water Watch on the ca.gov website. She demonstrated how you can locate and gather local Watershed information using address, latitude and longitude, county, hydrologic region, GSA and local water agency. Using this tool and the Cosumnes Watershed as an example, we were able to look at the Water year '22 -'23 and see temperature stats, precipitation stats, historical records to date, etc. We were able to compare water years going back decades with the data laid out in various graphs, charts and other visuals. The link to this dashboard, for those interested, is: cww.water.ca.gov. The data collected on the website is all from the SGMA and CASGEM portals. There are active maps on the SGMA portal that allows users to see more information regarding GSP plans, groundwater and well information and more: [Sustainable Groundwater Management Act \(SGMA\) Portal ... - CA.gov](#). Chelsea presented information on the California's Groundwater Live dashboard that displays California's latest groundwater conditions: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/CalGWLIVE/>. She also showed the SGMA Data Viewer for groundwater data, budget, crops maps, conditions and more. Finally, she showed the committee interactive maps through ArcGis Story Maps that display the 42 monitoring wells in the Cosumnes Subbasin (25 of which are monitored through CGA).

Update on Cosumnes Groundwater Sustainability Fee

Austin presented the CGA Draft GSP Implementation Budget that will be included in the draft fee study that SCI Consulting is preparing for the October Board Meeting for CGA. At the September 12th Projects and Management Actions Committee Meeting the committee reviewed the draft budget and recommended exploring a conservation program to reach the demand reduction goals identified in the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP. The initial \$10 per irrigated acre fee that was charged unfortunately did not yield the results that CGA was looking for. Now, CGA is looking to fund a budget of approximately \$805,000 and the fee study will explore how best we can do this via our administrative budget, the GSP update and Project Management

Actions. A summary of fee revenue broken down from all sources and GSA's was shared with the committee, as well. The idea is to move the initial \$10 fee up to \$11.25 per irrigated acre, implement a baseline parcel fee of \$37, a residential use fee of \$7.28 and a commercial use fee of \$14.56. Looking at possible conservation programs, the committee looked at conservation incentive estimates through the lens of pasture water conservation as an example. Demand Management Actions suggested for implementation would potentially save money as well as water usage, in the long run. There are two paths that CGA could go down in turns of Prop 218 vs. Prop 26.

Committee member Teresa Flewellyn suggested that the fee be expanded to everyone who draws from the aquifer/utilizes groundwater rather than just the local irrigators. She recommended that CGA consider all water users to target conservation efforts, in a cost effective manner. It was noted that for the per parcel fee, the amount of houses on the parcel should be listed. Austin mentioned that there are also a few fish farms in the area in which some of the Ag fields in the area and using the tail waters from the fish farms. With this, we do not want to double charge residents for using that water and we are interested in exploring how best to work with the fish farms in the future. Committee member Gary McEnerney pointed out that some crops are already utilizing essential technology to improve conservation efforts but there are several areas we can improve on, such as with implementing underground drip irrigation in vineyards. Austin mentioned that there are several grants available to better educate and implement these practices, although they are competitive. Staff recently met with Toney Tillman with NRCS and discussed the various fund pools available.

November Public Workshops/Events

Brittany updated the committee on the upcoming events in November that the Outreach and Engagement(O & E) Committee has been working on including:

- Public Workshop on November 1 from 5:30 - 7:30pm at Herald Fire Station
- Public Workshop on November 4 from 10am - 12pm at Wilton Community Center
- BBQ Luncheon on November 9 from 12 - 2pm at Herald Fire Station

The O & E Committee is currently developing content for posters for the public workshops as well as reaching out to partners (NRCS, DWR, Farm Bureau, etc.) to set up booths/table at the event. They are discussing the possibility of doing a 15 minute presentation on funding halfway through the event, although the topic is not confirmed. The BBQ Luncheon will be targeted for anyone who has taken or will take the Farmer's Survey that staff has re-tooled and improved based on recent feedback from the Board and Committees. In particular, the irrigators that the Farmer's Survey is targeted to will all be personally invited to attend the event. Teresa is working on acquiring raffle prizes as incentives for taking the Farmer's Survey. BBQ, salad, desert and soft drinks will be served, as well for those who attend.

The Committee discussed ways we can boost attendance at the public workshops to attract local and interested parties. Staff invited members of CAC to attend and provide assistance at the event if they are able to or interested. Engaging members of the public and explaining the basics will be of utmost importance at the workshops and CAC members are welcome to engage

members and answer questions, if they want to volunteer. There is a flier that can be posted at local hubs or to interested parties as well as a social media graphic that can be shared. Teresa suggested that we also invite the local sheriffs and firefighters in our basin, as well as thank them since we often utilize their spaces for events (Herald Fire Station, Galt Police Department, etc.).

Next Committee Meeting and Report Out

Committee Member and Staff Comments

The Committee discussed potentially pushing back the December meeting to January since the CGA Board itself is not meeting that month.

Adjournment

CGA staff thanked CAC members for their participation and adjourned the meeting at 7:30pm

Upcoming Meetings & Engagement Opportunities

- **CGA Board** (meet monthly, 1st Wednesday at 9 AM)
 - Next Meeting: October 4, 2023 at 9 AM
- **Public Workshops:** November 1 from 5:30 - 7:30pm and November 4 from 10am - 12pm.
- **CAC Meeting 4:** December 2023 (possibly January)
- **CAC Meeting 5:** March 2024
- **CAC Meeting 6:** June 2024

Meeting Attendance

CAC Committee

Teresa Flewellyn
Neil Dubrovsky
Gary McEnerney

Members Belinda Ellis, Tom Malson, Dave Means, Mark Nelson, and Delores Gregorio were unable to attend.

Staff and Consultants: Austin Miller and Brittany Friedman- CGA; Chelsea Spier - DWR.