

## **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](http://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
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- Outreach and Engagement
- Monitoring Network
- Local Groundwater Conditions

### **O&E Composition:**

The O&E Committee will consist of volunteers appoint 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.
  - 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.
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- 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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