

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Agenda

When: Wednesday, January 7, 2026
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Where: Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
13147 Jackson Road
Sloughhouse, CA 95683

Zoom: **Microsoft Teams**
[Join the meeting now](#)
Meeting ID: 279 816 086 725 92
Passcode: QU3gP73e

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 CGA Staff before the day of the meeting via email [info@CosumnesGroundwater.org] or telephone [209-712-7120] to discuss your accessibility needs.

Call to Order

1. Introductions
 - a. Determine if Quorum is Present

Consent Calendar

2. Consent Items
 - a. Agenda – January 7, 2026
 - b. Minutes –November 5, 2025
 - c. Financial/Treasurer’s Report – November/December 2025

Regular Business Action Items

3. Sierra to Sea Program Presentation
4. City of Galt Follow-up
5. Flood Diversion Recharge Opportunity
6. Fall Groundwater Monitoring Report
7. Periodic Evaluation/Plan Amendment Timeline
8. Domestic Well Analysis Report

Informational Items

9. Groundwater Basin Manager Report
10. DWR North Central Regional Office Update
11. Committee Reports
 - a. O&E Committee

12. Director/Member GSA Comments/Reports

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

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

Identification of items for future meetings

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:

-

Adjourn Meeting

**Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Meeting of the Board of Directors**

**Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2025 – 9:00 am**

***** A recording of this meeting can be found on the CGA website at:
<https://www.cosumnesgroundwater.org/meetings/>***

Call to Order

- I. Introductions / Determine if Quorum is Present

Directors in Attendance: Russ Parker, Herb Garms, Mark Stretars, Teresa Flewellyn, Leo Van Warmerdam, John Griffin, Tim Reed, Pat Hume, Rick Ferreira, Mike Wackman, Gary Silva

Consent Calendar

2. Consent Items

- a. Agenda – November 5, 2025
- b. Minutes – October 1, 2025
- c. Financial/Treasurer's Report – October 2025

Motion: Director Hume moved to pass the Financial Report as presented.

Director Stretars seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a voice vote.

Regular Business Action Items

3. FY 23/24 Audit Report – Brian Nash, Richardson & Company

a. Brian Nash reviewed the audit report including the various issues that plagued this audit. The entire audit report was presented and Director questions were answered. Brian also presented that significant extra time was needed to complete the audit and asked for consideration be given for compensation for additional time spent to correct the financial books. The Board agreed to receive the invoice and to process at the next meeting.

4. FY 24/25, FY 25/26, FY 26/27 Audit Engagement Letter – Richardson & Company

Motion: Director Silva moved to sign the audit engagement letter for the next three fiscal years for CGA with Richardson & Company.

Director Parker seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a voice vote.

5. Galt Irrigation – Landowner Appeals

Motion: Director Silva moved to accept the decrease in member fees from GID due to landowner appeals for \$2217.60.

Director Van Warmerdam seconded the motion.

The motion passed with a voice vote.

6. Project Management Actions

In anticipation of the CGA GSP Plan Amendment, several new Project Management Actions were discussed and proposed.

- *Cosumnes Multi-Benefit Project – County of Sacramento – staff to follow up with Austin Miller*
- *Dry Creek Water Project - project including GID, North San Joaquin and JVID – GID/Mike Wackman – includes ACGMA and SRCD, estimated 10,000 AF*

- *Rancho Murieta Storage Project – SRCD – staff will schedule a meeting with Herb and Rancho Murieta CSD*
- *Data Gaps/Stream Gage projects – SRCD/OHWD – staff to write up*
- *Other potential project ideas*
 - *Dry Creek and Deer Creek Diversion Recharge*
 - *Folsom South Canal – add to new appendix*
 - *Surface water Diversions – work with Jay to address*
 - *Laguna Creek*
 - *Amador County*
- *General recharge – general PMA with individual landowners, permit may be needed*

Informational Items

7. Groundwater Basin Manager Report
Written report provided
8. DWR North Central Regional Office Update
Written report provided
9. Committee Reports
 - a. O&E Committee
Moving Ag Stakeholder event to January
10. Director/Member GSA Comments/Reports
SRCD – Christmas Party open to all neighboring GSA's. December 9th at 12 pm.

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

11. Public Comment: *Comment will be received for items not on the agenda, but within the jurisdiction of the agency. The Board will hear comments but may not act on issues raised on non-agenda items.*
 - a. *None*

Identification of items for future meetings

The Board approved the following future agenda items by consensus:

- *Investment Pool – Financials*
- *Mid-Year Budget Recap*
- *AB 1234 Training*
- *City of Galt Presentation*

Adjourn Meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 11:32 am. Next meeting will be on January 7, 2026 at 9:00 am.

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Budget vs. Actuals

July 2025 - June 2026

		TOTAL	
		ACTUAL	BUDGET
			% OF BUDGET
Income			
4100 Member Contributions	3,033.03	486,930.00	0.62 %
Interest Income	5,248.93		
Total Income	\$8,281.96	\$486,930.00	1.70 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$8,281.96	\$486,930.00	1.70 %
Expenses			
5000 Staff Personnel Expenses (Contract)			
Personnel - Contract	35,300.00	50,000.00	70.60 %
Total 5000 Staff Personnel Expenses (Contract)	35,300.00	50,000.00	70.60 %
5100 Legal Services	10,050.00	10,000.00	100.50 %
5200 Public Outreach		10,000.00	
5400 Annual Report Technical Support	6,447.74	33,000.00	19.54 %
5410 Data Management System		4,000.00	
5420 Recommended Corrective Actions	10,926.50	100,000.00	10.93 %
5430 Monitoring	2,102.10	4,500.00	46.71 %
5450 Recommended Corrective Actions	21,553.20		
5455 GSP Periodic Evaluation	5,001.10		
5460 GSP Plan Amendment	1,612.00		
5500 Miscellaneous. Expenses	44.00	0.00	
Insurance	1,542.00		
Total 5500 Miscellaneous. Expenses	1,586.00	0.00	
5600 Financial Audit and Accounting Services	11,295.00	10,000.00	112.95 %
5640 Funding Exploration		5,000.00	
5700 Data Gaps		5,000.00	
5800 Office Supplies & Software	2,437.45	5,000.00	48.75 %
Contingency		15,000.00	
Five Year GSP Plan Update - Restricted Reserves		235,430.00	
Total Expenses	\$108,311.09	\$486,930.00	22.24 %
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -100,029.13	\$0.00	0.00%
NET INCOME	\$ -100,029.13	\$0.00	0.00%

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Balance Sheet

As of January 1, 2026

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Money Market	317,893.97
Public Checking (4246) - 1	459,884.09
Total Bank Accounts	\$777,778.06
Accounts Receivable	
1200 Accounts Receivable (A/R)	-167,717.86
1250 Due from other governments	172,196.51
Total Accounts Receivable	\$4,478.65
Total Current Assets	\$782,256.71
TOTAL ASSETS	\$782,256.71
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$52,129.84
Total Current Liabilities	\$52,129.84
Total Liabilities	\$52,129.84
Equity	\$730,126.87
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$782,256.71

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Accounts Receivable

As of January 1, 2026

	CURRENT	1 AND OVER	TOTAL
Customer Accrual		-2.37	\$ -2.37
Galt Irrigation District (GID)		4,481.02	\$4,481.02
TOTAL	\$0.00	\$4,478.65	\$4,478.65

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority

Accounts Payable

As of January 1, 2026

VENDOR	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	DATE
31 - 60 days past due			
Richardson & Company LLP	2024 Financial Audit Services - Additional Services	2,045.00	11/05/2025
Downey Brand	Legal Services through October 2025	800.00	10/26/2025
Total for 31 - 60 days past due		\$2,845.00	
1 - 30 days past due			
Lindsey Carter	L&D Carter Consulting - November 2025	7,400.00	12/01/2025
EKI Environment & Water	EKI Invoice - August/September 2025	12,116.76	12/01/2025
EKI Environment & Water	EKI Invoice - October 2025	16,554.98	12/01/2025
Total for 1 - 30 days past due		\$36,071.74	
Current			
EKI Environment & Water	EKI PE/PA Invoice - August - October 2025	6,613.10	12/02/2025
Lindsey Carter	L&D Carter Consulting - December 2025	6,600.00	12/31/2025
Total for Current		\$13,213.10	
TOTAL		\$52,129.84	

CGA Credit Card Reconciliation

Expenses as of November 30, 2025

Paid by: Five Star Bank Credit Card

Date	Description	Amount
11/2/25	Microsoft – November 2025 Subscription	\$25.00
11/9/25	ParcelQuest – Monthly Subscription	\$199.95
11/9/25	Quickbooks – November 2025 Subscription	\$115.00
11/11/25	Mail Chimp – November 2025 Subscription	\$45.00
	TOTAL	\$384.95

CGA Credit Card Reconciliation

Expenses as of December 31, 2025

Paid by: Five Star Bank Credit Card

Date	Description	Amount
12/2/25	Microsoft – December 2025 Subscription	\$25.00
12/9/25	ParcelQuest – Monthly Subscription	\$199.95
12/9/25	Quickbooks – December 2025 Subscription	\$115.00
12/11/25	Mail Chimp – November 2025 Subscription	\$45.00
12/25/25	Dreamhost – Annual Website Subscription	\$19.99
	TOTAL	\$404.94

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: January 7, 2026

Agenda Item #: 3

Agenda Item Subject: Sierra to Sea Program

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: Groundwater Basin Manager

Background

The WOB approach is a response to all these practical challenges. By using technology to prioritize where we invest, aggregating and then directing otherwise fragmented funding to the best projects across a region, and streamlining transactions, the watershed outcomes bank approach can dramatically improve the speed and scale of results.

Watershed Outcomes Bank Framework

The centralized and aggregated WOB approach helps everyone secure more funding, get multiple sources of money to projects faster, and show faster, bigger progress against regional targets:

1. Define regional watershed/landscape resilience targets.
2. Quantify potential watershed resilience project benefits from project types that can generate those benefits (e.g., forest thinning, irrigation upgrades, agricultural land repurposing leading to water replenishment, carbon sequestration, economic uplift, etc.).
3. Use a “Solver Tool” to identify the most cost-effective project and funding solution to pursue across the watershed.
4. Integrate project priorities across partners, and then drive planning, permitting, and coordinated pursuit of funding to get those projects funded.
5. Create a 501c3-sponsored transaction “hub” or “clearinghouse” for the watershed that can consolidate matched/leveraged funding sources, improve access to financing to smooth out funder and operating gaps, and match up funds to the high-priority projects.
6. Centralize mechanisms to support scaled-up implementation partners and the supply chain.
7. Track/manage all projects, reimbursement, accounting, and reporting in centralized database.

“Sierra to the Sea” Outcomes Bank — a California Pilot

In response to compounding climate-driven fire, drought, and flood impacts, partners have developed and are piloting a data-driven, coordinated regional funding and implementation approach that integrates fragmented efforts from the forested headwaters of the Eldorado National Forest down through the American, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne Rivers and into the Delta.

This region has significant ecological value, water-vulnerable agricultural communities, upland communities at risk from wildfire, and a robust partnership foundation, including the Healthy Eldorado Landscape Partnership (HELP) and other anchor programs in the lower watershed. The Freshwater Trust (TFT) secured funding from the Innovative Finance for National Forests (IFNF) grant program to pilot this approach here. Initial funded implementation projects include forest thinning, meadow restoration, aquifer recharge, dam removal, and special status species habitat improvement.

Attachment: Freshwater Trust Achieving Watershed Resilience Via a Watershed Outcomes Bank, Sierra to Sea Watershed Outcomes Bank Charter – May 2025

Recommendations

- a. To review presentation of Sierra to Sea program and discussion of joining program charter

Sierra to Sea Watershed Outcomes Bank (WOB)

Partner Charter

v. May 2025

Executive Summary

The *Watershed Outcomes Bank* (WOB) concept was originally pursued by the Healthy Eldorado Landscape Partnership (HELP)¹ as a framework to collectively secure more funding for conservation and restoration treatments across HELP's Caldor-Cosumnes Focal Area.² Building on and expanding this intent, this WOB charter is meant to improve regional resilience by integrating activities from the forested headwaters of the Eldorado National Forest (ENF) down through the South Fork American, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne Rivers, and into the agriculture-rich Central Valley. Given the multitude of implicated jurisdictional boundaries, this area is heretofore referred to as the "Sierra to Sea" WOB area. As the HELP members move to implement the WOB in the Sierra to Sea project area, they have recognized the need for a document that outlines the essential characteristics of the WOB, defines roles and responsibilities, and memorializes a collaboration agreement between the relevant HELP members and additional non-HELP affiliated partners. This Charter is intended to serve that purpose.

The motivation for an innovative conservation funding strategy such as WOB stems from several years of deep partner engagement and the realization that many important yet siloed project efforts are underway across the lower, middle, and upper parts of the Sierra to Sea area. Each effort faces its own jurisdictional, funding and capacity constraints, which makes it difficult to scale up region-wide results supported by a properly sized workforce and supply chain. The fundamental premise of the WOB is to better integrate and leverage concerted efforts by arriving at a shared portfolio of priority projects, quantifying those projects in standardized outcome units that better connect communities, projects, and funders, and building up a leveraged funding and implementation effort that can deliver resilience at speed and scale. This Charter summarizes the "operating" agreement partners are making to pilot the WOB in the Sierra to Sea area.

Introduction

The undersigned is a coalition of natural resource-focused organizations and federal, state, and local government agencies dedicated to building and deploying a regionally integrated watershed funding and implementation framework to accelerate the pace and scale of resilience from "Sierra to Sea," starting in the headwaters of the Eldorado National Forest, moving down through the watershed, and out through the Sacramento Delta and into San Francisco Bay. This region supports one of California's largest drinking water supplies, key urban and rural communities, a critical estuary, and hosts of built infrastructure at high risk of future catastrophe. Portions of the region have experienced devastating stand-replacing wildfires (the 2021 Caldor Fire burned nearly 222,000 acres), major flooding and slope destabilization (2023 floods), and significant drought and water shortages (heavy groundwater pumping depletes river flow while making it costlier and less reliable to secure drinking water or grow crops and increases flood and saltwater intrusion risks). These major compounding events signaled the urgency for partners to respond at a corresponding regional scale.

¹HELP is a collaborative partnership that aims to attract, leverage, and deploy funding at the pace and scale needed to achieve landscape-scale resilience objectives for the Eldorado National Forest and associated watersheds.

²HELP has sub-divided its investment areas into four major geographic focal areas: Crystal Basin, King Fire Footprint, Western Georgetown, and the Caldor Fire-Cosumnes River Watershed.

The traditional, project-by-project, partner-by-partner approach to funding and implementing conservation and restoration work is no longer capable of delivering watershed resilience at the pace or scale necessary to achieve the outcomes envisioned in the Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative (TCSI) Pillars of Resilience,³ ENF's Forest Resilience Strategy, and other regional plans. Currently, funds are split across multiple agency programs with complex eligibility and process requirements that often do not integrate well together; large landscapes are broken into isolated jurisdictional efforts; and under-capacity local stakeholder groups step into the breach to piece together funds to implement a fraction of the needed projects.

Recognizing these practical challenges and the need for a structural response, HELP partners came together to integrate planning, funding, and implementation efforts across the region into a landscape level resilience framework. Recognizing the opportunity presented by these dynamic partners, The Freshwater Trust was engaged to help develop a watershed outcomes bank (WOB) approach to secure landscape-level leveraged funding, connect those coordinated funds to a high-impact portfolio of projects, and complete a lot more projects a lot faster.

Additional partners who are not formally affiliated with HELP but who have complementary plans for natural resource management in the Sierra to Sea focal area or surrounding focal areas may also become a Charter signatory for the WOB since these efforts to identify priority projects, aggregate funding, standardize outcomes, and accelerate the pace and scale of projects may have benefits and impacts to their resource management efforts.

This Charter describes the signatories' commitment to pilot this WOB approach in the Sierra to Sea project area, with the goal of expanding more broadly if successful. The partners are committed to information and resource sharing, leveraging and coordinating activities, and collective action. The Charter defines the vision and purpose, partner roles and responsibilities, operating structure, and agreement framework of the Sierra to Sea WOB. The charter is designed to be a living document, and so as new information, technologies or partnership opportunities emerge, there may be a need to modify the Charter.

Watershed Outcomes Bank Vision & Mission

WOB Vision: *To systematically enable partners in the region to fund and implement interconnected and reinforcing resilience projects to quickly and efficiently achieve cross-boundary and high-impact regional fire risk reduction, water quality, water volume, biodiversity and wildlife habitat, and flood risk reduction targets.*

WOB Mission: *WOB partners will use a common set of resilience metrics to quantify projects and drive toward a more unified set of priority projects, intentionally integrate outreach efforts, secure more leveraged funding, deliver leveraged funding to more projects, secure financing to unlock project work, and track progress against targets. The signatories seek to take advantage of the economic importance of this region to collectively attract more public and private funds. The WOB will provide resources in a way that enables local partners to plan, scale, and prioritize project work on an annual basis without the uncertainties associated with funding access and timing.*

³For more information about the Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative, including the Pillars of Resilience, see <https://research.fs.usda.gov/psw/partnerships/tcsi#research>.

Partner Roles & Responsibilities

The WOB framework requires four key partner roles in order to operate effectively. Some partners may fulfill multiple roles. The following paragraphs describe these roles and their associated actions and responsibilities. A table identifying the current partners and the current roles they each play is attached as Appendix A.

- (1) Funding Navigator: Several partners are well-positioned to target, secure, and leverage funding commitments (e.g., agency grants/cooperative agreements, utility or corporate contracts, donations) to support projects. In addition to pursuing grant applications, some partners maintain extensive relationships with downstream beneficiaries and external donors who may agree to contribute funds to the project portfolio based on the standardized outcomes quantified and calculated prior to implementation. Funding Navigators, with support from the Aggregator, should maintain an updated, consolidated list of funding resources to ensure that funding pursuits are not duplicated. Funding commitments should be accounted for in WOB accounting by the Aggregator;
- (2) Implementer: Some partners are well-positioned to receive funds or loans and can plan and/or manage sub-contracting of ecologically-relevant conservation and treatment activities in the region. Implementers may also be Funding Navigators based on the projects and project outcomes identified. For projects on National Forest System land, project funding and financing received by Implementers can be distributed via partnership agreements with the U.S. Forest Service;
- (3) Data Leads: In order to prioritize and then develop a portfolio of priority projects, it is necessary to quantify the environmental outcomes associated with each project. The HELP Data Workgroup spent one year assessing available outcome metrics and prioritized a consolidated set of funding metrics that can be quantified for most project types and funders: reduced sediment runoff, improved water volume, reduced fire risk, reduced flood risk, and reduced emissions. A summary of the resulting Metrics Proposal can be found in Appendix B. Quantifying these outcomes will require Data Leads to be assigned for each identified project. Data Leads must ensure that projects are designed to maximize the outcomes relevant to co-funders, and coordinate with Implementers to track and apportion benefits back to individual and collective funding commitments. Data Leads will verify that project costs and acreages are updated over time as treatments/actions are successfully completed.
- (4) Aggregator: The Aggregator manages the WOB, helps match and leverage together funding commitments and contracts, completes project benefit and financial accounting, deploys payments to Implementers, and supports consolidated progress reporting and tracking. The Aggregator is responsible for centralizing the administrative functions and data management of the WOB. In the event that a funder or investor requires funds to flow through the recipient entity instead of directly through the aggregator, disbursement of funds will occur through the recipient partner, with the Aggregator working with the recipient partner to maximize coordination and co-funding leverage .

Partner Commitments

With the shared goal of achieving meaningful region-wide resilience consistent with the TCSI Pillars of Resilience, the undersigned partners agree to participate in the data-driven, coordinated funding and implementation approach of the WOB in the Sierra to Sea region. HELP has a goal of securing resources

for project implementation that can be shared amongst the participating Partners and other implementation stakeholders. The partners commit to the following:

1. To the maximum extent practicable, partners agree to voluntarily share information about their project priorities, secured funding amounts, and funding and financing needs.
2. Partners will rely on a common set of metrics identified by the HELP Data Workgroup in Appendix B to:
 - a. Identify watershed resilience targets;
 - b. Quantify potential projects in those same outcome units;
 - c. The Freshwater Trust has developed a data-driven portfolio optimization tool for the Cosumnes River project area called “the Solver Tool.” Partners agree that this Tool will be managed by the Aggregator and that the Partnership will initially use the Tool to identify an optimal portfolio of outcomes that can be attained by project activities;
 - d. Attempt to negotiate with funders to define success outcomes in at least one of these units; and
 - e. Collectively quantify and track projects against those watershed targets.
3. Partners will use these common metrics to drive toward a more unified set of priority projects. In identifying and cultivating priority projects for funding and implementation:
 - a. Partners will intentionally engage with supporting entities, communities, and other beneficiaries to meaningfully incorporate needs;
 - b. Implementers will start developing potential projects that align with Solver results, and provide Data Leads with project scale information;
 - c. Data Leads will quantify potential project costs and outcomes;
 - d. The Aggregator will consolidate potential projects (and their estimated costs and outcomes) into a single ranking list and web map managed by the Aggregator.
4. With a more unified set of priority projects, Funding Navigators will:
 - a. Intentionally integrate their sales efforts to pursue and secure the funding necessary to rapidly implement identified priority projects;
 - b. Use shared lead tracking/assignments to avoid redundancy and minimize territoriality in making solicitations (and where necessary, obtain consent and/or work through existing relationships before initiating new outreach);
 - c. Work together to identify the “most catalytic” role for each potential funder solicitation; and
 - d. Define “project” funding proposals as expansively as possible to maximize opportunities for funding match and leverage.
5. The Aggregator will:
 - a. Confirm that each leveraged funder can support a particular project, and then facilitate “matchmaking” of funding resources to priority projects;
 - b. Flexibly contract with partners to enable this funding coordination (e.g., act as a fiscal sponsor, make subawards, sign leveraged funding commitments);
 - c. Secure financing, as needed, to unlock project work that would otherwise be constrained by funding reimbursement timelines;
 - d. Secure as-built project outcome data from Data Leads and as-built project cost data from Implementers, and then manage project transaction accounting;
 - e. Endeavor to utilize grant and other funding resources efficiently (e.g., by minimizing overhead and other administrative costs) so as to prioritize funding support for project implementation.
6. Implementers will
 - a. Identify and plan priority projects to include in leveraged funding applications; and
 - b. Implement priority projects.

- c. Lead or assist with the collection of data measuring outcomes during project implementation.
- 7. On a regularly defined cycle, partners will convene:
 - a. To recalibrate the portfolio (e.g., update Solver targets or data, incorporate new metrics, account for new proposed priority projects, archive outdated projects);
 - b. Identify upcoming needs and opportunities;
 - c. Identify the upcoming period for funding and project implementation and any coordination needs.
- 8. Data Leads will
 - a. Work with Project Implementers to ensure that outcomes data is collected from each project
 - b. Clean, analyze, visualize, and submit project data to the Aggregator and others as needed
 - c. Meet annually to analyze and review data overall to help develop and report on big picture outcomes.
- 9. The partners commit to sharing in the acknowledgement of the work performed by each member using consistent metrics and communications.

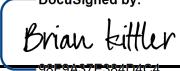
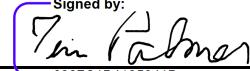
Enabling Agreement Framework

The U.S. Forest Service will officially recognize the WOB through a new five-year Master Participating Agreement (MPA) with The Freshwater Trust (TFT) as the WOB Aggregator, which in turn will establish and operate the WOB. Though no funds will initially be transacted directly between the U.S. Forest Service and TFT, funds could be added by either party in the future via Supplemental Project Agreement (SPAs) tiered from the MPA. TFT could then make use of any U.S. Forest Service funding directly to support WOB operations, or indirectly as sub-awards or sub-contracts to third parties to carry out project work.

The MPA does not preclude TFT or the WOB from entering into separate bilateral agreements with other partners to pass through, leverage, or match together funding commitments to support projects identified in the portfolio. All HELP partners must adhere to the terms and conditions set forth in corresponding partnership agreements and procurements documents established by subsequent awarding entities.

Charter Signatories

Signatory organizations to this Charter formally indicate a shared commitment to pilot the WOB in the Sierra to Sea area as outlined in this document. This Charter is intended to reflect the willingness of the WOB Partners to voluntarily participate in the implementation of the WOB. It is not a contract and is not intended to, and does not, create legally binding obligations or rights. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as constituting a partnership, joint venture, employment relationship, agent/principal relationship, or other association of any kind, between the signatory organizations, and no organization shall have the power to obligate or bind another in any manner whatsoever. The Charter will be revisited on a recurring basis or as additional signatories are added:

<small>Tim Wiginton</small> <small>Tim Wiginton (Jun 27, 2025 08:51 PDT)</small>	The Freshwater Trust	27/06/25
<i>Signature</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Date</i>
Name: <u>Tim Wiginton</u>		
<small>DocuSigned by:</small>		
 9819A57E534D4C4...	American Forests	8/11/2025
<i>Signature</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Date</i>
Name: <u>Brian Kittler</u>		
 <i>Signature</i>	 <i>Organization</i>	 <i>Date</i>
 Name: <u></u>	 American Rivers	
 <i>Signature</i>	 <i>Organization</i>	 <i>Date</i>
 Name: <u></u>	 Organization	
 Nick Wobbrock <small>Nick Wobbrock (Jun 27, 2025 11:20 PDT)</small>	 Blue Forest	 27/06/25
<i>Signature</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Date</i>
Name: <u>Nick Wobbrock</u>		
 <i>Signature</i>	 <i>Organization</i>	 <i>Date</i>
 Name: <u></u>	 El Dorado Resource Conservation District	
 <i>Signature</i>	 <i>Organization</i>	 <i>Date</i>
 Name: <u></u>	 El Dorado County Water Agency	
 <i>Signature</i>	 <i>Organization</i>	 <i>Date</i>
 Name: <u></u>	 Organization	
  6397C1B4105041B...	 Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District	 8/9/2025
<i>Signature</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Date</i>
Name: <u>Tim Palmer</u>		

Great Basin Institute

Signature
Name: _____

Organization

Date

National Forest Foundation

Signature
Name: _____

Organization

Date

Erik Ringelberg

Erik Ringelberg (Jul 30, 2025 16:39:26 PDT)

Northern Delta GSA

30/07/25

Signature
Name: _____

Organization

Date

Signature
Name: _____

Organization

Date

Appendix A.

The following table indicates initial assessments of WOB Partner operational capabilities and roles. This table will be revised as Partners indicate changes in their level of participation in the WOB implementation effort, including adding or terminating roles, and as new signatories to the Charter are added. Some signatories to the Charter may not have an operational role (e.g., oversight, funder), so are not included in this table of operational capabilities and roles.

HELP Partner	Implementer	Data Leads	Aggregator	Funding Navigator
American Forests	X			
American Rivers	X			
Blue Forest		X		X
El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District	X			
El Dorado County Water Agency ⁴				X
The Great Basin Institute	X	X		
National Forest Foundation	X			X
Sierra Nevada Conservancy				X
Tahoe-Central Sierra Initiative		X		
U.S. Forest Service	X			X
The Freshwater Trust		X	X	X

⁴The primary capability and role of the El Dorado Water Agency in this partnership is to facilitate collaborative watershed management with local partners to ensure project alignment and coordinated implementation of a shared vision. El Dorado Water Agency convenes and collaborates with the Upper American River Watershed Group and other local entities in accordance with the Programmatic Watershed Plan (2023).

Appendix B: HELP Metrics Summary

BACKGROUND

The HELP Data Workgroup worked through a large volume of data, models, tools, metrics, and frameworks to identify a select group of metrics that could link together watershed resilience objectives, projects, funder needs, and regional resilience outcomes into an actionable framework to help secure more funding and financing, cultivate better projects, and ensure ecological progress. The Workgroup's operating theory was that we could identify a handful of "Rosetta Stone" metrics that could be applied to most project types, matter to most funders, could be quantified readily with available data and models, and help us determine the portfolio of projects that would maximize outcomes most cost-effectively then we could better integrate otherwise fragmented efforts into a more powerful regional effort. The Workgroup understood that this process would not cover all projects, funders, or stakeholder needs but sought to maximize the complexity of converting insight into action on the ground. This summary is a synopsis of the [Metrics Proposal](#).

METRICS

The HELP Data Group identified two types of metrics, which are used for different purposes (Figure 1):

1. **Funding Metrics** are readily applied to most core projects, are well established with funders, are quantified with publicly available data, are updated frequently, and are tracked annually by project.
2. **Performance Metrics** are longer-term landscape indicators not attributable to a particular project. They are suitable for evaluating trends at a larger scale and can feed into broader tracking efforts, such as the Tahoe Central Sierra Initiative and the California Wildfire Task Force.

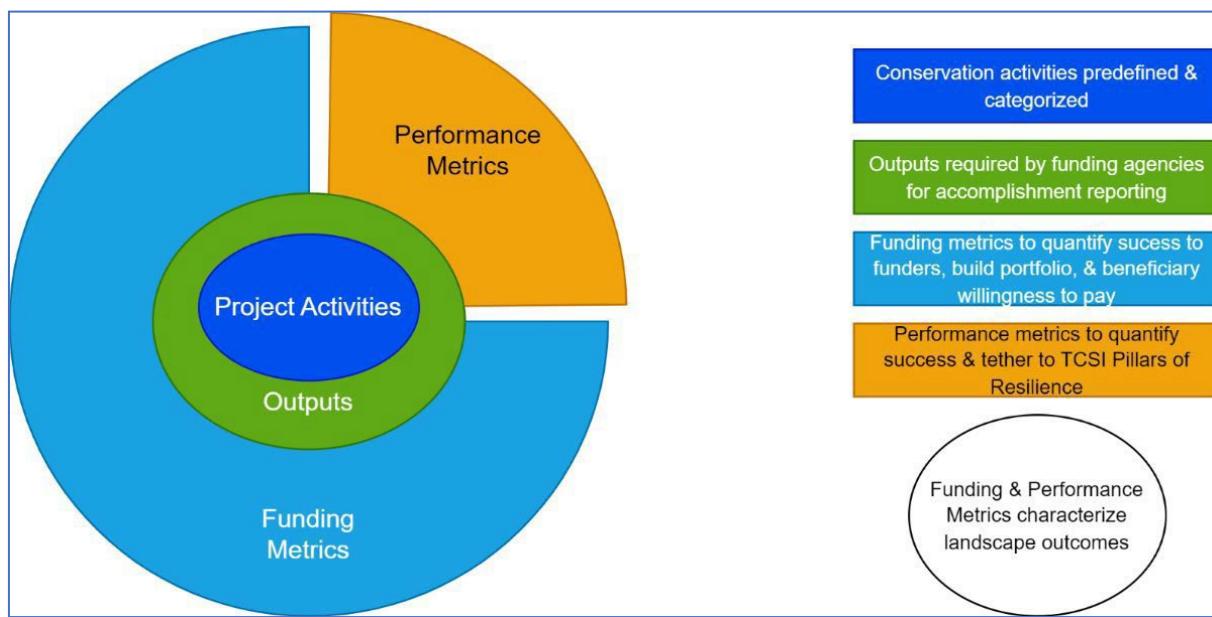


Figure 1: Relationship between project activities, outputs, funding, and performance metrics.

Metrics were chosen from a broad array of accepted indicators based on ease of collection and accuracy, portraying the system's state. The work group prioritized each by category to narrow down the total number of metrics (see Figure 2).

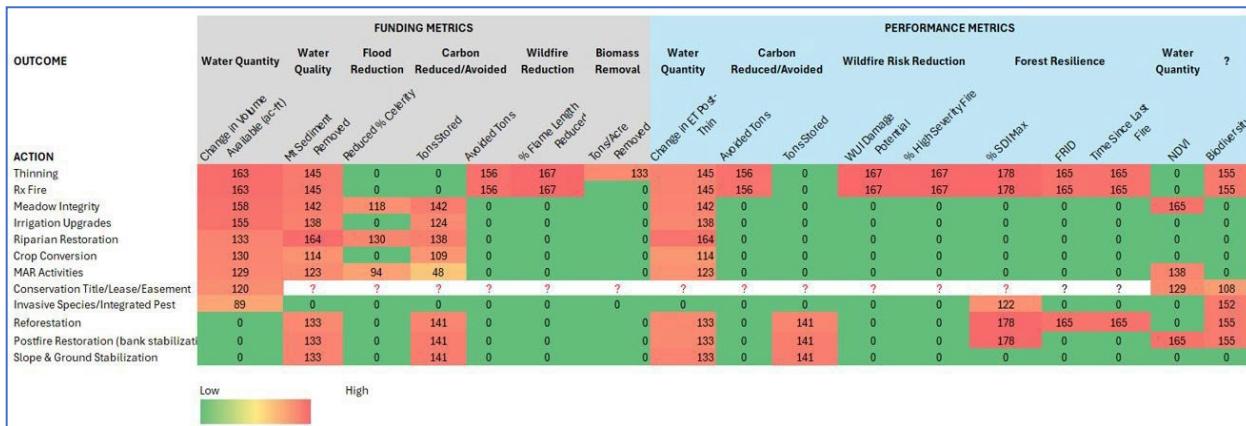


Figure 2. Ranking and prioritization of metrics by category.

WORKFLOW & GOVERNANCE

Data collection, analysis, sharing, and learning will be incorporated across projects and the HELP landscape (Figure 3). At the project scale, after leads are assigned and a funding analysis connecting the project to the WOB, metrics and outputs for the project will be identified. Funding metrics will be measured post treatment/implementation, whereas performance metrics may be measured according to project funding requirements and every five years.

Science Leads will be appointed for each Outcome Category and Resilience Pillars, irrespective of whether sub-metrics are Funding- or Performance-oriented. The Science Lead is responsible for working with Project Leads to complete and/or oversee pre- and post- treatment quantification, and aggregate results to the appropriate watershed scale to record progress and trends. The Science Lead will also verify outcomes to report on the Watershed Outcomes Banking ledger once projects are completed.

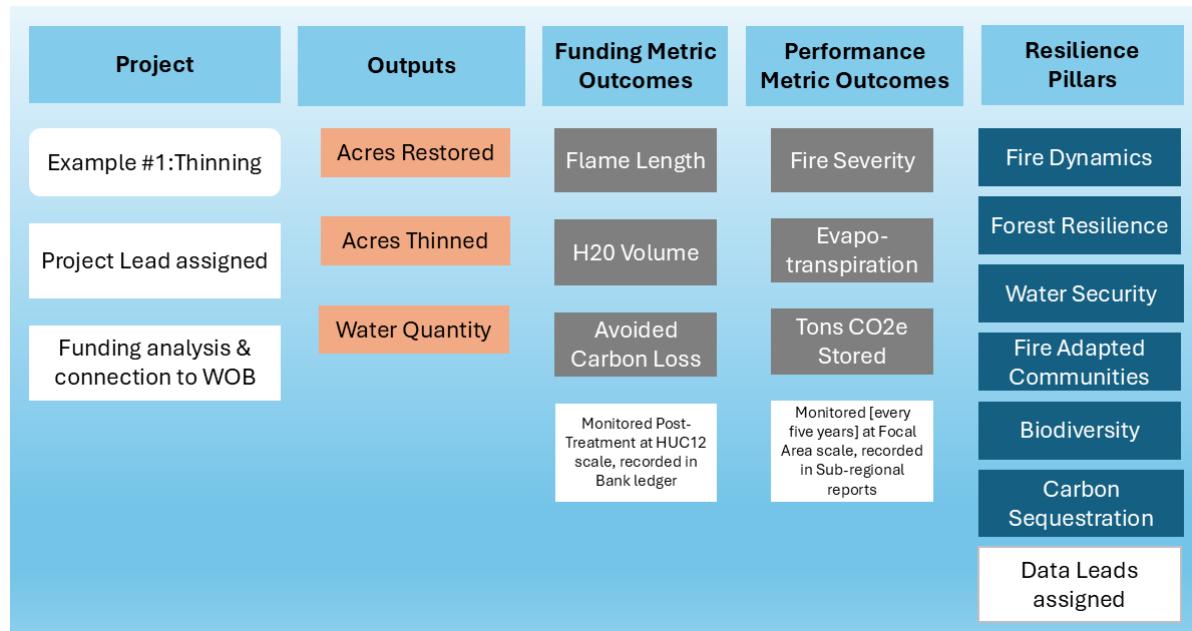


Figure 3. Data workflow and governance diagram showing a thinning project as an example.

Achieving Watershed Resilience Via a Watershed Outcomes Bank

Problem

Robust investment in working lands can help farmers stay in business, better withstand macroeconomic shocks and manage through drought, and deliver food to American consumers more affordably. It can also reduce the risks and costs of catastrophic fires and floods, which already represent an unsustainable burden on taxpayers. Unfortunately, our current working lands investment approach is inefficient, fragmented, and tangled by red tape. Funding is splintered into complicated and siloed programs. Large landscapes are broken into fragmented project-by-project efforts. Effort is heavily skewed to extensive oversight and compliance, not results. Burdensome match requirements slow down and stop many projects. Local stakeholder groups are left in the middle trying to piece together funds to implement a fraction of the needed projects. We need a different approach: a Watershed Outcomes Bank (WOB).

Solution

The WOB approach is a response to all these practical challenges. By using technology to prioritize where we invest, aggregating and then directing otherwise fragmented funding to the best projects across a region, and streamlining transactions, the watershed outcomes bank approach can dramatically improve the speed and scale of results.

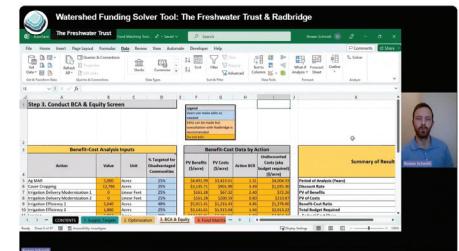
Watershed Outcomes Bank Framework

The centralized and aggregated WOB approach helps everyone secure more funding, get multiple sources of money to projects faster, and show faster, bigger progress against regional targets:

1. Define regional watershed/landscape resilience targets.
2. Quantify potential watershed resilience project benefits from project types that can generate those benefits (e.g., forest thinning, irrigation upgrades, agricultural land repurposing leading to water replenishment, carbon sequestration, economic uplift, etc.).
3. Use a “Solver Tool” to identify the most cost-effective project and funding solution to pursue across the watershed.
4. Integrate project priorities across partners, and then drive planning, permitting, and coordinated pursuit of funding to get those projects funded.
5. Create a 501c3-sponsored transaction “hub” or “clearinghouse” for the watershed that can consolidate matched/leveraged funding sources, improve access to financing to smooth out funder and operating gaps, and match up funds to the high-priority projects.
6. Centralize mechanisms to support scaled-up implementation partners and the supply chain.
7. Track/manage all projects, reimbursement, accounting, and reporting in centralized database.



For an overview of the challenges and solution, watch this brief video: <https://vimeo.com/748345874>

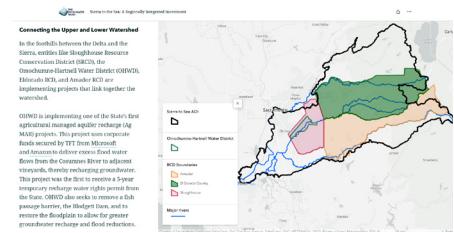
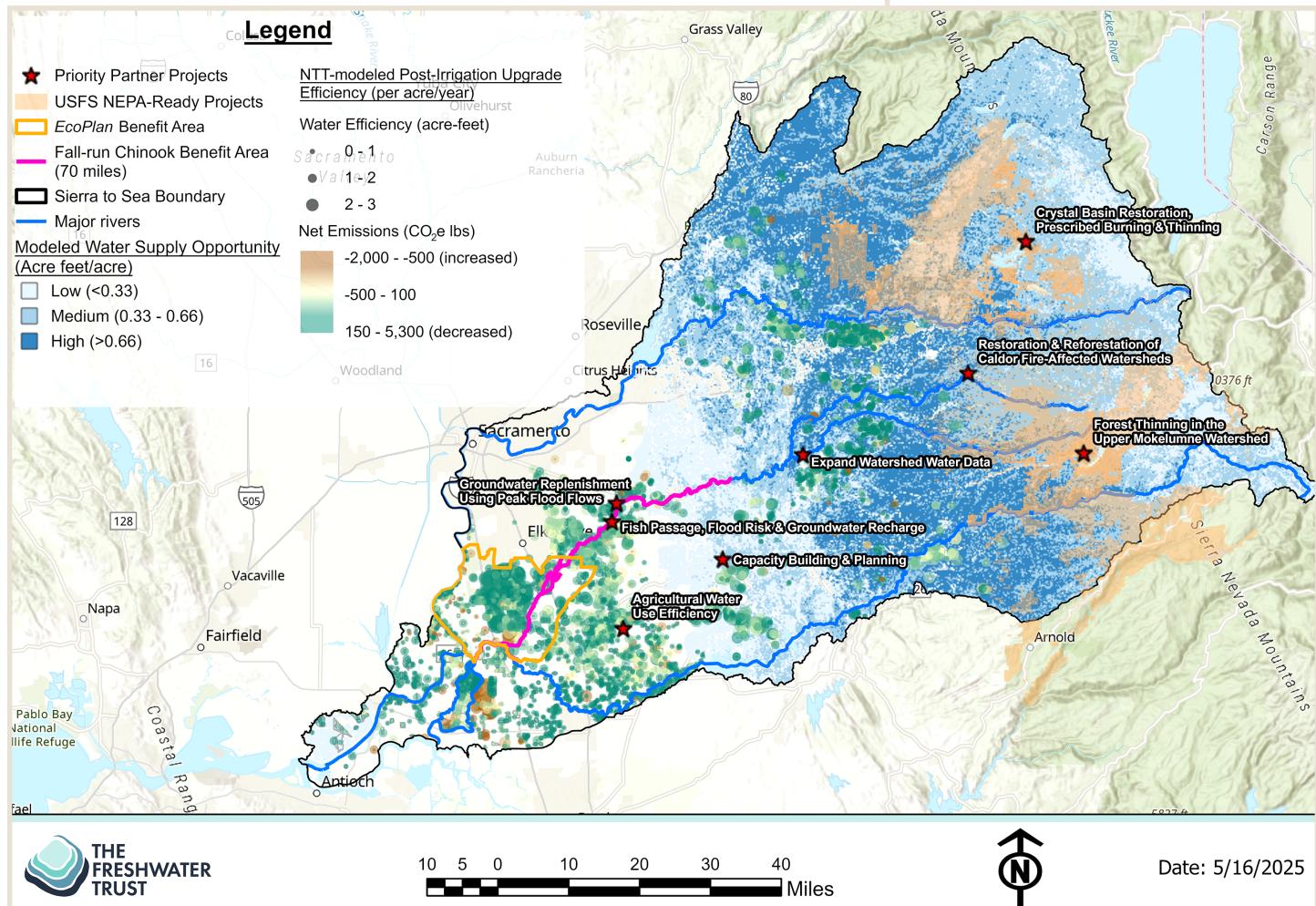


For a quick summary of how the Solver Tool works, watch this video: <https://vimeo.com/857875992>

“Sierra to the Sea” Outcomes Bank — a California Pilot

In response to compounding climate-driven fire, drought, and flood impacts, partners have developed and are piloting a data-driven, coordinated regional funding and implementation approach that integrates fragmented efforts from the forested headwaters of the Eldorado National Forest down through the American, Cosumnes, and Mokelumne Rivers and into the Delta. See *map below*.

This region has significant ecological value, water-vulnerable agricultural communities, upland communities at risk from wildfire, and a robust partnership foundation, including the Healthy Eldorado Landscape Partnership (HELP) and other anchor programs in the lower watershed. The Freshwater Trust (TFT) secured funding from the Innovative Finance for National Forests (IFNF) grant program to pilot this approach here. Initial funded implementation projects include forest thinning, meadow restoration, aquifer recharge, dam removal, and special status species habitat improvement.



Explore a regional story map:
<https://bit.ly/sierra-to-sea>



Read in-depth articles on the WOB in *The Water Report*:
<https://bit.ly/WOB-TWR253>

Frequently Asked Questions

Why build a Watershed Outcomes Bank now?

The ENF has over \$1B in needed forestry projects, and there are hundreds of millions in needs for potential lower watershed projects. Our conservation funding system currently delivers only a few projects a year. The huge gap between results and need continues to grow as climate change accelerates. In the absence of major policy change, our best chance for speed and scale is to mount a coordinated, prioritized, efficient funding and implementation response that enables a lot more projects.

What are we doing that's different?

By integrating fragmented funding into a nimble, data-driven nonprofit “hub” that allows multiple programs to contribute their funding into a regional effort without forcing formal interagency or intergovernmental integration, we are able to make our own “block grant.” It has not been viable to aggregate funds and projects at the interagency/intergovernment level, and doing things project-by-project and grant-by-grant is too slow and small-scale. The WOB is a flexible model designed to maximize leverage, minimize administrative effort, and accelerate results. The USDA Forest Service and TFT are negotiating an agreement to provide structure, with partners signing a pilot operating charter, and TFT managing the centralized transaction entity.

Why is it called a Watershed Outcomes Bank?

Watershed: We must apply our efforts at a scale that matters for communities and ecosystems.

Outcomes: Quantifiable and verifiable environmental improvements that help partners efficiently and consistently prioritize projects and track progress. Here we will quantify improved water volume, sediment load reduced, GHGs reduced, fire risk reduction, and flood risk reduction of all projects. By quantifying multiple project benefits, we create the opportunity to sell projects to more buyers.

Bank: Commercial banks rigorously manage and track accounts, offer financing, and help partners unlock their full potential. At this same scale, we can pursue programmatic funding, reduce waste and red tape, and unify these disparate pieces into efficient, high-impact project transactions.

Why should partners participate?

Every partner is currently contributing skills, personnel, and time to pursue, manage, and report on complex public funding agreements. Partners are also missing opportunities to coordinate sales and leverage funds against each other. By reducing these friction points, we can make bigger requests, bring in more funds, become a preferred implementer, and stop competing against other small non-profits.

What do we get from this approach?

Efficiency: By centralizing administrative functions and getting partners operating together, we gain multiple efficiencies, reduce costs and improve speed.

Deliver better ROI: We can't raise \$1B+ for every watershed. With the resources we do secure, we must maximize ROI by improving results and reducing costs. The WOB's data-driven approach enables simpler project comparisons and maximizes progress with finite funding. By building up bigger, more predictable funding levels, supply chains will deliver better, cheaper results.

Create new funding sources: Instead of just responding to project-by-project funding notices, the WOB enables us to collectively position funders for their most catalytic roles, helps avoid partner competition, and creates opportunities to make bigger, more integrated sales. Benefit quantification also creates more units to sell.

More bargaining power: Working at this scale can open opportunities to bargain for programmatic permits, streamlined process, and institutional financing.

Speed: Projects are currently constrained by the pace of securing match funding and reimbursement, with multiple stops and starts along the way, and continuous cash and operational challenges. Working together through the WOB gives us better access to financing, which in every other sector of the economy is what unlocks scale and speed.

Become a funding magnet: Instead of everyone competing against each other for scarce grant resources, by delivering more, faster, we become a credible magnet for bigger chunks of funding.

When does the Bank launch?

The Bank has already started. Because it works at the transaction level, it doesn't require complicated sign-off from all the partners, just matching up funders to projects and outcomes. The partners are already consolidating shared project priorities, pursuing leveraged funds together, and streamlining operations. Collectively, we have stretched the current informal partnership to its limits, so formalizing our approach with the Bank will make it easier to formally match funds to more projects across more partners and maximize project impact. As we secure more funding commitments, we will expand.

How would money move?

The WOB offers multiple flexible pathways. The Bank will allow TFT to manage awards and contracts directly, take on a fiscal sponsorship role and make subawards, or sign leveraged funding agreements with other entities that keep the funding in its original place. The WOB's purpose is not to take money and control away from partners but to provide the framework and options for packaging funds from multiple programs together to support projects while minimizing inefficiency and administrative effort.



Questions? Please reach out to Tim Wigington, VP of Finance & Policy, at tim@thefreshwatertrust.org.

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: January 7, 2026

Agenda Item #: 4

Agenda Item Subject: City of Galt Follow-Up

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: Groundwater Basin Manager

Background

On December 1st, Lindsey met with John Griffin to review the non-metered parcels within the city limits. It was discussed that John would meet with City staff and Council members to present the parcels that were identified, the SCI fee study and to determine funding options, prior to scheduling a follow-up presentation to the CGA Board in February/March.

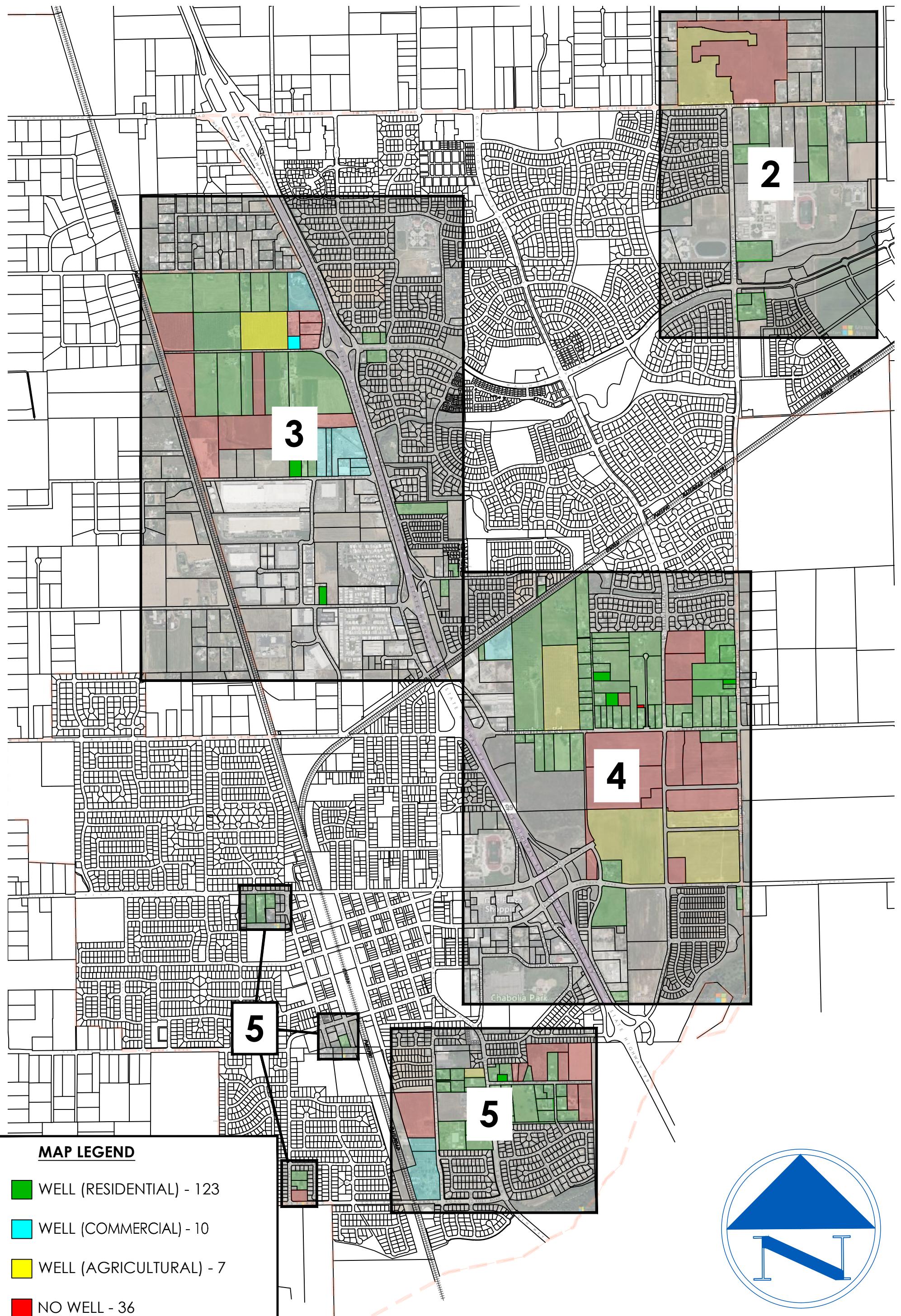
However, as of December 5th, John Griffin is no longer employed with the City of Galt and no follow-up was provided on these outstanding items. As of January 1st, a CGA representative has not been named from the City of Galt to replace John, nor has follow-up been provided on the outstanding items.

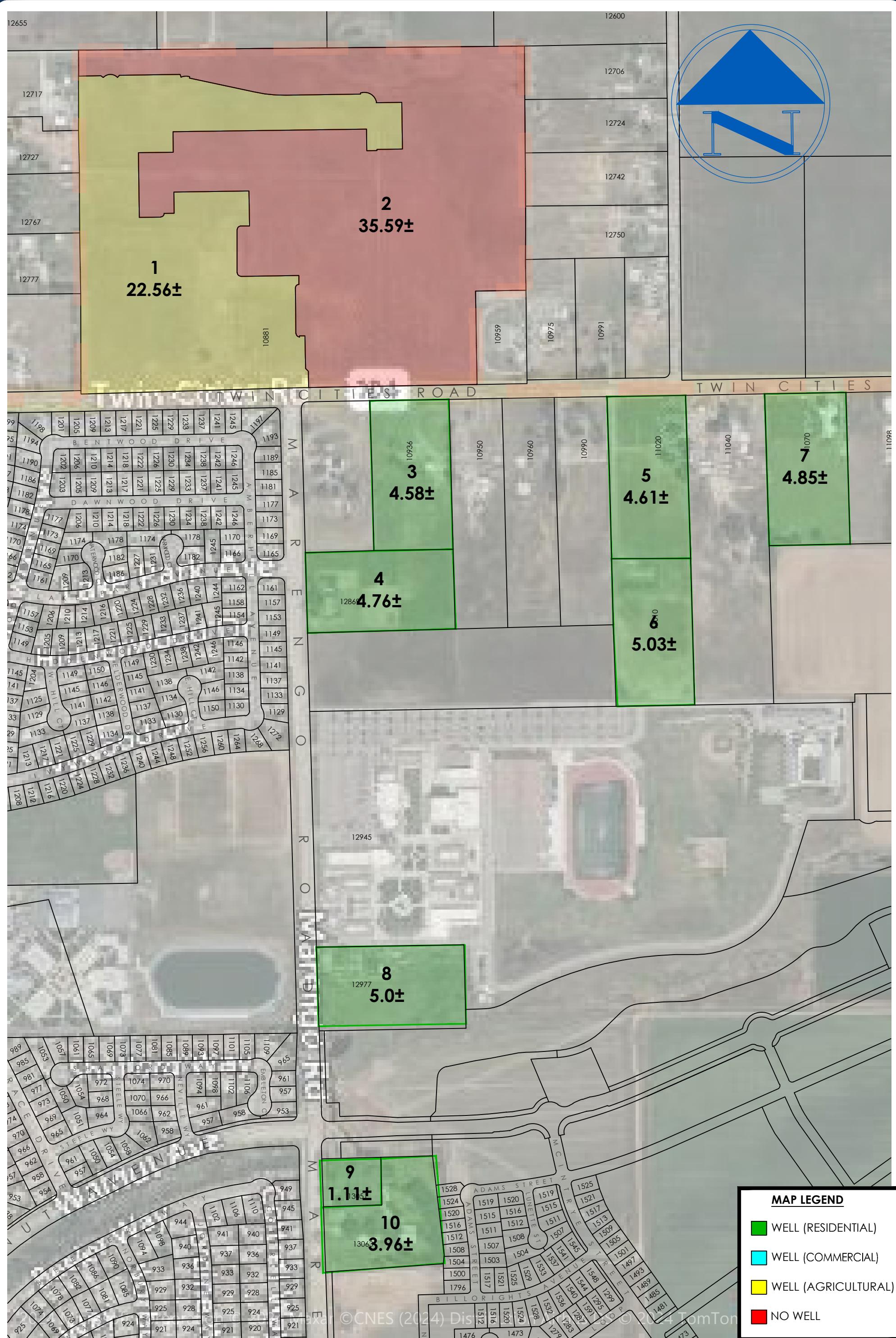
Basin Manager will continue to follow up with the City of Galt to engage with new staff and to continue to address the parcels that had been identified by John Griffin.

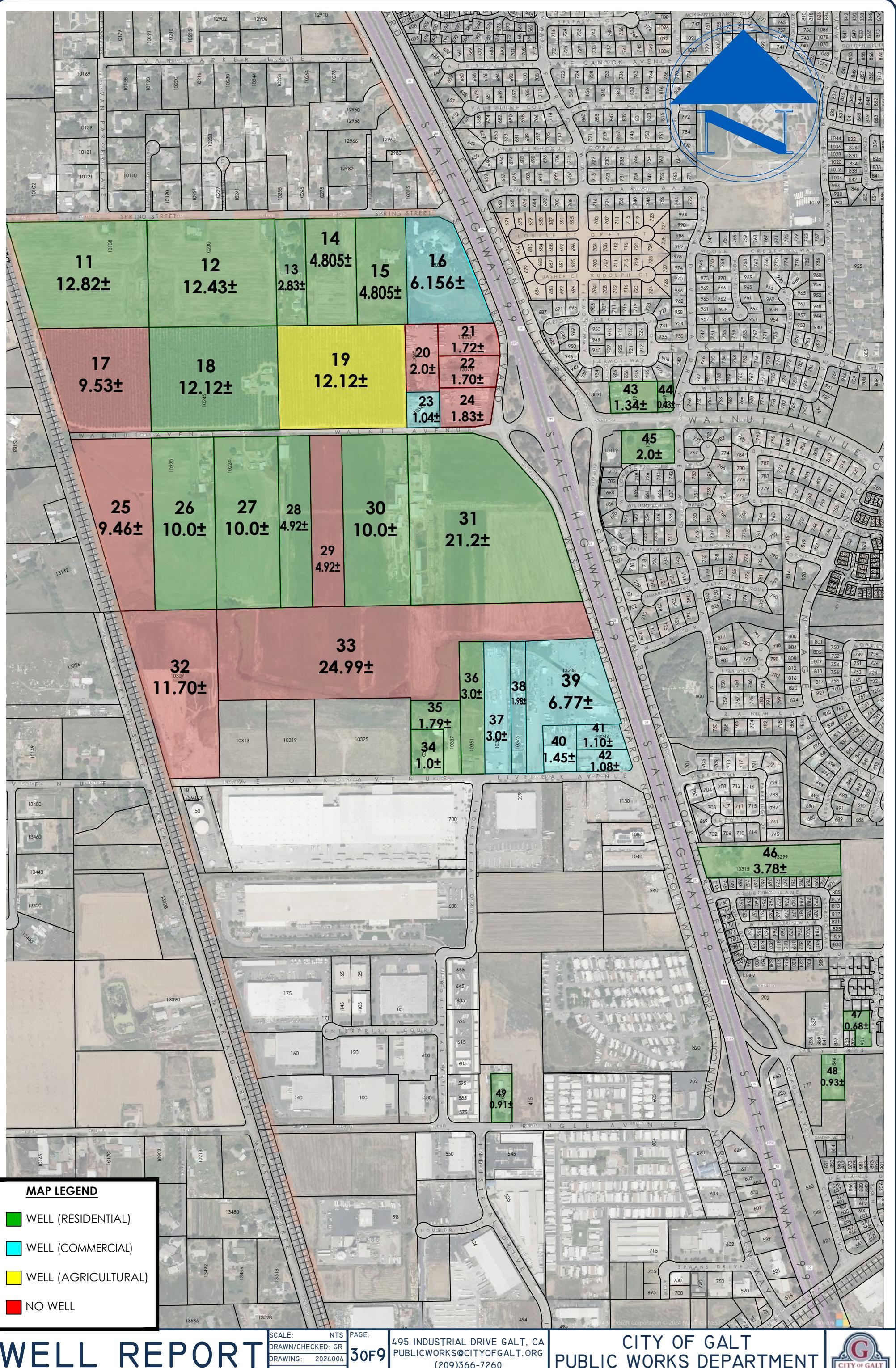
Attachment: Non-metered Parcels Map

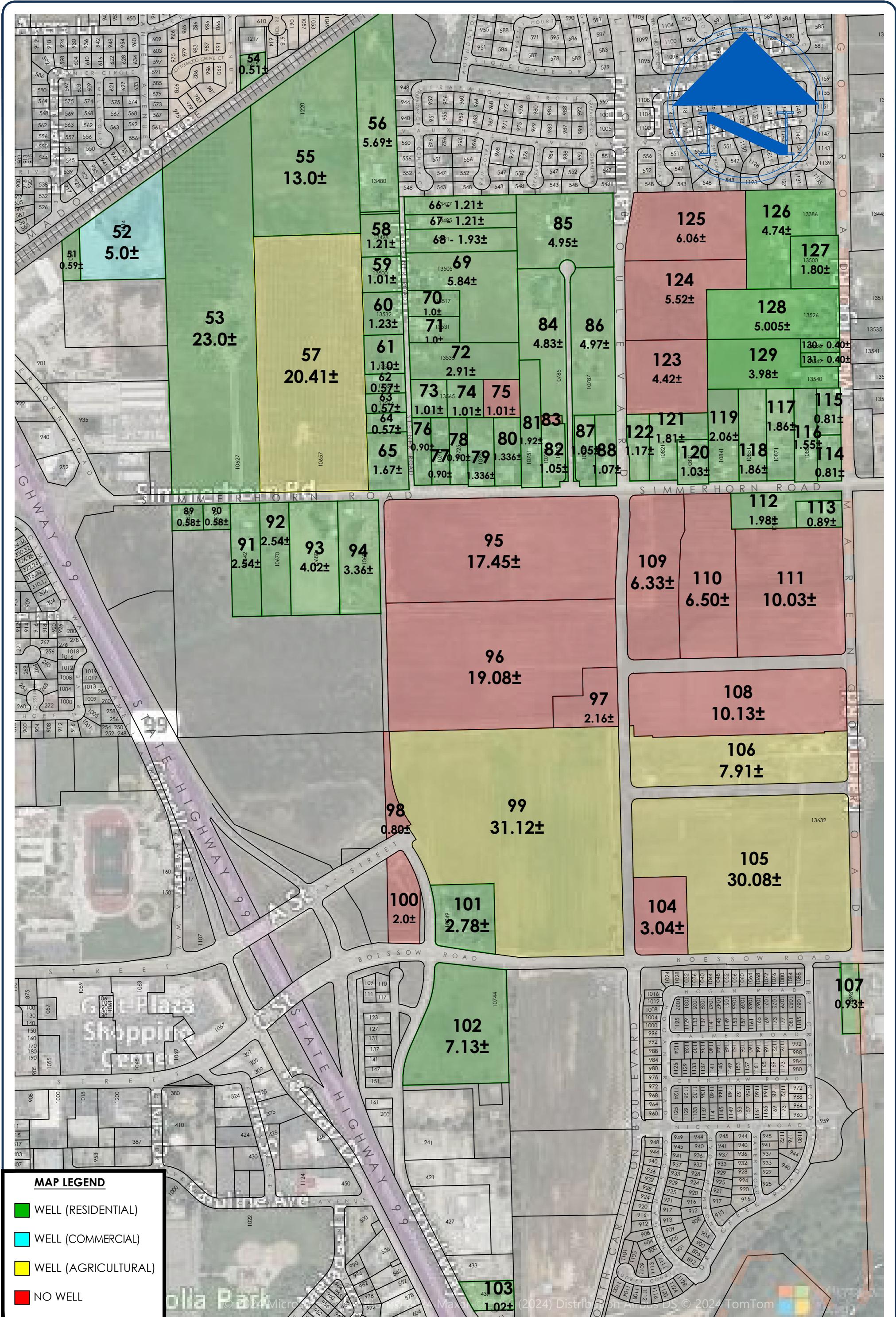
Recommendations

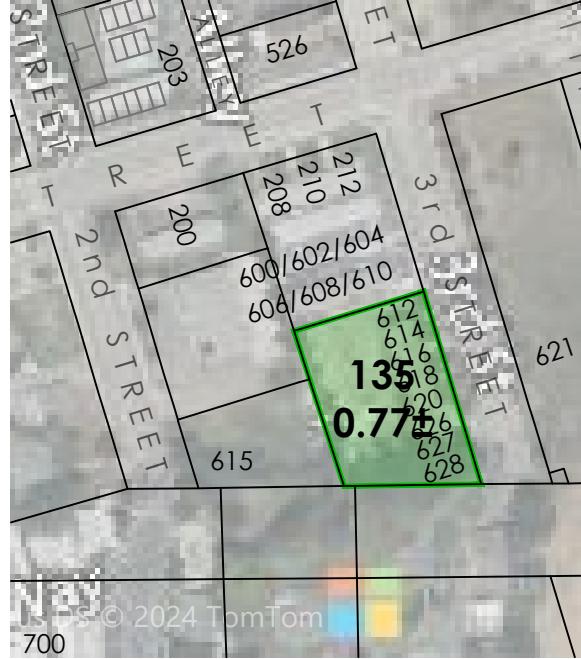
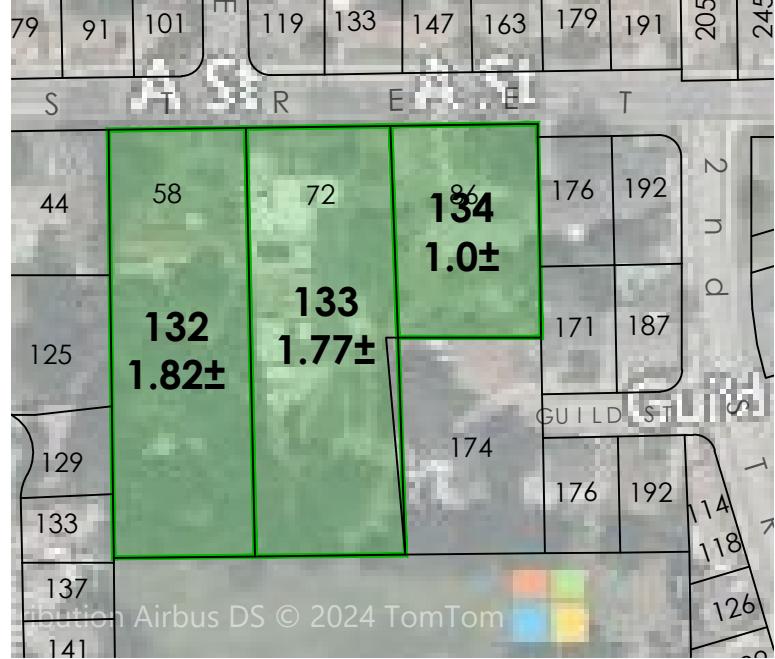
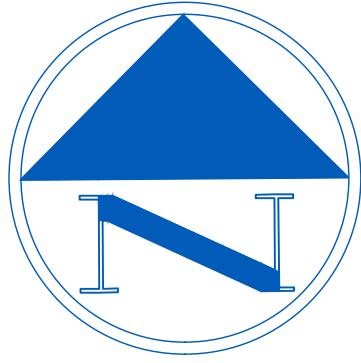
- a. To review parcel map and discuss next steps











Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: January 7, 2026
Agenda Item #: 5
Agenda Item Subject: Flood Diversion Recharge Report

To: CGA Board of Directors
From: Groundwater Basin Manager

Background

Groundwater recharge is a key strategy throughout California to manage water through climate-driven weather extremes, including prolonged drought and periodic intense storm events. During wet years, groundwater recharge – where water moves down (infiltrates) from the ground surface or the bottom of a waterway into an underlying aquifer – helps balance and replenish groundwater basins for use during future dry and drought years.

California Water Code § 1242.1 allows parties to divert for groundwater recharge without a water right if in compliance with certain requirements including, but not limited to:

- Local agency has adopted a Section 8201 flood control plan or has considered flood risk as part of a general plan.
- Requires ‘imminent risk’ of flooding to be present to divert.
- Must use existing or temporary infrastructure.
- Fish screens are required at diversion points.
- The Delta must be in excess.
- Diversions must not impact other water rights.
- Floodwater may not be applied to areas that would impact structures/infrastructure or areas that have nitrogen/water quality concerns.

On January 31, 2025 Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-16-25 which temporarily removes the requirement that a local agency have a flood diversion plan adopted if not needed – allowing for greater flexibility in authorizing diversions. EO N-16-25 is expected to remain in effect through the 2025-2026 wet season.

Attachment: Flood Diversion Recharge Report – Sacramento County

Recommendations

- a. To discuss flood diversion recharge options

FLOOD DIVERSIONS FOR GROUNDWATER RECHARGE IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY

Groundwater recharge is a key strategy throughout California to manage water through climate-driven weather extremes, including prolonged drought and periodic intense storm events. During wet years, groundwater recharge – where water moves down (infiltrates) from the ground surface or the bottom of a waterway into an underlying aquifer – helps balance and replenish groundwater basins for use during future dry and drought years.

California Water Code § 1242.1 allows parties to divert for groundwater recharge without a water right if in compliance with certain requirements including, but not limited to:

- Local agency has adopted a Section 8201 flood control plan or has considered flood risk as part of a general plan.
- Requires 'imminent risk' of flooding to be present to divert.
- Must use existing or temporary infrastructure.
- Fish screens are required at diversion points.
- The Delta must be in excess.
- Diversions must not impact other water rights.
- Floodwater may not be applied to areas that would impact structures/infrastructure or areas that have nitrogen/water quality concerns.

 On January 31, 2025 Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-16-25 which temporarily removes the requirement that a local agency have a flood diversion plan adopted is not needed – allowing for greater flexibility in authorizing diversions. EO N-16-25 is expected to remain in effect through the 2025-2026 wet season.



Conditions for Floodflow Diversions

There are a variety of challenges related to acquiring water for recharge projects. Securing water rights/permits or purchasing water can be a costly and lengthy process. California Water Code Section 1242.1 (with arrow below) allows for the diversion of floodflows for groundwater recharge, without a water right/permit, if certain conditions are met:



Reporting

The person/entity making the diversion must file the following with the State Water Resource Control Board and the appropriate groundwater sustainability agency (GSA):

Initial Notice (no later than 48 hours after diversions begin) must contain:

- Person/entity diverting
- GPS coordinates of diversion
- Map identifying the recharge area
- Affected assessor parcel numbers
- Date diversions began

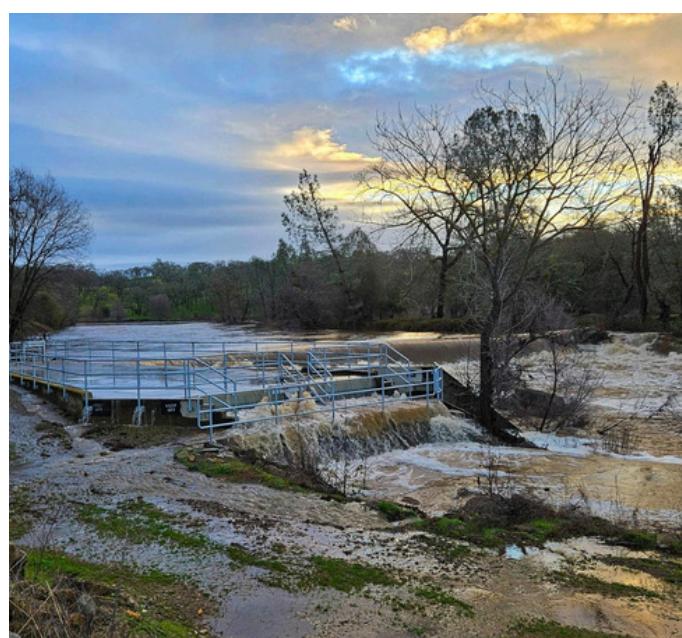
Preliminary Report (no later than 14 days after diversion) and **Final Report** (no later than 15 days after diversions end) must include:

- All information from the initial notice
- Date diversions end (final report)
- Estimate volume diverted

2025 DIVERSIONS CASE STUDY

In preparation for a series of atmospheric rivers forecasted to impact Sacramento County, on February 4, 2025 Sacramento County ratified “Proclamation of Local Emergency Winter Storms of February 2025 and Flooding” to be prepared to address flood issues in the County. Additionally, Reclamation District 800 issued an emergency declaration due to potential levee erosion near Dillard Road and Highway 16. This emergency proclamation allowed the County to trigger Water Code Section 1242.1 diversions.

The County of Sacramento then worked with Rancho Murieta Community Service District (CSD) to authorize diversions from their existing diversion point along the Cosumnes River. After the diversion, water is moved through existing infrastructure (the Cosumnes Irrigation Association’s ditch system) to the application field sites via gravity. Over two different days, nearly 220 Acre-Feet of flood water was diverted for recharge. This partnership was the second successful project in the state to utilize the Water Code Section 1242.1 mechanism.



Whose Involved?

Multiple agencies were involved in diverting flood water for groundwater recharge under Water Code Section 1242.1. The following table identifies each agency and their roles in this effort.

Diverter (Rancho Murieta CSD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Divert water• Agreement w/ Landowner• Submit Notice and Report(s)
County (Sacramento)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopts Plan/identifies diversion trigger• Gives notice of imminent flood risk
GSA (Sloughhouse RCD)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receives reports
CA Water Resources Control Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receives reports
Reclamation District 800
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flood risk reporting/emergency declaration.

Contact Info

For more information, scan below:



Project Manager: Austin Miller
MillerAu@SacCounty.gov

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: January 7, 2026
Agenda Item #: 6
Agenda Item Subject: Fall Groundwater Monitoring Report

To: CGA Board of Directors
From: Groundwater Basin Manager

Background

Fall Groundwater Monitoring for 2025 was conducted in October of 2025. EKI will present the results of the monitoring events that will be reported in the next 2026 Annual Report.

Attachment:

Recommendations

- a. To discuss fall groundwater monitoring event

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: January 7, 2026

Agenda Item #: 7

Agenda Item Subject: Periodic Evaluation/Plan Amendment Timeline

To: CGA Board of Directors

From: Groundwater Basin Manager

Background

Lindsey and EKI have been working on a timeline for 2026 for key milestones for the Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendment. The full timeline will be presented and updates each month will be given.

Attachment:

Recommendations

- a. To discuss periodic evaluation and plan amendment timeline

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: January 7, 2026
Agenda Item #: 8
Agenda Item Subject: Domestic Well Analysis Report

To: CGA Board of Directors
From: Groundwater Basin Manager

Background

Lindsey has been conducting a domestic well analysis for the entire basin. A full report will be presented at the meeting for each GSA.

Attachment:

Recommendations

- a. To discuss results of the domestic well analysis.

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting

Agenda Date: January 7, 2026
Agenda Item #: 9
Agenda Item Subject: Groundwater Basin Manager Report

To: CGA Board of Directors
From: Groundwater Basin Manager

Background

a. FY 24/25 Audit

Audit is beginning in January.

b. CGA Logo

At the September meeting, 3 additional logo options were presented and Directors provided feedback. That feedback was incorporated into a new logo design with additional variations provided for feedback. This will be presented at the February meeting.

c. Recommended Corrective Actions Progress

Based on RCA #1, we need to address the recently updated OWSCR dataset. EKI has developed a viewer of the current dataset which includes over 2200 domestic wells. To date, staff has completed the domestic well verification for all GSAs. This has been a significant undertaking with over 250 hours of work to date.

d. 2025-26 Workplan Progress

The 2025-26 workplan has been developed and includes review from EKI, O&E and breaks down tasks and objectives to address RCAs, Periodic Evaluation and Plan Amendment.

This plan has been updated to reflect work performed in October and planned for November.

e. Staff Meeting Report – November/December 2025

To increase transparency between staff and the Board, a monthly meeting report will be provided to include a summary of each meeting that was attended in representation of CGA and any deliverables, outcomes or action items

Attachment: FY 25/26 Workplan – Working Draft

Recommendations

a. Provide feedback if any is needed

Cosumnes Groundwater Authority
Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Report: November/December 2025
From: CGA Basin Manager

The following meetings were attended by CGA Basin Manager on behalf of CGA:

CGA Board Meeting – November 5, 2025

- Monthly CGA Board of Directors Meeting

Galt Irrigation District Meeting – November 11, 2025

- Monthly GID Board of Directors Meeting

County of Sacramento – Flood Diversion Recharge – November 17, 2025

- Meeting with County of Sacramento on flood diversion recharge program opportunities

EKI Monthly Meeting – November 17, 2025

- Met with EKI to review RCA progress and discuss timeline for periodic evaluation and plan amendment
- There has been a standing monthly meeting set up with EKI to address progress on RCA work

OHWD Meeting – November 18, 2025

- Monthly OHWD Board of Directors Meeting

SGMA Webinar, Fall 2025 GSA Forum, DWR – November 19, 2025

- Forum of GSA's to review resources and discuss SGMA compliance issues

SRCD Meeting – November 19, 2025

- Attended SRCD Meeting and provided CGA updates

City of Galt Meeting – December 1, 2025

- Meeting regarding non-metered parcels in city limits

EKI Monthly Meeting – December 15, 2025

- Met with EKI to review RCA progress and discuss timeline for periodic evaluation and plan amendment
- There has been a standing monthly meeting set up with EKI to address progress on RCA work



Sustainable Groundwater Management Office

Fall 2025 Groundwater Sustainability Agency Forum Resources Sheet

The Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Forum is a series established by DWR to provide a consistent venue for GSA members and interested parties to engage in conversation and exchange ideas around topics related to Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation. The theme for the Fall Forum was *SGMA After 10 Years - How to Keep the Momentum Going*. The event included two conversations with GSA representatives (from Solano Subbasin GSA and the Merced Subbasin GSA), discussing experiences with GSA onboarding and GSA progress on Projects and Management Actions, and how DWR is developing resources to assist GSAs on both of these topics. The event also included a Question-and-Answer session reviewing major questions around what to expect and recommendations for approaching 2027 Periodic Evaluations and Annual Reports. Finally, the program included an opportunity for attendees to share experiences and resources through two breakout sessions and spotlighted a few ongoing DWR efforts and upcoming releases.

Resources shared during the event included:

GSA Speaker Related Resources:

- [Solano Subbasin GSA Website](#)
- [Merced Subbasin GSA Website](#), [Groundwater Allocation Rule](#), and [Accounting Platform](#)

GSA Onboarding:

- Is your GSA contact information up to date? Don't miss out on updates from DWR! Update your contact info, including your GSA Point of Contact and GSP Plan Manager on the [SGMA Portal](#).

Projects and Management Actions Module Resources:

- [SGMA Portal Resources](#)

GSP Periodic Evaluations and Annual Report Resources:

- [Guide to Annual Reports, Periodic Evaluations, and Plan Amendments](#)
- [GSP Implementation Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- Look Up Your SGMA Point of Contact: [Northern Region Office](#), [North Central Region Office](#), [South Central Region Office](#), [Southern Region Office](#)

Recent or Upcoming DWR Releases:

- Subsidence Best Management Practices [Website](#) and [Draft Document](#)
- Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water [Draft Guidance Papers \(1-3\)](#) and [Webinar](#)
- California's Groundwater (Bulletin 118) Update 2025 [Website](#)

Other DWR Resources Shared During the Forum:

- [Data and Tools Fact Sheet](#)
- [Basin Characterization Exchange Hub](#)
- Facilitation Support Services [Flyer](#), [FAQs](#), and [Application](#) (currently accepting applications!)
- [Written Translation](#) and [Verbal Interpretation](#) Services (currently accepting applications!) and [Website](#)

The Fall 2025 GSA Forum general session recording will be available soon for viewing, check the [California DWR YouTube account](#).

FY 25/26 Workplan – As of 1.2.26

	Ongoing/Monthly	Previous FY	July 2025	August 2025	September 2025	October 2025	November 2025
Operations	<p>Financial Reporting (Invoicing, Account Reconciliation, Credit Card Reports, financial statements, QuickBooks management) – <i>Staff, Treasurer, Board</i></p> <p>Bi-Monthly Board Meetings (additional meetings as requested) – <i>Staff, Board</i></p>	<p>FY 25/26 Member Contribution Agreement/</p> <p>FY 25/26 Budget – approved in June 2025</p> <p>FY 23/24 Audit Initiated</p>	<p>FY 23/24 Audit – Complete document request</p> <p>Submit Direct Levy Data (groundwater fee) to Sacramento County Department of Finance (GSAs)</p> <p>FY 25/26 Workplan</p>	<p>FY 23/24 Audit – Work as needed</p> <p>Implement new CGA Quickbooks and chart of accounts</p> <p>CGA Insurance policy</p>	<p>FY 23/24 Audit – Finalize</p> <p>Continue new QB improvements</p> <p>CGA Insurance policy</p>	<p>FY 23/24 Audit – Finalized</p> <p>Begin drafting new accounting procedures and policies in reflection of audit deficiencies</p>	<p>FY 24/25 Audit Preparation</p>
Recommended Corrective Actions	EKI Progress Meetings (review progress on RCAs and timeline) – <i>Staff, EKI, Board members as requested</i>	<p>EKI Scope of Work – approved June 2025</p> <p>EKI Cost Estimate – approved June 2025</p>	<p>#1 Volunteer Well Registration Program Development – <i>Staff/EKI</i></p> <p>#1 Monitoring Network Enhancement Development – <i>Staff/EKI</i></p>	<p>#1 Launch Volunteer Well Registration Program – <i>Staff</i></p> <p>#1 Determine area to begin enhancing monitoring network – <i>Staff/Board</i></p>	<p>#1 OWSCR domestic well data review – Sac County, City of Galt, Clay Irrigation District, OHWD completed</p>	<p>#1 OWSCR domestic well data review – Amador, Sloughhouse RCD</p>	<p>#1 OWSCR domestic well data review – GID</p> <p>#1 begin identifying potential sites for new monitoring network sites</p>
GSA Projects	Monthly GSA meetings (provide CGA progress updates and guidance on GSA responsibilities) - <i>Staff</i>		Begin land repurposing survey and data collection	Land repurposing data collection	Land repurposing data collection	Land repurposing data collection	Land repurposing data collection
SGMA Implementation				Monitoring Network – Update access agreements, prep for monitoring event	PMA Review – existing PMAs in current GSP	<p>Fall (WY 25) Monitoring Event (Data Due to EKI by 12/31/25)</p> <p>PMA Review – new projects</p>	PMA Review – new projects
Outreach & Engagement	Maintain website and respond to PRA requests and stakeholder questions - <i>Staff</i>			O&E Meeting (Well Registration & Monitoring)	O&E Meeting		

	December 2025	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026	April 2026	May 2026	June 2026
Operations	FY 24/25 Audit – work as needed	FY 24/25 Audit – Initiation Finalize accounting procedures and policies	FY 24/25 Audit – work as needed	FY 24/25 Audit – Finalize	FY 26/27 Draft Budget & Draft Member Agreement Invoice for FY 25/26 membership contributions		Finalize FY 26/27 Budget and Member Agreement Final membership payments due to CGA
Recommended Corrective Actions	#1 Continue identifying potential sites for new monitoring network sites	Begin Noticing for new amendment review - approximate					
GSA Projects	Land repurposing data collection						
SGMA Implementation	PMA Review – new projects	PMA Project Development	PMA Project Development	Finalize WY 25 Annual Report PMA Project Development	Spring (WY 26) Monitoring Event (Data Due to EKI by 5/31/25) PMA Project Development	PMA Project Development	PMA Project Development
Outreach & Engagement	O&E Meeting		O&E Meeting	O&E Meeting	All Stakeholder Event		O&E Meeting