

## Cosumnes Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee

### Meeting Summary #1

Meeting held May 15, 2017

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute

#### MEETING IN BRIEF

The role of the Cosumnes Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is to review information and develop recommendations to the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group on technical aspects of Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation. While the Working Group is the formal decision-making body on SGMA implementation, TAC recommendations will help guide Working Group decision-making on technical issues. At its inaugural meeting on May 15, the TAC developed the following recommendations to the SGMA Working Group:

1. **Hire a technical consultant:** The TAC recommends that the Working Group discuss scope and hiring criteria for an independent technical consultant, and that the Water Forum seek the Working Group's approval to move forward with a preliminary recruitment process. The TAC further recommends formalizing the Working Group's and TAC's role in the hiring process.
2. **Develop criteria for identifying administrative entity for Proposition 1 grant application:** The TAC acknowledged the benefit of developing criteria to identify a GSA to serve as the administrative entity for the Prop. 1 grant application.
3. **Review/discuss potential cost-share approach (for Proposition 1 match funding):** The TAC did not develop a recommendation on the approach for Prop. 1 matching cost-share. The Working Group and TAC will revisit this issue at future meetings.

#### ACTION ITEMS

Who	What
CBI/Water Forum	Distribute presentations from TAC meeting #1
Water Forum	Develop draft selection criteria for technical consultant
Water Forum	Develop rough cost estimates/cost comparison of each modeling option (with input from Rob Swartz)
Water Forum	Identify participant availability for future TAC meetings
CBI/Water Forum	Revise TAC Terms of Reference based on TAC input

#### DISCUSSION – KEY THEMES

Below is a summary of key themes discussed at the meeting. This summary is not intended to be a meeting transcript. Rather, it focuses instead on the main points covered during the group's discussions.

#### TAC ROLE AND FUNCTION

Key near-term TAC functions will include the following:

- Because GSP development requires coordinating with neighboring basins, the TAC will work to **understand what's happening in neighboring basins** with regard to SGMA implementation.
- The TAC will guide development of the **Proposition 1 grant application**.
- The TAC will guide **joint fact-finding** and provide advice on the **technical expertise** needed to guide GSP development and SGMA implementation.

## BASIN MODELING APPROACH

Rob Swartz, hydrogeologist with Sacramento Groundwater Authority, presented on groundwater modeling efforts in Sacramento Valley-wide modeling efforts. Lyndel Melton, Senior Water Resources Engineer with RMC, presented on East San Joaquin modeling efforts. Both Sacramento Valley and East San Joaquin groundwater models can be customized and expanded to accommodate the Cosumnes subbasin. Cosumnes-specific data would be essential to populate either model. Both neighboring basins utilize stakeholder processes to inform and guide modeling efforts, and both models are structured to support separate management units (at both the subbasin and GSA-level) and to support modeling of a variety of management options.

### Discussion

Discussion with presenters and the TAC identified the following options for modeling groundwater in Cosumnes subbasin:

1. Participate in Sacramento Valley-wide model (Sacramento Integrated Water Resources Model - SacIRWM)
2. Extend Eastern San Joaquin model
3. Develop a refined C2VSim model
4. Develop a Cosumnes model based on USGS (CVHM)
5. Create a unique subbasin model

While acknowledging that further discussion is needed, participants expressed initial preference for working with one of the existing neighboring basin models (Sacramento Valley-wide or East San Joaquin models), for the following reasons:

- Both models are **well established**;
- A joint modeling effort would support **cross-basin coordination**;
- A joint modeling effort would likely be most **cost-effective**;
- Several TAC participants suggested that the Sacramento Valley-wide modeling effort may be a better fit, due to the **shared 2022 timeframe** for GSP development (both Cosumnes and Sacramento Valley subbasins must complete their GSPs by 2022, while East San Joaquin subbasin must complete its GSP by 2020).
- It is critical to ensure that any model used by the Cosumnes subbasin is fully informed by **Cosumnes-specific data and interests**, and is not driven by outside development interests.
- To this end, the group identified a need for an **independent technical advisor** who can help ensure that the model is populated with appropriate data and assumptions. Participants also pointed to the potential need to conduct new studies to support comprehensive subbasin modeling.

Participants requested further information on **cost differences** between the modeling options. There is also interest in confirming whether there are differing **levels of coordination** required with East San Joaquin subbasin and the South American basin.

### Outcome

- No firm TAC recommendation on preferred modeling approach;
- The TAC recommends that the Water Forum hire an **independent technical consultant** as soon as possible to help assess the relative merits of the different modeling options and to serve as liaison to the modeling effort.

### PROPOSITION 1 DEVELOPMENT

John Lowrie with the Water Forum presented on the process and timeline for the Cosumnes Subbasin's Proposition 1 grant funding application. The CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) recently announced that the Proposition Solicitation Package (PSP) will be released in August and the application will be due in October. The Working Group can draw upon several resources in preparing the PSP application: Water Forum staff/consultant will take the lead in developing the application, with support from an independent technical consultant, to be hired under Working Group guidance. Additionally, Sacramento County offered support from GEI and HDR engineering consultants.

### Discussion

- Working Group participants expressed interest in applying relevant past spending to serve as Prop. 1 **match funding**.
- Any potential PSP application will be strengthened by **clarity on data gap analysis, and (2) modeling platform** to use.
- At least two GSAs (Sloughhouse RCD, Sacramento County) are willing to serve as the **grant administrative lead**. The Water Forum is not eligible for this role. Water Forum staff and consultants recommended the group develop selection criteria to guide future discussions related to selecting the administrative entity
- The TAC deferred the **cost-share** discussion to the Working Group.

### Outcome

- The TAC recommends that the Water Forum continue working to **develop data** needed to support PSP submittal.
- The TAC further recommends using an **independent technical consultant** (once on board) to support the Prop. 1 grant application process.
- Water Forum prepare draft selection criteria for choosing an administrative entity.

### BASIN BOUNDARY MODEL

The TAC briefly discussed basin boundary issues. Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District expressed strong interest in having GSAs support its basin boundary application. The DWR application period for basin boundary modification is January 1, 2018 through March 31, 2018. Participants observed that technical analysis is needed to better understand groundwater flows along the current boundary between the Cosumnes and South American subbasins.

### Outcome

- The TAC recommends tasking the independent technical consultant with launching a joint fact-finding process regarding groundwater flows to inform future basin boundary discussions.

## TAC PARTICIPATION AND SCHEDULE

**TAC Participation:** The group discussed broadening **TAC participation** to enable GSAs to bring in relevant consultants and experts. CBI and the Water Forum will update the TAC Terms of Reference to reflect this input. Facilitator Bennett Brooks observed the importance that the TAC avoids bringing in competing consultants. He further emphasized the value of joint fact-finding and participant continuity.

**TAC schedule:** In the near-term, the TAC will meet on a monthly basis, approximately one to two weeks in advance of the monthly Working Group meeting.

## MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Tom Gohring, Water Forum

John Lowrie, Water Forum

Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County

Mike Israel, Amador County

Damon Wykoff, Amador Water Agency

Jay Schneider, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District

Lee Davisson, technical expert with Sloughouse

Mark Clarkson, City of Galt

Rick Wohle, Clay Water District

Sue Wohle, Clay Water District

Gene Mancebo, Amador Water Agency

Bennett Brooks, CBI

Julia Golomb, CBI

*Absent* - Galt ID

## PRESENTERS

Lyndel Melton, RMC

Ali Taghavi, RMC

Rob Swartz, Sacramento Groundwater Authority

Pat Dunn, NV5

*For questions regarding this meeting summary, please contact Tom Gohring at the Water Forum or Julia Golomb at the Consensus Building Institute.*