

To: Cosumnes Working Group  
From: Consensus Building Institute  
Date: August 7, 2018  
Re: Stakeholder Assessment Questions and Candidate Interviewees

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Below are draft assessment questions to guide outreach interviews with affected groundwater users and water uses within the Cosumnes Subbasin. This assessment, much like the one conducted last year with groundwater uses in the areas not then covered by a GSA, will be helpful in shaping an effective outreach strategy to ensure meaningful involvement by potentially impacted and interested stakeholders. We have also put together below the outlines of a potential list of stakeholder categories and individuals to be interviewed (see Page 3).

We look forward to your input to ensure the questions and the list of candidate interviews is well informed and comprehensive. We intend to discuss this proposed approach at the August 15 Working Group meeting.



**Draft Discussion Guide for Outreach to Interested Groundwater Users**  
*(For review and discussion with Working Group at its 8/15/18 meeting)*

**Background**

- Please tell me a bit about yourself: Work? Why do you care about groundwater? How do you use groundwater?

**SGMA Understanding**

- Characterize your awareness and understanding of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and what it means for the Cosumnes Subbasin.
- Have you heard anything about SGMA-related discussions to-date in the Cosumnes sub-basin (prompt: awareness of GSA, Working Group, TAC, etc.)? If so:
  - Where have you gotten your information from?
  - What has been your impression to-date of discussions to-date?
  - What's worked well? Any concerns?
- Do you have any particular areas of concern related to SGMA implementation? Areas you want to understand better?

**Development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

- To what extent do you think current groundwater usage in the sub-basin is sustainable? Why/why not?

- What groundwater trends do you see in the Cosumnes Subbasin?
- SGMA outlines six specific areas of concern related to groundwater: degraded water quality, chronic lowering of groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater storage, surface water-groundwater interconnections, land subsidence, seawater intrusion. What are your concerns, if any, about how groundwater is used right now in the basin and its impact on these six areas of concern?
- What steps are important to take in the near-term to foster smooth development of a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) down the road?
- How will your interests be represented in development and implementation of a GSP? [Prompt: GSA, specific interest groups, self, etc.]

### **Outreach**

- To what degree are others in your area aware of SGMA?
- What stakeholders – specific landowners, agricultural interests, environmental water users, business interests, civic groups, tribes, neighboring basins, other – have a stake in these discussions?
  - Are they aware of SGMA?
  - What are their interests and concerns related to sustainable groundwater management?
  - What kind of input is needed from these groups?
  - What type of information is important to provide to these stakeholders?
  - What is the best way to work with these groups going forward (meetings, mailings, GSAs, CPAC, Farm Bureau, one-on-one outreach, etc.)? Are there obvious leaders among these groups?
- Who are the key bridge builders and influencers in the subbasin?
- What outreach efforts are needed to engage interested water users (type of outreach, frequency, location, objectives)?
- What recommendations do you have for making sure their perspectives are meaningfully considered (e.g., public comment, periodic public meetings, standing advisory body, something else)?
- What type of stakeholder engagement processes have worked in the past?

### **Conclusion**

- Is there anything else that you haven't mentioned? What advice would you offer or what else would you recommend to ensure meaningful stakeholder involvement?

Below are candidate categories (drawn from DWR guidance) to guide development of a list of stakeholder assessment interviews. CBI hopes to conduct in the range of 15-20 interviews, but the final number will be determined by the range of unique interests identified and available resources. We are seeking input from GSAs on potential individuals or groups to interview. A final list of interviewees will be confirmed in discussion with the Working Group. Additionally, the Working Group may opt to augment its understanding of stakeholder perspectives with a survey disseminated more broadly.

<b>Candidate Interviewees</b>	
<b>Category</b>	<b>Stakeholder</b>
General Public	
Land Use	
Private Users/Uses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ag-Res</li> </ul>	
Agricultural Users/Uses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crops, ranchers, dairy, grape</li> </ul>	
Environmental and Eco Users/Uses	
Industrial Users	
Urban Users/Uses	
Tribal Users/Uses	
Aquaculture Users/Uses	
Economic Development	
Human Right to Water	
Federal and State lands	
Integrated Water Management	