

Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group Meeting
Meeting #20
Meeting held July 18, 2018
Prepared by Consensus Building Institute and Water Forum

ACTION ITEMS

Who	What
GSAs	Forward edits to the draft Framework Agreement to B. Brooks by Friday, 7/20.
CBI	Revise Framework Agreement based on Working Group discussions; forward to Working Group for final review and comment.
GSAs	Conduct final review of Framework Agreement; flag any remaining issues and come prepared to finalize agreement at August Working Group meeting.
GSAs	Forward any edits to the draft Cost-Share Agreement to Linda by Friday, 7/20.
S. Winkler	Forward language for additional "Whereas" related to potential for multiple GSPs and renewed cost-share agreements.
L. Dorn	Revise cost-share agreement based on Working Group discussions; distributes to Finance Subcommittee by 7/24 for final review and comment; conduct Finance Subcommittee teleconference if needed to resolve outstanding issues.
Water Forum	Distribute proposed final Cost-Share Agreement to Working Group for final discussion; seek agreement to forward to GSAs for approval
GSAs	Conduct final review of Cost-Share Agreement; flag any remaining issues and come prepared to finalize Cost-Share Agreement at August Working Group meeting.
CBI	Prepare draft assessment strategy - timeline and approach; share with GSAs at least one week prior to August Working Group meeting.
L. Dorn	Meet with EKI, Water Forum to revise technical advisor work plan and timeline; to be reviewed and confirmed at August Working Group meeting prior to submittal to DWR in late August.
L. Dorn	Meet with DWR (Alison Tang) to begin process for receiving Prop. 1 funding
Water Forum-EKI	Develop strategy and timeline for eliciting grant proposal ideas from GSAs for technical grant application.
CBI-WF-SRCD	Discuss approach to basin boundary discussion.

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 on the main points covered during the group's discussions and any action items.

Technical Topic: GSP Development and Technical Advisor Selection

John Lowrie, Water Forum, reported that the technical advisory selection committee developed a recommendation to have EKI serve as technical consultant for the Working Group. Before reaching their recommendation, the committee conducted a thorough review of the four Statements of Qualification received in response to the Request for Qualifications put out by Sacramento County. The recommendation was announced via email to Working Group members and all responses received were positive in response to the recommendation. Representatives from all GSAs confirmed their support for selecting EKI as technical consultant.

Outcome: Linda Dorn, Sacramento County, will work with Anona Dutton, EKI, to revise the scope of work and submit an updated document to DWR by the end of August. The revised scope of work will also be brought back to the Working Group for review and concurrence.

Policy Topic: Grant Administrator/GSA Contractual Relationship

Following a discussion at the June Working Group meeting, the draft Cost-Share Agreement was updated and sent to members to read and share with their respective GSA's legal counsel for review. Working Group members raised additional questions and concerns with the [Near-Final Cost-Share Agreement](#). Discussion centered on the following:

- L. Dorn relayed advice from a Sacramento County attorney that language indicating Sacramento County would cover shortfall from other GSAs be revised to specify an “up to” amount the County would pay, and under what circumstances.
- A representative from Sloughhouse RCD identified conflicting language which stipulates that all signatories would need to agree on a mechanism to cover any shortfall.
- A representative from Sloughhouse RCD expressed a desire to insert greater flexibility for multiple, well-coordinated GSPs. Another Working Group member suggested an additional “Whereas...” clause to link the Cost-Share Agreement with the Framework Agreement, which spells out the possibility of multiple GSPs. The intent is to keep the cost-share agreement focused on the current GSP development work plan.
- A representative from the City of Galt called attention to the need to maintain consistency in the way the Working Group is referred to in the document. Members agreed to use “Working Group” rather than “Work Group.”
- Sloughhouse RCD representatives advocated for clearer language describing the process for a GSA withdrawing from the Working Group and whether the GSA would be obligated to pay their remaining share of costs after withdrawing.
- The group discussed GSAs’ right to take decisions back to their respective boards, and potential impacts to the GSP development timeline.

Outcome: Linda Dorn will incorporate suggested changes and distribute an updated draft Cost-Share agreement to the Finance Subcommittee by July 24 for final review and comment. A Finance Subcommittee teleconference will be held if needed to resolve outstanding issues.

Steve Winkler, City of Galt, will draft a “Whereas...” clause anticipating the possibility of multiple GSPs and share with Sloughhouse RCD representatives

The Water Forum will distribute the proposed final Cost-Share Agreement to the Working Group for final discussion, with intent to reach consensus among GSA representatives to forward the agreement to their boards for approval.

The updated draft Cost-Share Agreement will be discussed at the August Working Group meeting, after which GSAs are expected to recommend the agreement to their respective governing bodies or authorizing individuals for their respective review and confirmation.

Policy Topic: GSP Development Framework Agreement

The draft Framework Agreement was updated based on discussion at the Working Group's June 2018 meeting. GSA members and their legal counsel then reviewed the [Near-Final Draft Framework Agreement](#) and suggested the following final revisions:

- Replace language addressing cost share with a reference to the Cost Share Agreement.
- Clarify that subcommittees may be created representing each GSA.
- Under the forward-looking dialogue section, mention to "groundwater health" should be replaced with "groundwater sustainability" to avoid overbroad language.
- Insert a legal reference specifying which Proposition 1.
- The phrase "to foster effective implementation of SGMA requirements" should be changed to maintain a focus on phases 1 and 2 of GSP development rather than implementation.
- Clarify that the Working Group is the body which will give direction to the technical consultant.
- Alter language around data collection under Phase 2: Basin Characterization and Analysis, with direction from A. Dutton.

Outcome: GSAs will forward any edits on the draft Framework Agreement to B. Brooks by Friday, July 20th. CBI will revise the Framework Agreement and forward the updated document to the Working Group for final review and comment. GSAs should return to the August Working Group meeting prepared to finalize the agreement which they will then forward to their respective governing bodies for approval.

Policy Topic: Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Strategy

Julia Golomb, CBI, delivered a presentation on [Outreach and Engagement in the Cosumnes Subbasin](#). The presentation provided an overview of [DWR's Guidance Document for Groundwater Sustainability Plan: Stakeholder Communication and Engagement](#), recapped outreach activities to-date in the Cosumnes Subbasin, and exhibited outreach strategies being carried out in other basins including the Salinas Valley, Merced and Eastern San Joaquin.

Following the presentation, Working Group members raised the following questions and points of discussion:

- A representative from SRCD asked what issues other basins have been dealing with regarding stakeholder engagement. A. Dutton responded by sharing her experience from

other basins where issues had been raised around education, identifying interested stakeholders and their concerns, and defining undesirable results and sustainability criteria.

- B. Brooks highlighted that SGMA pushes GSAs to involve and collaborate. When asked how to know whether to involve or collaborate, he responded by advising GSAs to decide amongst themselves what strategy would make the most sense for them and to ask for feedback from the public to drive strategy and ensure a GSP which is credible and durable. He noted that other basins have advisory committees which do not hold authority to make decisions but rather inform decision-making by GSAs.
- L. Dorn expressed her desire to see a list of “interested water users and uses” to be able to see what groups and links between users and uses exist. B. Brook responded by reiterating CBI’s suggestion for an assessment to identify stakeholders and recommend a strategy for engagement.

Outcome: CBI will prepare a draft assessment strategy and share with GSAs at least one week prior to the August Working Group meeting.

Public Comment: Melinda Frost-Hurzel observed that although examples from other basins are a natural and helpful place to look for guidance, the Cosumnes Subbasin is unique in the amount of research that has been conducted and the level of engagement from environmental groups.

GENERAL UPDATES

Proposition 1 Grant Status

Linda Dorn reminded the group that the revised scope of work and schedule will need to be submitted to DWR by the end of August. She suggested that these topics be included in the August Working Group agenda.

Technical Grant Application

Tom Gohring reported that he is in the process of augmenting EKI’s contract with the Water Forum to help GSAs complete the TSS grant application and this contract should be approved by Sacramento City Council by July 31st.

Gohring observed that one of the early steps of executing the TSS grant is to collect site-specific information for projects GSAs would like to undertake, and he suggested a discussion at the September TAC meeting to bring in GSAs ideas and consult with EKI.

Anona Dutton informed the group that DWR will conduct a value assessment from its side, so the Working Group should feel empowered to suggest more than four projects which fall under the allowable categories of monitoring well construction, video monitoring, and geophysics studies. She reminded the group that the primary point of focus from last meeting was nested wells and expressed that GSAs will need to identify areas where these projects would take place.

Near-term coordination: ESJ, South American

Anona Dutton reported that ESJ has developed a model and is actively developing sustainability criteria.

Updates from Subbasin GSAs: SRCD basin boundary adjustment, other

Representatives from Sloughhouse RCD reported that its board passed a proposal for a basin boundary adjustment, which they are hoping to submit to DWR by July 28.

SRCD also announced that UC Davis PhD candidate Stephen Maples will be presenting on his research at the July 25th SRCD board meeting and extended an invitation to Working Group members and the public.

NEXT MEETING

The Working Group will next meet at 9:00 am on August 15 in the Community Room at the Galt Police Department.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Darrel Evenson, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Gary Thomas, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Gene Mancebo, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Damon Wyckoff, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Mike Israel, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Amanda Watson, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Herb Garms, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Barbara Washburn, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Jay Schneider, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Mark Stretars, Omochochumne-Hartnell Water District
Leland Schneider, Omochochumne-Hartnell Water District
Rick Wohle, Clay Water District
Steven Winkler, City of Galt
John Mulrooney, Galt Irrigation District
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County
Linda Dorn, Sacramento County
Rodney Fricke, Sacramento County
Bennett Brooks, CBI
Julia Golomb, CBI
Anona Dutton, EKI
John Fio, EKI
Tom Gohring, Water Forum
John Lowrie, Water Forum
Katherine Perkins, Water Forum

Additionally, members of the public, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority and DWR attended the meeting.

GLOSSARY

Below is a list of commonly used terms:

CBI	Consensus Building Institute - The organization that facilitates SGMA implementation in the Cosumnes Subbasin
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EKI	The firm that currently serves as independent technical consultant for the Cosumnes Subbasin
Galt ID	Galt Irrigation District (link) - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
OHWD	Omochochumne-Hartnell Water District (link) - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin
RFP	Request for Proposal
RFQ	Request for Qualification
Prop. 1	Proposition 1
SGMA	California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (link)
SRCD	Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin
SSCWA	Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority (link)
TAC	Cosumnes Subbasin Technical Advisory Committee – An advisory body, with representatives from each of the seven GSAs, that develops recommendations for approval by the Working Group.
WF	Sacramento Water Forum (link)

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

Visit cosumnes.waterforum.org for the latest meeting information and materials.