

To: Cosumnes Working Group  
From: Consensus Building Institute  
Date: September 14, 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 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 September 19 Working Group meeting.

*Please note that we distributed this document for review in advance of the August 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 describes six sustainability indicators related to groundwater: chronic lowering of groundwater levels, reduction of groundwater storage, seawater intrusion, degraded water quality, land subsidence, and depletion of interconnected surface water. 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?