

To: Cosumnes Working Group
From: Consensus Building Institute
Date: October 12, 2018
Re: Revised Draft Stakeholder Assessment Questions -- to Inform Outreach and Engagement with Interested Groundwater Users

Below are revised draft assessment questions to guide interviews with key representatives of affected groundwater users and water uses within the Cosumnes Subbasin. This assessment is intended to shape and fill gaps in the Cosumnes Subbasin's existing Outreach and Engagement Plan in an effort to (i) ensure meaningful involvement by potentially impacted and interested stakeholders and (ii) comply with SGMA.

As you review this draft, please keep in mind that this assessment has a very narrow purpose: To get ideas for strengthening the outreach and engagement effort. It is not focused on getting input into the Plan development itself as that will come at a later stage and with much broader outreach.

This revised draft reflects input received at the September 19 Working Group meeting.

Draft Discussion Guide to Inform Outreach to Interested Groundwater Users
(For review and discussion with Working Group at its 10/17/18 meeting)

Introduction: *The Interviewer will introduce CBI and explain our role, as well as provide a brief overview of SGMA and its implications for the Cosumnes Subbasin, the role of the Working Group and TAC, and SGMA outreach and engagement requirements.*

Background

- Please tell me a bit about yourself: What do you do for work and what communities are you a part of? Why do you care about groundwater? How do you use groundwater?

Understanding of SGMA

- Prior to this conversation, what was your awareness and understanding of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and what it means for the Cosumnes Subbasin? Had you heard anything about SGMA-related discussions in the Cosumnes sub-basin (e.g. awareness of GSA, Working Group, TAC, etc.)? If so:
 - From where did you receive your information?
 - What has been your impression of discussions to-date? (e.g. What has worked well? Any concerns?)
- Do you have particular areas of concern related to SGMA implementation? Are there areas that you want to better understand?

- How will your interests be represented in development and implementation of a GSP?
[Prompt: GSA, specific interest groups, self, etc.]

Outreach

- To what extent are others in your area aware of SGMA?
- What stakeholders have a stake in these discussions?
 - To what extent are they aware of SGMA?
 - What kind of input is needed from these groups?
 - What type of information is important to provide to these stakeholders?
- Who are key players in the subbasin who can be helpful in getting people involved in these discussion?
- 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?