

**Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group Meeting  
Meeting #25**

Meeting held January 16, 2019

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute and the Water Forum

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>
<b>OHWD, EKI + WF</b>	Discuss TSS application.
<b>GSAs</b>	Contact EKI and WF if interested in submitting a TSS application.
<b>GSAs</b>	Send public water system contact information to EKI.
<b>GSAs</b>	Send survey mailing to landowners (if not already sent).
<b>GSAs</b>	Alert Water Forum of any problems with the mailing database (e.g., names listed in the wrong GSA).
<b>C&amp;E Subcommittee</b>	Meet by phone to review draft C&E Plan and discuss upcoming public workshops.
<b>Water Forum</b>	Plan a groundwater modeling classroom to take place after February.
<b>EKI</b>	Confirm with GSAs the information needed to evaluate groundwater modeling option 4 (pending contract with Water Forum).
<b>EKI</b>	Flesh out groundwater model option 4, with focus on cost, cost-share, access to data, local control, MOU elements/considerations (pending contract with Water Forum).
<b>CBI</b>	Send outreach activity tracker link to GSAs ( <a href="#">link</a> - note that this link is posted at bottom of the Cosumnes homepage).

**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.

**AGENDA REVIEW**

In advance of the January Working Group meeting, the Agenda Review Committee helped refine the meeting agenda. Moving forward, CBI will continue to share draft Working Group agendas with the Agenda Review Committee and incorporate the Committee's feedback before finalizing meeting materials.

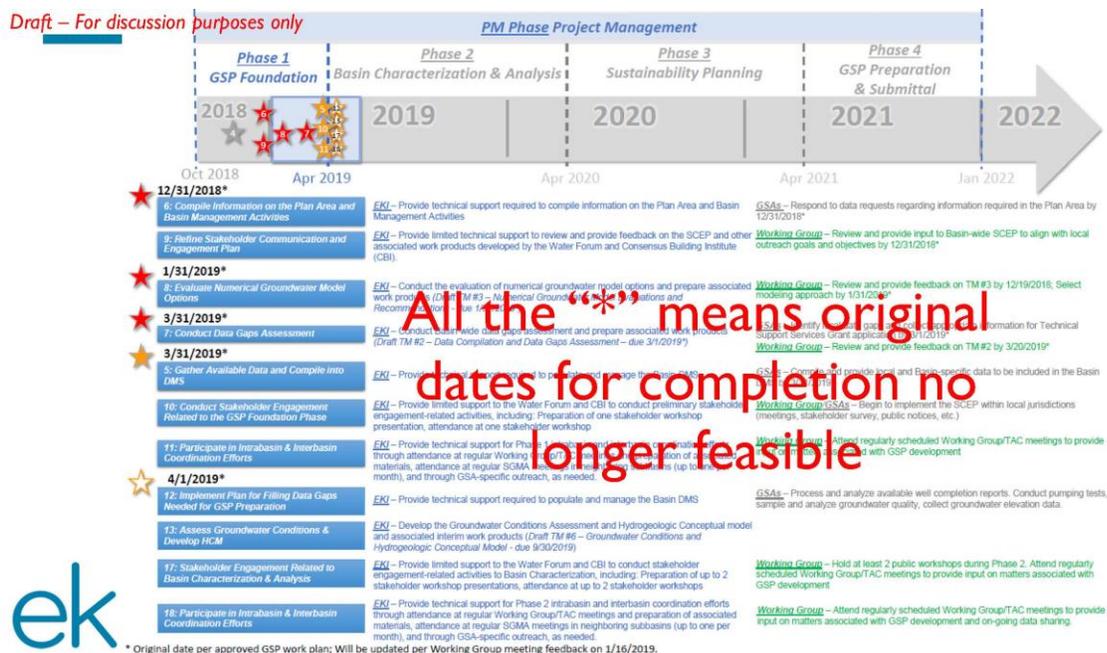
Tom Gohring, Water Forum, shared that he received a request from a member of the public to offer a teleconference option for Working Group meetings. Several Working Group participants support implementing a phone line for remote participation in meetings, but

cautioned that technical difficulties could limit the success of remote participation. Other participants expressed concerns regarding a teleconference hook-up and, in particular, recording of the meeting. Julia Golomb, CBI, suggested that the topic be revisited as part of the Working Group’s discussion of stakeholder outreach and engagement.

## GENERAL UPDATES

### Three-month look-ahead

Anona Dutton, EKI, presented an updated three-month look-ahead schedule. In her overview, Dutton noted that, based on the Working Group’s current progress, it is no longer feasible to meet the deadlines set in November. Dutton emphasized the importance of making timely decisions in order to meet key deadlines moving forward.



### Near-term coordination: Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin

Eastern San Joaquin (ESJ) Subbasin identified a 100,000 acre-foot per year overdraft. The ESJ Groundwater Authority is currently evaluating 31 proposed projects submitted by GSAs and considering approaches to finance projects.

### Near-term coordination: South American Subbasin

Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD), Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority and Sacramento County have been engaged in long-term negotiations and intend to share a draft set of terms at their respective board meetings in March.

Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County relayed that DWR has delayed its decision on the South American Subbasin Alternative Submittal until March 2019.

### Technical Support Services Grant

DWR has approved Amador County Groundwater Management Authority's proposal for a Technical Support Services (TSS) grant. OHWD identified possible well locations and will consult with EKI and the Water Forum to begin developing a TSS grant application. Other GSAs interested in pursuing a TSS grant were encouraged to contact EKI and the Water Forum.

### Prop. 1 Grant Update

Sacramento County processed its first EKI invoice, which it will send to the Working Group Finance Committee for review. Schmitz noted that her office held a productive grant kick-off meeting with DWR grant administration staff.

### Relevant Updates from Subbasin GSAs

Barbara Washburn, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District, suggested that EKI hold a groundwater modeling classroom for Working Group participants and other interested parties. The Water Forum is willing to extend its contract with EKI for this service if GSAs express interest. Gohring spoke with Dutton about developing curriculum.

**Outcome:** GSAs directed the Water Forum and EKI to hold a **groundwater modeling classroom** for the Cosumnes Working Group and interested members of the public, ideally before the March meeting.

## GROUNDWATER MODELING

As directed at the December Working Group meeting, EKI, the Water Forum, and representatives from OHWD, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD) and Sacramento County met with Rob Swartz, Regional Water Authority (RWA) and Woodard & Curran technical consultants to explore the possibility of coordination between modeling efforts in the two subbasins.

Gohring explained that the meeting yielded additional information indicating that it may be possible for the Cosumnes Subbasin to coordinate closely with RWA and Woodard & Curran. However, further discussion of this possible coordination is dependent on Working Group direction. Gohring outlined the following steps needed to further pursue this option:

- 1) First, the Working Group would need to direct EKI and the Water Forum to remain in dialogue with RWA and Woodard & Curran regarding modeling efforts;
- 2) Woodard & Curran must share its existing scope of work with the Cosumnes Working Group;

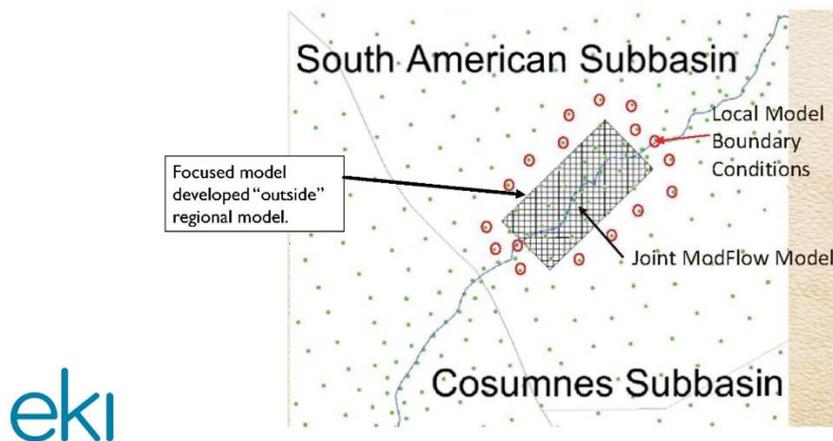
- 3) RWA, Woodard & Curran, the Cosumnes Working Group and EKI would need to develop Terms of Cooperation;
- 4) Additional funding is needed to support EKI's near-term model evaluation efforts and would be needed to support long-term collaboration with RWA and Woodard & Curran.

[View Slides: EKI Technical Presentation](#). To inform the Working Group's discussion of potential groundwater modeling coordination with RWA, EKI clarified the meaning of a "nested" model and provided an update on its groundwater model evaluation efforts.

"Nested" models are also referred to as "linked," "interfaced," or "telescopic." SacIRWM, the model that Woodard & Curran is currently updating for use by RWA, is a nested model. Information from the C2VSim update will be used to update the boundary conditions for SacIRWM and update fine mesh.

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## NESTED, LINKED, INTERFACED MODELS...



The regional model is intended to focus on the North and South American Subbasins. However, Sacramento County and SAFCA expressed interest in extending the model's focus to include the Cosumnes Subbasin in order to support future groundwater planning efforts (e.g., water banking). The regional model update will include a portion of the Cosumnes Subbasin area at a very high level irrespective of Working Group coordination, yet there is opportunity for the Cosumnes Working Group to actively engage in the update, to make it more refined in the Cosumnes Subbasin area.

Based on EKI's evaluation of modeling options to-date (based on criteria determined by the Working Group), Cosumnes coordination with the regional model could be a strong option; however, the merits of pursuing upfront coordination depend on associated costs, which entities would bear those costs, degree of cooperation between the parties, and the specifics of any coordination agreement.

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## PRELIMINARY REFINED MODEL RANKING - WEIGHTED

- Focus on SacIRWM Options vs Subbasin Model
- Additional work needed to address unknowns



Model Selection Criteria		Regional Models - SacIRWM			Subbasin Model Developed by GSAs	
		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Stand Alone	Nested
Pass/Fail	Release Date (available on or before April 1, 2020)	5	5	5	5	5
	Supports water budgets, SMC development, & evaluation of P&MAs	5	5	5	5	5
	Development / Update cost within available budget	5	0/5?	0/5?	5	5
Ranked Priority	1) Represents HCM accepted by Working Group and employed for Cosumnes Subbasin GSP	0	0/5?	5	5	5
	2) Supports coordination with adjacent basins and regional water supply planning (e.g., GW banking)	4	4	4	0	4
	3) Minimum cost for future maintenance, implementation, and adaptive management	3	3	3	0	0
	4) Working Group is primary decision maker	0	0	0/2?	2	2
	5) Schedule allows Working Group opportunity to provide input to model development/update	0	1	1	1	1
<b>SUM</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>18-28</b>	<b>23-30</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>27</b>

The January 14 coordination meeting addressed several issues that had previously factored into the preliminary model evaluation presented at the December Working Group meeting. These issues include:

- The schedule for update of the regional model may be flexible enough to accommodate the Cosumnes Subbasin hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM).
- The Cosumnes Working Group may be able to take complete ownership of the model once the update is complete.
- It appears there may be a funder (Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency) willing to contribute funding to cover costs associated with integrating the Cosumnes Subbasin. It is unclear whether SAFCA funding would be sufficient to cover all additional costs.

Considering this new information, EKI requested direction from the Working Group as to whether to continue to explore coordination with the regional model. EKI presented the group with three potential approaches to coordination (see slides 21-22).

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## SACIWRM MODEL COORDINATION OPTIONS

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Respond</b> to data requests.</li> <li>• Provide high-level review and feedback in response to model development progress reports.</li> <li>• Model, "Baseline," and "Future" scenarios used <b>"as-is"</b> for Cosumnes GSP.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Pro-actively</b> provide data for inclusion in the Model based on GSAs HCM.</li> <li>• Provide limited input and review during Model construction and calibration as part of verification and support.</li> <li>• Provide financial support to model developers commensurate with level of effort to meet Basin-specific requests.</li> <li>• Model, "Baseline," and "Future" scenarios used <b>"as-is"</b> for Cosumnes GSP analysis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Engage and participate</b> in Model construction and calibration by providing data and specifications for model construction and calibration based on GSAs HCM and interactively working with model developers.</li> <li>• Provide financial support to model developers commensurate with level of effort required to meet Basin-specific requests.</li> <li>• Develop input data sets to represent baseline and future conditions as part of Cosumnes GSP analysis.</li> </ul>

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	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<b>Pros</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lowest cost.</li> <li>• Supports regional coordination.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports regional coordination.</li> <li>• Possible coordination support from other agencies.</li> <li>• Better reflects Cosumnes' data and HCM during model development.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports regional coordination.</li> <li>• Possible coordination support from other agencies.</li> <li>• Better reflects Cosumnes' data and HCM during model development.</li> <li>• Ensures Cosumnes GSAs retain local control when used for GSP analysis.</li> </ul>
<b>Cons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model may not adequately reflect GSA approved Basin HCM.</li> <li>• GSAs relinquish local control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule for SacIWRM update may be delayed.</li> <li>• GSAs relinquish local control.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schedule for SacIWRM may be delayed.</li> </ul>
<b>Coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires limited interactions and no cost-sharing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires MOU that defines interactions and cost-share.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires MOU that defines interactions and cost-share.</li> </ul>
<b>Estimated Approximate EKI Cost</b>	\$25K-\$50K <i>(does not include Model update costs of \$200K)</i>	\$75K-\$100K <i>(does not include Model update costs of \$200K)</i>	\$100K-\$150K <i>(does not include Model update costs of \$200K)</i>

Any of the three options for coordination are outside EKI's scope of work and would require approval from the Working Group and a supplement to the Water Forum contract.

### Discussion – Coordination with Regional Groundwater Modeling:

- The Working Group does not support option 1 or 2 given concerns that GSAs would have limited local control. If the Cosumnes Subbasin were to proceed with the regional model, it would utilize option 3 or a variation on option 3 (to be developed; see below).
- Some participants observed that a regional groundwater model may better support the Cosumnes Subbasin in evaluating options to move water from the American River, as a strategy to address potential groundwater overdraft without reducing demand.

- EKI advised that, from a technical standpoint, all options would support the development of a comprehensive GSP and regional projects. Further, any model will require ongoing model maintenance and future updates.
- In order to evaluate this option, the Working Group would need clarity from RWA regarding the regional model update schedule, cost and possible level of Cosumnes Subbasin autonomy.
- EKI has completed its existing scope for model selection. The Water Forum offered to fund EKI's subsequent model selection efforts. However, longer-term model coordination would require additional external funding.
- SAFCA may be able to contribute funding in the range of \$100,000 - \$150,000 to support a regional modeling effort.
- If the Working Group decides to pursue the regional model, GSAs and their legal teams would need to actively engage in development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Cosumnes Subbasin and RWA. It is unlikely that a formal MOU would be drafted in the next month or two.
- Several Working Group members expressed concerns that coordination with the regional model would increase the complexity and cost of groundwater modeling for the Cosumnes Subbasin, while also making it more difficult for the subbasin to meet key deadlines or to retain autonomy and control of the process.
- Participants emphasized the importance of prioritizing the interests of the Cosumnes Subbasin in model selection.
- Representatives from Sacramento County and OHWD expressed that their agencies would benefit from close coordination with the South American Subbasin.
- Participants agreed that if the Cosumnes Subbasin pursues coordination with the regional model, the subbasin would need a high degree of active involvement in the regional model development (Option 3 or some variation).
- EKI suggested an "Option 4" or "hybrid" approach, whereby the Cosumnes Subbasin would provide specifications for the SacIRWM update, Woodard & Curran would develop a framework that meets the objectives of a nested model, and then EKI and the Working Group would retain full control of the model. This option would differ from Option 3 in that EKI would complete the model update for the Cosumnes Subbasin rather than coordinate with Woodard & Curran to complete the detailed modeling work in the Cosumnes.

**Outcome:** Five out of seven GSAs (Amador County, City of Galt, Galt ID, OHWD, Sacramento County) recommend that EKI to evaluate option 4. Two GSAs (Sloughhouse and Clay) did not support further consideration of option 4. Given Working Group decision rules (support from 5 out of 7 GSAs required), EKI is to move forward with further evaluation of option 4.

**Next steps:** Pending an amended contract with the Water Forum, EKI will present at the February Working Group meeting a more complete description of a hybrid approach to coordination with regional model development efforts, with particular focus on (i) model

ownership and relationship to a nested model, (ii) cost and cost-share implications to the subbasin, and (iii) model schedule. The Working Group aims to recommend a preferred modeling approach at its March meeting (thereby delaying the decision by a month). Each GSA would then take the Working Group's recommendation to its respective governing bodies for consideration.

Additionally, in the coming months the Water Forum will organize a groundwater classroom. It will aim to hold this in advance of the March Working Group meeting.

**Public Comment:**

- Melinda Frost-Hurzel, Cosumnes Coalition, expressed her support for the Working Group's exploration of interbasin coordination. Frost-Hurzel emphasized the importance of modeling future conditions and focusing on recharge projects.

## **STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT**

Julia Golomb, CBI, presented on SGMA outreach and engagement in the Cosumnes Subbasin. [View slides](#).

### **Stakeholder Data Collection Survey**

Sloughhouse RCD and Clay ID both mailed the stakeholder data collection survey to their respective constituents. As of January 15, fourteen residents responded to the survey via [SurveyMonkey](#) ([link](#)), email, and postal mail. These initial responses have yielded rich information. The remaining GSAs intend to mail the survey in the coming weeks.

### **Autumn 2018 Stakeholder Assessment**

In fall 2018, Golomb conducted phone interviews with ten individuals across stakeholder category, based on an interview list generated by Working Group. These conversations generated the following key themes:

- Important to provide stakeholders with information about how SGMA will (or might) affect them.
- At this early planning stage, there is not yet a concrete "hook" for engagement (i.e. new pumping costs and constraints)
- Important to start educating community members now (so that 2022 doesn't sneak up).
- Familiar, local organizations can serve as a trusted source of information. Consider training/briefing community & organizational leaders so they are well versed in SGMA and can relay info to their constituents.
- Identify critical areas and the people in those areas.

- Ensure that WG/TAC and GSA meetings are truly inclusive of new participants.
- Varied perspectives on the best time for meetings/public workshops: 6 pm is too late for some while daytime is difficult for others.
- Need pathway for EKI/TAC to receive information from existing research
- Communicate what groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) are and how they are affected by groundwater.

### **Draft Communication and Engagement Plan**

The above stakeholder assessment findings, along with the subbasin's earlier stakeholder outreach plan, informed the draft Cosumnes Subbasin Communication and Engagement Plan ([link](#)). Though there was not sufficient time to elicit GSA feedback at the meeting, the Working Group agreed to set up a Communication and Engagement (C&E) Committee to provide feedback on the draft plan for Working Group consideration at its February 20 meeting. Golomb noted that the Plan will remain a living document until it is ultimately submitted as part of the GSP.

### **Outreach Activity Tracker**

Golomb requested that each GSA document its outreach activities via the online [outreach activity tracker \(link\)](#), which will in turn populate Appendix C of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Many GSAs routinely discuss SGMA at their board meetings and confirmed this is appropriate information to document via the tracker. The Stakeholder Survey mailing is another activity which should be recorded.

**Outcome:** The Working Group formed a Communication and Engagement (C&E) Committee comprising one representative per GSA (Darrel Evensen, Amador County; Mike Wackman, OHWD; Gary Silva Jr., Clay ID; Leo Van Warmerdam, Galt ID; Mark Clarkson, City of Galt; Barbara Washburn, Sloughhouse RCD and Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County) to advance the Working Group's C&E efforts. The C&E Committee will also discuss proposed spring 2019 public workshops ([view workshop memo](#)).

### **Next Steps:**

- The C&E Committee will meet by phone in the coming week to (i) discuss the draft C&E Plan and prepare the Plan for Working Group adoption as a living document at the February 20 Working Group meeting, (ii) discuss March/April 2019 public workshops and (iii) consider the request for a dial-in number for Working Group meetings.
- At its February meeting, the Working Group will be asked to adopt the Communication and Engagement Plan, with the understanding that it will remain a living document.
- GSAs will enter outreach activities in the Outreach Activity Tracker on an ongoing basis.
- GSAs that have not yet done so will mail Stakeholder Surveys.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Working Group will next meet in person from 9:00 am to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at the Herald Fire Department Community Room, 12746 Ivie Rd, Herald, CA 95638.

**MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

Darrel Evensen, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority  
Ed Gonzalez, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority  
Gene Mancebo, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority  
Gary Thomas, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority  
Herb Garms, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District  
Jay Schneider, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District  
Mark Stretars, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District  
Mike Wackman, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District  
Gary Silva Jr., Clay Water District  
Rick Wohle, Clay Water District  
Sue Wohle, Clay Water District  
Mark Clarkson, City of Galt  
Leo Van Warmerdam, Galt Irrigation District  
Kerry Schmitz, 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 and DWR attended the meeting.

**GLOSSARY - Below is a list of commonly used terms:**

<b>CBI</b>	Consensus Building Institute - The organization that facilitates SGMA implementation in the Cosumnes Subbasin
<b>DMS</b>	Data Management System
<b>DWR</b>	California Department of Water Resources
<b>EKI</b>	The firm that currently serves as independent technical consultant for the Cosumnes Subbasin

<b>ESJGA</b>	Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority
<b>Galt ID</b>	Galt Irrigation District ( <a href="#">link</a> ) - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin
<b>GSA</b>	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
<b>GSP</b>	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
<b>IWFM</b>	Integrated Water Flow Model – a groundwater model supported by DWR
<b>OHWD</b>	Omochumne-Hartnell Water District ( <a href="#">link</a> ) - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin
<b>QA/QC</b>	Quality Assurance/Quality Control
<b>RFP</b>	Request for Proposal
<b>RFQ</b>	Request for Qualification
<b>Prop. 1</b>	Proposition 1 (state grant funding for sustainable groundwater planning and projects)
<b>SacIRWM</b>	The Sacramento Regional Water Model – existing regional groundwater model developed by RWA
<b>SCEP</b>	Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan
<b>SGA</b>	Sacramento Groundwater Authority
<b>SGMA</b>	California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ( <a href="#">link</a> )
<b>SRCD</b>	Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin
<b>SSCWA</b>	Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority ( <a href="#">link</a> )
<b>TAC</b>	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.
<b>TM</b>	Technical Memorandum – Summary documents produced by EKI to inform Working Group discussions and decision-making
<b>WF</b>	Sacramento Water Forum ( <a href="#">link</a> )
<b>WG</b>	Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group

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](http://cosumnes.waterforum.org) for the latest meeting information and materials.