

**Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group Meeting
Meeting #27**

Meeting held March 20, 2019

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute and the Water Forum

ACTION ITEMS

Who	What
GSAs	Renew efforts to contact water suppliers (Amador, Clay ID with SMUD); provide update to John Fio on status
GSAs	Panelists participate in one or multiple workshops, depending on GSA. Wilton workshop – G. Silva, M. Stretars, H. Garms and B. Washburn, M. Wackman, L. VanWarmerdam Galt workshop - Schmitz, Clarkson
GSAs	Attend the Groundwater Classroom on April 4; if desired, send one representative to the dry run March 28
M. Wackman, K. Schmitz and D. Evenson	Meet with Eastern San Joaquin County Groundwater Basin Authority representatives
GSAs and EKI	Seek feedback/confirmation of modeling mesh specifications at 1-on-1 meetings with GSA
EKI	Incorporate additional creek channels in recommended model mesh specifications
EKI	Follow up with Amador on casino well dat
EKI, Water Forum	Follow up with DWR on TSS contract
Water Forum	Send OHWD water system form to EKI
Water Forum	Follow up with SRCD on cover letter for data collection
Water Forum	Create large, detailed subbasin map for public workshops; include district boundaries, roads and surface water features
Water Forum	Update public workshop presentation based on GSA feedback (costs, potential for state fees, etc.)
CBI	Schedule 1-on-1 between Clay and EKI
CBI	Distribute stakeholder engagement PowerPoint to GSAs
CBI	Finalize public workshop agenda

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.

UPDATES

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN UPDATES

Three-month look-ahead

EKI presented an updated **three-month look-ahead** ([link](#)).

QA/QC Plan

EKI shared a **memorandum on the Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) Plan** ([link](#)). The QA/QC Plan is intended to ensure that the Cosumnes Subbasin's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) is based on the best available science, as required by SGMA. A GSA representative expressed concern that the QA/QC Plan shared with the Working Group lacks detail. John Fio and Kristyn Lindhart, EKI, responded that the document is intended for internal use to guide GSP development and not as a deliverable for SGMA compliance. Rodney Fricke, technical consultant for Sacramento County, shared his experience that the level of detail required for QA/QC plan for a contaminant study is not necessary for a management plan.

Groundwater modeling coordination

EKI shared a **technical presentation** ([link](#)) on model coordination. The first CoSANA (Cosumnes, South American, North American) Model Workshop was held on March 5 and attended by the Water Forum. RWA is in the process of developing model mesh specifications for the CoSANA model; EKI's recommendations for the Cosumnes Subbasin are due by April.

Groundwater modeling classroom

John Fio, EKI, will lead a groundwater modeling classroom on April 4, 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the Galt Police Department Community Room (455 Industrial Drive, Galt, CA 95632). While oriented toward Working Group members, the event is open to the public. The Water Forum-funded development of the curriculum, and a dry run will be held on March 28, 10:00 am to noon at the Water Forum office (1330 21st St., Sacramento). Gohring invited one representative from each GSA to attend the dry run and give feedback on Fio's presentation.

EKI interviews with GSAs

EKI will meet with Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD) on March 20, and with Galt Irrigation District (Galt ID), Amador County Groundwater Management Authority, City of Galt, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD) and Sacramento County on March 22. Clay Water District was unable to participate in an interview on March 22. The agenda for interviews include discussion of relevant past studies, representation in

proposed model grid/mesh, geographic areas of interest, available data, anecdotal information, and current/planned/desired projects.

With regard to mesh specifications, Fio explained that the average element size of 60 acres for the internal basin areas is acceptable and a conservatively fine size. Fio asked the group which creeks should be considered during model mesh development; GSA representatives suggested Hadsville Creek, Sutter Creek, and Arkansas Creek. Fio also asked that GSAs provide feedback on vertical specifications to help develop an understanding of basin geology. Amador representatives raised questions around the “islands” in Amador County, to which Fio responded that any and all information on these areas would be helpful.

Next steps:

- CBI will reschedule the interview between Clay Water District and EKI.
- EKI will consider Hadsville Creek, Sutter Creek, and Arkansas Creeks in model mesh specifications.

EKI general stakeholder survey – overview of results

John Lowrie, Water Forum, reported that he sent the **Landowner Data Request Forms** ([link](#)) to stakeholders who indicated in an earlier survey their willingness to share well data. Lowrie is awaiting further guidance on a cover letter from Sloughouse before sending data request to residents within SRCD. Lowrie and Barbara Washburn, SRCD, agreed to connect regarding SRCD’s custom cover letter for the data request mailing. The Working Group and EKI agreed to shift the data request form due date to late April.

EKI sent a generic data request to Public Water System providers. So far, Jackson Valley Irrigation District (JVID) responded. EKI is beginning to develop a cross section of Dry Creek using lithology data provided by JVID. Fio pointed to the Dry Creek data as a good example of how data from GSA interviews could fill data gaps.

Next steps:

- John Lowrie will coordinate with Mike Wackman to submit data for Laguna del Sol to EKI.
- GSAs should follow up with Public Water Systems in their jurisdictions.

GENERAL UPDATES

Near-term coordination: ESJ, South American

The Eastern San Joaquin (ESJ) Groundwater Basin Authority developed a list of potential projects and management actions to address overdraft and will implement these projects at the GSA level. Basin modelers ran two scenarios related to reduced pumping: a uniform decrease of pumping (10% reduction from ag and urban), and a targeted reduction of

pumping around the cone of depression. These scenarios would impact the Cosumnes Subbasin differently and the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group will need to remain engaged as the ESJ Basin implements its GSP. Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin will release its draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan in June, at which time the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group may submit comments.

Next steps:

- M. Wackman will arrange a meeting with K. Schmitz, D. Evenson and Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Basin GSAs.

Technical Support Services grant

Amador County is awaiting follow-up from DWR regarding its TSS grant application. Paul Wells, DWR, offered to coordinate with John Lowrie, Water Forum, regarding the TSS grant. Omochumne-Hartnell Water District may still be interested in submitting a TSS grant application; Mike Wackman is to follow up with EKI.

Financial/grant-related issues

Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County, reported that she has submitted the first invoice to the State of California Department of Water Resources and is now working on a second invoice which will include pre-grant work. Schmitz noted that she has been sending out EKI invoices to the designed GSAs for review; to-date, GSAs have not voiced any questions or concerns. Sacramento County will continue sharing invoices until the Working Group opts to change the process.

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Cosumnes Subbasin, supported by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) and the Water Forum, will host three upcoming **public workshops** to educate and involve stakeholders in GSP development:

1. Wednesday, March 27, 5-8 pm at Amador Water Agency office, 12800 Ridge Road Sutter Creek, CA
2. Thursday, March 28, 5-7:30pm at Wilton Community Center, 9717 Colony Road, Wilton, CA
3. Thursday, April 4, 5-7:30pm at Galt City Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive, Galt, CA

Julia Golomb, CBI, encouraged GSA representatives and members of the public to share and post the **flyer for Spring 2019 public workshops** ([link](#)). She reported that the Communication and Engagement Committee developed a plan for outreach, which includes posting the flyer on the Wilton bulletin board, contacting the Galt Herald, sharing information with the Farm Bureau and posting on social media. Golomb also shared that

she has announced public workshops via the Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group email list, which now includes 162 new email addresses from stakeholder survey respondents.

The Working Group reviewed a draft internal agenda for Spring 2019 public workshops. The agenda is divided into four topic areas with a presentation and Q&A for each topic. A panel of GSA representatives will participate in each public workshop and Golomb will moderate. County Supervisor Richard Forster will attend the Amador workshop and County Supervisor Don Nottoli will attend the Galt workshop. Tom Gohring, Water Forum, will deliver a PowerPoint presentation, which the Communication and Engagement Committee will review in advance.

Discussion – Public Workshops:

- A GSA representative requested Working Group guidance on how to respond to stakeholder concerns about cost. Other representatives responded that stakeholders should be made aware that a financial arrangement is in place through the planning phase (present to Jan. 2022). After the planning phase, GSAs will have a better sense of the revenues needed to support any needed management actions.
- GSA representatives discussed whether potential fees would require a 2/3 vote under Proposition 218, noting that they have seen this question raised by stakeholders on social media.
- A GSA representative emphasized the importance of encouraging stakeholders to be part of the data gathering and planning process, as this is the stage at which the Working Group will gain a deeper understanding of the subbasin’s groundwater flows and any potential undesirable results, as well to begin identifying potential solutions.
- A GSA representative requested that the Water Forum prepare a wall-sized map of the subbasin with jurisdictional boundaries, major roads and streams to help stakeholders identify their GSA.
- GSA representatives asked that the Water Forum’s presentation cover the potential costs of intervention by the State of California, should the subbasin not successfully meet SGMA requirements.

Public Comment – Public Workshops:

- A member of the public suggested that the spring 2019 public workshops cover SGMA basics lightly and focus on stakeholder engagement. They also asked that the group clarify the regulations regarding public voting on fees and special districts.

Next Steps – Public Workshops:

- In its public workshop presentation, the Water Forum will include information on SGMA basics, stakeholder engagement in the planning process, and potential costs associated with SGMA non-compliance at the local level.

- The Water Forum will prepare a large map that depicts GSA jurisdictional boundaries, streams and roads for use at the public workshops.
- The Working Group will seek a clearer understanding of regulations governing public voting on potential fees.

Bennett Brooks, CBI, introduced the topic of **stakeholder engagement** by noting that upcoming public workshops could provide helpful input as to how stakeholders want to be involved. Brooks reviewed some standing questions: Should the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) be open to public participation? Should CBI conduct small organizational briefings? Brooks listed the ways in which the Cosumnes Working Group is currently receiving or has received public input, including through public comment at Working Group meetings, public workshops, a panel at the TAC, responses to the subbasin website (cosumnes.waterforum.org), GSA meetings, the EKI stakeholder survey, and CBI's stakeholder interviews. Brooks suggested that potential limitations to the Working Group's current approach include limited time for public comment at Working Group meetings, the relatively small number of members of the public present at Working Group meetings, and a somewhat passive approach of receiving input without necessarily building shared understanding.

Discussion – Stakeholder Engagement:

- A Sloughhouse representative noted that Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Working Group composition is largely duplicative, suggesting that the group may miss out on valuable input by omitting representatives from other stakeholder groups on the TAC.
- A Clay Water District representative observed that agricultural interests are well-represented among the Working Group and expressed concern that an additional stakeholder body would bog down the GSP development process.
- A Sacramento County representative shared that they have found that stakeholders appreciate when GSA representatives come to them rather than asking that stakeholders attend meetings that may be inaccessible to them.
- Amador County has dealt with confusion among stakeholders regarding who is within the subbasin.
- Several GSA representatives agreed that there has been progress towards meaningful stakeholder engagement, as the public becomes more aware of SGMA.

There were no comments from members of the public on stakeholder engagement.

POTENTIAL GSA FISCAL RESPONSIBILITIES

John Lowrie, Water Forum, summarized key points from the **memo on potential GSA fiscal responsibilities** ([link](#)): the memo attempts to anticipate additional costs that GSAs may incur in the short term, including mailing costs and special studies. Lowrie noted that while

the Water Forum covered the cost of the data request mailing, in the future GSAs may need to cover similar costs.

Discussion – Potential GSA Fiscal Responsibilities:

- An Amador County representative indicated that none of the costs delineated in the memo come as a surprise; Amador budgeted for mailings but does not know how to budget for special studies.
- Several GSAs indicated that the memo is helpful.

There were no comments from members of the public on potential GSA fiscal responsibilities.

NEXT MEETING

The Working Group and TAC will next meet in person on April 17, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, at the Galt Police Department Community Room, 455 Industrial Drive, Galt, CA.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Darrel Evenson, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Gary Thomas, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Gene Mancebo, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Herb Garms, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Barbara Washburn, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Jay Schneider, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Mark Stretars, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Leland Schneider, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Rick Wohle, Clay Water District
Mike Selling, City of Galt
Mark Clarkson, City of Galt
Leo VanWarmerdam, Galt Irrigation District
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County
Rodney Fricke, Sacramento County
Julia Golomb, CBI
John Fio, EKI
Kristyn Lindhart, 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:

CBI	Consensus Building Institute - The organization that facilitates SGMA implementation in the Cosumnes Subbasin
CoSANA	A groundwater model being developed by Woodard & Curran which covers the Cosumnes, South American and North American subbasins.
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	Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (link) - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin
QAQC	Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plan (link)
RFP	Request for Proposal
RFQ	Request for Qualification
Prop. 1	Proposition 1
SGMA	California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (link)
SRCD	Sloughouse 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.