

Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group Meeting

Meeting #28

Meeting held April 17, 2019

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute and the Water Forum

MEETING-IN-BRIEF

At its twenty-eighth meeting, the Working Group debriefed recent public workshops, the April 4th groundwater classroom, GSA-EKI one-on-one interviews, and SGMA-related forums. Additionally, the Working Group received updates from its technical consultant, EKI, on groundwater sustainability plan development. EKI reported on coordination with the CoSANA modeling effort and progress towards the hydrogeologic conceptual model. All data requests are due back to EKI by the end of April, after which EKI will analyze data gaps. CBI led a discussion of current and future approaches to stakeholder engagement and outreach. The next Working Group meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 15, 2019.

ACTION ITEMS

Who	What
GSAs	Provide responses to EKI data requests (in electronic format, if possible) by end of April
GSAs	Continue to document all GSA outreach and engagement activities via the Outreach Activity Tracker (link).
OHWD, Sacramento County	Provide data for land within Omochumne-Hartnell Water District jurisdiction running along the north side of the Cosumnes River
OHWD	Decide on the Technical Support Services grant application ASAP
EKI	Prepare memo on data gaps by end of May
EKI	Distribute EKI slides (link)
EKI	Follow up on aquaculture data (Clay, Galt, SRCD)
EKI	Consider needed revisions to mesh specifications given GSA interest in (1) areas of potential recharge; and (2) Lake Amador
Water Forum	Distribute/post slides from GRA Groundwater Law forum
Water Forum	Coordinate, as needed, with OH on TSS grant application

DISCUSSION – KEY THEMES

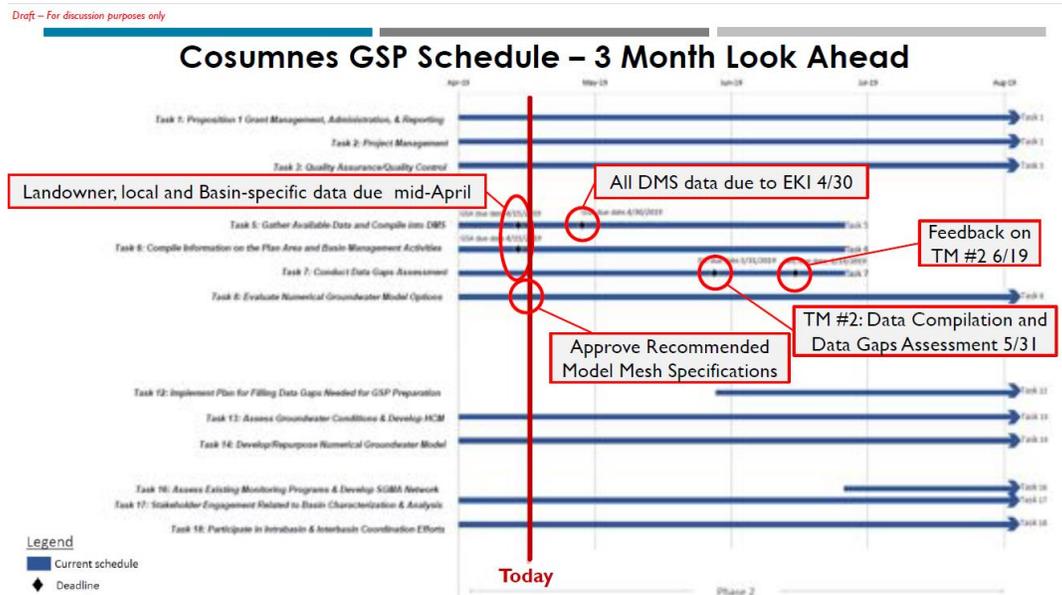
Below is a summary of key themes discussed at the meeting. This summary is not intended to be a meeting transcript. Rather, it focuses on the main points covered during the group's discussions and any action items.

UPDATES

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN UPDATES

Three-month look-ahead

EKI presented an updated Cosumnes groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) schedule **three-month look-ahead** ([link](#)).



Groundwater Modeling Classroom – debrief

A Groundwater Modeling Classroom taught by John Fio, EKI, was held April 4, 2019. Twenty-four people attended, including groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) representatives, members of the public, and Water Forum, Consensus Building Institute (CBI) and EKI staff. Working Group members who attended the classroom described the classroom as helpful and engaging. The Water Forum is preparing a recording of the classroom, which will soon be made available.

GSA one-on-ones - debrief

The **EKI technical presentation** ([link](#)) covered GSA one-on-one interviews in **slides 6-10**. EKI conducted interviews with representatives from each GSA in March and April. EKI and GSAs found these interviews to be very informative. EKI integrated the data received from interviews into the data management system and developed a list of additional entities to contact for potentially useful information. EKI plans to conduct additional one-on-one meetings with GSAs at key GSP development milestones.

Next Steps – GSA one-one-ones:

- City of Galt, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OH), Sacramento County, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD), and Clay Water District to submit data to EKI in electronic format by the end of April.
- Clay, Galt, SRCD to follow-up with EKI regarding information on aquaculture in their jurisdictions.

Groundwater modeling coordination

The **EKI technical presentation** ([link](#)) covered groundwater modeling coordination in **slides 32-41**. EKI is proceeding with coordination with the Cosumnes, South American, North American (CoSANA) model; EKI noted that no activity to date has triggered any of the concerns previously outlined by the Working Group: (1) impeded Working Group leadership in Cosumnes Subbasin model development and implementation, (2) failed to meet model design and data sharing specifications, (3) increased costs to EKI or the Cosumnes Working Group or (4) constrained the Working Group's ultimate model selection.

EKI will provide RWA with Cosumnes Subbasin model mesh specifications that accommodate GSA boundaries (and their sphere of influence, jurisdictional, and project boundaries), census designated places, and surface water features. Vertical specifications include updated layering based on the new cross-section. EKI will provide these specifications in shapefile format to CoSANA modelers by the end of April.

Discussion – Groundwater modeling coordination:

- A SRCD representative inquired about the process for deciding to separate from the CoSANA modeling coordination if one GSA voted to separate. Bennett Brooks, CBI, answered that the Framework Agreement would apply in such a situation, meaning that the group would strive to reach consensus through conversations and, if needed, ultimately a decision would require 4 out of 7 votes.
- A Clay WD representative expressed concern that Sacramento County would act in the interest of County-wide compliance to the disadvantage of the Cosumnes Subbasin. A Sacramento County representative responded that as a representative to the Working Group, her role is to represent the interests of groundwater users within Sacramento County's GSA in the Cosumnes Subbasin.
- A SRCD representative asked EKI about the nature of issues that might cause EKI to recommend separating from CoSANA coordination, and whether coordinated modeling could lead to detrimental impacts to the subbasin. EKI responded that modeling may reveal undesirable results that disproportionately impact one GSA, but this would be a result of the science and not a result of coordination. All data and modeling will be brought to the Working Group as it is developed, and results will be given with a sensitivity range and recommendations to reduce uncertainty.
- GSA representatives expressed confidence in and satisfaction with EKI as the subbasin's technical experts.

- A technical consultant to Sacramento County advised that past models have inaccurately represented the conductivity value of the Mehrten formation.

Next Steps – Groundwater modeling coordination:

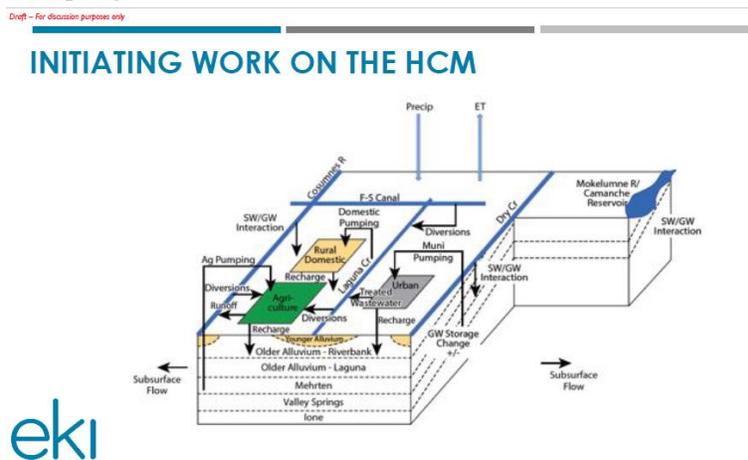
- EKI will continue to report back to the Working Group each month regarding model coordination. Over the next four to five months, the Working Group will have the opportunity to learn and build trust in the CoSANA coordination process.
- EKI will check on including Lake Amador in model mesh specifications.

Public Comment – Groundwater modeling coordination:

- A member of the public participating in the meeting via call-in expressed concern that new residential developments within Sacramento County increase water demand. EKI responded that the Sustainable Management Groundwater Act (SGMA) requires a 50-year future projection of land use change, population change and climate change; if development is occurring outside of the Cosumnes Subbasin, coordination will benefit EKI’s ability to make accurate projections.

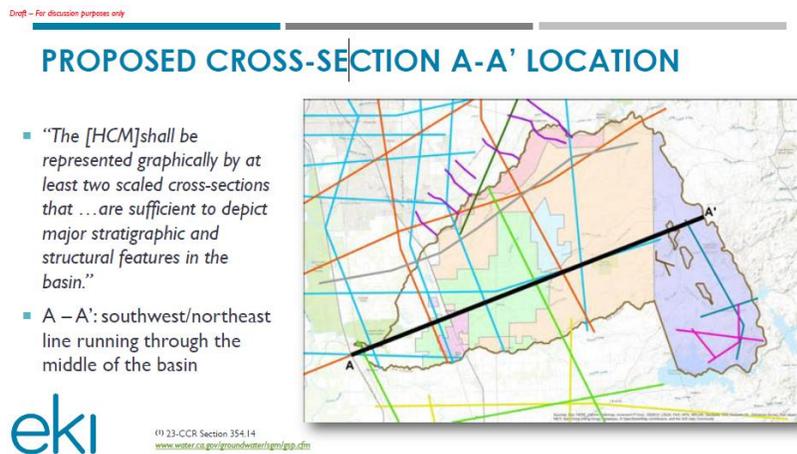
Hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM) progress, key findings and data gaps

The **EKI technical presentation** ([link](#)) covered HCM updates in **slides 23-31**. The Hydrogeological Conceptual Model (HCM) characterizes the physical components and interactions of the surface water and groundwater systems in the basin and is a requirement for the GSP. EKI is initiating work on the HCM by developing a schematic for the basin and developing cross-sections of the basin.



EKI proposed a cross-section location to complement existing cross-sections, illustrated by the A – A’ line in slide 26. The cross-section development process consists of integration of published stratigraphy by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), inferred lithography from well-driller and boring logs, modified stratigraphy and maps of surficial geology and topography trace from a digital elevation model. EKI answered questions related to location selection of the cross-section by explaining that the A – A’ line follows a

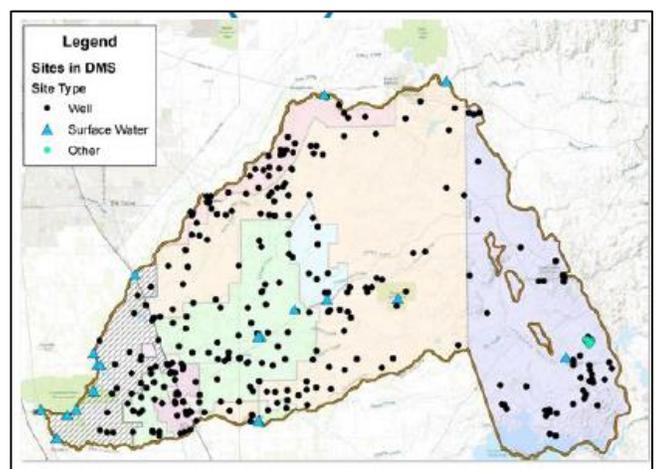
path upon which existing data can be built. EKI suggested that additional cross-sections near the river may be desired. Another cross-section which runs perpendicular to the A – A' line is also required by SGMA.



Data Management System

EKI's technical presentation ([link](#)) covered the data management system (DMS) in **slides 13- 22**. EKI enters all of its gathered data into the DMS. The DMS includes 544 data sites in the Cosumnes Subbasin to date and continues to grow.

EKI detailed the different kinds of well data available (screened interval, water quality, etc.), and answered questions related to the utility of different kinds of well data. Not all wells have water level data. In addition to well data, EKI said it has data for a total of 20 surface water sites.



Information in the DMS will be used to develop the basin setting, which encompasses the HCM, groundwater conditions and water budget. All data is due to EKI by the end of April, after which EKI will compile a data gaps assessment, which is due to the Working Group by the end of May.

Next Steps – Data management system:

- Mike Wackman, OHWD, and Rodney Fricke, technical consultant to Sacramento County, will follow up with EKI regarding near-river data.

Groundwater user survey results

CBI noted that it has received 211 responses to the EKI stakeholder survey as of April 15, 2019. 127 respondents indicated that they are willing to share well data and 15 people have already done so. Stakeholders have provided information on their wells including location and for some, historical water level data, land use data, and production data.

GENERAL UPDATES

Near-term coordination: Eastern San Joaquin and South American Subbasins

EKI's technical presentation ([link](#)) covered Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin (ESJ) coordination in **slides 43-46**. EKI reported back from the April 10, 2019 ESJ board meeting that the ESJ board adopted the low end of groundwater pumping offset target, 80,000-acre feet/year, to rectify the 38,000-acre feet/year of overdraft. The lower-end target assumes focused implementation of projects and management actions (P&MAs) but no direct nexus to policy has been established to-date. The target does not include a quantitative climate change analysis; the impact of climate change on the subbasin will be considered qualitatively. Draft sections of the ESJ GSP will be released May-July 2019.

Discussion – ESJ Coordination:

- A SRCD representative asked where the areas of focused pumping reduction are located. EKI responded that this information has not yet been released.
- EKI noted the need to clarify the relationship between overdraft and offset in the future, as it is not a one-to-one relationship.
- A meeting between Sacramento County, OHWD, EKI, an ESJ attorney and Woodard & Curran was held April 15, 2019. This meeting initiated more formal coordination of technical work, established the intent on ongoing coordination, and identified four key points of coordination: cross-boundary flows, sustainability criteria, river recharge and future water levels. Participants observed that the meeting pointed to a need for similar meetings with the South American subbasin.

Technical Support Services grant

EKI and Water Forum reported that Amador County Groundwater Management Authority requested to use EKI's services for additional support to execute its accepted Technical Support Services (TSS) grant from DWR. Tom Gohring, Water Forum, asked the Working Group for direction as to whether to use remaining Water Forum funds to satisfy Amador County's request, noting that this might exhaust the remaining funds though OHWD previously expressed interest in submitting a TSS grant. Mike Wackman asked that OHWD be given a week longer to troubleshoot issues related to potential well location ownership and decide on whether to submit a TSS grant.

Next Steps – TSS grant:

- Mike Wackman, OHWD, will follow up with EKI as soon as possible regarding plans to submit a TSS grant.

- If OHWD does not wish to utilize EKI's services, EKI and Amador will discuss the nature of the work needed to execute the TSS grant and move forward if funds are sufficient.

Report out: Recent SGMA-related conferences

Kat Perkins, Water Forum, shared a **presentation recapping recent SGMA-related conferences** ([link](#)). The presentation shared some take-aways and resources available from DWR's Groundwater Sustainability Forum, held March 21, 2019 and the Groundwater Resources Association of California's Groundwater Law and Legislation Forum, held March 27, 2019. Video and slides from DWR's GSA Forum are available online ([link: PowerPoint presentations](#); [link: video](#)).

Public Comment – General Updates:

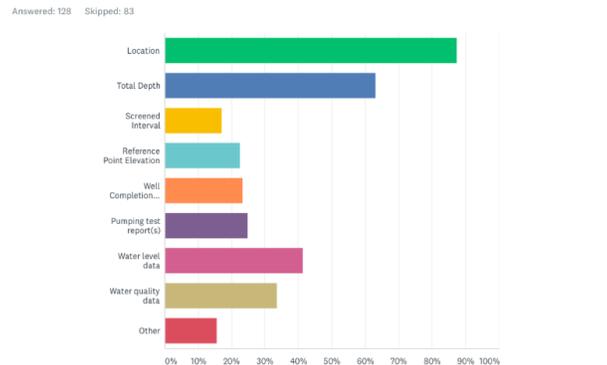
- A member of the public shared that she attended DWR's GSA Forum and found it very informative. She observed that GSAs vary significantly across the state and incorporate a range of entities.
- A member of the public asked whether residents of Rancho Murieta should participate in groundwater sustainability planning in both the South American and Cosumnes Subbasins, as the community is split across the two subbasins. Working Group members and Bennett Brooks, CBI, affirmed that this is correct. She also expressed concern with new residential development in Rancho Murieta and elsewhere in Sacramento County. Brooks responded that anticipated future land use is a critical component of GSP development.

STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder Survey Results

Julia Golomb, CBI, **summarized stakeholder survey responses** ([link - slides 2-9](#)). Of the 211 **Stakeholder Survey** ([link](#)) responses, 128 respondents indicated willingness to share data. John Lowrie, Water Forum, has since sent these respondents a **follow-up landowner data request form** ([link](#)).

[For agricultural and domestic well owners/users]: Are you willing to share the following data with the Working Group to support GSP development? (check all that apply).



178 respondents indicated that they were not previously aware of the SGMA. All 174 respondents who provided email addresses have been added to the Cosumnes Working Group listserv and will now receive updates related to groundwater sustainability planning in the Cosumnes Subbasin.

Discussion – Stakeholder Survey Results:

- Tom Gohring, Water Forum, observed that responses to the question about previous familiarity with SGMA indicate that GSAs and the planning team should include basic SGMA background information in future public workshops and communications.
- A SRCD representative and Golomb discussed the need for more mailers at key milestones during GSP development.
- Anona Dutton, EKI, highlighted the importance of reflecting back stakeholder input in the GSP.

Next Steps – Stakeholder Survey Results:

- GSAs will continue to enter outreach activities in the **outreach tracker** ([link](#)) so that the Working Group can maintain a record of how stakeholder feedback is reflected in GSP development.
- The Water Forum will continue to follow up with new stakeholder survey respondents.

Debrief recent round of public workshops

Golomb shared key take-aways from the Cosumnes Subbasin’s most recent round of public workshops and suggestions for how to address stakeholder input:

1. Stakeholders have a strong interest in recharge.
 - Suggestion: OHWD could host a workshop about its recharge project.
2. Stakeholders requested a report-back on basin conditions.
 - Suggestion: EKI and Water Forum could present the results of basin conditions at a future public workshop.
3. Some stakeholders desire direct engagement with GSAs.

- Suggestion: GSAs could hold GSA-specific briefings.

Discussion – Debrief public workshops

- GSA representatives and the planning team echoed Golomb’s sentiment that the workshops’ presentation and panel format worked well.
- A SRCD representative commented that a PA system was needed at the Wilton workshop. Golomb noted that the planning team has since learned that a PA system is available for use at the Wilton Community Center.
- A Clay WD representative relayed comments from residents that they were not able to find their GSA using the map and that a more detailed map would be helpful for stakeholders. Golomb noted that a detailed map was present but may not have been visible to all Wilton workshop participants.

Revisit approach to future stakeholder engagement efforts

Bennett Brooks, CBI, **presented on Cosumnes Subbasin Stakeholder Input and Engagement** ([link](#)). Brooks reviewed the Working Group’s discussion at its last meeting regarding pros and cons of its current approach to stakeholder outreach.

Upside of Current Approach	Limitations of Current Approach
Established process for ongoing input (regularly scheduled opportunities at WG/TAC)	Insufficient time at WG/TAC for in-depth public comment; limited attendance; some groups not in mix at all
Established process model for deeper dives on specific topics (TAC panel)	Stakeholder frustration
Broad outreach mechanisms in place (public workshops, surveys, web)	Not building shared knowledge base
Efficient process for getting input	Largely passive strategies Are we getting the input we need (technical and policy)? Unclear if building support/credibility in work

At the March Working Group meeting, participants highlighted upcoming public workshops as an opportunity to solicit feedback on the subbasin’s approach to stakeholder engagement. Brooks observed that feedback received at the public workshops echoed responses to the stakeholder survey:

- Most stakeholder know little about SGMA.
- There is strong interest in remaining informed via a range of mechanisms.
- There were few calls for formal input.
- Additionally, feedback at public workshops provided more specificity on topics of interest to stakeholders (recharge, basin conditions, etc.).

Brooks then posed the questions:

- Is the current approach to outreach working now?

- Is something different needed?
- Is this something to revisit once basin characterization begins?

Discussion – Approach to future stakeholder engagement efforts:

- A Clay WD representative reiterated the need to solicit feedback from the public once the basin characterization is finalized rather than when it is in progress.
- A SRCD representative inquired about how to include environmental stakeholders' input and suggested that an informal advisory group could be one possible structure to incorporate environmental voices. Brooks noted that the inclusion of environmental voices will be especially important during discussion of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) in the subbasin.
- EKI reflected on differences between the Cosumnes and other subbasins: whereas GSAs in some other subbasins send technical staff to TAC meetings, the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group and TAC are largely composed of the same individuals.
- A Galt ID representative observed that each Cosumnes Subbasin GSA holds a monthly meeting separate from the Working Group, which provides another opportunity for public to attend and participate. He also suggested limiting the amount of time allocated to public comment from remote participants at Working Group meetings.
- A SRCD representative commented that more stakeholders will join the conversation once issues like overdraft are identified. B. Brooks suggested that the Working Group may want to revisit its approach to outreach (1) once more of the technical work to characterize the basin has been completed, and (2) if and when there is greater public interest in providing detailed input.

Next Steps – Approach to future stakeholder engagement efforts:

- Julia Golomb, CBI, asked that GSAs, Water Forum, and EKI send her any items that they would like included in listserv emails.
- The Working Group may revisit its approach to stakeholder engagement as the basin characterization is developed and when topics surface that warrant feedback from stakeholders not well-represented by the Working Group.

Public Comment – Approach to future stakeholder engagement efforts:

- A member of the public commented on the need to strengthen relationships between ag-res constituents and GSAs and noted that examples of creative outreach were shared at the DWR GSA Forum.
- An Elk Grove resident thanked the Working Group for holding a well-run meeting. She expressed concern over the effects of land use planning on water supply and noted that if cities grow quickly and residents are not well-informed, stakeholders may perceive a lack of transparency in GSP development.

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
Ed Gonzalez, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Gene Mancebo, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Art Toy, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Herb Garms, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Barbara Washburn, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Austin Miller, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Mike Wackman, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Mark Stretars, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Mark Clarkson, City of Galt
Sue Wohle, Clay Water District
Rick Wohle, Clay Water District
Leo van Warmerdam, Galt Irrigation District
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County
Rodney Fricke, Sacramento County
Bennett Brooks, CBI
Julia Golomb, CBI
John Fio, EKI
Anona Dutton, EKI
Tom Gohring, Water Forum
John Lowrie, Water Forum
Katherine Perkins, Water Forum

Additionally, members of the public 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.