

**Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group Meeting  
Meeting #29**

Meeting held May 13, 2019

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute and the Water Forum

**MEETING-IN-BREIF**

At the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group's twenty-ninth meeting, the EKI technical consulting team presented its preliminary Phase I data gaps assessment. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies will receive *Technical Memo #2: Phase I Data Gaps Assessment* from EKI at the end of May. The Working Group also discussed Proposition 68 grant funding, which a small group of GSA representatives will discuss further via teleconference in early June. EKI provided an update on cross-basin coordination, reporting that Eastern San Joaquin subbasin released Bundle 1 of its draft groundwater sustainability plan. The Cosumnes Working Group will jointly submit comments on Bundle 1, to be compiled by EKI and submitted by Sacramento County. The next Working Group meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 19, 2019. At its June meeting, the Working Group will confirm EKI's data gaps assessment and plan to fill priority data gaps.

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>
Amador County	Seek data from CASGEM well and new well in Jackson Creek
OHWD	Provide EKI with login for real-time well data
Mike Wackman	Reach out to Laura Foglia and Trevor Kennedy regarding well data
Kerry Schmitz	Reach out to Environmental Management regarding data
OHWD and Water Forum	Continue discussion of Technical Support Services (TSS) proposal
Clay, Galt ID, SRCD	Consider whether there is a TSS grant opportunity for Dry Creek
Water Forum	Convene a small group call (Sacramento County, OHWD, EKI, Water Forum) to begin generating ideas about Proposition 68 in advance of June Working Group meeting
GSAs	Review Eastern San Joaquin Bundle 1 and send high level comments to EKI (copy Water Forum) by COB Monday, 5/20
EKI	Compile EKI and GSA observations into a letter and send to GSAs for review
Sacramento County	Send letter with Bundle 1 comments to Eastern San Joaquin by review deadline, June 1
John Lowrie	Follow up with aquaculture contacts

## 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.

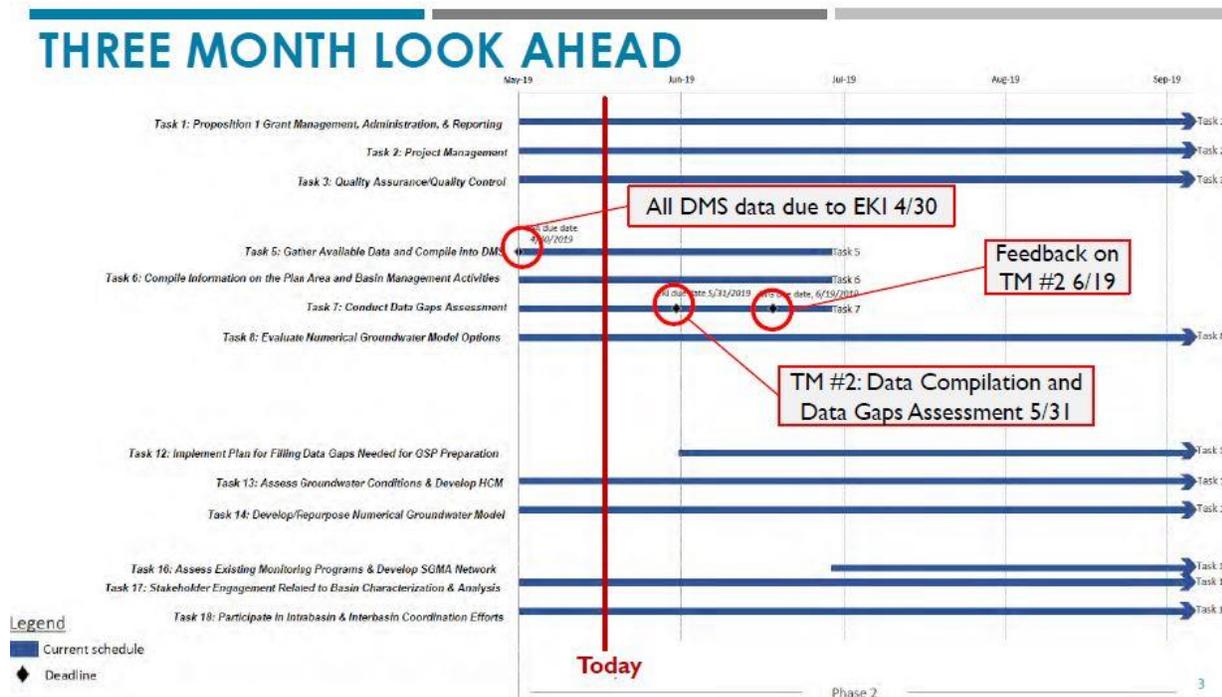
## UPDATES

### GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN UPDATES

#### Three-month look-ahead

EKI presented an updated three-month look-ahead on slide 3 of **EKI Technical Presentation #7** ([link](#)), and highlighted two upcoming deadlines:

- EKI: Conduct basin-wide data gaps assessment and prepare associated work products (TM #2), due **5/31/2019**
- Working Group: Review and provide feedback on TM #2 by **6/19/2019**



#### Groundwater modeling coordination with CoSANA

John Fio and Anona Dutton, EKI, reported that EKI finalized groundwater model mesh specifications and shared associated shapefiles along with a listing of recommendations on average size, layering and other model parameters with the CoSANA model team. EKI expects to receive an initial mesh from CoSANA modelers. EKI will also provide CoSANA modelers with a list of data gaps from EKI’s data gaps analysis, to identify gaps that are critical for model development.

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

Anona Dutton, EKI, provided updates on groundwater sustainability planning in Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin. Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Authority (ESJGWA) released **Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan Chapters Bundle 1** ([link](#)). Comments on Bundle 1 are due to ESJGWA by June 1, 2019.

ESJGWA will release Bundle 2, which will include a water budget, on June 1, with comments on Bundle 2 due by July 1. ESJGWA will release a first draft of its Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) on July 25, and a second draft with comments incorporated in September. Final comments on the Eastern San Joaquin subbasin draft GSP will be due November 5 and ESJGWA will submit its final Groundwater Sustainability Plan to DWR by January 31, 2020.

Dutton shared some observations from the ESJGWA meeting and Bundle 1:

- ESJGWA has struggled with sustainability criteria as people realize that many wells are at or near the thresholds developed. ESJGWA has discussed how this will affect shallow domestic wells, but decided to address this issue later in the GSP development process.
- ESJGWA is using water level as an indicator for sustainability.
- ESJGWA's model estimates stream depletion for the entire basin, rather than looking at individual watercourses. Minor streams, including Dry Creek, are assumed to behave the same as the basin as a whole.
- ESJGWA will discuss cross-basin flows at its June meeting.

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

- ESJGWA meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at the Robert J. Cabral Center, Assembly Room 1. Advisory committee meetings begin at 9 AM and board meetings begin at 11 AM. Meeting information can be found on the ESJGWA website ([link](#)).
- Working Group members and EKI commented that the level of analysis of groundwater-surface water interactions being undertaken by the Eastern San Joaquin subbasin would not be acceptable for the Cosumnes Subbasin.
- Sacramento County's technical consultant voiced concerns with elements of ESJGWA's Bundle 1, including that the scaled cross-sections are insufficient.
- Working Group members, EKI and CBI discussed inviting ESJGWA to present on topics selected by the Working Group, with guidance from EKI. No date was set for a presentation.
- An Amador County representative encouraged the Working Group to look closely at projects proposed by ESJGWA, particularly projects that potentially draw water from boundary areas. Dutton explained that Bundles 2 and 3 will likely contain project information.

Next steps – Near-term coordination: Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin

- Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) will review **Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Draft GSP Chapters Bundle 1** ([link](#)) and send comments related to cross-boundary issues to EKI. EKI will compile comments into a draft letter, which GSAs will have the opportunity to review. Sacramento County will submit the finalized letter to ESJGWA by the June 1 comment deadline. GSAs may also send comments from their individual agencies, if desired.
- At its June 19 meeting, the Cosumnes Working Group will review Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin Draft GSP Bundles 2 and 3.

**Near-term coordination: South American Subbasin**

A California Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff member present at the meeting confirmed that DWR will release decisions on alternative submittals in mid to late June.

**Surface water supply: Outreach to SMUD**

EKI and the Water Forum met with Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) on April 18, 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to look at SMUD's history of receiving Central Valley Project (CVP) water, including changes over time; for example, as a result of biological opinions, government contracting, and Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station. SMUD provided information to EKI, and EKI requested additional SMUD data. John Fio, EKI, observed that while SMUD expressed interest in groundwater management, it faces institutional hurdles such as uncertainty in the amount of water available and SMUD's preference that GSAs approach SMUD with a clear idea of projects.

Discussion – Outreach to SMUD and other surface water supply-related topics:

- A representative from Clay Water District asked the Working Group to request from SMUD groundwater level data dating back to the 1960s as well as additional information on potential changes by SMUD to 2015 and 2016 flow releases to Cosumnes Subbasin streams. The representative expressed that this information would support ongoing collaborating between the Cosumnes Subbasin and SMUD.
- A Clay Water District representative also asked about data on Cosumnes River flows that SMUD may have previously collected. Water Forum and EKI staff reported that they requested river flow gauge data from SMUD. EKI has continued to pursue this data, as flow gauge data is rare and very useful.
- A representative from Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD) informed the group that South Sacramento Water Authority is working with SMUD to revive Cosumnes River flow augmentation. The Authority has experienced issues contracting with the Central Valley Project (CVP) and is investigating working with Sacramento County.
- A Clay Water District representative commented that Clay WD previously held a contract to receive surface water. EKI and other Working Group members responded that the contract was likely temporary and the CVP currently has no water available for contracts of that kind.

## GENERAL UPDATES

### Technical Support Services grant

Mike Wackman, OHWD, sent a potential well location to EKI and EKI responded with site information to support well design and a Technical Support Services (TSS) grant application. OHWD is ready to begin developing the TSS grant proposal, with Water Forum support.

Gene Mancebo, Amador County, reported that he had a conference call with DWR regarding the TSS grant. DWR expressed interest in moving forward quickly and pointed out a CASGEM well that could be used as a monitoring well. Amador County is considering another monitoring well location near Jackson Creek and will ask DWR about receiving monitoring equipment in lieu of well drilling services. DWR staff present at the meeting suggested that a new well is preferable. DWR is currently considering how to handle requests for instrumentation.

### Next steps: TSS grant

- OHWD and Water Forum will continue discussion of the TSS grant proposal.
- Clay Water District, Galt Irrigation District and Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District will consider whether there are additional TSS grant opportunities for Dry Creek.

### Financial updates

Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County, reported that negotiations with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) are still in progress to finalize the Prop. 1 award. DWR requested some financial information that was not anticipated.

Representatives from the Working Group and DWR noted that DWR released the **Draft Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program Proposition 68 2019 Guidelines and Planning Grant – Round 3 Proposal Solicitation Package (PSP)** ([link](#)). DWR staff members present at the meeting noted that subbasins that were awarded Proposition 1 grants are eligible; however, DWR will prioritize subbasins that have not yet received DWR grant support for GSP development. DWR will hold public meetings on the Prop 68 grant in June.

### Outreach to aquaculture representatives

The Working Group and EKI previously identified a need to engage aquaculture farmers within the subbasin and incorporate aquaculture data into the water budget. Working Group representatives from OHWD and Sacramento County shared aquaculture contacts with EKI. The Water Forum will also reach out to aquaculture farmers.

### Relevant updates from Subbasin GSAs

Working Group members and EKI discussed the opportunity to capture useful data while the Cosumnes River is running high. Mike Wackman, OHWD, offered to provide EKI with login information for well data that is captured in real-time at locations between Deer Creek and the Cosumnes River.

*There was no public comment on updates.*

## PHASE I DATA GAPS ASSESSMENT

Anona Dutton and John Fio, EKI, shared results from EKI’s preliminary data gaps analysis. The **EKI technical presentation** ([link](#)) covers Phase I Data Gaps Assessment in slides 14-61. The data gaps assessment identifies initial key issues in reducing uncertainty in groundwater modeling for the Cosumnes Subbasin:

1. One or more principal aquifers
2. Cross-boundary flows
3. Groundwater/surface water interactions
4. Opportunities for groundwater development and management (e.g. recharge)

Dutton described the need to define one or more principal aquifer(s) and the technical and strategic considerations associated with the decision. Based on the available data, EKI suggested defining a single principal aquifer with multiple water-bearing zones as a means to group variable aquifer conditions.

EKI summarized data gaps in the existing Data Management System (DMS) for the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM), Groundwater Conditions (GWC), and Water Budget (WB):

### HCM DATA GAPS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Data Gaps in DMS	Potential Approach to Fill Data Gaps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEPTHS, PERFORATIONS, and LITHOLOGY missing for most wells.</li> <li>• No wells in DMS located in large portions of eastern Sacramento county.</li> <li>• Negligible information on yields (PUMPAGE).</li> <li>• 15% of wells lack reported USE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mine available databases for well construction reports that include completion depth, perforated interval, pumping rate, and boring logs for lithology.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DWR well log database.</li> <li>• GeoTracker monitoring well database.</li> <li>• County database.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AQUIFER PARAMETERS (water storage and transmitting properties) are available at only 5 locations in the eastern portions of the Basin; additional values needed to quantify interior Basin and cross boundary subsurface flows.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan and/or conduct controlled pumping test(s) and analyze for water storage and transmitting properties to answer key questions.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross boundary flows.</li> <li>• Surface water/groundwater interactions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No WATER QUALITY data available to characterize aquifer conditions in eastern portions of the Basin and near boundaries with adjacent basins (Cosumnes River and Dry Creek).</li> <li>• No WATER QUALITY (standard ions) for Deep Zone wells</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan and/or sample select well(s).</li> </ul>

## GWCs DATA GAPS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Data Gaps in DMS	Potential Approach to Fill Data Gaps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Missing well construction information limits WATER LEVEL and WATER QUALITY data utility and potentially excludes data from consideration.</li> <li>Missing WATER LEVEL data (discontinued time-series and lack of well locations near surface water features).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mine available databases for well construction reports that include completion depth, perforated interval, pumping rate, and boring logs for lithology.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DWR well log database.</li> <li>GeoTracker monitoring well database.</li> <li>County database.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Collect water level measurements from select wells.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No WATER LEVEL data representing water table zone conditions from wells located near Cosumnes River or Dry Creek.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install water table zone wells near surface water features.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited WATER QUALITY data (e.g., no chloride data available from wells located near the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and sample select wells.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only 5 SURFACE WATER stations located in Basin.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install, operate, and maintain gauging site(s).</li> </ul>

## WB DATA GAPS ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Data Gaps in DMS	Potential Approach to Fill Data Gaps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only 1 site with diversion data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Download and compile diversion data.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>eWRIMS</li> <li>Paper records</li> </ul> </li> <li>Install, operate, and maintain gauging site(s).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No well pairs exist along southern boundary of Basin to monitor cross-boundary subsurface flow conditions.</li> <li>Inconsistent well depths between some candidate pairs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with adjacent basins to construct well pairs on either side of boundaries.</li> <li>Construct wells at similar depths.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negligible information on PUMPAGE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimate pumpage from land use and climate data.</li> <li>Estimate pumpage from power consumption records.</li> <li>Meter pumping volumes and well use.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No information on RECHARGE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimate pumpage from land use and climate data.</li> </ul>

EKI then shared a plan to fill priority data gaps. This plan utilizes funds already available in EKI's current contract:

## PRIORITY DATA GAP FILLING PLAN (1 OF 1)

Funding Available in EKI's Current Contract	
Mine and Process DWR Well Completion Reports for construction data *	~\$30,000
Aquifer Parameters *	~\$70,000
- Calculate and evaluate specific capacity data	
- Compile values from other studies	
- Analyze lithologic logs and available lithologic data sets to extrapolate parameter values across Basin	
Identify, assemble, and analyze GW/SW data	~\$40,000
Download and compile relevant eWRIMS diversion data	~\$25,000
Assemble climate and land use data to estimate recharge and agricultural groundwater use (pumping)	~\$45,000
TOTAL	~\$210,000

EKI compiled a list of additional data gaps that could potentially be filled through other funding sources, such as the Prop. 68 grant, TSS grants or GSA efforts. Any additional efforts would be dependent on GSA interest and is to be considered at a later date.

### Discussion – Phase I Data Gaps Assessment:

- GSAs did not provide all data in an electronic, excel format. EKI explained that converting data to a useable format will take time and EKI will need to prioritize data for GSA's to convert to import into the DMS.
- There are several outstanding potential data sources from the Cosumnes Coalition, Nature Conservancy, Fishery Foundation, and Sacramento County Environmental Management. Working Group members offered to follow up with their contacts regarding these data.
- EKI highlighted the importance of well construction data and explained that less than 25% of the 525 wells in the DMS have depth and screened interval information. The DWR Well Construction Report (WCR) database includes entries for sections where DMS wells are missing construction information. Thus, WCRs could be a useful source for missing data if WCRs can be linked to a known well site and if the data are transposed from PDFs.
- Working Group members inquired about the location of wells that could be paired to help determine cross-boundary flows.
- Sacramento County's technical consultant asked about EKI's plans to incorporate historic data. EKI responded that historic data is helpful for characterizing trends and EKI will likely limit quantitative work (e.g., historical budget calculations) to data collected after 1995.

- EKI and the Working Group discussed the need to incorporate data on water quality from existing sources to avoid duplicate efforts. EKI pointed to the need to capture some water quality data from deeper wells.
- EKI highlighted gaps in pumping data. GSA representatives raised questions related to whether landscape estimates could be used as pumping estimates, and if DWR would evaluate such data as equivalent to metering.
- A meeting participant asked about the availability of data on the age of groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin. EKI is not aware of existing aging data. Laura Foglia is conducting an isotope study, but will not have results for some time.
- An Amador County representative and EKI discussed the value of Jackson Valley Irrigation District (JVID) records for surface water releases to Jackson Creek. EKI is in touch with JVID and the release records should be useful. Jackson Creek is not currently gauged at any locations downstream from the release point.
- EKI encouraged GSAs to develop plans to cost-effectively capture data that would dovetail with existing data collection efforts.
- The Working Group broadly supported EKI's plans for using existing Prop. 1 funding to move forward with filling critical data gaps. Sloughhouse RCD is to provide feedback at the June meeting.
- The Working Group expressed interest in holding a separate conversation to consider the need for filling additional data gaps given there is no funding currently identified to cover such costs. EKI suggested that the Working Group consider funding mechanisms, such as Prop. 68 grant funds, to fill additional data gaps.
- DWR clarified that if a subbasin was already awarded a grant, the required match is 50% for local funding rather than 25%, unless the grant would benefit disadvantaged communities.

Next steps – Phase I Data Gaps Assessment:

- EKI will complete the data gaps analysis and deliver Draft Technical Memo #2: Data Compilation and Data Gaps Assessment to GSAs by 5/31/2019.
- GSAs will review TM #2 in advance of the June Working Group meeting, at which time the Working Group will confirm EKI's Phase I Data Gaps Analysis. GSAs may opt, as needed, to inform their boards about EKI's plans to move forward with filling data gaps.
- The Water Forum will schedule a call to discuss the merits of Prop. 68 grant funding during the first week in June.
- Mike Wackman, OHWD, will follow up with Laura Foglia and Trevor Kennedy regarding delivery of data to EKI.
- Kerry Schmitz will set up a meeting between EKI and Sacramento County Environmental Management to discuss existing well data.
- The Working Group and EKI will consider how to cost-effectively convert data to an electronic format to import into the DMS. When possible and worthwhile, GSAs will convert data to Excel format before sharing with EKI.

- Amador County and EKI will discuss how to incorporate data from new wells near the Casino.

Public Comment – Phase I Data Gaps Assessment:

- A member of the public encouraged the Working Group to seek Prop. 68 grant funds from DWR. She also encouraged the Working Group to host a public meeting to report back on basin conditions.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Working Group and TAC will next meet in person on June 19, 2019, 9:00 am to noon, 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, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District  
Austin Miller, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District  
Mike Wackman, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District  
Mark Stretars, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District  
Leland Schneider, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District  
Mark Clarkson, City of Galt  
Michael Selling, City of Galt  
Sue Wohle, Clay Water District  
Rick Wohle, Clay Water District  
Gary Silva Jr., Clay Water District  
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County  
Rodney Fricke, Sacramento County  
John Fio, EKI  
Anona Dutton, EKI  
Bennett Brooks, CBI  
Julia Golomb, CBI  
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>CoSANA</b>	A groundwater model being developed by Woodard & Curran which covers the Cosumnes, South American and North American subbasins.
<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>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>OHWD</b>	Omochumne-Hartnell Water District ( <a href="#">link</a> ) - One of the seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin
<b>Prop. 1</b>	Proposition 1
<b>QAQC</b>	Quality Assurance and Quality Control Plan ( <a href="#">link</a> )
<b>RFP</b>	Request for Proposal
<b>RFQ</b>	Request for Qualification
<b>SGMA</b>	California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act ( <a href="#">link</a> )
<b>SRCD</b>	Sloughouse 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>WF</b>	Sacramento Water Forum ( <a href="#">link</a> )

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