

**Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group Meeting
Meeting #33**

Meeting held September 18, 2019

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute and the Water Forum

MEETING-IN-BREIF

At the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group’s thirty-third meeting, groundwater sustainability agencies and the planning team discussed coordination with the North American, South American and Eastern San Joaquin Subbasins. The group discussed development of a Proposition 68 grant proposal and decided that Sacramento County would serve as contract administrator and Water Forum and SAFCA would provide cost share funds. The EKI technical consulting team presented information on Groundwater Conditions, the third of three aspects of the Basin Setting. Groundwater Conditions information concerning groundwater dependent ecosystems and surface waters will be discussed at the group’s next meeting. The next Working Group meeting will be held 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on October 16, 2019.

ACTION ITEMS

Who	What
Sacramento County	Serve as Prop. 68 contract administrator.
Sac. County + SAFCA	Determine final approach on cost-share and float (either Sac. County or SAFCA will cover float).
Water Forum	Contribute \$125k in match funding.
GSAs	Provide GSA letters of support by Oct. 15.
Water Forum	Reach out to TNC, EDF.
Mike Wackman	Seek letters from Cosumnes Coalition + Farm Bureau.
SAFCA/ Water Forum	Coordinate on letters from SMUD, RWA, CoSANA, SAFCA.
Jay Schneider/ SRCD	Seek a letter from Cattleman’s Association.
Linda Dorn/ Suzanne Pecci	Seek letter from Sheldon homeowners’ association
Tim Washburn	Seek letter from Wilton homeowners’ association
Water Forum/ CBI	Mine stakeholder mailing list/survey responses to make a targeted asks for letters of support.
SAFCA	Contribute \$125k (unless reduceable by County match)
CBI	Send out a description of O-H work that SAFCA is proposing to contribute towards cost-share.
WF/Sac. County/EKI	Coordinate for Prop. 68 grant application submittal.
Jay Schneider	Send mining report (regarding arsenic data)

EKI	Coordinate with GSAs on any outstanding data requests related to Basin Setting.
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DISCUSSION – KEY THEMES

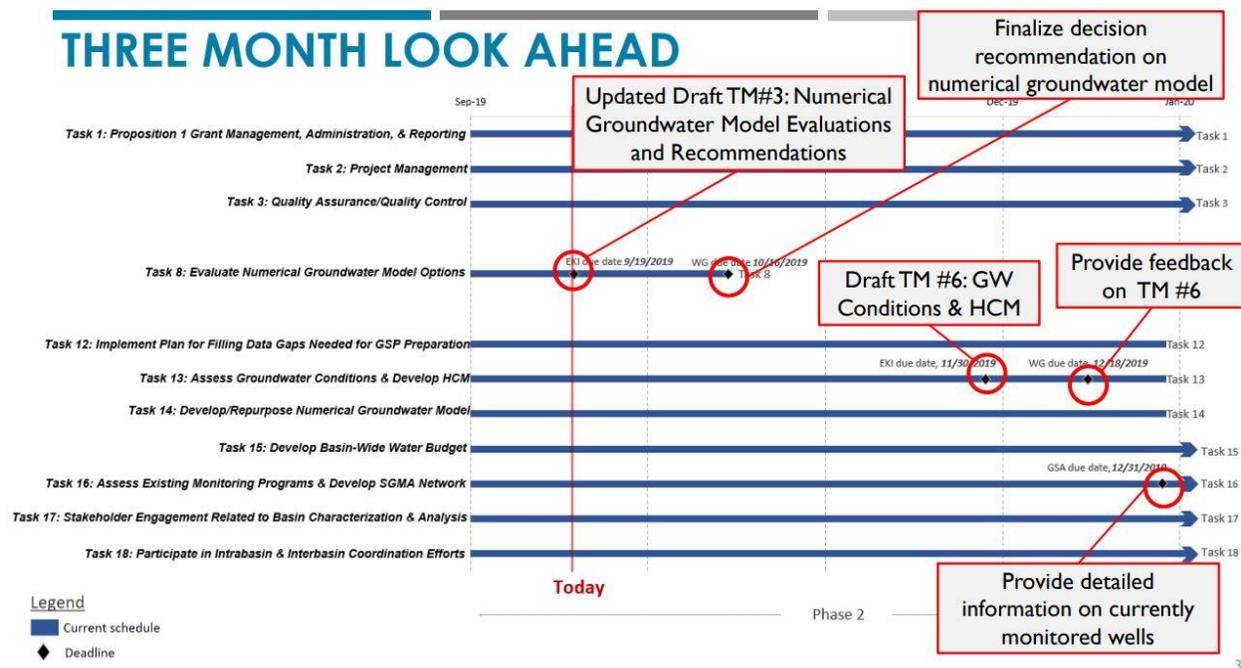
Below is a summary of key themes discussed at the meeting. This summary is not intended to be a meeting transcript. Rather, it focuses on the main points covered during the group’s discussions and any action items.

UPDATES

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN UPDATES

Three-month look-ahead

EKI provided updates in Technical Presentation #11 ([link](#)).



Task 8: Evaluate Numerical Groundwater Model options:

- EKI: Conduct the evaluation of numerical groundwater model options and prepare associated work products (Update
- Draft TM #3 – Numerical Groundwater Model Evaluations and Recommendations – due 9/19/2019).
- WG: Make final decision regarding the numerical groundwater model by 10/16/2019.

Task 13: Assess Groundwater Conditions & Develop HCM:

- EKI: Develop the Groundwater Conditions Assessment and Hydrogeologic Conceptual model and associated interim work products (Draft TM #6 – Groundwater Conditions and Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model – due 11/30/2019).

- WG: Review and provide feedback on TM #6 by 12/18/2019.

Task 16: Assess Existing Monitoring Programs & Develop SGMA Network:

- EKI: Assess existing monitoring programs and propose a SGMA compliant monitoring network and prepare the associated interim work products (Draft TM #9 - Summary of Monitoring Network Assessment and Preliminary Monitoring Plan – due 1/31/2020).
- GSAs: Provide detailed information as to which wells are currently monitored, their specific monitoring objectives, and availability for incorporation into the SGMA required network by 12/31/2019.
- WG: Review and provide feedback on TM #9 by 2/19/2020.

Groundwater modeling coordination with CoSANA

John Fio, EKI, updated the group on development of a SharePoint site which was created to facilitate information exchange with EKI, an important aspect of maintaining “off-ramps” to maintain the Cosumnes Subbasin’s autonomy. EKI plans to upload data to the Data Management System (DMS), including diversion data and geologic formation data. All input data sets are expected to be completed by the end of the year. EKI shared an updated model ranking which recommends CoSANA as the model for the Cosumnes Subbasin, based on the information regarding release date and representation of the HCM accepted by the Working Group.

- A Sloughhouse RCD representative asked about the model’s capability to adapt should a GSA chose to submit a separate GSP. EKI responded that the mesh honors the boundaries of GSAs, as well as discrete zones along riparian zones. Dutton also reiterated that design costs are neutral, since funding from the Cosumnes Subbasin is supporting only EKI’s efforts in
- A Sloughhouse RCD representative asked if the way the model has been developed will facilitate close examination of the Folsom South Canal Service Area as a recharge area. EKI responded that this need was considered while developing the model.
- A Sloughhouse RCD representative asked EKI responded that it is highly uncertain that Prop 68 funds would be awarded to support new data collection, and if it is awarded, EKI may need to
- A Sloughhouse RCD asked about what formal agreements were made to assure Cosumnes Subbasin ownership of model data. Gohring shared that the primary assurance the group has is the SharePoint as well as EKI’s ongoing involvement in assuring that modeling responds to the needs and desires of the Cosumnes Subbasin and data can be extracted by the Cosumnes Subbasin. EKI added that the data can be extracted and used to develop a nested model.

Technical Support Services grant

EKI reported that the Amador County Groundwater Management Authority GSA well at the Bamert site has been completed and a second well is planned for construction. Mike Wackman shared that DWR is reviewing the well application from Omochumne-Hartnell Water District.

ESJ Updates

Rodney Fricke shared that Eastern San Joaquin (ESJ) is planning to apply for a Prop 68 grant, to address data gaps. GDE and FloodMAR are not among the data gaps they hope to fill. They received comments from 19 organization, the majority NGOs. Two subbasins, Cosumnes and Tracy,

submitted comments. Internal GSAs also submitted comments. ESJ discussed formation of ad hoc committees to address comments.

EKI data requests to GSAs

EKI reported that GSAs responded to data requests mostly in the negative, indicating that they did not have access to the data requested.

South American updates

Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) is still waiting for a final decision on their plan. An agreement among South American entities is now public. Additional entities including Sloughhouse RCD and North Delta GSAs are expected to be invited.

GENERAL UPDATES

Financial/ grant related issues

Sacramento County reported that it received its second payment from DWR. Linda Dorn, Sacramento County, is working on a flow chart describing the process from when an invoice is submitted from EKI to when DWR pays.

Quick feedback on geophysical survey workshop approach

Bennett Brooks, cbi, asked the group to give feedback on the workshop. Dorn said that she appreciated that the workshop was held as part of the Working Group meeting. All participants raised their hands when asked if the workshop was worth their time. Julia Golomb, CBI, shared that a recording of the workshop is posted on the Cosumnes Subbasin meetings page ([link](#)).

Public comment

- A member of the public commented that they agreed that the workshop was very worthwhile.

PROPOSITION 68 – GRANT APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

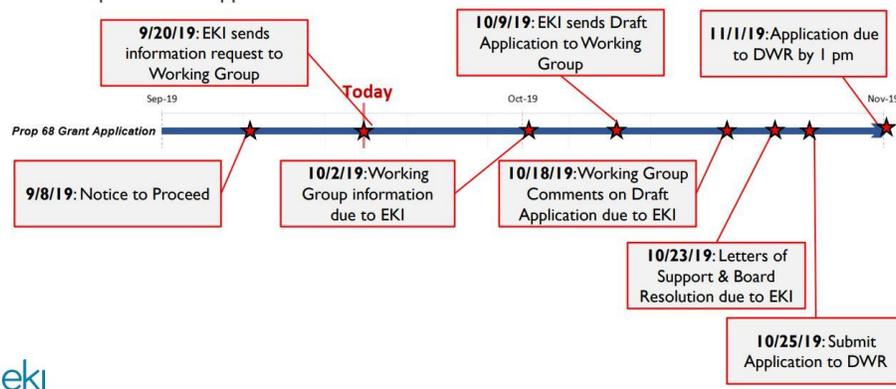
EKI provided information on Prop 68 Grant Application Development in slides 36-44 of Technical Presentation #11 ([link](#)). Anona Dutton and John Fio, EKI, reviewed the various components of the grant, requirements of the applicant, workplan, the need for letters of support, and the aggressive timeline of grant development.

PROP 68 GRANT APPLICATION (7 OF 9)

Task	Relative Cost
1. GDEs Identification/Verification	\$85,000
2. Geophysical studies	\$210,000
3. Install monitoring wells	\$180,000
4. Isotopic Recharge Study	\$125,000
5. Install and monitor meters on agricultural and residential water wells	\$75,000
6. Model Refinements <i>Estimated costs need to be refined.</i>	\$200,000
Subtotal (Grant and SAFCA Match)	\$875,000
Water Forum Match	\$125,000
Total	\$1,000,000

PROP 68 GRANT APPLICATION (9 OF 9)

Prop 68 Grant Application Schedule:



John Lowrie, Water Forum, answered questions raised at the August Working Group meeting in a presentation ([link](#)).

1. Are the following entities eligible and willing to be the grant administrator? Are these entities able and willing to enter into an agreement with SAFCA? *OHWD and Sacramento County are confirmed to be eligible and willing.*
2. Is the SAFCA offer to provide “float” funds open to any eligible entity? *Yes, confirmed by Gary Bardini and Tim Washburn on September 10, 2019.*
3. Confirm that Water Forum can demonstrate \$125-150k in-kind cost share. *The Water Forum has completed an analysis of available resources and can commit an in-kind contribution amount equal to \$125,000.*
4. How much cost share can SAFCA provide: *Cash contribution-\$0; In-kind contribution-\$125,000*
5. Given available cost-share, what is the maximum grant size? *Assume a total project cost of \$1,000,000, therefore the grant amount would be \$750,000, with \$250,000 of available cost share.*

6. What is the total estimated “float” amount for consultant repayment? *Total contract amount- \$500,000; Months of contract- 9 to 12 months; Likely months of float- 3 to 5 months*
7. Confirm that SAFCA has the willingness and ability to provide the float amount. *Yes, confirmed by Gary Bardini & Tim Washburn Sept 10, 2019*
8. Confirm that SAFCA expects to be reimbursed for the float amount as DWR repays the grant. *Yes, confirmed by Gary Bardini and Tim Washburn Sept 10, 2019.*
9. Confirm that SAFCA will not require reimbursement of the float amount from the GSAs if the DWR does not repay the grant. *If the existing OH/SAFCA agreement is used - OH obligation is to forward State reimbursement to SAFCA; if OH does not receive any State reimbursement, it is not obligated to reimburse SAFCA. This same agreement would be used with whatever GSA served as contract administrator.*

Discussion:

- The group discussed an addition question: will in-kind work done outside the basin be considered eligible? John Lowrie reported that DWR answered that if the work contributes meaningfully to the development of the GSP, this activity is considered eligible cost share. Lowrie clarified that the work being done would be represented as a cost share rather than spending any Prop 1 money outside the basin. If the basin foregoes using SAFCA cost share, the grant application would need to be cut by half. Wackman shared that the activities consist of geophysical studies, monitoring wells, recharge studies and other work that would help to understand groundwater flow in the corridor between Deer Creek and the Cosumnes. EKI has stated that this work contributes and is eligible. Dorn added that Sacramento County may have some unaccounted cost share funds which could be represented for the Prop 68 grant application. EKI and Water Forum reiterated that cost share needs to be decided on today.
- Sacramento County representatives expressed that they are willing and able to serve as contract administrator, and there may be benefits for DWR in contracting with the County.
- OHWD representative expressed that they would prefer the County serve as contract administrator.
- Sacramento County and SAFCA will dialogue regarding the need for float funds.
- Dorn noted that the category with the highest points is coordination among GSAs. Lowrie added that a similar question was asked in the Prop 1 grant, and the application for the Cosumnes referenced the Framework Agreement, which scored highly. Dutton noted that the Framework Agreement includes a “revisit” clause after the substantive technical phase, which may need to be considered. Rick Wohle suggested that the application also include details of the work the group has done since the Framework Agreement.
- Gohring offered the Water Forum as coordinator of letters of support. GSAs should look for an email from John Lowrie.

Public comment:

- A member of the public suggested reaching out to Wilton Community Association or another community group to represent ag-res.

Decisions:

- Sacramento County will serve as contract administrator for the Proposition 68 grant.

- Water Forum will provide \$125,000 in cost share.
- SAFCA will provide \$125,000 in cost share, unless reduced by County match.

Next steps:

- Sac. County + SAFCA will come up with final approach on cost-share and float (either Sac. County or SAFCA will cover float).
- CBI will send out a description of O-H work that SAFCA is proposing to contribute towards cost-share.
- WF/Sac. County/EKI will coordinate for Prop. 68 grant application submittal.
- Jay will send mining report (regarding arsenic data).

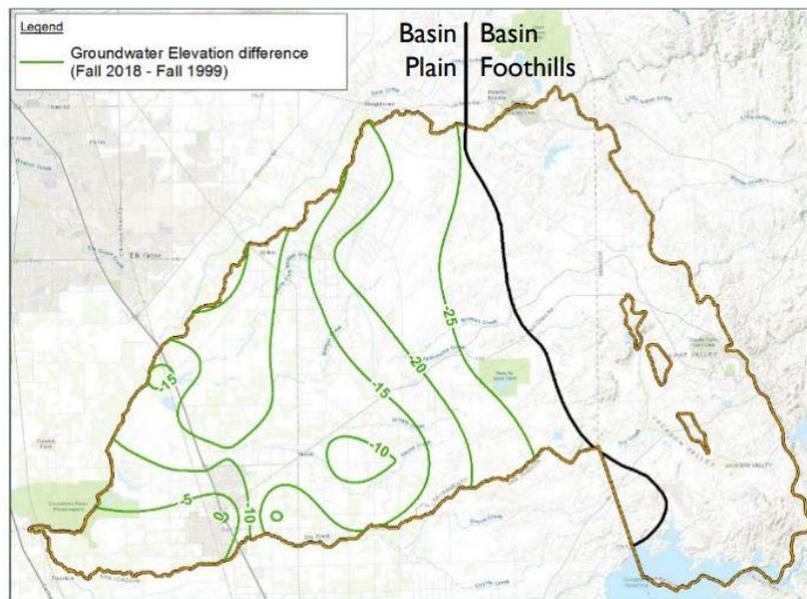
- GSAs will provide GSA letters of support by Oct. 15
- WF will reach out to TNC, EDF
- Mike Wackman will seek letters from Cosumnes Coalition + Farm Bureau
- SAFCA/WF to coordinate on letters from SMUD, RWA, CoSANA, SAFCA
- Jay/SRCD will seek a letter from Cattleman's Association
- Linda/Suzanne P to seek letter from Sheldon homeowners association
- Tim Washburn to seek letter from Wilton homeowners association
- WF/CBI will mine stakeholder mailing list/survey responses to make a targeted asks for letters of support

BASIN SETTING

EKI provided information on Groundwater Conditions in slides 10-34 of Technical Presentation #11 ([link](#)). Anona Dutton and John Fio, eki, noted that they will present groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and surface waters during the October Cosumnes Working Group meetings.

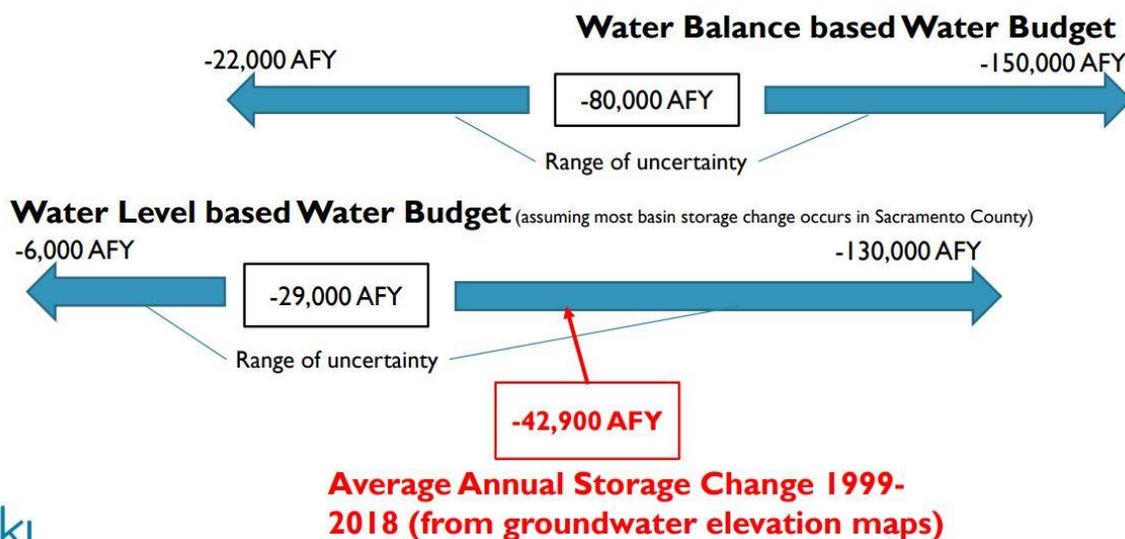
Dutton and Fio summarized findings from analysis of well and water level data:

- Groundwater elevations in the Basin Plain declined on average more than 15 feet between 1999 and 2018. Long-term hydrographs confirm declining water levels in the Basin Plain.



- Measured water level trends in Plain and Foothill areas are different, with data from Foothills area showing no consistent trend.
- The Southerly area of the subbasin has the lowest groundwater elevation.
- Water levels are going up and down seasonally by approximately 10 feet but decreasing over time.
- Arsenic and Nitrate are the only constituents that exceed primary Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs).

STORAGE CHANGE ESTIMATE COMPARISONS (8 OF 21)



EKI noted that estimates of storage change are large and will require discussion about how GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin will work to mitigate decreasing storage.

Discussion

- Barbara Washburn asked if there were differences in groundwater conditions closer or farther from the river. Fio responded that the groundwater system is not uniform over the whole river, and trends are visible in the South-West portion.
- EKI noted that depth of wells is a source of uncertainty which the model will help to resolve
- GSA representatives commented that the Cosumnes subbasins' deficit appears similar to ESJ, which is rated as a critically over-drafted basin. Dutton responded that the designation is based on many factors and ESJ also has long standing water supply and quality issues.
- A meeting participant asked what affects nitrate concentrations. GSA representatives responded that the depth of formation and soil type impact nitrates. Mike Wackman, OHWD, commented that the Irrigated Lands Program is addressing nitrates. Fio commented that he wants to understand what the Irrigated Lands Program is doing so that eki can document and not duplicate efforts.

Public comment:

- A member of the public asked if the drought could have impacted results. EKI responded that the 20-year period analyzed balances out wet and dry periods.

NEXT MEETING

The Working Group will next meet in person from 9:00 am to noon on October 16, 2019 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
Leo VanWarmerdam, Galt Irrigation District
Austin Miller, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District
Barbara Washburn, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District
Mike Wackman, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Mark Stretars, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
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
Linda Dorn, Sacramento County
Rodney Fricke, Sacramento County
John Fio, EKI

Anona Dutton, EKI
 Bennett Brooks, CBI
 Julia Golomb, CBI
 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.