

February 25, 2020

Kevin Thomas, Regional Manager
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
North Central Region
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Thank you for providing your agency comments on the Draft Cosumnes Subbasin Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (January 24, 2020). The comments received will help focus our planning efforts as we move forward towards completion of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for our subbasin.

The seven Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) of the subbasin are working cooperatively to develop a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The GSAs formed a working group in 2018 for this purpose. The group meets monthly to guide step wise development of the GSP while actively engaging the public in the planning process. We invite the DFW to join us for these public meetings, for meeting time and location please visit <http://cosumnes.waterforum.org/meetings>.

We recently completed Phase II of our planning effort with completion of a draft "Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model" (HCM). In part, this model characterizes the current state of knowledge of the Cosumnes Subbasin and serves as a gap analysis for refinement of the planning work moving forward. The draft conceptual model has been published as a Technical Memorandum (TM-6) and is currently available for review. We encourage DFW to take the time to review TM-6. We would appreciate any feedback, comments, or recommendations you are able to provide us.

Recently, the Cosumnes subbasin was recommended to receive a Proposition 68 planning grant that will allow our planning team to undertake additional studies, reducing the knowledge gaps depicted in the draft HCM. Two of the topics to be pursued in detail when the grant is awarded are:

- ✓ Stakeholder input on Cosumnes River concerns- GSAs are aware that multiple stakeholder interests must be considered when making groundwater planning and management decisions in the subbasin. A surface water stakeholder advisory group will be formed and facilitated to ensure a diverse set of perspectives are heard and considered during the next phase of planning, which includes the identification of management objectives, sustainability indicators and management actions for the Cosumnes River corridor. We hope that this advisory group will include federal, state, local and tribal stakeholders from the Cosumnes and South American subbasins.
- ✓ Improve the mapping, characterization, and confirmation of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) as well as surface-water dependent species with emphasis on water table conditions and instream flow requirements.

We strongly urge DFW to have a representative available to participate in the Cosumnes Surface Water Stakeholder Advisory Group and to be available to informally consult with us during our upcoming efforts to map and characterize GDEs in the Cosumnes subbasin.

Thanks again for your comments concerning the Cosumnes Groundwater Subbasin. We look forward to working with DFW as our groundwater sustainability plan advances toward completion.

If you have questions about our process or technical information, please contact John Lowrie at the Water Forum- jmlowrie@waterforum.org.

Signature block for 7 GSAs

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