

**Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group Meeting  
Meeting #36**

Meeting held January 15, 2020

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute and the Water Forum

**MEETING-IN-BRIEF**

At its thirty-fifth meeting, the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group continued its discussion of public outreach and began planning two public workshops in March 2020. GSA representatives reviewed the draft updated Cosumnes Working Group Framework Agreement. The Working Group will likely finalize the Framework Agreement at its February meeting, after which Groundwater Sustainability Agencies will bring the Framework Agreement to their respective governing boards for approval. The meeting concluded with technical consultant EKI’s presentation on the groundwater sustainability plan area and a discussion of the role that management areas may play in the Cosumnes Subbasin. The Working Group will next meet on February 19, 2020, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, at the **Littleton Center, 410 Civic Drive, Galt, CA.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>
<b>CBI</b>	Send GSA well data request files to John L.
<b>Michael Selling</b>	Seek sample monitoring well outreach template from E. San Joaquin; share with Working Group
<b>John Lowrie</b>	<i>ASAP</i> - Develop and share GSA talking points and sample monitoring well access agreement with GSAs (following EKI review)
<b>John Lowrie</b>	Analyze whether stakeholder survey responses correspond with desired monitoring wells
<b>Water Forum/CBI</b>	Convene teleconference with GSAs to walk through monitoring well materials (FAQ, etc.) with GSAs
<b>GSAs</b>	<i>ASAP</i> - Identify and reach out to landowners for monitoring well access.
<b>GSAs</b>	<i>By 2/19</i> - Respond to EKI with list of obtained well access agreements.
<b>CBI</b>	Change language on draft public workshop agenda to read “groundwater conditions” rather than “groundwater usage.”
<b>CBI</b>	Convene Communications & Engagement Committee to further develop workshop agenda and approach
<b>CBI</b>	Develop fact sheet and outreach write-up to share with partner orgs, etc.
<b>GSAs</b>	Consider need for written translation services ( <i>see attached from DWR</i> )
<b>GSAs</b>	<i>By 1/31</i> - Send Framework Agreement edits to CBI
<b>CBI</b>	<i>Early Feb.</i> - Incorporate suggested changes to Framework Agreement, send to GSAs for discussion at Feb. WG meeting.
<b>CBI/ Water Forum</b>	Develop draft terms of reference for proposed GSP implementation governance/finance committee, bring to Feb. WG meeting

<b>Working Group</b>	Revisit need and rationale for management areas once basin modeling completed. To inform discussion, look for examples from other subbasins to understand impetus for relying on management areas elsewhere.
----------------------	--

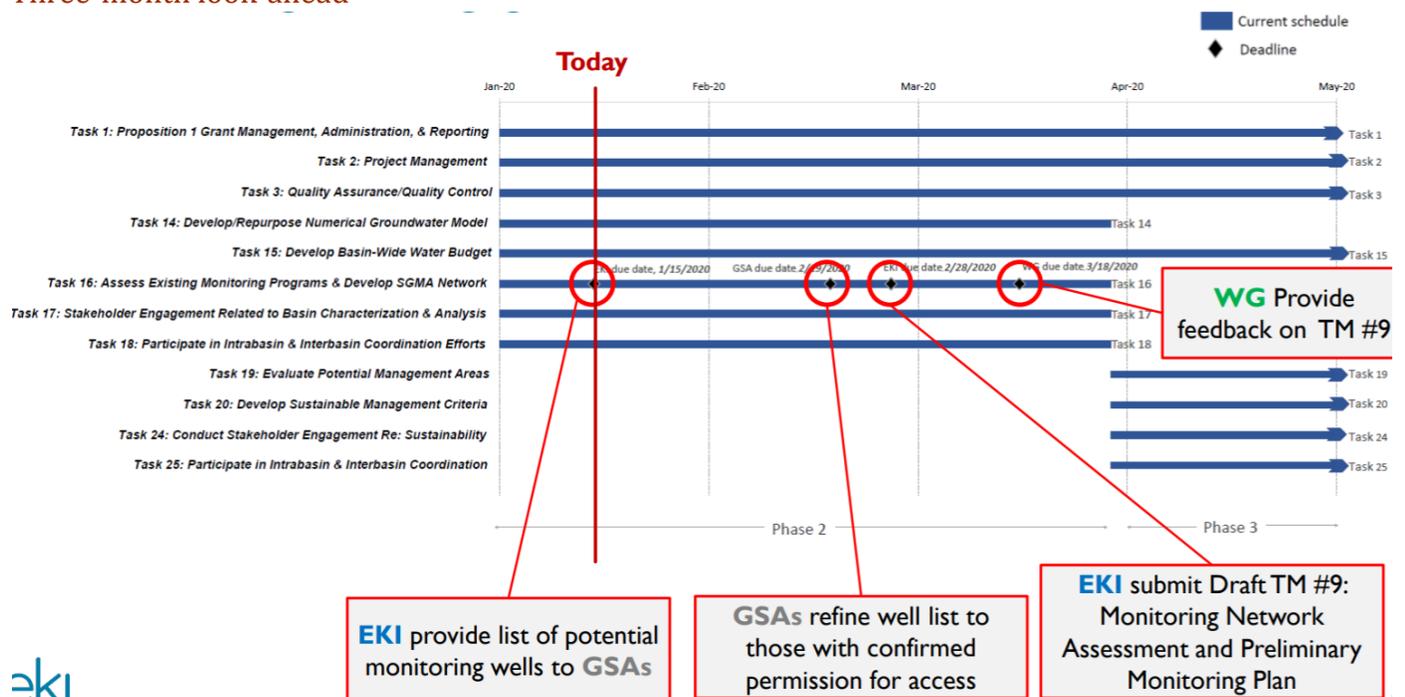
## DISCUSSION – KEY THEMES

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



#### Groundwater modeling coordination with Cosumnes, South American, North American (CoSANA) Model

John Fio, EKI, reported that EKI is actively extracting data from the data management system (DMS) to construct observation data sets for model calibration. EKI expects that the CoSANA model will be a complete “running” model with updated datasets by the week of January 20, 2020.

#### South American updates

Tom Gohring, Water Forum, reported that five potential Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the South American subbasins are getting closer to finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Gohring commented that he was optimistic that this will help resolve some of the jurisdictional disputes in the subbasin.

### ESJ Updates

Linda Dorn, Sacramento County, reported that Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Management Authority (ESJ) approved a scope and budget of \$380,000, with two agencies voting “no.” ESJ is considering a sales tax to fund groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) implementation. The County would remove some property tax if this sales tax were enforced. While this sales tax is under consideration by GSAs, no decisions have been made. Dorn also noted that ESJ will discuss management actions at its February meeting.

### Grant Status – Proposition 68

Chelsea Spear, California Dept. of Water Resources (DWR), reported that DWR staff completed technical review of Proposition 68 grant proposals and will soon release draft decisions. As previously noted, the grant was not as competitive as expected. Spear provided a **handout** ([link](#)) with additional DWR updates.

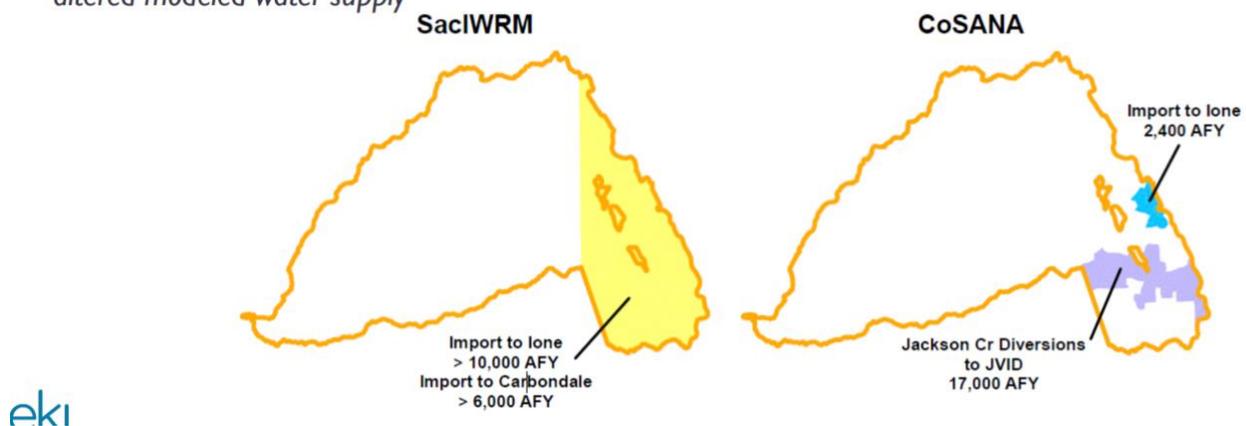
### Technical Support Services grant

No updates.

### Data requests – status, response protocol

EKI shared feedback on the data requests made to GSA, noting that the deadline has passed and that the data provided by GSAs significantly altered modeled water supply.

- *Data provided by GSA significantly altered modeled water supply*



Fio requested that GSAs focus on preliminary monitoring well access. EKI provided GSAs with a customized list of potential monitoring wells. GSAs must identify well ownership and pursue well access. EKI requested that by February 19, 2020, GSAs send EKI a refined list of monitoring wells for which GSAs have confirmed access and owner cooperation for monitoring, in order for EKI to in turn share Technical Memo #9 – Summary of Monitoring Network Assessment and Preliminary Monitoring Plan by February 28, 2020. A verbal agreement from the landowner is sufficient at this time.

### Discussion:

- An Amador County representative asked about wells labeled “BVR.” Fio responded that EKI did not name the wells, and agreed this moniker likely referred to Buena Vista Rancheria.

- A Working Group member asked how the monitoring well sites were selected, noting that some locations were across the street from one another. Fio responded that the wells listed are already in the data management system (DMS).
- Working Group members asked for greater definition of the meaning of “perpetual access” and if that would require a change in the deed.
- A Working Group member suggested using ParcelViewer to find the accessor parcel number (APN) and identify the well owners and suggested. Additionally, GSAs could request unredacted well logs from DWR.
- John Lowrie, Water Forum, offered to match stakeholder surveys with monitoring wells.
- A Working group member asked how many monitoring wells are needed. A Sacramento County technical consultant suggested using the well density requirement from DWR to answer how many wells are needed. Additionally, two wells located near each other may be at different depths and thus provide information about gradient.
- The Water Forum offered to draft talking points for GSAs to utilize in conversations with landowners. CBI and the Water Forum will schedule an ad hoc Working Group meeting to further discuss monitoring well access.
- A Working Group member suggested using the public workshops to disseminate information on monitoring wells and recruit landowner participation.
- Michael Selling, City of Galt, will reach out to contacts at Eastern San Joaquin for a template for landowner outreach.

**Next steps:**

- Water Forum will develop talking points for GSAs and schedule an ad hoc Working group meeting if needed.
- GSAs will secure verbal commitments for monitoring well access and return a refined list of monitoring wells to EKI by February 19, 2020.

**GENERAL UPDATES**

**Financial/grant related issues**

No updates.

**Relevant updates from Subbasin GSAs**

No updates.

**Public comment**

A member of the public commented that they thought a property could not be perpetually accessible without an easement.

A staff member of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced that DWR has a new written translation service available. CBI encouraged GSAs to think about how they’d take advantage of this service.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH NEEDS**

Julia Golomb, CBI, led a discussion about planning for upcoming public workshops. The Communications and Engagement Committee met by phone yesterday. The Committee suggested holding two public workshops in March 2020, on weeknight evenings, with one workshop at

Rancho Murrieta Community Services District office and a second at either the Galt Police Department Community Room or Galt City Hall. The Committee discussed developing an updated fact sheet with GSA contact information and succinct information on basin characterization and next steps. The committee suggested having large maps posted at the workshop to facilitate more interactive discussions. EKI has scope to participate in two public workshops. Golomb encouraged GSAs to embrace their role as host, supported by CBI and Water Forum. GSAs and CBI will conduct outreach for the workshops via newspaper articles, social media, community bulletin boards, and a short write-up to share with partners.

Golomb shared a proposed workshop agenda, which includes a presentation of findings from basin characterization, as requested by members of the public during the last round of public workshops. The workshop will also provide an opportunity to request landowner participation in the monitoring network.

**Discussion:**

- Fio asked Golomb to edit agenda item #3 to remove the word “usage.”
- Brooks suggested that the Outreach Committee discuss how best to engage the public with thought-provoking questions. One person suggested a “pin the tail on the donkey” style activity to identify the relative concern of different sustainability indicators, similar to the slide presented by EKI last month.
- Brooks suggested using tangible issues to draw interest.

**Next steps:** In advance of the February Working Group meeting, Golomb will convene the Communications and Engagement Committee to further refine the public workshop agenda and outreach approach.

**Public comment:**

- A member of the public spoke to the need to share a GSP implementation schedule and discuss funding.

## **FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT**

The Working Group received a copy of the updated draft Framework Agreement ([link](#)) in advance of the meeting.

At the meeting, Brooks reviewed the following feedback, which GSA representatives shared at the December Working Group meeting: the agreement needed to be updated with new dates, activities funded by Proposition 1 and potential activities that would be funded by a Proposition 68 grant. Brooks characterized changes to the agreement as relatively minor, with the exception of the Appendix. The Appendix now includes a list of fiscal and non-fiscal discussions involved in Phase 2 and 3, drawn directly from grant language.

Brooks then requested that GSAs share any further questions or concerns, which would inform a subsequent draft that will be brought to the February Working Group meeting for GSA approval to bring to their respective governing boards. All GSAs except SRCD were very comfortable with the current draft.

**Next steps:**

- SRCD will send any written comments on the draft Framework Agreement before January 31, 2020.
- CBI will incorporate final edits (as needed) and share a draft of the Framework Agreement prior to the February Working Group meeting.
- The Planning Team will prepare to lead a discussion at the February meeting around forming a committee to discuss governance and funding. CBI and Water Forum will put together a terms of reference document for a long-term governance and funding committee to begin these discussions.

**Public comment:** A member of the public commented on the need for GSAs to have a strong commitment to the collective process as GSP development proceeds.

**TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS**

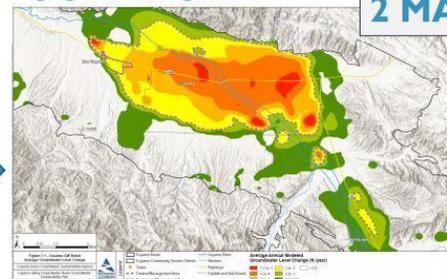
John Fio, EKI, shared some basin information on Plan Area and Management Areas as described by SGMA using slides 13 – 21 of **EKI Technical Presentation #14** ([link](#)).

Fio explained that Management Areas may be defined based on physical characteristics or jurisdictional boundaries. Irrespective of Management Areas, GSAs have the local authority and responsibility for GSP implementation. The presentation included examples from the Cuyama Basin and the Kern County Subbasin:

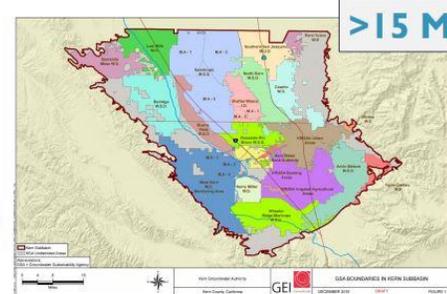
*Draft – For discussion purposes only*

**MANAGEMENT AREAS (CCR §354.2) (6 OF 6)**

- In other basins MAs have been used to:
  - Assign pumping restrictions to areas where modeled drawdown achieves a certain threshold (e.g., the Cuyama Basin)
  - Define areas with increased monitoring for a particular sustainability indicator (e.g., subsidence; Tule Subbasin)
  - Defined a jurisdictional area where entities essential wrote their own GSP as part of a coordinated effort (e.g., the Kern County Subbasin)



2 MAs



>15 MAs

In the Cuyama Basin and Tulare Subbasin, differences in management accompany Management Area distinctions. For example, a management area in Cuyama designates where pumping must be

cut by 65%. However, Fio explained that different management actions can occur without Management Areas as long as there is coordination around issues occurring across boundaries. Many critical items must be defined consistently throughout the Basin (e.g., undesirable results), and unique sustainability criteria must be defined at each monitoring location.

Anona Dutton, EKI, emphasized that Management Areas add a layer of complexity; as such, if GSAs designate Management Areas, there should be a good reason for this decision. Dutton added that there is additional cost and effort associated with Management Areas because a monitoring well network is needed at certain density specifications.

Fio concluded the presentation with information on the Plan Area, a description of the geographic areas covered by the GSP. EKI will send a brief description of each GSA for review, to be incorporated into the Plan Area section of the GSP.

**Discussion:**

- Linda Dorn, Sacramento County, reported that a meeting she attended regarding Sacramento County planning may impact the Plan Area section. Dorn will talk with Fio about this following the meeting.
- Many Working Groups members stated that GSA jurisdictions are likely sufficient for plan implementation, without any management areas.
- Working Group members said they will need more information before making final decisions regarding Management Areas. For example, a cone of depression could be discovered between two jurisdictions, in which case a designated management area could be of benefit.
- Linda Dorn commented that Sacramento County's GSA jurisdiction will likely contain most Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs), yet she sees no reason to designate a Management Area. John Lowrie added that Sacramento County GSA may have a separate threshold associated with GDEs without designating a management area.
- All GSAs mentioned a possible need for management areas, yet none definitively stated that management areas should be established.

**Next steps:**

- The Working Group may revisit the topic of management areas in the future, drawing on examples from other groundwater basins.
- EKI will send a brief description of each GSA for review to be incorporated into the Plan Area section of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Working Group will next meet on February 19, 2020, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, at the Littleton Center, 410 Civic Drive, Galt, CA.

**MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

Darrel Evenson, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority  
Ed Gonzalez, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority  
Gary Thomas, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority  
Austin Miller, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

Barbara Washburn, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District  
 Jay Schneider, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District  
 Mike Wackman, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District  
 Mark Stretars, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District  
 Michael Selling, City of Galt  
 Mark Clarkson, City of Galt  
 Leo Van Warmerdam, Galt Irrigation District  
 John Mulrooney, Galt Irrigation District  
 Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County  
 Linda Dorn, Sacramento County  
 Rodney Fricke, Sacramento County  
 John Fio, EKI  
 Anona Dutton, EKI (phone)  
 Kristyn Lindhart, EKI (phone)  
 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:

<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>DTW</b>	Distance to water, or the depth at which the ground is saturated.
<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>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>Prop. 1</b>	Proposition 1
<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](http://cosumnes.waterforum.org) for the latest meeting information and materials.