

COVER NOTE

From: Bennett Brooks, CBI

To: Cosumnes Working Group

Date: March 13, 2020 (*redistributed for July 15, 2020, Working Group meeting*)

Subject: Draft Purpose and Guidelines for Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group Long-Term Governance Committee

Dear Working Group members:

CBI wrote the following *draft* Purpose and Guidelines document to serve as a strawman for kicking off discussion about a Long-Term Governance Committee that would work in service of the full Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group to identify options and develop recommendations for long-term governance and funding for implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP. This draft is intended to serve as a starting point to prompt discussion at the Working Group meeting. CBI will refine the document with the guidance of the Working Group.

Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group Long-Term Governance Committee

Purpose and Guidelines

1st Draft: March 13, 2020

(For review, discussion and revision with the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group)

Purpose Statement: The Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group's Long-Term Governance Committee (Governance Committee), working in service of the full Working Group, will develop recommendations for long-term governance and funding for implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin's groundwater sustainability plan (GSP); identify issues that will require advice from legal counsel; and discuss decision-making protocols for SGMA implementation.

Guiding Principles: Members of the Cosumnes Working Group affirm that long-term groundwater governance recommendations must be developed through an open and transparent process of deliberation. The Framework Agreement outlines eight guiding principles for how groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) work together within the Working Group:

- Craft a GSP that respects local jurisdictions while building a subbasin-wide approach.
- Recognize mutual interdependence.
- Commitment to collaborate.
- Strive for consensus.
- Rely on credible process.
- Build progress through incremental agreements.
- Support effective and efficient processes.
- Accommodate uncertainties.

Operating Guidelines: Ultimately, the Working Group will recommend an approach to long-term governance, and the boards of directors of the seven GSAs in the Subbasin will vote to approve the governance approach. As such, the Governance Committee's role is to identify and consider options and develop recommendations for the Working Group's consideration. Should the Committee not arrive at a consensus recommendation, it will document the range of options and perspectives to inform the Working Group's decision-making. The Committee meetings will engage in informed deliberations, held in a roundtable format. This will encourage a clear understanding among committee members of the varying perspectives and tradeoffs associated with different alternatives. The committee is expected to meet regularly from **May 2020 through April 2021 [placeholder]**.

Meeting guidelines:

Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group Long-Term Governance Committee, Purpose & Guidelines

- **Active, focused participation.** Every participant is responsible for communicating his/her expertise and interests on the issues under consideration. Voicing these perspectives is essential to enable meaningful dialogue. Everyone will participate; no one will dominate. Everyone will help stay on track.
- **Respectful interaction.** Participants will respect each other's personal integrity, values and legitimacy of interests.
- **Integration and creative thinking.** Participants will strive to be open-minded and integrate ideas, perspectives and interests put forward by others. Disagreements will be regarded as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won. Participants will attempt to reframe contentious issues and offer creative solutions to enable constructive dialogue.
- **Mutual gains approach.** Participants will work to satisfy not only their own interests but also those of other participants. Participants are encouraged to be clear about their own interests and to recognize the important distinction between underlying interests and fixed positions.

Membership: To support focused deliberations, each Working Group GSA will appoint a **single** [placeholder. Single? Up to two?] representative to the Committee. Representatives are tasked with identifying issues of concern; providing expertise and perspectives on issues under discussion; jointly exploring options to address participant concerns and interests; and, signal degree of support for ideas under discussion ("can you live with it" standard). Representatives are responsible for regularly transmitting information between their respective agencies/boards and the Committee, so as to keep their agency apprised of the Committee's current thinking and vice versa.

Commitment to Process:

- **Participation.** Participants commit to making Committee meetings a priority and will strive to attend all meetings.
- **Alternates.** As consistent participation is essential to building understanding, use of alternates is strongly discouraged; as needed, alternates will be identified ahead of time, be fully briefed on both the substance and group dynamics, and come prepared to fully represent their respective constituency.
- **Preparation.** Participants will review relevant meeting materials in advance of the meetings and come prepared to address the meeting objectives.

Committee support. Water Forum staff and CBI will provide technical and facilitation support, serving as neutrals and not acting as an advocate for particular outcomes. The facilitator will strive to ensure that all participants clearly articulate their respective interests and perspectives on issues under discussion. The facilitator will also strive to ensure goals and objectives for meetings are met in an efficient and effective manner.