

**Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group Meeting
Meeting #41**

Meeting held July,15, 2020 [Online]

Prepared by the Consensus Building Institute and the Water Forum

MEETING-IN-BRIEF

The July 15th Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group (WG) began with updates on grants, CoSANA modeling and upcoming meeting for the neighboring South American Subbasin.

The Cosumnes Subbasin’s technical consultant, EKI, presented on the status of GSP development. Key points from the presentation and Working Group discussion included:

- A preliminary CoSANA model calibration has been completed; the model is expected to be ready in September/October. Once the model is ready, EKI can begin to develop the water budget and preliminary estimate of sustainable yield (TM #8).
- GSAs continue to obtain access agreements, but additional monitoring sites are needed for the SGMA monitoring network.

This is a critical path item.

- GSAs should reach out to small public water systems to cultivate relationships early so they know they are being designated as Representative Monitoring Sites and to understand how their data will be included in the SGMA monitoring network.
- All stakeholder outreach by the GSAs (e.g., with small public water systems, domestic well owners, etc.) should be documented (and submitted to CBI for consolidation) to be included in the GSP.
- A new round of access confirmation will be needed for groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE) field verification studies (expected to begin in late summer/early fall).
- The Working Group will need confirm Management Areas by September 2020.

GSA Actions / Decisions:

- The Working Group took no formal actions related to GSP development at its July meeting.
- Discussions indicated strong support among 6 of the 7 GSAs to have one Management Area; Sloughhouse RCD GSA is still considering.

The meeting concluded with discussion of planning for the Long-Term Governance Committee, Surface Water Advisory Group and the subbasin’s upcoming virtual public meeting. The Working Group agreed to move forward with convening the Long-Term Governance Committee in the near future and to hold a virtual public outreach workshop meeting on August 3rd or 5th.

The Working Group will next meet via webinar on August 19, 2020.

ACTION ITEMS

Topic	Who	What
Updates	GSAs	FYI - S American Subbasin public meeting on July 23 - http://sasbgroundwater.org/meetings.html#meetingsPublic
	Chelsea	Share DWR outreach materials (e.g., factsheet and upcoming public meetings).
	Mike W	Share updated information related to the Dept of Conservation Watershed Coordinator grant opportunity. (FYI, application due in Sept)

	Sac County	Notify WG when Sac County would like to share updates about its finance study with the WG.
	Chelsea	Send to John Lowrie location data on CASGEM monitoring well to be dropped.
Monitoring Network	EKI	Coordinate with Amador County about additional well sites needed for geophysical surveys.
	EKI	Coordinate with SRCD about vernal pools and possible implications for geophysical surveying.
	Barbara/SRCD	Provide map on vernal pool locations.
	Mike W	Follow up with potential well access on aquaculture and almond/walnut farms for monitoring network (aim to finalize by end of the week to align with subconsultant site visits in the basin). Coordinate with Krystin L and John Mulrooney as needed.
	GSAs	Continue to fill remaining access agreement gaps in the well monitoring network.
Outreach Documentation	GSAs	Engage and document outreach to public water systems; share outreach documentation with CBI (for inclusion in the GSP).
	SRCD	Document outreach to domestic well owners (share outreach documentation with CBI).
Management Areas	SRCD	Work with own consultants and Board to explore and decide on whether SRCD will pursue establishing itself as a management area; notify WG of Board's proposed decision asap.
Long-Term Governance	CBI	Update draft memo about the Long-Term Governance Committee description per July 15 discussion and share with WG.
	GSAs	Send CBI proposed 1-2 representatives to serve on the Long-Term Governance Committee (up to GSA's discretion on whether 1 or 2 representatives is sufficient.). (Strongly recommend identifying alternates to ensure committed and consistent participation.)
	CBI	Schedule and hold first Long-Term Governance Committee (to be held before August 19 WG meeting).
SWAG	CBI	Schedule SWAG prep call with GSA representatives.
	CBI/EKI/WF	Develop agenda and materials for SWAG Meeting #1.
	WF/CBI	Continue outreach efforts to tribal representatives.
Public Meeting	CBI	By end of the week, confirm date and time for public meeting; work with Outreach and Engagement Committee on outreach.
	Sac County	Notify CBI if Supervisor Nottoli is available for the public meeting. [DONE]
	Amador County	Notify CBI if District Supervisor wishes to attend the public meeting.

Meeting Documents

[Agenda](#) | [2 – EKI Technical Presentation](#) | [3 – DWR SGMA Update \(7-10-20\)](#) | [4 – Long Term Governance Committee Presentation](#) | [5 – Draft Governance Committee Guidelines](#)

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

Grant status – Prop. 68 and TSS

Sacramento County and Water Forum had no updates. Mike Wackman, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD), reported that drilling will begin next week on a technical support services (TSS) funded well in OHWD.

Action item: Mike Wackman, OHWD, will follow up with the CA Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) regarding the status of the permit for OHWD's TSS well.

ESJ / South American updates

No updates on groundwater sustainability planning in the Eastern San Joaquin subbasin.

Information on upcoming South American subbasin meetings is available at <http://sasbgroundwater.org/meetings.html#meetingsPublic>.

Tom Gohring, Water Forum, reported that the Water Forum is finishing up work assisting in submitting amended GSA South American subbasin boundaries files to the DWR SGMA Portal.

GENERAL UPDATES

Financial/grant related issues

Linda Dorn, Sacramento County, informed the group about the Rate and Fee Study being undertaken by Sacramento County and its consultant (HDR). Dorn asked GSA representatives for initial feedback regarding their interest in exploring the potential for County-wide or GSA-wide implementation fees. Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County, further informed the group that the fee under consideration by the study would be County-wide and basin specific, but she did not know at this time what the amount of the fee would be. All GSA representatives from within Sacramento County present at the meeting expressed interest in learning more as the fee study progresses.

Action item: Sacramento County will notify the Working Group when it has updates to share about the finance study.

Dept. of Conservation SGMA Watershed Coordinator grant

Mike Wackman, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District, reported that OHWD is moving forward with its application for the Department of Conservation’s Watershed Coordinator grant.

FSS Grant Application

Austin Miller, Sloughhouse Resources Conservation District (SRCD), reported that SRCD will meet with facilitators soon as part of DWR’s Facilitation Support Services program and clarified that facilitation is specific to SRCD’s governance.

Relevant updates from Subbasin GSAs

None.

Public comment

None.

DWR Updates June 2020: <http://cosumnes.waterforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/3-2020-07-10-DWR-Update.pdf>

Action item: Chelsea Spier to send more information on a CASGEM well that is being retired and can be replaced. Spier requested suggestions on wells with which to replace from the Working Group.

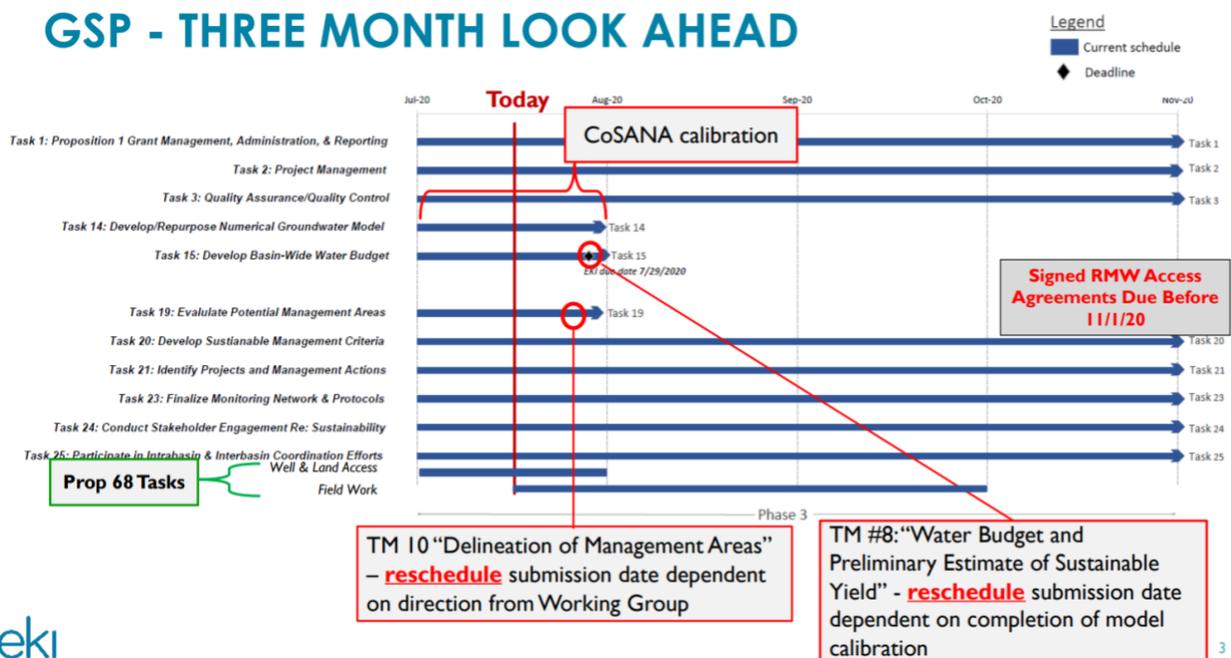
GSP TECHNICAL WORK PROGRESS AND PLANNING

EKI Technical Presentation #19: http://cosumnes.waterforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2-Draft_EKI-Technical-Presentation_2020-07-15_2.pdf

Three-month look ahead

Topic	Near-Term Priorities and Status
Monitoring Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [High Priority] Push to complete EKI list of outstanding well and land access. Well sites on aquaculture and almond/walnut farms are needed. ▪ Identify and install monitoring wells as needed (July-December)
Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convening first meeting of the SWAG on July 31 ▪ Need to design GDE field investigation approach (rescheduled to August) ▪ Need site access permissions to conduct field investigations.
CoSANA Model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preliminary CoSANA model calibration completed. ▪ EKI and subconsultant finalizing CoSANA model (expected Sept/Oct)
Water Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water budget and preliminary estimate of sustainable yield (TM#8) is ON HOLD until the CoSANA model is ready.
Management Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ [High Priority] Working Group to decide whether to establish Management Areas

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing TM #10 (Delineation of Management Areas) is ON HOLD until GSAs give final decision on management area delineations.
Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deeper discussion on the Sustainable Management Criteria (e.g., minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, interim milestones, etc.) is ON HOLD until all representative monitoring sites are confirmed.



CoSANA Update

John Fio reported that consultants have completed a preliminary calibration, in which they took the existing Cosumnes-South American-North American model and cut out a “child model” to update the data sets relevant to the Cosumnes Subbasin. Consultants are testing model performance by comparing simulated and measured water levels, simulated and measured creek discharge and leakage.

EKI has judged the model performance to be reasonable at this time and has returned the model to Woodard-Curran for calibration. EKI will then evaluate the performance of the model for the Cosumnes Subbasin and update as needed. Modelers expect the model to be completed by September or October 2020.

Discussion - CoSANA:

- A GSA representative asked about a discrepancy in the model vs observed values in the foothills. Fio answered that there is more complexity in subsurface geology and less information available for the foothills.

- Another GSA representative asked about the possibility to obtain underground topographic map(s) that would help better understand conductivity across different basins. EKI responded that the best information available would likely be from DWR’s geophysical study maps. The CoSANA model will help estimate inflows and outflows, but the model is not scheduled to be complete until the fall.

Update: GSA efforts to secure land and well access to support Prop. 68 activities

EKI reported on Prop. 68 activities and the status of monitoring network development in slides 6-17 of **Technical Presentation #19**, http://cosumnes.waterforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2-Draft_EKI-Technical-Presentation_2020-07-15_2.pdf

GSAs continue to obtain access agreements for wells to be added to the monitoring network; however, critical gaps remain. Additionally, some hoped-for sites may require alternative wells due to access denials. EKI encouraged GSAs to seek site access to aquaculture and almonds/walnuts for groundwater extraction monitoring.

There are two proposed locations for installing monitoring wells and stream gages. Some SAFCA matching funds are being used to establish another monitoring well. Additional sites for monitoring wells and stream gages are needed.

SGMA MONITORING NETWORK STATUS

GSA	Number of Wells						Number of Gauges	
	WL Rep. Monitoring Sites	WL Confirmed Accessible (7/8/20)	WQ Rep. Monitoring Sites	WQ Confirmed Accessible (7/8/20)	ISW Rep. Monitoring Sites	ISW Confirmed Accessible (7/8/20)	ISV Rep. Monitoring Sites	ISV Confirmed Accessible (7/8/20)
Amador WA ¹	6	6	5	4	--	--	--	--
City of Galt	1	1	2	2	--	--	--	--
Clay WD	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Galt ID	2	0	1	0	--	--	--	--
OHWD ¹	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	0
Sac County	3	3	1*	0	4*	2	1	0
SRCD	6*	2	3*	1	1	1	1	0
	20	14	14	9	7	5	5	0

eki 1. Includes TSS sites. * May need replacement wells indicates a count that increased from last meeting

Anona Dutton, EKI, urged GSAs to build relationships with their local Public Water Systems. Dutton noted that if the subbasin GSP shows Public Water Systems as part of the monitoring network without having effective outreach beforehand, it could be problematic. CBI added that GSAs need to document their outreach efforts to be included in the GSP’s description of GSA engagement and consideration of impacts to beneficial users of groundwater.

Discussion:

Monitoring Network

- SRCD representatives voiced concerns regarding vernal pools that may be in areas proposed for planned transects related to the geophysical study. EKI noted that the study can accommodate habitat concerns, and EKI can follow up with SRCD to discuss further.
- Participants at the meeting reported that OHWD and Galt Irrigation District have been reaching out to aquaculture well owners in their areas.
- EKI asked GSAs if they have had contact with almond growers regarding potential monitoring wells. A meeting participant suggested contacting John Mulrooney because he is considering installing a meter on a well to irrigate a new almond grove.

Outreach

- Austin Miller, SRCD, reported that he has been compiling information on domestic private wells and information on average screen depths to hopefully help understand how management choices will affect domestic wells. EKI and CBI recommended SRCD documents its efforts to study domestic private wells and engage well owners.

Management Areas

- The Working Group discussed Management Areas. Bennett Brooks, CBI, reviewed previous discussions, noting that six of the seven GSAs (1) did not wish to designate any Management Areas and (2) expressed concerns with potential additional costs of SRCD being a Management Area.
- EKI stated that it was not aware of any benefit of designating SRCD as a Management Area, as it is already a GSA, and that there could be additional costs associated with implementation due to the need for a Management Area monitoring network.
- In response to a GSA comment, Tom Gohring, Water Forum, noted that Management Areas were not considered as part of CBI's review of governance structures described in other subbasins' submitted GSPs.
- SRCD representatives explained that SRCD has been considering the benefits/drawbacks of Management Areas, and its GSA members were curious if other GSPs in the state had management areas based on jurisdictional boundaries rather than scientific. SRCD is also working with a facilitator to help its GSA's board explore the Management Area issue.

Action items:

Monitoring Network

- EKI will coordinate with Amador County about additional well sites needed for geophysical surveys.
- EKI will coordinate with SRCD to better understand concerns related to vernal pools and possible implications for geophysical surveying.
- Barbara Washburn, SRCD, will provide a map on vernal pool locations.
- Mike Wackman, OHWD, will follow up with potential well access on aquaculture and almond/walnut farms for monitoring network, coordinating with Kristyn L and John Mulrooney as needed.
- GSAs will continue to fill remaining access agreement gaps in the well monitoring network.

Outreach Documentation

- GSAs will engage and document outreach to public water systems; share outreach documentation with CBI (for inclusion in the GSP).

- SRCD will document outreach to domestic well owners (share outreach documentation with CBI).

Management Areas

- SRCD will work with its consultants and Board to explore and decide whether it will pursue establishing itself as a management area; notify WG of Board's proposed decision asap. (WG/EKI needs SRCD's decision within the next couple of months to develop GSP components such as Sustainable Management Criteria).

Public Comment

No public comment.

WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

Long-Term Governance Committee

In advance of the meeting, CBI distributed a **draft Purpose and Guidelines document**, <http://cosumnes.waterforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/5-Draft-Governance-Committee-guidelines-July-15-2020.pdf>. The document was intended 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.

CBI led discussion on the **Long-Term Governance Committee** with a presentation, <http://cosumnes.waterforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/4-Long-Term-Governance-Committee-Presentation-July-15-2020.pdf>

Brooks introduced the topic by reminding the group of previous conversations on the long-term governance.. CBI recommended using a committee to consider and develop option as Working Group meetings will need to be dedicating time to discussing technical details related to GSP development.

Guiding Principles

- Develop recommendations through **open and transparent process of deliberation**.
- 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.

Brooks highlighted the eight principles established by the Working Group's Framework Agreement, which he recommended serve as a starting point for the Working Group in developing a long-term governance committee. The presentation also outlined proposed membership structure and requirements, as well as operating guidelines.

Operating Guidelines

Ultimately: Full 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.

To this end: 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.

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 roughly April 2021.

Discussion – Long-Term Governance Committee:

Brooks invited feedback on the overall purpose of and approach for the Long-term Governance Committee and suggestions for refining the committee composition. He also posed specific questions: "Does it make sense to start the conversation with a committee?" and "Should we convene the committee soon or wait?"

- John Lowrie, Water Forum, asked if Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD) and Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority (SSCAWA) know the duration of their ongoing internal governance dialogues. Representatives answered that they would be wrapping up by December 2020.
- SRCD representatives supported moving ahead with parallel processes, as the Facilitation Support Services (FSS) process for SRCD's strategic governance discussions will take several months (and SRCD wants to avoid condensing the Working Group's deliberations). SRCD stated it would ensure its governance discussions will dovetail with the Long-Term Governance Committee's discussions. SRCD also suggested the Long-term Governance Committee begin with informational topics.
- Multiple GSA representatives commented that they agreed it would be best to pursue governance discussions within a committee structure and suggested letting the GSAs decide whether to select either one or two representatives.
- A Sacramento County representative suggested designating alternatives for committee representatives. She also commented that she felt that governance and funding are tied together and that, based on her observations in the Eastern San Joaquin subbasin, she felt it was important to be proactive with governance and funding considerations. Other GSA representatives agreed that funding is an important governance issue to discuss.
- A Clay Water District representative expressed support for the Long-Term Governance Committee to move forward but shared concerns with redundancy of discussions at the committee and Working Group level. CBI acknowledged this challenge and underscored the roles and responsibility for the committee representatives to keep their respective Working Group GSA members continuously and consistently updated on the committee discussions.

DECISION OUTCOME: The Working Group agreed to move forward with convening the Long-Term Governance Committee. Amador County abstained, citing capacity concerns to adequately participate in the committee discussions.

Action items – Long-Term Governance Committee:

- CBI will distribute a draft memo about the Long-Term Governance Committee description per July 15 discussion and share with WG.
- GSAs will send CBI proposed 1-2 representatives to serve on the Long-Term Governance Committee (up to GSA's discretion on whether 1 or 2 representatives is sufficient). (Strongly recommend identifying alternates to ensure committed and consistent participation.)
- CBI will schedule and hold first Long-Term Governance Committee (to be held before August 19 WG meeting).

Surface Water Advisory Group

CBI provided an update on convening the **Surface Water Advisory Group (SWAG)**, reporting that the first meeting of the SWAG is scheduled for **July 31**.

Tom Gohring, Water Forum, stated that the individuals invited to serve on the SWAG function as an important resource for the Working Group, as they bring substantial expertise and experience to inform the Working Group's discussions and decisions. Brooks commented that the SWAG can be thought of as a sounding board for the ongoing analysis and potentially identify additional information sources the Working Group and EKI should be considering. He noted that no information will go to the SWAG before it goes to the Working Group. Brooks added that Working Group representatives to the SWAG should take on the role of listening and learning (e.g., focus on asking clarifying questions).

Discussion – SWAG:

- Dutton noted that there is limited objective guidance from DWR on interconnected surface waters, and there may be input from SWAG members that goes above and beyond the intent of the legislation. Brooks acknowledged this ambiguity and emphasized the importance to find an appropriate balance with SWAG discussions -- clearly identifying what SGMA requires, while also listening to and understanding the rationale behind participant input.
- The Working Group discussed and confirmed the purpose of the group as listening, learning, and informing.

Action items – SWAG:

- CBI will schedule SWAG prep call with GSA representatives.
- CBI/ EKI/ WF will develop the agenda and materials for SWAG Meeting #1.
- WF and CBI will continue outreach efforts to tribal representatives.

Outreach and Engagement Committee

Stephanie Horii, CBI, asked GSAs for feedback on potential dates in August for the public meeting under consideration by the **Outreach and Engagement Committee**.

Discussion – Public Meeting:

- All GSA representatives present at the meeting confirmed their availability for either evening, **August 3rd or 5th**.
- Mike Selling, City of Galt, commented that he would like to notify his board at its July 21 meeting. Horii responded that scheduling would be confirmed after hearing back from County Supervisor Don Nottoli.
- In response to GSA representatives' questions, CBI stated it would work with the Outreach and Engagement Committee, Water Forum, and EKI to develop and coordinate outreach and meeting design and keep Working Group members informed of their responsibilities in preparation for the public meeting.

DECISION OUTCOME: The Working Group agreed to hold the public meeting on either August 3rd or 5th. CBI will inform the Working Group of the finalized date.

Action items – Public Meeting:

- CBI will confirm date and time for public meeting; work with Outreach and Engagement Committee on outreach, by the end of the week.
- Sacramento County will notify CBI if Supervisor Nottoli is available for the public meeting.
- Amador County will notify CBI if District Supervisor wishes to attend the public meeting.

Public Comment

None

NEXT MEETING

The Working Group will next meet on August 19, 2020, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, via Zoom Meeting: <https://cbuilding.zoom.us/j/95582571206> | Join audio by phone: +1-669-900-6833 | Meeting ID: 955 8257 1206

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Gary Thomas, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Austin Miller, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District
Herb Garms, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District
Jay Schneider, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District
Barbara Washburn, Sloughouse Resource Conservation District
Mike Wackman, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Mark Stretars, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Mark Clarkson, City of Galt
Sue Wohle, Clay Irrigation District
Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County
Linda Dorn, Sacramento County
Rodney Fricke, Sacramento County
John Fio, EKI
Anona Dutton, EKI

Kristyn Lindhart, EKI
 Bennett Brooks, CBI
 Stephanie Horii, 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.
DTW	Distance to water, or the depth at which the ground is saturated.
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	Sloughhouse 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 Stephanie Horii at the Consensus Building Institute.

Visit cosumnes.waterforum.org for the latest meeting information and materials.