

Surface Water Advisory Group (SWAG)

Meeting #2

September 25, 2020



CBI

CATALYZING COLLABORATION

SWAG Meeting #2 – September 25, 2020

- **Approximately 20 attendees**
 - 12 SWAG members (including GSA reps) + WF/EKI/CBI staff
- **Productive conversation – good back and forth at meeting; detailed comments submitted after by three groups**
- **Covered two main topics:**
 1. **Representative Monitoring Network**
 2. **Sustainable Management Criteria - Groundwater Levels and Interconnected Surface Waters**

SWAG Feedback (1)

(Note: Listing the range of input and general themes in no particular order; not intended to be exhaustive summary of all issues raised; draws on verbal and written comments)



Some Specifics – Monitoring Network

- **Network seems on target to meet SGMA needs**
- **Several important opportunities to strengthen network – some examples:**
 - **Broaden distribution of wells both spatially and in depth, including depths typical for domestic well users**
 - **Include monitoring well every 4-6 miles along the Cosumnes**
 - **Consider opportunity to take advantage of multi-benefit projects; design beyond just SGMA needs**
 - **Important for future state-funded grants**
- **Coordinate with South American subbasin and other entities**

SWAG Feedback (2)

(Note: Listing the range of input and general themes in no particular order; not intended to be exhaustive summary of all issues raised; draws on verbal and written comments)



Some Specifics – SMCs / Groundwater Levels

- **Concern that 2015 standard for MO will not leave sufficient room for operational flexibility, especially in light of climate change and drought**
- **MT baseline may trigger adverse impacts on domestic well users; need wider survey to understand earlier impacts**
- **Expand “check step” on GW level SMCs to ensure no adverse impacts on all beneficial uses / users (e.g. look beyond just domestic well users)**

SWAG Feedback (3)

(Note: Listing the range of input and general themes in no particular order; not intended to be exhaustive summary of all issues raised; draws on verbal and written comments)



Some Specifics – SMCs / Interconnected Surface Waters and GDEs

- **Expand monitoring to better understand perched groundwater; consider as second principal aquifer**
- **Better understand interconnected / disconnected overlap**
- **Concern with 2015 levels and planned 10-year slide post-2020: GW won't reach root zone; impacts to riparian corridor**
- **Alternatives to 2015 levels: average of 2005-2015; demonstrate no adverse impacts; set MOs at sustainable level for ISW/GDEs**
- **Other concerns:**
 - **Maintain existing seasonal interconnections**
 - **Account for climate change / consumption trends**
 - **Recognize that GDE responds slowly to GW changes**

What's Next?



- **EKI considering comments from SWAG #2; will generate recommendations for Working Group consideration at its November meeting**
- **Today:**
 - **Impressions from Working Group members who attended SWAG Meeting #2**
 - **Working Group's initial thoughts on questions and concerns raised**
- **SWAG expected to next meet in December:**
 - **Sustainable Management Criteria (revisit)**
 - **Projects & Management Actions (initial)**