

# Cosumnes Working Group Meeting

## September 16, 2020

### Meeting-in-Brief

The September 16<sup>th</sup> Cosumnes Working Group (WG) meeting focused on the technical work progress and planning for developing the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). This meeting marked a shift in WG discussions, as the GSAs must now discuss and begin to decide on how they plan to move the subbasin on the path towards sustainability given the current groundwater conditions (chronic decline in groundwater levels and an estimated annual decrease in storage of 10,000 acre feet per year, AFY). The WG has been exploring potential management approaches that could be adequately proactive to avoid/minimize undesirable results, while also providing sufficient flexibility and time to establish, fund, and implement projects/management actions.

### GSP-Related Decisions

(Refer to the forthcoming meeting summary for additional context)

- Moving forward with GSP development with no Management Areas stipulated at this time.
- Moving forward with the existing monitoring network and any additional wells that can be confirmed before the next WG meeting. The GSP will articulate the GSAs' commitment to address gaps in the monitoring network in the future.
- EKI to explore SMC approach for Chronic Lowering Water Levels that utilizes the Minimum Threshold as the "projected 20-year water level based on long-term trends" and Measurable Objectives based on a "Glide Path" to get back to 2015 water levels by 2042 (Approach #2, Path C in EKI presentation slides).

### Understanding groundwater dynamics to inform

**planning: Groundwater Model and Water Budget.** The groundwater model CoSANA calibration is near completion, and development of water budgets is expected to begin in October 2020. EKI has been working closely with neighboring subbasins and their consultants to improve and align groundwater modeling efforts.

**Collecting data for GSP development: Field and "Desktop" Investigations.** Several Prop-68 funded field investigations have been completed (e.g., isotopic sampling) or are underway (e.g., geophysical investigations, installing meters at volunteer sites).

**Defining Management Areas and Confirming Monitoring Networks:** The WG confirmed that the GSAs will not establish separate Management Areas in the subbasin at this time. The GSAs are conducting a final push to obtain access agreements for monitoring wells and the WG directed EKI to move forward with the existing Monitoring Network and any additional wells that can be confirmed before the next WG meeting. The 2022 GSP will describe the GSAs' commitment to address remaining gaps in the Monitoring Network.

**Defining "sustainability" for the subbasin: Sustainable Management Criteria.** The WG continued discussions on setting initial Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs), which includes Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds. The GSAs directed EKI to apply the following initial assumptions for SMCs related to significant and unreasonable chronic lowering of groundwater levels:

- Minimum Thresholds are set at the projected 20-year water levels based on long-term trends.

- “Glide Path” for Measurable Objectives that allow for groundwater levels to initially decline beyond 2015 conditions, but remain above the Minimum Threshold before eventually rising to the Measurable Objectives of 2015 levels by 2042.

The GSAs will discuss the resulting SMCs — comparing the SMC model results to those in neighboring basins, other potential SMCs (e.g., for Interconnected Surface Waters), implications for domestic well impacts, and implications for Projects & Management Actions — prior to finalizing the SMCs.

**Identifying options for obtaining groundwater sustainability: Projects and Management Actions (PMAs).** The WG reviewed example PMAs from other basins and the translated impacts and costs if the Cosumnes Subbasin were to implement similar PMAs to address the subbasin’s estimated 10,000 AFY deficit. EKI provided the GSAs with a form that must be completed to clearly document each PMA in accordance with the GSP Regulations. A few GSAs have been initiating discussions to explore prospective options (e.g., potential surface water opportunities). Potential PMAs will need to be adequately defined by the GSAs by December 2020 in order for the EKI to input them into the CoSANA model to predict impacts to groundwater.

**Other Committees:**

**Surface Water Advisory Group (SWAG).** The WG approved presenting EKI’s proposed approach for identifying SMCs for Interconnected Surface Waters to the SWAG as one option under consideration, but make clear that the approach is presented only to spark conversation with the SWAG and is not intended to reflect in-depth WG discussions or intent.

**GSAs in Attendance**

- Amador County
- Sacramento County
- Clay Water District
- City of Galt
- Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
- Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District

**Action Items**

Topic	Who	What
Updates	Chelsea (DWR)	Connect with Bryce (DWR) on status of TSS application (includes request for Dry Creek monitoring well).
	Planning Team	Discuss how to receive WG feedback on SWAG comments
	CBI/O&E Committee	Discuss options for near-term public outreach (potential December public meeting and piloting newsletter)
	Mike Wackman	Circulate the final draft of the DOC Watershed Coordinator Grant letter for GSA signatures; application is due to DOC by October 15.
	CBI	Include upcoming schedule of meetings from DWR updates in the newsletter
	Mike Wackman (SSCAWA) & Rick Wohle (Clay WD)	Clay WD and SSCAWA engaging SMUD to explore potential appropriation of Bureau of Reclamation water (S. American River).

	CBI	At the next WG meeting, hold time at the beginning of the meeting to invite public comment on the GSP technical work discussed at the Sept 16 meeting.
Management Areas	DECISION	Moving forward with GSP development with no Management Areas stipulated at this time .
Monitoring Network	EKI	Provide SRCD with more detailed map (e.g., include roads) to help GSAs identify the specific well locations desired for the monitoring network to focus their outreach efforts.
	Jay S	Work w/ EKI to obtain the necessary protocols for a well driller to conduct monitoring on private property ( <b>DONE</b> : Refer to <a href="#">Technical Memo #9</a> ); Jay to secure access agreements.
	EKI	Confirm if there are any monitoring well needs in Clay WD
	DECISION	Moving forward with the existing monitoring network and any additional wells that can be confirmed before the next WG meeting. The GSP will articulate the GSAs' commitment to address gaps in the monitoring network in the future.
SMC Approach	EKI/CBI	Share link to the Water Foundation paper related to methodology for domestic well modeling. ( <b>DONE</b> : Refer to the <a href="#">Water Foundation White Paper</a> and the paper's <a href="#">Related Resources</a> ).
	DECISION	EKI to explore SMC approach that utilizes the Minimum Threshold as the "projected 20-year water level based on long-term trends," and Measurable Objectives based on a "Glide Path" to get back to 2015 water levels by 2042 (Approach #2, Path C in EKI presentation slides).
SWAG	DECISION	Approval to present to the SWAG the strawman proposal on determination of SMCs for interconnected surface waters (as presented in the Sept 16 WG EKI presentation) with the caveat that this is one option that the WG is considering and does not represent a WG decision (the WG did not have time to thoroughly discuss the strawman proposal at the Sept 16 meeting or other options).