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Subject: SWAG Meeting #4

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Greetings--

We'd like to express our appreciation to the Cosumnes Working Group for establishing the Surface Water Advisory Group and providing the opportunity to contribute to the SGMA process.

We will not be submitting comments in response to SWAG meeting #4, but look forward to reviewing the draft GSP. Some elements/concepts we hope to see captured in the GSP are included below.

We look forward to working together in the future.

Cheers,

Melinda

- Acknowledge the diverse basin stakeholders and attributes, including groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) and extensive conservation investment in the Subbasin.
- Implement demand side management projects and actions to begin to address groundwater deficit in the near term. The Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group has recently taken a positive step by discussing demand side management actions such as following.
- Invite collaboration with partners on multi-benefit projects and management actions; include aspirational goals that encompass community needs, improvement and expansion of GDEs and interconnected surface water, agricultural preservation, and flood management. The Southeast Sacramento Groundwater Authority has taken a positive first step by securing a grant for a Watershed Coordinator to engage stakeholders, facilitate multi-benefit project development, and seek funding.
- Acknowledge the contribution of perched aquifers to ecosystem health, and include perched aquifer mapping in aspirational recharge and monitoring design goals.
- Implement real time groundwater level and surface water monitoring suitable for both SGMA compliance and adaptive management. The Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group has made progress in implementing wells with transducers and surface water gaging, positive first steps.
- Commit to participate in development of regional water banking and ensure that banking system operation provides a net groundwater increase to the basin, that withdrawal facilities are strategically located to avoid impact to GDEs and interconnected surface waters, and consider public trust/environmental improvement charges in the fee structure.
- Address catastrophic drought and climate change fully in both GSP and banking governance.

- Ensure that projects and management actions are regionally coordinated. The region's water supply is a dynamic, interrelated system made up of groundwater subbasins and surface water sources. Projects and Management Actions will have cross-basin impacts and will benefit from a collaborative approach.