

Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Cosumnes Subbasin: Now is a critical time for Well Users to Get Involved



Whether you have a well on your property or live in a community that pumps groundwater from a well into your home, decisions will be made soon that may impact you. The Cosumnes Groundwater Sustainability Plan will be finalized this year. Providing a roadmap for how groundwater will be managed for the next two decades, the plan is expected to include:

- Compensation to growers willing to take land out of production (voluntary fallowing).
- Projects to pump new sources of water into the ground (recharging).
- A description of how plan implementation, projects, and management actions will be funded.

Why are we talking about wells?

Groundwater—water stored in underground basins called aquifers—is an important resource that provides drinking water, allows agriculture to flourish, and supports a healthy environment. But California’s frequent droughts and over-reliance on pumping are depleting groundwater. It is so severe in some areas of the state that land is sinking as aquifers collapse.

Signed into law in 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA – pronounced Sigma) requires the adoption of local plans that will bring groundwater supply and demand into balance. The goal statewide is to stop removing more water out of underground aquifers than is being replenished (by nature or by humans). If local areas are unable or unwilling to come up with an effective plan, the law empowers the State to step in with its own plan, which will almost certainly be both more restrictive and more costly for local residents.

Where is the Cosumnes Subbasin?



The Cosumnes Subbasin extends south of the Cosumnes River to the San Joaquin County border along Dry Creek and west from the Delta to the foothills of Amador County. To find where you are in the subbasin, view this interactive map: bit.ly/CosumnesGSAsContactsMap



**Provide input during a
March 24th, 2021 workshop.**

Learn more at Cosumnes.WaterForum.org

What are options being considered for our plan?

Although the Cosumnes Subbasin has both urban (the City of Galt) and rural residential areas (Wilton and Herald), much of the 210,000 acres is devoted to agriculture. Because we want to protect both the character and the economy of our area, we are being guided by three strategies:

1. Protect/enhance the amount of water available for all uses, including a healthy environment.
2. Find cost-effective solutions that meet legal requirements and keep fees low.
3. Minimize the amount of acreage that is taken out of agricultural production.

Options presented during a public workshop on March 24 will include ways to put more water into the aquifer (recharge) and ways to reduce water usage (fallowing land that is now irrigated).

How are you likely to be impacted?

The good news is that an effective groundwater sustainability plan would mean that most people will be able to count on their wells even in dry years. **But there are costs to implement and monitor whatever plan is adopted.** A funding plan that spreads costs among users without creating a heavy burden is under development and will be shared in a public workshop and local agency hearings later this year.

Will meters be required?

SGMA does not authorize the requirement that domestic well users install meters on their wells. Meters are allowed to be placed on ag wells; however, current plans are to find ways to assess water use without meters.

What can you do to provide input?

1 *Become informed about requirements of the plan.*

Go to [Cosumnes.WaterForum.org](https://www.cosumneswaterforum.org) for details about planning efforts in the Cosumnes Subbasin.

2 *Learn about the options under consideration, including costs and benefits.*

Attend a public workshop at 6:30pm on Wednesday, March 24, 2021. Register at bit.ly/CosumnesSGMA_Mar24

Sign up at [Cosumnes.WaterForum.org/get-involved](https://www.cosumneswaterforum.org) to get emailed updates.

3 *Tell your representatives what you think after you see the options.*

Go to bit.ly/CosumnesGSAs [ContactsMap](#) to determine which agency represents you and how you can contact that agency with your input.



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