

**Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group + Technical Advisory Committee
Joint Meeting
Meeting #19**

Meeting held June 20, 2018

Prepared by Consensus Building Institute and Water Forum

ACTION ITEMS

Who	What
Sac County	Continue to lead technical consultant process. Subcommittee meeting scheduled for July 9; interviews on July 12, if needed
Sac County	Submit letter 6/22 to DWR for Prop 1 grant; SSCAWA letter to follow
Water Forum	Reconvene TAC in July to discuss two main topics: tech grant application, cross-basin modeling
L. Dorn	Distribute link to Delta basin boundary modification information
GSAs	Provide comments on draft Framework Agreement by COB Friday, June 29; include comments, as needed, from GSA attorneys
WF, CBI	Revise Framework Agreement based on comments; distribute underline strike-through no later than July 11
Working Group	Use July 18 meeting to consider final revisions to Framework Agreement, confirm GSA commitment to forward to governing bodies
GSAs	Review current working draft document (include checking of names, titles, signature page, etc.); provide any additional comments by 6/22
L. Dorn	Within one week of receiving GSA comments, prepare and circulate revised draft cost-share agreement – first to Sac County attorney, then to Finance Committee for review
Working Group	Use July 18 meeting to consider revisions to draft cost-share agreement; as possible, confirm GSA commitment to forward to governing bodies
GSAs	Provide suggestions of potential field trip sites in their jurisdiction; arrange field trio for July meeting

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.

GENERAL UPDATES

Proposition 1 Grant Status

Linda Dorn, Sacramento County, will send a letter from Sacramento County to the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) tomorrow, meeting DWR's 45-day deadline from the day of grant award. The letter will outline the Working Group's timeline for technical consultant selection and request an extension in order to revise the scope of work after the technical consultant is selected.

SSCAWA, the applicant of record, will send DWR a letter at a later date to transfer grant administration responsibilities to Sacramento County.

Alison Tang, DWR, confirmed that grant review priority will be given to critically over-drafted basins, but once the basin comes up in the queue, the process will move quickly, with DWR needing to complete some pre-work on their side.

Plan Development Technical Consultant Selection

Linda Dorn announced that Statements of Qualification (SOQs) for prospective Cosumnes Subbasin Technical Consultants for groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) development are **due Monday, June 25th at 4 pm**. SOQs will then be distributed to the Technical Consultant Selection subcommittee with score sheets. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet **July 9**, at which time review and evaluation of applicants is expected to be completed. **July 12th** has been reserved for face-to-face interviews, if needed. A recommendation put forward by the subcommittee will be discussed at the July 18th Working Group meeting.

Water Forum Contributions

Tom Gohring with the Water Forum shared his intent to provide three additional financial contributions to support ongoing work within the subbasin. First, the Water Forum will extend its contract with EKI through September, representing an additional \$20,000 to ensure their continuing ability to attend meetings and support the Working Group. The Water Forum will also update its contract with EKI to include completion of the Technical Support Services application, adding \$15,000. Lastly, the Water Forum will fund EKI to participate in cross-basin model coordination, an additional \$10,000 cost. In total, these contract modifications represent \$45,000 in additional contributions by the Water Forum. Working Group members voiced support for the additional allocations.

Technical Grant Application

At the last meeting of the Working Group, members expressed interest in pursuing funds provided by DWR for Technical Support Services (TSS). Tom Gohring explained that the TSS grant application process will consist of three parts. First, EKI will support the Water Forum in submitting a primary application to reserve a space in the queue for DWR review. Next, if a detailed secondary application is desired, any GSA interested in installing monitoring wells within its boundaries must do the leg work of providing information, including a precise well location and securing any necessary agreements with landholders. In the final part of the grant application process, EKI will complete the technical details required for monitoring well design and

construction. This last step represents the primary cost of the grant application process, to be funded by Water Forum contributions. Working Group members voiced support for moving forward with the TSS process and agreed to discuss next steps in greater detail at an upcoming Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting.

Near-term Coordination with Eastern San Joaquin and South American Subbasins

Aaron Lewis, EKI, reported that he had attended the last Eastern San Joaquin (ESJ) Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Technical Advisory meeting. He reminded the group that ESJ is on an accelerated timeline to meet the 2020 deadline for GSP development in critically over-drafted basins. ESJ will be defining a minimum threshold, or level at which additional withdrawals would cause undesirable results, based on a historical low.

The group discussed the approved letter to support a basin boundary modification at the North Delta and asked that Linda Dorn send out this information. It was noted that this basin boundary modification has no implications for the Cosumnes.

Outcome: EKI technical consultants will receive funding provided by the Water Forum to continue attending neighboring basins' meetings and to begin coordinating with Sacramento Groundwater Authority as they initiate monitoring in the North American Subbasin. L. Dorn will distribute Delta basin boundary modification information. EKI is to submit a primary application for a TSS grant; discussions on next steps will be taken up by the TAC.

Policy Topic: Implementation Framework Agreement

At the last meeting of the Working Group, GSAs decided to retain the basic outlines of the current decision-making structure through Phase 2 of GSP development and to update the Working Group [Framework Agreement](#) accordingly. The GSAs also expressed interest in having a check-in after Phase 1 to gauge the effectiveness of the Framework Agreement. GSAs also agreed to bring a cost share proposal to their respective boards.

Based on this guidance, CBI developed an updated draft Framework Agreement to reflect the Working Group's input at its May meeting. The document was sent to the Working Group a week prior to the June meeting.

The Working Group reviewed the updated draft Framework Agreement and identified revisions and areas in need of further discussion. Participant comments centered on the following topics, by section:

Purpose

- Broaden the review process such that each GSA can identify its respective approval process.
- Ensure a clear description of the budget approval process (i.e. language distinguishing between costs approved versus incurred). Clarify that GSAs are not financially obligated until each GSA has approved the budget.
- One participant reiterated concern that the Framework Agreement insufficiently addresses constituent representation.

Approach

- A request was made to add back footnote 1, which highlights the potential for multiple GSPs if so desired.

Guiding Principles and Collaborative Structure

- The Framework Agreement should allow for two or more representatives for each GSA.

Cost Share

- Ensure consistency between the costs outlined in the Framework Agreement and those included in the cost-share agreement currently under development. Figures in the cost-share are more accurate and should be incorporated into the Framework Agreement.

GSP Development

- Emphasize that the purpose of the Framework Agreement is to articulate a decision-making process to develop a GSP.
- Highlight the decision-making responsibility of GSAs as part of the Working Group.
- A participant expressed the need for clear decision-making records to protect the subbasin from challenge at a later date.
- Give more heft to GSAs' responsibility for developing GSP(s).

Near-Term Decisions

- Follow the work plan for GSP development (as developed by EKI), subject to approval by GSAs.

Next Steps: GSAs have the opportunity to provide additional comments on the draft Framework Agreement **by COB on Friday, June 29**; comments from attorneys, as needed, will be included. Water Forum and CBI will revise the Framework Agreement based on GSA feedback and distribute a track-changes version no later than **July 11**. At the July 18 Working Group meeting, participants will consider final revisions to the Framework Agreement and confirm GSA commitment to forward the document to their respective governing bodies for approval.

Public Comment: Suzanne Pecci commented on the importance of documenting decision-making and how the Working Group integrates stakeholder feedback.

Policy Topic: Grant Administrator/GSA Contractual Relationship

Following up on the May cost share discussion, GSAs clarified their ability and willingness to contribute to the costs of developing a single GSP for the Cosumnes Subbasin. GSAs reported the following:

- **Amador County Groundwater Management Authority:** Each representative agency positively indicated its ability to include GSP costs in its budget and confirmed the Authority's ability to collectively contribute \$8,000 per year.
Galt Irrigation District: Board approved contributions of \$8,000 per year, with the caveat that contributing the full share will require accessing reserves.
- **Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District:** An item to approve \$8,000 per year is on the SRCD board agenda for Friday, June 22.
- **Omochumne-Hartnell Water District:** An item to approve \$8,000 per year is on the OHWD board agenda for Wednesday, June 27.
- **Clay Water District:** Representatives estimate a possible contribution between \$500 (50% of Clay WD's operating budget) and the full share amount.

The Working Group discussed the first [draft Cost Sharing Agreement](#) for Developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Cosumnes Subbasin, developed by Linda Dorn with input from the Working Group's finance subcommittee. Dorn explained that she is wanting Working Group input before bringing the agreement to Sacramento County's contract administrators or attorneys for their review. Participants emphasized the importance of creating a draft cost share agreement that works for all GSAs at this stage in the process.

Working Group participants offered the following input on the draft cost share agreement:

- Participants discussed possible courses of action should a GSA fall short on its contribution. Currently, the draft agreement omits language specifying whether or how gaps in a GSA's contributions would need to be filled in the future. Participants were uncertain as to whether a catch-up provision should be added to the provision.
- One Working Group member reiterated interest in drawing on Zone 13 funds (via an updated Engineer's Report) as a mechanism for covering GSA contributions. T. Gohring informed the Working Group that, based on conversations with county staff and attorneys, Zone 13 funds are not allowed to be used in such a fashion.
- Working Group members voiced discomfort with language in the draft agreement that links non-payment with forfeiture of votes in the Working Group. Instead, participants suggested that, in the event of nonpayment, the Working Group should discuss possible actions.
- The Governing Laws and Jurisdictions section should be revisited to ensure that the appropriate courts are referenced.
- The Disputes section should specify the Working Group as the place to return to for discussion of disputes.
- The Audits and Records section should be broadened for reciprocity, i.e. GSAs should have the right to audit the County in addition to the County's ability to audit GSAs.

- GSAs will submit additional comments. A Sloughhouse RCD representative will send an email capturing the GSA's comments.

Outcome: GSAs will review the current working draft document, including checking names, titles, and the signatures page, and will provide any additional comments **by June 22**. Within one week of receiving comments, Dorn will prepare and circulate a revised draft – first to Sacramento County attorneys and then to the Finance Committee for review. At the July 18 Working Group meeting, participants will consider revisions to the draft cost-share agreement and, if possible, confirm GSA commitment to forwarding the document to their respective governing bodies.

Public Comment: Suzanne Pecci suggested that the Working Group consider forfeiture of voting on financial issues as an alternative to complete forfeiture of voting.

Field Trip

The Water Forum and CBI proposed that Working Group participants take a field trip to inform their understanding of groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin. Participants expressed interest and highlighted the following:

- Visit various kinds of wells, including agricultural, residential, municipal, and monitoring wells
- See outcroppings that demonstrate the geology of the Subbasin.
- Look at groundwater recharge projects.
- Ensure that field trip sites cover both Sacramento and Amador counties.
- Consider three potential site groupings: Clay and City of Galt; Cosumnes service area including the reserve; and areas North and East of Galt ID.
- Some participants expressed concern about a field trip being time-consuming. A GSA representative suggested a slideshow in lieu of some portions of the field trip. A mix of both field trips and presentations was also cited as an option.
- Members expressed interest in splitting the field trips over multiple days.
- Participants expressed interest in utilizing a bus and a guide, if affordable, to enable more efficient movement and integrated conversations.

Outcome: GSAs will provide suggestions of potential field trip sites in their respective jurisdictions. The Water Forum will consider arranging a field trip for the July meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The Working Group and TAC will next jointly meet at 9:00 am on July 18 in the Community Room at the Galt Police Department.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Darrel Evenson, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Ed Gonzalez, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Gary Thomas, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Gene Mancebo, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Damon Wyckoff, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Mike Israel, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority
Amanda Watson, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Herb Garms, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Barbara Washburn, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Jay Schneider, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
Mark Stretars, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Leland Schneider, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
Rick Wohle, Clay Water District
Sue Whole, Clay Water District
Leo VanWarmerdam, Galt Irrigation District
John Mulrooney, Galt Irrigation District
Mark Clarkson, City of Galt
Rodney Fricke, Sacramento County
Linda Dorn, Sacramento County
Kelly Meeks, DWR
Alison Tang, DWR
Bennett Brooks, CBI
John Fio, EKI
Aaron Lewis, EKI
Tom Gohring, Water Forum
John Lowrie, Water Forum
Katherine Perkins, Water Forum

Additionally, members of the public, Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority 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
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
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 Julia Golomb at the Consensus Building Institute.

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