

Surface Water Advisory Group (SWAG)

Meeting #1
July 31, 2020



Kick-Off Meeting – July 31, 2020



- Approximately 30 attendees
 - 18 SWAG members, ~3 observers + WF/EKI/CBI staff
- Broad participation and high level of expertise & experience
 - Comments offered during and after meeting
- Covered four main topics:
 1. SWAG purpose and process design
 2. Basin Characterization
 3. Groundwater Conditions
 4. Prop 68 funded GDE Verification (e.g., desktop study + field verification)

SWAG Feedback (1)

(Note: Listing the range of input received in the past week and their general themes in no particular order; not intended to be exhaustive summary of all issues raised)



Overarching Challenge - SGMA Compliance vs. Aspirational - Under what conditions might the GSAs look past SGMA's 2015 minimum requirements when defining sustainability?

- E.g., Some historically supported forested communities that locals want to support in the future

Available Information and Tools – Confirm or delve deeper into what's currently available and possible; support ongoing learning – basin setting, interconnected surface waters, GDEs

- Possible additional data sources (e.g., county land-use data, Habitat Conservation Plans, Markovich et al. [2016, 2019] etc.)
- Previous analyses/reports (e.g., TNC's groundwater-stream interaction report, UC Davis' data on riverbed profiles)
- Remote sensing capabilities (e.g., universities and companies' innovative uses)
- Ongoing efforts to seek and share information (e.g., sharing data and aligning approaches with neighboring subbasins)

SWAG Feedback (2)

(Note: Listing the range of input received in the past week and their general themes in no particular order; not intended to be exhaustive summary of all issues raised)



Surface Water-Groundwater Connections – Better define the conditions and implications for connections/disconnections

- Seasonal? Historic v. recent? Potential vertical gradients? To what extent can management have an effect?
- Confirm TM #6's approach on some of the analyses (e.g., comparing depth to groundwater relative to *bottom* of the river)

Outreach to Property Owners – How can we help?

- Frame around protecting certain habitats.
- Frame around specific species of common or high interest (e.g., salmon)
- Anonymize the data where possible
- Support multi-beneficial opportunities
- Develop maps that can help identify priority areas of interest (help SWAG members explore their connections)

What's Next?



- EKI & CBI tracking comments /considering when and how best to tee up SWAG comments for in-depth Working Group consideration
- Today:
 - Impressions from Working Group members who attended SWAG
 - Working Group's initial thoughts on questions and concerns raised
- SWAG expected to next meet in late September:
 - Monitoring Network
 - Proposed Approach for Developing the Sustainable Management Criteria
- Tribal engagement pending