Cosumnes Working Group Meeting
October 21, 2020

Meeting-in-Brief

The October 21st Cosumnes Working Group (WG) meeting focused on the technical work progress and planning for developing the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The GSAs have been discussing how they plan to move the subbasin on the path towards sustainability given current groundwater conditions (chronic decline in groundwater levels and an estimated historical 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)

- Confirmed initial Sustainable Management Criteria for Groundwater Levels and Water Quality
- Preliminarily endorsed working jointly to tackle the subbasin's approximately 10,000-acre-foot deficit (as opposed to allocating responsibility among the GSAs)
- Confirmed plans for further technical work to refine Sustainable Management Criteria for Interconnected Surface Waters
- Confirmed its approach for considering and incorporating feedback from the Surface Water Advisory Group Meeting #1 Materials

Understanding groundwater dynamics to inform planning: Groundwater Model and Water Budget. WG members got their first look at initial modeling results that portray influences on groundwater usage (e.g., total basin pumpage, estimated reduction in storage, and agricultural pumpage) within each GSA area. GSAs are only just beginning to consider concrete strategies for addressing groundwater sustainability, but their initial discussion suggests interest in jointly tackling the approximately 10,000 AFY deficit (as opposed to allocating responsibility among the GSAs).

Collecting data for GSP development: Monitoring Network Field and "Desktop" Investigations. Several Prop-68 funded field investigations are underway, with the current focus on Prop. 68-funded geophysical investigations to, among things, characterize the transition zone between connected and disconnected reaches of the Cosumnes River. Relevant GSAs were asked to confirm site access for field investigations to take place the week of November 9. Other work includes the isotopic recharge characterization study and voluntary groundwater extraction instrumentation.

Defining "sustainability" for the subbasin: Sustainable Management Criteria. The Working Group discussed and confirmed sustainability management criteria (SMCs) for both groundwater levels and water quality. The current approach sets target measurable objectives (MOs) for long-term sustainability – Fall 2015 for groundwater levels and either a percentage of the Maximum Contamination Level or the recommended Secondary Maximum Contamination Limit for nitrates, arsenic, and total dissolved solids (TDS). It also defines minimum thresholds (MTs) for each: the 20-year projected decline for groundwater levels (or groundwater level thresholds driven by other sustainability indicators as indicated by future modeling); and maximum contaminant levels or the upper limit of Secondary Maximum Contamination Limits for water quality (nitrates, arsenic, and TDS).

The Working Group also discussed SMCs for interconnected surface waters, including a brief review of feedback from the Surface Water Advisory Group. Additional study and analysis will be completed using the CoSANA model before the Working Group is asked to revisit and confirm SMCs for interconnected surface waters at November meeting.

These SMCs may be revised in winter / spring 2021 based on comparisons with neighboring basins, impacts to other potential SMCs (e.g., interconnected surface waters), and implications for Projects and Management Actions.

Identifying options for obtaining groundwater sustainability: Projects and Management Actions (P/MAs). The WG continued preliminary discussions of P/MAs, with the conversation focused on gauging GSAs interest in working jointly to develop a set of P/MAs that can collectively address the subbasin's deficit. Each GSA is to develop a preliminary list of P/MAs – proposed action, potential savings, timing for coming on line – for initial discussion at the November WG meeting. Potential P/MAs 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 reviewed and confirmed its approach for incorporating SWAG feedback on Meeting #1 Materials. Some SWAG comments will result in changes to the draft GSP; others will be considered by the GSAs as part of their on-going responsibility to fill data gaps and update the GSP every five years. The WG also heard brief feedback from the SWAG's discussion of SMCs; a more detailed conversation is expected at the WG's November meeting.

Long-Term Governance Committee. The WG briefly reviewed highlights from the most recent Long-Term Governance Committee, which noted a growing clarity around tasks and authorities needed to be undertaken by a potential basin-wide administrative entity. The Committee also voiced its preference for a basin-wide approach to addressing its approximately 10,000 AFY groundwater deficit.

Outreach & Engagement (O&E). The WG agreed to hold the next set of public workshops in January 2021 with the understanding that each GSA should, additionally, be conducting outreach with their respective stakeholders to gain feedback on undesirable results, potential P/MAs, and other GSP-related topics. The O&E Committee will provide materials to support that outreach.

GSAs in Attendance

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

Action Items

Topic	Who	What
Monitoring Network	EKI	Connect w/ Rick Wohle to finalize access to almond orchard well. [**Done**]
	GSAs	**[HIGH PRIORITY]** Immediate need to secure access for geophysical investigations. Connect w/ EKI to finalize access approvals.
	GSAs DEADLINE: Monday, Nov 9th	**[DEADLINE] November 9th** Deadline for access approvals - EKI and consultants conduct geophysical investigation, which concludes Friday Nov 13th.
SMCs	DECISION	GSAs approved SMC approach for water quality (Slide 12 of presentation)
	DECISION	GSAs approved proposed approach for groundwater level SMCs – GSAs will implement minimum thresholds and management objectives approach with glide-path at most RMW-Water Level (WL) wells, pending review of impacts to adjacent subbasins and other SMCs (Slide 18 of presentation).
	EKI → CBI	Re-share information about inflow/outflow between Cosumnes Subbasin and Eastern San Joaquin (ESJ). [DONE] Preliminarily estimated inflows and outflows for the basin water budget were shared during the July 17, 2019 WG Meeting. Updated and refined historical inflows and outflows calculated by CoSANA, including the exchange of water between the South American Subbasin and North American Subbasin, will be shared at the WG's November meeting.
	DECISION	GSAs approved recommendation for next steps related to defining SMCs for interconnected surface waters (ISWs) • Employ CoSANA model to determine whether SMCs at water level monitoring wells cause excessive water level declines in ISW monitoring locations. • Confirm direction to explore possible relationships between ISW monitoring locations, SMCs, and model-calculated depletions in interconnected surface water areas. • Confirm use of MT and MO approach with 10-year glide path at interconnected surface water areas located in disconnected areas. (Slide 23 of presentation)
P/MAs	EKI	Share report on different well mitigation policies that other GSAs have evaluated or adopted. [**Done**]
	GSAs DEADLINE: Friday 10/30	Contact EKI (John Fio) immediately **(by 10/30)** with any major corrections for the land use designations in the model.
	GSAs	**[HIGH PRIORITY]** Coordinate as appropriate to develop proposed P/MAs to be discussed at next WG meeting. (P/MA form | example form)
	GSAs DEADLINE: Wed, Dec 16th	**[DEADLINE] December 16th** – Deadline for final list of P/MAs.
	FEEDBACK/ GUIDANCE	Generally GSAs want to approach the groundwater storage deficit together as a basin-wide issue to resolve; however, there is still a desire to have GSA-specific information, as well as mechanisms to ensure GSA accountability to one another and their specific constituencies. (Slide 32 of presentation)
	CBI	Post example PMAs from elsewhere on Subbasin website [**Done**, see links to materials below]
SWAG	DECISION	GSAs approved EKI's proposed responses to SWAG comments from Meeting #1. CBI will forward document to SWAG.
Outreach & Engagement	DECISION	GSAs agreed to hold a public workshop in January with the understanding that each GSA should, additionally, be conducting outreach with their respective stakeholders. (O&E Committee will provide materials to support that outreach) (refer to O&E presentation)
	CBI / O&E	Develop newsletter/factsheet to update on GSP development (e.g., progress and next steps for the Working Group). Identify potential dates for January public workshop.

November WG topics (subject to change)

- Potential Projects & Management Actions.
- Public Workshop planning / outreach update and potential January dates
- Interbasin coordination – what's currently underway? Opportunities for further supporting/advancing those efforts?
- Tribal engagement (→ separate, focused meeting?)

Meeting Materials

Agenda | 2 – WG Updates (10/13/20) | (UPDATED) 3a – EKI Technical Presentation | 3b – PMA Information Form | 3c – PMA Completed Form Example (Castaic Lake) | 4a – SWAG Update Presentation | EKI Comments to SWAG Mtg #1 Comments | 4b – SWAG Comments Meeting #2 | 5 – Outreach & Engagement Committee Update | 6 – DWR SGMA Update (10-19-20)

Post-Meeting Resources:

- PPIC Report on a portfolio approach to managing groundwater in the San Joaquin Valley
- Well mitigation paper written by several NGOs summarizing various well mitigation policies across the state.
- PPIC Report inventorying all P&MAs included in GSPs submitted for the 2020 deadline, as well as the same information in an Excel spreadsheet
- Chapter 6 from ESJ GSP showing examples of a neighboring subbasin's P&MAs
- Preliminarily estimated inflows and outflows for the basin water budget were shared during the July 17, 2019 WG Meeting. Updated and refined historical inflows and outflows calculated by CoSANA, including the exchange of water between the South American Subbasin and North American Subbasin, will be shared at the WG's November meeting.