



Solano Subbasin GSA Collaborative Meeting

March 16, 2023 | 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. | Via Zoom

Participants

X	Solano GSA Chris Lee	X	Solano Irrigation District Cary Keaten	X	Sacramento County Chris Hunley
X	Misty Kaltreider		Paul Fuchslin		Rodney Fricke, GEI Consultants
X	"Dick" Chun Tzou		Gerardo Santana		Kerry Schmitz
X	Northern Delta GSA Erik Ringelberg	X	City of Vacaville Justen Cole		
	Chris Thomas				
X	Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engineering Vicki Kretsinger Grabert	X	Ag Innovations Jenn Fox		
X	Nick Watterson	X	Guadalupe Garcia		
			Genevieve Taylor		
Guests: Kelly Huff					

AGENDA

1. GSA Updates
2. GSP Implementation
 - a. Grant Funding
 - b. Annual Report
 - c. Upcoming Legislation, Well Permitting, and Related Items
3. Stakeholder Engagement
4. Forecast GSA Roundtable Discussion for April 4th Meeting
5. Next Meeting-April 20th 1:00-3:00

MEETING NOTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Updates

- Northern Delta GSA: For background, information was shared about South American Subbasin's work with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). They are developing a plan to help the community to understand their role and responsibilities and how emergency actors can work together during floods and droughts. This may be a helpful model for other GSAs and could be an interesting topic for a possible Interbasin Coordination Meeting.
- Sacramento County GSA: The rate study fee is being delayed until the fiscal year 2024-2025.



- Solano Irrigation District: Attended a conference in Reno which included a presentation by The Freshwater Trust about tools, carbon sequestration, and associated funding. The documentary *Kiss the Ground* was referenced as related to soil health and farming.
- Solano Subbasin GSA: California's recent atmospheric river storms have been filling up reservoirs. The surface water supply from Solano is looking really good.
- Vacaville GSA: Justen Cole is now the City of Vacaville's Director of Utilities.

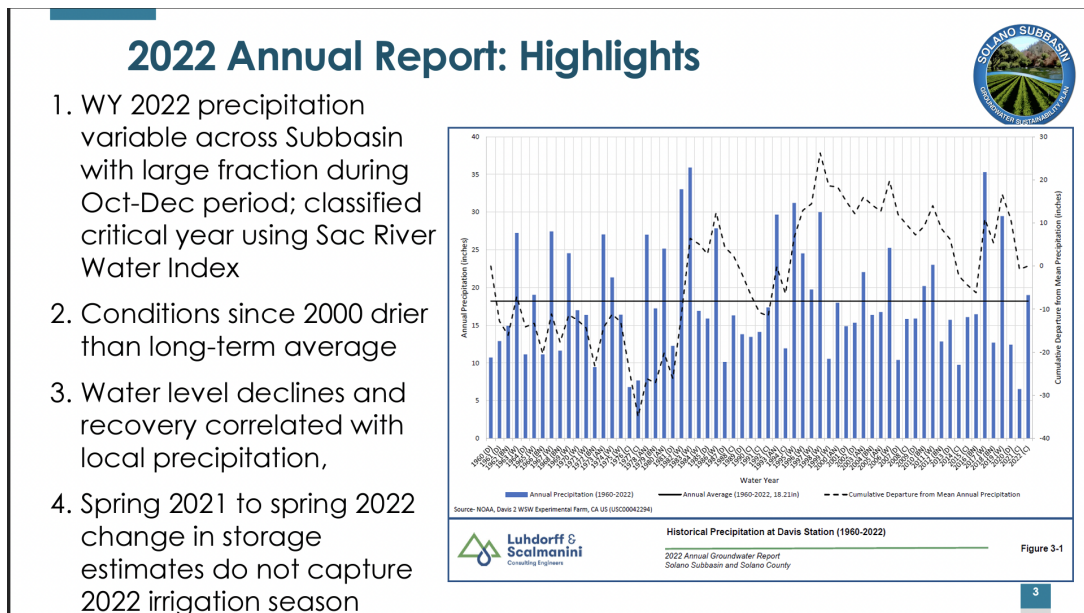
Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation

Grant Funding

- Department of Water Resources (DWR) staff indicated that the Prop 68 Round 2 Funding awardees will be announced in June 2023. At the Northern California Water Association meeting, DWR also described technical support services for monitoring wells and a guidance document for interconnected surface water.
- The group discussed interconnected surface water near Putah Creek. A few years ago there was a collaboration between Solano County Water Agency and UC Davis Professor, Mark Grismer, which included monitoring wells on the south side of Putah Creek.
- Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) in the Solano Subbasin are not pursuing the Department of Conservation Block Grant application. The group will continue to consider other funding opportunities.

Annual Report

- Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engineering (LSCE) shared highlights from the draft Groundwater Sustainability Annual Report. This Annual Report is due April 1st and a draft will soon be sent for GSA review. LSCE will be summarizing the Annual Report at the April 13 Solano GSA Board Meeting. Highlights are shown below:





- Some future implementation considerations are described on the following slide.

Future Implementation Items

- RMS monitoring and GSP reporting:
 - Collect Spring (March) and Fall groundwater levels in RMS wells
 - Continue working with well owners/monitoring entities, including RMS wells not currently being monitored or dropped by DWR
 - Coordination on monitoring protocols and streamlining of reporting process (for semi-annual WL uploads and for annual report)
- Ongoing tracking of conditions, especially in vicinity of key RMS, includes mechanism for disseminating periodic WL updates
- Filling monitoring data gaps in key areas, including automation of some WL monitoring
- Continued pursuit of PMAs including future recharge opportunities or other activities beneficial to GW management in areas of interest

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Upcoming Legislation, Well Permitting, and Related items

- LSCE noted that Ivy Brittain gave a legislative update on Assembly Bill (AB) 1563 at a recent Northern California Water Association meeting. This proposed legislation relates to permitting requirements and coordination between agencies.
- The DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Program is gathering information from counties and GSAs about how they responded to recent water-related executive orders. It was noted that since AB 2201 and the Governor's 2022 drought executive orders, there have not been new well applications for the Northwest Focus Area (only well replacement inquiries).
- The GSA Collaborative discussed proposed legislation [Assembly Bill 460](#), [Assembly Bill 1337](#), and [Senate Bill 389](#) and how they might affect GSAs, growers, and the Solano Subbasin.
- The group also discussed the Governor's [Executive Order N-4-23](#) signed on March 10, which theoretically enables local water agencies to capture stormwater for recharge of groundwater until June 1. The context, exposure, and infrastructure gaps will make it difficult to do too much during the time period of this order.
- The group discussed the importance of recharge and shared additional examples that they are thinking about, including continuing to seek grant opportunities to work on recharge, considering available information (e.g., USGS thresholds), exploring managed aquifer recharge programs and looking to Central Valley Flood Protection entities and examples
- The group discussed ongoing coordination with Dixon RCD and many stakeholders on areas of flooding and opportunities in the Northwest focus area. Opportunities for projects with multiple purposes are important, including those that may help with flows in Putah Creek.



- Solano County is engaging in a One Water effort and the GSA Collaborative should stay in touch and may be interested in the March 22 meeting on this topic.

Stakeholder Engagement

- A Solano Subbasin “Virtual Town Hall” is proposed to engage with community members and share information about the “state of the subbasin”. The meeting is proposed for an evening in late May or in June. With this timing, the Annual Report could be shared; the meeting will be much broader than the report and share other efforts, such as irrigated lands program opportunities (if RCDs and others are interested to participate).
- The group is supportive of Ag Innovations facilitating an Interbasin Coordination Meeting with neighboring subbasins.

Forecast GSA Collaborative Discussion

The next GSA Collaborative meeting is on April 20th from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned