



Solano Subbasin GSA Collaborative Meeting

April 20, 2023 | 1:00 - 2:30 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	X	Rodney Fricke, GEI Consultants
X	"Dick" Chun Tzou		Gerardo Santana		Kerry Schmitz
	Northern Delta GSA Erik Ringelberg		City of Vacaville Justen Cole		
X	Chris Thomas				
	Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engineering Vicki Kretsinger Grabert	X	Ag Innovations Jenn Fox		
X	Nick Watterson	X	Suzannah Sosman		
X	Faithe Lovelace		Guadalupe Garcia		
			Genevieve Taylor		
Guests: Kelly Huff, Dixon RCD					

AGENDA

1. GSA Updates
2. GSP Implementation
 - a. State of the Subbasin
 - b. Upcoming Legislation, Well Permitting and Related Topics
3. Stakeholder Engagement
 - a. Virtual Town Hall (VTH)
 - b. GSA Updates for the VTH
4. Forecast May meeting discussions

MEETING NOTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Updates

- Solano Irrigation District: Has begun delivering surface water to customers. Have only received one order thus far but we are hoping to have normalized flows by the end of May. Expect only limited use of groundwater this year given the heavy rains to-date. Last year SID distributed 8-10 acre feet of groundwater.
 - Additionally, we have received funding for replacement of an old well in the Northwest focus area near Lake Solano.
- Sacramento County GSA: Postponed GSA fees in the Delta area until 2024.



- Solano Subbasin GSA: Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engineering (LSCE) gave a presentation to the Solano GSA Board on the recently submitted Annual Report. Chris Lee has been formally approved as the General Manager for the Solano County Water Agency.
- Northern Delta GSA: No updates.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation

State of the Subbasin

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engineering (LSCE) updated meeting attendees on current groundwater conditions in the Subbasin and upcoming priorities.

The Solano Subbasin Annual Report was submitted to DWR on April 1 and summary points were provided. Overall, good conditions are being maintained through the recent dry period. It is important to continue to monitor the Northwest focus area.

Looking ahead we are very interested to start to see the impacts of the wet winter. We are also planning to record Spring water level data gaps earlier than previous years.

Upcoming Legislation, Well Permitting, and Related items

The group noted proposed legislation, forums and activities related to groundwater:

- The GSA Collaborative discussed proposed legislation [Assembly Bill \(AB\) 676](#), [AB 1337](#), [AB 1563](#), and [Senate Bill 389](#) and how they might affect GSAs, growers, and the Solano Subbasin.
- Assembly Bill 249 limits new wells permits in overdrafted basins (e.g., permits will not be granted if 1% of domestic wells are overdrafted). This does not impact Solano Subbasin.
- The Groundwater Resources Association is presenting a [forum on groundwater law and legislation on June 21](#).
- A participant noted that the State Water Project will provide full allocations to water agencies for the first time in more than 15 years.

The Solano Subbasin GSA is working with Solano County staff and Dixon RCD to explore opportunities for a multi-benefit project within the Subbasin for potential flood control, potential recharge, and habitat restoration. Other related items:

- GSAs discussed additional opportunities to explore potential multi-benefit projects within the Subbasin, including upcoming One Water meetings.
- LSCE is coordinating with Sustainable Conservation, which is interested in highlighting activities within the Subbasin and the role that floodplains may play in groundwater recharge.



- Solano County is also coordinating on a shallow well project in the same area of the Subbasin. Some experiments have already taken place with cottonwoods and groundwater.

A participant asked about Solano County's process for responding to the Governor's executive order on impacts to nearby wells and subsidence?

- Solano County has not had new well applications for the Northwest focus area. If this occurs the County would need to conduct additional studies to see if there's an impact on nearby wells, or if additional wells would impact implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).
- This issue is coming up in Sacramento County and many other counties in California.

Stakeholder Engagement

Upcoming Virtual Town Hall - June 1, 5:30-7pm

- A Solano Subbasin Groundwater Virtual Town Hall (VTH) will be held on Thursday, June 1 from 5:30-7:00 pm.
- The event will include an update on the state of the Subbasin. While it is focused on groundwater, we expect and will be ready to answer questions from the public that may be broader than the scope of the GSP.
- The objectives of the Virtual Town Hall are to:
 - Provide an overview of the State of the Solano Subbasin.
 - Share context - the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and associated work toward Projects and Management Actions (PMAs).
 - Share information about related irrigated lands and water conservation programs.
 - Answer questions and share opportunities to get involved.
- An invitation was shared with GSA leads to present on interrelated topics. For example, the Dixon RCD will share work on the Irrigated Lands Program and Solano County will preview the One Water effort. GSAs were strongly urged to attend the meetings and to consider presenting. Please contact Ag Innovations with ideas, questions and for more details.

Ag Innovations will be sending two newsletters prior to the event and conducting outreach through local partners. The newsletters will include a section to promote the Virtual Town Hall and will share the submission of the Annual Report. If GSAs have other news to include, please contact Ag Innovations.

Ag Innovations is working with the GSP project team to draft a concise and accessible overview on the state of the Solano Subbasin, with summary infographics for a public audience.



Interbasin Coordination

Solano Subbasin GSA, LSCE and Ag Innovations will be meeting with Yolo Subbasin on May 8th to continue coordination between Yolo and Solano subbasins. GSAs were invited to contact Ag Innovations if they would like to participate in that meeting.

There is interest in a potential meeting with multiple adjacent subbasins in the region. Participants did not have a strong suggestion for timing of the meeting but it could occur later this year.

Forecast May meeting discussions

Sacramento County, South American and Cosumnes Subbasins are exploring stakeholder interest in how the GSP implementation process intersects with land use planning. They will be meeting with county planning departments to discuss further. The group discussed that this might be a good topic for a larger interbasin coordination meeting.

The next GSA Collaborative meeting is on May 18th from 1:00-3:00. One topic on that agenda is preparation for the Virtual Town Hall.

Meeting Adjourned