



Solano Subbasin GSA Collaborative Meeting

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

Participants

x	Solano Subbasin GSA Chris Lee		Solano Irrigation District Cary Keaten	X	Sacramento County Chris Hunley
x	Misty Kaltreider "Dick" Chun Tzou Alex Rabidoux	x	Paul Fuchslin Gerardo Santana	X	Austin Miller
				x	Rodney Fricke, GEI Consultants Kerry Schmitz
x	Northern Delta GSA Erik Ringelberg Chris Thomas		City of Vacaville Justen Cole		
x	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 Resource Conservation District (RCD)					

AGENDA

1. GSA Updates
 - a. Discussion on GSA Board Meet Up
2. GSP Implementation
 - a. Projects & Management Actions
 - b. Update on Fall Conditions
 - c. Upcoming Legislation, Well Permitting, Funding and Related Topics
3. Stakeholder Engagement
4. Forecast GSA Roundtable Discussion for December 5th Meeting
5. Next Meeting-December 21st 1:00-2:30



MEETING NOTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Updates

The group introduced themselves and talked about one thing they've learned since working on SGMA and as a part of GSA work.

- Solano Irrigation District (SID) GSA: No updates
- Northern Delta GSA: No updates
- Sacramento County GSA: Austin Miller just started working in the County of Sacramento Department of Water Resources (DWR). He was previously the District Manager for Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District.
- Solano Subbasin GSA: No updates

Discussion on GSA Board Meet Up

The Solano Subbasin GSA Board asked the group to consider a possible GSA Board meet-up. One goal is to help members know about work happening in the subbasin. The group discussed the example of the seven GSAs in the Consumnes Subbasin, which formed the Consumnes Groundwater Authority in November 2021. The Cosumnes effort has brought GSAs together with one body to tackle different projects. Each GSA under the Cosumnes Groundwater Authority has retained status, and they are individually responsible. They work together on efforts like one Annual Report. Another example was discussed - the South American Subbasin has a managers subcommittee that holds open meetings.

The group discussed whether representatives of each GSA Board in Solano Subbasin should meet up once a year or regularly. One option is to ask for one representative from each GSA Board. One participant described that their GSA Board will want to maintain autonomy. Suggestions for a joint gathering include: having a clear agenda, and timing to make it possible to get together.

One participant described work with the SID Board to share results from monitoring local groundwater levels. This kind of information sharing has been going on for decades. Participants agreed that it makes sense to ask each GSA Board for interest in a single, and/or annual meetings to keep in touch and avoid duplication of GSA efforts.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation

Projects and Management Actions

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engineering (LSCE) provided updates on current work:

- Since the last meeting, DWR released another round of GSP determinations. DWR needs to complete the review and release determinations for all subbasins by the end of January, 2024. DWR has completed a draft grant agreement for Solano Subbasin.



- LSCE is working in coordination with Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) and landowners in the subbasin on a cover-cropping study, with the goal of reduced runoff and enhanced recharge. The sites are in the Dixon area.
- LSCE is monitoring and seeing good results in most Representative Monitoring Site (RMS) wells. A couple of wells are showing water level decreases in the Basal-Tehama formation wells. These are all deep wells in urban areas that are unlikely to respond to seasonal changes so this is as expected.
- The group reviewed time series hydrographs and discussed positive news that water level increases are happening in the Northwest Focus Area. More work needs to be done to understand if there is a correlation between this water level increase and walnut crops coming out. The time series was presented.

Updates on Fall Conditions

- In fall 2023, there were 4 minimum threshold (MT) exceedances. It was noted that this is a positive change (in 2022 there were 10 exceedances).
- The group looked at the Fall 2023 Lake Berryessa update. Average Solano Project deliveries are 185,000 acre-feet/year; the lake is at 1.55m acre-feet and at 85% capacity. There were significant reductions in demand this year (service water deliveries were not requested until May).
- The group talked further about the Northwest Focus Area. The area has a higher density of permanent crops. While groundwater levels are relatively stable, they have declined slightly (10-15 feet) over the last 20 years, which is likely associated with recent drier conditions. It is important to keep an eye on this area. Yolo County, which borders the area on the North side of the subbasin, has no surface water deliveries, which may exacerbate pull on groundwater in the Solano Subbasin.

Upcoming Legislation, Well Permitting, Potential Funding, and Related items

LSCE provided updates on other activities, including:

- Ongoing monitoring and network enhancements. Expect data requests corresponding with Annual Report preparation. DWR announced that they are moving toward monthly monitoring frequency and encouraged GSAs to do more frequent monitoring.
- There will be work under the DWR grant agreement, including work on well and surface water diversion inventory. This work will be coordinated with Solano County and the RCD Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (IRLP) to look at water sources and sinks.
- There is additional ongoing coordination with Solano One Water and the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA).

Dixon RCD shared updates:

- Dixon RCD will be hosting a Groundwater Workshop on January 23 at the Dixon American Legion Hall for growers enrolled in ILRP.



- Dixon RCD participated in person in the FloodMAR forum in early November. They were encouraged to hear about work described by growers and irrigation districts, with support from state and other agencies, on quick recharge projects during last year's big water year.

Stakeholder Engagement

Ag Innovations provided updates on:

- Outreach to RMS well owners on the upcoming publication of a web map showing groundwater levels in RMS wells throughout the subbasin.
- Work is underway on an orientation packet of resources relevant to the Solano Subbasin GSP for new GSA staff.
- Ag Innovations will send a newsletter in early January sharing about DWR grant funding and other updates. GSA staff should contact Ag Innovations by December 15 with questions or additions to the newsletter.

The group discussed the November 1 interbasin coordination meeting with Yolo Subbasin (YSGA):

- Yolo Subbasin will be doing a subsidence study and going through a rate-study process next year.
- Another topic discussed was the interactions between groundwater in the Solano Northwest Focus Area; Yolo is also paying close attention to this.
- Yolo County had a 45-day temporary moratorium on new wells. They have identified focus areas where a hydrogeologist report will be required with substantial requirements.
- Yolo is working on videos about SGMA and ag practices that can support groundwater recharge. Solano Subbasin will look to leverage and/or complement these field videos.

Forecast Upcoming Meeting Discussions

- The December 5th Roundtable meeting will likely be canceled, but participants should save the date for the December 21 Collaborative meeting.

Meeting Adjourned