

Solano Subbasin GSA Collaborative Meeting

May 16, 2024 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | Via Zoom

Participants

x	Solano Subbasin GSA Chris Lee		Solano Irrigation District Cary Keaten		Sacramento County Chris Hunley
x	Misty Kaltreider		Paul Fuchslin	x	Austin Miller
x	"Dick" Chun Tzou Maritza Flores		Gerardo Santana		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	Guadalupe Garcia		
x	Faithe Lovelace				
Guests: Kelly Huff, Dixon Resource Conservation District (RCD)					

AGENDA

1. GSA Updates
2. GSP Implementation
 - a. Projects and Management Actions
 - b. Updates on Well Permitting, Funding, State Activities, and Relevant Legislation
3. Stakeholder Engagement
 - a. May 22 Virtual Town Hall
4. Forecast next Collaborative Meeting (June 20) topics

MEETING NOTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Updates

- Northern Delta GSA: Pursuing a process for fees and would like to hear from other GSAs about their process.
- Solano Subbasin GSA:
 - Attended Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) 2024 Spring Conference. There are lots of far-ranging discussions, including several bills and state activities.
 - Attended a series of Sacramento workshops in late April on the Bay-Delta Plan and Healthy Rivers and Landscapes. The State Water Board had a lot of questions including about interaction with tribes and how we can do more. There was a panel on Putah Creek and the Bureau of Reclamation engagement.
 - Staff has a meeting in Brooks with Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation representatives and Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency staff. The agenda includes Healthy Rivers and the Putah Creek corridor and ongoing coordination.
- Sacramento County GSA: Had been exploring a fee process similar to that in the Consumnes Subbasin. This is on pause for a year. A meeting with Reclamation District 3 is upcoming.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

Projects and Management Actions

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engineering (LSCE) reported on conversations about monitoring with landowners along Putah Creek. One landowner has a number of monitoring wells near the Diversion Dam and in the floodplain. There is interest in work to look at seepage testing and recharge opportunities such as an off-channel pond. There is a broad opportunity to identify wells to supplement existing monitoring and good coordination with neighbors.

LSCE is constructing and refining cross-sections both longitudinal and perpendicular transects along Putah Creek. There is also an Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) flight line in the area and 4 seepage monitoring sites. Information could be coupled with gaining/losing characterizations done previously. Work and subsurface investigations would be done in pieces and may be supported by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Technical Support Services (TSS).

LSCE reported on the Spring 2024 water level readings. These are being updated in the data management system and will be shown in the interactive web map. Will get spring 2024 data points onto an interactive web map. DWR expects data to be updated by July 1 for RMS wells.

Also ongoing efforts on the monitoring network, including new instrumentation, and some telemetry. Similar outfits and instrumentation will be set up in RMS wells and LSCE has been coordinating with Solano Irrigation District and other landowners.

Additional work includes adding wells into the network where there are data gaps, including conversations with the Freshwater Trust in the Montezuma Hills area and working to get surveyed elevations on stage recorders.

Data sharing requests have been made and LSCE is compiling model files to ensure they are not sharing sensitive information. DWR is focused on updating hydrologic models, making them consistent with local models, and integrating them into the bigger regional Sac Valley model.

The group talked about updating models and the water budget. The group talked about the model setup of the updated Central Valley Hydrologic Model (CVHM2) which is similar to the original Central Valley Hydrologic Model (CVHM).

The Subbasin Project Team continues to coordinate with the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency on the Northwest Focus Areas, subsidence studies, and ground and surface water interaction.

Updates on Well Permitting, Funding, State Activities, and Relevant Legislation

There is a proposed California Assembly Bill (AB) 2079 (Bennett, "Groundwater extraction: large-diameter, high-capacity wells: permits"). The bill would apply to medium- and high-priority groundwater subbasins and is far-reaching and worth attention.

Additional activities noted include proposed AB 460 (Bauer-Kahn, *State Water Resources Control Board: water rights and usage: interim relief: procedures*), AB 2614 (Ramos. *Water policy: California tribal communities*), and the pending case *Roberts versus Coachella Valley Water District*.

Stakeholder Engagement

May 22 - Virtual Town Hall

Ag Innovations provided an update on stakeholder outreach. Participants were encouraged to attend the May 22 Virtual Town Hall - on Zoom from 5:30 - 7 pm. Registration is open at SolanoGSP.com and Spanish simultaneous interpretation will be offered. The group reviewed the agenda and meeting goals including:

- Provide an overview of the State of the Solano Subbasin
- Share context: SGMA, the Solano Subbasin GSP, and associated work toward PMAs
- Interactive discussion about groundwater recharge and answer questions and share opportunities to get involved

The panel will include Austin Miller, Kelly Huff, and Thomas Bottoms. An e-blast was sent today and the group was encouraged to share the event in their communities.

The group shared observations from the April 24 GSA Workshop. It was a success and in future years, it would be useful to include more background on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Forecast Upcoming Meeting Discussions

The next GSA Collaborative meeting is scheduled for June 20; although there are a number of summer vacations that week. The group provided input on the agenda. The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 pm Pacific time.