



# Solano Subbasin GSA Collaborative Meeting

October 17, 2024 | 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | Via Zoom

x	<b>Solano Subbasin GSA</b> Chris Lee Misty Kaltreider	x	<b>Solano Irrigation District</b> Cary Keaten Paul Fuchslin Gerardo Santana	x	<b>Sacramento County</b> Chris Hunley Austin Miller Rodney Fricke, GEI Consultants Kerry Schmitz
x	"Dick" Chun Tzou Maritza Flores Alex Rabidou				
x	<b>Northern Delta GSA</b> Erik Ringelberg Chris Thomas	x	<b>City of Vacaville</b> Justen Cole Tim Hawkins		
x	<b>Luhdorff &amp; Scalmanini Engineering</b> Vicki Kretsinger Grabert Nick Watterson Faihe Lovelace Christian Hoover Matthew Sturdivant	x	<b>Ag Innovations</b> Jenn Fox Guadalupe Garcia Jessie Holtz		
<b>Guests:</b> Kelly Huff, Dixon Resource Conservation District (RCD) x					

## AGENDA

1. GSA Updates
2. GSP Implementation
  - a. Well and Surface Water Diversion Status
  - b. 2024 Water Year-Annual Report Reminder
  - c. Projects & Management Actions
  - d. Updates on Well Permitting, Funding, and Relevant Legislation
  - e. Other Surface and Groundwater Related Topics (CAL SIP/Upper Putah Creek)
3. Stakeholder Engagement
4. Forecasting November 21 Meeting Topics

## MEETING NOTES

### Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Updates

- **Solano Irrigation District:** Working in the northern part of the Solano Subbasin with the Solano GSA and the Quail Canyon community on a well replacement project.
- **Northern Delta GSA:** Active in the South American Subbasin. Preparing for a December Board meeting.
- **City of Vacaville GSA:** No updates at this time



- **Solano Subbasin GSA:** October 1st marks the beginning of the new water year, and models indicate a potential transition from El Niño to La Niña conditions. Lake Berryessa is 90%; monitoring operations. The November 2nd Salmon Festival is in Winters. It is a chance to celebrate the return of salmon to Putah Creek for the earliest time in 80 years.
- **Sacramento County GSA:** RD3 has not yet issued a withdrawal notice. Sacramento staff is monitoring a few wells and can provide data if needed; and is meeting to discuss well permitting and the executive order. The County is discussing the new water code section 1242.1 which allows for winter diversions under flood conditions.

The group discussed rules related to the declaration of flood status, which depends on location and severity. A few members watched the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) public workshop on October 9, 2024, focused on Water Code 1242.1. One participant shared the link to [the recording](#) and noted that additional tools and resources can be found on the [SWRCB flood diversion website](#).

## Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

### Well and Surface Water Diversion Status

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers presented well and diversion inventory status updates for the Solano Subbasin. The work helps refine groundwater and surface water (SW) usage data, improves models and water budgets, and identifies areas with high well density for additional monitoring. The results support ongoing groundwater sustainability planning and administration.

## SW Diversions and Well Inventories

- Results from inventories to be used in many ways:
  - Improve understanding of basin water use
  - Refine modeling and water budget estimates
  - Identifying areas of higher well densities for additional monitoring (WL and WQ)
  - Support refinements to GSA fee approach
  - Provide foundational information for ongoing tracking of active wells and SW diversions
- Approach to follow workplan developed previously



The LSCE team presented an overview of the Surface Water Diversion and Well Inventory Workplan. The presentation outlined the work plan steps, including data collection from well permits, eWRIMS, etc.. Future steps involve incorporating the inventory data into model improvements and conducting outreach to validate the data further. The team also plans to carry out targeted water quality sampling in areas that may have potential nitrate and arsenic issues.

Slides included details on Surface Water Rights, Diversions, & Place of Use, as well as Points of Diversion. Ongoing diversion Processing was described, including refinements to place of use. A summary of diverted volumes and time series data was shown. Presenters noted that data includes Solano County's irrigated lands regulatory program data, but are awaiting data for the Sacramento County portion of the subbasin. This area is anticipated to likely be served by surface water diversions rather than groundwater wells. A technical memorandum will summarize the findings.

### 2024 Water Year-Annual Report Reminder

September 30, 2024, marked the end of the water year. LSCE will contact each GSA for their well monitoring data to help develop the 2024 Annual Report, which will be instrumental in preparing for the five-year update.

### Projects and Management Actions

A cover crop study is being conducted again this year. LSCE is currently preparing monitoring instrumentation and setting up field operations.

The Multi-Benefit Solutions Working Group has been actively meeting to develop concepts aimed at delivering multi-benefit outcomes. They have also been analyzing recent Solano County data using high-quality Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology. LSCE is looking at a site with existing wells and varying well depths to gain insights into groundwater and surface water connectivity in the area.

### Updates on State Activities

The last legislative session was quite full. The new legislative session will start on 2 December.

LSCE provided an overview of the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) water supply and assessment program. The program was authorized in 2022 to build on the Russian River drought response efforts to provide data and tools to aid better decision-making during water shortages. This program focuses on developing hydrologic models and tools to assess water supply and demand in select California watersheds. The tools - such as supply models, demand datasets, and water allocation tools - are publicly accessible. The program has identified several pilot watersheds, including Butte Creek, Napa River, and Navarro River. The Upper Putah Creek watershed has been added to understand current conditions and project future scenarios.



## Other Surface and Groundwater Related Topics

The group participated in a discussion of the Department of Water Resources Stream Gage Improvement Program (CalSIP). “Through CalSIP, public agencies can receive technical assistance to upgrade, reactivate, or install new surface water monitoring stations to share stream flow data to inform water management. More details are available at [water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Technical-Assistance/Stream-Gage-Improvement-Program](https://water.ca.gov/Work-With-Us/Technical-Assistance/Stream-Gage-Improvement-Program)

## CalSIP Overview

- Applications reviewed monthly through end of December 2024, or until all funding is disbursed
- Funding to support gage installation/reactivation and initial operation/maintenance
- Local entity must commit to longer-term operation (at least 5 years)
- Gages must be on natural waterways
- Few major data gaps in streamflow data in the Solano Subbasin
- SB19 stream gage prioritization plan does not rank any Subbasin gages highly
- Tremont watershed is indicated as priority ungaged watershed



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Sacramento County GSA shared that in the Cosumnes Subbasin, the Sloughhouse RCD, Galt Irrigation District, and Clay Water Districts are applying for CalSIP funds.

The group also reviewed key Solano Subbasin DWR grant tasks. The components and tasks of the grant were presented, and the discussion focused on two grant tasks:

- Component 3 - Supporting Groundwater Use and Management Actions. Task 3 - Groundwater Management Policy - Positioning for the Future
- Component 4 - Water Supply Replenishment and Reliability Projects. Task 4 - City of Vacaville Recycled Water Planning.

The Collaborative was asked for topics of interest or areas they would like to explore further, especially related to Component 3. The Ag Innovations team encouraged the GSAs to reach out with questions or suggestions for potential topics.



## Stakeholder Engagement

Ag Innovations summarized a few upcoming events:

- November 2nd: The Salmon Festival will take place in Winters, CA, highlighting the early return of the salmon.
- January 30th: The Dixon RCD is hosting a Groundwater Workshop
- A GSA event may be planned for the sprint, offering an opportunity for engagement and discussion about the 2024 Annual Report.

Ag Innovations and LSCE are working on updates to the webmap and implementation tracker, enhancing transparency and project monitoring capabilities.

## Forecast Upcoming Meeting Discussions

The group was asked to share meeting topics for the November 21st meeting. It was noted that the meeting is close to the Thanksgiving holiday, so collaborative members should reach out if they are not able to attend the November meeting.