



Solano Subbasin GSA Collaborative Meeting

January 16, 2025 | 1:00 - 2:15 p.m. | Via Zoom

Participants

x	Solano Subbasin GSA Chris Lee Maritza Flores Alex Rabidoux	x	Solano Irrigation District GSA Cary Keaten Paul Fuchslin	x	Sacramento County GSA Chris Hunley Austin Miller Kerry Schmitz
x	Northern Delta GSA Erik Ringelberg Chris Thomas		City of Vacaville GSA Justen Cole Tim Hawkins		
x	Solano Subbasin GSA TAC Kelly Huff, Dixon RCD Chris Rose, Solano RCD Misty Kaltreider "Dick" Chun Tzou Ed King, Solano County Lisa Shipley, Solano County Farm Bureau	x	Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engineering Vicki Kretsinger Grabert Nick Watterson Faithe Lovelace	x	Ag Innovations Jenn Fox Guadalupe Garcia Jessie Holtz
Guests: Amy King, Solano RCD					

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. GSA Updates
3. GSP Implementation
 - a. Projects and Management Actions
 - b. Updates on Well Permitting, State Activities, Funding
4. Stakeholder Engagement
5. Forecast next Collaborative meeting (Feb 20) topics

MEETING NOTES

Welcome

Ag Innovations invited input on the agenda. The group welcomed members from the Solano Subbasin GSA Technical Advisory Committee members (TAC) - which will help coordination in the Subbasin. Ag Innovations shared a short [presentation](#) that included an overview of the TAC role and background on the GSA Collaborative - the operating Memorandum of Understanding, voting rules, and regular meeting format.



Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Updates

Each GSA provided an introduction to their region to familiarize new members along with their updates.

- Northern Delta GSA: Reported on upcoming board meetings and administrative areas
- Solano Subbasin GSA: Welcomed the TAC to this conversation
- Sacramento County GSA: Reported that a number of reclamation districts intend to vacate GSA responsibilities, while one district intends to remain a GSA.
- Solano Irrigation District: No current updates at this time
- City of Vacaville GSA: Not present, but an update was provided on their behalf.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

Projects and Management Actions

Solano Subbasin GSA asked the group to share updates on the Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant budget utilization.

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) is gathering data requests for the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGMA) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Annual Report (due April 1 every year). With information from all GSAs and support from Davids Engineering, the draft annual report will be ready for the GSA Collaborative review in early March. The group will discuss insights from the Annual Report at the March GSA Collaborative meeting. LSCE will highlight any issues, such as shifts in the water budget, and will seek feedback and input from the GSA Collaborative.

LSCE also reported on new monitoring sites, data management system (DMS) enhancements, and quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) work. As a part of the QA/QC process, some wells have been identified as being listed more than once under different names and LSCE will be removing duplicate wells.

LSCE shared an update on work with the Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) and water agencies, including a cover crop study to enhance ongoing groundwater recharge. A local grower planted a cover crop in the furrows of half of the field and left the other half bare. A monitored study examines soil moisture conditions and how much water is running off the field. Given a lull in precipitation, instrumentation tests are still needed; but monitoring will begin when the rain returns.

Dixon RCD discussed ideas to enhance infrastructure and proposed meetings with Solano Irrigation District and Caltrans. They also announced an upcoming Groundwater Workshop on January 30 for growers in the area. GSA Collaborative members were encouraged to attend. Ag Innovations will do a focused outreach - newsletter email to promote the Groundwater Workshop. The following information was shared in the chat:



Groundwater Workshop

Thursday, Jan 30 9-12:30

[Agenda](#)

To register, visit: <https://www.dixonrcd.org/gw-register>

LSCE summarized SGMA Reporting Data requests and grower conversations. The group also talked about work with a local property owner along Putah Creek, looking at groundwater recharge and concepts to enhance recharge with groundwater runoff.

LSCE provided an [overview](#) of the Subbasin DWR grant components and an update on the status of grant tasks. The aim is to complete work before the grant term ends (April 2026). Component 3 relates to advancing groundwater management policy to support long-term sustainability. We will plan to look at Component 3 opportunities in the February GSA Collaborative call, including a guest speaker specializing in data-driven economic analysis for the agriculture and water sectors. The group was asked about ideas for that discussion and was encouraged to contact LSCE with suggestions.

Component 4 includes an important task on the City of Vacaville's recycled water planning and Vacaville is planning to get that effort going. With deadlines approaching, we need efforts to ramp up to stay on track.

Updates on Well Permitting, State Activities, and Funding

The group shared information about funding impacting water management and agriculture in California. One participant mentioned that Proposition 4 funds may not be available until 2027. The state budget also allocates \$200 million each for dam safety and flood control, alongside water recycling and habitat enhancement funding. Concerns were raised about limited funding for invasive species management, though golden mussels are now officially recognized as invasive. Efforts to streamline California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) permitting and support multi-benefit projects, like Tremont 3, were emphasized.

Additionally, the Department of Water Resources is developing guidelines for floodwater recharge and its potential impacts on water quality, particularly near domestic wells. Stakeholders are advocating for science-based guidelines that won't hinder recharge efforts. RCDs expressed interest in supporting outreach and work on multi-benefit programs. Collaboration was encouraged to push supportive policies, possibly through trailer bills, and to align efforts with studies (including one by Sustainable Conservation) focused on groundwater sustainability.

Stakeholder Engagement

Ag Innovations described outreach efforts being planned. The group has suggested another spring Groundwater Workshop like the one that occurred last year. Ag Innovations has also



started planning for a Virtual Town Hall scheduled for May or June to provide a "State of the Subbasin" update and answer questions from the public.

The group was reminded of the January 30 Groundwater Workshop being held in Dixon, and the details (listed above) were reshared in the chat. Solano and Dixon RCDs are active in sustainability work and public outreach and will share updates during future meetings.

GSAAs were also asked to work on outreach tracking and make recommendations to increase outreach (and document outreach efforts). This will support coordination and work toward SGMA goals, as well as reporting, including updates to the SGMA DWR Portal.

Upcoming Meeting Topics

The next GSA Collaborative meeting is on February 20 and follows every third Thursday. As mentioned earlier, the February meeting will include a guest speaker and discussion on advancing groundwater management policy to support long-term sustainability. Participants should share suggestions for specific topics they would like to discuss next month.