

Solano Subbasin GSA Collaborative Meeting

June 24, 2024 | 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Via Zoom

Participants

x	Solano Subbasin GSA Chris Lee Misty Kaltreider	x	Solano Irrigation District Cary Keaten Paul Fuchslin Gerardo Santana	x	Sacramento County Chris Hunley Austin Miller Rodney Fricke, GEI Consultants Kerry Schmitz
X	"Dick" Chun Tzou				
X	Maritza Flores				
x	Alex Rabidoux				
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 Guadalupe Garcia		
x	Nick Watterson Faithe Lovelace	x	Jessie Holtz		
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, State Activities, Funding
3. Stakeholder Engagement
4. Forecast next Collaborative meeting (July 18) topics

MEETING NOTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Updates

- Northern Delta GSA: Board meeting on July 31 at 10:00 am at Walnut Grove Public Library Meeting Center.
- Solano Subbasin GSA: Approved the annual budget including all the GSP expenditures for Fiscal Year 2024-25 at the meeting on 6/13. There has been a lot of press around the recently released California Forever water management plan.
- Sacramento County GSA: Working on outreach, including presenting at council meetings
- City of Vacaville GSA: not present

- Solano Irrigation District GSA: Has received communication from the CV-SALTS Program and wondered how it would be applicable in the Solan Subbasin

The group discussed CV-SALTS. The program is a collaborative initiative to address nitrate and salt accumulation affecting water supplies in the Central Valley. The first of three phases just started (each phase is 10-15 years) and involves salinity characterization. The Baseline Characterization Report, completed at the beginning of this year, looks at salt loading throughout the entire valley. Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engineering (LSCE) reported that the nitrate control program has expanded now from Priority Zone 1 Subbasin and Management Zones. Stakeholders in Priority 1 and Priority 2 subbasins, including the San Joaquin Valley and Yolo Subbasin, are in ongoing meetings.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

Projects and Management Actions

The group discussed goals for Projects and Management Actions (PMAs). Solano Subbasin GSA is looking at multi-benefit projects that can bolster groundwater, support groundwater-dependent ecosystems, and mitigate flooding. Groundwater recharge in the Northwest Focus Area is one priority for grant money from the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

The following slide was shared on grant tasks related to the project management efforts:

PMA-Related Grant Tasks and Budgets

Summary of Activities Related to PMAs		Estimated Grant Budget	Detailed Task Description
Component 2 - GSP Monitoring and Data Management Enhancements			
2.3	Includes efforts related to site characterization that could help support PMAs, especially in areas of ISW and GDEs	\$380,000	<u>Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) and Putah Creek Projects</u> •ISW and GDE monitoring enhancements – rating curves/instrumentation at least four existing facilities, identify additional monitoring sites east of Stevenson Bridge, survey SCWA streamflow/stage gages •Synthesis of shallow groundwater/stream infiltration monitoring on Putah Ck in conjunction with soil and ET monitoring in relation to GDE impacts, creation and updating of hydrogeologic cross-sections with AEM and local well lithology and monitoring data
Component 3 – Supporting Groundwater Use Management Action			
3.2	Includes efforts related to outreach on BMPs to benefit Subbasin groundwater and irrigation management evaluations - both could include outreach to assess interest and feasibility of implementing RMPs	\$500,000	<u>Local Water Conservation and Management</u> Support Solano and Dixon RCDs in the following tasks: •Continued outreach to growers on BMPs benefiting water conservation •Irrigation management evaluations for groundwater users
3.3	Includes consideration and development of incentives and other policies to support and ensure long-term groundwater sustainability	\$300,000	<u>Groundwater Management Policy: Positioning for the Future</u> •Incentives and policies for future groundwater development •Future land use policy •Strategies to manage and monitor groundwater use, including mechanisms to promote recharge and potential updates to groundwater ordinance
Component 4 – Water Supply Replenishment and Reliability Projects			
4.1	Includes further refinement of fields for consideration of recharge pilot; select site-specific assessment of costs/benefits and field conditions related to pilot recharge project; installation and development of monitoring system	\$600,000	<u>Recharge Study - Targeted Implementation</u> •Recharge feasibility analyses in NW Focus Area and Tremont 3 Watershed- ranking areas and identifying properties for field-scale consideration •Field-scale recharge site investigation – selected sites for detailed cost/benefit and field conditions assessment for designing pilot recharge projects •Planning, and design activities, including environmental permits, access agreements, completion of CEQA documentation, and install and conduct any necessary monitoring
4.2	Includes reviewing groundwater conditions (domestic and public supply wells, levels, and quality) in far NW Subbasin for opportunities to improve reliability and resiliency through recharge or other actions	\$150,000	<u>Localized Groundwater Conditions Evaluation (near Lake Solano)</u> •Review and assess GW conditions near Lake Solano in relation to hydrogeology and land use/water demand •Identify domestic wells vulnerable to GW level impacts •Evaluate community water supply well needs or other water supply options for improving domestic water supply reliability in NW Focus Area •Evaluate recent groundwater quality conditions in NW Focus Area and other parts of Subbasin, consider relationships of water quality conditions to past and future recharge activities •Coordination with Solano One-Water activities, Sustainable Conservation, and RCDs
4.3	Includes advancing City of Vacaville recycled water planning with consideration for Subbasin interests/benefits	\$150,000	<u>City of Vacaville Recycled Water Planning</u> LSCE will assist and coordinate with City of Vacaville on recycled water planning and evaluating potential challenges and benefits relating to use of recycled water in the context of Subbasin groundwater management. City of Vacaville will lead this task with consideration for the following task objectives and deliverables: •Engineering/economic analysis of how much and where the benefits occur •Consideration of where additional water would be most beneficial and associated costs, could offset some current and/or future Basal Tehama pumping by serving within COV •Considering future water supplies and treatment needs
TOTAL ALL PMA-RELATED GRANT TASKS		\$2,080,000	

Solano Subbasin GSA has been working with landowners to learn about shallow groundwater wells in and around Putah Creek. There may be funding in the future for additional monitoring sites along and parallel to the creek. They are looking to expand outreach and education efforts. Dixon Resource Conservation District is working on flooding issues in the Tremont 3 area.

Webmap application has spring 2024 updated levels, looking at a second phase for getting information up for public facing wells, a third phase with supplemental monitoring work Continuing well and serve diversion for Solano County - has been looking at conditions on TSS Monitoring wells

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

Relevant California Assembly Bills (AB) were summarized:

- AB 460, (Bauer-Kahan), "State Water Resources Control Board: water rights and usage: civil penalties" is headed to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

A number of proposed bills have not moved forward

- AB 1337 (Wicks), "State Water Resources Control Board: water diversion curtailment"
- AB 1563 (Bennett), "Groundwater sustainability agency: groundwater extraction permit: verification"
- AB 2079 (Bennett), "Groundwater extraction: large-diameter, high-capacity water wells: permits"),
- AB 2614 (Ramos), Water policy: California tribal communities"
- AB 2799 (Alanis), Sustainable groundwater management: small farms: fees"

Additional projects in Solano County were discussed related to water reporting and groundwater monitoring. EKI Environment & Water completed an initial review related to water needs and surface water rights for the California Forever project. Statements are being reviewed to understand potential effects on water budgets and groundwater levels. LSCE was asked to share the model that was developed for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Northern Delta GSA has had experience with project impacts.

A Webmap update that reflects spring 2024 water level readings for the representative monitoring sites will be updated in the Webmap application which agencies, stakeholders, and members of the public can find at SolanoGSP.com/subbasin_conditions/.

Ag Innovations, LSCE, and the RCDs are working to broaden the number of monitoring wells included in the Webmap. The next step is to add wells that are owned and monitored by GSA Collaborative agencies. Following that, there are supplemental wells that are not already part of the representative monitoring network, which would be nice to add to the Webmap but may require personalized communications.

LSCE is working to order equipment to monitor some of the representative monitoring sites and is working with Solano County to maintain an inventory of wells. They are looking at conditions near TSS monitoring wells, areas with existing monitoring, and landowner interest in pursuing and piloting recharge projects.

In the Water Year 2023 Annual Report, LSCE reported on domestic wells with significant year-to-year increases in nitrate concentrations. Work to understand this data and water quality dynamics is ongoing. As a part of work on Solano One Water, LSCE is assembling and evaluating GIS data sets for water conveyance and drainage infrastructure. This data may inform opportunities for groundwater recharge and stormwater drainage capture.

CV-SALTS completed a draft report summarizing water budgets in the Central Valley. All GSAs have an opportunity to comment on the draft document. LSCE responded to DWR's request and provided files for the Solano Hydrologic Model. This model has been used for GSP annual reporting and may inform the effort.

Stakeholder Engagement

Ag Innovations thanked the panelists for attending and speaking at the May 22 Virtual Town Hall. It was an informative meeting and a recording of the video, meeting summary, and slides are posted at <https://www.solanogsp.com/outreach/events-archive/>. There were 80 registrants and 41 attendees, and survey responses were received in both English and Spanish. The following links were shared with the GSA Collaborative and via the public website.

- View the recording from the May 22 Virtual Town Hall:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2AdaD0yCOjA>
- View the meeting summary:
<https://www.solanogsp.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/May-2024-Virtual-Town-Hall-Summary-Solano-Subbasin-GSP.pdf>

GSAs were encouraged to share these English and Spanish resources with constituents, Boards, and fellow staff interested in SGMA, resource management, and groundwater sustainability.

The Solano GSP Project Team suggested that it might be worth building a system to track implementation outreach. Ag Innovations is looking at options for a simple tool that GSAs, RCDs, and others could use to track interactions with growers and other beneficial users of groundwater. Ag Innovations asked participants to contact Ag Innovations if they have any systems they currently use to track this type of information, and/or suggestions to make it easy to use. The goal of the effort includes coordinated outreach, time-saving in SGMA required reporting, and increasing coordination toward PMAs and GSP implementation.

Forecast Upcoming Meeting Discussions

The next GSA Collaborative meeting is scheduled for July 18. The group provided input on the agenda. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm Pacific time.