



Solano Subbasin GSA Collaborative Meeting

April 17, 2025 | 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. | Via Zoom

Participants

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

AGENDA

Meeting Agenda

1. GSA Updates
2. GSP Implementation
 - a. Projects and Management Actions
 - b. Updates on Well Permitting, State Activities, and Funding
3. Stakeholder Engagement
4. Forecast next Collaborative meeting (June 19) topics



Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Updates

- Northern Delta GSA: No updates
- Solano Subbasin GSA: The Solano GSA Board was presented with the 2024 Annual Report and accepted the report. Solano GSA is submitting a grant extension request to the Department of Water Resources (DWR).
- Sacramento County GSA: Regarding Reclamation District requests, the Board of Supervisors adopted a set of resolutions and submitted them to DWR. There is a 90-day waiting period in the process of combining GSAs.
- City of Vacaville GSA: Vacaville GSA is in the process of selecting a consultant for well work, aiming to complete the work in a year and a half.
- Solano Irrigation District (SID): The Board accepted the 2024 Annual Report at its April Board meeting.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

Projects and Management Actions

Conversations about potential groundwater recharge opportunities. LSCE, Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), the Solano County Water Agency, and the Solano GSA are exploring various ideas and possibilities, and a farm tour hosted by the Solano County Farm Bureau is one supporting efforts

LSCE will reach out to GSAs to obtain spring monitoring readings; data must be submitted by July 2025.

Shallow wells along Putah Creek are being studied. A memo summarizing findings describes an unexpected immediate response in the upper aquifer. The memo also highlights data gaps identified in the 2024 Annual Report. The memo is currently under limited review and is expected to be shared more broadly soon. LSCE suggested coordinating with the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency to establish at least one cross-section along the creek to observe trends.

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

Discussions have been ongoing with the Wildlife Conservation Board, which has several programs related to project management actions (PMAs) either directly or indirectly. Efforts are being made to bring the Board up to speed on various agricultural PMAs that could be tied to the flood risk reduction increment. Informally referred to as "rainmar," a term that refers to field capture of precipitation events.

Many locations in the Solano Subbasin, identified through the Basin Scout tool, appear suitable for recharge efforts consistent with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) practices. Two NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants in California have supported exploring this approach in appropriate soils and locations, excluding areas like dairy farms. Efforts are underway to raise



awareness with the Wildlife Conservation Board about how different types of recharge can provide sediment reduction and streamflow enhancement benefits. There is broader potential to combine funding from the California Department of Food and Agriculture and NRCS to begin large-scale trials in the subbasin. Outreach is ongoing to educate potential funders about the benefits of these approaches and to build momentum toward demonstration projects. NRCS is developing a field guide for applying these practices, though it currently lacks funding to complete it. Supplemental funding is being sought from Foundations and potentially DWR.

Legislative Updates

Solano GSA is tracking Prop 4 funding and exploring available opportunities for work on groundwater. The group also received informal updates on proposed assembly bills and senate bills:

- AB 259 (Rubio and Blanca) – Brown Act Teleconferencing - proposes to extend the allowance for teleconferencing in Brown Act meetings indefinitely, facilitating remote participation in public meetings.
- AB 293 (Bennett) – GSA Transparency - requires Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) to publish the names and contact information of Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) board members on their websites, enhancing transparency.
- AB 362 (Ramos) – Tribal Water Uses - seeks to recognize tribal water uses as beneficial uses under state law and mandates the State Water Resources Control Board to assess impacts on tribal water uses in relevant projects or programs. May face opposition unless amended due to potential conflicts with existing water rights frameworks.
- AB 497 (Wilson) – Bay-Delta Plan Spot Bill - a spot bill with placeholder language, potentially related to the Bay-Delta Plan update. Content yet to be specified.
- AB 709 (Gonzalez) – Groundwater Coordination - addresses coordination among multiple plans within a subbasin, requiring provisions for submission and alignment. While not directly impacting all GSAs, it's under observation for potential implications.
- AB 778 (Chen) & AB 810 (Irwin) – Website Domain Requirements - would mandate local agencies, including GSAs and RCDs, use ".gov" or ".ca.gov" domains for websites and email addresses by January 1, 2029. While promoting standardization, these requirements may impose financial burdens on smaller agencies.
- AB 1146 (Papan) – Water Releases from Dams - aims to regulate water releases from dams to prevent actions taken under false pretenses, particularly concerning federal directives that may conflict with local water management objectives.
- SB 72 (Caballero) – California Water Plan Modernization - proposes to modernize the California Water Plan by establishing long-term water supply targets, incorporating climate resilience, and ensuring sustainable water management for urban, agricultural, and environmental needs.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is in the process of updating the Bay-Delta Plan. The original version was released in 2023, followed by an update in October 2024. Since then, the SWRCB has held public workshops and 11 working meetings to gather feedback. A further revision is expected, potentially by the end of this year or early next year. This update will likely include another public workshop to solicit additional input before proceeding to a vote.



The vote will cover both the Bay-Delta Plan and the associated Healthy Rivers and Landscapes (HRL) program. State Water Contractors, along with DWR, are proactively preparing for the implementation of the Healthy Rivers program.

Stakeholder Engagement

Ag Innovations provided updates on the Groundwater Workshop on April 24 from 5-6:30 pm at the SCWA/SID office in Vacaville. GSA staff were encouraged to remind folks about this Workshop opportunity.

Ag Innovations provided an update about planning and outreach efforts for the Solano Subbasin Virtual Town Hall, which will take place via Zoom on Monday, May 19, from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Ag Innovations presented a draft agenda and gathered feedback regarding the panelists. Newsletters will be sent in advance of the meeting, and participants are encouraged to share any other information that would be helpful to the public. The meeting will be simulcast in Spanish with surveys and information available in both English and Spanish. GSA staff were encouraged to spread the word.

Forecast Upcoming Meeting Discussions

GSA Collaborative meetings are roughly quarterly, and the next meetings will be on June 19 and August 21. Participants were asked to recommend topics for upcoming meetings.