



Solano Subbasin GSA Collaborative Meeting

February 19, 2026 | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Via Zoom

Participants

X	Solano Subbasin GSA Chris Lee		Solano Irrigation District GSA Cary Keaten		Sacramento County GSA Chris Hunley
X	Deborah Barr	X	Paul Fuchslin	X	Austin Miller
X	Alex Rabidoux		Kyle Esquer		Kerry Schmitz
X	Gavin Poore	X			
X	Northern Delta GSA Erik Ringelberg		City of Vacaville GSA Justen Cole		
	Chris Thomas	X	Tim Hawkins		
X	Solano Subbasin GSA TAC Kelly Huff		Luhdorff & Scalmanini Engineering Vicki Kretsinger Grabert	X	Ag Innovations Jenn Fox
X	Chris Rose	X	Nick Watterson	X	Guadalupe Garcia
X	Ed King	X	Faithe Lovelace		
X	Miranda Jachens				
X	Misty Kaltreider				
X	"Dick" Chun Tzou				
Guests: Jay Cuetara, Solano County Water Agency					

AGENDA

1. GSA Updates
2. GSP Implementation
 - a. Projects and Management Actions - with Annual Report Preview
 - b. Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant status and update
 - c. Updates on Well Permitting, State Activities, and Funding
3. Stakeholder Engagement
4. Forecast next Collaborative meeting (May 21) topics

MEETING NOTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Updates

- Northern Delta GSA: The board will meet in the next month or two.
- Sacramento County GSA: No Updates
- Solano Irrigation District GSA: The agency adopted its water supply and allocation for the coming year. The Plan continues to minimize groundwater use, as in the past two years, a shift driven by high pumping power costs. Groundwater supply remains strong.
- Solano Subbasin GSA: Will be presenting about the DWR grant and groundwater pilot projects later in today's meeting.



- City of Vacaville GSA: Ongoing construction projects are progressing. A draft of the water recycling technical memorandum was completed, and feedback from the GSAs is welcome.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

Projects and Management Actions - with Annual Report Preview

The technical team at Lohdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) previewed the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Annual Report for the 2025 Water Year.

Overview

- The 2025 Water Year covers October 2024 through September 2025
- The Annual Report is due April 1, 2026
- Key requirements for the Annual Report include:
 - Groundwater elevations: contour maps (Spring/Fall; by aquifer), RMS well hydrographs
 - Groundwater extraction: map and summary by water use sector
 - Surface water supplies
 - Total water use: by water use sector
 - Change in groundwater storage: map (by aquifer) and chart (with groundwater extractions)
 - Plan implementation progress
 - Associated data submittals

Climate & Precipitation

- Precipitation was relatively average to slightly above normal, similar to the previous year.
- Continuing warming trend observed. October 2024 was unusually hot (~10 days over 90°F) at the beginning of the month.

Water Level RMS Status

- Most fall water levels showed minimal change compared to the previous fall.
- Five wells fell below Minimum Thresholds (MT); none in the Basal Tehama formation. The same wells also fell below MT's last year.
- Some locations lack measurements (to be addressed in periodic evaluation).
- Overall spring levels were similar to those observed in 2024.

Long-Term Trends & Monitoring

- Hydrographs show past declines with recovery in recent years.
- Deep monitoring wells generally show stable trends.
- Rural North Vacaville shows emerging rising water levels this year; other areas are unchanged.

Groundwater Storage

- Minimal storage change, consistent with two consecutive above-normal water years.
- Basal Tehama shows a slight increase in storage compared to last year.



- Greater groundwater level increases in the north than in the south.

The following GSP Implementation items were discussed

- Data gaps and monitoring network enhancements
- Ongoing enhancements/updates of the web map
- Improved understanding of water sources and uses
- Exploration of PMA concepts to enhance recharge and reduce stormwater runoff
- Education and outreach
- City of Vacaville Recycled Water Planning
- GSP DWR Recommended Corrective Actions

The group also discussed a timeline for review, beginning with the draft Report distribution. March 20 is the deadline for comments/feedback on the draft Annual Report from the Solano Collaborative. April 1, 2026: Annual Report submittal.

DWR Grant Status and Update

Solano Subbasin GSA has been leading the Department of Water Resources' Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation Grant management, and they provided updates on the grant.

The original grant term was from January 1, 2024 – March 31, 2026, approved for \$4,411, 000. Amendment 1 was completed on August 14, 2025 and the grant was extended through March 31, 2027. Amendment 2 was approved on December 1, 2025. This amendment approved funds reallocated across components (grant administration, public outreach, groundwater support, etc.). Funds were reallocated and reviewed with partner agencies to ensure alignment with updated work and reporting requirements.

Agencies continue project work under revised budget and timeline, with quarterly and annual reporting requirements. Work must be completed by March 31, 2027 and April 15, 2027: is the deadline for funding reimbursement

Recent Efforts and More

Solano County Water Agency and Solano Subbasin GSA staff provided an update on the recent efforts regarding the recharge projects and monitoring wells throughout the Solano Subbasin.

Outreach & Collaboration: Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) have been instrumental in coordinating with landowners and farmers. They are facilitating site access, communication with landowners, and technical collaboration. Strong collaboration exists between the Solano Subbasin GSA team, engineering staff, RCDs, partners, and interns.

Several projects are within and near the Northwest Focus area, including several recharge sites (including an area on the Putah Creek fan, where soils are highly suitable for recharge). Engineering staff conducted field verification following storm events and described observations from Collins and Kidwell recharge ponds.

- During storm events, water levels rose rapidly (1–2 feet within a day).



- Observed behavior: water infiltrates quickly and does not move far downstream.
- Measured percolation rates are faster than initially anticipated – confirming strong recharge performance.

New monitoring wells were installed along the northern reach of Putah Creek to address data gaps and better understand groundwater variation and recharge influence. A dual nested well is installed to monitor both shallow and deeper aquifers. Six total wells along the Putah Creek corridor are now monitored. These and other wells improve monitoring of recharge processes and groundwater responses in critical areas along Putah Creek.

Recharge aligns directly with current DWR grant objectives. The Solano Collaborative was encouraged to submit additional recharge and multi-benefit stories.

Updates on Well Permitting, State Activities, and Funding

DWR has released a “Concept Survey on Proposition 4 Watershed Resilience Program”. The survey is open until March 6th, 2026 to gather input ahead of funding solicitation, expected in late 2027. The survey aims to guide larger-scale efforts, including PMA pilot projects and watershed-scale planning. The survey asks practical questions and says feedback helps shape draft guidelines for the future RFP.

Proposed State Bill ([SB 872](#), McNerney) aims to provide funding for Delta infrastructure and subsidence mitigation.

Stakeholder Engagement

The group was reminded that the Periodic Evaluation (which the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act titled “5-year Report”) is due in January 2027. DWR Guidance on the Periodic Evaluation was shared. At a previous GSA Collaborative meeting, the group decided that there was no need to do a Groundwater Sustainability Plan amendment. Each GSA was reminded to think about the process for review (and approval) by their GSA Boards, and this will be discussed at a future Collaborative meeting.

The group was encouraged to keep in touch about recharge for grant reporting, the Annual Report, Periodic Evaluation, and public outreach. Please continue to share outreach and newsletter ideas with Ag Innovations.

The group discussed a possible inter-agency meeting to coordinate with neighboring subbasins. A live meeting could support GSA and agency staff to share what is working and answer questions about groundwater recharge, water supply, planning efforts, and more.

Forecast Upcoming Meeting Discussions

- Next GSA Collaborative Meeting: May 21, 2026