



# Solano Subbasin GSA Collaborative Meeting

May 21, 2026 | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Via Zoom

## Participants

X	<b>Solano Subbasin GSA</b> Chris Lee Deborah Barr	X	<b>Solano Irrigation District GSA</b> Cary Keaten Paul Fuchslin Kyle Esquer	X	<b>Sacramento County GSA</b> Chris Hunley Austin Miller Kerry Schmitz
X	<b>Northern Delta GSA</b> Erik Ringelberg Chris Thomas	X	<b>City of Vacaville GSA</b> Justen Cole Tim Hawkins	X	<b>Solano Subbasin GSA TAC</b> Kelly Huff Chris Rose Ed King Miranda Jachens Misty Kaltreider "Dick" Chun Tzou
X	<b>Ag Innovations</b> Jenn Fox Nicolia Mehrling Gualalupe Garcia	X	<b>Luhdorff &amp; Scalmanini Engr</b> Vicki Kretsinger Grabert Nick Watterson Faithe Lovelace	X	
<b>Guests</b>					

## AGENDA

1. GSA Updates
2. GSP Implementation
  - a. Projects and Management Actions
  - b. Periodic Evaluation approach and focus topics
  - c. Funding for administration, monitoring, and implementation
  - d. Updates on grant funding and state activities
3. Stakeholder Engagement
4. Forecast next collaborative meeting (August 20) topics

## MEETING NOTES

### Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Updates

- Solano Irrigation District GSA (SID): Conducting groundwater monitoring for water levels and quality.
- Solano Subbasin GSA: The pilot projects are proceeding well, in coordination with Solano and Dixon RCDs and SID.
- Northern Delta GSA: Presented at their biannual board meeting, and the board was satisfied with progress.
- Sacramento County GSA: No updates
- City of Vacaville GSA: Will redrill two existing wells.



# Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

## Projects and Management Actions

The Solano Subbasin GSA reported on the progress of pilot projects.

- **Olmo Lane:** repurposes the existing perch pond to capture stormwater flows and possible irrigation return flows.
- **Pedrick Road:** drainage reconfiguration to move more water into an existing tailwater pond. Last winter, they installed monitoring equipment and collected data. Analysis is in progress, but early results show high percolation and infiltration. The GSA is working with the RCDs to reduce vegetation via a controlled burn and learn how that impacts the site.
- **Bolla Site (Wolfskill Road):** creating a low water crossing from a natural swale, and evaluating the recharge potential
- **Dry Arroyo:** pilot testing percolation and infiltration using project water over the next few weeks.
- **Bressler Sullivan:** monitoring infiltration rates in the hills in coordination with UCD/USDA.

LCSE is also conducting water quality testing in domestic wells near pilot projects to establish baseline water quality characteristics and to inform understanding of basin-wide conditions.

The North Delta GSA is open to potential projects. Their main issue is high groundwater levels that interfere with agricultural operations.

## Periodic Evaluation approach and focus topics

The Periodic Evaluation is due to the DWR in January 2027. “Periodic Evaluation” is the term now used by DWR for the basin’s required 5-year evaluation and written assessment of GSP implementation. The Solano Collaborative had previously decided not to do a GSP Amendment. The group discussed the scope of the Periodic Evaluation, to:

- Assess the progress of plan implementation since the Groundwater Sustainability Plan
- Integrate new information, such as changes to the hydrogeologic conceptual model, monitoring, and updated water budget information
- Present updated groundwater conditions, including an evaluation of minimum thresholds
- Address corrective actions identified by DWR (revision to the definition of “undesirable result” for water quality; develop information on land subsidence and the vulnerability of critical infrastructure; integrate DWR’s interconnected surface water best management practices)
- Consider future projections, including potential large-scale land-use changes and more extreme climate conditions.

The Periodic Evaluation also provides an opportunity to assess potential collaborative projects and management actions. Initial ideas include strategies related to the Northwest focus area, floodwater reuse, and recharge projects. This does not constitute a GSP amendment. The GSP Periodic Evaluation is due in January 2027, and LCSE will develop draft sections for review throughout the summer and fall.



The group discussed the need to acknowledge potential impacts of land-use changes (such as pending Bay-Delta Plan Updates). The group discussed that the Periodic Evaluation should note potential groundwater impacts of the Bay-Delta Plan Update. LCSE could model scenarios based on several potential water budgets. Participants discussed the importance of considering land-use changes and will discuss approaches to modeling impacts.

After discussing the Periodic Evaluation goals, context, and proposed content, the GSA Collaborative reviewed the preparation and submittal timeline. The GSA staff were provided with a document outlining the timeline, scope, and approach to the Periodic Evaluation. The group agreed to proceed with the following approach:

- Solano Subbasin GSA (SSGSA) will serve as the submitting entity in the SGMA Portal on behalf of the Solano Subbasin.
- Each GSA will review and comment on the draft evaluation, help identify any local issues, questions, or updates that should be reflected.
- Each GSA will plan for appropriate concurrence, board action, or other authorization step in late 2026 and conduct outreach to boards and stakeholders in time to support the January 2027 submittal.
- Each GSA Board would handle Board and public review using its process. The draft will also be posted online by Ag Innovations at SolanoGSP.com for the Solano Subbasin GSA in late 2026.

### Funding for administration, monitoring, and implementation

The group discussed funding for multiple aspects of SGMA work. Related to operational costs, the Solano Collaborative developed a five-year budget in 2022, and the Solano Subbasin GSA pursued funding for administration through Proposition 218, which expires in the summer of 2027. The Solano Subbasin proposed a similar effort for next year. Participants were supportive of this proposed approach for the next round of administrative funding for SGMA implementation.

Projects and management actions, such as recharge projects, would need to be funded through grants. Solano Subbasin GSA is tracking deliverables and budget for the current grant, which ends in Spring 2027. The group discussed interest in coordinating on future grant funding for recharge and other projects.

### Updates on grant funding and state activities

Proposition 4 funding is one possible source. Priorities will likely include benefits to disadvantaged and climate-vulnerable communities, coordinated regional watershed management action, and recycled water projects.

This April 30 DWR Watershed Resilience & Sustainable Groundwater Management Workshop - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBKVi8VpJIQ> - was referenced as a useful resource.

The Solano GSA Collaborative discussed several ideas, including advancing:

- flood and recharge projects in the Northwest Focus Area
- use of stormwater in the Tremont area



- recharge using floodwater from the Putah South Canal
- conveyance improvements and use of recycled water for groundwater recharge
- conveyance projects that integrate habitat benefits
- collaboration with Yolo Subbasin in the Davis area (classified as disadvantaged)
- coordination with Napa and Yolo subbasin surface water interaction opportunities.

Participants shared state efforts, including:

- The California legislature is advancing Assembly Bill 2026 as part of the effort to codify elements of groundwater recharge and permitting.
- The California Water Plan 2028 update will look at water from a holistic watershed perspective, including environmental flows. Prior to 2028, the appointed advisory committee will contact localities to collect data, methods, and assumptions.

## Stakeholder Engagement

Ag Innovations shared recent outreach efforts. The State of the Subbasin infographic is available in English and Spanish. It can be used for board-level reports as well as general outreach. Ag Innovations also updated the resources page at [solanogsp.com](https://solanogsp.com). The newsletter sent last week went out to 600 recipients.

In January 2027, Dixon RCD will hold a grower workshop on groundwater.

## Next GSA Collaborative Meeting: August 20, 2026