



Solano Subbasin GSA Collaborative Meeting

September 17, 2026 | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. | Via Zoom

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and additional participants are shown with "X"

X	Solano Subbasin GSA		Solano Irrigation District (SID) GSA		Sacramento County GSA
X	Chris Lee	X	Cary Keaten	X	Chris Hunley
X	Deborah Barr	X	Paul Fuchslin		Rachel Gillis
X	Alex Rabidoux		Kyle Esquer		Kerry Schmitz
X	Gavin Poore				
X	Northern Delta GSA	X	City of Vacaville GSA	X	Solano Subbasin GSA Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
	Erik Ringelberg		Tim Hawkins	X	Kelly Huff
	Chris Thomas		Justen Cole	X	Chris Rose
X	Ag Innovations		Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE)	X	Amy King
X	Jenn Fox	X	Vicki Kretsinger Grabert	X	Ed King
X	Guadalupe Garcia	X	Nick Watterson		Miranda Jachens
		X	Faithe Lovelace		Austin Miller
					"Dick" Chun Tzou
Guests: Olive Ellringer, Zanjero, Inc					

AGENDA

1. GSA Updates
2. GSP Implementation
 - a. Projects and Management Actions
 - b. Groundwater Planning and Vacaville Recycled Water Update
 - c. Periodic Evaluation
 - d. Other Updates
3. Stakeholder Engagement
4. Forecast upcoming collaborative meeting dates and topics

MEETING NOTES

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Updates

- **City of Vacaville GSA:** working on well replacements as part of an ongoing effort to replace existing wells that have reached the end of their useful service life.
- **Solano Irrigation District:** monitoring groundwater use. It remains a small proportion of agricultural water use. Minimizing water use helps to minimize energy costs associated with pumping. The grant-funded well replacement project for the public water system at Lake Solano is ongoing, although progress has been slower than anticipated.
- **Northern Delta GSA:** following possible legislation that could affect fee collection for sustainability agencies and other special districts.



- **Sacramento County GSA:** welcoming new staff to the Solano Collaborative calls.
- **Solano Subbasin GSA:** continuing pilot study at Pedrick Road. Initial results provide insights for recharge from flood flows. The pilot remains active, and the team will study through the upcoming winter through grant funding. Is working on a fee study, which will inform plans for 2027. The Board is looking at ways to keep fees consistent. An interbasin coordination meeting including Napa, Yolo, and Solano area GSAs will occur September 22 at the Vacaville SCWA/SID office.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation

Projects and Management Actions

The group discussed opportunities to advance groundwater recharge efforts at multiple sites, including the pond near Pedrick Road and a new site at the intersection of Wolfskill Road and Highway 505. Construction at the Wolfskill Road site is expected to begin shortly and include plans to establish a small basin to capture stormwater and potentially excess water from the Putah South Canal. Following construction, the team plans to conduct a recharge test.

Grant-funded investigations are also progressing, including targeted surveys near Dixon. Targeted surveys will help evaluate potential locations for recharge ponds, while broader surveys will identify additional recharge opportunities, particularly near existing infrastructure where winter-season water could potentially be conveyed for groundwater recharge.

Groundwater Planning and Vacaville Recycled Water Update

The City of Vacaville GSA presented its work on water recycling and efforts to further groundwater sustainability in the Solano Subbasin. The city has been studying recycled water resources, potential applications, and opportunities to maximize the community and regional benefits of highly treated wastewater effluent.

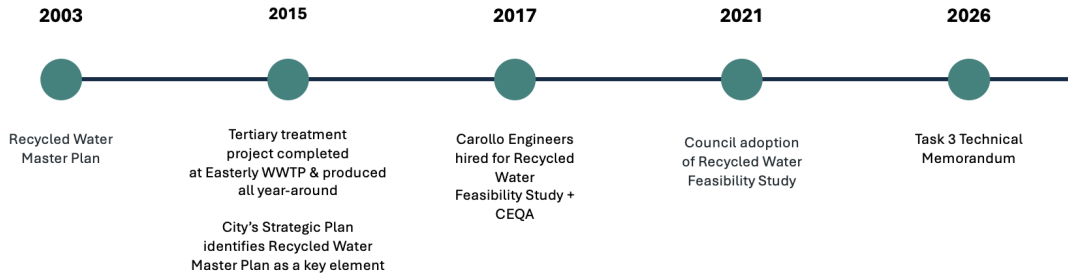
As background, California has used recycled water for decades, primarily for non-potable applications such as landscape irrigation. As water supply constraints continue to drive the development of alternative water sources, the range of recycled water applications has expanded. California has established a statewide goal of utilizing 1.8 million acre-feet of recycled water annually by 2040.

Vacaville presented a timeline on previous efforts and updated the Collaborative on a current technical memorandum prepared by Zanzero Inc.



Recycled Water Planning Timeline

PREVIOUS EFFORTS



Vacaville is exploring how to make greater use of the recycled water produced at its Easterly Wastewater Treatment Plant, where it currently produces approximately **7.5 million gallons per day of tertiary-treated effluent**, and essentially all of it is discharged to Old Alamo Creek. Building on its earlier Recycled Water Master Plan, the City evaluated potential uses. The analysis narrowed these to three broad opportunities, including selling or exchanging recycled water for other surface-water supplies, providing recycled water to Solano Irrigation District for agricultural irrigation, and expanding non-potable reuse for urban irrigation and industrial uses. These options remain preliminary and will require additional development, stakeholder engagement, and evaluation before implementation.

REGIONAL CONTEXT

1. A valuable local resource

Easterly WWTP produces approximately 7.5 MGD of tertiary-treated effluent on average and has a 15 MGD average dry-weather design capacity.

Today, essentially all treated effluent is discharged to Old Alamo Creek.

2. Groundwater is strategic

Vacaville relies heavily on deep Basal Tehama groundwater for municipal supply. The Subbasin GSP identifies recycled water as one potential tool to support sustainable groundwater management.

3. Regional opportunities

The 2026 memorandum expands beyond Vacaville's service area to examine downstream use, exchanges, and other partnerships that could either:

- directly offset groundwater pumping, or
- generate value for basin-supporting programs.

The work is particularly relevant to the Solano Subbasin because Vacaville relies heavily on deep Basal Tehama groundwater for its municipal supply, and recycled water could provide another tool for reducing pressure on groundwater. Depending on the project ultimately pursued, recycled water could directly replace groundwater use, allow Vacaville to obtain additional surface water in exchange for recycled water and reduce its own pumping, or potentially generate revenue or other benefits that support broader Subbasin sustainability efforts. Importantly, the analysis distinguishes these pathways and cautions against assuming that recycled-water use produces a one-for-one groundwater benefit: actual groundwater savings would need to be quantified at the basin/GSA level as specific projects are developed.



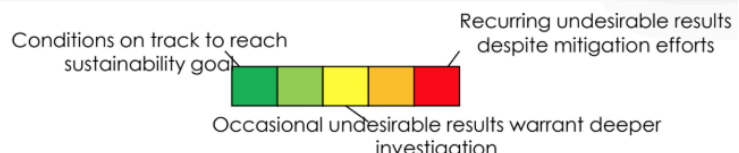
The group asked questions and shared insights on recycled water use. Next steps will focus on refining the identified opportunities and evaluating pathways to advance projects that could provide community benefits and contribute to groundwater sustainability in the Solano Subbasin.

Periodic Evaluation

The Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation is due to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 31, 2027. The Periodic Evaluation is the required five-year assessment of GSP implementation under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and is distinct from the Annual Report and a GSP Amendment.

The evaluation assesses progress toward achieving the basin's sustainability goal during the evaluation period, covering Water Year 2021 through spring 2026 following GSP development. It evaluates changes in groundwater conditions relative to the basin's Sustainable Management Criteria, potential impacts on beneficial users, and progress in implementing projects and management actions.

Summary of Recent GW Conditions



Sustainability Indicator	Status of the Subbasin	
Chronic Lowering of GW Levels	Year-to-year GWL fluctuations in response to water year conditions, no significant chronic declines, NWF persists as area of interest with additional attention east of Dixon, below MOs in most wells	
Reduction of GW Storage	Spring-to-spring GWL evaluation indicates year-to-year fluctuations in storage with long-term stability	
Land Subsidence	Minor vertical displacement, no historical impacts to infrastructure	
Degraded Water Quality	Locally present, naturally-occurring elevated concentrations consistent with historical; monitoring to prevent degradation with respect to baseline conditions	
Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water	Filled monitoring data gaps, conditions stable	Further analysis to be completed when BMPs are available
Seawater Intrusion	Not present	

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Preliminary findings indicate that Subbasin conditions are generally on track toward sustainability goals. The group discussed the slide showing measurable objective targets and minimum threshold exceedances. Groundwater levels continue to fluctuate in response to wet and dry years, but without significant chronic declines, and groundwater storage has remained stable over the longer term. The evaluation is also identifying areas for continued attention and further analysis, including groundwater levels in the Northwest Focus Area and east of Dixon, groundwater quality, and interconnected surface water. The evaluation incorporates new



information collected during the review period, updates to the basin setting, including the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model, groundwater conditions, water budgets, and groundwater modeling.

The Solano Collaborative will review the draft Periodic Evaluation in mid-October. In late October, the Administrative Draft will be posted on [SolanoGSP.com](https://solanogsp.com), with public input closing in mid-November. GSA staff were asked to plan for October 19 - November 6 for review of the final draft. At its November meeting, the Collaborative will discuss significant input and confirm final content. GSA Boards will consider and act on the evaluation, as needed, ahead of the late January 31 submittal.

Stakeholder Engagement

The Draft GSP Periodic Evaluation will be posted on SolanoGSP.com, alongside an invitation for stakeholders to submit questions or input via email to Ag Innovations.

An electronic newsletter will be sent in the fall timed with this input opportunity. Current newsletter topics include: noting the Periodic Evaluation availability and sharing work on groundwater around the subbasin, such as the drone footage of the Nishikawa monitoring well installation recently posted at <https://solanogsp.com/outreach/>. The newsletter will include information about the January Resource Conservation District groundwater workshop and additional stakeholder outreach opportunities. Please share additional newsletter topics with Ag Innovations.

GSAs were reminded of the upcoming Solano Subbasin GSA Work on the fee study and asked for any concerns. Current direction from GSA staff and boards is to maintain roughly the status quo on Prop 218 funding rather than substantially changing fees or programs. Major new projects would likely require grant funding.

Forecast next collaborative meeting topics

The next GSA Collaborative meeting will be on November 19, 2026. The 2027 meetings will be held on February 18, May 20, August 19, and November 18, 2027