

From: [Roshan Saxena](#)
To: [California Water Commission](#)
Subject: September 16 Meeting — Item 8: Groundwater Recharge — Roshan Saxena
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Dear Commissioners,

Please include this comment in the meeting packet for Item 8, “Groundwater Recharge: State Agency Roles and Regional Perspectives,” at the September 16 meeting.

My name is Roshan Saxena. I am a student in Santa Clara County, help lead the FUHSD Climate Collective, and serve as a youth member of the Santa Clara County Sustainability Commission. I am writing in my personal capacity.

Thank you for bringing state agencies and regional practitioners together for this discussion. I appreciate the work involved in translating drought preparedness into projects that communities can actually implement. Hearing from people working in different groundwater basins should be especially valuable in understanding where state support is helping and where practical barriers remain.

I encourage the Commission to ask the participating agencies and regional representatives what happens after water enters the ground: how they determine where the benefits accrue, who receives them, and whether those benefits persist through dry years. The amount recharged is important, but it does not by itself tell residents whether their drinking-water supply will become more reliable. Where projects are intended to benefit communities dependent on domestic wells, public reporting should explain how groundwater levels and water quality near those communities will be evaluated, while acknowledging uncertainty about how water moves through a basin.

I would also welcome discussion of how agencies assess whether a proposed recharge site is appropriate. Capturing high flows can offer substantial benefits, but decisions about location and timing should account for water quality, downstream needs, and fish and wildlife. It would be helpful to hear concrete examples of how those considerations have changed a project’s design or operation, and how monitoring informs later adjustments.

Finally, please consider using the regional presentations to identify a small number of barriers that state agencies can address together. For example, if a community faces overlapping approval processes or lacks the technical capacity to evaluate a site, which agency can help it take the next step? A brief follow-up summary identifying the barriers, responsible agencies, and planned responses would make this discussion useful beyond the meeting itself.

Thank you again for your work on California’s long-term water resilience and for considering my perspective. I appreciate the Commission’s role in giving these practical questions a public forum.

Best,
Roshan Saxena