SGMA is clear: Wise, sustainable groundwater management necessitates the awareness, input and engagement of potentially impacted stakeholders. Only through active involvement can a subbasin be sure it is understanding and accounting for the interests of all water users and uses.

This engagement is particularly important in the Cosumnes Subbasin, given the critical role groundwater plays here. Groundwater pumped from the subbasin currently supplies nearly 95% of the area’s total water demands, supporting thousands of acres of productive agricultural lands, domestic users in the historic cities of Galt and Ione, as well as several disadvantaged communities and Native American tribes. Additionally, the subbasin is bordered to the north by the Cosumnes River, a vital natural resource to the State that supports large riparian ecosystems (including the Cosumnes River Preserve) and provides spawning habitat for chinook salmon.

The seven agencies spearheading SGMA implementation in the subbasin are already working hard to engage stakeholders and to begin understanding their issues and concerns, and they are committed to deepening this effort going forward. Several core goals underpin the approach:

- Fostering transparency – Openness is the key to credibility; deliberations should be open and accessible to all.
- Fostering understanding – Groundwater management is complex and scientifically dense; those managing the process need to make sure information is provided in a way that all stakeholders can understand.
- Fostering input – It is not enough to simply make deliberations accessible; development of a broadly supportable sustainable groundwater management plan necessitates creating multiple pathways for getting in-depth input from interested stakeholders, particularly those not typically engaged in these kinds of discussions. Business as usual is not sufficient.
- Fostering dialogue – Inevitably, development of a sustainable groundwater management plan will require hard choices. Ongoing, two-way discussions are essential to identifying the most viable pathways forward and, where disagreements remain, to at least communicate clear rationales for decisions made.

The subbasin has completed the following outreach and engagement efforts to-date, in an effort to foster widespread stakeholder input and dialogue:

- **Working Group Framework Agreement:** The Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group (Working Group) unanimously endorsed a Framework Agreement that underscores the seven GSAs’ commitment to an inclusive and transparent process. (Attached)
• **Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Plan:** The Working Group drafted and endorsed a preliminary Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Plan, which describes the Working Group’s tools and approach for public engagement and tracks public outreach conducted to-date. (Attached)

• **Standing Bodies:** Two standing bodies work on SGMA implementation in the Cosumnes subbasin – the SGMA Working Group, which is composed of the seven GSAs in the subbasin, and the Technical Advisory Committee, which develops technical recommendations and is in service to the Working Group. Both of these bodies hold monthly standing meetings. All meetings are open to the public and provide multiple opportunities for public input throughout. Meeting dates and materials are posted online and announced through the stakeholder email list.

• **Stakeholder Panels:** Panels of interested stakeholders are regularly invited to present at the Technical Advisory Committee. Presenters to-date have included the Cosumnes Coalition, Environmental Defense Fund and UC Davis. Future panelists are to include tribal interests, the wine industry, aquaculture and ag-res.

• **Public Workshops:** The Working Group convened a series of public workshops throughout the subbasin to gather broad public input. A March 2017 workshop in Galt drew more than 30 residents from the then-unmanaged areas. In October 2017, a series of three public workshops across the subbasin drew more than 90 stakeholders.

• **Interested Parties Email List:** The Working Group maintains an interested parties list-serve to ensure that all interested stakeholders receive timely monthly meeting announcements and updates. The list currently numbers more than 180 recipients. Additionally, the Working Group works with partner organizations such as the Farm Bureau, the Cosumnes Preserve, the Cosumnes Coalition and others to further publicize relevant discussions.

• **Website:** The Working Group established and maintains a continuously updated [website (cosumnes.waterforum.org)](http://cosumnes.waterforum.org) that provides the latest information on SGMA implementation in the Cosumnes Subbasin. All meeting dates, meeting materials, presentations and discussion summaries are posted to the website, along with background information on SGMA. Additionally, the website contains a contact form and a form through which interested parties can subscribe to the subbasin’s SGMA interested parties email list.

Moving forward, the GSAs are committed to deepening and extending their work with stakeholders as discussions pivot to characterizing the subbasin’s groundwater usage and beginning the technically dense and politically sensitive task of defining sustainable groundwater management. In addition to continuing the diverse activities already underway and outlined above, we have put forward a public engagement strategy founded on several core approaches:

1. **Adapt approaches.** Early on, we will work with stakeholders to take stock of our efforts to-date. While we believe the efforts to-date have been thoughtful, we recognize the need to continuously adapt our approach to build on those strategies that are working
and test new approaches. Already we have seen, for example, that actions such as posting to Facebook during public workshops can engage residents and others unable to attend meetings. We intend to continually assess our successes and shortcomings so we can test and incorporate new approaches as we move forward.

2. **Distinguish between technical and general outreach workshops.** Stakeholders come to the dialogue with greatly varying levels of interest and expertise. Some are technically savvy and can and want to engage in in-depth, technically dense dialogues. Others are more interested in keeping tabs on the potential for future fees or pumping restrictions; deep data dives don’t resonate. To account for these varying interests, our work plan calls for two distinct types of workshops: small in-depth workshops with stakeholder technical experts to seek their feedback and input on the detailed analyses that will shape the GSP, and larger workshops intended to keep the broader public apprised of and informing the evolving plan.

3. **Foster more in-depth discussions.** We recognize that the technically dense analyses and challenging policy discussions inherent to preparing a well informed and balanced GSP doesn’t lend itself to once or even twice yearly public workshops. To foster more in-depth dialogues, we will rely on two main activities: (1) proactively reach out to interested groups to provide in-depth briefings at relevant meetings (e.g., tribal forums, Farm Bureau meetings or aquaculture associations); and (2) continuing to invite panels of interested stakeholders and water users to present at TAC meetings to foster a thoughtful exchange of perspectives. The former is important as it provides an opportunity to have a focused conversation with groups to understand their unique concerns and perspectives. The latter is important to ensure we are fostering cross-interest group dialogue. As noted in the sub-basin’s existing preliminary stakeholder outreach and engagement plan, GSAs also intend to continually assess the merits of expanding TAC membership to include representatives from interested stakeholder groups.

**Attached Public Workshop Materials**

Attached are the following materials from public workshops held to-date:

- **Public Workshop Agendas** – For Workshops held March 15 (Galt), October 12 (Jackson), Oct. 24 (Wilton) and Oct 26 (Galt)
- **Fact sheets** – Developed March 2017 and October 2017, for distribution at public workshops and online
- **Press Release** – The SGMA Working Group developed a press release to support outreach efforts for the October workshops.
- **Social Media Engagement** – Amador County Supervisor Richard Forster provided live Facebook coverage of the October 12 Jackson public workshop. Local residents who were not in attendance responded to his Facebook posts with questions and comments, which
the Supervisor in turn shared with those present in the room and to which he responded via Facebook.

- **News Media coverage** – Newspaper articles from the River Valley Times (October 18) and the Galt Herald (October 26 and November 1).
Outreach & Public Engagement Plan
Cosumnes Subbasin Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation
October 30, 2017
Developed by the Consensus Building Institute

Activities Overview

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<th>SGMA-REQUIRED</th>
<th>SGMA-Implied</th>
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<tr>
<td>Interested Persons List</td>
<td>Regular Email Updates</td>
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<td>Inform Public about SGMA</td>
<td>Briefings</td>
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<td>Talking Points</td>
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Purpose and Outcome

The purpose of this communication and outreach plan is to share information, foster active engagement, solicit feedback, and develop widespread support for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation in the Cosumnes Subbasin. The goal is to transparently develop a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) by fostering input from interested water users and stakeholders. The subbasin’s approach to outreach and public engagement has been informed by DWR’s Guidance Document for GSP Stakeholder Communication and Engagement (link).

The purpose of SGMA is to ensure local sustainable groundwater management in medium- and high-priority groundwater basins statewide. The Cosumnes Subbasin is a medium-priority basin, subject to SGMA implementation.

How Public Input will be Used

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Cosumnes Subbasin are committed to keeping the public involved by providing the public with comprehensive, accurate and timely information about SGMA and by providing multiple opportunities for public input and engagement. The public should be able to understand SGMA’s groundwater sustainability plan requirements and provide recommendations on plan formation and SGMA implementation. The primary opportunities for public involvement are through attendance and public comment periods at Working Group and Technical Advisory Committee meetings and through periodic public workshops where public input will be synthesized and brought back to the GSAs for consideration.
Public Input into GSP Development
The outreach plan outlines several key pathways for fostering public awareness and informed public input into plan development. These include the following:

**SGMA Working Group** – Comprising GSAs (local public agencies with water supply, water management, and land use responsibilities) in the Cosumnes Subbasin, the Working Group (or its successor) will make decisions on developing the groundwater sustainability plan and implementing SGMA. Working Group meetings are open to the public and will have designated public comment periods at each meeting; the intent is to ensure that the GSAs have the opportunity to hear regularly from interested parties on topics under discussion.

**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)** - Comprising representatives from GSAs, the TAC develops recommendations to the Working Group (or its successor) on technical issues pertaining to SGMA implementation. TAC meetings are open to the public and will have a designated public comment period after each agenda item; the intent is to ensure that the GSAs have the opportunity to hear regularly from interested parties on topics under discussion. Additionally, representatives of affected water users will be invited to make periodic presentations at TAC meetings to foster in-depth discussion of GSP-related topics. TAC representation will be revisited on a periodic basis to ensure development of the GSP is well informed.

**Public Workshops** - Periodic public workshops throughout the subbasin will shape the overall process for SGMA implementation by providing an opportunity for broad stakeholder education, participation and input. Public workshops are expected to take place both in individual GSAs and basin-wide, as needed; the exact approach to structuring public workshops is still under discussion by the Working Group. Public workshops are specifically designed for members of the public and stakeholders who are interested in groundwater to learn about and provide input on GSP development and SGMA implementation. Major decision points on SGMA implementation will be vetted at the workshops. At each workshop, the GSAs will work with the Water Forum to provide information on the progress to-date and request input from interested parties. As possible, other GSA members are encouraged to participate in (or at least attend) all workshops to demonstrate the cross-GSA collaboration and ensure consistency in message.

**Standing Advisory Body** - The Working Group will assess on an ongoing basis the need, focus and structure of a standing stakeholder advisory body as discussions shift to development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

**Project Website** - The project website (http://cosumnes.waterforum.org) offers a standing opportunity for any interested water users and members of the public to provide ongoing comment. See below for further information about the website.

**Point of Contact** - The Water Forum will serve as a general point of contact.
Communication Tools

Interested Persons Email List

SGMA mandates the creation of an interested persons list. The facilitator will send periodic email updates to the list, particularly leading up to and following each public workshop. Interested parties can sign up on the website, and staff from all agencies and stakeholders can contribute names of organizations, agencies, and individuals. Whenever individuals inquire about the process or attend a meeting, the project team adds them to the list. The list is broad and includes anyone who would like to stay informed about SGMA activities.

In addition to the interested persons email list, the Water Forum will work with the GSA to identify organizations interested in providing more in-depth briefings and presentations to the TAC, Working Group or both on GSP-related topics. The Water Forum will maintain regular contact with these organizations and their designated representatives.

Website – http://cosumnes.waterforum.org

The project website, cosumnes.waterforum.org, is an information repository for the Cosumnes Subbasin groundwater planning process. Background information, meeting materials to date, and a schedule of relevant meeting dates are available on the site. The site also includes a link for interested persons to sign up for regular updates on SGMA-related activities within the subbasin.

Meeting Summaries

The facilitation team will develop a meeting summary following each Working Group and Technical Advisory Committee meeting. These meeting summaries will be reviewed and confirmed by Water Forum and GSA staff before being finalized and posted to the project website. The website contains a publicly accessible archive of all meeting summaries to-date. GSAs and interested parties can share key outcomes with their organizations and interested parties.

Talking Points

The Water Forum will develop and update shared talking points to convey a consistent, unified message across GSAs and throughout the subbasin. Talking points will be organized by category (e.g., governance; public engagement) and drafted with guidance from GSAs.

Public Information Officer

GSAs designated the Water Forum to serve as the Public Information Officer. The Public Information Officer’s role is to serve as spokesperson and primary point of contact for the Working Group. Following initial contact, the Public Information Officer may direct media inquiries to GSAs as appropriate. Working Group members are encouraged to forward any media inquiries to the Water Forum. When talking to the press, Working Group members are asked to represent their own views only.
Communications Committee
At this time the Water Forum, with support from the Consensus Building Institute, will manage and guide stakeholder outreach and engagement, with input and direction from the Working Group. The Working Group may elect to form a focused Communications Committee at a later date.

Informational Materials, Developed at Milestones
Informational materials are critical for successful education and the circulation of consistent, accurate information. The Water Forum and facilitation team will develop a range of materials that are Cosumnes Subbasin-specific as well as capitalize on materials developed by the State of California when available. All materials will be posted to cosumnes.waterforum.org.

Strategic Organizational Briefings
Working Group members and other staff may, as appropriate, conduct briefings for organizations to expand outreach to other interest groups or to inform a broad section of the community that might not otherwise attend a public workshop. These outreach efforts will be discussed and confirmed in advance with the Working Group. Interested organizations are encouraged to contact the Water Forum to arrange a briefing.

Advertising Public Engagement Opportunities
The Water Forum will be working to ensure that its outreach efforts are comprehensive in reaching any and all interested stakeholders. Its outreach approach will be updated as it identifies new and better ways to reach interested parties. Public engagement opportunities may be advertised via:

- **Email blasts to the Interested Parties list** – Interested parties can sign up to receive updates and information about upcoming engagement opportunities via periodic email blasts.
- **One-paragraph update** – Text that Working Group members can incorporate into organizational newsletters, blogs, and Facebook posts to reach interested parties.
- **cosumnes.waterforum.org website** – Date and location of the meetings and public workshops will be highlighted on the cosumnes.waterforum.org homepage.

Additionally, the Water Forum will make use of meeting flyers, press releases and direct mailings to residents to ensure interested parties are kept apprised of recent decisions and upcoming public engagement opportunities.

Interested Parties Required for Consideration and Engagement (CA Water Code sec. 10723.2)
California Water Code requires that GSAs consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, along with an explanation of how their interests will be considered in the development and implementation of a groundwater sustainability plan. GSAs are required to maintain an interested parties list. Interested parties include the following:
• Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including agricultural users (irrigated and range lands) and domestic well owners
• Municipal well operators
• Public water systems
• Local land-use planning agencies
• Environmental users of groundwater
• Surface water users (when there is a connection between surface and groundwater bodies)
• The federal government
• California Native American Tribes
• Disadvantaged communities (including but not limited to those served by private domestic wells or state small systems)
• Entities monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations

Working Group members will also conduct outreach to engage public agencies (including fire departments and Cal Fire), treaty lands, and other interested parties.

Appendix A: Completed Outreach Activities & Meetings
Date, Activity

March 2017: First public workshop
July 2017: Cosumnes Subbasin website launched (cosumnes.waterforum.org); TAC and Working Group meetings open to the public
October 2017: Three public workshops held in Jackson, Wilton, Galt

Appendix B: Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Implementation in the Press
Date, Media

October 25, 2017: Galt Herald article – “Groundwater Workshop Tomorrow”
October 18, 2017: River Valley Time article – “Groundwater Workshop Slated in Wilton on Oct. 24”
Public Workshop: Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin
March 15 – 6:30-8 PM
LOCATION: COMFORT INN & SUITES – 10380 TWIN CITIES ROAD – GALT, CA

AGENDA

6:30 PM Welcome and Meeting Overview
- Workshop Purpose (Water Forum)
- Agenda Review and Workshop Protocols (Consensus Building Institute)
- Greeting from Supervisor Don Nottoli
- Self Introductions (CBI)

6:40 PM Managing Groundwater – Why Care and What’s Required? (Water Forum)
- Brief overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and why we need to pay attention
- Approach to addressing SGMA in the Cosumnes Subbasin
- Questions and Answers on SGMA

7:00 PM Developing a Plan for Unmanaged Areas (Water Forum, CBI, Sacramento County)
- Brief overview of issues (Water Forum)
- Review of CBI assessment (Consensus Building Institute)
- Possible strategies (Sacramento County)
- Participant Feedback

7:50 PM Next Steps

8:00 PM Adjourn
Public Workshop: Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin
October 12, 2017 – 6:30 – 8:00 PM
Amador County Administration Center, Board Chambers
810 Court Street, Jackson, CA

AGENDA

6:30 PM  Welcome and Meeting Overview
• Workshop Purpose (Water Forum)
• Agenda Review and Workshop Protocols (Consensus Building Institute)
• Self-Introductions (CBI)

6:40 PM  Managing Groundwater – Why Care and What’s Required?
• Brief overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and why we need to pay attention

6:50 PM  Addressing SGMA in the Cosumnes Subbasin
• Governance
• Developing and implementing a groundwater sustainability plan in the Cosumnes Subbasin
• Anticipated costs and funding
• Questions and answers on SGMA in the Cosumnes Subbasin

7:15 PM  Near-Term Efforts and Grant Scope
• What information do we need to know to develop an effective and fair groundwater sustainability plan?

7:30 PM  Public Outreach and Engagement Strategies
• How do we ensure interested water users are well informed and their perspectives are meaningfully informing plan development?

7:50 PM  Next Steps

8:00 PM  Adjourn

Upcoming Public Workshops

Mid-County Workshop
October 24, 6:30-8:00
Wilton Community Center
9717 Colony Rd, Wilton

West-County Workshop
October 26, 6:30-8:00
Galt City Council Chambers
380 Civic Drive, Galt
### Public Workshop: Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin

**October 24, 2017 – 6:30 – 8:00 PM**  
Wilton Community Center  
9717 Colony Rd, Wilton, CA

#### AGENDA

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- Agenda Review and Workshop Protocols (Consensus Building Institute)  
- Self-Introductions (CBI) |
| 6:40 PM | Managing Groundwater – Why Care and What’s Required? |  
- Brief overview of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and why we need to pay attention |
| 6:50 PM | Addressing SGMA in the Cosumnes Subbasin          |  
- Governance  
- Developing and implementing a groundwater sustainability plan in the Cosumnes Subbasin  
- Anticipated costs and funding  
- Questions and answers on SGMA in the Cosumnes Subbasin |
| 7:15 PM | Near-Term Efforts and Grant Scope                 |  
- What information do we need to know to develop an effective and fair groundwater sustainability plan? |
| 7:30 PM | Public Outreach and Engagement Strategies         |  
- How do we ensure interested water users are well informed and their perspectives are meaningfully informing plan development? |
| 7:50 PM | Next Steps                                        |                                                                        |
| 8:00 PM | Adjourn                                            |                                                                        |

**Upcoming -- West-County Workshop**  
**October 26, 6:30-8:00**  
Galt City Council Chambers  
380 Civic Drive, Galt
Public Workshop: Managing Groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin  
October 24, 2017 – 6:30 – 8:00 PM  
Galt City Council Chambers  
380 Civic Drive, Galt

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Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in the Cosumnes Subbasin
Shaping Local Control of Groundwater

Effective January 1, 2015, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) establishes a robust framework for the sustainable management of groundwater resources for the first time in California’s history. SGMA’s intent is to achieve sustainable groundwater conditions statewide and to locally manage groundwater basins while minimizing state intervention to only when necessary. The preservation of local management of the region’s groundwater is a fundamental principle for implementing SGMA in the Cosumnes Subbasin.

SGMA recognizes that management is most effective when done at the local level by local agencies with adequate information, tools, resources, and authorities. Your involvement and input is key to ensuring a thoughtful, locally driven plan for the Cosumnes Subbasin.

What is the driver of SGMA?
Groundwater is a critical component of the state’s water supply portfolio. If effectively managed, this resource will help protect communities, farms, and the environment against the impacts of prolonged dry periods and climate change.

There are 515 groundwater basins and subbasins in California. These basins contribute close to 40 percent of California’s annual water supply in an average year. During extensive dry or drought years, groundwater can provide close to 60% of the water supply. Of California’s 515 groundwater basins and subbasins, 127 have been designated by the state as High and Medium priority – meaning they are not considered by the state to be in a sustainable condition. Designated medium-priority, the Cosumnes Subbasin is one of those 127 basins.

What is legally required under SGMA?
After GSA formation, the next step in SGMA implementation is the development of one or more Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) by the subbasin’s GSAs. Developing a GSP will be a significant undertaking that will likely take two to four years.

The heart of every subbasin’s GSP will be a reliable strategy to achieve its self-defined sustainability goal without causing “undesirable results,” which include significant reductions in groundwater levels, storage, quality and groundwater-surface water interaction, or significant land subsidence. The GSP will describe the subbasin’s current groundwater uses and conditions, including groundwater levels, water quality and connections to surface waters. It must also outline a planning and implementation horizon, include monitoring and management of the basin; and strategies to avoid any overdraft. GSPs will not establish or determine groundwater rights. The final step for SGMA is the implementation of the GSP to achieve basin sustainability over a 20-year timeframe, by 2042. Most importantly, the amount of groundwater pumped cannot exceed the amount of water recharged, with conditions measured against a 2015 benchmark.

Who is responsible for SGMA in the Cosumnes Subbasin?
SGMA recognizes that management is most effective when done at the local level by local agencies with adequate information, tools, resources, and authorities. As such, SGMA requires that one or more local agencies implement SGMA at the local level, with the state as a backstop if necessary. These local agencies, called Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs), are responsible for developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2022 and ensuring that groundwater is being managed sustainably by 2042. GSAs are given both the mandate and broad array of tools to regulate groundwater in their basin. Those tools will include the ability to limit extractions and to impose fees related to groundwater use.

Over the next four years, the following seven GSAs will work together as the Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group (“Working Group”) to develop one or more GSPs by Jan 31, 2022. The Working Group is guided by a near-term framework agreement that describes how the GSAs will work together in the next six to twelve months. In autumn 2017, the Working Group will begin to develop a governance agreement that will guide decision-making in 2018 and beyond.

- City of Galt
- Clay Irrigation District
- Galt Irrigation District
- Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
- Sacramento County (representing any uncovered areas)
- Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District
- Amador County Groundwater Authority
Providing Input on Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development

Why Does My Input Matter?
Management and use of groundwater in the Cosumnes Subbasin is fundamental to the region’s well-being. To ensure groundwater is an available resource for decades to come, SGMA is designed to promote local groundwater decision-making and management – everything from defining what constitutes “sustainable” groundwater usage to determining steps local agencies will take to track and, if needed, manage groundwater use. Given the subbasin’s heavy reliance on groundwater, it is important for residents, businesses and interested members of the public to help shape the region’s approach to managing this precious resource and ensure there is balance between long-time supply and use.

If the Cosumnes subbasin fails to meet the requirements of the law, the State of California may intervene to manage the subbasin.

How Can I Get Involved?
• Sign up for the interested parties email list at cosumnes.waterforum.org/get-involved
• Attend a monthly SGMA Working Group or Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. Meetings are open to the public and have periods for public comment.
• Request an organizational briefing from the Water Forum or a GSA.
• Attend a public workshop.

At the Working Group’s direction, the subbasin has hired an independent technical advisory team led by Anona Dutton from EKI Environment and Water. Efforts to implement SGMA are supported by the Sacramento Water Forum, a diverse group of business and agricultural leaders, citizen groups, environmentalists, water managers, and local governments working together to protect the lower American River and the region’s water supply.

Timeline - Learn more at Groundwater.Ca.Gov

June 30, 2017
Form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

2022
Complete Groundwater Sustainability Plans

2042
Achieve Groundwater Sustainability

For More Information: Tom Gohring, Water Forum, tgohring@waterforum.org | cosumnes.waterforum.org
Utilizing social media for public engagement:
Amador County Supervisor Richard Forster provided live Facebook coverage of the October 12 Jackson public workshop. Local residents who were not in attendance responded to his Facebook posts with questions and comments, which the Supervisor in turn shared with those present in the room and to which he responded via Facebook.
Three win Rancho Murieta Country Club Board seats

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

Bill Armstrong, Mike Martel and Elizabeth Meyer became the newest board members after the Rancho Murieta Country Club (RMCC) election results were announced at the annual meeting on Oct. 12.

Sixty-seven percent of voting members also approved a new assessment to help the club pay its bills for the remainder of the year and in 2018.

What wasn’t on the ballot was an urgent request from the board that members prepay their 2018 dues to help the club make it through the winter.

RMCC General Manager Muller and chairmen for the finance, infrastructure, social, golf and greens committees also updated members on club operations and finances for the past year.

The dividing issue for the 11 candidates seeking six seats on the board was whether the club should file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization in an effort to rid itself of a union pension liability. Inability to resolve the club’s unfunded liability of about $3.4 million dollars scuttled the sale of the club to golf industry professional Bob Husband in July.

Past Board President Vince Lepera and other board members contended the club’s only hope for survival is selling to a deep-pocketed investor like Husband who can afford to spend millions to make upgrades and add amenities like a swimming pool to attract younger members and families. Lepera also said that no other interested buyers would touch it until the “union problem” is fixed.

Three candidates for the open seats supported bankruptcy — Martel, Meyer, Dick Brandt, Gerard Ortner, Jon Snyder, Kenneth Johnson, Herman Kramer and Daniel Klafl. They contended that not everything has been tried to stabilize club finances. The eight also

Groundwater workshop slated in Wilton on Oct. 24

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times

A workshop to update River Valley residents about local implementation of the state’s new groundwater law will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. at the Wilton Community Center, 9717 Colony Road.

Two local agencies, the Omoschumne-Hartnell Water District and the Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District, belong to the seven-member Cosumnes Subbasin Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Working Group that must develop one of more groundwater sustainability plans by Jan. 31, 2022.

“The preservation of the local management of the region’s groundwater is a fundamental principle for implementing SGMA in the Cosumnes Subbasin,” according to Tom Gehring, executive director of the California Water Forum.

Gehring said the meeting will address three topics, with time for participants to ask questions and provide input. The first topic is managing groundwater — why care and what is required by state law. Second is developing a groundwater sustainability plan — near-term efforts and grant scope for funding work on the plan. Third is public outreach and engagement strategies.

Gehring said the intent of the groundwater act, which became effective Jan. 1, 2015, is to achieve sustainable groundwater conditions statewide and to locally manage groundwater basins while minimizing state intervention to only when necessary.

The other five members of the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group are Galt Irrigation District, Clay Water District, City of Galt, Amador County Groundwater Management Authority and Sacramento County.

Gehring said sustaining the local subbasin will support agriculture, industry and domestic and public water uses. It also will support important environmental resources such as the Cosumnes River corridor.

“Given the subbasin’s heavy reliance on groundwater, it is important for residents, businesses and interested members of the public to help shape the region’s approach to managing this precious resource and ensure there is balance between long-term supply and use,” Gehring said.

“Public involvement and input is key to ensuring a thoughtful, locally-driven plan for the Cosumnes Subbasin.”

A website, CosumnesWaterForum.org includes up-to-date information for groundwater planning and the opportunity to sign up to receive more information by email.

The Cosumnes Subbasin is inside the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. It is bounded on the south and southwest by the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin and on the north to northwest by the South American Subbasin of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin.
Residents and other water users are invited to a special workshop covering local implementation of California’s new groundwater law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) on this Thursday, Oct. 26 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Galt City Council Chambers, 380 Civic Drive.

The workshop will address several topics and include time for participants to ask questions and provide input. Topics to be discussed will be: Managing groundwater, why care and what’s required by state law; developing a groundwater sustainability plan for the Cosumnes Subbasin; and public outreach and engagement strategies.

SGMA is a package of bills signed into law in 2017. SGMA requires the formation of Groundwater Sustainability Agencies and development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2022.

The GSP must define groundwater conditions within the Cosumnes Subbasin underlying southern Sacramento County, identify the sustainable water yield for the basin and establish an implementation plan to achieve long-term basin sustainability by 2042. This has the potential to affect all groundwater users within the basin; including urban water systems and rural and agricultural properties.

Thursday’s workshop will be to introduce interested parties to the requirements and steps being taken within the Cosumnes Subbasin to meet the SGMA requirements.
Galt meeting explains groundwater law impact

By Herald Staff  Nov 1, 2017

A community meeting on Oct. 26 about implementation of new groundwater law for a local groundwater basin that includes Galt and the surrounding area failed to lure residents who may be impacted by the recently passed sustainability law.

The meeting only had thee members of the general public attend.

It was conducted by Tom Gohring, executive director of the Water Forum, a private and public consortium formed in 2000 to protect Sacramento region water resources.

Gohring had bad news and good news about the 2015 State Groundwater Management Act.

“This law could result in limits in groundwater pumping in this basin or any of 157 basins in California,” Gohring said. “It could result in the state of California, specifically the State Water Resources Control Board, stepping in and becoming the manager of your wells.”

Gohring said that the good news was that the local agencies, including the city of Galt and surrounding water districts, are already taking steps to make sure that the state does not intervene.

“They will be doing everything they can to make sure any decisions about limiting pumping, or fees for pumping, happen here at the local level, at your local district,” Gohring said.
Gohring said the state Water Resources Department established boundaries for the Cosumnes Subbasin. Seven agencies make up the Cosumnes Basin Working Group – the city of Galt, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District, Omochumne-Hartnell, the Galt and Clay irrigation districts, the lower part of Amador County and a small section of unincorporated Sacramento County. All seven met the state law’s requirements to become ground water sustainable agencies (GSAs) by the June 30 deadline.

A large area in the west part of the basin was not included in existing water districts. Sacramento County stepped in to give that area representation as a ground water sustainable agency.

“The next big threshold is this basin needs to create a plan, a groundwater sustainability plan by January 2022,” Gohring said. “Then, whatever your plan says you are going to do, you are required to do it by 2042.”

Gohring showed a slide illustrating Sacramento Valley ground water reserves were dramatically better than Tulare Basin in Kern County where land is sinking and water is contaminated.

“I am confident the basin (Cosumnes Basin) is in good shape, but the plan has to be done,” Gohring responded.

Gohring said the new law requires involvement of three agencies. First is California Department of Resources, which is the measuring stick that renders an opinion about the adequacy of basin plans.

“The agency you most need to be concerned with is the State Water Resources Board. They are the hammer. If certain provisions of the law aren’t met, they can intervene and put a basin on probation.

“Then, there is your local agency. That is where the rubber meets the road. They are folks who get to design what sustainability means for this basin,” Gohring said.

Demonstrating sustainability in the plan will require some very complex science. It also will require considerable cooperation among the seven agencies involved.

“We are trying to use a method called joint fact finding rather than having different entities hire their own experts that argue with each other,” Gohring said. “We are trying to reduce the costs by having this done
in an open and transparent way."

Another challenge for the working group is dealing with an unfunded mandate from the state. Gohring said planning could cost between $2 and $3 million, and the group has already applied for a state grant of up to $1 million.

Gohring showed a pie chart slide that revealed that, even if Cosumnes Basin gets the full grant, it will cover only 37 percent of the cost. The other percentages are: Water Forum, 30; existing state grant, 2 percent; city of Galt, 4; Sacramento County, 18; and the five local agencies, 9.

“What does this 4 percent of $2 to $3 million dollars mean for you,” Gohring asked. “It means your local agency may be able to use their existing funds to pay for it. It may also mean they have to come to you and ask for money.”

Gohring asked Julie Golomb, a member of the Consensus Building Institute who is working with the Water Forum, to explain how residents could get involved. She encouraged audience members to sign up at www.cosumnes.waterforum.org to receive updates. She also noted that everyone who listed their email on the meeting signup sheet would be added to the contact list.

Golomb said all working group meetings are open to the public, with their comments welcome. Upcoming meetings and meeting summaries are posted to the website, and draft documents will be available for public review and comment. Periodic workshops will be held throughout the planning effort.
Website – [cosumnes.waterforum.org](cosumnes.waterforum.org)

Below are screenshots from the Cosumnes Subbasin website.

**SGMA IN THE COSUMNES SUBBASIN**

Under California law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires the Cosumnes Subbasin to form a groundwater sustainability agency or agencies (GSAs) by June 30, 2017, and to have a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) in place by 2022.

The following seven agencies filed with the state to form a GSA within the Cosumnes Subbasin:

- Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (link)
- Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (link)
- Galt Irrigation District (link)
- Clay Water District (link)
- City of Galt (link)
- Amador County Groundwater Management Authority (link)
- Sacramento County (link)

These GSAs are now engaged in a collaborative group, called the Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group, to discuss developing a roadmap for creating a groundwater sustainability plan.

Note: Elk Grove is in the South American Subbasin — not the Cosumnes Subbasin — and Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) is your local groundwater sustainability agency. For more information about SGMA in the South American Subbasin, visit the SCGA website at [www.scgah2o.org](http://www.scgah2o.org).

**STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH + ENGAGEMENT**

The Working Group developed a plan to work closely with affected stakeholders including agriculture, environmental interests, rural residential well owners, tribal interests, and others. The GSAs recognize the importance of engaging stakeholders and the broader public in discussions related to groundwater sustainability plan development and implementation and commit to leading a transparent and inclusive process to foster the consideration of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin. View the Outreach and Public Engagement Plan.

**Phases of GSP Development and Implementation**

- Phase 1: GSA Formation and Coordination
- Phase 2: GSP Preparation and Submission
- Phase 3: GSP Review and Evaluation
- Phase 4: Implementation and Reporting

**Resources**

- Cosumnes Subbasin Fact Sheet (Oct. 2017)
Meetings page

Working Group and Technical Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and include opportunities for public comment.

**Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group**

**About:** Over the next four years, each of the seven GSAs in the subbasin will work together as the Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group (“Working Group”) to develop one or more groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) by Jan 31, 2022. The Working Group is guided by a near-term framework agreement that describes how the GSAs will work together in the next six to twelve months.

The Working Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month.

**Location:** Galt PD Community Room, 455 Industrial Drive, Galt, CA

- Wed., November 15, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Wed., December 20, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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**Technical Advisory Committee**

**About:** The Working Group formed a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), which is tasked with developing recommendations to the Working Group on technical issues related to SGMA implementation. The TAC comprises representatives from the seven GSAs. To inform its discussions, the TAC will periodically arrange for panel discussions on beneficial uses and users of groundwater.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to the Cosumnes SGMA Working Group meets monthly.

**Location:** Galt PD Community Room, 455 Industrial Drive, Galt, CA

There are no currently-scheduled TAC meetings. The TAC will resume meeting in 2018.

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**Working Group Meeting Materials**

View: [Working Group Framework Agreement](#)

- **October 18** - Agenda | Draft Work Plan for GSP Development | Draft Proposal Summary | GSP Work Plan Cost Estimate
- **September 20, 2017** - Agenda | 2020 vs. 2022 TAC discussion summary | Administrative entity matrix | Administrative entity slides
- **August 16, 2017** - Agenda | Summary | EKI Presentation: GSP pros/cons [DRAFT] | Presentation: Prop 1 Administrative Entity
- **July 19, 2017** - Agenda | Summary
- **June 26, 2017** - Agenda | Summary
- **May 17, 2017** - Meeting Materials
- **April 19, 2017** - Meeting Materials
- **March 15, 2017** - Meeting Materials
- **February 15, 2017** - Agenda | Summary

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**Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting Materials**

View: [TAC Terms of Reference](#)

- **October 11, 2017** - Agenda
- **September 13, 2017** - Agenda | Draft Summary | EKI Presentation | DRAFT workplan | Cosumnes timeline through 2022 | EKI subbasin map | Article: Mapping groundwater dependent ecosystems | Presentation - Graham Fogg, UC Water | Presentation - Melinda Frost-Hurzel, Cosumnes Coalition Presentation
- **August 15, 2017** - Agenda | Summary | EKI Team Technical Presentation | Proposed grouping of Prop. 1 project elements
- **June 13, 2017** - Agenda | Summary
- **May 15, 2017** - Agenda | Summary

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**Public Workshops**

**October 2017 Workshops**

In October 2017, the Water Forum and local groundwater agencies held a series of three public workshops across the Cosumnes Subbasin. The workshops offered an opportunity for local residents to learn more about the Cosumnes Subbasin's efforts to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and to share input on how their area can best implement SGMA locally.


- **October 26, 2017** - West-County Workshop (Galt) - Agenda
- **October 24, 2017** - Mid-County Workshop (Wilton) - Agenda | Presentation
Get Involved

Here are some ways you can get involved in SGMA implementation in the Cosumnes Subbasin:

1. Subscribe to our mailing list

   [Form field]

   Subscribe

2. Attend a meeting

   View upcoming meeting schedule.

3. Attend a public workshop (October, 2017)

4. Request a briefing for your organization.

   Submit a message via the contact form.
PRESS RELEASE

Tom Gohring  
916.808.1998  
tgohring@waterforum.org  
cosumnes.waterforum.org  

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 4, 2017

October Workshops Will Update Cosumnes Subbasin Water Users on Local Implementation of Groundwater Act

Sacramento, CA – October workshops in Jackson, Wilton and Galt will update Cosumnes Subbasin residents and water users on local implementation of California’s new groundwater law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The upcoming workshops are scheduled for October 12, 24 and 26 respectively.

Each workshop will address the following topics, with time for participants to ask questions and provide input:

- Managing Groundwater – Why Care and What’s Required by State Law?
- Developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Cosumnes Subbasin: Near-Term Efforts and Grant Scope
- Public Outreach and Engagement Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amador Workshop</th>
<th>Mid-County Workshop</th>
<th>West-County Workshop</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 12, 6:30-8:00 pm</td>
<td>October 24, 6:30-8:00 pm</td>
<td>October 26, 6:30-8:00 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amador County Administration Center - Board Chambers 810 Court Street, Jackson</td>
<td>Wilton Community Center 9717 Colony Rd, Wilton</td>
<td>Galt City Council Chambers 380 Civic Drive, Galt</td>
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ABOUT SGMA LOCALLY

Effective January 1, 2015, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) establishes a robust framework for the sustainable management of groundwater resources for the first time in California’s history. SGMA’s intent is to achieve sustainable groundwater conditions statewide and to locally manage groundwater basins while minimizing state intervention to only when necessary. Over the next four years, the subbasin’s seven groundwater sustainability agencies (GSAs) will work together as the Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group (“Working Group”) to develop one or more groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) by Jan 31, 2022. The preservation of local management of the region’s groundwater is a fundamental principle for implementing SGMA in the Cosumnes Subbasin.
Sustainable conditions will support the Cosumnes Subbasin’s vital agricultural economy, industry, and domestic and public water uses. It also supports important environmental resources like the Cosumnes River corridor. SGMA mandates that all high and medium priority groundwater basins in California must be managed sustainably over a 20-year implementation period. Given the subbasin’s heavy reliance on groundwater, it is important for residents, businesses and interested members of the public to help shape the region’s approach to managing this precious resource and ensure there is balance between long-time supply and use. Cooperation and coordination among agencies, landowners, stakeholders and others concerned with groundwater usage in the subbasin is crucial to successful SGMA implementation and to maintaining local control over the subbasin’s groundwater resources. In order for SGMA implementation to be responsive to local interest, public involvement and input is key to ensuring a thoughtful, locally driven plan for the Cosumnes Subbasin.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

- Visit [cosumnes.waterforum.org/get-involved](http://cosumnes.waterforum.org/get-involved) to sign up for the interested parties email list.
- Attend a monthly SGMA Working Group or Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. Meetings are open to the public and have periods for public comment.
- Request an organizational briefing from the Water Forum or a GSA.
- Attend an October public workshop.

A website, [cosumnes.waterforum.org](http://cosumnes.waterforum.org), includes up-to-date information on groundwater planning in the Cosumnes and the opportunity to sign up to receive more information.

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