

**SACRAMENTO GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Thursday, August 13, 2020; 9:00 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

The Board will discuss all items on this agenda, and may take action on any of those items, including information items and continued items. The Board may also discuss other items that do not appear on this agenda, but will not act on those items unless action is urgent, and a resolution is passed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote declaring that the need for action arose after posting of this agenda.

The public shall have the opportunity to directly address the Board on any item of interest before or during the Board's consideration of that item. Public comment on items within the jurisdiction of the Board is welcomed, subject to reasonable time limitations for each speaker. Public documents relating to any open session item listed on this agenda that are distributed to all or a majority of the members of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours before the meeting are available for public inspection on SGA's website. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you have a disability and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact [cpartridge@rwah2o.org](mailto:cpartridge@rwah2o.org). Requests must be made as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

**Note: Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, and given the state of emergency regarding the threat of COVID-19, the meeting will be held via teleconference.**

We encourage Board members and participants to join the meeting 10 minutes early. Note that we will use GoToMeeting to share slides and other information during the meeting. Use the link below to join GoToMeeting. If you have a microphone that you can use with your computer, it should be possible to both listen to, and participate in, the meeting through GoToMeeting. If you do not have a microphone, or a headset with a microphone, that plugs into your computer via USB port, you will need to call into the conference line to listen and comment, although you still should be able to view the meeting materials on GoToMeeting. Please do not simultaneously use a microphone through GoToMeeting and the telephone conference line. That combination results in audio problems for all participants.

**Meeting Information:**

**SGA Board Meeting  
Thu, Aug 13, 2020 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (PDT)**

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

**<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/540428845>**

You can also dial in using your phone.

**United States: [+1 \(872\) 240-3412](tel:+18722403412)**

Access Code: **540-428-845**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Members of the public who wish to address the Board may do so at this time. Please keep your comments to less than three minutes.

**3. CONSENT CALENDAR**

Minutes of June 11, 2020 meeting

**Action: Approve June 11, 2020 meeting minutes**

**4. COUNTYWIDE BASIN SPECIFIC FEE PROGRAM**

Discussion: Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Jim Peifer, Executive Director

**Action: Direct staff to participate in the development a Countywide Basin Specific Fee Program**

**5. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE**

Information Update: Ryan Ojakian, Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Manager

**6. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

Discussion: Caryl Sheehan, Chair, Brett Ewart, Vice Chair and Jim Peifer, Executive Director

**7. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)-RELATED AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATES**

Information Update: Rob Swartz, Manager of Technical Services

**8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Next SGA Board of Director's Meeting** – October 8, 2020, 9:00 a.m. at the RWA/SGA office, 5620 Birdcage Street, Ste. 110, Citrus Heights, the location is subject to change depending on the COVID-19 emergency

Notification will be emailed when the SGA electronic packet is complete and posted on the SGA website at <http://www.sgah2o.org/meetings/board-meetings/>.

Sacramento Groundwater Authority Board Meeting  
August 13, 2020

**AGENDA ITEM 3: CONSENT CALENDAR**

Minutes of June 11, 2020 meeting

**Action: Approve June 11, 2020 meeting minutes**



## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sheehan called the meeting of the Board of Directors to order at 9:00 a.m. as a teleconference meeting. Individuals in attendance are listed below:

### Board Members

Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District  
Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom  
Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento  
Linda Dorn, County of Sacramento  
Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company  
Brett Gray, Natomas Central Mutual Water Company  
Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta Community Water District  
Bob Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District  
Ted Costa, San Juan Water District  
Mike DeWit, Agriculture

### Staff Members

Jim Peifer, Rob Swartz, Ryan Ojakian, Josette Reina-Luken, Cecilia Partridge, Monica Garcia and Chris Sanders, legal counsel

### Others in Attendance

Robert Reisig, Dave Jones, Jose Ramirez, Bob Wichert, Tim Shaw, Kevin Thomas, Dan York, Alan Driscoll, Greg Zlotnick, Paul Helliker, Alan Vail, Jeff Harris, John Woodling, Cathy Lee, Jafar Faghih, Hilary Strauss, Brian Hensley, David Gordon and Chris Petersen

## 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

## 3. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval of the minutes from the December 12, 2019 and April 9, 2020 Board meetings. It was noted that the April 9, 2020 minutes should reflect Bob Wichert approving the consent calendar for Sacramento Suburban Water District.

Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Harris moved, with a second by Mr. Wichert, to approve the December 12, 2019 and April 9, 2020 SGA Board meeting minutes with the noted amendment. Caryl

Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Linda Dorn, County of Sacramento, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Brett Gray, Natomas Central MWC, Bob Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Ted Costa, San Juan Water District and Mike DeWit, Agriculture voted yes. Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta CWD abstained on the December 12, 2019 minutes and voted yes on the April 9, 2020 minutes. The motion carried by a majority vote of all directors present.

#### **4. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE**

Ryan Ojakian, Legislative/Regulatory Affairs Manager, continues to monitor all bills related to COVID 19 and water issues. All signs are that the state budget will be passed by the deadline. There is an ongoing debate on how to fill the budget gap with the hope of federal funding materializing. At this time both the administration and the legislature continue to fund the Sacramento Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) implementation and SGMA is moving forward. It does not appear that there are any substantive changes to the implementation of SGMA that we can expect coming out of any actions from the water board. The budget situation has significant ramifications for any potential bond. There was an idea that the legislature would pass a climate resilient bond that would have had funding for groundwater related infrastructure. We could see additional action or requirements from a regulatory standpoint with the Governor's Executive Orders. The Governor has expansive authority in an emergency and the COVID 19 situation is considered a state of emergency. Three of the Governor's Executive Orders were included in the packet including orders that prohibit shutting off of water by water agencies and a workers' comp issue for public agencies that states that if an employee contracts COVID 19 while working in an office, then the employer is responsible.

#### **5. SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

Mr. Peifer said that there has been initial discussion regarding Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) interest in having the Regional Water Authority (RWA) provide staffing services for them similar to how RWA provides staffing services to SGA. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was included in the packet for a 3 x 3 ad hoc committee to set up further discussions on this issue. The 3 x 3 committee members would consist of three people from each of the authorities, RWA, SGA and SCGA including the Chair, Vice Chair and one additional representative from the agency. The additional representative can only have membership in one of the three agencies.

Mr. Peifer said that this will be a standing item on the SGA board meeting agendas until we come to a resolution. There will be continuous briefings from the Ad Hoc Committee. There needs to be discussion on the needs of the three organizations on how to best achieve staffing services and understand and represent the interests

of the three agencies. The SGA policies allow the Chair to make the appointments to the ad hoc committee.

Mr. Sanders clarified that the persons appointed to the ad hoc committee, absent an objection from the majority of the board, will continue in their appointed position for the duration of the ad hoc committee. The provision that gives the chair the authority to do this is in SGA Policy 200.1 section 3.06. Ms. Harris requested to be on the ad hoc committee.

Mr. Woodling said that he has recently taken on the role as Interim Executive Director for the SCGA. The premise of the MOU is to begin to discuss a solution for administrative and governance relationships with RWA, working collectively to figure out what will provide additional benefit and value to all the organizations.

Motion/Second Carried (M/S/C) Ms. Harris moved, with a second by Mr. Schubert, to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Development of a Strategy for Shared Operations of the RWA, SGA and SCGA. Caryl Sheehan, Citrus Heights Water District, Marcus Yasutake, City of Folsom, Jeff Harris, City of Sacramento, Linda Dorn, County of Sacramento, Paul Schubert, Golden State Water Company, Brett Gray, Natomas Central MWC, Mary Harris, Rio Linda/Elverta CWD, Bob Wichert, Sacramento Suburban Water District, Ted Costa, San Juan Water District and Mike DeWit, Agriculture voted yes. The motion carried by a unanimous vote of all directors present.

## **6. SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA) – RELATED AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATES**

Mr. Swartz provided information on the progress of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The groundwater model calibration is nearing completion. A couple of areas in the model are proving to be a challenge to match up with the computer data and information we have through real monitoring. Determining the groundwater budget and other information is being discussed so we can continue working on the sustainable management criteria. We have an amendment to the grant agreement with the Department of Water Resources. We are developing a web-based portal to receive public comment on the GSP as draft portions are available which will make the review process more efficient. An analysis is being performed on groundwater dependent ecosystems in areas where we experience shallow groundwater that could support habitat.

The Regional Contamination Issues Committee was established in 2004 through SGA and our groundwater management activity includes representatives from regulators, responsible parties and agencies that have been impacted. Some consultants who have expertise in the region and members of the public are involved with this committee. Mr. Swartz noted that while SGA helped form the committee, it is not a standing committee of the SGA.

Mr. Swartz gave updates on hydrographs as we begin to understand and define the current hydrologic conditions. Staff is developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan as surface water and groundwater are closely related. When we experience dry years, the rule is that we use more groundwater; leaving more surface water in the system to benefit the environment as part of the Water Forum Agreement. He presented a hydrograph that showed our shallow monitoring wells that are along the American River. There is a strong relationship between the flow in the river and the adjacent groundwater basin in the shallow monitoring wells. Staff continues monthly monitoring of the wells. We are likely to see flows in the American River increasing for supply purposes with the Bureau of Reclamation releasing water down river from Folsom Reservoir.

## **7. 2020 GROUNDWATER SUBSTITUTION TRANSFERS**

Mr. Swartz gave an update on groundwater substitution transfers. Included in the packet was a regionally coordinated description of the proposed groundwater substitution transfers for 2020. The 2018 groundwater substitution transfers consisted of agencies exclusively in the SGA area and was helpful in understanding the transfer process, what is required to complete the transfers, and what happens in the basin when we do transfers. In dry conditions when we move to groundwater, it creates opportunities by operating constructively for temporary transfers. The only agencies that can enter directly into contracts for these transfers with the State Department of Water Resources are those that have surface water rights to transfer. We are expanding what was done in 2018 to include additional agencies in the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority area that have taken actions to implement conjunctive use programs.

Mr. Swartz then described some of the participating agencies. Golden State Water Company is proposing to transfer additional surface water by pumping groundwater; taking significant actions to reduce groundwater production from the Cordova Service area. With the completion of the American River Pipeline Project, they are now able to take treated remediated water from Aerojet that is released into the American River and taken off by Carmichael Water District, sent through a water treatment plant then through a pipeline underneath the river to Golden State Water Company. Carmichael Water District will be pumping their own groundwater and freeing up a portion of their surface water. At the same time, Fair Oaks Water District will be pumping from their wells and sending water through to Carmichael Water District which then becomes a supply for Carmichael Water District customers. The City of Sacramento is transferring surface water by increasing overlying groundwater and then sending it to Sacramento Suburban Water District. This becomes a supply for the City's residents that frees up surface water. All the components are an opportunity to see what we can do on the recovery side of a water bank and to have some direct observations through ground monitoring that takes a detailed look at how the basin responds and recovers.

The transfers are judged by SGA based on the Water Accounting Framework that was adopted in 2010 and became active in 2012. Staff will continue to brief the board through the process as data is collected.

## **8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Peifer participated in a Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) meeting to discuss Central Valley project (CVP) Water Transfers. PPIC's goal for the meeting was to learn from CVP stakeholders about their experience with CVP trading and banking approval processes, including the updated 2019 CVP groundwater banking guidelines.

The Water Forum has begun the process of renegotiating the Water Forum Agreement. This is important for the SGA to track because the Water Forum Agreement signed in 2000 had a Groundwater Management Element that may be up for renegotiation. It is possible that the renegotiated agreement will have actions that need to be funded. It is also possible the negotiation outcomes will impact the Groundwater Sustainability Plans that are currently being developed.

The primary negotiating steering committee (NSC) members include Paul Shubert (Golden State Water Company), Dan York (Sacramento Suburban Water District), Darin Reintjes (Placer County Water Agency), Greg Zlotnick (San Juan Water District) and Jim Peifer (RWA) for the water caucus. Public Caucus members include Kerry Schmitz (Sacramento County Water Agency) and Bill Busath (City of Sacramento). Updates are provided periodically to the Water Caucus and Public Caucus meetings. I encourage you or a member of your staff to participate in the Water Caucus meetings.

The initial meeting was held on April 14<sup>th</sup> where the negotiation ground rules, scope of the agreement, and negotiating structure/framework was discussed. The second Negotiating Steering Committee (NSC) meeting was held on May 21<sup>st</sup> when the Public Caucus and Water Caucus discussed its interests and presented revisions to the negotiating framework to the NSC members. The next NSC meeting is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> and is expected the Environmental Caucus will present its interests to the NSC.

## **9. DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**

Chair Sheehan reported David Gordon, the Operations Manager for Citrus Heights Water District, has accepted a new position with the State Water Project Contractors, where he will be doing policy and program management activities.

Mr. Ewart said that the Sacramento City Council will take up the water transfer item at their next meeting.



Mr. Gray said that Natomas Central Mutual Water company is also participating in the groundwater substitution transfers. He is looking forward to getting back to regular meetings, but he complimented everyone on how well the teleconferencing meeting was conducted.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the board, Chair Sheehan adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Josette Reina-Luken, Board Secretary/Treasurer

Sacramento Groundwater Authority Board Meeting  
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#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: COUNTYWIDE BASIN SPECIFIC FEE PROGRAM**

##### **BACKGROUND:**

Groundwater Sustainability Plans for the four subbasins within Sacramento County will need to be submitted to the Department of Water Resources by January 2022 and implemented to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. While the GSPs are still in development and the costs to implement them are still unknown, funding will be needed to implement them.

The Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) is interested in potentially developing a Countywide Basin Specific Fee Program. Kerry Schmitz from the SCWA will be presenting the initial program.

Staff is requesting Board direction to participate in the development of the fees.

##### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Discussion: Kerry Schmitz, Sacramento County Water Agency and Jim Peifer, Executive Director

**Action: Direct staff to participate in the development a Countywide Basin Specific Fee Program**

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## **AGENDA ITEM 5: LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY UPDATE**

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Legislative Session comes to an end on August 31<sup>st</sup>. There are far fewer bills than a typical year that are still moving. The topics that would most effect SGA members that are still live relate to workers composition, small water system consolidation, refinements to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and efforts to fund economic recovery. Additionally, there will be adjustments to the budget passed in June. Of particular interest in budget adjustments is how funding for safe drinking water is addressed with a significant shortfall in its funding source of greenhouse gas reduction funds.

In regulatory actions the Water Board continues work on defining water systems that are “at-risk” of failing to meet drinking water standards. Additionally, the Water Board is taking steps to adjust detection level requirements on perchlorate. The comment period on perchlorate detection level adjustments runs through August 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Information Update: Ryan Ojakian, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Manager

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**AGENDA ITEM 6: SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

**BACKGROUND:**

The Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) is interested in the potential for the Regional Water Authority (RWA) to provide staffing services to the SCGA, similar to how RWA has provided staffing services to the SGA. The SGA, RWA and SCGA are referred to collectively as the “Authorities” in this staff report.

At the June 11<sup>th</sup> SGA board meeting, the SGA Board adopted a Memorandum of Understanding which created a joint committee among the SGA, RWA and SCGA to discuss a proposal for staffing services.

The purpose of this item is to provide the Board updates on the discussions and to receive input from the Board.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Discussion: Caryl Sheehan, Chair, Brett Ewart, Vice Chair and Jim Peifer, Executive Director

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**AGENDA ITEM 7: SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)-  
RELATED AND GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATES**

**BACKGROUND:**

Staff will provide on groundwater -related activities. Topics will include: 1) an update on progress toward SGMA compliance; 2) recent groundwater elevation data; and 3) an update on the 2020 groundwater substitution transfer for the agencies participating within the SGA area.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Information Update: Rob Swartz, Manager of Technical Services

# Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Update

August 13, 2020



## What Do We Have to Do?

- Partner with other GSAs in the basin
- Engage with stakeholders (nasbgroundwater.org)
- Fill data gaps
  - New monitoring wells
  - Collect water quality information
  - Collect surface water data
- Develop tools
  - Regional database system
  - Regional groundwater model
- Prepare a GSP (and then implement it)

**Planning for Continued Sustainable Groundwater**

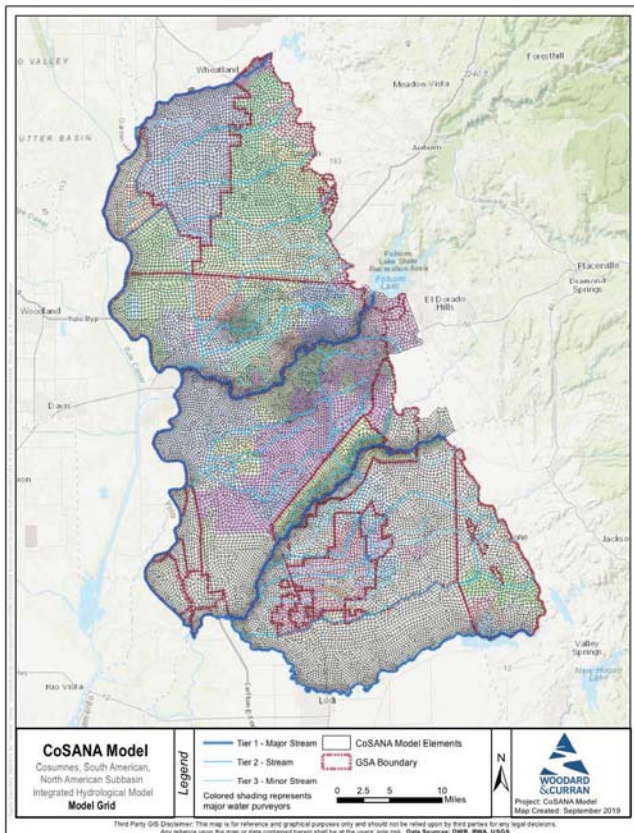
With the passage of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) in 2014, local agencies in California's groundwater basins are required to develop and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). One such basin is the North American Subbasin (NASb) in parts of Sutter, Placer, and Sacramento counties. Fortunately, the NASb was subject to progressive groundwater management by several local agencies prior to SGMA passage, so it is well-positioned to comply with the act.

### Avoid Six Undesirable Results



# Why Model is Essential

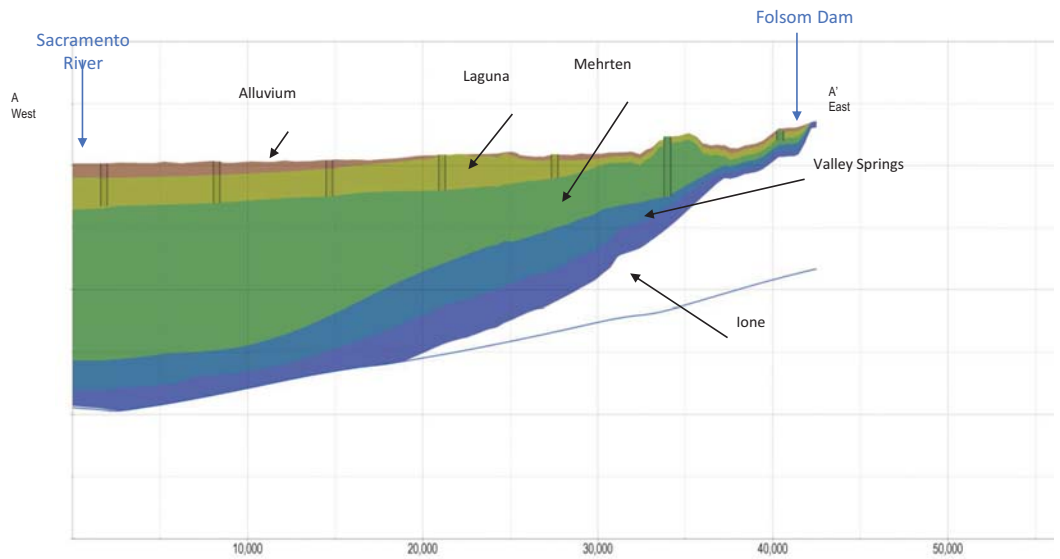
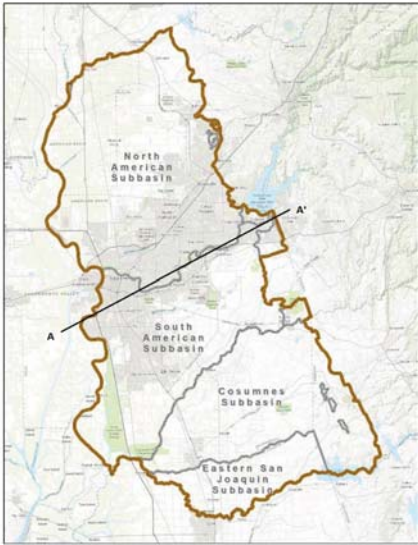
GSP Components	Need for Model
Description of Past and Current Conditions	Used for total water budget and sustainable yield estimates
Projected future (50 years) – Based upon planned development, agricultural projections, and future climate conditions	Used to project if there are water budget deficits in the future
Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC)	Assists developing SMCs for water levels, groundwater in storage, and stream depletion
Description of monitoring network used to evaluate SMC	Can fill in estimates of where data do not exist or identify where future data should be collected
Projects and Management Actions	Evaluate benefits of proposed projects and management actions



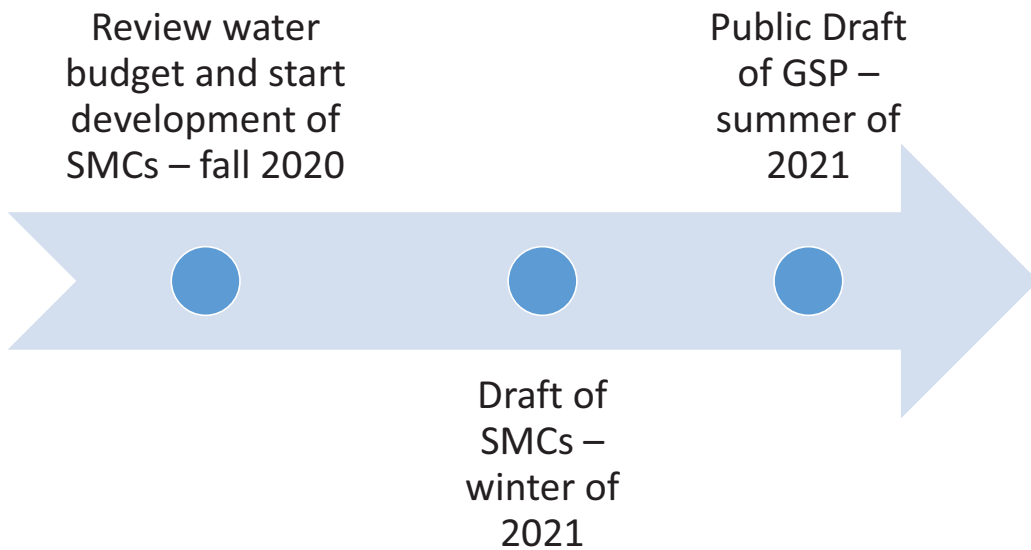
## Regional CoSANA Model Update

- 24,171 elements
- Average element size = 37 acres
- 86 subregions
- 5 layers
- Calibration period 1990-2018
- 563 calibration wells

# Model Layering



## Key Points for Stakeholder Engagement



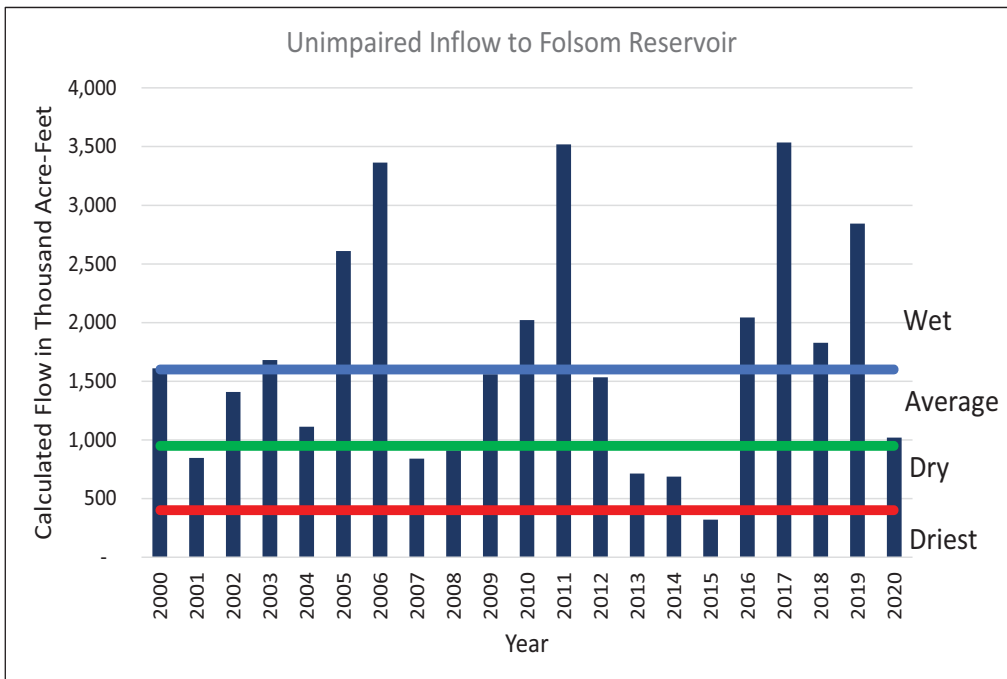


# Groundwater Management Program Update

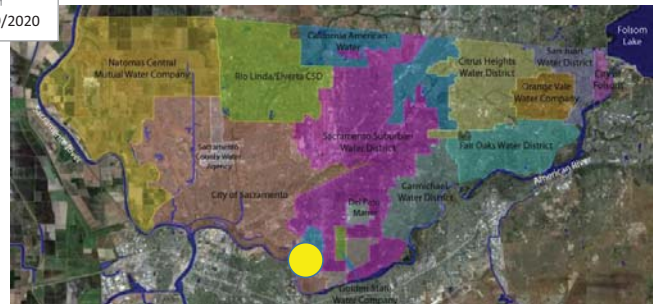
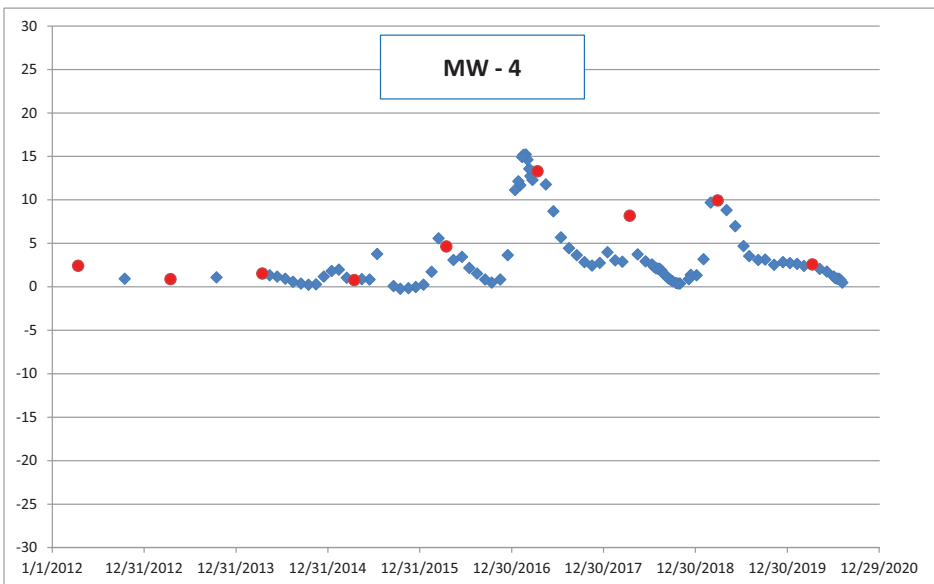
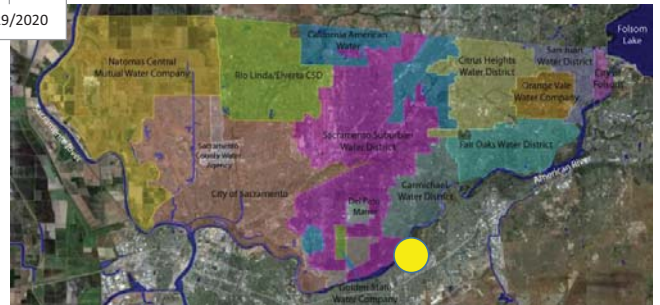
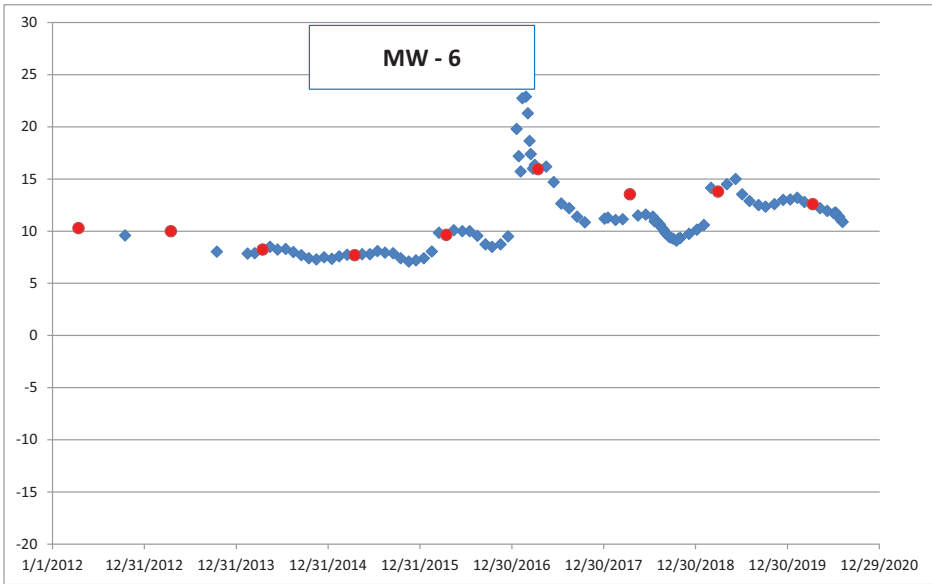
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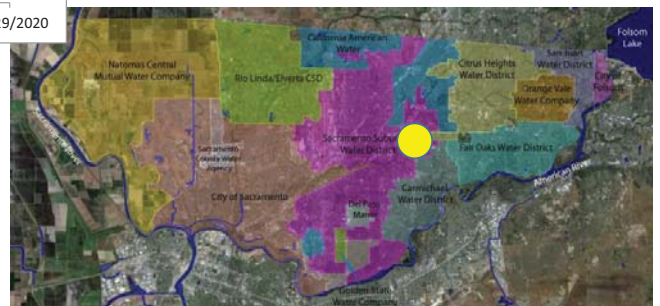
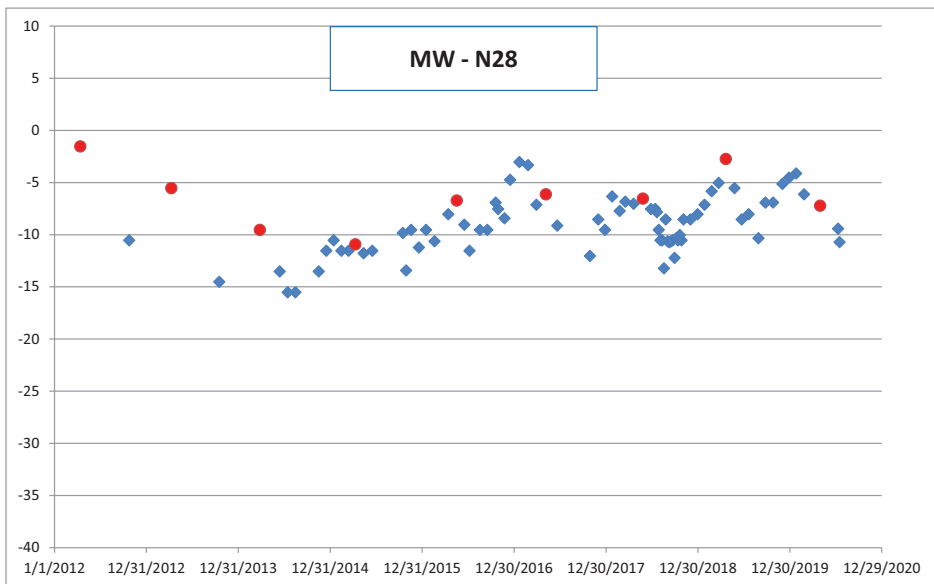
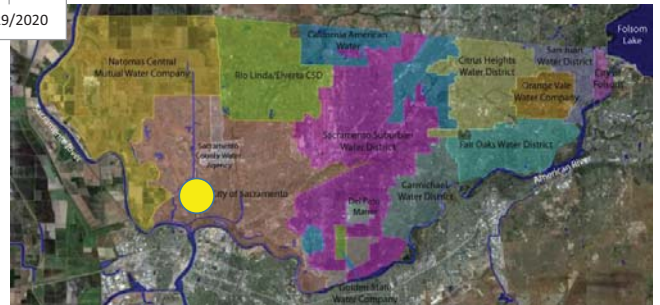
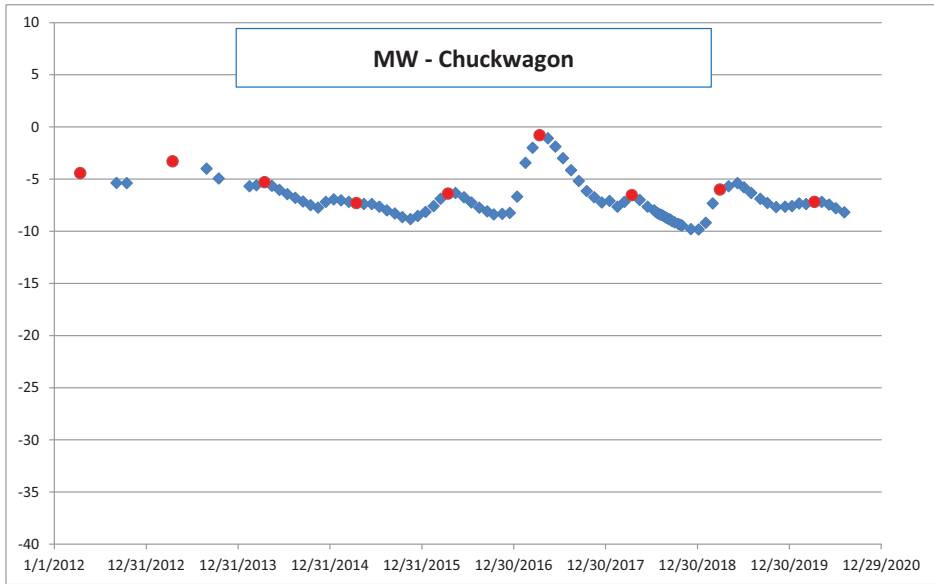


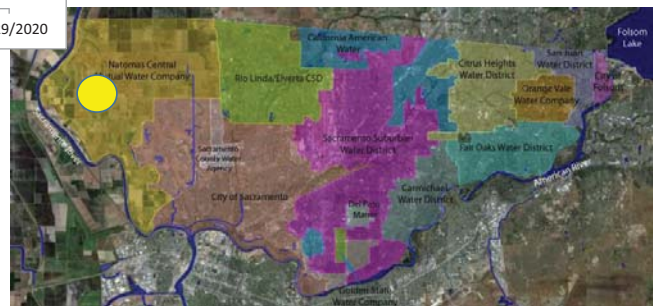
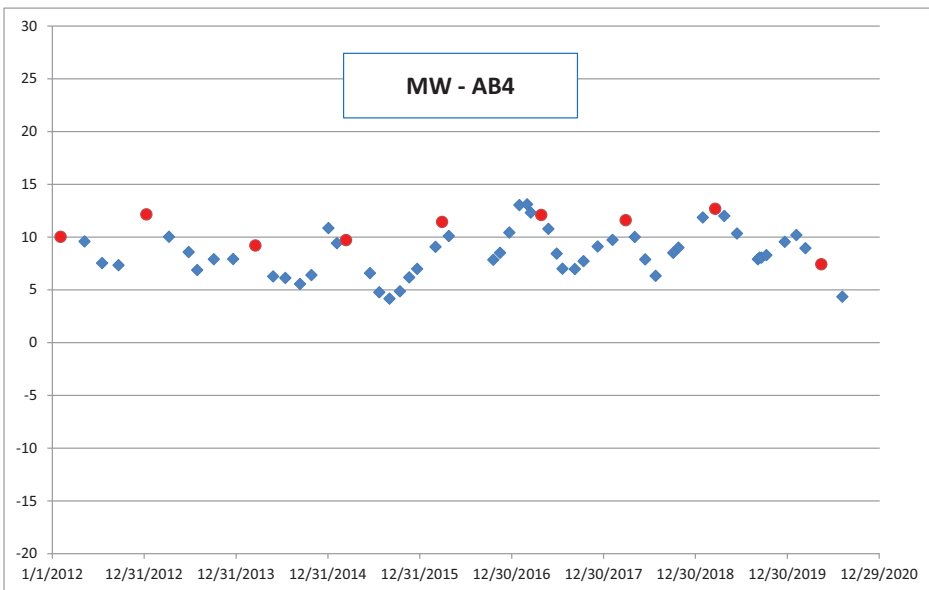
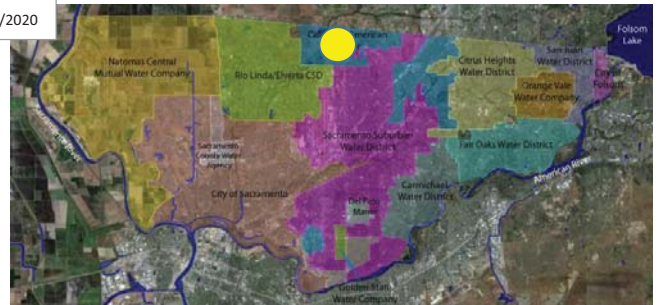
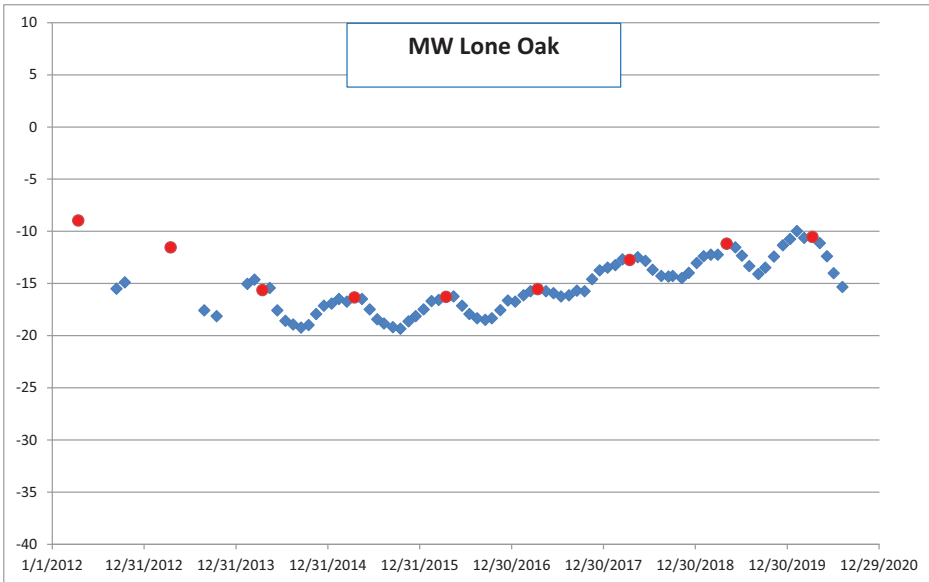
## Hydrologic Conditions



- Data from Department of Water Resources and Water Forum
- 2000 through 2020 average is 1.7 million acre-feet







# 2020 Groundwater Substitution Transfer

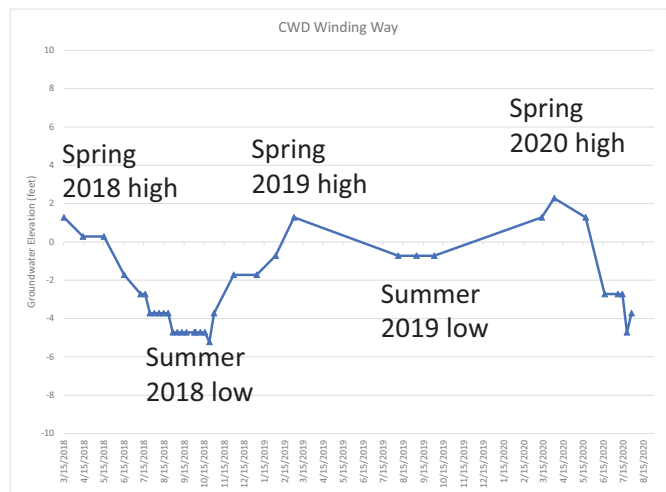
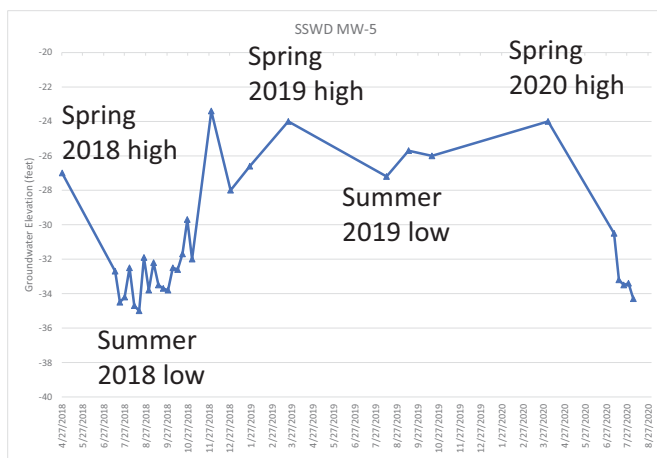


Agency	Base Pumping	Additional Pumping	Total Pumping
Carmichael WD (1)	327	127	454
Fair Oaks WD	118	186	304
City of Sacramento (2)	756	726	1,482
Sac Suburban	918	1367	2,285

(1) Represents July 7 through July 31  
 (2) Represents July 8 through July 31

## Draft July Results in Acre-Feet

# Example Transfer Monitoring Well Hydrographs



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**AGENDA ITEM 8: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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**August 13, 2020**

**TO: SACRAMENTO GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY BOARD**

**FROM: JIM PEIFER**

**RE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- a. Grants Update** – The final awards list for Round 1 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation grants has been released by the Department of Water Resources. The RWA successfully obtained \$7.74 Million in the Sacramento River funding area and \$1.01 Million in the San Joaquin River Funding Area on behalf of our members and RWA programs.
- b. RWA Outreach** – Mr. Peifer participated in the ACWA Groundwater Committee meeting on August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Water Forum Negotiations** – Currently, the Water Forum negotiations are in the educational phase. Presentations have been made on 1) the American River Basin Study which analyzes climate change impacts on water supply, 2) the state of the fisheries, and 3) groundwater. The groundwater presentations included:
  - A presentation on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and its application to the region by Mr. Trevor Joseph.
  - Presentations on the status of the North American, South American and Cosumnes Subbasins and their GSPs, by Mr. Rob Swartz, Mr. John Woodling, and Ms. Linda Dorn, respectively.
  - A presentation on the SGA Water Accounting Framework by Mr. Swartz.
  - A presentation on the Sacramento Regional Water Bank by Mr. Swartz.

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**AGENDA ITEM 9: DIRECTORS' COMMENTS**