

AMADOR COUNTY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Amador County Groundwater Management Authority will hold a Regular Board Meeting at 3:00 P.M. on Monday, August 7, 2017 at Amador Water Agency Board Room, 12800 Ridge Road, Sutter Creek, CA 95685

AMADOR COUNTY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AGENDA

Monday, August 7, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Approval of agenda for this date; items added to the agenda must be approved by the Board pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of June 5, 2017 Regular Meeting minutes.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:** The Board will receive public comments on items not appearing on the agenda and within the subject matter jurisdiction of the AC-GMA. The Board will not enter into a detailed discussion or take any action on any items presented during public comments. Such items may only be referred to staff for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda for discussion. Persons wishing to speak on specific agenda items should do so at the time specified for those items. Please note – there is a three minute time limit per person.
5. **INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**
6. **FINAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT**
 - a. Discussion and possible adoption of Resolution 2017-01 approving the Cosumnes Subbasin Sustainable Groundwater Management Act working group Framework Agreement.
7. **THE COSUMNES SUBBASIN WORKING GROUP:**
 - a. Discussion regarding the Technical Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.
 - b. Update on Working Group activities.
8. **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** This item is to provide Board Members an opportunity to request items to be placed on future agendas.
9. **ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regular Meeting Dates in 2017: October 2 & December 4

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact Melinda Hammond at (209) 274-2037. Requests must be made as early as possible and at least two full business days before the start of the meeting.

AMADOR COUNTY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING

June 5, 2017

3:00 p.m.

Amador Water Agency, 12800 Ridge Road, Sutter Creek, CA

MINUTES

Directors Connie Jess, Richard Forster, and Gary Thomas were present. Staff and alternates present were Frank Axe, Mike Israel, Greg Gillott, Chuck Iley, Ed Gonzalez, Steven Fredrick, Melinda Hammond, Art Toy, Gene Mancebo, and Damon Wyckoff.

Call to Order: Gary Thomas called the Regular Board Meeting of the Amador County Groundwater Management Authority (AC-GMA) to order at 3:00 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: It was moved by Richard Forster, seconded by Connie Jess, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes: It was moved by Richard Forster, seconded by Connie Jess, and unanimously carried to approve the May 1, 2017 minutes.

Public Comment: None

Joint Powers Agreement:

- a. Discussion and possible action regarding the Joint Powers Agreement respecting increasing the voting members from 3 to 6.

Greg Gillott presented an amended and restated Joint Powers Agreement to increase the number of voting board members from 3 to 6. This will allow more board members to attend outside meetings without having a quorum present. Amador Water Agency and Jackson Valley Irrigation District approved the draft amended Agreement; Amador County will present it at their next board meeting.

Motion: It was moved by Connie Jess, seconded by Richard Forster, and unanimously carried to approve the amended and restated Joint Powers Agreement.

The Consumnes Working Group:

- a. Discussion and direction regarding comments to the latest Consumnes Working Group Framework Agreement draft.

Gene Mancebo presented the AC-GMA comments and suggestions to the Working Group. They agreed to some, but not all of the suggestions. He provided an updated draft Framework Agreement with the new text. There were several typographical errors that need

correction. On page 2, paragraph 4 it was suggested that a period be added after the word notice in the third sentence and strike out the rest. The last sentence should read: Financial obligations outlined in the approved budget and incurred prior to notice of withdrawal, if any, are to be honored.

Direction was given to the Executive Director to provide the Working Group with the new suggestions.

Future Agenda Items: None

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m. The next regular meeting will be August 7, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at Amador Water Agency.

Melinda Hammond, Board Clerk

Approved: _____

STAFF REPORT

Adoption of Resolution 2017-01

Approving the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group Framework agreement

Requested Action:

Discussion and adoption of Resolution 2017-01.

Background:

The Amador County Groundwater Management Authority (AC-GMA) has discussed and provided revisions on the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group Framework Agreement for multiple iterations during the past several months. AC-GMA representatives have been engaged in discussions during the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group meetings supporting AC-GMA concerns and philosophies. AC-GMA staff and board members attending the Working Group meetings recommend approval of the framework agreement which is a non-binding, short-term governance agreement (6-12 months) between the 7 GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin. There is no direct financial impact from the agreement; however, the agreement contemplates creating a budget for the period beginning January 2018 in which there can be cost shared amongst the GSAs. This budget would require approval by the GSAs. The AC-GMA would need to develop a budget which would have to be approved by parent agencies before considering such a Working Group budget. The agreement recognizes that the Groundwater Sustainable Plans (GSP) may include distinct management areas for respective jurisdictions. This agreement also recognizes that GSA's have the right to develop multiple coordinated GSPs.

The seven GSAs have worked hard to develop language that all GSAs can live with and staff believes this agreement addresses critical issues raised by AC-GMA members and that it should be approved as presented.

Alternatives:

The Board can choose to not approve the agreement or approve with changes.

Fiscal Impact:

Limited to staff time

Reviewed by Legal Counsel:

At the time of this staff report preparation the final draft is under review by legal counsel.

Recommendation:

Adopt Resolution 2017-01 approving the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group Framework Agreement.

Prepared by: Gene Mancebo, Executive Director

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-01

**OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMADOR COUNTY
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
APPROVING THE COSUMNES SUBBASIN SGMA WORKING GROUP
FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, The State of California established the “Sustainable Groundwater Sustainability Act of 2014” which authorizes local agencies to manage groundwater in a sustainable fashion and;

WHEREAS, where more than one local agency overlies a groundwater basin, the Sustainable groundwater management Act calls on local agencies to cooperate in management of the groundwater basin for the common good and;

WHEREAS, Seven local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies have been meeting to discuss cooperative management of the Cosumnes Groundwater subbasin and;

WHEREAS, these seven Groundwater Sustainability Agencies have worked to develop an Interim Framework Agreement to guide on- going efforts to cooperate in management of the groundwater basin for the common good and;

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2017 the Amador County Groundwater Management Authority met to consider the terms and specifics of this Interim Framework Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Amador County Groundwater Management Authority to:

- 1) Accept and adopt the terms and specifics of the Interim Framework Agreement.

- 2) Work cooperatively with the other signatories to pursue the stated goals of the framework agreement.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Amador County Groundwater Management Authority at a regular meeting held on this August 7, 2017 by the following votes:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:

Signed and approved by me after its passage on this 7th day of August, 2017.

By:

Gary Thomas
President of the Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Melinda Hammond, Board Clerk

**Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group
Proposed Framework Agreement to
Guide Near-Term Working Group Deliberations**

Purpose

The purpose of this Framework Agreement is to outline and confirm the interim process the parties (outlined in the following section) will use to work collaboratively to begin developing a SGMA-compliant Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Cosumnes Subbasin.

This non-binding agreement is intended to guide the parties' deliberations over the next 6-12 months. This agreement can be extended beyond the 12-month period only with unanimous agreement by all parties. Prior to 2022, this agreement is to be replaced by an MOU, MOA, JPA or other vehicle intended to more formally codify governance, funding, outreach and implementation approaches.

This agreement is not effective until endorsed by all parties. The intention is to have a final draft of this framework agreement adopted by all parties' governing bodies prior to or as close to July 1, 2017, as possible.

This agreement may be amended or revised with the agreement of all parties. Parties also have the right to withdraw from this agreement. If any party is considering withdrawing from the agreement, the party is asked to disclose its intent and rationale as soon as possible to the Working Group. Formal intention of withdrawal shall be given with not less than a 30-day advance notice. Financial obligations outlined in the approved budget and incurred prior to the notice to withdrawal, if any, are to be honored.

Overarching Approach

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

The following agencies (referred to as the parties in this agreement) have filed with the state to form a GSA within the Cosumnes Subbasin: Omochumne-Hartnell Water District; Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District; Galt Irrigation District; Clay Irrigation District; City of Galt; Amador County (Groundwater Management Authority); and Sacramento County. Parties to the agreement may change based on pending governance decisions for the currently unmanaged areas within the subbasin.

These parties commit to working cooperatively with the current goal of developing a single, integrated, SGMA-compliant GSP¹ to foster plan effectiveness, coordination and efficiencies.

¹This Framework Agreement has been prepared by the Water Forum and Consensus Building Institute at the direction of the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group. Working Group members are asked to forward this proposed final Framework Agreement to their respective governing bodies for consideration and endorsement no later than August 31, 2017.

However, nothing in this Framework Agreement precludes the GSAs from making a decision to pursue coordinated GSPs (as opposed to a single integrated GSP) to facilitate implementation.

Parties recognize that the GSP may include distinct management areas to foster implementation and monitoring; these zones may or may not track fully with each GSA's respective jurisdiction. Parties further recognize that GSAs have the authority under SGMA to include distinct management areas. The intent is to give each GSA governing body the maximum flexibility to manage groundwater usage within their respective jurisdictions. The exact structure of any management areas will be determined as the GSP is developed. Parties also recognize that the development of a comprehensive GSP for the defined subbasin (i.e., plan area) will require analysis of information and data from a broader geographic study area.

Parties further recognize the importance of engaging stakeholders and the broader public in discussions related to GSP development and implementation and commit to putting in place a transparent and inclusive process to foster the consideration of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin.

Finally, parties will work to identify an entity to take the lead on administrative aspects related to near-term GSP development.

Guiding Principles

Parties agree to the following principles to inform and guide Working Group deliberations, foster constructive discussions, promote a clear and shared set of expectations, and encourage collaboration.

- ***Craft a GSP that respects local jurisdictions while building subbasin-wide approach.*** Parties are committed to working together to develop an integrated and effective GSP, while respecting each GSA's interest and expertise to oversee implementation within its unique jurisdiction or distinct planning areas.
- ***Recognize mutual interdependence.*** Parties recognize the value of all sectors in supporting a vibrant region and will work to foster dialogues that acknowledge and build on this interdependence. This includes building on past work while maintaining a forward-looking dialogue.
- ***Commitment to collaborate.*** All parties agree to work together in a constructive manner to meet SGMA requirements based on a locally driven approach. No one is to benefit at the expense of others, and all parties agree to negotiate in good faith – communicating their interests, honoring commitments and acting consistently across different forums.
- ***Strive for consensus.*** SGMA demands close collaboration and coordination among the GSAs if the subbasin is to develop a credible and effective GSP. To ensure broad support, parties recognize the imperative to reach broad agreement among all parties and will strive for consensus throughout the process.

- **Rely on credible process.** To foster effective dialogues, parties agree to mutually support a transparent and inclusive process where parties: (1) have a voice through balanced representation and effective meeting protocols; (2) commit to rely on credible data and clear criteria to inform decision-making; (3) draw on the advice of a technical advisor(s) selected by the Working Group to support its development of a GSP; and (4) commit to resolve differences but include mechanisms to avoid impasse. Additionally, the convening/facilitation team is to work in service of all parties.
- **Build progress through incremental agreements.** Participants will use preliminary agreements on issues as the basis for progress towards final agreement. The Working Group will revisit preliminary agreements when new information emerges and again when finalizing overall recommendations.
- **Support effective and efficient processes.** Parties are committed to building off existing structures and past work, where practicable, to leverage past investments and make the best use of everyone's time and resources.
- **Accommodate uncertainties.** Parties recognize that actions both within and outside the sub-region may impact GSP development and even affect basin boundaries. Parties agree to work adaptively to track and accommodate for such uncertainties.

Collaborative Protocols

The facilitator/convening team will work with participants to create a problem-solving environment through the following collaborative protocols:

- **Broad participation**
 - Strive to attend meetings consistently; we need everyone at the table
 - Contribute your thoughts, but share time so everyone can participate
 - Seek opportunities to share your perspectives and understand the perspectives of others
 - Listen hard to what others are saying; we need to figure out together what are the better ways forward
- **Honest but respectful engagement**
 - Be as honest, fair and candid as possible (we need to understand what each other is thinking), but engage professionally
 - Respect ideas offered by others; all ideas and points of view have value
 - If you hear something you do not understand, ask questions to clarify
 - If you hear something you do not agree with, help people understand your concerns
 - Avoid personal comments; refrain from characterizing other's remarks
- **Forward-looking dialogue**
 - Creative thinking and problem-solving are essential to success; try to think about problems in a new way
 - Seek to integrate ideas across participants; marry a concern with a solution
 - Focus on issues, not personalities

Near-Term Collaboration Structure

To support effective deliberations that foster informed dialogue and broadly supported actions and ensure constituents are fairly represented, the parties agree to the following near-term collaboration structure:

- The parties will establish a Working Group to guide near-term, collaborative development of the subbasin's GSP. The Working Group will consist of up to 2 representatives from each GSA to foster equal participation among the parties.
- Consistent with the Guiding Principles outlined above, the parties will strive to reach full consensus on all actions under discussion. To that end, each GSA commits to make a genuine effort to achieve consensus. Consensus is the preferred method for reaching agreement; voting is a last resort.
- No action will be taken at any Working Group meeting unless at least 5 of the 7 GSAs are present.
- When full consensus is not possible, fiscal decisions will require a super-majority of the GSAs (at least 5 out of 7) to balance the need for broad support among the parties, fair representation and timely action. Fiscal decisions expected in the next 6-12 months are summarized in the attached document.
- When full consensus is not possible, non-fiscal decisions will require a simple majority of the GSAs (at least 4 out of 7). Non-fiscal decisions expected in the next 6-12 months are summarized in the attached document.
- GSA representatives unable to attend a meeting may vote by proxy; they are, however, encouraged to provide an alternate.
- If and when votes are needed, each GSA will have one vote only to ensure equal voice among the parties.

This agreement is not intended to cover decisions related to GSP implementation (e.g., pumping fees, etc.) as those will not be considered by the Working Group within the 6-12 month horizon of this framework agreement. Rather, those issues are expected to be covered by whatever governance vehicle the GSAs choose to replace this Framework Agreement.

Technical Support

To support well informed decisions, the parties will establish a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to provide input and recommendations to the Working Group on technical aspects of groundwater sustainability plan development and, later on, implementation. The TAC works in service of the Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group. A separate Terms of Reference has been developed for the TAC.

The parties also intend to secure outside technical advisor(s) to support GSP development. Other support (e.g., legal advisors) will be considered and secured, as needed, by the Working Group.

Near-Term Cost Share

The parties to this agreement are developing a near-term budget through December 2017 (see attached) to cover costs associated with developing a grant proposal, hiring a technical advisor and launching initial tasks needed to begin characterizing the subbasin. The Water Forum and Sacramento County collectively anticipate covering these near-term costs. It is the intention of the parties to recognize this contribution as part of the total GSP preparation cost.

Longer-term costs will be identified and approved as part of the GSA's annual budgeting process. It is expected that Proposition 1 grant funding will cover 50% of the total longer-term costs related to plan development. It is anticipated that the Water Forum and Sacramento County will collectively cover at least 40% of these total longer-term costs; Sacramento County staff will recommend to the Board of Supervisors that it pay its share of the 40%. Sacramento County contributions will be made via Zone 13 funds; the precise contribution is to be determined by the Board of Supervisors. It is anticipated that the remaining costs will be split across the other GSAs by a formula to be mutually determined and agreed to. Contributions are both cash and in-kind.

GSP Development

Development of the GSP is beyond the scope of this current Framework Agreement. It is expected that the GSAs will develop a subsequent agreement within the next 6-12 months that will cover the terms of GSP production.

In the near term, GSAs will work together to define the scope of studies or data collection needed to inform GSP development. To the extent practicable, GSAs will include data collection and studies identified by each GSA as necessary to inform GSP development. If there is disagreement on the GSP scope, definition of studies, or data collection that is necessary or possible, the Working Group will seek input from the Independent Technical Advisor to inform its decision-making.

Nothing in this agreement precludes an individual GSA from pursuing its own individual studies at its own cost. The Working Group, with the advice of the Independent Technical Advisor, will jointly determine the extent to which such individual studies are to be used to inform the GSP.

Nothing in the agreement precludes an individual GSA from preparing its own GSP. If a GSA chooses to produce a separate GSP, a Coordination Agreement, per SGMA statute and DWR regulations, shall be developed between the preparers of the separate GSP and the Working Group.

Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement

To foster the consideration of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the subbasin, the parties agree to the following:

FOR DISTRIBUTION TO AND CONFIRMATION WITH COSUMNES SUBBASIN GSA BOARDS

- Parties are committed to an inclusive and transparent process that proactively seeks the engagement and input of potentially impacted parties as identified in SGMA. Parties will work to develop protocols for public engagement, both at public workshops and during regular Working Group meetings.
- Parties will work collectively to develop an agreed-upon outreach plan, but each GSA is responsible for guiding efforts within their respective jurisdictions.
- Parties recognize the value in developing shared messages to ensure consistency; joint participation in outreach efforts is encouraged to foster consistency in message and concretely demonstrate the parties' coordinated effort.
- Parties recognize the need to conduct outreach in the near-term to better understand additional representation needs (e.g., environmental, tribal, riparian water users, overlying water users, etc.) beyond the signatories to this agreement. Parties commit to revisit the near-term collaboration structure, as necessary, to account for public feedback.

Media Contacts

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. Water Forum staff will coordinate with the Working Group to develop any needed "talking points" for media and other interested parties.

Attachment 1 - Near-Term Fiscal and Non-Fiscal Decisions

Below is a listing of the possible near-term fiscal and non-fiscal decisions to be made over the next 6 to 12 months. This list has been developed in consultation with the Working Group and is current as of June 2017. This list will be revisited and updated, as needed,

Fiscal Decisions Expected in the Next 6-12 Months

- Consultant hiring/scope
- 2017 budget (July-December 2017)
- 2018 budget (January-June 2018)
- Prop 1 proposal development
- GSA cost-share arrangements
- Grant applicant/administrator selection

Non-Fiscal Decisions Expected in the Next 6-12 Months

- Outreach efforts/stakeholder involvement
- Basin boundary adjustments
- Basin spokesperson

Long-term governance decisions are not expected within the next 6-12 months. To the extent it should prove timely to make long-term governance decisions within the next 6-12 months, the Working Group will strive for consensus.

Attachment 2 – Near-Term Cost Estimate

<i>Near-Term Cost Estimate</i>					
Task	Staff / Contractor	Funding Type	July - Dec 2017		
			Funder	\$/month	Total \$
Independent technical advisor	TBD	Contract	WF	8,000	48,000
Facilitation support	CBI	Contract	WF	10,000	60,000
Technical and logistical support	WF staff	In-kind	WF	4,000	24,000
Grant writing	WF staff	In-kind	WF	4,000	20,000
Technical resource	GEI/HDR	Contract	Sac. Co.	1,000	6,000
Outreach / Stakeholder Engagement	CBI & Other	Contract	WF	2,000	12,000
Local data collection and analysis	GSA staff	In-kind	GSAs	1,000	6,000
Total					176,000

This Framework Agreement has been prepared by the Water Forum and Consensus Building Institute at the direction of the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group. Working Group members are asked to forward this proposed final Framework Agreement to their respective governing bodies for consideration and endorsement no later than August 31, 2017.

STAFF REPORT

Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group

Technical Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Requested Action:

No action is requested, this item is informational only.

Background:

The Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group (made up of the 7 GSAs in the subbasin) created a technical advisory committee (TAC) to review technical items and make recommendations to the Working Group. The Amador County Groundwater Management Authority (AC-GMA) staff participates in the TAC meetings. The Working Group recently approved the Terms of Reference for the Working Group TAC. These terms are provided for your information. AC-GMA staff participated in the development of this document.

Alternatives:

None, informational only

Fiscal Impact:

No action, Limited to staff time to participate in TAC

Reviewed by Legal Counsel:

No.

Recommendation:

None. Informational only.

Prepared by: Gene Mancebo, Executive Director

FINAL

To: Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group Members
From: CBI and Water Forum Staff
Date: July 20, 2017
Re: Draft Technical Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Attached is the final Technical Advisory Committee Terms of Reference. This document has been revised to incorporate discussions at the July 19, 2017, Working Group meeting.

This document, unanimously endorsed by the Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group, will serve to guide TAC deliberations. It will be updated in the future, as needed, by the Working Group.

Please feel free to share these Terms of Reference as informational items with your respective governing bodies.

Technical Advisory Committee to Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group

Terms of Reference

Revised July 20, 2017

Charge

The purpose of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is to provide input and recommendations to the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group on technical aspects of groundwater sustainability plan development.

The Technical Advisory Committee will review and/or provide recommendations to the Working Group on groundwater-related issues that may relate to the technical aspects of:

Near-Term

- Supporting development of a Prop. 1 application for the Cosumnes Subbasin including:
 - Providing guidance on a draft SOQ/RFP for needed technical support
 - Reviewing SOQ/RFP responses and preparing recommendation for Working Group review and action
 - Working with Water Forum staff to provide necessary oversight and guidance to selected technical consultant; identify issues for discussion with Working Group
- Meeting with TACs from neighboring subbasins to understanding modeling approaches and identify possible opportunities for cross-basin coordination

Longer-Term (up until 2022)

- Development of the GSP(s)
- Sustainability goals and objectives
- Best management practices
- Monitoring programs
- Modeling scenarios
- Inter-basin coordination activities
- General technical advisory

Working Group Oversight

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) works in service of the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group. Accordingly, Water Forum staff will seek Working Group confirmation of Technical Advisory Committee tasks. Similarly, Technical Advisory Committee recommendations will be forwarded to the Working Group for review, revision and confirmation.

Technical Advisory Committee Composition, Staffing and Logistics

The Technical Advisory Committee consists of representatives from each groundwater sustainability agency in the Cosumnes subbasin. The criteria for Technical Advisory Committee members are to:

- Offer relevant technical background and expertise
- Have familiarity with the Cosumnes groundwater subbasin
- Work collaboratively with others
- Commit time needed for ongoing discussions
- Maintain group size to support focused deliberations

Each GSA may name one representative and one alternate. The primary representative is encouraged to attend as frequently as possible to maintain continuity. When unable to attend, the representative is expected to brief the alternate on issues under discussion.

Consistent with best practices, the Water Forum will provide staff to support TAC deliberations and will collaborate with GSA representatives in developing agendas, relevant discussion materials and identifying any outside experts with relevant expertise. These activities are intended to be in service of the full group.

The TAC will meet, as needed, either by phone or in-person. Discussions will be facilitated, as needed.

Technical Support

The TAC will be supported in its work by technical advisor(s) selected by the Working Group to (1) foster joint fact-finding and (2) ensure the TAC, Working Group members and GSAs have the opportunity to consider diverse opinions subbasin-wide, or within their individual GSA(s), and to facilitate the opportunities to contrast and compare differing methodologies. Individual GSAs may opt to bring in consultants, whom they deem relevant, to support their GSA's effective participation; but such experts are not considered members of the TAC and their role should be made explicit. In all cases, members are asked to foster continuity in participation and a collaborative dialogue.

Funding

GSAs are responsible for covering the costs associated with their representative's, alternate's or outside consultant's participation. Any potential cost-shares associated with outside technical consultants will first be discussed with and decided by the Cosumnes Subbasin Working Group.

Timeline

The Technical Advisory Committee is expected to meet during the course of GSP development. Meeting frequency will vary. Water Forum staff will set a meeting schedule well in advance to foster full participation. The role of the TAC during implementation will be determined when the Working Group discusses longer-term planning.

Decision Making

To inform Working Group decision-making, the Technical Advisory Committee will provide written recommendations. The recommendations will identify areas of agreement and disagreement. The Technical Advisory Committee will strive to reach consensus on its

recommendations. The definition of consensus spans the range from strong support to neutrality, to abstention, to “I can live with it.” When unable to reach consensus on recommendations, the Technical Advisory Committee will outline the areas in which it does not agree, providing some explanation to inform Working Group decision-making.

The Technical Advisory Committee may request that one or more members present its recommendations to the Working Group, including areas of agreement and disagreement, consistent with Technical Advisory Committee deliberations. Alternatively, the Technical Advisory Committee may ask Water Forum staff to present to the Working Group.

Whenever the Water Forum Staff prepares “written recommendations” or written reports to the Working Group, the report from the Water Forum will be reviewed and confirmed by TAC members prior to forwarding it to the Working Group. TAC members may include “minority opinions” as attachments to Water Forum reports.

Process & Participation Agreement

Technical Advisory Committee deliberations are grounded in the principles of joint fact-finding, which call on all parties to jointly pool their respective knowledge to foster the deepest possible understanding of issues under discussions. Participants commit to share all relevant expertise and data in support of Technical Advisory Committee work. Consultant assistance acquired by either the Working Group or individual members will recognize the importance of sound, independent technical work and data interpretation.

More broadly, Technical Advisory Committee members commit and agree to abide by the Process and Participation Agreements outlined in the Working Group’s Framework Agreement, unless an exception is specifically set forth in the Framework (or other) Agreement.

Media Communication

The Water Forum will serve as primary contact for the media.

If contacted by the press concerning the discussions, participants are asked to:

- Point out that they are not speaking on behalf of the group
- Present their views only and conscientiously refrain from expressing, characterizing or judging the views of others.
- Avoid using the press as a vehicle for negotiation.

The facilitator will avoid speaking with the media.