A new law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), was passed in 2014 to protect groundwater from depletion and overuse. Under this law, groundwater users in the Cosumnes Subbasin can help shape how this vital resource is used - everything from defining what constitutes sustainable groundwater usage to determining what steps local agencies will take to ensure there is balance between long-term supply and use.

What Does SGMA Require?

Groundwater basins must be managed by Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

- There are seven GSAs in the Cosumnes Subbasin (see map). Together they form the Cosumnes Subbasin SGMA Working Group, which meets monthly to work on the development of a groundwater sustainability plan (GSP).

What is contained in a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)?

A GSP must assess groundwater quantity and determine if there is a balance between water coming in and water leaving the subbasin. If it is determined that groundwater supplies are being depleted over time, the Plan must contain a strategy to reverse this trend and ensure long-term sustainability of the water available to businesses, residences, farms, ranches and ecosystems.

The GSP must also assess groundwater quality, surface water depletion, land subsidence and other sustainability indicators and propose measures to correct any “undesirable results.” In the Cosumnes subbasin, we are just beginning to develop this plan.

- Cosumnes Subasin’s GSP is planned for submittal to CA Dept. of Water Resources by Jan. 2022
Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) | Contact Information
---|---
Amador County Groundwater Authority | Gene Mancebo, gmancebo@amadorwater.org, 209-257-5245
City of Galt | Mark Clarkson, mclarkson@ci.galt.ca.us, 209-366-7260
Clay Water District | Gary Silva Jr., soilstoppers@yahoo.com, 209-481-4407
Galt Irrigation District | Leo VanWarmerdam, leovw1@hotmail.com, 209-914-1140
Omochumne-Hartnell Water District | Mike Wackman, info@ohwd.org, 916-682-5958
Sacramento County | Linda Dorn, dornl@saccounty.net, 916-874-1085
Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District | sloughhouseRCD@gmail.com

The work of the GSAs is coordinated by the Water Forum, an organization formed 25 years ago to mediate regional water issues. The GSAs have retained EKI, a consultant with expertise in groundwater, to assist in developing the GSP. The Water Forum maintains a website, cosumnes.waterforum.org, that contains presentations and information from all Working Group meetings.

How might SGMA affect me?

SGMA divides users into two groups: domestic and agricultural. Domestic users (single well, no crops or large landscapes) are not subject to metering, but may need to participate in GSP implementation efforts. Ag users are unlikely to experience changes if it is determined through the GSP that subbasin groundwater supplies are stable and sustainable in the long-term. However, if it is determined that groundwater is being depleted, projects or management actions will have to be implemented to bring the basin into long-term sustainability. Such actions could include monitoring of groundwater pumping.

How Can I Get More Information?

- **Sign up** for the interested parties email list at cosumnes.waterforum.org/get-involved.
- **Contact** your local GSA, attend their meetings, or request a representative speak to your local group.
- **Attend** a monthly SGMA Working Group meeting. Info on all meetings is posted at the link above.
- **Attend** a public workshop

Attend an Upcoming Public Workshop in Amador, Wilton or Galt:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Amador Public workshop</td>
<td>Wed., Mar. 27, 6:00-7:30 pm</td>
<td>Location: Amador Water Agency, 12800 Ridge Rd, Sutter Creek, CA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilton Public Workshop</td>
<td>Thurs., Mar. 28, 6:00-7:30 pm</td>
<td>Location: Wilton Community Center, 9717 Colony Rd, Wilton, CA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galt Public Workshop</td>
<td>Thurs., April 4, 6:00-7:30 pm</td>
<td>Location: Galt City Council Chambers, 380 Civic Dr., Galt, CA</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more info contact your local GSA rep or John Lowrie at the Water Forum, jmlowrie@waterforum.org cosumnes.waterforum.org