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1 **Section 1: Introduction**

2 In September 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the Sustainable Groundwater
3 Management Act (SGMA), a three-bill legislative package composed of Assembly Bill (AB) 1739
4 (Dickinson), Senate Bill (SB) 1168 (Pavley) and SB 1319 (Pavley), which is codified in Section
5 10720 et seq. of the California Water Code. The legislation provides a framework for long-term
6 sustainable groundwater management across California. The intent of SGMA is to provide local
7 and regional agencies the authority to sustainably manage groundwater resources to help
8 preserve water supplies for existing and potential beneficial uses and to protect communities,
9 farms, and the environment against prolonged dry periods and climate change.

10 The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control
11 Board (State Board) provide primary oversight for implementation of SGMA. DWR adopted
12 regulations that specify the components and evaluation criteria for groundwater sustainability
13 plans, alternatives to Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), and coordination agreements to
14 implement such plans. To satisfy the requirements of SGMA, local agencies must do the
15 following:

- 16 • Locally-controlled and governed Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must be
17 formed for all high- and medium-priority groundwater basins in California.
- 18 • GSAs must develop and implement GSPs or Alternatives to GSPs that define a roadmap
19 for how groundwater basins will reach long-term sustainability.
- 20 • The GSPs must consider six sustainability indicators defined as: groundwater level
21 decline, groundwater storage reduction, seawater intrusion, water quality degradation,
22 land subsidence, and surface-water depletion.
- 23 • GSAs must submit annual reports to DWR each April 1 following adoption of a GSP.
- 24 • Groundwater basins should reach sustainability within 20 years of implementing their
25 GSPs.

26 **1.1 Background**

27 The South American Subbasin (SASb; listed as Groundwater Subbasin 5-21.65 per DWR
28 Bulletin 118, *California's Groundwater*) is a high priority subbasin within the larger Sacramento
29 Valley Groundwater Basin. A majority of the SASb is surrounded by rivers including the
30 American River on the northern boundary, the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers on the south,
31 and the Sacramento River forming the western boundary. The eastern boundary is the only area
32 not bounded by a river, located where the alluvial sediments of the groundwater basin give way
33 to the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The SASb shares boundaries with five adjacent subbasins:
34 the Yolo Subbasin to the northwest, Solano Subbasin to the west, North American Subbasin to
35 the north, and the Eastern San Joaquin and Cosumnes Subbasins to the south.

36 Additional characteristics of the SASb, including a summary of the jurisdictional areas, water
37 resources monitoring and management, land use, and groundwater conditions are presented in
38 Section 2: Plan Area and Basin Setting.

39 In accordance with SGMA, this GSP was developed and will be implemented by GSAs
40 representing the entire South American Subbasin (SASb), shown in **Figure 1-1**: Sacramento
41 Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA), Northern Delta, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District
42 (OHWD), Reclamation District (RD) 551, Sloughhouse Resources Conservation District
43 (SRCD), and Sacramento County. SCGA serves as the fiscal and administering entity that is
44 developing the SASb Groundwater GSP under the guidance of a GSP Working Group
45 (GSPWG). As described in further detail in Section 1.4, the GSPWG is governed by a
46 Memorandum of Understanding adopted by the participating GSAs in May 2020.

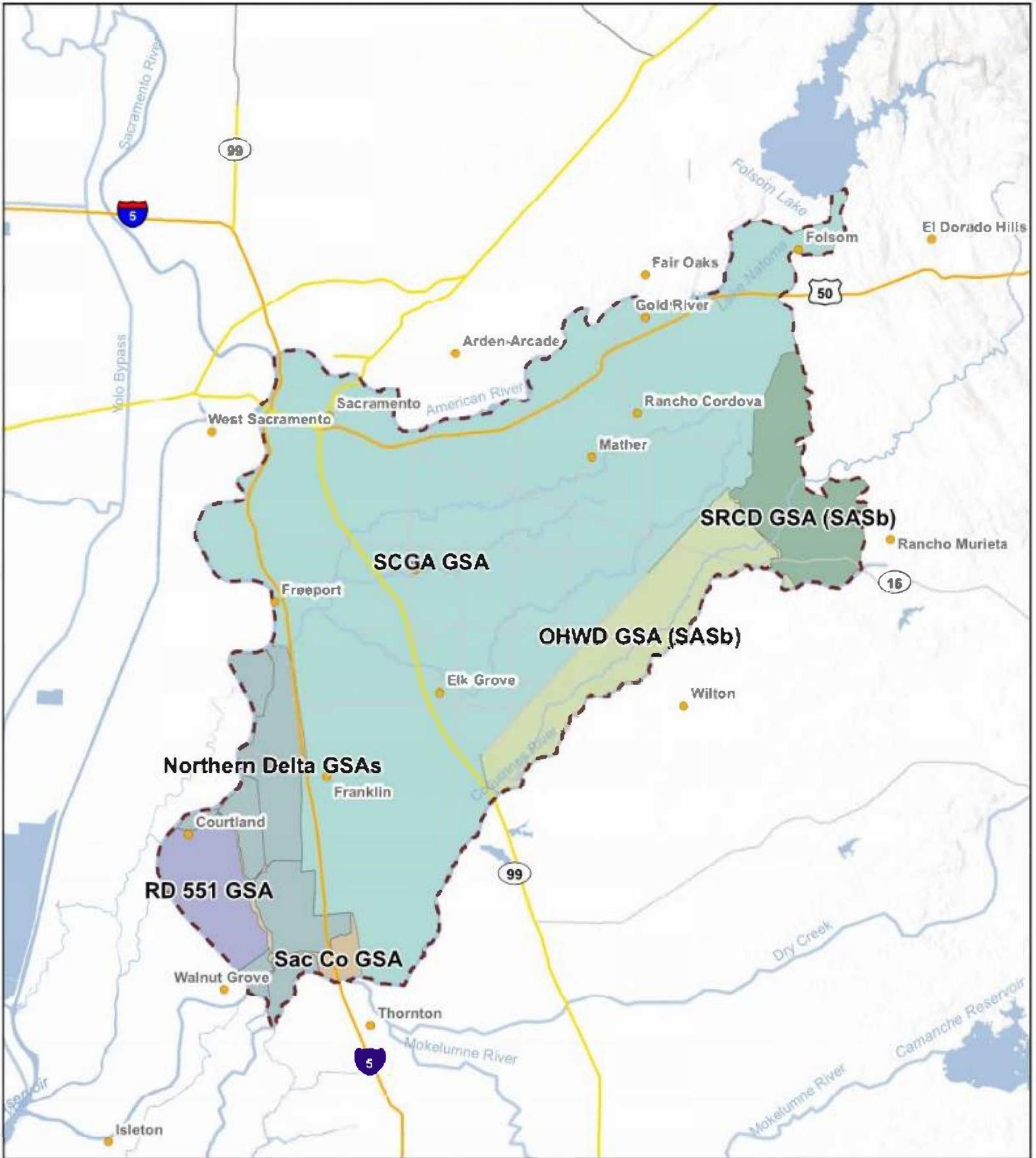
47 **1.1.1 Relationship to Other Planning Activities**

48 **1.1.1.1 Water Forum**

49 The Sacramento Area Water Forum Successor Effort (Water Forum) is an overarching surface
50 water and groundwater planning body that has coordinated water planning in the Sacramento
51 Metropolitan Region since the negotiation of the Water Forum Agreement (WFA), signed in
52 2000 and subsequently updated in 2015. The Water Forum was created in 1993 by
53 stakeholders in the Sacramento Region with goals to provide safe and reliable water supply for
54 the Sacramento Region and preserve the environmental values of the Lower American River.
55 The Water Forum is comprised of a large group of agricultural and business leaders,
56 representatives of citizens' and environmental groups, water managers, and representatives of
57 local governments. From the outset, Water Forum participants recognized that, unless they took
58 action, the Sacramento region faced water shortages, environmental degradation, groundwater
59 contamination, threats to groundwater reliability, and limits to economic prosperity. A major
60 outcome of the Water Forum was the creation of the SCGA and development of the Central
61 Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan (CSCGMP), provided in Appendix A.

62 **1.1.1.2 Groundwater Management Plans**

63 Prior to the passage of SGMA, AB 3030, the Groundwater Management Act under California
64 Water Code Section 10750 *et. sec.*, provided for the preparation of groundwater management
65 plans (GMPs) to promote planned and coordinated monitoring, operation, and administration of
66 groundwater basins with the goal of long-term groundwater resource sustainability. There are
67 two existing GMPs in effect within the boundaries of the SASb: (1) the Zone 40 GMP and (2) the
68 CSCGMP. The Zone 40 GMP was developed first and was meant to serve as a framework for
69 the CSCGMP, which encompasses the former and covers the majority of the SASb. Prior to the
70 implementation of this GSP, the CSCGMP served as the overarching groundwater management
71 document for the region.



South American Subbasin GSP

South American Subbasin GSAs

Legend

- - South American Subbasin
- SCGA GSA
- SRCD GSA (SASb)
- Sac Co GSA
- Northern Delta GSAs
- OHWD GSA (SASb)
- RD 551 GSA



Project #: 0011575.00
Map Created: June 2020

72 SCGA, established as an outcome of the Water Forum, developed the CSCGMP for what was
73 referred to as the Central Basin, which took into account the hydrogeologic boundaries and the
74 political boundaries of organized water purveyors/districts, cities, and the County of
75 Sacramento. The Central Basin is a locally defined subarea of the Sacramento Groundwater
76 Basin that overlaps considerably with the South American Subbasin, as defined by the DWR
77 Bulletin 118-03. The Central Basin does not include the southwestern corner of the South
78 American Subbasin, which lies in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and extends south into the
79 adjacent Cosumnes Subbasin, as well as other minor boundary deviations.

80 The CSCGMP defined five Basin Management Objectives (BMOs) to help ensure viable
81 groundwater resources for beneficial uses. The following list of BMOs serve as a starting point
82 for the development of the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) in this GSP, which are
83 detailed in Section 2:

- 84 • **BMO No. 1:** Maintain the long-term average groundwater extraction rate at or below
85 273,000 acre-feet per year (AF/year), which is equal to the WFA sustainable yield
86 quantity. The WFA sustainable yield was calculated to avoid undue risk to private and
87 public well owners associated with dewatering wells, degrading water quality, creating
88 ground subsidence, and adding cost to pumping groundwater from lower elevations.
- 89 • **BMO No. 2:** Maintain specific groundwater elevations within all areas of the groundwater
90 basin consistent with agreements in the WFA.
- 91 • **BMO No. 3:** Protect against any potential inelastic land surface subsidence by limiting
92 subsidence to no more than 0.007 feet per 1 foot of drawdown in the groundwater basin.
- 93 • **BMO No. 4:** Protect against any adverse impacts to surface water flows in the American,
94 Cosumnes, and Sacramento Rivers.
- 95 • **BMO No. 5:** Attain adopted Water quality objectives.

96 1.1.1.3 Groundwater Modeling

97 This GSP has been developed using the Cosumnes, South American, and North American
98 Subbasins (CoSANA) numerical model. The CoSANA model is intended to effectively represent
99 the relationships between land surface processes, hydrologic cycle (climate, surface,
100 subsurface), geology, and movement of water through the entire system. The Regional Water
101 Authority, GSA representatives, and consultants were involved in the model calibration process
102 to ensure a reasonable water budget for various components of the model. The development,
103 calibration, and results of the CoSANA model are documented in Section 2.2.

104 Prior to the development of the CoSANA model, the Water Forum relied upon the Sacramento
105 Integrated Groundwater Surface Water Model (SacIGSM). The SacIGSM was used in the Water
106 Forum process and took into account the hydrogeologic boundaries and the political boundaries
107 of organized water purveyors/districts, cities, and the County of Sacramento.

108 **1.2 Purpose of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)**

109 The purpose of the GSP is to outline a 20-year plan that meets the requirements of SGMA to
 110 ensure that groundwater will be used sustainably in the SASb and will provide for the protection
 111 of beneficial uses and beneficial users of groundwater in the subbasin. GSPs are required to
 112 describe the groundwater basin conditions and to establish various metrics (minimum
 113 thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones) that ensure sustainable groundwater
 114 management in the basin within 20 years of GSP adoption. The GSP is intended to achieve a
 115 sustainable regime that balances pumping and recharge and considers the needs of all water
 116 users. The GSP needs to consider and demonstrate the applicability of all six sustainability
 117 indicators in the SASb:

- 118 1. Lowering groundwater levels
- 119 2. Reduction in storage
- 120 3. Seawater intrusion
- 121 4. Degraded groundwater quality
- 122 5. Land subsidence
- 123 6. Surface water depletion

124 A significant and unreasonable change in any of the six sustainability indicators constitutes an
 125 Undesirable Result. The GSP establishes locally-derived Sustainable Management Criteria
 126 (SMC) for each of the six sustainability indicators (as applicable) that will achieve the South
 127 American Subbasin's sustainability goal. SMC define undesirable results and are comprised of
 128 minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones for each applicable
 129 sustainability indicator. Monitoring networks will be used to develop, characterize, and inform
 130 performance of sustainability indicators.

131 **1.3 Sustainability Goal**

132 A sustainability goal is a goal for the basin that culminates in the absence of undesirable results
 133 within 20 years of the applicable statutory deadline. The sustainability goal of the GSP is to
 134 ensure a viable groundwater resource for beneficial uses including water for purveyors,
 135 agricultural, domestic, industrial, and municipal supplies, as well as environmental purposes.
 136 The GSP will maintain the Water Forum coequal objectives of providing a reliable and safe
 137 water supply for the region's economic health and preserving the fishery, wildlife, recreational,
 138 and aesthetic values of the Lower American River. The development of the SASb sustainability
 139 goal is discussed in Section 3: Sustainable Management Criteria.

140 **1.4 Agency Information and Management Structure**

141 The six GSAs in the South American Subbasin worked together to meet SGMA requirements
 142 and collaboratively prepare a single GSP to be submitted by January 31, 2022. The SASb
 143 GSPWG was established to provide recommendations related to development of the GSP and
 144 is comprised of representatives from the GSAs within the Subbasin. The GSPWG follows a
 145 consensus-based decision-making structure, where each GSA representative receives an equal
 146 voice. As mentioned previously, the SCGA serves as the fiscal and administering entity that is
 147 working with the Consultant Team to develop the South American Subbasin GSP under the

148 guidance of the GSPWG. Meetings of the GSPWG are open to the public and provide an
149 opportunity for public input throughout the GSP development process.

150 **1.4.1 Agency Information**

151 **1.4.1.1 Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority GSA**

152 SCGA is governed by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the County of Sacramento,
153 and the Cities of Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento. The JPA established a
154 Board of Directors (Board) for SCGA which consists of 14 members. Members of the Board are
155 appointed to 4-year terms. The Board elects a Chair, Vice Chair, and other officers as the Board
156 finds appropriate, to serve a 1-year term. Representation includes a Board member from nine
157 public agencies, two private water purveyors, one representative of agricultural interests, one
158 representative of agriculture-residential groundwater users, one representative of
159 commercial/industrial self-supplied groundwater users, one representative of conservation
160 landowners, and one representative of public agencies that are self-supplied groundwater
161 users. Table 1-1 describes the representative organizations on SCGA’s Board and their
162 respective appointing authorities.

163 **Table 1-1: Representative Organizations on SCGA’s Board of Directors**

Organization	Appointing Authority
City of Elk Grove	City of Elk Grove
City of Folsom	City of Folsom
City of Rancho Cordova	City of Rancho Cordova
City of Sacramento	City of Sacramento
County of Sacramento/ Sacramento County Water Agency	County of Sacramento
Florin Resource Conservation District/ Elk Grove Water District	City of Elk Grove
Agricultural Interests	County of Sacramento
Agricultural-Residential	County of Sacramento
Commercial/Industrial Self-Supplied	County of Sacramento
Conservation Landowners	County of Sacramento
Public Agencies Self-Supplied	County of Sacramento
California-American Water Company	County of Sacramento
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	County of Sacramento
Golden State Water Company	City of Rancho Cordova

164 Each of the above representatives agrees to represent the interests of their respective
165 stakeholder groups on the governing board of the SCGA. This responsibility includes, in part,
166 disclosure of all relevant groundwater information and concerns, implementation of applicable
167 groundwater management objectives, and a robust communication process that allows the
168 board members’ constituencies to fully participate in groundwater management through their
169 representative.

170 The SCGA was established for the purposes of:

- 171 1. Maintaining the long-term sustainable groundwater yield of the Central Basin.

- 172 2. Ensuring implementation of the Basin Management Objectives that are prescribed by the
173 current version of the GMP.
- 174 3. Overseeing the operation of any Well Protection Program that may be prescribed by the
175 GMP.
- 176 4. Managing the use of groundwater in the Central Basin and facilitating implementation of
177 an appropriate conjunctive use program by water purveyors.
- 178 5. Coordinating efforts among those entities represented on the governing body of the Joint
179 Powers Authority to devise and implement strategies to safeguard groundwater quality.
- 180 6. Working collaboratively with other entities, including the Sacramento Groundwater
181 Authority, the Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority and other
182 groundwater management authorities that may be formed in the County of Sacramento
183 and adjacent political jurisdictions, to promote coordination of policies and activities
184 throughout the region.

185 The SCGA elected to become the GSA for its jurisdictional area in *[Month/Year]*. The
186 Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority GSA may be contacted through the following:

187 Name: John Woodling, Interim Executive Director
188 Mailing Address: c/o Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority, 827 7th Street,
189 Sacramento, CA 95814 Website: <https://scgah2o.saccounty.net/pages/default.aspx>
190 Phone: (916) 812-9118
191 Email Address: jwoodling@geiconsultants.com

192 **1.4.1.2 Northern Delta GSA**

193 The Northern Delta GSA (NDGSA) was officially formed in early 2018 for the purpose of acting
194 as the GSA for the northern portions of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The NDGSA
195 was formed by local agencies that have taken responsibility for sustainably managing
196 groundwater resources according to SGMA. The NDGSA was formed through a JPA signed by
197 its member agencies. Although a collection of reclamation districts and other local agencies
198 were responsible for forming the NDGSA, the NDGSA is separate and distinct from those local
199 agencies. The NDGSA focuses solely on groundwater issues and is not involved with levee or
200 land management activities. The NDGSA has also been closely working with several other
201 Partner GSAs.

202 The NDGSA was formed to retain local control over local groundwater resources, ensuring that
203 groundwater management decisions are made by local entities familiar with the area. As such,
204 the NDGSA is comprised of representatives from local agencies, which are themselves made
205 up of local landowners. The goal of the NDGSA is to provide cost-effective, responsive, and
206 collaborative management of groundwater that achieves compliance with SGMA without
207 burdening local interests more than necessary. This concern for local issues drives the
208 NDGSA's decision-making process.

209 Representatives for the member agencies serve on the NDGSA Board of Directors and have
210 the authority to participate in all meetings, bring matters before the Board, and vote on issues

211 impacting the Agency. Table 1-2 describes the representative organizations on NDGSA Board
212 and their respective appointing authorities.

213 **Table 1-2: NDGSA Member Agencies and Board Members**

Member Agency	Board Member
Reclamation District 501 – Ryer Island	Craig Nakahara
Reclamation District 349 – Sutter Island	Richard Elliot Sr.
Reclamation District 1002 – Glannvale	Jeff McCormack
Reclamation District 813 – Ehrheardt Club	Norm Peters
Reclamation District 744 – Scribner District	Russell Van Loben Sels
Reclamation District 2110 – McCormack Williamson	Dewit Zeleke
Reclamation District 369 – Libby McNeil	Clarence Chu
Reclamation District 755 – Randall Island	Doug Hemly
Franklin Drainage District	Richard Elliot Sr.

214 The Northern Delta GSA may be contacted through the following:

215 Name: Erik Ringelberg
216 Mailing Address: c/o The Freshwater Trust, 1717 I Street Suite A, Sacramento, California,
217 95811
218 Website: <https://www.ndgsa.org/>
219 Phone: (916) 668-7345
220 Email Address: NorthernDeltaGSA@gmail.com

221 **1.4.1.3 Omochumne-Hartnell Water District GSA**

222 Omochumne-Hartnell Water District was established in 1953 and has historically purchased and
223 managed supplemental water from the Central Valley Project for the benefit of District
224 agricultural users adjacent to the Cosumnes River and Deer Creek. OHWD is committed to
225 working to develop an effective management strategy that protects its member’s interests,
226 protects local water resources, and meets the future water needs of the region. OHWD has
227 continued to develop and create new projects that will enhance the water supply for its
228 landowners and the region. These projects include conjunctive use projects such as
229 groundwater recharge, Cosumnes River flow augmentation to increase fish flows in the river,
230 and dam improvement projects.

231 The Omochumne-Hartnell Water District may be contacted through the following:

232 Name: Mike Wackman, General Manager
233 Mailing Address: 8698 Elk Grove Blvd., Suite 1-207, Elk Grove, CA 95624
234 Website: <http://www.ohwd.org/>
235 Phone: (916) 682-5958
236 Email Address: info@ohwd.org

237 **1.4.1.4 Reclamation District 551 GSA**

238 The RD 551 is a California Reclamation District formed and operating under the provisions of
239 the Water Code § 50000, et seq. Under this law, the RD 551 provides water delivery, drainage,
240 and water management functions within its service area. Within RD 551's service area are
241 agricultural groundwater users, domestic well owners, municipal well owners (including the
242 Town of Courtland), as well as surface water users. RD 551 has agreed to collaborate with the
243 NDGSA and to be represented by the NDGSA on the GSPWG.

244 Reclamation District 551 may be contacted through the following:

245 Name: Topper Van Loben Sels
246 Mailing Address: PO Box 7, Walnut Grove, CA 95690
247 Phone: (916) 775-1941
248 Email Address: lindatoppervls@gmail.com

249 **1.4.1.5 Sloughhouse Resources Conservation District GSA**

250 Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD) was formed in 1956 by local farmers and
251 ranchers to address local soil conservation issues. Landowners within SRCD boundaries in
252 Southeast Sacramento County are represented by a five-member Board of Directors. Since the
253 formation of SRCD, there have been several historic votes and changes to annex additional
254 lands into the SRCD boundaries.

255 SRCD is a resource conservation district operating under the provisions of Division 9 of the
256 Public Resources Code, section 9000 et seq. with the authority to control runoff, prevent or
257 control soil erosion, develop and distribute water, and improve land capabilities. SRCD is also
258 authorized to form improvement districts to fund and construct flood prevention facilities and
259 facilities for the conservation, development, utilization, drainage disposal, and distribution of
260 water for agricultural purposes.

261 Sloughhouse Resources Conservation District may be contact through the following:

262 Name: Austin Miller, District Manager
263 Mailing Address: 8698 Elk Grove Blvd., Ste. 1-207, Elk Grove, CA 95624
264 Website: <http://sloughhousercd.org/>
265 Phone: (541) 981-3459
266 Email Address: Austin@SloughhouseRCD.org

267 **1.4.1.6 Sacramento County GSA**

268 Sacramento County currently encompasses the entire SASb. Local agency GSAs cover almost
269 all the area within the SASb. Sacramento County has accepted GSA responsibility for those
270 areas in SASb where a local GSA did not take responsibility, known as unmanaged areas.

271 The Sacramento County GSA may be contacted through:

272 Name: Kerry Schmitz, Water Supply Division Chief
273 Mailing Address: 827 7th Street, Room 301, Sacramento, CA, 95814

274 Website: <https://waterresources.saccounty.net/Pages/SGMA.aspx>
275 Phone: (916) 874-4681
276 Email Address: schmitzk@saccounty.net

277 **1.4.2 Management Structure**

278 GSP management is represented by the roles of the SCGA, GSPWG, and GSA Boards.

279 **1.4.2.1 Plan Management and Administration**

280 The SCGA is designated as the Plan Manager and serves as the point of contact with DWR. As
281 the Plan Manager, the SCGA will be responsible for:

- 282 • Being the point of contact for the GSPWG to coordinate with the consultants.
- 283 • Overseeing the consultants per the contract.
- 284 • Ensuring grant obligations are met and reimbursements received.
- 285 • Delivering GSP priorities within the state-mandated GSP schedule.

286 The point of contact for the Plan Manager is:

287 Name: John Woodling, Interim Executive Director
288 Mailing Address: c/o Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority, 827 7th Street,
289 Sacramento, CA 95814
290 Phone: (916) 812-9118
291 Email Address: jwoodling@geiconsultants.com
292

293 **1.4.2.2 GSP Working Group**

294 The GSPWG was formed upon execution of the Memorandum of Understanding Establishing a
295 South American Subbasin SGMA Working Group and Identifying Cost Share Provisions for
296 GSP Development (referred to as “the MOU”), provided as Appendix B. The GSPWG is made
297 up of senior staff and governing board members from each of the SASb GSAs who coordinate
298 planning activities and public outreach. The GSPWG signed a Partnering Commitment
299 (Appendix C) including principles for engagement and operation that are intended to provide a
300 framework of commitments among the members to work collaboratively, efficiently, and with the
301 necessary dedication to promote the development, adoption and submission of a SMGA-
302 compliant GSP by the statutory deadline of January 31, 2022. The Partnering Commitment
303 outlines the core parties and their responsibilities for delivering the SASb GSP.

304 The GSPWG is responsible for:

- 305 • Sharing feedback from their respective GSA related to the GSP development.
- 306 • Making recommendations to their respective GSA regarding the consideration and
307 adoption of the GSP.

- 308 • Providing or ensuring the provision of timely responses and supporting information
309 related to GSP development to the Consultants upon request in order to meet the state-
310 mandated GSP deadline.
- 311 • Performing and supporting appropriate and coordinated outreach to stakeholders within
312 the Subbasin.
- 313 • Ultimately delivering an acceptable GSP to all GSA Boards for adoption.
- 314 As part of their responsibilities to perform and support outreach, the GSPWG members agree
315 that:
- 316 • Parties are committed to an inclusive and transparent process that proactively seeks the
317 engagement and input of potentially impacted parties as identified in SGMA. Parties will
318 work to develop protocols for public engagement, both at public workshops and during
319 regular Working Group meetings.
- 320 • Parties will work collectively to develop an agreed-upon outreach plan, but each GSA is
321 responsible for helping to guide and implement efforts within their respective
322 jurisdictions.
- 323 • Parties recognize the value in developing shared messages to ensure consistency; joint
324 participation in outreach efforts is encouraged to foster consistency in message and
325 concretely demonstrate the parties' coordinated effort.
- 326 • Parties recognize the need to conduct outreach in the near-term to better understand
327 additional representation needs (e.g., environmental, tribal, riparian water users,
328 overlying water users, disadvantaged communities (DACs), etc.) beyond the signatories
329 to this agreement.

330 Membership of the GSPWG consists of the following individuals:

- **Northern Delta GSA – 1 member**
 - Erik Ringelberg
 - Chris Thomas, Alternate
- **Omochumne Hartnell Water District – 2 members**
 - Mike Wackman
 - Mark Stretars
 - Mark Wilson, Alternate
- **Sacramento County – 1 member**
 - Linda Dorn
 - Kerry Schmitz, Alternate
- **Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District – 1 member**
 - Austin Miller
 - Herb Garmes, Alternate
- **Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) – 7 members**
 - Todd Eising
 - Paul Schubert
 - Mark Madison
 - Evan Jacobs
 - Dave Ocenosak
 - Ted Rauh
 - Christine Thompson

331 **1.4.2.3 GSA Boards**

332 The respective GSA's Boards assigned their GSPWG members to work on the ongoing
333 development of the GSP and stakeholder communication and engagement. The GSA Boards
334 are responsible for:

- 335 • Ensuring appropriate communication and engagement is executed per the approved
336 C&E Plan on behalf of their GSA.
- 337 • Accepting interim milestone approvals to meet the mandated schedule for the Final
338 GSP.
- 339 • Being informed about the GSP development by their designated GSPWG Members.
- 340 • Informing their respective GSPWG Members with their insights, perspectives, and
341 opinions.
- 342 • Ultimately adopting an acceptable final GSP to deliver for DWR review by January 2022.

343 As part of developing the GSP, the SASb GSAs will inform and involve stakeholders and
344 Interested Parties within their own jurisdictions through their respective Board meetings and on
345 their individual websites.

346 **1.4.3 Legal Authority**

347 Recognizing that groundwater is most effectively managed at the local level, SGMA empowers
348 local agencies by providing them with the authority to establish GSAs responsible for the
349 development and implementation of a GSP. In accordance with SGMA, six GSAs were formed,
350 and under the MOU, five of six of the GSAs entered into an agreement to develop one GSP for
351 the SASb. RD 551 subsequently entered into an agreement with the NDGSA to be represented
352 in GSP development. Per Section 10723.8(a) of the California Water Code, SCGA, the 17
353 agency members of the NDGSA, OHWD, RD 551, SRCD, and Sacramento County gave notice
354 to DWR of their decision to form GSAs to develop a single GSP for the SASb as described in
355 DWR Bulletin 118, Basin No. 5-21.65.

356 **1.4.4 Estimated Cost of Implementing the GSP and the Approach to**
357 **Meet Costs**

358 The members and contracting entities of the SASb GSPWG have agreed to a cost share
359 methodology for the development of the GSP. The cost estimate and methodology are
360 described in Section 5. Additional information on the costs to implement the GSP are addressed
361 in Section 5.

362 **1.5 Notice and Communication (Reg. § 354.10)**

363 The goal of the communication and engagement efforts is to involve broad and diverse
364 Interested Parties, including stakeholders, the public, and beneficial users of groundwater

365 throughout the GSP development process and ensure Interested Parties' concerns, issues, and
366 aspirations are consistently understood and considered in the GSAs' decision-making process.

367 **1.5.1 Notice**

368 GSP information, meeting schedules, and useful links can be found at the SASb Groundwater
369 Website¹. Anyone may register as an Interested Party to be notified of upcoming events and
370 activities regarding GSP development.

371 The GSP WG holds two types of meetings: 1) regularly scheduled working sessions to focus on
372 the technical content and guidance to consultants working on the GSP and 2) publicly noticed
373 public meetings to allow stakeholders to engage and provide input prior to key GSP milestones
374 throughout the process. As the GSP is developed and implemented, the website will be updated
375 accordingly with new information for public comment.

376 Through the Stakeholder Assessment and interviews with the GSP WG, it was determined that
377 targeted communications would be provided to Spanish speakers. Notices of public hearings
378 are published in a variety of media, including radio and local newspapers, informing the public
379 on meeting information, subject, and how to provide comments prior to decision-making.

380 **1.5.2 Decision-Making Process**

381 A GSP WG, comprised of senior staff and governing board members, was established per the
382 MOU to coordinate day-to-day planning activities and public outreach. This GSP WG includes
383 representatives from five of the six GSAs within the South American Subbasin and follows a
384 consensus-based decision-making structure, where each member receives an equal voice.
385 GSP decision-making and input is represented by the roles of the GSP WG, GSA Boards and
386 Stakeholders.

387 Decision-making during GSP development as well as for final approval must follow a
388 streamlined process. It is the goal of the GSP WG to make decisions through consensus. Each
389 member of the GSP WG commits to make a genuine effort to achieve consensus. In the
390 absence of a consensus, as a last resort, members of the GS WG may be called upon to cast
391 votes. Recommendations of the GSP WG provided to the GSAs shall include a report of the
392 votes cast.

393 **1.5.3 Public Outreach**

394 In Summer of 2020, a Communication and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan) was created for the
395 South American Subbasin GSP. The purpose of the C&E Plan is to assist the GSAs of the
396 South American Subbasin with stakeholder outreach and other related actions as required by
397 SGMA. This C&E Plan, which can be found on the SASb website², serves as a roadmap to
398 meet one of the statutory requirements of SGMA and the GSP Regulations.

¹ www.sasbgroundwater.org

² http://www.sasbgroundwater.org/assets/pdf/SASb_CE_Plan_Draft_Final_20200720-Final.pdf

399 GSP information, meeting schedules, and useful links are provided at the South American
400 Subbasin Groundwater Website. Information presented on the website includes a high-level
401 overview of the GSAs within the South American Subbasin and the MOU to develop one GSP,
402 the requirements of a GSP and draft sections as they are developed, and links to external
403 resources for more information. The South American Subbasin email list sends periodic updates
404 and announcements about the progress of the GSP to its subscribers. The website tracks
405 outreach efforts by the GSAs in its database, storing meeting attendance information, logging
406 targeted outreach, and hosting the Interested Parties list.

407 **1.5.3.1 SASb Beneficial Uses and Users**

408 Groundwater in the SASb serves the needs of cities, farms and businesses and provides high
409 quality drinking water to urban and rural residents, all while helping to sustain vital ecosystems.
410 Beneficial uses of groundwater in the SASb include water for irrigation, agriculture, domestic
411 use, industrial use, municipal use, and water for the protection and enhancement of fish and
412 wildlife. Beneficial uses and users of the SASb have been identified as the following:

- 413 • Agricultural users (farmers, ranchers, dairy professionals)
- 414 • Rural, Ag-Residential and Domestic well owners
- 415 • Municipal well operators
- 416 • Public water systems
- 417 • Local land use planning agencies
- 418 • Environmental users of groundwater
- 419 • Surface water users
- 420 • The federal government (not limited to the military and managers of federal lands)
- 421 • Tribal Governments
- 422 • Disadvantaged communities
- 423 • Entities monitoring or reporting groundwater elevations in the subbasin
- 424 • Holders of overlying groundwater rights
- 425 • Adjacent Subbasins including Yolo, North American, Cosumnes, East San Joaquin and
426 Solano

427 **1.5.3.2 Public Engagement Opportunities**

428 The SASb GSAs are committed to encouraging the active involvement of diverse social,
429 cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin. Each GSA
430 hosts a website, listed in Table 1-3, designed to provide GSA Board Meeting frequency,
431 background information, maps, documents, status updates, useful links, contact information,
432 and a means of communicating between the GSAs and the public. GSP updates will be
433 included as noticed per GSA respective meeting agendas that are published in advance.
434 Meetings providing updates on the SASb GSP development are scheduled on a regular basis to
435 inform the public and Interested Parties and provide opportunities to ask questions and make
436 suggestions. These meetings are posted on the SASb website³ and announced via email.

³ <http://www.sasbgroundwater.org/meetings.html>

437 **Table 1-3: GSA Website and Board Meeting Information**

GSA	Meeting Frequency	Location
County of Sacramento	Meets on various Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the month	Sacramento County Board Chambers 700 H St. Sacramento, CA
Northern Delta	June & December each year	Walnut Grove Library 14177 Market St. Walnut Grove, CA
Omochumne-Hartnell Water District	3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am	Sacramento County Farm Bureau 8970 Elk Grove Blvd. Elk Grove, CA
Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority	2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:00 am	Elk Grove City Council Chambers 8400 Laguna Palms Way Elk Grove, CA
Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District	2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm	Rancho Murieta CSD 15160 Jackson Rd. Rancho Murieta, CA
Reclamation District No. 551	-	-

438 In addition, GSP Staff will be available throughout the GSP development process to
 439 communicate and engage with Interested Parties and the public. Interested Parties can be
 440 involved in GSP development by providing input throughout the process.

441 Other avenues for public engagement include:

- 442 • **Public Meetings:** Four separate public meetings will be scheduled to update the public
 443 on the South American Subbasin GSP. The Public meetings are expected to be held
 444 mid-week and, in the evenings, so the public can more conveniently attend. In addition
 445 to the public, expected attendance includes: GSPWG members, SCGA Staff and
 446 Consultants. Meetings will be widely noticed on the SASb website⁴.

- 447 • **Public Surveys:** Public surveys may be conducted when GSP development requires
 448 specific input from Interested Parties. One SASb Stakeholder Assessment was
 449 conducted in Spring 2020 where beneficial water users were interviewed and many of
 450 their suggestions on C&E were included as part of this C&E Plan.

- 451 • **Mail and Emails:** Postal mail will be utilized to reach areas of the groundwater basin
 452 that may not otherwise be informed of GSP activities. Email blasts (emails to the entire
 453 list of Interested Parties) will be sent when there is significant information to
 454 communicate regarding GSP development.

- 455 • **Public Hearings:** Notices of public hearings are published in a variety of media,
 456 including radio and local newspapers, notifying the public on meeting information,
 457 subject, and how to provide comments prior to decision-making. Public hearings will also
 458 be noticed through the SASb website and media local media contacts. At a minimum, a
 459 Public Hearing will be held when adopting or amending the GSP.

⁴ <http://www.sasbgroundwater.org/meetings.html>

460 **1.6 GSP Organization**

461 The GSP is organized in accordance with the GSP Emergency Regulations and statutory
462 provisions of SGMA. The format of the GSP is similar to the outline provided by DWR's
463 Sustainable Groundwater Management program. A brief summary of each GSP section is
464 provided below.

- 465 • **Executive Summary.** Provides a summary of what is included in the GSP.
- 466 • **Section 1 – Introduction.** The Introduction includes the purpose and administration of
467 the GSP, sustainability goal, agency information, and GSP organization.
- 468 • **Section 2 – Plan Area and Basin Setting.** Plan Area describes the geographic setting,
469 existing water resources planning and programs, relationship of the GSP to other
470 documents within SCGA's boundary, and additional GSP components. The Basin
471 Setting includes a detailed discussion of the hydrogeologic conceptual model used to
472 prepare the GSP; current and historical groundwater conditions; and a discussion of the
473 area groundwater budget.
- 474 • **Section 3 – Sustainable Management Criteria.** Provides SCGA's adopted
475 sustainability goal, addresses the mandated six sustainability indicators that monitor
476 undesirable results; defines the Minimum Thresholds for each undesirable result; and
477 sets Measurable Objectives for the GSP's complete implementation, including Interim
478 Milestones for intermediate plan years. This Section also describes the network of
479 monitoring wells and other facilities adopted by SCGA to measure the GSP's outcomes;
480 assesses the need for improvements to the network to provide fully representative data;
481 and address monitoring protocols and data analysis techniques.
- 482 • **Section 4 – Projects and Management Actions to Achieve Sustainability.** Describes
483 projects and management actions that have been evaluated and will be adopted by
484 GSAs in pursuit of sustainability. Project details include measurable objectives that are
485 expected to benefit from the project or management action, required permits, anticipated
486 benefits, estimated costs, and how the project or management action will be
487 accomplished.
- 488 • **Section 5 – Plan Implementation.** Describes the GSP implementation process,
489 including estimated costs, sources of funding, a preliminary schedule through full
490 implementation, description of the required data management system, methodology for
491 annual reporting, and how progress evaluations will be conducted over time.
- 492 • **Appendices – References and Technical Studies.** Contains the references and
493 sources used to prepare this GSP.

494 **1.6.1 Preparation of the DWR GSP Elements Guide**

495 This GSP was prepared to meet the regulatory requirements established by DWR, as shown in
496 the completed GSP Elements Guide, provided in Appendix D, which is organized according to
497 the California Code of Regulation Sections of the GSP Emergency Regulations.