

## Table of Contents

---

<b>Section 1:</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1-1</b>
1.1	Background.....	1-1
	1.1.1 Relationship to Other Planning Activities.....	1-3
1.2	Purpose of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).....	1-6
1.3	Sustainability Goal .....	1-6
1.4	Agency Information and Management Structure .....	1-6
	1.4.1 Agency Information .....	1-7
	1.4.2 Management Structure.....	1-11
	1.4.3 Legal Authority .....	1-13
	1.4.4 Estimated Cost of Implementing the GSP and the Approach to Meet Costs .....	1-14
1.5	Notice and Communication (Reg. § 354.10).....	1-14
	1.5.1 Notice .....	1-14
	1.5.2 Decision-Making Process.....	1-14
	1.5.3 Public Outreach .....	1-15
1.6	GSP Organization .....	1-19
	1.6.1 Preparation of the DWR GSP Elements Guide .....	1-20

## List of Tables

---

Table 1-1:	Representative Organizations on SCGA’s Board of Directors .....	1-7
Table 1-2:	NDGSA Member Agencies and Board Members.....	1-9
Table 1-3:	GSA Website and Board Meeting Information.....	1-16
Table 1-4:	Outreach Activities .....	1-18

## List of Figures

---

Figure 1-1:	SASb and Neighboring Subbasins .....	1-2
Figure 1-2:	GSAs in the SASb.....	1-4

## **Table of Contents (cont'd)**

---

### **List of Appendices**

---

- 1-A Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan (2006)
- 1-B Memorandum of Understanding Establishing a South American Subbasin SGMA Working Group and Identifying Cost Share Provisions for GSP Development (May 13, 2020)
- 1-C Partnering Commitment + Guiding Principles (May 22, 2020)
- 1-D Communication + Engagement Plan for the South American Subbasin (SASb) Groundwater Sustainability Plan, July 2020
- 1-E Outreach Report (as of 10/21/2021)
- 1-F DWR Groundwater Sustainability Plan Elements Guide
- 1-G Public Comment Log

## Section 1: Introduction

---

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

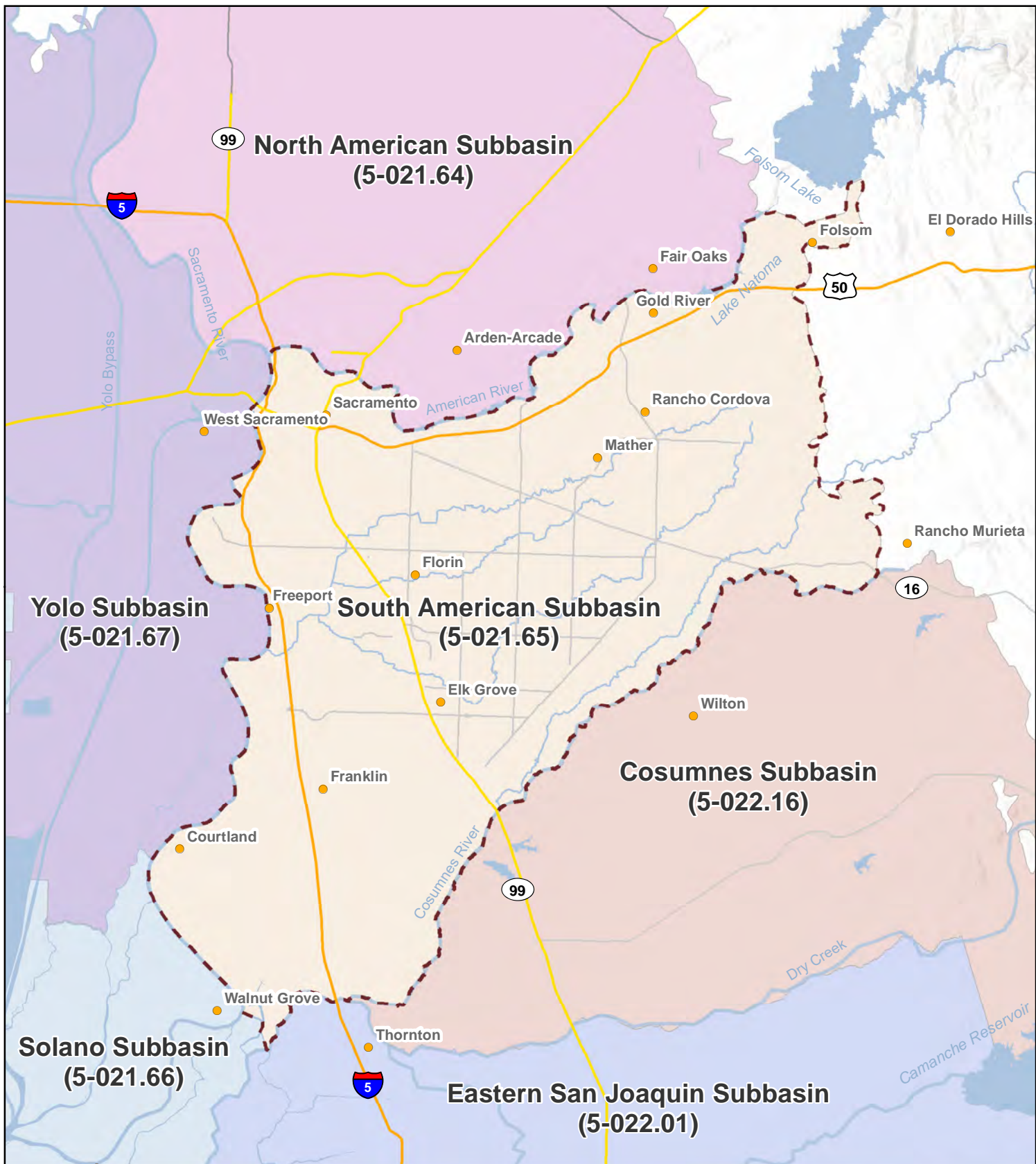
The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) provide primary oversight for implementation of SGMA. DWR adopted regulations that specify the components and evaluation criteria for groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs), and coordination agreements to implement such plans. SGMA requires the following:

- Locally-controlled and governed Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must be formed for all high- and medium-priority groundwater basins in California.
- GSAs must develop and implement a GSP(s) or an Alternative to a GSP that defines a roadmap for how groundwater basins will reach long-term sustainability.
- The GSPs must consider six sustainability indicators: groundwater level decline, groundwater storage reduction, seawater intrusion, water quality degradation, land subsidence, and surface-water depletion.
- GSAs must submit annual reports to DWR each April 1 following adoption of a GSP for the preceding water year (October 1 to September 30).
- GSAs must evaluate their GSPs and progress to sustainability every 5 years.
- Groundwater basins must reach sustainability within 20 years of implementing their GSP(s).

### 1.1 Background

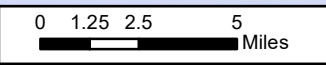
The South American Subbasin (SASb; listed as Groundwater Subbasin 5-21.65 per DWR Bulletin 118, *California's Groundwater*) is a high priority subbasin within the larger Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin. A majority of the SASb is surrounded by rivers including the American River on the northern boundary, the Cosumnes and Mokelumne Rivers on the south, and the Sacramento River forming the western boundary. The eastern boundary is located at the transition between the alluvial sediments of the groundwater basin and the bedrock of the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. As shown in **Figure 1-1**, the SASb shares boundaries with five adjacent subbasins: the Yolo Subbasin to the northwest, Solano Subbasin to the southwest, North American Subbasin to the north, and the Eastern San Joaquin and Cosumnes Subbasins to the south.

Figure Exported: 12/14/2020 By: videanda Using: \\woodandcurran.net\shared\Projects\MC\SAC\0509 Sac Central Groundwater Authority\0011575.00-SC.GA.GSP.G - GIS12.MXD12.Figure 2-2.Neighboring Groundwater Basins.mxd



**South American Subbasin GSP**  
**SASb and Neighboring Groundwater Subbasins**  
**Figure 1-1**

<b>Legend</b>	South American Subbasin	Solano
	Cosumnes	South American
	Eastern San Joaquin	Yolo
	North American	



N

**South American SUBBASIN**

Map Created: June 2020

Third Party GIS Disclaimer: This map is for reference and graphical purposes only and should not be relied upon by third parties for any legal decisions. Any reliance upon the map or data contained herein shall be at the users' sole risk.

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

In accordance with SGMA, this GSP was developed and will be implemented by the GSAs representing the entire South American Subbasin (SASb), as shown in **Figure 1-2**: Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA), Northern Delta GSA (NDGSA), Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD), Reclamation District (RD) 551, Sloughhouse Resources Conservation District (SRCD), and Sacramento County. SCGA served as the fiscal and administering entity for the development of the SASb GSP under the guidance of a GSP Working Group (GSPWG). RD 551 agreed to be represented by NDGSA in the development of the GSP. As described in further detail in **Section 1.4**, the GSPWG is governed by a Memorandum of Understanding adopted by participating GSAs in May 2020.

### **1.1.1 Relationship to Other Planning Activities**

#### **1.1.1.1 Water Forum**

The Sacramento Area Water Forum Successor Effort (Water Forum) is an overarching surface water and groundwater planning body that has coordinated water planning in the Sacramento Metropolitan Region since the negotiation of the Water Forum Agreement (WFA), signed in 2000 and subsequently updated in 2015. The Water Forum was created in 1993 by stakeholders in the Sacramento Region with goals to provide safe and reliable water supply for the Sacramento Region and preserve the environmental values of the Lower American River. The Water Forum is comprised of a large group of agricultural and business leaders, representatives of citizens' and environmental groups, water managers, and representatives of local governments. From the outset, Water Forum participants recognized that, unless they took action, the Sacramento region faced water shortages, environmental degradation, groundwater contamination, threats to groundwater reliability, and limits to economic prosperity. A major outcome of the Water Forum was the creation of the SCGA and development of the Central Sacramento County Groundwater Management Plan (CSCGMP), provided in **Appendix 1-A**.

#### **1.1.1.2 Groundwater Management Plans**

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

Figure Exported: 10/14/2021 10:41:00 AM By: ceggie@dot.ca.gov Using: \\woodardcurran.net\share\Projects\PMCS\0509\_Sac\_Central\_Groundwater\_Authority\0011575.00-SCGA\_GSP\G. GIS12\_MXD12-3\_South American Subbasin GSAs.mxd



## South American Subbasin GSP

### South American Subbasin GSAs

Figure 1-2

#### Legend

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

0 1.25 2.5 5 Miles



South American  
**SUBBASIN**

Project #: 0011575.00  
Map Created: June 2020

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

The CSCGMP defined five Basin Management Objectives (BMOs) to help ensure viable groundwater resources for beneficial uses. The BMOs served as important information for the development of the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) in this GSP, which are detailed in **Section 3: Sustainable Management Criteria**. The five BMOs established by the CSCGMP are:

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

### 1.1.1.3 Groundwater Modeling

This GSP was developed using a numerical groundwater model developed for the Cosumnes, South American, and North American Subbasins (the CoSANA model). The CoSANA model is intended to effectively represent the relationships between land surface processes, hydrologic cycle (climate, surface, subsurface), geology, and movement of water through the entire system. The Regional Water Authority, GSA representatives, and consultants were involved in the model calibration process using available empirical data to ensure a reasonable water budget for various components of the model. The development, calibration, and results of the CoSANA model are documented in **Section 2.2, Section 3, Section 4 and Appendix 2-B**.

Prior to the development of the CoSANA model, the Water Forum relied upon the Sacramento Integrated Groundwater Surface Water Model (SaciGSM). The SaciGSM was used in the Water Forum process and accounted for the hydrogeologic boundaries and the political boundaries of organized water purveyors/districts, cities, and the County of Sacramento.

## 1.2 Purpose of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

The purpose of the GSP is to satisfy the requirements of SGMA to ensure that groundwater will be used sustainably in the SASb and will provide for the protection of beneficial uses and beneficial users of groundwater in the subbasin. GSPs are required to describe the groundwater basin conditions and to establish various metrics that ensure sustainable groundwater management in the basin within 20 years of GSP adoption. The GSP is intended to achieve a sustainable regime that balances pumping and recharge and considers the needs of all water users. The GSP needs to consider and demonstrate the applicability of six SGMA-prescribed sustainability indicators in the SASb:

1. Lowering groundwater levels
2. Reduction in storage
3. Seawater intrusion
4. Degraded groundwater quality
5. Land subsidence
6. Surface water depletion

A significant and unreasonable change in any of the six sustainability indicators constitutes an Undesirable Result. This GSP establishes locally-derived Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for each of the applicable sustainability indicators that will achieve the SASb sustainability goal. SMCs are comprised of minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones for each monitoring point for each applicable sustainability indicator. Monitoring networks have been established to characterize and inform performance of the sustainability indicators.

## 1.3 Sustainability Goal

A narrative sustainability goal is required for the SASb that culminates in the absence of undesirable results to the Subbasin's groundwater, beneficial users, groundwater dependent ecosystems, and the Subbasin overall within 20 years of the applicable statutory deadline. The sustainability goal of the GSP is to ensure a viable groundwater resource for beneficial uses, including water for purveyors and agricultural, domestic, and industrial user, as well as environmental purposes. This GSP will maintain the Water Forum coequal objectives of providing a reliable and safe water supply for the region's economic health and preserving the fishery, wildlife, recreational, and aesthetic values of the Lower American River, as well as the CSCGMP objectives of protecting against adverse impacts to groundwater and interconnected surface water, to groundwater dependent ecosystems, and to the Cosumnes, Mokelumne, and Sacramento Rivers. The development and a full statement of the SASb sustainability goal is discussed in **Section 3: Sustainable Management Criteria**.

## 1.4 Agency Information and Management Structure

The GSAs in the SASb have worked together to meet SGMA requirements and collaboratively prepare a single GSP that was submitted by January 31, 2022 deadline. The SASb GSP Working Group (GSPWG) was established to provide recommendations on the development of the GSP and was comprised of representatives from the GSAs within the Subbasin. The GSPWG followed a consensus-based decision-making structure, where each GSA



representative received an equal voice. As mentioned previously, the SCGA served as the fiscal and administering entity that worked with the Consultant Team to develop the SASb GSP under the guidance of the GSPWG. Meetings of the GSPWG were open to the public and provided an opportunity for public input throughout the GSP development process.

## 1.4.1 Agency Information

### 1.4.1.1 Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) GSA

SCGA is governed by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the County of Sacramento, and the Cities of Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, and Sacramento. The JPA established a Board of Directors (Board) for SCGA which currently consists of 16 members who are appointed to 4-year terms. The Board elects a Chair, Vice Chair, and other officers as the Board finds appropriate, to serve a 1-year term. Representation includes a Board member from nine public agencies, two private water purveyors, one representative of agricultural interests, one representative of agriculture-residential groundwater users, one representative of commercial/industrial self-supplied groundwater users, one representative of conservation landowners, and one representative of public agencies that are self-supplied groundwater users. **Table 1-1** describes the representative organizations on SCGA’s Board and their respective appointing authorities.

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

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Appointing Authority</b>
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
Omochumne-Hartnell Water District	County of Sacramento
Rancho Murieta Community Services District	County of Sacramento
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District	County of Sacramento
Golden State Water Company	City of Rancho Cordova

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

The SCGA was established for the purposes of:

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

The SCGA elected to become the GSA for its jurisdictional area in July 2016. The Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority GSA may be contacted through the following:

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

#### **1.4.1.2 Northern Delta GSA (NDGSA)**

The Northern Delta GSA (NDGSA) was officially formed in June 2017 for the purpose of acting as the GSA for the northern portions of the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The NDGSA consists of local agencies that have taken responsibility for sustainably managing groundwater resources according to SGMA, and was formed through a JPA signed by its member agencies. Although a collection of reclamation districts (RDs) and the Franklin Drainage District were responsible for forming the NDGSA, the NDGSA is a separate and distinct entity. The NDGSA focuses solely on groundwater issues, while the various local agencies comprising the NDGSA may independently be involved with other challenges, such as levee or land management activities. The NDGSA has also been closely working with several other Partner GSAs.

The NDGSA was formed to retain local control over local groundwater resources, ensuring that groundwater management decisions are made by local entities familiar with the area. As such, local agency representatives within the NDGSA are local landowners themselves. The goal of the NDGSA is to provide cost-effective, responsive, and collaborative management of

groundwater that achieves compliance with SGMA without adding significant burden to local interests. This concern for local issues drives the NDGSA’s decision-making process.

Representatives for the member agencies serve on the NDGSA Board of Directors and have the authority to participate in all meetings, bring matters before the Board, and vote on issues impacting the Agency. **Table 1-2** lists the representative organizations on NDGSA Board and their respective appointing authorities.

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

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

The Northern Delta GSA may be contacted through the following:

Name: Erik Ringelberg  
 The Freshwater Trust  
 1717 I Street Suite A, Sacramento, California 95811  
 Website: <https://www.ndgsa.org/>  
 Phone: (916) 668-7345  
 Email Address: [NorthernDeltaGSA@gmail.com](mailto:NorthernDeltaGSA@gmail.com)

**1.4.1.3 Omochumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD) GSA**

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

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

Name: Mike Wackman, General Manager  
 8970 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624  
 Website: <http://www.ohwd.org/>  
 Phone: (916) 682-5958  
 Email Address: [info@ohwd.org](mailto:info@ohwd.org)

#### **1.4.1.4 Reclamation District 551 GSA**

RD 551 is a California Reclamation District formed and operating under the provisions of the Water Code § 50000, et seq. Under this law, RD 551 provides water delivery, drainage, and water management functions within its service area, which includes agricultural groundwater users, domestic well owners, municipal well owners (including the Town of Courtland), as well as surface water users. RD 551 has agreed to collaborate with the NDGSA and to be represented by the NDGSA on the GSPWG for GSP development.

Reclamation District 551 may be contacted through the following:

Name: Topper Van Loben Sels  
PO Box 7, Walnut Grove, CA 95690  
Phone: (916) 775-1941  
Email Address: [lindatoppervls@gmail.com](mailto:lindatoppervls@gmail.com)

#### **1.4.1.5 Sloughhouse Resources Conservation District (SRCD) GSA**

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

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

Sloughhouse Resources Conservation District may be contact through the following:

Name: Austin Miller, District Manager  
8698 Elk Grove Blvd., Ste. 1-207, Elk Grove, CA 95624  
Website: <http://sloughhousercd.org/>  
Phone: (916) 526-5447  
Email Address: [Austin@SloughhouseRCD.org](mailto:Austin@SloughhouseRCD.org)

#### **1.4.1.6 Sacramento County GSA**

Sacramento County accepted GSA responsibility for a small unmanaged area in the southwestern corner of SASb where local interests did not take responsibility.

The Sacramento County GSA may be contacted through:

Name: Kerry Schmitz, Water Supply Division Chief  
827 7th Street, Room 301, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Website: <https://waterresources.saccounty.net/Pages/SGMA.aspx>  
Phone: (916) 874-4681  
Email Address: [schmitzk@saccounty.net](mailto:schmitzk@saccounty.net)

## **1.4.2 Management Structure**

GSP development and management is represented by the roles of the SCGA, GSPWG, and the other five GSA Boards.

### **1.4.2.1 Plan Management and Administration**

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

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

The point of contact for the Plan Manager is:

Name: John Woodling, Interim Executive Director  
c/o Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority  
827 7th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 812-9118  
Email Address: [jwoodling@geiconsultants.com](mailto:jwoodling@geiconsultants.com)

### **1.4.2.2 GSP Working Group**

The GSPWG was formed upon execution of the Memorandum of Understanding Establishing a SASb SGMA Working Group and Identifying Cost Share Provisions for GSP Development (referred to as “the MOU”), provided as **Appendix 1-B**. The GSPWG is made up of senior staff and governing board members from each of the SASb GSAs who coordinate planning activities and public outreach. The GSPWG established and signed a Partnering Commitment (**Appendix 1-C**) which defined principles for engagement and operation and established a framework of commitments among the members to work collaboratively, efficiently, and with the necessary dedication to promote the development, adoption and submission of a SGMA--compliant GSP by the statutory deadline of January 31, 2022. The Partnering Commitment identifies the core parties and their responsibilities for delivering the SASb GSP.

The GSPWG was responsible for:

- Sharing feedback from their respective GSA related to the GSP development.
- Making recommendations to their respective GSA regarding the consideration and adoption of the GSP.
- Providing or ensuring the provision of timely responses and supporting information related to GSP development to the Consultants upon request in order to meet the state-mandated GSP deadline.
- Performing and supporting appropriate and coordinated outreach to stakeholders within the Subbasin.
- Ultimately delivering an acceptable GSP to all GSA Boards for adoption.

As part of their responsibilities to perform and support outreach, the GSPWG members agreed that:

- 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 outreach and engagement with stakeholders within their respective jurisdictions.
- Parties recognize the value in developing shared messages to ensure consistency; in joint participation in outreach efforts 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, disadvantaged communities (DACs), etc.) beyond the signatories to this agreement.

Membership of the GSPWG consisted 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 Garms, Alternate
- **Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority – 7 members**
  - Todd Eising
  - Paul Schubert
  - Bruce Kamilos
  - Evan Jacobs
  - Dave Ocenosak
  - Ted Rauh
  - Christine Thompson

#### 1.4.2.3 GSA Boards

Each GSA Board assigned their GSPWG members to work on the development of the GSP and stakeholder communication and engagement (C&E) plan. The GSA Boards were responsible for:

- Ensuring appropriate public outreach is executed per the SASb C&E Plan on behalf of their GSA.
- Accepting approvals to meet the mandated schedule for the completion and adoption of the Final GSP.
- Being informed about the GSP development by their designated GSPWG members.
- Informing their respective GSPWG Members with their insights, perspectives, and opinions.
- Ultimately adopting the Final GSP for submittal to DWR by January 31, 2022.

As part of developing the GSP, the SASb GSAs informed and involved stakeholders and Interested Parties within their own jurisdictions through their respective Board meetings and on their individual websites.

#### 1.4.3 Legal Authority

Recognizing that groundwater is most effectively managed at the local level, SGMA empowers local agencies with the authority to establish GSAs, which are responsible for the development and implementation of a GSP. In accordance with SGMA, six GSAs were formed, and under the MOU, five of six of the GSAs entered into an agreement to develop one GSP for the SASb. RD 551 subsequently entered into an agreement with the NDGSA to be represented in GSP development. Per Section 10723.8(a) of the California Water Code, SCGA, the 7 agency members of the NDGSA, OHWD, RD 551, SRCD, and Sacramento County gave notice to DWR

of their decision to develop a single GSP for the SASb as described in DWR Bulletin 118, Basin No. 5-21.65.

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

The members and contracting entities of the SASb GSPWG agreed to a cost share methodology and signed an MOU for the development of the GSP. The cost estimate and methodology to implement the GSP are addressed in **Section 5: Plan Implementation**.

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

The goal of communication and engagement efforts was to involve a broad and diverse group of Interested Parties, including stakeholders, the public, and beneficial users of groundwater throughout the GSP development process and to ensure that Interested Parties' concerns, issues, and aspirations were consistently understood and considered in the GSAs' decision-making process.

#### **1.5.1 Notice**

GSP information, meeting schedules, and useful links were posted to the SASb Groundwater Website<sup>1</sup>. Anyone could register as an Interested Party to be notified of events and activities regarding GSP development.

The GSPWG held two types of meetings: 1) regularly scheduled working sessions to focus on the technical content and guidance to consultants working on the GSP and 2) publicly-noticed public meetings to allow stakeholders to engage and provide input prior to key GSP milestones throughout the process. Following adoption, as the GSP is implemented, the website will be updated accordingly with new information for public review and comment.

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

#### **1.5.2 Decision-Making Process**

The GSPWG, comprised of senior staff and governing board members, was established per the MOU to coordinate planning activities and public outreach. This GSPWG included representatives from five GSAs within the SASb and followed a consensus-based decision-making structure, where each member received an equal voice. GSP decision-making and input was represented by the roles of the GSPWG, GSA Boards and Stakeholders.

Decision-making during GSP development, as well as for final approval, followed a streamlined process. It was the goal of the GSPWG to make decisions through consensus. Each member of

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.sasbgroundwater.org](http://www.sasbgroundwater.org)



the GSPWG committed to make a genuine effort to achieve consensus. In the absence of a consensus, and as a last resort, members of the GSPWG could have been called upon to cast votes.

### **1.5.3 Public Outreach**

In the summer of 2020, the first version of the Communication and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan) was created for the SASb GSP (see **Appendix 1-D**). The purpose of the C&E Plan was to assist the GSAs with stakeholder outreach and other related actions as required by SGMA. This C&E Plan, which can be found on the SASb website<sup>2</sup>, served as a roadmap to meet one of the statutory requirements of SGMA and the GSP Regulations. The SASb website provides meeting schedules and includes a high-level overview of the GSAs and the MOU enacted to develop one GSP, the requirements of a GSP and the final GSP, and useful links to external resources for more information. The SASb email list was used to send periodic updates and announcements about the progress of the GSP to its subscribers. The website tracks outreach efforts by the GSAs in its database, storing meeting attendance information, logging targeted outreach, and hosting the Interested Parties list.

#### **1.5.3.1 SASb Beneficial Uses and Users**

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

- Agricultural users (farmers, ranchers, dairy)
- Rural, Ag-Residential and Domestic well owners
- Municipal well operators
- Public water systems
- Local land use planning agencies
- Environmental uses and users of groundwater, including but not limited to habitat that supports fish, birds, animals and insects; endangered species protection; protection of beneficial habitat for recreation and other societal benefits
- Surface water users
- The federal government (not limited to the military and managers of federal lands)
- Tribal Governments
- Disadvantaged communities
- Entities monitoring or reporting groundwater elevations in the subbasin
- Holders of overlying groundwater rights
- Adjacent Subbasins including Yolo, North American, Cosumnes, East San Joaquin and Solano
- Industrial Users
- Commercial Users
- Remediation pumpers
- Natural ecosystems
- General public

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.sasbgroundwater.org/assets/pdf/SASb\\_CE\\_Plan\\_Draft\\_Final\\_20200720-Final.pdf](http://www.sasbgroundwater.org/assets/pdf/SASb_CE_Plan_Draft_Final_20200720-Final.pdf)

### 1.5.3.2 Public Engagement Opportunities

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

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

<b>GSA</b>	<b>Meeting Frequency</b>	<b>Location</b>
<a href="#">County of Sacramento</a>	Meets on various Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the month	Sacramento County Board Chambers 700 H St. Sacramento, CA
<a href="#">Northern Delta</a>	June & December each year	Walnut Grove Library 14177 Market St. Walnut Grove, CA
<a href="#">Omochumne-Hartnell Water District</a>	3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am	Sacramento County Farm Bureau 8970 Elk Grove Blvd. Elk Grove, CA
<a href="#">Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority</a>	2nd Wednesday of each month at 9:00 am	Elk Grove City Council Chambers 8400 Laguna Palms Way Elk Grove, CA
<a href="#">Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District</a>	2nd Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm	Rancho Murieta CSD 15160 Jackson Rd. Rancho Murieta, CA
<a href="#">Reclamation District No. 551</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm	Courtland Post Office 125 Primasing Avenue Courtland, CA

In addition, GSP Staff were available throughout the GSP development process to communicate and engage with Interested Parties and the public. Interested Parties were involved in GSP development and provided input throughout the process.

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

Other avenues for public engagement included:

- **GSPWG Meetings:** GSPWG meetings were held beginning in May 2020. Since August 2020, these meetings were open to the public and noticed on the SASb website<sup>4</sup>. Seventeen of the GSPWG meetings were open to public. A Master Meeting Schedule was included on the website to provide the dates and topics for GSPWG and public meetings.
- **Public Meetings:** Public meetings were held to update the public on the development of the SASb GSP. The Public meetings were held mid-week and, in the evenings, so the public could more conveniently attend. In addition to the public, attendance included: GSPWG members, SCGA Staff and Consultants. Special Meetings were also convened with representatives of the Rural, Ag-Residential and Domestic well owners. Meetings were widely noticed on the SASb website<sup>5</sup>.
- **Focus Group Meeting:** A focus group meeting with members of the agricultural community was held on May 13, 2021 at the Sacramento County Farm Bureau office in Elk Grove.
- **Public Surveys:** Public surveys were conducted to solicit specific input from Interested Parties on GSP development. One SASb Stakeholder Assessment was conducted in Spring 2020 where beneficial water users were interviewed and many of their suggestions on C&E were included as part of the C&E Plan.
- **Mail and Emails:** Postal mail was utilized to reach areas of the groundwater basin that may not have otherwise been informed of GSP activities. Email blasts (emails to the entire list of Interested Parties) were sent when significant information was available to communicate regarding GSP development.
- **Public Hearings:** Public hearings by individual GSA Boards were held to consider the approval and adoption of the SASb GSP. Public hearings were held and noticed in accordance with applicable laws and procedures. Public hearings will also be required for any future updates to the GSP.

**Table 1-4** summarizes the public engagement activities conducted during the development of the SASb GSP. A report on the outreach activities conducted as of October 21, 2021 is provided in **Appendix 1-E**.

---

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

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.sasbgroundwater.org/meetings.html>

**Table 1-4: Outreach Activities**

<b>Format</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Detail</b>	<b>Participation</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>Public Meetings</b>	July 23, 2020 Aug. 6, 2021 Nov. 5, 2020 Mar. 25, 2021 May 25, 2021 July 25, 2021	Via Zoom Video Conference	50-120	Milestone updates of SASb GSP Working Group public meetings
<b>Postcard Mailings/Other Direct Mailings/ Notifications</b>	July 2020 October 2020 March 2021 June 2021	Sent via USPS to Interested Parties/Stakeholders/DACs/ Small Water Systems/Tribal Contacts	Varied by GSA	Announcement of SASb GSP development/ Working Group Public Meeting milestones/ Availability of public draft GSP
<b>Press Releases</b>	July 2020 October 2020 March 2021 June 2021	Via Sacramento County Public Information Officer	14 media outlets	Press release announcing SASb Working Group public meetings
<b>Sacramento County Electronic Subscription</b>	July 2020 October 2020 March 2021 June 2021	Sacramento County Go Delivery Subscription List	5,460-5,650	Announcements of SASb Working Group public meetings
<b>Emails to Stakeholders</b>	July 2020 to October 2021	Notifications to interested parties list via SASb distribution list	190-500 contacts on subscription list, which increased over time	SASb GSP development updates/ notifications
<b>SASb GSA Public Board Meetings</b>	November 2015 to October 2021	51 GSA public Board meetings	Varied	SGMA/SASb GSP updates
<b>SASb GSP Working Group Meetings</b>	May 2020 to October 2021, monthly	21 meetings held via Zoom video conference	35-50	GSP Development
<b>Website</b>	July 2020 to present	sasbgroundwater.org	~2,500 website visits	GSP Development

### 1.5.3.3 Public Comments

The Public Draft SASb GSP was made available for public review on the SASb GSP website<sup>6</sup> from July 23, 2021 through August 18, 2021. Comments received were posted to the website and entered into the Comment Log (**Appendix 1-G**).

<sup>6</sup> <http://sasbgroundwater.org/resources.html>

## 1.6 GSP Organization

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

- **Executive Summary.** Provides a summary of the contents of the GSP.
- **Section 1 – Introduction.** Includes the purpose and administration of the GSP, agency information, and GSP organization.
- **Section 2 – Plan Area and Basin Setting.** Plan Area describes the geographic setting, existing water resources planning and programs, relationship of the GSP to other documents within the SASb boundary, and additional GSP components. The Basin Setting includes a detailed discussion of the hydrogeologic conceptual model of the SASb; current and historical groundwater conditions; future groundwater conditions after allowances for growth, land use changes, and climate change; and a discussion of the area's current and future groundwater budgets and sustainable yield.
- **Section 3 – Sustainable Management Criteria.** Provides the adopted sustainability goal, addresses the six sustainability indicators that monitor undesirable results; defines the Minimum Thresholds, Measurable Objectives, and Interim Milestones at each monitoring location for each sustainability indicator for the 20-year implementation period. This Section describes the network of monitoring wells and other facilities that will track the hydrologic conditions of the SASb, assesses the need for improvements to the network to provide fully representative data, and addresses monitoring protocols and data analysis techniques.
- **Section 4 – Projects and Management Actions to Achieve Sustainability.** Describes projects and management actions that have been evaluated and will be supported and/or adopted by GSAs in pursuit of sustainability. Project details include measurable objectives that are expected to benefit from the project or management action, required permits, anticipated benefits, estimated costs, and how the project or management actions will be accomplished.
- **Section 5 – Plan Implementation.** Describes the GSP implementation process, including estimated costs, sources of funding, a preliminary schedule through full implementation, the data management system, methodology for annual reporting, and how progress evaluations and GSP updates will be conducted every five years.
- **Appendices – References and Technical Studies.** Contains the references and sources used to prepare this GSP.

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

This GSP was prepared to meet the regulatory requirements established by DWR, as shown in the completed GSP Elements Guide, provided in **Appendix 1-F**, which is organized according to the California Code of Regulation Sections of the GSP Emergency Regulations.