



Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Meeting Materials September 9, 2020 | 9:30 am

Pursuant to Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20 this meeting will be conducted by teleconference.

The meeting can be accessed via telephone at **(786) 535-3211** or by computer, smartphone, or tablet at: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/249902597>

Meeting Access Code: 249-902-597

1. Call to Order

The Chair will call the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

Staff will conduct roll call.

3. *Approval of July 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Draft meeting minutes are attached.

Attachment:

- July 8, 2020 draft meeting minutes



Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting of the Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee
Teleconference
July 8, 2020
9:30 am

Pursuant to Governor Newsom’s Executive Order N-29-20 this meeting will be conducted by teleconference.

The meeting can be accessed via telephone at **(646) 749-3122** or by computer, smartphone, or tablet at: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/551086989>

Meeting Access Code: 551-086-989

1. Call to Order

John Viegas called the meeting to order at 9:37 am.

2. Roll Call

	Party Representative	Member Agency
X	Vince Minto	County of Glenn
X	John Viegas	County of Glenn
X	John Amaro	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
	Pete Knight	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X	Julia Violich	Monroeville Water District
	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District

Mr. Viegas reviewed the meeting protocol.

3. *Approval of May 13, 2020 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May 13, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: John Amaro; Second: Vince Minto; Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote:

John Viegas: Aye

Vince Minto: Aye

John Amaro: Aye

Julia Violich: Aye

4. Period of Public Comment

None

5. Staff Reports

Lisa Hunter stated she attended the Groundwater Resources Association's Groundwater Sustainability Agency Summit, a virtual conference. The conference provided good information focusing on looking back at the last five years, the submittal of the 2020 plans, and lessons learned. There are many relevant topics from the conference that will be helpful in plan development.

6. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Report

Ms. Hunter noted the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) met June 3 and July 1. The CSAB provides a great venue for public participation and GSA coordination. She highlighted all the meeting information can be found at www.corningsubbasingsp.org.

Ms. Hunter mentioned the key topics from the meetings are included in the meeting packet and there is much focus on the technical components of the planning process. The next meeting is scheduled for August 5 at 1:30 pm.

7. ***Approve Recommendation from the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board to Select C2VSim-FG Version 1 as the Integrated Modeling Platform for GSP development in the Corning Subbasin if it is available within one month or C2VSim-FG Beta 2 if Version 1 is not available within one month.**

Ms. Hunter reviewed that version 1 is expected to be released within the month; however, if it is not, beta 2 has been released and is being used by other basins. The CSAB looked at the available models and the requirements set forth in the regulations. The recommended model appears to be the best fit for the basin's needs and is also being used in the neighboring Colusa Subbasin. The Tehama County neighboring basin is using a similar, but different model. With good coordination, no issues are expected. The CSAB recommends C2VSim-FG Version 1 or Beta 2 depending on the timeline.

Thad Bettner agreed with Lisa's summary and indicated they have looked at different components from the water district's viewpoint, and feels the recommended model is a good, useful tool and agrees with the approach.

A motion was made to approve the recommendation from the CSAB to Select C2VSim-FG Version 1 as the Integrated Modeling Platform for GSP development in the Corning Subbasin if it is available within one month or C2VSim-FG Beta 2 if Version 1 is not available within one month.

Motion: John Amaro; Second: Vince Minto; Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote:

John Viegas: Aye

Vince Minto: Aye

John Amaro: Aye

Julia Violich: Aye

8. Receive update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan development

Ms. Hunter provided an update on the Proposition 1 GSP Development grant, invoice, and progress report status. She then reviewed the contract status with Montgomery & Associates. Ms. Hunter highlighted consultant work including CSAB meeting preparations, Management Team meetings, developing tracking sheet for public comments, organizing data, creating draft figures, reviewing model input data, developing the water budget framework, and drafting Plan sections and editing based on staff review. They have also reviewed Glenn and Tehama County monitoring networks and begun compiling monitoring network information.

9. Technical Support Services

- a. Receive update on Technical Support Services Application**
- b. Review draft agreements provided by Department of Water Resources**
- c. *Authorize Chairman to execute agreements once finalized pending legal review including (1) TSS Agreement, (2) Land Use Agreement**

Sharla Stockton noted the Technical Support Services Well Service Request application was approved in May. One site visit and one environmental compliance site visit have been completed. The draft agreements are included in the meeting packet for review, including the Land Use Agreement and a TSS Agreement between the Department of Water Resources and the Groundwater Sustainability Agency. Exhibit A is not currently filled out, but the template is also included. Ms. Stockton mentioned the action item requests authorizing the Chairman to execute the agreements because the next meeting is not scheduled until September 9 and the estimated drilling schedule begins in mid-August. The agreements need to be in place prior to breaking ground.

In response to questions and comments, it was noted that this application is for a monitoring well which provides good data on geology and lithology and water levels. We are working with a willing landowner, and the monitoring does not really affect other landowners, just provides data. The well will not measure subsidence and the preliminary predictions for construction of the screens will be at approximately 700-1,000 feet. The well will likely monitor the base of the Tehama formation not the lower Tuscan, but installation of the well will fill a data gap by providing more accurate information in this area.

Ms. Hunter requested guidance on the legal review process. It was agreed that Glenn County's County Counsel will review the agreements on behalf of the CSGSA.

A motion was made to authorize Chairman to execute agreements once finalized pending legal review including (1) TSS Agreement, (2) Land Use Agreement.

Motion: Vince Minto; Second: Julia Violich; Vote: Unanimous

Roll Call Vote:
John Viegas: Aye
Vince Minto: Aye
John Amaro: Aye
Julia Violich: Aye

10. Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Member Reports and Comments

None.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2020 at 9:30 am.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

DRAFT

4. Period of Public Comment

Members of the public are encouraged to address the Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action will be taken on items under public comment.

5. Staff Reports

Staff from members of the Corning Sub-basin GSA will provide relevant updates. Reminders and clarifications may be made, and direction may be provided to staff.

6. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Report

The Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) met August 5 and September 2. At each meeting, opportunities for Board and public input are provided. The website providing information about Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan development, schedules, and basin-wide meeting information, including CSAB meeting materials can be found at: www.corningssubbasingsp.org.

Key topics at the August 5 meeting included overview of Sustainable Management Criteria and Monitoring Networks. The CSAB considered making a recommendation to the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies on a Preliminary Corning Subbasin Sustainability Goal Description but opted to have the consulting team and staff refine the statement and bring it to the next meeting for action. The CSAB made a recommendation to the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to remove seawater intrusion from the list of applicable sustainability indicators. The recommendation will be considered in a separate agenda item.

On September 2, the CSAB made a recommendation to the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to approve a Preliminary Corning Subbasin Sustainability Goal Description. The description can be modified during the plan development process and provides guidance to develop certain components of the GSP. The recommendation will be considered in a separate agenda item.

The technical consulting team also provided an overview of the chronic lowering of groundwater levels sustainable management criteria including significant and unreasonable conditions, current conditions, current county triggers and potential applicability to SGMA, and proposed approaches for developing minimum thresholds and measurable objectives.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2020 at 1:30 pm. The location has not yet been determined, but will likely be held via teleconference.

Advisory Board members may provide additional updates.

7. *Consider recommendation from the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board to remove Seawater Intrusion from the list of applicable Sustainability Indicators

At the August 5, 2020 CSAB meeting, the consultants provided a technical presentation which included discussion on the Seawater Intrusion Sustainability Indicator. Following the presentation and discussion, the CSAB made a recommendation to the GSAs to remove Seawater Intrusion from the list of applicable Sustainability Indicators.

The SGMA Definition is: “Seawater Intrusion” refers to the advancement of seawater into a groundwater supply that results in the degradation of water quality in the basin and includes seawater from any source.

The Sustainable Management Criteria BMP indicates the following:

The default position for GSAs should be that all six sustainability indicators apply to their basin. If a GSA believes a sustainability indicator is not applicable for their basin, they must provide evidence that the indicator does not exist and could not occur. For example, GSAs in basins not adjacent to the Pacific Ocean, bays, deltas, or inlets may determine that seawater intrusion is not an applicable sustainability indicator, because seawater intrusion does not exist and could not occur.

It was noted during the meeting that seawater intrusion is different than saline water quality problems, which would be evaluated under the water quality section of the plan.

8. *Consider recommendation from the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board to approve the Preliminary Corning Subbasin Sustainability Goal Description

At the August 5, 2020 CSAB meeting, the CSAB considered making a recommendation to the GSAs on a Preliminary Corning Subbasin Sustainability Goal Description but opted to have the consulting team and staff refine the statement and bring it to the next meeting for action. The statement was refined and presented at the September 2, 2020 CSAB meeting. After discussion, the CSAB made a recommendation to the GSAs to approve the Preliminary Corning Subbasin Sustainability Goal Description. It is important to note that the description will be used to guide certain aspects of the GSP and can be modified over time as needed. A final goal description will be included in the final GSP.

The Preliminary Corning Subbasin Sustainability Goal Description is as follows:

The goal of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan is to ensure sufficient and affordable water of good quality be available on a sustainable basis to meet the unique needs of agricultural, residential, municipal, industrial, recreational, and environmental users within the Corning Subbasin, both now and in the future. The GSAs recognize that sustainability can only be possible

with the support and coordination of local, state, and federal agencies and the utilization of both surface and groundwater resources.

9. Receive Update on Groundwater Sustainability Plan development

Staff will provide a brief status update of GSP development. Direction may be provided.

10. Technical Support Services

a. Receive update on Technical Support Services Project

b. *Provide direction on payment of well construction permit application fees

The agreements have been received from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) and will be routed to Glenn County's County Counsel for review. If no changes are suggested, the Chairman has been authorized to execute the agreements on behalf of the CSGSA.

Staff has discussed a variety of technical components including screened intervals with DWR representatives. Staff has also been notified of delays, in part due to a drill rig shortage. Staff continues to monitor the status of the project closely.

Another key component of moving the project forward is the submittal of the well construction permit application to Glenn County Environmental Health. DWR does not cover the cost of the application, which is estimated to be less than \$200.00. Staff is requesting guidance on payment for the application. Options include:

1. One member agency cover the cost
2. Divide the cost equally between the agencies
3. Another arrangement (TBD)

Staff may provide additional status updates on the Technical Support Services Project. Direction may be provided.

11. Facilitation Support Services

a. Receive update on Facilitation Support Services application

A major component of GSP development is stakeholder engagement. Public workshops were originally scheduled for Fall 2020. Given the current circumstances and uncertainty of when large groups will be able to meet in person again, the facilitation team and staff have been brainstorming methods for effective engagement. Due to some of these complications, as well as the desire to hear stakeholder input, the team requested funding from the Department of Water

Resources through its Facilitation Support Services. This program provides pre-selected facilitators to provide services that will support the Plan development processes. The application includes tasks for Tribal outreach, additional focused meetings and workshops (which may be virtual), additional meeting support (including support for the CSGSA meetings), inter-basin coordination, and support developing outreach materials targeted to the virtual environment. This is a basin-wide effort and services would apply to the entire Corning Subbasin.

The application was submitted on August 14, 2020. DWR confirmed receipt of the application on August 17, 2020. Staff continues to monitor the status of the application.

Staff may provide additional status updates on the Facilitation Support Services program. Direction may be provided.

12. Department of Conservation Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator grant

- a. Discuss grant opportunity and possible partnerships**
- b. *Consider approval to apply for, or support a grant application for a Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator for the Corning Subbasin**

A grant solicitation has been released to fund watershed coordinator position(s) in conjunction with Sustainable Groundwater Management activities. This may be a good opportunity to assist the GSAs and partners to evaluate, plan, and implement projects that benefit watershed as they relate to GSPs. The application submittal period has been extended from September 15 to October 15 due to the nature and extent of the wildfires burning throughout California.

The Colusa Subbasin is working with the Colusa County Resource Conservation District to apply for and, if awarded, administer the grant.

More information on the program can be found in the attached program summary and on the website at:

<https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/watershed>

Attachments:

- Grant Program Summary

Prop 50—CA Dept of Conservation – SGM Watershed Coordinator

Updated Summary of Grant Program

Funding Program Name: 2020 Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator Grant Program (Prop 50)

Funding Agency: CA Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection

Background Information: The 2020 Sustainable Groundwater Management Watershed Coordinator Grant Program (Program) funds watershed coordinator positions to develop and implement watershed improvement plans consistent with the CALFED Programmatic Record of Decision and Groundwater Sustainability Plans developed by local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). Watershed coordinators will facilitate watershed-scale collaborations, promote integrated watershed management efforts, and support local implementation activities focusing on areas significantly impacted by SGMA implementation.

Funding:

- Total Funding: \$1.5 million
- Maximum awards: \$300,000—proposals may request less than this maximum amount.

Match Requirement:

- A Match is not specified but it does **recommend** Partnering which is defined as commitments by other organizations, government agencies, private citizens, or volunteer groups **to provide funds or in-kind services**. Partnerships must be evidenced by letters of commitment and/or other signed documents, which explain the relationship and outline the partner's **contributions**.

Eligible applicants:

Eligible applicants are: (1) special districts; (2) nonprofit groups (with 501(c)(3) status); (3) local governments; (4) federally recognized California Native American tribes, (5) non-federally recognized California Native American tribes; and (6) Groundwater Sustainability Agencies. Eligible applicants must be either (1) locally-based, which are defined as those that maintain a local office and focus on issues within the watershed or community that is the focus of the application or (2) non-local, where there are strong local partnerships between the applicant, the local GSA(s), and other important stakeholders. Eligible applicants must have watershed-related goals as part of their current long-range or strategic plans and be located in a High or Medium Priority Basin as identified in Appendix D of the Application.

This grant program encourages partnering (as defined above) and cooperation within watersheds. To ensure a wider distribution of grants, no more than one full-time coordinator position or two part-time coordinators will be awarded per proposal. Proposals should demonstrate multiple, committed partnerships and extensive cooperation with other agencies, organizations, or entities. Cooperation is defined as working with other organizations, government agencies, or groups to ensure that all entities work in agreement and are non-duplicative of each other's activities. Cooperation may be evidenced by letters of support, signed agreements, board resolutions, or other signed documents.

Prop 50—CA Dept of Conservation – SGM Watershed Coordinator

Updated Summary of Grant Program

Eligible Projects:

The Watershed Program includes the following elements:

- Supporting local watershed activities. Monitoring and measuring watershed function. Obtaining funding for and implementing watershed restoration, maintenance, and conservation activities that support the goals and objectives of the program, including improved river functions.
- Facilitating coordination and assistance. Facilitating and improving coordination and assistance between government agencies, other organizations, and local watershed groups.
- Developing watershed monitoring and assessment protocols. Facilitating monitoring efforts that are consistent with program protocols and support watershed activities that ensure that adaptive management processes can be applied.
- Supporting education and outreach. Supporting resource conservation education at the local watershed level and providing organizational and administrative support to watershed programs.

Application Scoring:

Scoring Criteria	Points
Program Priorities	30
Disadvantaged Community Benefits	20
Benefits to the Watershed	20
Performance Measures	10
Work Plan	10
Sustainability	5
Budget	5
Total Points Possible	100

Application Submittal:

Applicants must submit all required application materials via email to wcp@conservation.ca.gov. Applications must be received digitally by 11:59 p.m. on September 15, 2020.

Schedule:

- Draft Solicitation released for comment—April 3, 2019
- Close public comment period—April 30, 2020
- Solicitation released—June 15, 2020
- Online Workshops TBA
- Applications due—September 15, 2020
- Awards announced—November 15, 2020

Website: <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/watershed>

Program Guidelines: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/grant-programs/watershed/Documents/2020%20WCP%20SGMA%20Solicitation%20Release_rev1.pdf

Questions:

Department of Conservation/Division of Land Resource Protection
Watershed Coordinator Grant Program Manager
wcp@conservation.ca.gov
(916) 324-0850

13. Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Member Reports and Comments

Members of the CSGSA Committee are encouraged to share information, reports, comments, and suggest future agenda items. Action cannot be taken on matters brought up under this item.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2020.

15. Adjourn

The meeting will be adjourned.
