

Appendix 1-C

Partnering Commitment + Guiding Principles
(May 22, 2020)

PARTNERING COMMITMENT + GUIDING PRINCIPLES
South American Subbasin (SASb) Groundwater Sustainability Plan Working Group
MAY 22, 2020

1.0 PURPOSE

These Principles for engagement and operation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Working Group (Working Group) are intended to provide a framework of agreements among the members to work collaboratively, efficiently, and with the necessary dedication to promote the development, adoption and submission of a Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SCGA) compliant GSP by the statutory deadline of January 31, 2022.

The Principles derive from and include by reference the *Memorandum of Understanding Establishing a South American Subbasin SGMA Working Group and Identifying Cost Share Provisions for GSP Development*, which is attached as Exhibit A.

2.0 GSP PARTIES

Following are the core parties responsible for delivering the SASb GSP:

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies' (GSAs) Boards of Directors

The five GSAs have respective Boards that have Working Group Members as assigned below.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Working Group Membership

Northern Delta GSA – 1 member

- Erik Ringelberg, primary
- Chris Thomas, Alternate

Omochumne Hartnell Water District – 2 members

- Mike Wackman
- Mark Stretars
- Mark Wilson, Alternate

Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) – 7 members

- Todd Eising
- Paul Schubert
- Mark Madison
- Evan Jacobs
- Dave Ocenosak
- Ted Rauh
- Christine Thompson

Sacramento County – 1 member

- Linda Dorn
- Kerry Schmitz, Alternate

Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District – 1 member

- Austin Miller

- Herb Garmes, Alternate

GSP Administrating Agency

Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority

- John Woodling, Interim Executive Director, SCGA
- Bob Gardner
- Jonathan Goetz
- Ramon Roybal

Consultants Team

Larry Walker Associates

- Tom Grovhoug
- Laura Foglia
- Stephen Maples
 - **SEI**
 - Marisa Escobar
 - **KJ**
 - Sachi Itagaki
 - Jennifer Lau Larsen

Woodard & Curran

- Ali Taghavi
- Brian Van Lieden
- Jim Blanke
 - **Strategy Driver**
 - Ellen Cross
 - **HDR**
 - Shawn Koorn
 - Jafar Faghieh

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary responsibilities of each party to the GSP Team are identified below.

Respective GSAs' Boards

Each respective Board for the five GSAs will be responsible for:

- Ensuring appropriate communication and engagement is executed per the approved Communication and Engagement (C&E) Plan on behalf of their GSAs.
- Accepting interim milestone approvals to meet the mandated schedule of the Final GSP.
- Being informed about the GSP by their designated Working Group Members listed above.
- Informing their respective Working Group Members with their insights, perspectives, and opinions.
- Ultimately adopting an acceptable final GSP to deliver for DWR review by January 2022.

Working Group

The Working Group members shall be responsible for:

- Sharing feedback from their respective GSA's related to the GSP development.
- Making recommendations to their 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, Working Group and Administrative Agency upon request in order to meet the state mandated GSP deadline.
- Performing and supporting appropriate and coordinated outreach to other stakeholders within the Basin.
- Ultimately delivering an acceptable GSP to all GSAs for adoption.

GSP Administrating Agency

SCGA Staff will be responsible for:

- Being the point of contact for the Working Group to coordinate with the Consultants.
- Overseeing the Consultants in the delivery of the GSP scope of work and budget per the contract.
- Ensuring grant obligations are met and reimbursements received.
- Delivering GSP priorities within the state mandated GSP schedule.

Consultants

Each member of the Consultant Team will be responsible for:

- Ensuring the delivery of the GSP Scope of Work on time and within the budget per the contract.

Collective Outreach and Engagement Responsibilities

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

- 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 helping to guide and implement efforts within their respective jurisdictions.
- Parties recognize the value in developing shared messages to ensure consistency; joint participation in outreach efforts is encouraged to foster consistency in message and concretely demonstrate the parties' coordinated effort.
- Parties recognize the need to conduct outreach in the near-term to better understand additional representation needs (e.g., environmental, tribal, riparian water users, overlying water users, disadvantaged communities (DACs) etc.) beyond the signatories to this agreement.

4.0 DECISION MAKING

Pursuant to the MOU, the Working Group will seek to make decisions through consensus. In the absence of a consensus, participants of the Working Group may be called upon to cast votes. Recommendations of the Working Group provided to the GSAs shall include a report of the votes cast.

With respect to voting procedures:

- Each Member commits to make a genuine effort to achieve consensus. Consensus is the preferred method for reaching agreement; voting is a last resort.
- Members from the OHWD GSA and SCGA GSA may vote by proxy provided in writing to another member from their respective GSA.
- Members who are the sole representative of their GSA (representing SRCD GSA, Sacramento County GSA and North Delta GSA) should identify an alternate to attend the meetings of the Working Group and vote on their behalf if they are unavailable.

5.0 SUCCESS FACTORS + BARRIERS TO SUCCESS + MITIGATING

| SUCCESS | BARRIERS TO SUCCESS | MITIGATION |
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| GOVERNANCE | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone is heard with equal voice and full participation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting with an even number of participants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build consensus through discussion to envision success |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand flexibility and local needs – different demands for each | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual GSA Boards must buy in – waiting until the end or not knowing what has gone into the decision making will be problematic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG members needs to be the <u>Liaisons and Advocates</u> between the WG and the GSA Boards (e.g. build on successful MOU process that built trust) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand where public will engage, actively outreach and communicate with them | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Meetings and how will play in with meetings and Boards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolve issues of public meetings for the Working Group • Lay out public meeting schedule in C&E Plan |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to express positions of respective Boards of GSAs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand that these are not personal or agency positions/decisions of the individuals; rather the position of the respective | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to articulate the nuances and technical challenges to the Boards • The decision by respective Boards will need to be carried forth |

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| | GSA Boards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to find consensus recommendations within the WG that can be carried to the Boards; but ultimately the Boards have the decision making authority. • Bring back the Boards' decisions and barriers to success • Have rigorous discussion with your respective Boards |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working together to meet the schedule and any barriers to schedule | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holding back information or barriers to success | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibly provide a Third Party outside of this group that is independent to help us if consensus process does not work |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage all interested parties / stakeholders including the public and electeds' early | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dealing with mostly Staff vs Electeds on GSPWG – we may put together a good GSP but have uninformed participants that undermine the process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to make sure we bring the Electeds and other key stakeholders along and address concerns early (meet with them; educate them; same constituents) |
| STAKEHOLDERS | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting Public Understanding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the public and provide a forum with the WG • Also provide a forum for the WG to work through issues before bringing to the public – we must work quickly and meaningfully while keeping the public informed and engaged at key milestones | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should treat ourselves as an “ad hoc” – we need to build trust with the stakeholders and involve them in the GSP – need a mechanism so interested parties can “listen” through a mechanism so they know what is going on in the WG. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly state in the C&E Plan, how and when the public will be engaged | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent messaging and engagement with the stakeholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to educate Public on how they will potentially benefit/be impacted and that we have a consistent |

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| | | message while building the GSP and distributed by all the Boards to set the stage for acceptance. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A well informed public and stakeholders understand the process and can provide input | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not bringing all the stakeholders along and not being transparent or providing the ability for input | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up an independent webpage that includes the technical documents / presentations / next meetings for the public |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating with adjacent basins to ensure there are no conflicts in information, sustainable criteria or actions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interbasin relationships, information or conflicts are not resolved. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to find ways to coordinate alignment with adjacent basins so there are not differing answers / e.g. outcomes to the sustainable criteria |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep DWR engaged on the GSP process and asking them to observe so they know why and how we came up with our GSP to prevent any future obstacles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWR is not involved | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage Chelsea and new Grant Administrator engaged from the start (N American Subbasin with a co-worker) • Keep the Grant Administrator engaged |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage stakeholders in existing processes as much as possible with integrated messaging with ongoing efforts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competing messaging • Oversaturating stakeholders with engagement and messaging • Confusing stakeholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage Regional San and County Ag as they are doing significant outreach to the Farming and Ag communities within the Recycled Water area and messaging on recycled water |
| TECHNICAL | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the goals of the GSP and what we want to implement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulling in information into the GSP that we do not need to meet DWR obligations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to NOT set up new requirements that are not defensible • Take DWR guidance that they have available |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create actions that are implementable and measurable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An unmeasurable Plan (e.g. GDEs) – lots of unmeasurable actions/requirements – careful not to tie our hands if we cannot implement the GSP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSP will establish measurable metrics and develop a plan to monitor success |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to build on work that has been completed within and adjacent to the Basin (basin boundary amendments) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting from scratch | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leverage all past work that is of value to expedite the GSP development |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify what we want in the GSP and <u>what do we want the GSP to do</u> – what will we implement and what is the objective to eliminate conflict going forward. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not knowing what we want to achieve, expanding beyond SGMA requirements/authorities, scope creep | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in a mission, vision and <u>Sustainability Goal</u> related to the GSP so we accomplish what we want the Basin to do • Understand the Alternative deficiencies to be addressed. |
| REGULATORY | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand where GSP interfaces with land use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does land management authority work under GSP – without consideration of police powers for implementation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand land use interface with GSP • Reconcile land use overlap (e.g. General Plans) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand what regulatory impacts there are by SASb areas of concern | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand known groundwater contamination and remedial efforts and level of involvement of each GSA (e.g. Not in the N Delta GSA area) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to address in GSP |
| SCHEDULE | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to get the job done and not let State take over | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid State Water Board intervention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be responsive to the schedule – it matters |
| FUNDING | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure rate increases and funding mechanisms are coordinated | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating rate changes ineffectively (218) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with County aggressively to adopt a decision on 218 option or dual process to avoid confusion • Ensure HDR who is doing all the rates can coordinate the multiple processes. |
| COLLABORATION | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trustful, collaborative and transparent partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diminishing trust | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the trust built from the MOU process to resolve the potential issues (Boundaries, governance, |

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| | | <p>hard feelings)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sloughhouse recent Board meeting reiterated the importance of trust and acknowledged it is growing and they are dedicated to the process • Create this as a “core value” and reinforce • Understand that trust and disagreement are not the same; so it is important that the GSP develops into something we can live with |
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6.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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

Support an Effective and Efficient Process

Rely on credible information. To foster effective dialogues, members agree to mutually support a transparent and inclusive process where parties commit to rely on credible data and clear criteria to inform decision-making and to draw on the advice of the Consultant Team selected to support its development of a GSP.

Craft a GSP that respects local jurisdictions while building subbasin-wide approach. Parties are committed to working together to develop an integrated and effective GSP, while respecting each GSA’s interest and expertise to oversee implementation within its unique jurisdiction or distinct planning areas. Parties agree to move the GSP process forward through consensus to ensure GSP approval by all GSA Boards.

Build off existing structures, lessons learned and past work where practicable, to leverage past investments and make the best use of everyone’s time and resources.

Build progress through incremental agreements. Participants will use preliminary agreements on issues as the basis for progress towards final agreement. The Working Group will revisit preliminary agreements when new information emerges and again when finalizing overall recommendations.

Dedicated Participation and Respectful Engagement

Commitment of Working Group members to practice and promote engaged preparation for and participation in scheduled meetings; timely response and input to communications and deliverables; and transparent and timely delivery of pertinent information.

Commitment to collaborate. All members agree to work together in a constructive manner to meet SGMA requirements based on a locally driven approach. No one is to benefit at the expense of others, and all parties agree to negotiate in good faith. Realize our collective teamwork is mandatory to move the GSP process forward and diversion from the process will put the GSP delivery at stake. Strive to reach consensus on positions of shared interest and proactively identify barriers for discussion and, where possible, resolution at the earliest opportunity.

Commitment of time. Strive to attend meetings consistently; we need everyone at the table throughout. Contribute your thoughts and share our time so everyone can participate.

Respect Others and the Process. Seek opportunities to share your perspectives and understand the perspectives of others; listen intently to what others are saying; be honest and fair, and as candid as possible. If you hear something you do not understand, ask questions to clarify. If you hear something you do not agree with, help people understand your concerns.

By signing below you acknowledge your intent to uphold the Partnering Agreement.

Agency Name: Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority

Ramon Roybal, SCGA Staff 6/4/2020

(Name and Title)

(Date)

Agency Name: Omochumne Hartnell Water District

Mike Wackman 6/1/2020

Mike Wackman, General Manager

(Name and Title)

(Date)

Agency Name: Strategy Driver, Inc.

EM Cross June 3, 2020

(Name and Title)

(Date)

Agency Name: Norther Delta Groundwater Sustainability Agency



June 23, 2020

Erik Ringelberg – NDGSA Administrator



June 23, 2020

Chris Thomas – NDGSA Alternate

Agency Name: Woodard & Curran, Inc.



06/04/2020

(Name and Title)

(Date)

Agency Name: Woodard & Curran, Inc.



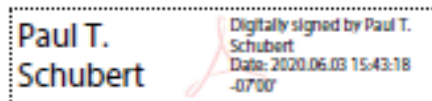
06/03/2020

(Name and Title)

(Date)

Agency Name: Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority / Golden State Water Co

Paul Schubert
General Manager



Agency Name: Larry Walker Associates



June 3, 2020

Thomas Grovhoug, Senior Executive

(Name and Title)

(Date)

Agency Name: Sacramento County Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Linda Dorn

Linda Dorn, Environmental Program Manager

June 3, 2020

(Name and Title)

(Date)

Agency Name: SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

THEODORE M. RAUH
Stella

BOARD MEMBER

JUNE 2, 2020

(Name and Title)

(Date)

Agency Name: Sloughouse Resource Conservation District

Austin Miller

6-1-20

Austin Miller
District Staff

June 1, 2020

Agency Name: SCGA STAFF

JOHN WOODLING
JW

6/4/20

(Name and Title)

(Date)

Agency Name: Omochumne-Hartnell Water District

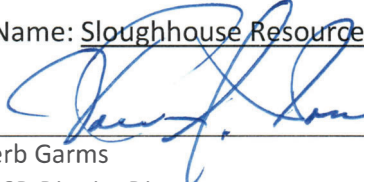
Mark L. Stetson

June 1, 2020

(Name and Title)

(Date)

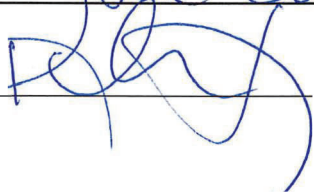
Agency Name: Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District



Herb Garms
SRCD District Director

Date 6/23/20

Agency Name: Sac County Water Agency



6/23/20

(Name and Title)

(Date)

Agency Name: Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority

Christine Thompson, Board of Directors

Public Agencies Self-Supplied

June 4, 2020

(Name and Title)

(Date)

Agency Name: California American Water



Evan Jacobs, Director of Regulatory Policy

6-5-20

Agency Name: Larry Walker Associates



Laura Foglia, Senior Engineer

06/03/2020

Agency Name: Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District

Mark J. Madison

Mark J. Madison

June 5, 2020

Date

Agency Name: SACRAMENTO CENTRAL GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

W. J. J.

SENIOR CIVIL ENGINEER (Date)

6/4/2020

Agency Name: SACRAMENTO REGIONAL COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT

Dave Ocenosak

(Name and Title)

DAVE OCENOSAK
PRINCIPAL ENGINEER

(Date)

6/2/20

Agency Name: Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority

Joel Evers
chairman

(Name and Title)

(Date)

6/25/20

Agency Name: SCGA Staff

R. Gardner

(Name and Title)

BOB GARDNER P.E.
ASSOCIATE CIVIL ENGINEER

(Date)

6/29/2020

Agency Name: OMOCHUMNE WATER DISTRICT

Mark Wilson

25 JUNE 2020

(Name and Title)

(Date)

MARK WILSON
BHWID BOARD MEMBER