

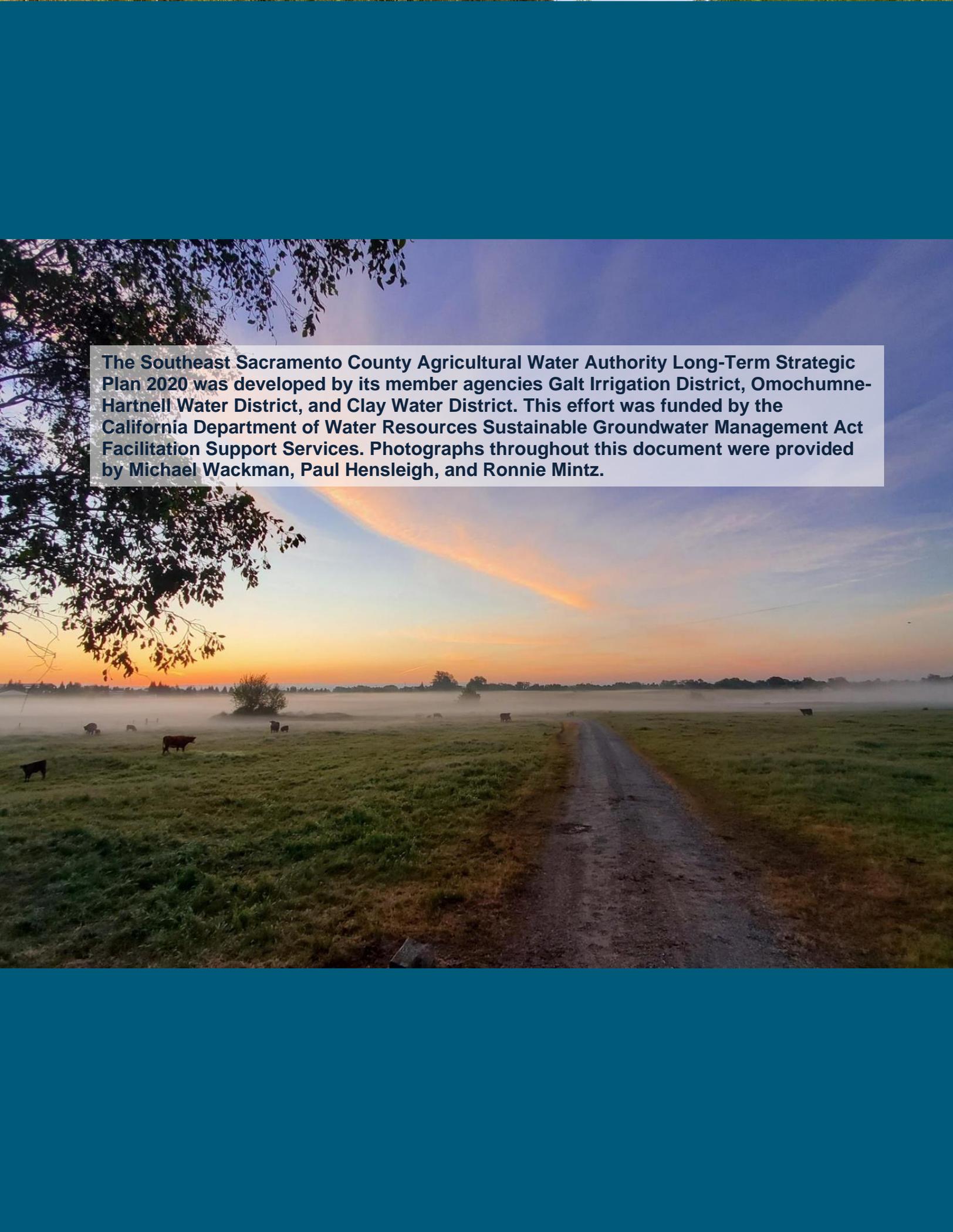


**Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural
Water Authority**

**Long-Term Strategic Plan
2020**

October 2020





The Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority Long-Term Strategic Plan 2020 was developed by its member agencies Galt Irrigation District, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District, and Clay Water District. This effort was funded by the California Department of Water Resources Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Facilitation Support Services. Photographs throughout this document were provided by Michael Wackman, Paul Hensleigh, and Ronnie Mintz.

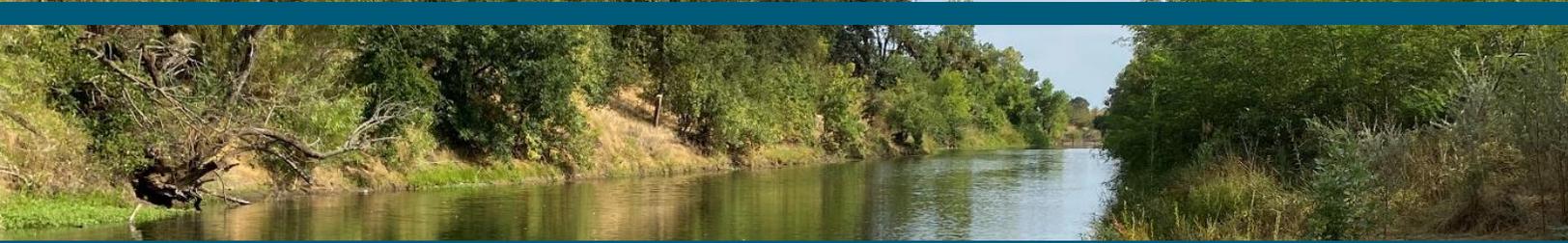


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Abbreviations and Acronyms

DWR	California Department of Water Resources
G	goal
GSA	Groundwater Sustainable Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
O	objective
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SSCAWA	Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority
SSCAWA Basin	Groundwater basin underlying Galt Irrigation District, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District, and Clay Water District
Strategic Plan	Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority Long-Term Strategic Plan 2020



Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority

The Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority (SSCAWA) was formed in 1997 and updated on May 14, 2002, by its member agencies Galt Irrigation District, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District, and Clay Water District as a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to develop, implement, and manage water resources as a single organization (Figure 1). The purpose of SSCAWA is to create a unified voice to advocate for and respond to legislative, regulatory, and policy matters of importance to the SSCAWA Basin.¹ As an organization, SSCAWA was established to provide a platform for members to discuss, prioritize, and act on matters of priority and interest relating to management of the Basin.

The three districts encompass approximately 70,980 acres, of which approximately 25,000 acres are devoted to irrigated agriculture. A majority of the JPA's jurisdictional area is in the Cosumnes Subbasin, with the remaining area in the South American Subbasin. Residential development in the districts consists of rural residential developments, small ranchettes, and the communities of Herald, Sheldon, Sloughouse, and Wilton. Most of the area's water demands are met using private wells, although some purchased surface water and riparian water are diverted from seasonal rivers and creeks that flow through the SSCAWA area.



Rooney Dam

SSCAWA first developed a Groundwater Management Plan in 2002 and another in 2011, and it is currently the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring lead entity for the Cosumnes Subbasin. Additionally, SSCAWA has partnered with the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, the Cosumnes Coalition, and other agencies on the development of projects and grant applications for the Cosumnes Subbasin.

¹ The SSCAWA Basin is defined as the groundwater basin underlying the three JPA members: Galt Irrigation District, Omochumne-Hartnell Water District, and Clay Water District.

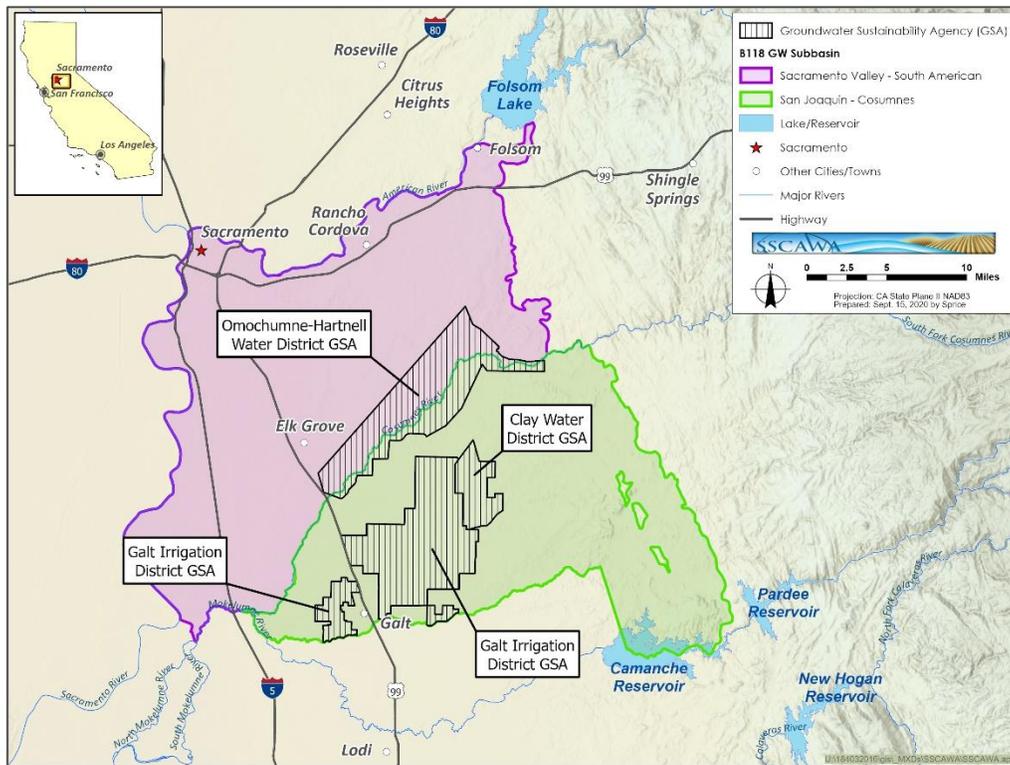


Figure 1. Location of SSCAWA Jurisdictional Boundaries Within the Cosumnes and South American Subbasins

Purpose

The purpose of the SSCAWA Long-Term Strategic Plan 2020 (Strategic Plan) is to:

1. Aid SSCAWA and its members' participation in development of the Cosumnes Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), as they work with four additional Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA): Amador County Groundwater Management Authority, City of Galt, Sacramento County, and Sloughouse Resource Conservation District.
2. Foster consensus and guide Cosumnes Subbasin GSP implementation by its members.
3. Assist in coordination of sustainable groundwater management projects that are beneficial to its members and the Cosumnes Subbasin.



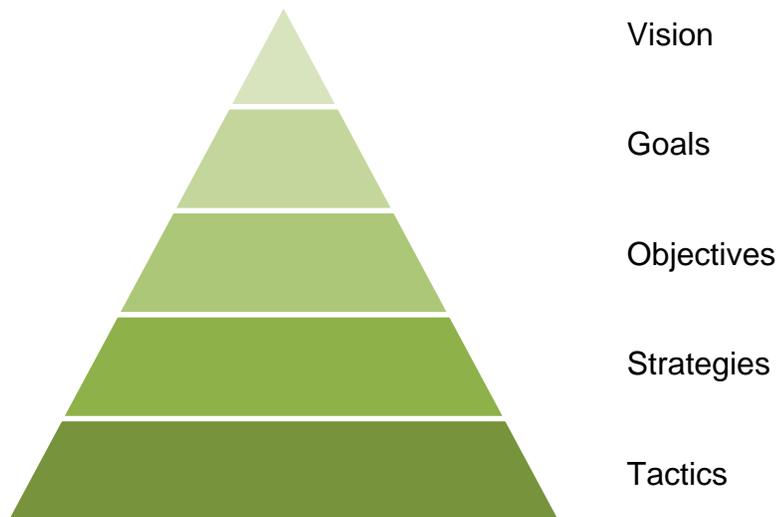
Background

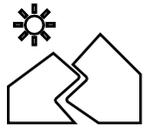
STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic planning is an organizational management activity that is used to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure that employees and other stakeholders are working toward common goals, establish agreement around intended outcomes/results, and assess and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing environment. A strategic plan is voluntary, as it is often established to provide direction to an organization with steps on how to take action to realize its vision. In addition to the vision, strategic plans often memorialize the associated goals, objectives, and action plan that includes strategies and tactics. A strategic plan is typically updated every 5 to 10 years.

Strategic Plan Components

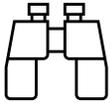
A strategic plan is built like a pyramid. Each component of a strategic plan is reliant on another to accomplish the overall vision. Each of these terms is defined below in Figure 2.





Vision

A compelling description of the region’s future *end state* (in a time horizon) that will result from proactive, strategic activities



Goals

Desired *end state* of activities, foundation of the entire planning process, and supports the overall vision



Objectives

Serve as a means of measuring success in achieving the strategic plan’s goals



Strategies

Approaches or methods for meeting each objective



Tactics

Tools used for meeting the objectives and fulfilling the strategies

Figure 2. Definitions and Pyramid Representation of Strategic Plan Components

COSUMNES SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The Cosumnes Subbasin GSP is being developed and implemented by a total of seven GSAs, including the three districts comprising SSCAWA as shown in Figure 3. As required by the 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP must be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 31, 2022. Additional information about requirements for the GSP can be found on the DWR website.²

² <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Sustainability-Plans>

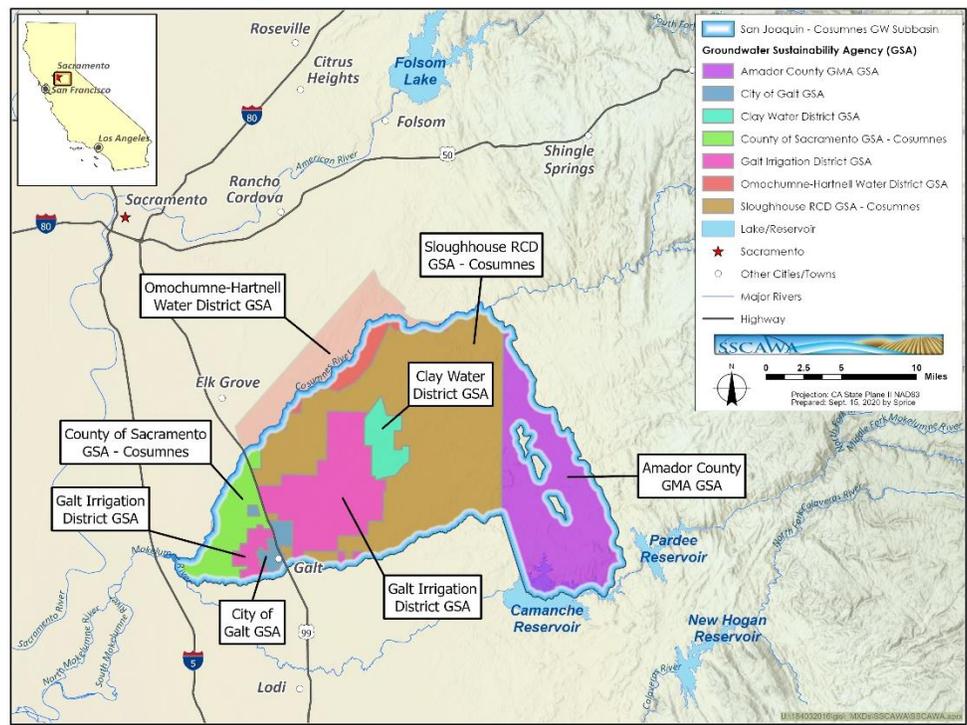


Figure 3. Cosumnes Subbasin and Associated Groundwater Sustainability Agencies

Vision

The Southeast Sacramento County Agricultural Water Authority will work towards effective groundwater management to improve the sustainability of the Cosumnes and South American Subbasins, consistent with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and the goals and priorities within the watershed.



Goals

Together, SSCAWA's four goals represent a comprehensive approach to achieving its vision. The numbered goals shown in Figure 4 are for organizational purposes only and are not meant to indicate priority.

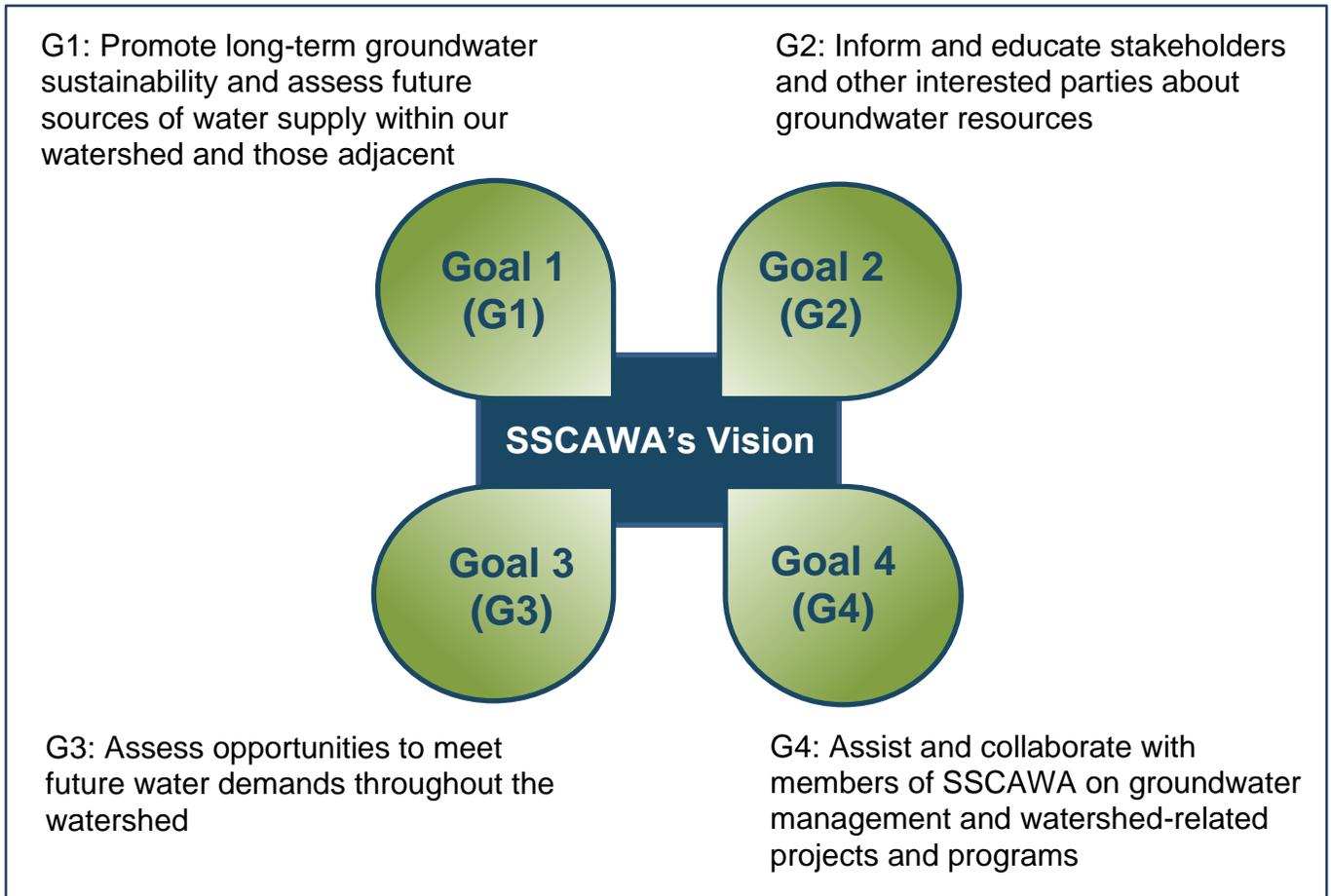


Figure 4. Four Goals Defined in the SSCAWA Long-Term Strategic Plan 2020



Objectives

Five objectives support SSCAWA’s goals. There is not a one-to-one correlation of a goal matching an objective—it is recognized that a single objective could help meet multiple goals (as noted in each objective description).

Objective 1 (O1): Increase collaboration with stakeholders and other interested parties

Helps meet goals:
G1 G2 G3 G4

This objective aims to have SSCAWA’s members work collaboratively with surrounding GSAs in the Cosumnes and South American Subbasins, the public, and interested parties, such as non-governmental organizations.

Objective 2 (O2): Improve the ability to meet future demands and adapt to future changes and challenges in the Cosumnes and South American Subbasins

Helps meet goals:
G1 G3 G4

This objective aims to have SSCAWA take a proactive approach to future changes and challenges associated with climate change, residential growth, and water demands in the Cosumnes and South American Subbasins.

Objective 3 (O3): Invest time and funding in groundwater sustainability projects and programs consistent with the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP

Helps meet goals:
G1 G2 G3 G4

This objective aims to have SSCAWA support implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP with in-kind services and money based on availability, for groundwater sustainability projects that help create a healthier groundwater basin.



Objective 4 (O4): Better define roles and responsibilities of SSCAWA and its members in support of groundwater sustainability

This objective aims to have SSCAWA characterize its member duties to sustain a long-lasting, effective organization.

Helps meet goals:			
G1		G3	G4

Objective 5 (O5): Develop a process for members of SSCAWA and other agencies to discuss, prioritize, and act on matters of priority and interest relating to management of the Cosumnes and South American Subbasins

This objective aims to have SSCAWA promote appropriate methods for collaboration amongst GSAs, the public, and other interested parties about groundwater management in the Cosumnes and South American Subbasins.

Helps meet goals:			
G1	G2	G3	G4

SSCAWA developed five strategies to help meet its objectives. In these strategies are various tactics that can be carried out to help achieve each of the stated strategies.



Strategies and Tactics

Strategy 1: Identify approaches to educate stakeholders and other interested parties through the development of an outreach and education plan/program and then implement the plan/program

Helps meet objectives:			
O1	O2	O3	O5

Tactics:

- Collaborate with the Sacramento County Farm Bureau
- Present at local community meetings
- Create surveys to determine the best ways to reach stakeholders and other interested parties
- Update the SSCAWA website to include materials related to groundwater sustainability and the GSP process
 - Develop a website section that links to other useful websites, such as other GSAs websites, DWR, member agencies, and the California State Water Resources Control Board’s Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program
- Develop one or two webinars annually that the public can attend to learn about SGMA and GSP updates and current information and events in the Cosumnes and South American Subbasins
- Create educational materials for all groundwater users in the Cosumnes and South American Subbasins about water usage and its outward effects
- Consider providing materials on the SSCAWA website in other common languages, as future needs arise



Strategy 2: Secure more personnel to assist SSCAWA with the Strategic Plan and GSP implementation

Helps meet objectives:

O1 O2 O3 O4 O5

Tactics:

- Hire a watershed coordinator to:
 - Develop and implement watershed improvement plans and support implementation of the GSP developed under SGMA
 - Develop and find funding opportunities to implement the GSAs' recommended projects
 - Develop monitoring protocols and coordinate surface and groundwater monitoring among involved GSAs and landowners

Strategy 3: Create an onboarding process for future board members

Helps meet objectives:

O4

Tactics:

- Develop a new board member education package that includes information about:
 - Groundwater management, basic definitions (subbasin, basin, watershed), and an introduction to SGMA, GSPs, and GSAs
 - The three districts of SSCAWA and the formation of the JPA
 - SSCAWA and its board members' roles and responsibilities
- Meet with outgoing and current board members to understand and obtain institutional knowledge



Strategy 4: Secure grant and other funding sources to support groundwater sustainability efforts for SSCAWA members

Helps meet objectives:
O2 O3

Tactics:

- Collaborate with other agencies for grants and new funding opportunities
- Conduct two meetings per year in coordination with board meetings, or when needed to identify potential grant and funding opportunities
- Prepare projects and programs for the potential opportunities
- Develop a process to apply for grants and new funding opportunities
- Prepare and submit applications

Strategy 5: Develop partnerships and projects with other entities to meet Cosumnes and South American Subbasins' and watershed needs related to groundwater sustainability, where appropriate

Helps meet objectives:
O2 O5

Tactics:

- Collaborate on technical improvements of the groundwater monitoring network
- Coordinate projects among members and other entities to ensure efforts are not duplicated
- Promote and implement multi-benefit projects
- Initiate studies to determine availability of water in the watershed and nearby watersheds (e.g., flood waters for groundwater recharge and surface water for irrigation)
- Participate in the Sacramento Regional Water Bank and other in-lieu groundwater banking opportunities
- Develop strategies for groundwater recharge and surface water use within the Cosumnes and South American Subbasins
- Develop a platform for members and other agencies to coordinate resources to support implementation of the Cosumnes Subbasin GSP objectives

