

SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chair:

Director Dale Crossley
Reclamation District No. 2068

Vice Chair:

Supervisor Mitch Mashburn
Solano County District 5

DIRECTORS:

Mayor Steve Bird
City of Dixon

Mayor Ron Kott
City of Rio Vista

Director Jack Caldwell
California Water Services

Director Spencer Bei
Dixon Resource
Conservation District

Director Ryan Mahoney
Maine Prairie Water District

Supervisor John Vasquez
Solano County District 4

Director Sean Favero
Solano County Farm Bureau

Director Russ Lester
Solano County Agricultural
Advisory Committee

Director Kurt Balasek
Solano Resource
Conservation District

SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Roland Sanford
Solano County Water Agency

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

DATE: Thursday, November 10, 2022

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

PLACE: SCWA BOD Room

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Limited to 5 minutes for any one item not scheduled on the Agenda.

5. CONSENT ITEMS

(A) Minutes: Approval of the Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of July 14, 2022.

(B) Expenditure Approvals: Approval for July-September 2022 checking account register.

6. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS (estimated time: 5 minutes)

RECOMMENDATION: For information only.

7. SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT (estimated time: 5 minutes)

RECOMMENDATION: For information only.

8. CREATION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (estimated time: 10 minutes)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Create Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.
2. Board Chair to appoint Board Members to the Executive Committee.

**9. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCES
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION**
(estimated time: 10 minutes)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Hear staff report on California Association of Resources Conservation Districts Block Grant Application.
2. Authorize General Manager to sign letter of support for California Association of Resources Conservation Districts Block Grant Application.

**10. SUPPORT OF CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL
PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (PROPOSITION
68) AND THE CALIFORNIA BUDGET ACTS OF 2021 AND 2022**
(estimated time: 15 minutes)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Hear Staff report on application for grant funds under the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) and California Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022, for continued implementation of the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
2. Authorize Chairman to sign Resolution 2022-01 in support of the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act (Proposition 68) and California Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022 and authorize staff to apply for and if successful execute a grant agreement with the California Department of Water Resources.

11. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at the SCWA offices.

***The Full Board of Directors packet with background materials for each agenda item can be
viewed on the Agency's website at***

www.scwa2.com/resources-management/ground-water/solano-gsa-bod

**SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

MEETING DATE: July 14, 2022

The Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors met this evening at the Solano County Water Agency Offices. Present were:

Mayor Steve Bird, City of Dixon
Mayor Ron Kott, City of Rio Vista
Supervisor John Vasquez, Solano County District 4
Supervisor Mitch Mashburn, Solano County District 5
Director Spencer Bei, Dixon Resource Conservation District
Director Dale Crossley, Reclamation District 2068
Director Lum, Solano Resource Conservation District
Director Sean Favero, Solano County Farm Bureau

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Chairman Crossley.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On a motion by Mayor Kott and a second by Supervisor Mashburn the Board unanimously approved-by roll call vote-the Agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS

On a motion by Mayor Bird and a second by Supervisor Mashburn the Board approved-by roll call vote the following:

- (A) Minutes from June 9th Solano GSA Board meeting.
- (B) Contract amendment with Luhdorff & Scalmanini.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There were no Board member reports.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORT

There were no additions to the written report.

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
CONSISTENCY CRITERIA POLICY FOR WELL CONSTRUCTION APPLICATIONS
PURSUANT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

At the Special Meeting on April 28th, the Board adopted Resolution 2022-01, providing emergency provisions for replacement of failed wells under Executive Order N-7-22 (EO). The proposed draft Policy would provide Consistency Criteria for all well applications pursuant to the EO. This draft Policy has been coordinated with staff at the Solano County Environmental Health Department, to insure it is consistent with their well permitting program.

As the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) indicates, the Solano Subbasin is in stable condition. There is one area of concern, the Northwest Focus Area. Except for this Northwest Focus Area, the draft Policy calls for staff to provide Consistency Criteria approval for well applications that meet the requirements of the Solano County Well Permit Program. For well applications in the Northwest Focus Area, a professional affidavit stating the well will not be inconsistent with the GSP nor decrease the likelihood of achieving the sustainability goals for the subbasin will be required. For these applications, the GSA TAC will review them, and collectively they will make a recommendation that staff will bring back to the Board for consideration.

On a motion by Supervisor Vasquez and a second by Supervisor Mashburn the Board unanimously approved-by roll call vote-the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Consistency Criteria Policy for Well Construction Applications Pursuant to Executive Order N-7-22.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PROPOSITION 218 CHARGE
FOR LONG-TERM FUNDING
OF THE SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The Board Chair announced the sequence of the Public Hearing and then opened the Public Hearing.

Staff gave a report on the number of notices mailed to stakeholders, 2,194, and the number of protests received, 121, prior to the start of the Public Hearing. A total of 1,098 protests would be required to be a majority. Staff noted that given the lack of parcel specific data, a flat charge was the most viable option for long-term funding of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) at this time. Staff also noted the extensive outreach was done with regards to the proposed charge, including two town hall meetings, several smaller meetings, and notices, newsletters, and a press release posted on the website.

Jacques DeBra from Luhdorff & Scalmanini gave a presentation on the proposed Proposition 218 Charge. The presentation covered the Solano GSA Service Area, the sequence of events and the schedule to date, why the charge was needed to comply with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and fund the Implementation Activities of the GSP, a summary of the Charge Report, and a summary of the public outreach.

The Board Chair then called for those that wished to provide Public Testimony.

There were seven speaker cards filled out, but more than a dozen stakeholders spoke. The majority of comments were centered around the flat charge not being equitable for dry land farmers, concerns that the costs for implementing the GSP were too high, and that the state should be paying for groundwater management.

The Board then discussed the proposed Charge. Several Board members responded to public testimony stating that this was mandated by the state, that what was being proposed was not something they liked but was necessary to maintain local control and keep the State Water Board out of our subbasin and potentially charging stakeholders a lot more. The Board also stated that they have directed staff to gather data at the parcel level for a future look at some type of graduated charge that might be able to consider dry land agricultural practices.

The Board Chair made a last call for any protest forms.

The Board Chair closed the Public Hearing.

Staff stated that a total of 134 protests had been received, not a majority protest.

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSITION 218 CHARGE FOR LONG-TERM FUNDING OF THE
SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**

The Board Chair stated that the Solano GSA Board of Directors just held a Public Hearing on the Proposed Proposition 218 Charge for Long-Term Funding for the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), and a majority protest was not received. The Board understands this is not the best solution, they are under a time constraint put on us by the state to fund this GSP or we could lose local control and the State Water Board could come in and charge everyone a lot more. The Board has directed staff to look at a graduated charge as soon as we have the data at the parcel level.

On a motion by Supervisor Vasquez and a second by Mayor Kott the Board approved-by roll call vote the Proposition 218 Charge for Long-Term Funding of the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Director Favero voted no.

**COLLABORATION AGREEMENT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN FOR THE SOLANO SUBBASIN**

Staff stated that this Collaboration Agreement is a continuation of the coordination amongst the GSAs to now move forward with implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). This Agreement details the cost share of each GSA. All the other GSAs have signed or agreed to sign the Agreement. The Agreement can be amended, or a new instrument can be utilized when cost share changes occur for each GSA in the future, but at minimum will be looked at every four years or so as we gear up for the 5-year updates to the GSP.

On a motion by Supervisor Vasquez and a second by Supervisor Mashburn the Board unanimously approved-by roll call vote-the Collaboration Agreement for Implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Solano Subbasin.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The time and place of the next meeting is Thursday, September 8, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting of the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Roland Sanford
Secretary to the Solano Subbasin
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

ACTION OF
SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

DATE: November 10, 2022

SUBJECT: Expenditure Approvals

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approve expenditures for the Agency checking account for July through September 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

All expenditures are within previously approved budget amounts.

BACKGROUND:

The Agency auditor has recommended that the Board of Directors approve all expenditures (in arrears). Attached is a summary of expenditures from the Agency’s checking account for July through September 2022. Additional backup information is available upon request.

Recommended: _____
Roland Sanford, Secretary

<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved as recommended	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (see below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Continued on next page
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Modification to Recommendation and/or other actions:

I, Roland Sanford, Secretary to the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing action was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by said Board of Directors at a regular meeting thereof held on November 10, 2022, by the following vote.

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Roland Sanford,
Secretary to the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency

SOLANO GSA**Check Register****For the Period From Jul 1, 2022 to Oct 31, 2022**

Filter Criteria includes: Report order is by Date.

Check #	Date	Payee	Invoice/CM #	Cash Account	Amount
1038	7/15/22	LUHDORFF & SCALMANINI	38611	1020AC	48,679.75
1039	8/4/22	LUHDORFF & SCALMANINI	38494	1020AC	7,183.25
1039	8/4/22	LUHDORFF & SCALMANINI	38610	1020AC	
1040	8/27/22	ACWA/JPIA	CYBER 2022-23	1020AC	112.50
1041	8/27/22	HERUM\CRABTREE\SUNTAG	103951	1020AC	1,632.00
1042	8/27/22	LUHDORFF & SCALMANINI	38688	1020AC	23,517.00
1042	8/27/22	LUHDORFF & SCALMANINI	38689	1020AC	
1043	10/5/22	AG INNOVATIONS	3241	1020AC	6,966.75
1043	10/5/22	AG INNOVATIONS	3250	1020AC	
1044	10/5/22	LUHDORFF & SCALMANINI	38875	1020AC	17,743.75
Total					105,835.00

SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Roland Sanford, Secretary to the Board of Directors

DATE: November 3, 2022

SUBJECT: November General Manager/Secretary Report

Executive Order N-7-22

To date, staff have provided twelve consistency certifications for replacement/new wells under either the emergency provisions of Resolution 2022-01, signed by the Board at their April 28th meeting, or more recently through the Groundwater Consistency Criteria Policy approved by the Board at their July 14th meeting.

GSP Implementation Actions

The following Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation Actions were worked on for September 2022, either by staff, consultants (Ag Innovations and Luhdorff & Scalmanini [LSCE]), or a combination of both (in support of Item 5b):

- Annual Report
 - GSP Data Management System support associated with data updates, QA/QC, data standardization, annual report template development, USBR water level data review, fall water level monitoring coordination with Solano monitoring entities
- Monitoring Network Coordination Support and Addressing Data Gaps
 - Development of Water Level Routine Monitoring Site well data fact sheet templates, coordination with transducer data download and QC, Water Quality and Water Level monitoring coordination with Public Water Systems, Irrigated Lands Reporting Program, Resource Conservation Districts; data gap review including planning related to additional surface water data collection identified in GSP; and Data Management System support related to monitoring activities
- Ongoing evaluation and tracking of local groundwater conditions in the Northwest (NW) Focus Area

- Review of local land use and water level changes, evaluation of characteristics related to recharge potential in NW Focus Area including parcel specific analysis of recharge feasibility, review of dry wells in NW Focus Area
- DWR grant application support
 - Preparation and planning related to projects for inclusion in grant request, attend DWR grant webinar, review of DWR scoring criteria as it relates to potential projects, letters of support materials
- Meeting Support
 - Solano Project Team Meeting and other meeting preparation/attendance
- SGMA technical assistance
 - Department of Conservation grant discussions with Resources Conservation Districts, recharge parcel survey review, review of groundwater levels with local stakeholders
- Preparation for, lead, and prepare notes for Solano GSP Team meeting
- Preparation for, lead, and prepare notes for GSA Collaborative meeting
- Follow-up with Dixon RCD and LSCE regarding Tremont 3 area and possible Northwest Focus area survey
- Develop working layout for Northwest Focus Area survey postcard
- Work on State of the Subbasin outline and review with LSCE
- Review and develop recommendation for Collaborative GSA websites regarding consistency and content
- Begin planning for Interbasin Coordination activities in the fall with Yolo GSA
- Develop themes for fall newsletter
- Improvements to the SolanoGSP.com website

Additional Data Collection

Staff are continuing to collect data to look at alternative funding mechanisms for long-term funding of GSP Implementation.

Our partners at Solano County, through their GIS Department, have contracted with LSCE to develop a well and water intake inventory workplan (scope of work attached). It is anticipated the Workplan will describe efforts needed to ground truth or acquire information on the locations and characteristics of wells and intakes and where water from these wells and intakes is being used. This is the first step toward an improved understanding of the locations and characteristics of active water wells and intake structures within the Subbasin and across the broader County.

Solano Groundwater Sustainability Plan Website

Continuous updates are being made to the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Plan website. The address for the website is: <http://www.solanogsp.com>



Luhdorff & Scalmanini
Consulting Engineers

June 3, 2022

Job Number: 22-1-082

Mr. Stewart Bruce

Solano County, Department of Information Technology

675 Texas Street, Suite 3700

Fairfield, CA 94533

**SUBJECT: SCOPE OF WORK TO ASSIST SOLANO COUNTY WITH DEVELOPING A WELL AND WATER
INTAKE STRUCTURE INVENTORY WORKPLAN**

Dear Mr. Bruce:

In response to your request, Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) are providing this scope of work and budget to provide assistance to Solano County in planning an approach for addressing Geographic Information System (GIS) data needs related to groundwater management in Solano County. Water resources in Solano County are critical in supporting a wide variety of beneficial uses and users including for drinking water, irrigation, and environmental needs. During the development of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Solano Subbasin, a variety of key datasets were assembled for purposes of GSP implementation and improving groundwater management in the Solano Subbasin and across other parts of the County. One of the key data needs identified during development of the Solano Subbasin GSP related to improved understanding of the locations and characteristics of active water wells and intake structures within the Subbasin and across the broader County. This scope and budget will support LSCE's initial efforts assisting Solano County in outlining an approach to further developing and refining these key datasets of interest for groundwater management in the County. The outcome from this scope will include a workplan for developing an inventory of groundwater wells and water intake structures within Solano County.

The Well and Water Intake Structure Inventory Workplan will outline an approach for developing geospatial datasets representing active groundwater wells and surface water intake structures in the County and key information associated with these features. This effort will incorporate a process for integrating data from the existing County well permit dataset maintained on the Accela data management platform along with other available datasets related to wells, including the California Department of Water Resources Well Completion Report database. The Workplan will identify additional information or attributes that should be maintained relating to wells and intake structures going forward and a process for acquiring this information for new and old features. It is anticipated the Workplan will describe field reconnaissance efforts needed to ground truth or acquire information on the locations and characteristics of wells and intakes and where water from these wells and intakes is being used. The Workplan will note potential opportunities to coordinate field activities with other data acquisition interests, including land use or parcel mapping needs, and will also prioritize efforts across the County based on the needs and benefits related to the data. The Workplan will provide a roadmap for developing these key GIS datasets related to groundwater management in the County and will be a resource in acquiring funding to support data development needs.

Key tasks that will be conducted for this scope of work are listed below.

- Preliminary review of existing statewide and County data resources related to wells and water intakes and evaluation of data refinement and enhancement needs
- Summarizing and prioritizing data needs related to groundwater wells and water intake structures
- Development of workplan for completing an inventory of information related to groundwater wells and water intake structures within Solano County
- Estimation of level of effort involved in executing the Well and Water Intake Structure Inventory Workplan
- Identification of potential funding opportunities to support implementation of the Well and Water Intake Structure Inventory Workplan
- Coordination and meeting with Solano County staff during review of existing data and preparation of the Workplan

Estimated Budget and Schedule

The estimated budget to complete this scope of work is \$10,000. LSCE's services will be billed on a time and materials basis in accordance with the attached *Schedule of Fees*. The budget amount of \$10,000 will not be exceeded without prior authorization from Solano County. LSCE will coordinate with the County to complete a draft version of the Well and Water Intake Structure Inventory Workplan for County review within 60 days following Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) and receipt of information on existing data resources maintained by the County. LSCE will finalize the Workplan within two weeks of receiving comments from County staff on the draft version.

We appreciate this opportunity to submit this proposal and are ready to proceed following authorization. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

LUHDORFF AND SCALMANINI
CONSULTING ENGINEERS



Nick Watterson, PG, CHG
Principal Hydrogeologist



Vicki Kretsinger Grabert
Senior Principal Hydrologist

Attachments

LSCE 2022 Schedule of Fees





500 FIRST STREET • WOODLAND, CA 95695

2022 SCHEDULE OF FEES

ENGINEERING AND RELATED FIELD SERVICES

Professional*

Senior Principal	\$235/hr.
Principal Professional.....	\$225 to 230/hr.
Supervising Professional	\$210 to 220/hr.
Senior Professional	\$175 to 210/hr.
Project Professional	\$155 to 175/hr.
Staff Professional	\$135 to 155/hr.

Technical

Engineering Inspector	\$140/hr.
ACAD Drafting/GIS	\$142/hr.
Engineering Assistant.....	\$115 to 140/hr.
Scientist.....	\$115 to 140/hr.
Technician	\$115 to 140/hr.

Clerical Support

Word Processing, Clerical.....	\$90/hr.
Digital Communications Specialist	\$90 to 100/hr.
Project Admin/Accounting Assistant	\$90 to 110/hr.

Vehicle Use	\$0.58/mi.
Subsistence	Cost Plus 15%
Groundwater Sampling Equipment (Includes Operator)	\$170.00/hr
Copies	\$0.20 ea.
Professional or Technical Testimony	200% of Regular Rates
Technical Overtime (if required)	150% of Regular Rates
Outside Services/Rentals	Cost Plus 15%
Services by Associate Firms	Cost Plus 15%

* Engineer, Geologist, Hydrogeologist, and Hydrologist

ACTION OF
SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

DATE: November 10, 2022

SUBJECT: Creation of Executive Committee for Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Create Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.
- 2. Board Chair to appoint Board Members to the Executive Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

The Chair of the Board of Directors has recommended that the Board create an Executive Committee of the Board of Directors.

Usual practice of Agencies like the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency would be for the Chair of the Board of Directors to make appointments to the Executive Committee.

The Agency has 11 Board members, a maximum of 5 Board members could meet as a committee without having a quorum of the Board of Directors. The recommendation would be to limit the Executive Committee to 3 Board Members. The Board Chair has the authority to appoint members of the Executive Committee. The recommendation would be that the Executive Committee be made up of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and a Director from the Municipal Representatives (City of Dixon, City of Rio Vista, or California Water Service-Dixon).

Typically, an Executive Committee reviews the Board Agenda prior to Board meetings with the General Manager/Secretary and oversees other tasks as requested by the Board of Directors, such as reviewing the Agency’s budget. As there may be overlap between the Solano County Water Agency Board of Director’s Executive Committee and the Agency’s Executive Committee, it is recommended that the Agency Executive Committee meet on the last Wednesday of each month at 5:30 pm via tele/video conference, if possible, otherwise the Board Chair will pick a time for meetings of the Executive Committee.

Recommended: _____
Roland Sanford, Secretary

<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved as recommended	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (see below)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Continued on next page
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Modification to Recommendation and/or other actions:

I, Roland Sanford, Secretary to the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing action was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by said Board of Directors at a regular meeting thereof held on November 10, 2022, by the following vote.

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Roland Sanford,
Secretary to the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency

ACTION OF
SOLANO SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

DATE: November 10, 2022

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for California Association of Resources Conservation Districts Block Grant Application

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Hear staff report on California Association of Resources Conservation Districts Block Grant Application.
- 2. Authorize General Manager to sign letter of support for California Association of Resources Conservation Districts Block Grant Application.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, on behalf of the Dixon and Solano Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), is preparing a grant application to the Department of Conservation that includes work elements in support of Solano Subbasin Sustainability Plan implementation (see attachment). It is anticipated that if awarded by the Department of Conservation, the grant would provide up to \$2,000,000 for Solano Subbasin Sustainability Plan implementation.

The recommendation is to authorize the General Manager to sign a letter of support (attached) for the RCDs grant application.

Recommended: _____
Roland Sanford, Secretary

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved as recommended	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (see below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Continued on next page
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Modification to Recommendation and/or other actions:

I, Roland Sanford, Secretary to the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing action was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by said Board of Directors at a regular meeting thereof held on November 10, 2022, by the following vote.

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Roland Sanford,
Secretary to the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Title: CARCD Block Grant to Department of Conservation Multibenefit Land Repurposing in **the Sacramento Valley: Building Capacity and Taking Action**

- ☒ Multi-benefit water related projects and practices
- ☒ Water quality
- ☒ Agricultural Sustainability

Project Type

Check one box.

- ☒ Planning
- ☒ Implementation

Funding Request

Total funds requested for Solano County: \$ 1.5 to \$2.0 million as part of an overall dollar proposal on behalf of nine sub basins* for a total of \$15 million.

- RCDs: Amador County, Colusa County, Dixon, San Joaquin County, Sloughhouse, Solano, Sutter, Yolo County
- GSAs: Omoichumne-Hartnell Water District (OHWD) GSA, Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD) GSA, Colusa GSA, Yolo GSA, Solano GSA, Cosumnes Groundwater Authority (Representing the 7 Cosumnes Subbasin GSAs: OHWD, SRCD, Clay Water District, Amador County Groundwater Authority, City of Galt, Galt Irrigation District, County of Sacramento)

Project Duration

Start Date: *Estimated* - Spring 2023 Funding Term End Date: *Estimated* - Spring 2027

Geographic Location

Northwest Focus Area of Solano Subbasin & Tremont 3 Watershed in Eastern Solano County

Applicant Names: Joint Application from Dixon and Solano Resource Conservation Districts in partnership with Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Contact Person Name: Kelly Huff, District Manager, Dixon Resource Conservation District

Mailing Address:

1170 N. Lincoln Street, Ste. 110, Dixon CA 95620 Telephone:
(707) 678 - 1655 x 103

Email Address:

kelly-huff@dixonrcd.org

Concept Proposal Narrative Content

Project Description

Dixon and Solano Resource Conservation Districts have been actively involved in the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) during its formation and the development of the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) submitted to the Department of Water Resources in January 2022. Although the Solano Subbasin is in balance overall, the “Northwest Focus Area” (NW Area) has experienced localized groundwater level declines over the last thirty years. In addition to groundwater declines, the NW Area includes areas and drains to areas that regularly experience localized flooding, including the “Tremont 3 Watershed”. The NW Area is prioritized in the GSP for potential projects and management actions including the utilization of storm water to provide benefits to groundwater management and flood control. Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) and the GSP Technical Team have reviewed potential practices and/or projects that could be installed in the NW area that would support sustainable groundwater supplies and help reduce watershed flooding. The potential practices include storm water capture/recharge/flood control basins in areas already subject to local and FEMA flooding (see attached figure), agricultural water use tracking, and conservation with remote sensing data to inform irrigation water management. It is a critical time to engage the knowledge and ideas of landowners and growers in the area to help determine what will work best and where. Projects and/or practices prioritized through this process will be the focus for funding in the future. In addition there are opportunities to utilize data from the groundwater sustainability plan to assist with site feasibility as well as long-term monitoring of groundwater levels for project/practice effectiveness. Utilization of information from annual farm reporting as well as satellite-based evapotranspiration (ET) data will improve the total water use estimates in the GSP as well as serve as a tools for irrigation management and water conservation.

Solano County recently began an Integrated Water Supply and Drainage Framework. This grant would allow the RCDs, SCWA and the GSA to support the County in piloting this integrated approach in the NW Area and Tremont 3 watersheds and to meaningfully involve the landowners and growers from the watersheds in the early phases of project planning. The use of existing storm drainage models will allow the quantitative evaluation of the flood reduction benefits. The RCDs are in regular contact with all irrigated agricultural landowners and growers in Solano County through the Dixon/Solano RCD Water Quality Coalition and various restoration, education, and assistance programs. Landowners and growers are accustomed to receiving assistance from the RCDs and there is trust in and familiarity with the organizations to help them navigate regulatory requirements in addition to resource conservation assistance. A portion of these funds will be used to provide on farm assistance with groundwater related practices as well as practices that support habitat, such as rewilding on farm edges and riparian corridors, vegetating tail water ponds, and related practices.



SOLANO SUBBASIN

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

November 10, 2022
Department of Conservation
801 K St, Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: The California Association of Resource Conservation District's (CARCD's) Block Grant application, "Multibenefit Land Repurposing in The Sacramento Valley: Building Capacity and Taking Action"

I am writing on behalf of Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Solano GSA) to express our deep support for CARCD's proposal. Their approach will allow all of us working locally on these issues to further priorities identified in our local Groundwater Sustainability Plans while supporting multibenefit projects and practices in a way that continues to support productive agriculture, local economy, and wildlife habitat. We agree with CARCD that RCDs are vital to the success of multibenefit land repurposing planning and project work in our Solano Subbasin and the region overall. We hope that your committee will consider the significance and importance of funding a CARCD/RCD-led proposal as a testament to the value that local, longstanding public agency-led conservation work brings to the multibenefit land repurposing arena. RCDs – collaborating closely with their partner landowners and land managers, farmers, and ranchers – will play a crucial role in identifying multibenefit projects in a strategic, systematic way yielding maximum beneficial outcomes for wildlife habitat, aquifer recharge, and climate change resilience. Although overall in balance, our Solano Subbasin faces localized groundwater sustainability as well as seasonal storm water challenges. These interwoven issues necessitate a coordinated approach to ensure maximum benefits across local natural resource and economic needs. There are potential multibenefit projects and practices that could make a tremendous impact locally with an integrated approach to water supply and drainage management. We are excited about the potential to codify and expand our coordinated approach to ensuring local land serves multibenefit purposes with current partners such as Dixon and Solano Resource Conservation Districts and the GSAs and their member agencies, plus those we add over the course of this 4-year program. Together with community members, landowners, and agricultural producers, we will put forward and implement projects in close cooperation at the local level for maximum regional impact.

Solano GSA is committed to being an active partner in this important work during this critical time to increase the resiliency of our region. As such, we are committing staff time to facilitate the most impact during the funding period and beyond.

We hope that you will strongly consider CARCD's Block Grant application with its diversity of partners, outsized footprint, and each partners' long-standing reputation of advancing these most timely issues which your program seeks to address.

Sincerely,

Roland Sanford,
General Manager, Solano County Water Agency
Secretary to Solano GSA

ACTION OF
SOLANO GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

DATE: November 10, 2022

SUBJECT: Support of California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) and the California Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Hear Staff report on application for grant funds under the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) and the California Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022, for continued implementation of the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
- 2. Authorize Chairman to sign Resolution 2022-01 in support of the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act (Proposition 68) and the California Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022 and authorize staff to apply for and if successful execute a grant agreement with the California Department of Water Resources.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

On October 4th, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) opened the formal grant application period for funding under the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) and the California Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022, (Proposition 68, Round 2, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act {SGMA} GSP Implementation Program). The response time is short, with grant applications due on November 30, right after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Staff have been collaborating closely with staff from the other Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Solano Subbasin to develop the grant application components. Unfortunately, due to the timing of the grant application, the Board of Directors will not see a complete application until after it is submitted.

Recommended: _____
Roland Sanford, Secretary

<input type="checkbox"/>	Approved as recommended	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (see below)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continued on next page
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Modification to Recommendation and/or other actions:

I, Roland Sanford, Secretary to the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing action was regularly introduced, passed, and adopted by said Board of Directors at a regular meeting thereof held on November 10, 2022 by the following vote.

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstain:

Absent:

Roland Sanford
Secretary to the
Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Staff will provide an overview of the grant requirements and proposed components of the grant application and ask for direction from the Board.

There are no match requirements for the grant.

Proposed grant application components are:

Component 1-GSP Monitoring and Data Management

Address GSP Data Gaps

- Inventory of active wells
- Automated/real-time instrumentation of select monitoring sites
- Review recent Basal Tehama agricultural production wells
- Groundwater (GW) monitoring data gaps

Data Management System (DMS)

- DMS update including interactive web mapping application and other visualization for GSA and public use

Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) and Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) and Putah Creek Projects

- Improved GDE inventory and assessment-cottonwoods, managed wetlands
- ISW and GDE monitoring enhancements-rating curves/instrumentation of existing facilities, identify additional monitoring sites east of Stevenson Bridge
- Synthesis of shallow GW/stream infiltration monitoring on Putah Creek in conjunction with soil and evapotranspiration (ET) monitoring in relation to GDE impacts

Component 2-Supporting Groundwater Use Management Actions

Improving Understanding of Basin Water Use

- Review and refine ET estimates using OpenET
- Improve assessment of surface water use locations and volumes (with well inventory)

Ongoing Water Conservation

- Continued outreach to growers on BMPs benefitting water conservation
- Irrigation management evaluations for GW users

Groundwater Management Policy Support-Looking Ahead

- Incentives and policies for future GW development
- Future land use policy
- Strategies to manage and monitor GW use, including mechanisms to promote recharge and potential updates to GW ordinance

Component 3-Water Replenishment and Reliability

Recharge Study-Targeted Implementation

- Recharge feasibility analysis in Northwest Focus Area and Tremont 3 Watershed-ranking areas and identifying properties for field-scale consideration
- Field-scale recharge site investigation-selected sites for detailed cost/benefit and field conditions assessment for designing pilot recharge projects

Localized Groundwater Conditions Evaluation

- Review and assess GW conditions near Lake Solano in relation to hydrogeology and land use/water demand
- Identify domestic wells vulnerable to GW level impacts
- Evaluate community water supply well needs or other water supply options for improving domestic water supply reliability in Northwest Focus Area.

City of Vacaville Recycled Water Planning

- Refined analyses of benefits and costs, including groundwater management benefits-potential to offset Basal Tehama pumping, other supplies, water treatment

Staff recommendation is to authorize the Chairman to sign Resolution 2022-01 in support of the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act (Proposition 68) and the California Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022 and authorize staff to apply for and if successful execute a grant agreement with the DWR.



SOLANO SUBBASIN:

DWR SGMA Implementation Grant Funding Proposition 68, Round 2



November 10, 2022: Solano Subbasin GSA Board Meeting



Proposition 68, Round 2 Funding PSP Overview

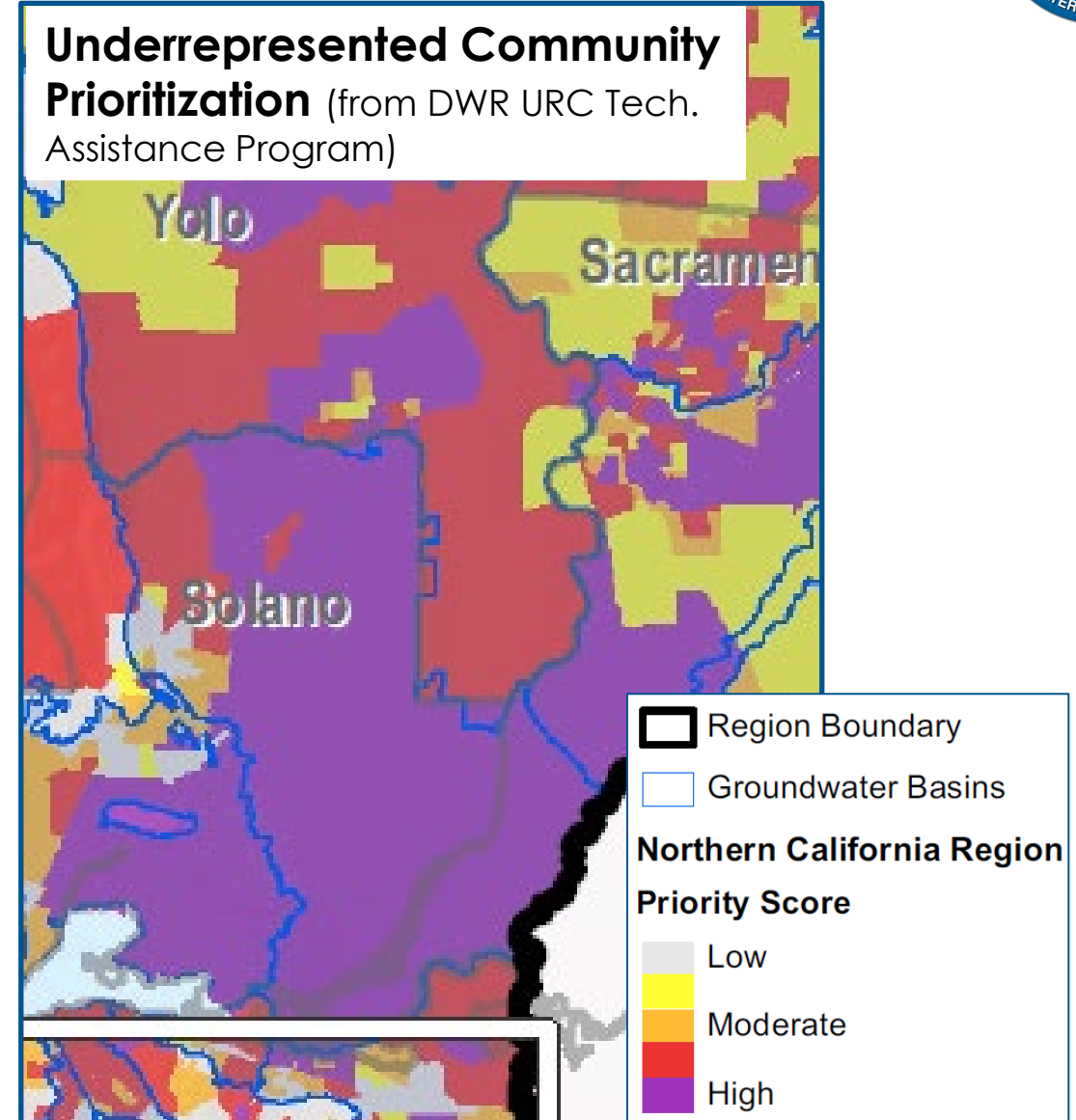
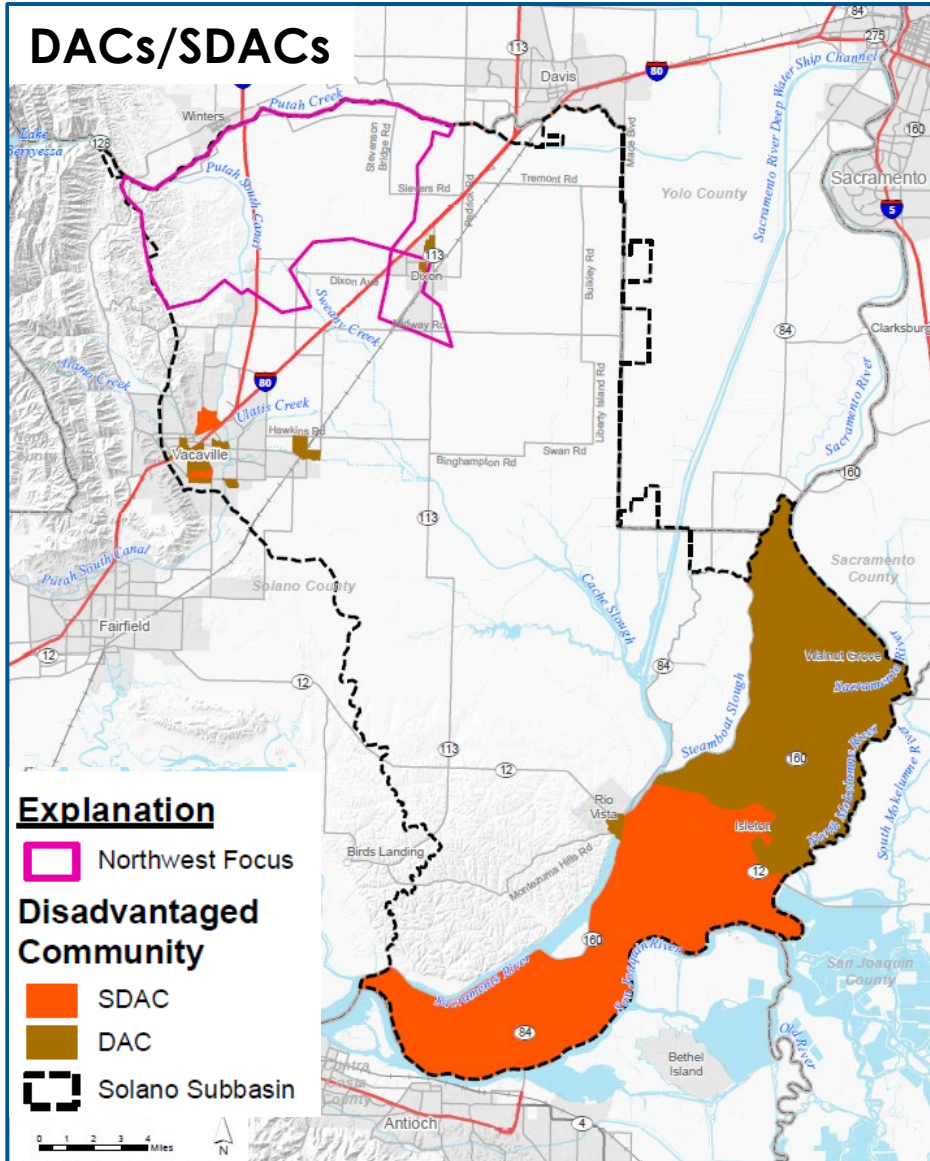
- Application due Nov. 30; estimate ~\$230 million available
- Updates to PSP content presented only in Oct. 20 workshop
- Open to all medium/high priority basins – preference to non-COD basins only in cases of scoring tiebreaker
- Substantial scoring consideration of benefits related to:
 - Disadvantaged/Underrepresented communities (4 pts)
 - Small water systems/domestic wells/SAFER (4 pts)
 - Human Right to Water (HR2W) (4 pts)
- Overall score is average of component scores – weak components bring down overall score
- Other important grant considerations
 - No match required and no points for match
 - Eligible reimbursable expenses start Oct. 4, 2022 through April 2026

Project/Component Scoring Criteria Summary



Item	Criteria Summary	Possible Points	Scoring Guidance
1	Description of Project/Component rationale. Rationale for selection of Project/Component (e.g., benefits provided, communities served, measurable objectives, minimum thresholds, plan implementation timeline, and feasibility). Demonstrated goals, objectives, and needs and how met by the Project/Component.	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 – Fully addressed 3 – Mostly addressed, with minor details not included/unclear 2 – Mostly addressed, with significant details missing/unclear 1 – Marginally addressed 0 – Not addressed
2-Imp	Description of expected quantifiable benefits. Justifications/outcomes of the benefits. Project/Components for planning activities or outreach only for a construction project, provide information when project will be constructed and how funds will be obtained to complete construction activities.	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 – Two quantifiable benefits with explanation/support 3 – Two quantifiable benefits lacking explanation/support 2 – One quantifiable benefit with explanation/support 1 – Two quantifiable benefits lacking explanation/support 0 – Benefits provided but not explained/quantified
2-Plan	Level of coordination demonstrated in proposal. If planning activities are addressing DWR comments on GSP, will the proposed activities fully address the DWR comments. Will activities address data gaps of other areas in the GSP that was known to be lacking?	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 – Fully addressed 3 – Mostly addressed, with minor details missing 2 – Mostly addressed, with significant details missing 1 – Marginally addressed 0 – Not addressed
3	Project map(s) depicting the site location, current conditions, and benefitting areas.	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 – Provided all necessary information 1 – Provided but missing some information 0 – Not provided
4	Project benefits to Underrepresented Community (-ies) Provide the amount of funding that will benefit both the Underrepresented Community and SDAC.	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4- Project benefits a Tribe or an SDAC(s) 3- Project benefits an DAC(s) 2- Project benefits an Underrepresented Community 1 – Project partially benefits either 0 – Project does not benefit either
5	Benefits to domestic wells, small water systems, SAFER Will the Project or Component positively impact issues associated with small water systems or private shallow domestic wells (e.g., groundwater contamination vulnerability, drawdown, etc.)? Was justification such as domestic well census results, water system maps, service area maps, etc. provided? Does Project/Component help address needs of SWRCB SAFER Program?	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 – Fully addressed 3 – Mostly addressed, with minor details missing/unclear 2 – Mostly addressed, with significant details missing/unclear 1 – Marginally addressed 0 – Not addressed
6	Human Right to Water (AB 685 Section 106.3) How will the Project or Component support the established policy of the State that every human being has the right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes?	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 – Fully addressed 3 – Mostly addressed, with minor details missing/unclear 2 – Mostly addressed, with significant details missing or unclear 1 – Marginally addressed 0 – Not addressed
7	Scope of Work	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 – Fully addressed 3 – Mostly addressed, with minor details missing/unclear 2 – Mostly addressed, with significant details missing/unclear 1 – Marginally addressed 0 – Not addressed
8	Budget	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – Consistent and feasible 0 – Not consistent and feasible
9	Schedule	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – Consistent and feasible 0 – Not consistent and feasible

Disadvantaged/Underrepresented Communities in Solano Subbasin





Potential Grant Application Components

Component 1 – GSP Monitoring and Data Management

- Addressing Data Gaps
 - Inventory of active wells
 - Automated/real-time instrumentation of select monitoring sites
 - Review recent Basal Tehama ag production
 - GW monitoring data gaps
- Data Management System Enhancements
 - DMS update including interactive web mapping application and other visualization for GSA and public use
- ISW and GDE Assessment and Putah Creek Projects
 - Improved GDE inventory and assessment – cottonwoods, managed wetlands
 - ISW and GDE monitoring enhancements – rating curves/instrumentation of existing facilities, identify additional monitoring sites east of Stevenson Bridge
 - Synthesis of shallow groundwater/stream infiltration monitoring on Putah Ck with M. Grismer in conjunction with soil and ET monitoring in relation to GDE impacts



Potential Grant Application Components

Component 2 – Supporting GW Use Management Actions

- Improving Understanding of Basin Water Use
 - Review and refine ET estimates using OpenET
 - Improve assessment of SW use locations and volumes (with well inventory)
- Ongoing Water Conservation
 - Continued outreach to growers on BMPs benefitting water conservation
 - Irrigation management evaluations for groundwater users
- Groundwater Management Policy Support – Looking Ahead
 - Incentives and policies for future groundwater development
 - Future land use policy
 - Strategies to manage and monitor groundwater use, including mechanisms to promote recharge and potential updates to groundwater ordinance



Potential Grant Application Components

Component 3 – Water Replenishment and Reliability

- Recharge Study – Targeted Implementation
 - Recharge feasibility analyses in NW Focus Area and Tremont 3 Watershed-ranking areas and identifying properties for field-scale consideration
 - Field-scale recharge site investigation – selected sites for detailed cost/benefit and field conditions assessment for designing pilot recharge projects
- Localized Groundwater Conditions Evaluation
 - Review and assess GW conditions near Lake Solano in relation to hydrogeology and land use/water demand
 - Identify domestic wells vulnerable to GW level impacts
 - Evaluate community water supply well needs or other water supply options for improving domestic water supply reliability in NW Focus Area
- City of Vacaville Recycled Water Planning
 - Refined analyses of benefits and costs, including groundwater management benefits – potential to offset Basal Tehama pumping, other supplies, water treatment



Potential Grant Application Components

Initial Assessment of Scoring

- Comp. 1: GSP Monitoring and Data Management (~\$600,000)
 - Overall scoring assessment: Moderately strong
 - Strengths: Clear relationship to GSP implementation and addressing data gaps
 - Weaknesses: benefits to DACs/SDACs, domestics/small water systems, HR2W
- Comp. 2: Supporting GW Use Management Actions (~\$750,000)
 - Overall scoring assessment: Very strong
 - Strengths: benefits domestics/water systems, link to GSP implementation
 - Weaknesses: potential limited benefit to DAC/SDAC
- Comp. 3: Water Replenishment and Reliability (~\$850,000)
 - Overall scoring assessment: Strong
 - Strengths: benefits to domestics/water systems
 - Weaknesses: potential limited benefit to DAC/SDAC, uncertainty on how benefits of Recycled Water will be considered, uncertainty in feasibility of demonstrating benefit of community water system well to address Subbasin conditions



THANK YOU

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOLANO GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY IN SUPPORT OF THE CALIFORNIA DROUGHT, WATER, PARKS, CLIMATE, COASTAL PROTECTION, AND OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL ACT OF 2018 (PROPOSITION 68) AND THE CALIFORNIA BUDGET ACTS OF 2021 AND 2022

WHEREAS, the California Department of Water Resources is administering the Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Program, Planning Grants Proposal Solicitation – Round 2, specifically designed to support and fund implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP); and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) became law in 2014, and;

WHEREAS, Solano Subbasin, as defined by the California Department of Water Resources in Bulletin 118 as of 2018, is subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, and;

WHEREAS, the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency (Solano GSA) has been formed, prepared a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Solano Subbasin in collaboration with other GSAs (Solano Collaborative) located in the Solano Subbasin, and the Solano GSA did submit the GSP for the Solano Subbasin on January 31, 2022, pursuant to SGMA, and;

WHEREAS, the Solano GSA wishes to apply to the grant program on behalf of the Solano Collaborative to financially support the implementation of the Solano Subbasin GSP; and

WHEREAS, submittal of a proposal to obtain grant funding requires a resolution from the Solano GSA Board of Directors specifying approval to apply for the grant, Solano GSA's intent to conduct the project pursuant to all grant conditions, and the designation of a grant contact person by title; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency, that application be made to the California Department of Water Resources to obtain a grant under the 2021 Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program SGMA Implementation Round 2 Grant pursuant to the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) (Pub. Resource Code, § 80000 et seq.) and the California Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022. Be it further resolved that the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency has the authority and shall enter into a funding agreement with the Department of Water Resources to receive a grant for the Solano Subbasin GSP Implementation.

The Solano Subbasin GSP Program Administration Manager, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to prepare the necessary data, conduct investigations, file such application, and execute a funding agreement and any future amendments thereto, submit invoices, and submit any reporting requirements with the California Department of Water Resources.

Passed and adopted at a meeting of the Solano Groundwater Sustainability Agency on November 10, 2022.

Authorized Original Signature:_____

Printed Name:_____

Title:_____

Clerk/Secretary:_____

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the Solano Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency held on November 10, 2022.

Clerk/Secretary:_____