



Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee

Roberta Jaffe (Chair)
Brad DeBranch
Jake Furstenfeld
Joe Haslett

Brenton Kelly (Vice Chair)
Louise Draucker
Mike Post

Agenda

March 1, 2018

Agenda for a meeting of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee to be held on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 3:00 PM, at the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, 4689 CA-166, New Cuyama, CA 93254. To hear the session live, call (888) 222-0475 Code 6375195#.

The order in which agenda items are discussed to accommodate scheduling or other needs of the Committee, the public or meeting participants. Members of the public are encouraged to arrive at the commencement of the meeting to ensure that they are present for Committee discussion of all items in which they are interested.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in this meeting, please contact Taylor Blakslee at (661) 477-3385 by 4:00 p.m. on the Tuesday prior to this meeting. Agenda backup information and any public records provided to the Committee after the posting of the agenda for this meeting will be available for public review at 4853 Primero Street, New Cuyama, California. The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency reserves the right to limit each speaker to three (3) minutes per subject or topic.

1. **Call to order (Jaffe)**
2. **Roll call (Jaffe)**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance (Jaffe)**
4. **Approval of minutes (Jaffe)**
5. **Report of the General Counsel (Hughes)**
6. **Report of the Executive Director (Beck)**
 - a. **Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Review**
 - b. **Standing Advisory Committee Membership Update**
 - c. **Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update**
 - d. **Draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Overview**
 - e. **Website/Logo/Newsletter Update**
 - f. **Standing Advisory Committee Responsibilities and Guidelines**
 - g. **Items for Upcoming Sessions**
7. **Committee Forum**
8. **Public comment for items not on the Agenda**

At this time, the public may address the Committee on any item not appearing on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee. Persons wishing to address the Committee should fill out a comment card and submit it to the Executive Director prior to the meeting.

9. **Adjourn**

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Acronyms Listing

BOD	Board of Directors
CA	California
CB	Cuyama Basin
CBGSA	Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
CBWD	Cuyama Basin Water District
CCSD	Cuyama Community Services District
CVCA	Cuyama Valley Community Association
DMS	Data Management System
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
FRC	Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center
FY	Fiscal Year
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
HG	Hallmark Group (Executive Director)
ITRC	Irrigation Training & Research Center
IWFM	Integrated Water Flow Model
Kern	County of Kern
SAC	Standing Advisory Committee
Santa Barbara	County of Santa Barbara
SBCWA	Santa Barbara County Water Agency
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SLO	San Luis Obispo County
SWCRB	State Water Resources Control Board
TO	Task Order
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
Ventura	County of Ventura
WC	Woodard & Curran (GSP Development Consultant)

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Standing Advisory Committee

Draft Meeting Minutes

Feb 1, 2018

Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, 4689 CA -166, New Cuyama, CA 93254

PRESENT: Jake Furstenfeld, Louise Drauker, Brad DeBranch, Brenton Kelly, Mike Post, Joe Hughes, and Jim Beck.

ABSENT: Roberta Jaffe, Joe Haslett

1. Call to order

Vice Chair Kelly called the Standing Advisory Committee to order at 3:02 pm.

2. Roll call

Vice Chair Kelly called roll of the Committee (shown above).

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Vice Chair Kelly.

4. Approval of minutes

Executive Director Beck presented the minutes from the last session. Editorial changes were requested and a revised draft with corrections will be distributed. A motion was made by Brad Debranch to approve the revised minutes and seconded by Jake Furstenfeld. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Report of the General Counsel

There was no report of the General Counsel for this session.

6. Report of the Executive Director

a. Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Review

Executive Director Jim Beck reported that the February 7, 2018 Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) regular Board of Directors (Board) meeting will be a joint meeting with the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC). He went on to report that the draft Board packet was sent out before we found out USGS was not able to present on February 7, 2018, so we scheduled EKI to present in their place. Mr. Beck provided an overview of the March 7, 2018 CBGSA joint Board agenda, and noted that a significant portion of the Board meeting will likely take place under item No. 9, the financial report. Committee member Brad DeBranch asked if there is any update on the grant funding, and Mr. Beck replied that we will get better information from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by the March 2018 Board meeting.

b. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update and Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Groundwater Sustainable Plan (GSP) consultant Lyndel Melton relayed that he had not received any additional news on grant funding. He said DWR was supposed to provide an update by the end of January 2018, but he had not heard anything. Mr. Melton provided a PowerPoint presentation

on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan update.

Committee member Louise Drauker asked, in looking at the historical data, how far back we should go in developing water budgets. Mr. Melton said the law requires a development point from 2015, but we will use data older than this point.

GSP Outreach consultant Charles Gardiner presented an update on the development of the draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. In their outreach efforts, Mr. Gardiner said one of the underlying themes they discovered was how much agreement there is in the community on various issues.

Committee member Brenton Kelly asked if there is a way to constructively discuss ongoing land use issues. Specifically, without adversely impacting farmers and businesses, how do you address sustainability goals. Mr. Melton appreciated Mr. Kelly's concerns, but replied that land use is the prevue of the counties and the CBGSA will be dealing strictly with water management.

c. SAC Membership

Mr. Beck outlined the need for additional representation on the SAC, and read a letter from SAC Chair Roberta Jaffe supporting this conclusion. Committee member Mike Post relayed that he believes it is the Board's decision to restructure the SAC however they want, and Committee member Jake Furstenfeld expressed concerns about adding latecomers to the SAC. Mr. Beck suggested that if a group is identified down the road that is underrepresented, we would consider them for inclusion in the SAC, but as a policy, not anyone can come in and request a seat on the Committee. Committee member Louise Drauker emphasized that the SAC is an advisory committee and that input should come from the SAC if it feels like representation should be expanded. Mr. Post expressed that the normal process for adding members should not be circumvented, and the same process should be used. Mr. Kelly believes it is the SAC's duty to let the Board know there is a gap in SAC representation. Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center Director Lynn Carlisle shared that several Latino members of the community were being trained by the Promotora group, where they invested over 40 hours of their own time to be trained in water issues. She reported that, unfortunately, the timing of their training did not coincide with the committee selection process.

After discussing the matter, the SAC made the following motion: The SAC recommends that the Board evaluate any unrepresented group in the Cuyama Basin and consider the process for adding a representative to the Standing Advisory Committee. The motion was made by Mike Post, seconded by Louise Drauker and passed unanimously.

d. Items for upcoming sessions

SAC Chair Roberta Jaffe suggested an educational component be added to the SAC. Mr. Beck and Gardiner said they will review this and continue the discussion next month.

Brenton Kelly suggested to continue expanding the acronym list to include other common terms.

Mr. Beck reported that the March 2018 CBGSA SAC and Board meetings are scheduled for March 1st and 7th, respectively. The March 7, 2018 Board meeting will be a joint session with the SAC. He also reported that public workshops will be scheduled to coincide with the March 2018 joint Board meeting.

7. Committee Forum

There were no items discussed in the Committee forum.

8. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

There were no additional public comments.

9. Adjourn

Executive Director Beck adjourned the session at 5:10 pm.

I, Jim Beck, Executive Director of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held on Thursday, February 1, 2018, by the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee.

Jim Beck

Dated: March 1, 2018

DRAFT

TO: Standing Advisory Committee
Agenda Item No. 6a

FROM: James M. Beck, Executive Director

DATE: March 1, 2018

SUBJECT: Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Review

Issue

Review of the March 7, 2018 special joint meeting of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors and Standing Advisory Committee.

Recommended Motion

None – information only.

Discussion

The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency special joint Board of Directors and Standing Advisory Committee meeting agenda is provided as Attachment 1.



Special Joint Meeting of Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors and the Standing Advisory Committee

Board of Directors

Derek Yurosek Chairperson, Cuyama Basin Water District
Lynn Compton Vice Chairperson, County of San Luis Obispo
Das Williams Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Cory Bantilan Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Glenn Shephard County of Ventura
David Couch County of Kern

Paul Chounet Cuyama Community Services District
George Cappello Cuyama Basin Water District
Byron Albano Cuyama Basin Water District
Jane Wooster Cuyama Basin Water District
Tom Bracken Cuyama Basin Water District

Standing Advisory Committee

Roberta Jaffe Chairperson
Brad DeBranch
Jake Furstenfeld
Joe Haslett

Brenton Kelly Vice Chair
Louise Draucker
Mike Post

Special Joint Agenda

March 7, 2018

NOTE: The Special Joint meeting of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board and Standing Advisory Committee will begin at 2 pm. Public workshops are expected to begin at approximately 4 pm in English, and 6:30 pm in Spanish. The workshops are for the benefit of interested members of the public and will continue in the event Board or Committee members depart and there is no longer a quorum, and one or both of those meetings are adjourned. Workshop materials will be provided at the meetings.

Agenda for a meeting of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors and Standing Advisory Committee to be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 2:00 PM, at the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, 4689 CA-166, New Cuyama, CA 93254. To hear the session live call (888) 222-0475 Code 6375195#.

The order in which agenda items are discussed may be changed to accommodate scheduling or other needs of the Board or Committee, the public, or meeting participants. Members of the public are encouraged to arrive at the commencement of the meeting to ensure that they are present for discussion of all items in which they are interested.

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1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. USGS Presentation

5. Approval of Minutes
 - a. February 7, 2018
6. Report of the General Counsel
 - a. Update on Funding Agreements
7. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee and referral of matters to the SAC
8. Composition of Standing Advisory Committee
9. Report of the Executive Director
 - a. Progress & Next Steps
 - b. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update
 - c. Data Collection Update
 - d. Draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Overview
 - e. Website/Logo/Newsletter Update
10. Financial Report
 - a. Financial Management Overview
 - b. Fiscal Year 2018/19 Budget Development
 - c. Payment of Bills
 - d. Groundwater Sustainable Plan Consultant Task Orders
 - e. Financial Policy and Fiscal Controls
11. Reports of the Ad Hoc Committees
12. Directors' Forum
13. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

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14. Public Workshop – English
15. Public Workshop – Spanish
16. Adjourn

TO: Standing Advisory Committee
Agenda Item No. 6c

FROM: James M. Beck, Executive Director

DATE: March 1, 2018

SUBJECT: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

Issue

Update on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Recommended Motion

None – information only.

Discussion

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan update is provided as Attachment 1.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

March 7, 2018

February GSP Accomplishments

- ✓ Prepared draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
- ✓ Conducted SAC and Joint Board / SAC discussions
- ✓ Received draft Grant award
- ✓ Reviewed and confirmed GSP development approach
- ✓ Reviewed available data and requested additional data
- ✓ Reviewed existing model and model options
- ✓ Created Web Page

MODELING IS KEY TO SGMA IMPLEMENTATION

- In the context of SGMA, the purpose of modeling is to provide knowledge related to:
 - past and present behavior of the surface and groundwater system
 - the likely response to future changes
 - uncertainty over the 50-year time horizon
- Any model must be accurate, adaptable, representative, and transferrable

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

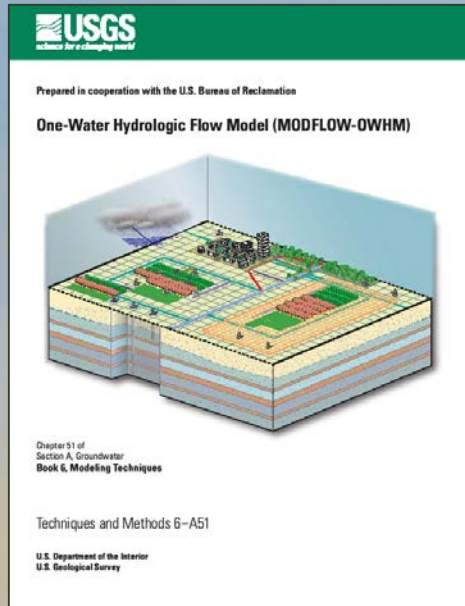
- The USGS Study represents a significant body of work that can provide foundational data and information to inform the development of the Cuyama Basin GSP.

- However, this was a pre-SGMA effort -

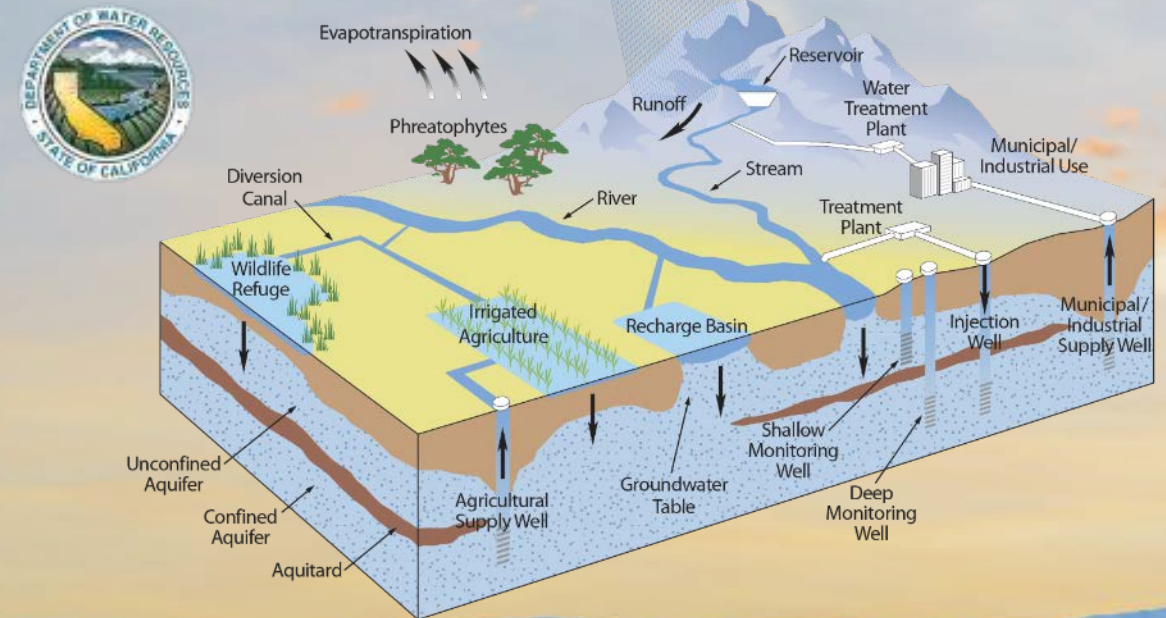
- The USGS Study does not encompass all of the DWR-defined Cuyama Basin and is therefore insufficient as the sole basis to fulfill any SGMA requirements.
- The USGS-defined basin “subdivisions” need further evaluation to assess their validity and to assess their value as the potential basis for basin “management areas” under SGMA.
- Results of USGS numerical model and simulated water budget are not reproducible.

There are Two Model Options

USGS (CUVHM) Hydrologic Model



DWR Integrated Water Flow Model (IWFM)



Comparing the Two Options

Updated USGS Model

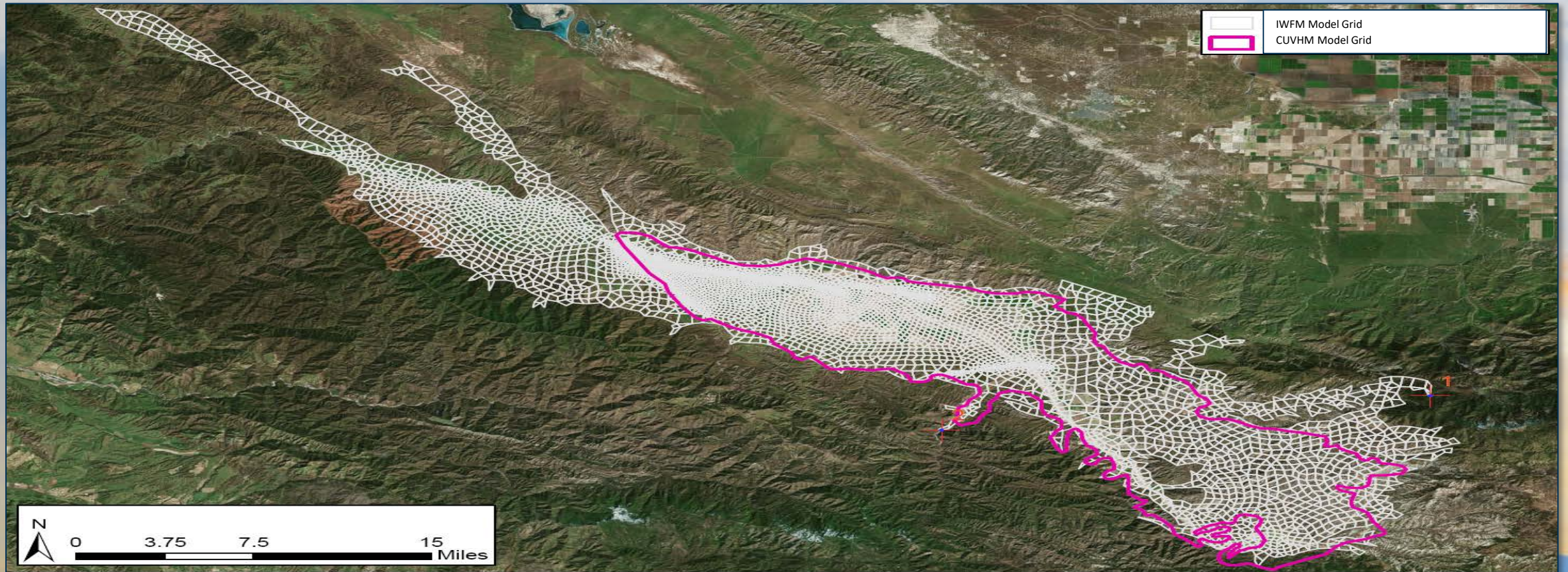
- Existing Model
- Numerous Details must be Addressed
- Existing data base must be expanded/updated
- USGS Platform, not DWR Platform

New DWR IWFM Model

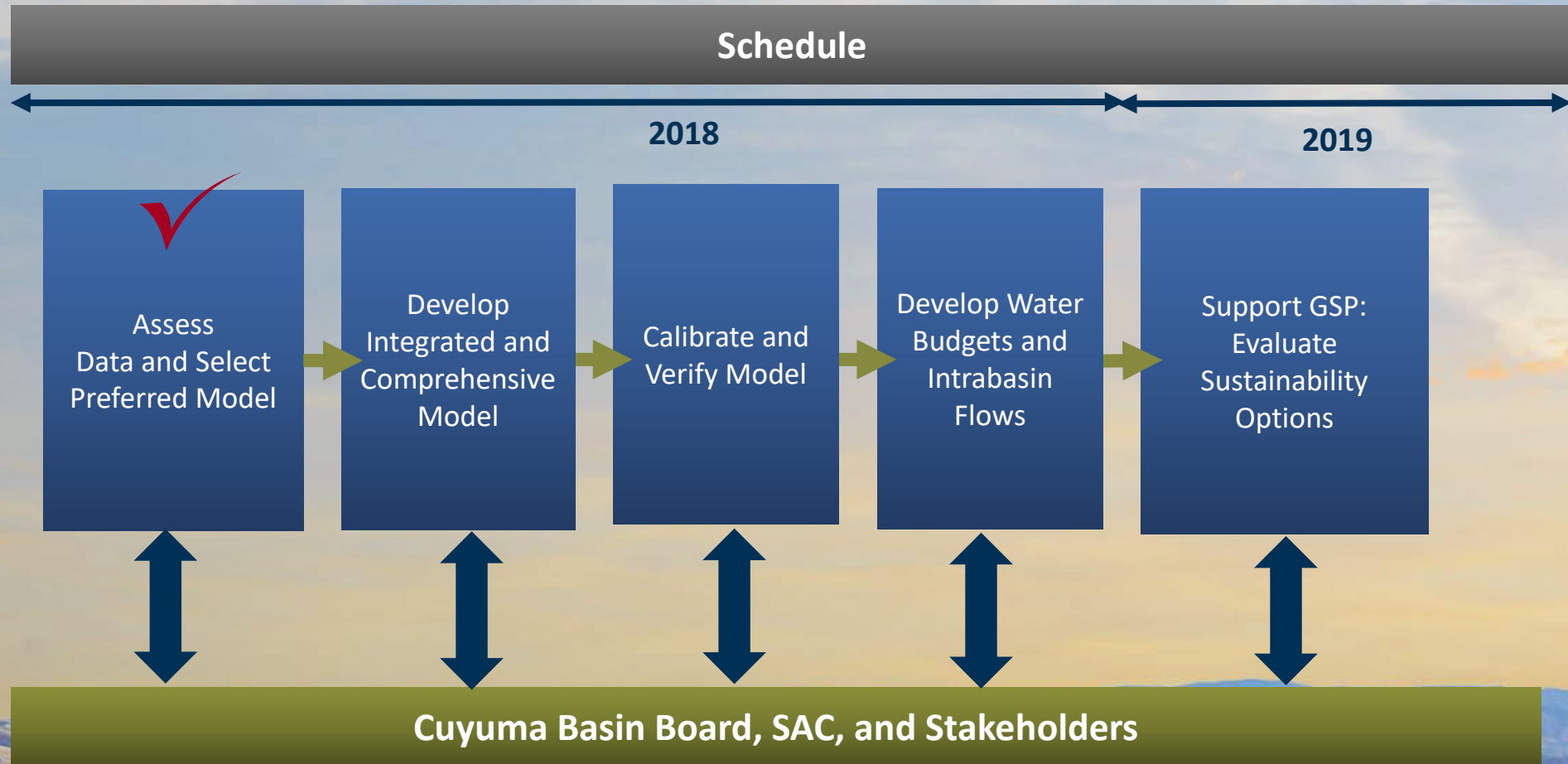
- New Model
- Retain and expand existing data base/input files
- More efficient surface interface options
- Easier to obtain DWR concurrence



Hydrogeologic Model and Associated Data Will be Expanded to Cover the Entire Basin



Model Development Process





Stakeholder Engagement Strategy: Building trust through transparency

March 7, 2018



Engagement Strategy Designed to Reach All Audiences



- Public workshops & information access – building awareness and understanding
- Advisory Committee – providing input and guidance to decision makers and project team
- GSA Leadership – making decisions and commitments for GSP development and implementation

Engagement Strategy Goals

- Conduct an **inclusive outreach and education process** that best supports the success of a well-prepared GSP that meets SGMA requirements.
- Offer a comprehensive, transparent outreach and education process that **builds understanding and trust** among the various stakeholders.
- Using a Planning Roadmap, that **aligns the public engagement opportunities with the development of technical information** at key points throughout the project, establish an atmosphere of clear, concise, transparent, reliable information flow and opportunities for input.
- Evaluate and **update the engagement methods** throughout the GSP process as needed.

Outreach Methods

- Information
 - CBGSA website (English and Spanish)
 - e-newsletter
 - Presentations
 - Factsheets and handouts
 - Draft reports
- Distribution/notification
 - Existing email lists
 - Established outreach channels
- Discussion and Input
 - GSA Board
 - Standing Advisory Committee
 - Community meetings/workshops
 - English and Spanish
 - Informal briefing sessions
 - Written comments

TO: Standing Advisory Committee
Agenda Item No. 6d

FROM: James M. Beck, Executive Director

DATE: March 1, 2018

SUBJECT: Draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Overview

Issue

Overview of the draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy.

Recommended Motion

None – information only.

Discussion

The draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy is provided as Attachment 1

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Draft February 22, 2018

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Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Draft February 22, 2018

Overview

In 2014, California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA requires that groundwater sustainability plans be adopted for the most important groundwater basins in California. Under SGMA, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) identified 21 “critically overdrafted” basins and subbasins. SGMA requires that basins designated as high or medium priority **and** critically overdrafted will be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or a coordinated GSP.

The Cuyama Basin was designated as an important groundwater basin, a medium priority basin, and a critically overdrafted basin. As such, SGMA requires formation of a locally-controlled groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) as the entity responsible for developing and implementing a GSP. The primary goal of the GSP is to develop sustainable groundwater management practices for the future without causing undesirable results. The GSP must be submitted to the State by January 31, 2020.

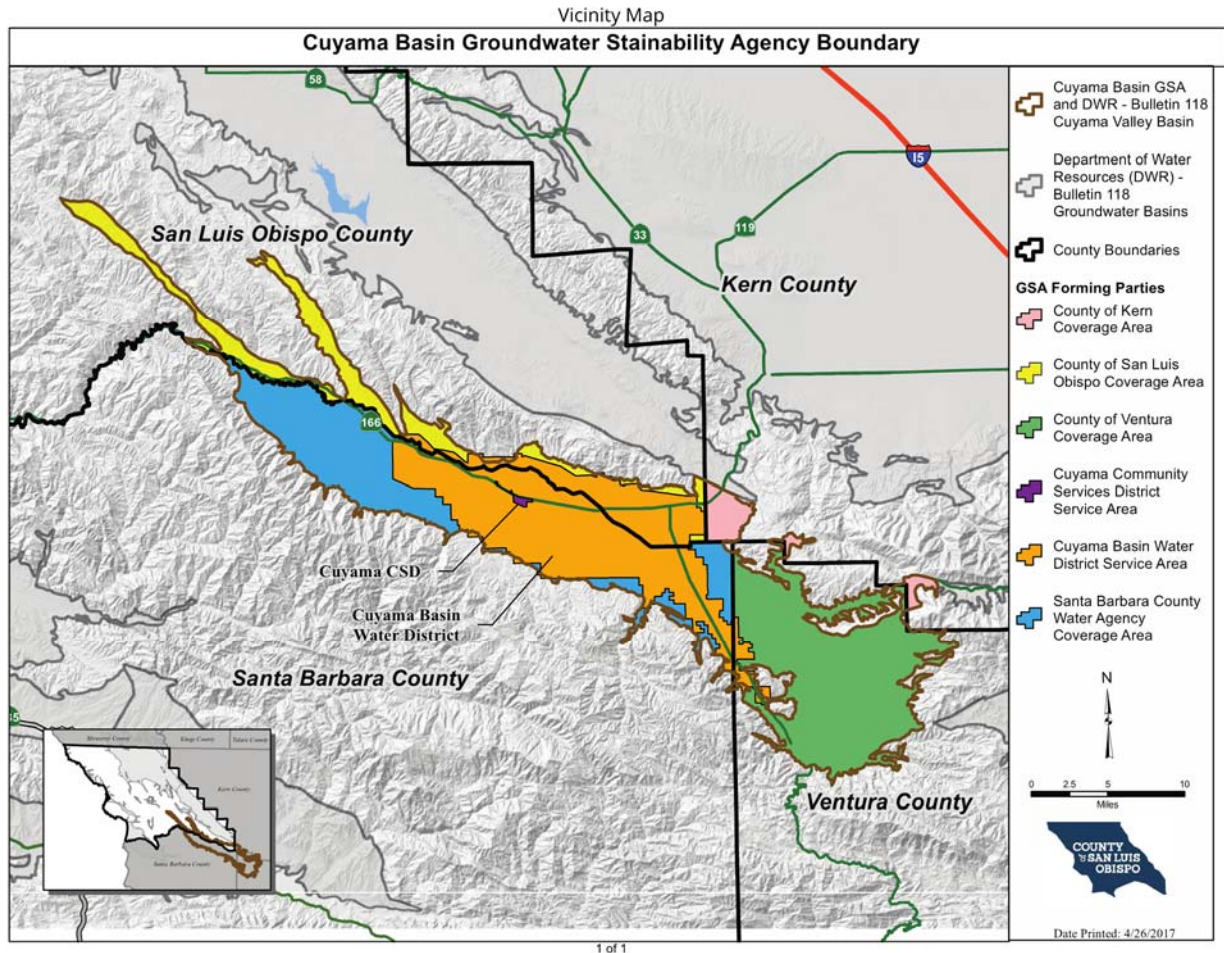
The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) was formed in June 2017. Under a joint powers agreement, it is comprised of six local agencies that collectively include water supply, water management, and land use responsibilities across the entire basin: Cuyama Basin Water District, Cuyama Community Services District, Santa Barbara County Water Agency, San Luis Obispo County, Ventura County and Kern County. The CBGSA Board of Directors includes representatives from these local agencies.

Cuyama Groundwater Basin

The Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) is located between the Caliente Range to the north and the Sierra Madre Mountains to the southwest. It is a sparsely inhabited area with towns including Cuyama, New Cuyama and Ventucopa. The land is primarily used for ranching, agriculture, and oil and gas production. Average annual precipitation ranges from 7 to 15 inches. The Basin trends west and is drained by the Cuyama River, which is the primary source of recharge to the groundwater Basin. Groundwater in the Basin is mainly unconfined, but confined water and perched water are found locally. Small faults that cut through the Basin fill act as barriers to groundwater movement.

The Basin covers an area of approximately 147,200 acres, or 230 square miles, and extends into four counties, including San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, Kern County, and Ventura County. Figure 1, page 2 shows a map of the Cuyama Groundwater Basin Sustainability Agency Boundaries courtesy of San Luis Obispo County.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan



Engagement Strategy Goals

The Cuyama Basin Stakeholder Engagement Strategy has been developed to achieve the following goals:

- Conduct an inclusive outreach and education process that best supports the success of a well-prepared GSP that meets SGMA requirements.
- Offer a comprehensive, transparent outreach and education process that builds understanding and trust among the various stakeholders.
- Using a Planning Roadmap, that aligns the public engagement opportunities with the development of technical information at key points throughout the project, establish an atmosphere of clear, concise, transparent, reliable information flow and opportunities for input.
- Evaluate and update the engagement methods throughout the GSP process as needed.

Key Elements of the Engagement Strategy

Given the importance of the Cuyama Valley and the development of the GSP to the communities, residents, landowners, farmers, ranchers, businesses, and others, it is essential that inclusive stakeholder input be a primary component of the GSP process. This *Stakeholder Engagement Strategy* has been developed to support the preparation and implementation of a well-informed GSP. The

strategy is designed to be flexible and will generally follow the GSP Planning Roadmap that aligns public engagement opportunities with the development of technical information throughout the GSP process.

Roles and Responsibilities

The **GSA Board of Directors** is the designated decision-making entity for the GSP process. All meetings will be noticed 72 hours in advance, are open to the public and will include a public comment period. Agendas, minutes, and meeting materials will be available on the CBGSA's website (<http://cuyamabasin.org>). CBGSA Directors are listed in Appendix A.

The GSA Board appointed a **Standing Advisory Committee** as the primary body for providing advice and input to the CBGSA Board, and assisting with stakeholder engagement throughout the Cuyama Valley. All meetings will be noticed at <http://cuyamabasin.org> and are open to the public. Agendas, minutes, and meeting materials will be posted on the website. Standing Advisory Committee members are listed in Appendix A.

Public Input, no matter the method received (e.g., phone, email, public meeting), will be shared with both the Board of Directors and the Standing Advisory Committee for consideration throughout the planning process.

Project Schedule

The final GSP must be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources in January 2020. As requested by the CBSGA, the GSP is scheduled for completion in mid-2019, providing ample time for adoption and approval by the CBGSA and its member agencies. The project schedule is designed to solicit, consider, and address public and stakeholder input regarding the important planning elements, including Basin conditions, groundwater modeling, sustainability goals, management actions, implementation plan, and the draft and final GSP. Figure 2, the **GSP Planning Roadmap**, shows a generalized depiction of the schedule for these planning elements and public and stakeholder engagement.

Data and Data Evaluation

The GSP will be based on data, modeling, and evaluation of surface water and groundwater conditions, water uses, and water management options. Public outreach and engagement will be an important element of efforts to collect, review, validate, and refine the data and evaluation that will form the basis of the GSP and future management actions.

Public Engagement, Education and Outreach

The GSP planning process includes activities to reach out to organizations and individuals involved and affected by water management in the Cuyama Basin; inform and educate them about SGMA, groundwater management, and the GSP planning process; and, solicit and address issues and opportunities to improve groundwater management for the Cuyama Basin. The following activities will be undertaken by the CBGSA:

- Identify existing notification lists that could be used to reach the various social, cultural, and economic elements of the Cuyama Basin population.
- Develop and provide information regarding SGMA, GSP planning, and groundwater management.
- Solicit stakeholder and public input on groundwater analysis and modeling, sustainability goals, management actions, and implementation plans.

- Provide and summarize stakeholder and public input for the Standing Advisory Committee and the CBGSA Board throughout the GSP process.
- Identify and provide opportunities for public input at key project milestones as shown in the Planning Roadmap.

Stakeholder Issues

Many multi-organization planning processes can be complex and difficult for community members to understand the required decision-making steps and where and how their issues and concerns will be addressed. Groundwater management also includes complex information regarding hydrogeology and water use. Educating and engaging groundwater stakeholders and the community on the complex issues, and meeting the deadlines established by SGMA, requires an organized strategy for stakeholder engagement. The first step in that strategy is to understand the important community issues and perspectives regarding groundwater management in the Cuyama Valley.

From January 15 through 27, 2018, the Catalyst team conducted 22 phone conversations with members of the CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee, CBGSA staff, staff from each of the participating counties, and several other community representatives. Participants expressed a wide range of perspectives, comments, concerns, issues, and suggestions. From these perspectives, several common views emerged, which can form the basis for constructive discussion and planning for the GSP. The common themes included the following outreach and planning objectives:

1. Provide a fair, balanced, and transparent public process that builds trust and understanding towards the common goal of a GSP that can best benefit everyone in the Cuyama Basin.
2. Provide a public meeting environment that is inclusive of all perspectives and all stakeholders.
3. Provide education on a range of topics, at key milestones throughout the planning process, beginning with education about SGMA and what a GSP includes.
4. Provide education and outreach specifically inclusive of smaller farmers/ranchers and the Hispanic community.
5. Develop a GSP that is fair for all stakeholders in the Cuyama Basin.

The various suggestions, concerns, comments, and issues can be grouped into three areas: (1) GSP Planning Process, (2) Analysis and Evaluation, and (3) Outreach and Engagement, which are summarized in Appendix B.

Outreach Methods

Communication strategies have shifted in recent years due to the evolution of online access to information. However, it is important to recognize that not all Cuyama Valley residents have access to email and the internet. Therefore, the outreach methods include both online access and traditional means of hard copy information dissemination. The Cuyama Valley also has a substantial Hispanic population, many of whom speak only Spanish. Therefore, core materials (online and hard copy) will be prepared in Spanish. Based on the comments and suggestions expressed, the following are some of the general outreach tactics envisioned for this project:

1. Hold **regular meetings** with the Standing Advisory Committee for technical review of GSP progress and increased opportunity for discussion and input.
2. Hold **joint meetings/workshops** with the CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee at key milestones that can also serve as opportunities for public input.

3. Utilize **CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee** members for education and consensus building within the Cuyama Valley community.
4. Identify appropriate **venues** for hosting community meetings such as the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center and the Cuyama Joint Unified School District facilities.
5. Establish and use the **CBGSA website** to house information about SGMA, the GSP process, CBGSA Board, Standing Advisory Committee, public meetings, project reports and studies, and groundwater data and information. Spanish-language information will be included.
6. Develop targeted **factsheets/e-newsletters** that inform stakeholders about GSP planning, technical issues, and opportunities for participation and review in a simple, clear manner.
7. Prepare newsletter **articles** for use in any existing newsletters in the Cuyama Valley.
8. Host **community meetings** (workshops, open houses, town halls) for key stakeholders where project experts share educational information by topic, clarify technical data and issues, and offer opportunities for public questions and input. This includes hosting **Spanish-language information/input sessions**.
9. Host **informal briefing sessions** at various locations such as The Place in Ventucopa, the Buckhorn or Burger Barn in New Cuyama, the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, and/or other community locations such as schools and churches.
10. To assist with noticing of meetings and sharing project information, look to partner with local entities that have **existing email lists**. Entities that have been identified with existing email lists include San Luis Obispo County, CBGSA, and the Cuyama Family Resource Center. Other entities that may have email contact lists that are being contacted included the Cuyama Valley Community Association, Family Resource Center, Cuyama Basin Water District, Cuyama Community Services District, and the Blue Sky Center.
11. Use **established outreach channels** such as community posting locations for placement and/or distribution of informational materials such as flyers or posters. Consider posting project information on fence posts leading to the more rural “fingers” of the Cuyama Valley. Connect with existing social media channels for possible distribution of project information such as Facebook pages for entities including Cuyama Valley Recreation District, Cuyama Valley High School, Sleepy Creek Ranch, New Cuyama, and others.
12. Create targeted **PowerPoint** presentations for use at Workshops/Community Meetings. **Translate** CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee presentations into **Spanish**.

Audiences

Knowing the various interested audiences is key to setting a solid course for stakeholder engagement throughout the GSP process. Key audiences include the CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee, elected officials, federal, state, and local agencies, business and community organizations, and more. Please refer to Appendix C for a complete listing of interested parties identified to date. The Engagement Strategy will rely on the CBGSA Board, its Standing Advisory Committee, and the public to expand the initial list of interested audiences.

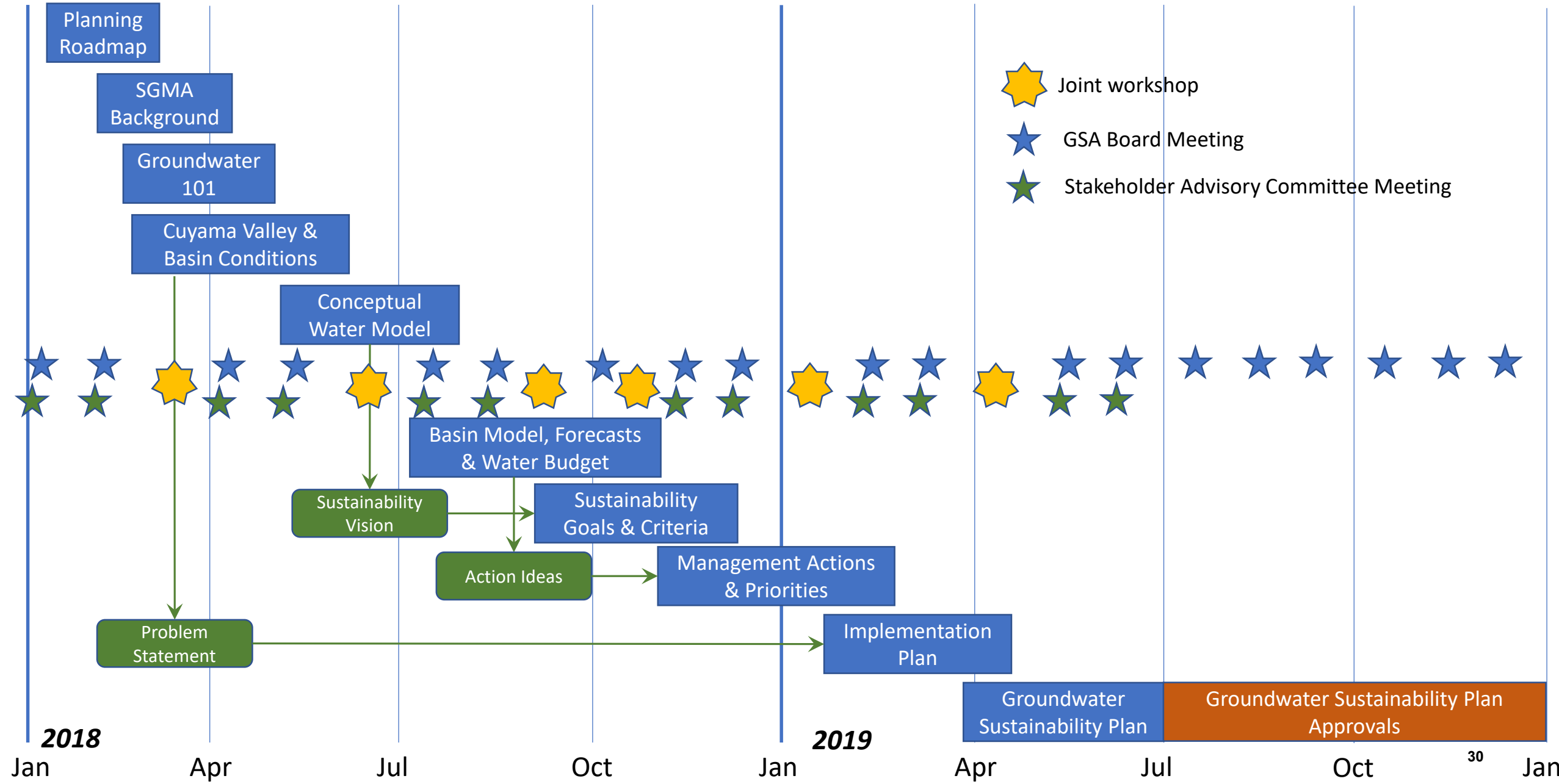
Planning Roadmap

Using established GSP milestones, the GSP planning team has developed an initial roadmap for stakeholder engagement. The GSP Planning Roadmap aligns issue/topic discussions and education with the technical data as it is developed and evaluated. Figure 2 depicts the initial Cuyama Basin GSP Planning Roadmap, including the suggested timeline of stakeholder education needs, workshops and

other opportunities for public review and input, and the sequencing of key issues for discussion with the CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee.

Figure 2

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan – Planning Roadmap



APPENDIX A

CBGSA Board Members and Standing Advisory Committee Members

Board of Directors Members

Derek Yurosek	Chairperson, Cuyama Basin Water District
Lynn Compton	Vice Chairperson, County of San Luis Obispo
David Couch	County of Kern
Glenn Shephard	County of Ventura
Byron Albano	Cuyama Basin Water District
Tom Bracken	Cuyama Basin Water District
George Cappello	Cuyama Basin Water District
Jane Wooster	Cuyama Basin Water District
Paul Chounet	Cuyama Community Services District
Cory Bantilan	Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Das Williams	Santa Barbara County Water Agency

Standing Advisory Committee Members

Roberta Jaffe (Chair)	Landowner, Cottonwood Canyon area
Brenton Kelly (Vice Chair)	Quail Springs Permaculture, Ventucopa area
Brad DeBranch	Bolthouse Properties
Louise Draucker	Cuyama Valley resident
Jake Furstenfeld	Sunridge Nurseries, Cuyama Valley resident
Joe Haslett	Organic Ag Products; landowner, Cottonwood Canyon area
Mike Post	Executive Director, Chimineas Ranch Foundation

Appendix B

Summary of Comments and Issues from Stakeholder Interviews

1. GSP Planning Process

A. Understanding SGMA and the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

The Sustainable Management Groundwater Act (SGMA) is new, and not everyone understands what it requires and what the possible and/or expected outcomes might be. It was suggested that more education occur, early in the process, to better explain SGMA and the GSP process, including specific SGMA features such as management areas and water allocation approaches. It was also suggested that the roles and responsibilities of the CBGSA, Cuyama Basin Water District, Cuyama Community Services District (CCSD), and the counties be clearly defined for the public. Additionally, there was interest in how the GSP is being funded and how funding for solutions will work going forward.

The following is a summary of the groundwater-related topics expressed as suggested topics for further education and information:

SGMA and the GSP

- What is it and what is required?
- What is the definition of "sustainability" in the context of the GSP?
- How will de minimis water users and private well-owners fit into the GSP process?
- Who is responsible for the groundwater problem?
- What are the primary steps in the GSP process?
- When will specific issues be addressed during the GSP process?
- How will the GSP impact various stakeholders?
- What are some of the management and allocation options that will be considered?
- When will conceptual and/or hypothetical scenarios and solutions be available?

Groundwater 101

- What is groundwater?
- Define the groundwater problem in the Cuyama Basin?
- How does groundwater behave in different areas including Cottonwood Canyon, Ventucopa Uplands, Main Valley, and the "fingers" areas within the Cuyama Basin?
- What is happening hydrologically throughout the Cuyama Basin?
- What are: water budget, hydraulic balance, and groundwater modeling?
- How does surface water interact with and impact groundwater?
- What is the role of topography, geography, and geology in groundwater movement, supplies, and levels?
- What groundwater data is being used?

B. Perspectives on Joint Problem-Solving

Under the universally expressed premise, "we are all in this together," concerns were expressed that everyone in the Cuyama Basin learn to work together to achieve a fair and balanced GSP. Everyone is equally anxious about what it means to work together in the context of SGMA and the GSP. This is new to everyone. The anxiousness, in turn, affects individual perspectives on how groundwater works in the Cuyama Basin and on what fairness means. The importance of defining the groundwater problem as

being essential to solving the problem was widely expressed. Some of the specific comments and suggestions include:

- Establish a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities among the CBGSA Board of Directors, Standing Advisory Committee, participating County's Boards of Supervisors, and CBGSA staff and consultants to support clarity in the decision-making process and to support the process moving forward to meet established timelines.
- Keep the focus on what it takes to get the GSP done to address groundwater overdraft fairly.
- For the Hispanic community perspective, consider adding a representative to the Standing Advisory Committee.

C. Concerns about Fairness, Balance, and Decision-Making

Many expressed concerns that the GSP must balance the needs of all interests, that the community engagement be accessible to everyone, and that outreach must be sure to include small farms/ranches and the Hispanic community. It was suggested that role of the Standing Advisory Committee be clarified further so that members are serving as a direct conduit for information to/from community members.

Additional comments, concerns and suggestions included the following:

- Support the building of understanding and trust among the various Cuyama Basin area residents, community interests, agricultural interests, oil and gas interests, other industry interests, and environmental interests, etc. who may express differing opinions and ideas during the planning process.
- Listen to all audiences, no matter the viewpoint or opinion. With three new organizations now working together (CBGSA, Cuyama Basin Water District, and Cuyama Community Services District), it is critical that the CBGSA Board of Directors, as the decision-making body, listen to all viewpoints whether opposing or new opinions, thoughts.
- Encourage "big ag" to listen to small farmers, ranchers, homesteaders and vice versa.
- Be inclusive of residents, farmers and ranchers in the "finger" areas feeding into the Cuyama Valley.
- Be sure small farms/ranches and the Hispanic community are included.

2. Analysis and Evaluation

For the development of a successful GSP, analysis and evaluation of groundwater data is essential. Comments and concerns were expressed about the analysis and evaluation of the groundwater data that will be used for the preparation of the GSP. Many expressed concerns about the adequacy and reliability of the available groundwater data. It was suggested that mapping used for presentations be simplified and displayed at a scale that is more user-friendly.

The comments and concerns expressed about groundwater assessment and monitoring were generally related to need for more information about the following:

- What is the available data, the basin groundwater conditions (past, present), and Basin boundaries (hydrogeologic and jurisdictional)?
- How will historical changes in the Basin be factored in?
- How will historical groundwater data, anecdotal water information, and oral histories be considered in the GSP process?
- Will water use data be collected "door-to-door" from farmers, ranchers, landowners?
- What is a conceptual and analytic groundwater model?
- What is a water budget?
- Need to fill the gaps in the coverage of information about wells and water in the Basin.

- Explain how “undesirable results” are defined by SGMA and how they will be used in the GSP.
- Explain what modeling is and the assumptions used.
- For a more complete picture of groundwater use, consider using satellite mapping to identify wells not previously identified.

The groundwater management concerns were expressed including:

- Groundwater access and management approaches vary across the Basin, how is that handled in the GSP?
- Developing sustainability goals and criteria is crucial for the success of the GSP.
- Identifying and evaluating management options is important.

Additional comments about evaluation considerations included concerns about:

- What are the possible economic impacts (e.g., jobs, property values, tax revenues)
- What are the possible natural resources impacts?
- What are the land management considerations that may be faced (e.g., dust control)
- What are the costs associated with the possible solutions?
- What will the water and cost allocation methods be?

3. Outreach and Engagement

Everyone was fully supportive of a comprehensive engagement strategy that is inclusive of all stakeholders. It was emphasized that it is essential to listen to all audiences, no matter the viewpoint or opinion. Many expressed the importance of timely, clear and transparent outreach, education and facilitation throughout the GSP process.

A. Additional General Suggestions and Comments

- Provide transparent, clear, and consistent information accessible to all stakeholders.
- Develop educational information and conduct outreach forums for Spanish speaking residents, ensuring that language differences do not become barriers to allowing for an inclusive and transparent planning process.
- Provide technical information in understandable terms for all stakeholders, and translate key materials into Spanish for the Hispanic Community.
- Identify and respond effectively to information and educational requests.
- Identify and coordinate SGMA-related outreach occurring relative to the GSP by entities such as the Cuyama Community Services District, Cuyama Basin Water District, Cuyama Family Resource Center, Blue Sky, and others.
- Through the outreach process, by working toward a shared common goal under SGMA, support the development of an overall vision for the future of Cuyama Valley, and help shape a vision for the Cuyama Valley for generations to come.
- Outreach must go beyond those affiliated with the Cuyama Community Services District, Cuyama Basin Water District, Cuyama Family Resource Center, Blue Sky. It must reach residents outside of these spheres.

B. Suggestions and Comments about Outreach and Engagement Tools/Tactics

Communication strategies have shifted in recent years due to the evolution of access to online information. It is important to recognize that not all Cuyama Valley area residents have access to email and the internet. Targeted materials will be translated into Spanish. Suggestions and comments about outreach and engagement include the following.

Workshops/Community Meetings/Town Halls

- Hold periodic joint meetings/workshops with the CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee that serve as public input and education opportunities.
- Host community meetings or town halls where project team members are available to provide information by topic, clarify technical data and issues, and offer opportunities for public questions and input. Include hosting sessions in Spanish.
- Use both the CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee members for education and consensus building within the Cuyama Valley community.

Briefings and Informal Availability Sessions

- Host informal sessions at various locations such as The Place, in Ventucopa, CA and the Buckhorn or Burger Barn in New Cuyama, CA, and the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center. These could also occur at local churches or schools.
- Participate in existing events when possible.

Information Availability

- Develop targeted factsheets, flyers, and postings that inform stakeholders about technical issues and GSP progress in a simple, clear manner.
- Use established outreach channels for distribution of information such as posting boards at businesses.
- Develop informational flyers and posters that could be made available at local information boards and posting locations around the Cuyama Valley.
- Tie in with existing social media channels such as the Facebook pages for local entities and organizations including Cuyama Valley Recreation District, Cuyama Valley High School, Cuyama Valley Community Association, Cuyama, New Cuyama, and others.

Other Suggestions

- Suggestions were made to coordinate with the local school teachers to coordinate education about SGMA and groundwater.
- Recommendations were made to conduct a survey about groundwater's use and history.
- Suggestions were made to conduct an "Ideas Contest" to solicit ideas about solutions for the groundwater problem.

APPENDIX C

Key Audiences

CBGSA

- Board of Directors
- Standing Advisory Committee

Elected Officials

- County Supervisors representing Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties
- Salud Carbajal, Representative, California's 24th congressional district
- Kevin McCarthy, Representative, California's 23rd congressional district
- Assembly Districts: 34th, 35th, and 37th
- Senate Districts: 16th, 17th, 19th

Local and Regional Agencies/Organizations

- Cuyama Basin Water District
- Cuyama Community Services District
- County staff responsible for water, agriculture, planning, and public health
- County Agricultural Commissioners
- Integrated Regional Water Management
- Adjacent GSAs

State Agencies

- California Department of Water Resources, Sacramento
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Headquarters, Mailing: P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
- California Wildlife Conservation Board, c/o CDFW, 1416 9th Street, Room 1266, Sacramento, CA 95814
- Department of General Services, 707 3rd St., 5th Floor. West Sacramento, CA
- California Natural Resources Agency, 1416 9th St #1311, Sacramento, CA 95814
- San Luis Obispo County, Cooperative Extension, 2156 Sierra Way, Ste. C, San Luis Obispo 93401
- Ventura County, Cooperative Extension, 669 County Square Dr., #100, Ventura, CA 93003
- Kern County, Cooperative Extension, 1031 South Mount Vernon Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93307
- Cachuma Resource Conservation District (CRCD), 44-A La Guardia St 920 East Stowell Road, Santa Maria, CA 93454
- Colleges and Universities: Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo; Cal State Bakersfield; University of Santa Barbara

Federal Agencies and Tribes

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003
- U.S. Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest, Headquarters, 6750 Navigator Way, Ste. 150, Goleta, CA 93117
- U.S. Forest Service, Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Refuge Manager, Debora Kirkland, 2493 Portola Rd. Suite A, Ventura, CA 93003

- U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Carrizo Plain National Monument, Bakersfield Field Office
3801 Pegasus Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93308
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, 5076 N Marty Ave, Fresno, CA 93711
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, State Office, 430 G St. #4165, Davis, CA 95616
- USDA Service Center, Farm Service Agency, 65 S. Main Street Suite 106 Templeton, CA 93465
- U.S. Geological Survey, California Water Science Center, 6000 J St, Sacramento, CA 95819
- Native American tribes: Chumash Tribe, Tribal Hall, P.O. Box 517, Santa Ynez, CA 93460

Agricultural and Business Interests

- Small farms, ranches and orchards throughout the Cuyama Valley
- Workers and laborers in the Cuyama Valley
- South Cuyama Oil Field
- Cuyama Orchards, Albano family
- Bolthouse Farms, subsidiary of Campbell Soup Company
- Grimmway Farms
- Duncan Family Farms
- Triangle E. Farms
- Walking U Ranch
- Caliente Ranch
- North Fork Cattle Ranch
- Condor's Hope Ranch
- SZ Ranch
- River Valley Ranch
- Cuyama Valley Solar Facility
- "Harvard" Vineyard, managed by Grapevine Properties
- Mining activities

Local Communities and Community Organizations

- Cuyama Valley Community Association
- Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center
- Cuyama Valley Recreation District
- Disadvantaged Communities (Cuyama, New Cuyama, Ventucopa)
- Blue Sky Center

Disadvantaged Community Organizations

- Community Water Center, Laurel Firestone
- Community Water Center, Debbie Ores
- Clean Water Action, Jennifer Clary
- Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability, Mike Claiborne and Robert Fuentes
- Self Help Enterprises, Paul Boyer

Environmental Interests/Organizations

- Los Padres Forest Watch, <http://lpfw.org>
- Native Plant Society, San Luis Obispo chapter; Kern County chapter, Ventura County chapter
- Friends of California Condors Wild and Free
- Ventura County Audubon Society Chapter, P. O. Box 24198, Ventura, California 93002
- Morro Coast Audubon Society, PO Box 1507, Morro Bay, CA 93443

News Media

Note that there are no news outlets in Cuyama Valley.

- Newspapers in San Luis Obispo County: The Tribune, New Times
- Newspapers in Kern County: The Bakersfield Californian
- Newspapers in Ventura County: Ventura County Star
- Television: KSBY-TV, NBC affiliate in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties
- Radio: Need to find out what the Hispanic station is, if there is one that can be heard in the Cuyama Valley
- Obtain information for Hispanic TV and newspaper.

APPENDIX D

Links to SGMA and Groundwater Information

California Department of Water Resources, SGMA: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/>

California Department of Water Resources Critically Overdrafted Basins:
<http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/cod.cfm>

Department of Water Resources, Draft Guidance for GSP Stakeholder Communication and Engagement
http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GD_C&E_Final_2017-06-29.pdf

Department of Water Resources, Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Digital Toolkit
http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/digital_toolkit.cfm

UC Davis SGMA Resources: <http://groundwater.ucdavis.edu/SGMA/>

Union of Concerned Scientists, A Guide to California's Groundwater Sustainability Plans, in English and Spanish: <https://www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/ca-and-western-states/groundwater-toolkit#.WnSt5KinFPY>

Union of Concerned Scientist, SMGA information: <https://www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/regional-information/california-and-western-states/sustainable-groundwater-management-act#.Wne0ga2ZPq0>

Community Water Center, Union of Concerned Scientists, Clean Water Fund, Stakeholder Guide for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation:
https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/communitywatercenter/pages/52/attachments/original/1438102537/SGMA_Stakeholder_Engagement_White_Paper.pdf?1438102537

USGS, California Water Use: https://ca.water.usgs.gov/water_use/2010-california-water-use.html

TO: Standing Advisory Committee
Agenda Item No. 6e

FROM: James M. Beck, Executive Director

DATE: March 1, 2018

SUBJECT: Website/Logo/Newsletter Update

Issue

Update on the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency website, logo, and draft newsletter template.

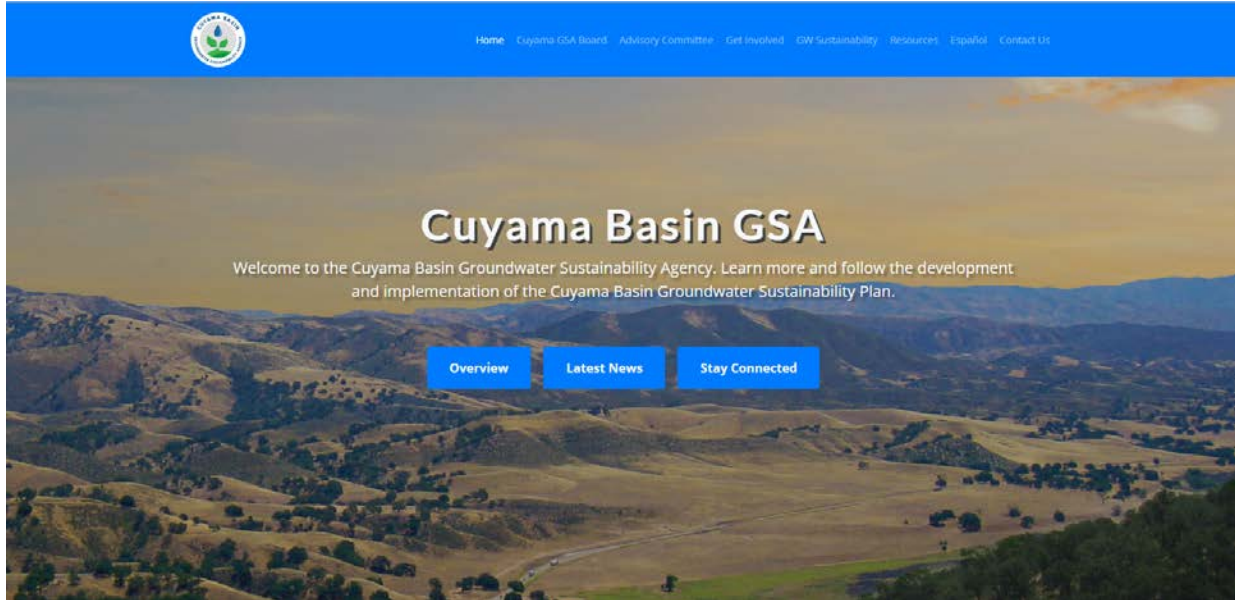
Recommended Motion

None – information only.

Discussion

As part of the outreach and branding effort, the consultant developed a website, logo, and a draft newsletter template for the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency. A sample of those items are provided as Attachment 1.

Website



Address: cuyamabasin.org

Logo





Quarterly Newsletter

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

SGMA Updates

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