

## Meeting Brief

- The Butte Subbasin Advisory Board (BAB) held its last meeting of the calendar year on December 14, 2020 in the evening to encourage public participation. The meeting took place virtually, due to ongoing Covid-19 concerns.
- **Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Process Timeline:** B. Clark (Davids Engineering) gave an overview of the GSP development timeline and next steps [[access slides here](#)].
- **Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) Overview Discussion:** C. Buck (Butte County) provided a brief presentation on the key SMC components and answered clarifying questions. B. Clark (Davids Engineering) presented and sought feedback on draft Sustainability Goal (SG) and Significant and Unreasonable Conditions (SUC) statements. BAB members and public participants had an opportunity to comment [[access slides](#) | [access draft statement](#)].
- **Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement:** The BAB made suggestions for potential groups and approaches for public outreach and stakeholder engagement in the subbasin in an attempt to increase public participation.
- **Inter-basin Coordination Update:** M. Rivera-Torres (CBI) presented a brief overview of ongoing inter-basin coordination efforts in the Northern Sacramento Valley [[access slides](#) | [access flyer](#) | [access website](#)].
- **GSA Updates:** GSAs and adjacent subbasins provided updates on GSP development.
- **Next Steps:** The Butte Subbasin Advisory Board will continue to meet the fourth Thursday of every other month. The next meeting will be on February 25, 2021 from 1-3 PM.

## Action Items

| Item  | Lead Person(s)                                | Completion      |
|---|---|-----------------|
| Send Byron Clark (Davids Engineering) other comments and ideas about the draft Sustainability Goal (SG) and Significant and Unreasonable Conditions (SUC) statements. | BAB Members to Byron Clark                    | By mid-January  |
| Create a flyer for public outreach and engagement.  | CBI in coordination with GSA managers         | Upon completion |
| Complete meeting summary and upload meeting recording.  | CBI in coordination with Management Committee | Upon completion |

## Summary

The Butte Subbasin Advisory Board (BAB) met on December 14, 2020 via video conference, as a result of COVID-19. Below is a summary of key themes and next steps discussed at the meeting. This document is not intended to be a meeting transcript. Rather, it focuses on the main points covered during the group's discussions. The video-conference meeting recording is available at the Butte Subbasin GSA website [[Video](#)].

### Welcome, Introductions, Agenda & Meeting Summary Review

T. Carlone (CBI Facilitator) welcomed participants and reviewed the meeting agenda. BAB members confirmed the October BAB meeting summary.

### Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

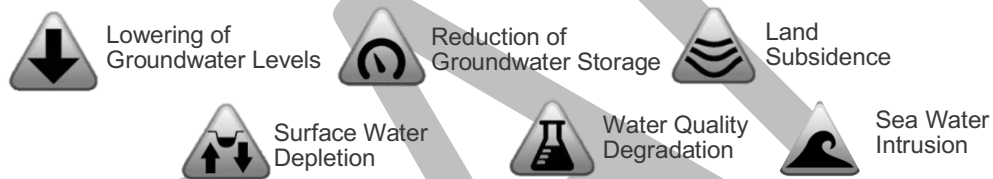
No public comments.

## Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Process Timeline

B. Clark (Davids Engineering) gave an overview of the GSP development timeline. Overall, the Butte Subbasin is on track to release the Public GSP Draft in August 2021. Each GSA is expected to adopt the plan in late 2021 and submit it to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) by the regulatory deadline of January 31, 2022. Staff and the consulting team are working on developing the GSP General Information, Representative Monitoring Network, Draft Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC), Project and Management Action (PMA) Identification and Screening Process, and Annual Report Formulation [[access slides here](#)]. B. Clark highlighted that the groundwater conditions in the subbasin are good and stressed the importance of getting the communities' values and views reflected in the plan.

## Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) Overview Discussion

The BAB received an overview presentation and held preliminary discussion of SMC key components in preparation for a more in-depth SMC discussion at the next BAB meeting [[access slides](#) | [access draft statement](#) | [Best Management Practices report](#)]. The SMC is the umbrella that includes: Sustainability Goal (qualitative), Undesirable Results (quantitative), Minimum Thresholds (quantitative), and Measurable Objectives (quantitative). Overall, sustainability is demonstrated by the avoidance of Undesirable Results for the six sustainability indicators below. What is considered "significant and unreasonable" is determined by local GSAs and stakeholders.



## Draft Sustainability Goal (SG) & Significant and Unreasonable Conditions (SUC)

B. Clark (Davids Engineering) presented and sought feedback on draft Sustainability Goal (SG) and Significant and Unreasonable Conditions (SUC) statements [[access draft statements](#)]. B. Clark recognized the statements presented are quite general but wanted to identify any concerns or other considerations that may be missing.

## Feedback | Discussion

### *Draft Sustainability Goal*

BAB members suggestions included adding preserving and enhancing the "natural environment," along with the economic viability, social well-being and culture, listing all beneficial users and uses (or including the Water Code reference), and broadening the definition to include flood control.

### *Significant and Unreasonable Conditions (SUC) statements*

#### Lowering Groundwater Levels & Reduction of Storage

Consider including details or examples (e.g., increased pumping costs, impact to Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs), flood protection, etc.).

#### Land Subsidence

Mention protecting private structures, in addition to other important infrastructure such as wells, transportation, flood protection, etc.

#### Surface Water Depletion

Specify protecting GDEs, streamflow (for fish and other species), and existing surface water rights.

## Water Quality

Related to water quality, B. Clark wanted to gage if there was consensus among the BAB about focusing on water quality only where there is a nexus between groundwater related activities, such as groundwater extraction or groundwater recharge.

Overall, BAB members supported the approach. A BAB member asked if the statement would include nitrates and volatile organic compound plumes. B. Clark replied that there are several well-established programs dealing with water quality concerns and the GSAs will be limited to regulating groundwater extractions and recharge. However, the GSA can consider specifying the intent to avoid mobilizing those contaminants through recharge programs. This matter is of special concern to some BAB members, given rising nitrate levels in local wells. Another concern included addressing water quality impacts from private irrigated lands.

## Sea Water Intrusion

All BAB members expressed support to address salinity concerns in the water quality sustainability indicator and confirmed that sea water intrusion was not applicable in the Butte Subbasin, given its distance from the coast.

## Outcomes & Next Steps |

The GSA Managers will meet on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and will update the BAB on next steps.

## Stakeholder Outreach & Engagement

The facilitation team led a discussion related to identifying potential groups and approaches for public outreach and stakeholder engagement in the subbasin. BAB members and public participants identified which groups were currently missing in the conversations, barriers of engagement, and suggestions for future outreach efforts.

### Who is missing?

Among groups currently underrepresented in the subbasin, BAB members identified unincorporated communities like Richvale, comprised of 100 homes and 10 businesses, and small farmers (i.e., pig farmers and cattle ranchers) in Butte County, some of which had expressed interest in participating.

### Barriers to Engagement

GSA managers and BAB members highlighted the challenges of public outreach and engagement during the Covid-19 pandemic, as it is difficult to interact with people one-on-one. Attendance is low in other public meetings as well. Further, some managers are struggling to reach out to Spanish speakers. Lastly, the group suggested the next challenge will be hosting effective hybrid meetings. A member of the public shared some participants may have trouble accessing technology, due to generational challenges, broadband issues, or general skepticism about online meetings. She appreciated the Zoom guidance document and encouraged strategies to make BAB meetings more accessible to public audiences not familiar with SGMA regulations.

### Possible Outreach & Engagement Strategies

- Develop a general outreach flyer to distribute to existing contact lists (online and print)
- Share information in the annual water bill in Spring
- Share SGMA 101 videos on the website
- Engage through targeted outreach to individual water users, personal contacts, and other partners (e.g., Farm Bureau)
- Use DWR translation services to target non-English speaking audiences

- Share stories and announcements on SGMA efforts via newspaper articles, ads, and public radio/TV (e.g., KNVN and Chico ER)
- Make meetings more interactive, through polling and other activities
- Livestream meetings via social media
- Develop a directory with GSA manager information on the website

### Inter-basin Coordination Update

CBI provided a brief update on inter-basin coordination efforts in the Northern Sacramento Region. Staff and consulting teams from 11 subbasins (Antelope, Bowman, Butte, Colusa, Corning, Los Molinos, Red Bluff, Sutter, Vina, Wyandotte Creek, and Yolo) met on December 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss preliminary findings from the information-sharing template and regional outreach and engagement strategies. CBI presented a series of documents developed through inter-basin coordination efforts, including a document describing modeling tools used for SGMA in the Northern Sacramento Valley (NSV) and a flyer describing inter-basin coordination efforts [[access slides](#) | [access flyer](#) | [access compiled modeling tools document](#)]. Since subbasins are at different stages in GSP development, not all water budget results were ready for comparison. Staff and consultants will reconvene in Spring 2021 to review compiled data and discuss appropriate ways to compare and communicate information on model assumptions, cross-boundary flows, and stream-aquifer interactions at boundaries. Key findings will be presented when available for provide input. More information can be found at <https://www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management-Act/Inter-basin-Coordination>.

Subbasin representatives that have been participating in these meetings highlighted the benefits of ongoing efforts, as they provide an opportunity for mutual learning and understanding. Further, they highlighted the Northern Sacramento Valley's unique and advantageous position due to longstanding history of collaborative water management in the region.

### Questions | Discussion

A BAB representative asked who the participants are in the meetings and where the public can access the meeting materials, including summaries and meeting recordings. The facilitation team shared that at this stage in the process, staff and consultants have been participating in these meetings. The [website](#) contains updates, as well as meeting agendas, summaries, and other materials. Further, CBI will continue to provide updates and gather input during the various public venues (such as the BAB) on an ongoing basis.

A public participant highlighted the importance of ensuring a common understanding on cross-boundary flows, stream-aquifer interactions, and hydrogeologic conditions and suggested greater levels of public engagement in current inter-basin coordination meetings. His concern related to transparency regarding controversial topics that may come up, such as the risk of future adjudication. Staff and consulting teams are continuing to evaluate numbers from water budgets to better understand nuances and to ensure consistency when comparing model results of cross-boundary flows (as much as possible)

### Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Updates

- **GSA & Updates:**
  - *Biggs West Gridley Water District (BWGWD):* no updates
  - *Butte County:* Steve Lambert retired from the Butte County Board of Supervisors. Therefore, he will no longer serve on the BAB and the Board of Supervisors will appoint new BAB representation.
  - *Butte Water District:* no updates
  - *City of Biggs:* no updates

## BUTTE SUBBASIN ADVISORY BOARD (BAB) MEETING (12/14/20)

- *City of Gridley*: There are new city council members , BAB representatives not yet determined
- *Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA)*: no updates
- *Glenn County*: The two BAB representatives are retiring from the Glenn County Board of Supervisors. The Board will appoint new BAB representatives.
- *Richvale Irrigation District*: no updates
- *Reclamation District (RD) 1004*: no updates
- *RD 2106*: New board members, representatives not yet determined
- *Western Canal Water District*: changes may be coming in January

### Next Meeting

The Butte Subbasin Advisory Board will continue to meet the fourth Thursday of every other month. The next meeting will be on February 25, 2021 from 1-3 PM.

## Meeting Participants

### Butte Subbasin Advisory Board, Staff & Consultant Meeting Attendance

| Participant   | Representation/Affiliation        | Present |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Butte Subbasin Advisory Board (BAB) Members</b>                        |                                   |         |
| Mike Farr   | Biggs-West Gridley Water District | Y       |
| Eugene Massa, Jr. (alternate)   | Biggs-West Gridley Water District | Y       |
| Steve Lambert   | Butte County                      | N       |
| Debra Lucero (alternate)  | Butte County                      | Y       |
| Pete Righero  | Butte Water District              | Y       |
| Shelly Davis (alternate)  | Butte Water District              | N       |
| James (Bo) Sheppard   | City of Biggs                     | Y       |
| Mark Sorensen (alternate)   | City of Biggs                     | Y       |
| Chris Williams  | City of Gridley                   | N       |
| Denise Carter   | Colusa Groundwater Authority      | N       |
| Jeff Moresco (alternate)  | Colusa Groundwater Authority      | N       |
| John Viegas   | Glenn County                      | N       |
| Leigh McDaniel (alternate)  | Glenn County                      | N       |
| Hans Heckert  | Reclamation District 1004         | Y       |
| Terry Bressler (alternate)  | Reclamation District 1004         | Y       |
| Charlie Edgar   | Reclamation District 2106         | N       |
| Richard Thieriot (alternate)  | Reclamation District 2106         | N       |
| Gary Stone  | Richvale Irrigation District      | Y       |
| Sean Earley (alternate)   | Richvale Irrigation District      | Y       |
| Greg Johnson  | Western Canal Water District      | N       |
| Anjanette Shadley (alternate)   | Western Canal Water District      | Y       |
| <b>Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Staff (not included above)</b> |                                   |         |

**BUTTE SUBBASIN ADVISORY BOARD (BAB) MEETING (12/14/20)**

| <b>Participant</b>                  | <b>Representation/Affiliation</b> | <b>Present</b> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Christina Buck                      | Butte County                      | Y              |
| Paul Gosselin                       | Butte County                      | Y              |
| Mary Fahey                          | Colusa Groundwater Authority      | Y              |
| Lisa Hunter                         | Glenn County                      | <b>N</b>       |
| Ted Trimble                         | Western Canal Water District      | Y              |
| <b>Facilitation Team</b>            |                                   |                |
| Tania Carlone                       | Consensus Building Institute      | Y              |
| Mariana Rivera-Torres               | Consensus Building Institute      | Y              |
| <b>Technical Consultant</b>         |                                   |                |
| Byron Clark                         | Davids Engineering                | Y              |
| <b>Other Agency Representatives</b> |                                   |                |
| Debbie Spangler                     | CA Department of Water Resources  | Y              |

7 members of the public attended the on-line meeting.

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