

Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency 2022 Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Yolo County, CA

Appendix B

Communication and Engagement Plan

Communication and Engagement Plan
for Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development
and Implementation in the Yolo Subbasin

Table of Contents

Contents

SGMA and Stakeholder Outreach	1
Introduction to the Yolo Subbasin	2
Initial SGMA Efforts in the Yolo Subbasin	3
GSA Formation	3
Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant	5
GSP Development Process in the Yolo Subbasin	9
GSP Development	9
Governing Body	9
Decision-Making Process	10
Goals and Desired Outcomes	13
Stakeholder Identification	14
Stakeholder Group Identification	14
Stakeholder Survey	16
Venues and Tools: Opportunities for Engagement	18
Stakeholder Meetings and Workshops	18
<i>Physical venues for engagement</i>	19
<i>Meeting Notification Process</i>	19
<i>Printed Materials</i>	19
Public Notices and Hearings	20
Informational Materials	26
<i>GSA Website</i>	26
<i>Interested Persons List</i>	27
Limitations of Existing Outreach Methods	27
Talking Points	28
<i>Key Messages</i>	28
<i>FAQs</i>	28
Evaluation and Assessment	31

SGMA and Stakeholder Outreach

Our goal is to involve stakeholders and the public through the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development and implementation process to ensure stakeholders' concerns, issues, and desires are continually understood and considered in the YSGA's decision-making process.

In compliance with GSP Regulations (Section 354.10), Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency's (YSGA) Communication and Engagement Plan has the following objectives:

1. To describe the YSGA's decision-making process,
2. To identify opportunities for public engagement and discuss how public input and response will be used to review the GSP,
3. To detail how the YSGA encourages the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the Yolo Subbasin, and
4. To outline the methods the YSGA will follow to inform the public about developing and implementing the GSP.

Unfortunately, public outreach and engagement opportunities during the development of the Yolo Subbasin GSP were limited because of the Governor's March 2020 state of emergency declaration and the continued threat of COVID-19. The YSGA posted a draft version of this communication and engagement plan on the website at yologroundwater.org; however, there was not a rigorous effort to share this document during GSP development because meetings were limited to virtual platforms and the on-the-ground outreach and workshops envisioned were not feasible.

During the implementation period of the GSP, communication and engagement will continue to focus on accomplishing the objectives described above. A priority of the YSGA will be to ensure disadvantaged communities (DACs) and tribal stakeholders are involved in the GSP implementation process through effective and consistent communication and engagement.

Introduction to the Yolo Subbasin

The Yolo Subbasin is in the southwestern side of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin and is about 27 miles wide from west to east and up to 45 miles long from north to south. The subbasin is a result of the consolidation of portions of the Capay Valley, Colusa, and Solano Subbasins with the Yolo Subbasin.

The western portion of the Yolo Subbasin is bound to the west by the uplifted, mountainous coast range consisting of marine sedimentary rocks. Within these nonmarine sedimentary deposits, fresh groundwater extends to an elevation of -3,000 feet. Cache Creek enters the subbasin at the northwest portion and flows south and east through the central part of the subbasin and the eastern boundary of the subbasin is coincident with the Sacramento River. Putah Creek forms the southern boundary from the southwestern edge of the basin to the City of Davis at which time the subbasin boundary follows the county line to the south.

The Yolo Subbasin consists of four cities (Davis, West Sacramento, Winters, and Woodland), nine census designated places (Clarksburg, Dunnigan, Esparto, Guinda, Knights Landing, Madison, Monument Hill, University of California, Davis, and Yolo), and 41 unincorporated communities. The majority of the Yolo Subbasin remains a relatively rural agricultural region, and it covers a wide range of stakeholder interests – private users, water service providers, land use authorities, urban users, business interests, public agencies, and the general public.

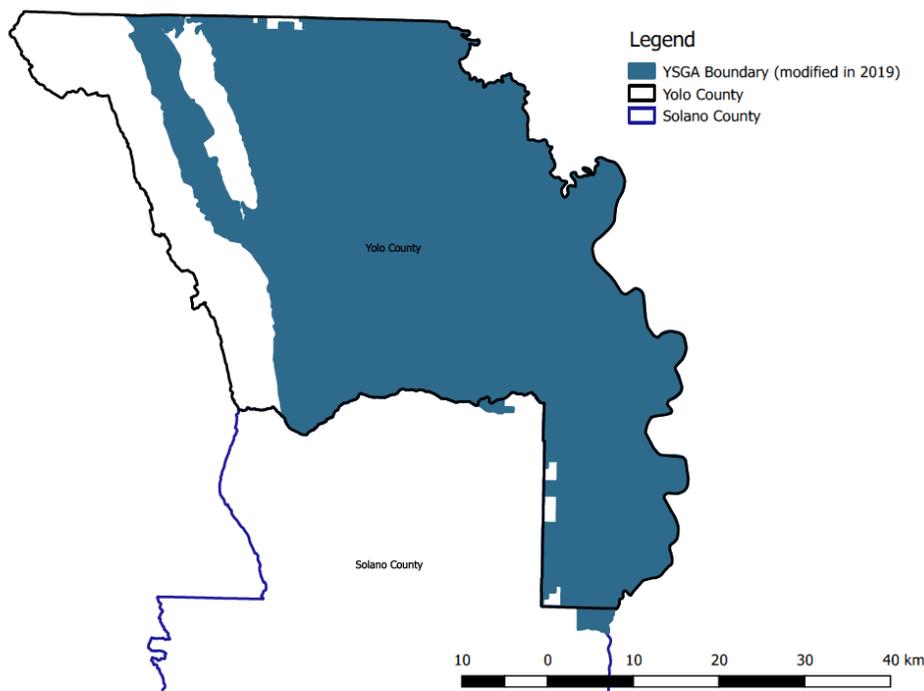


Figure 1. Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Boundary

Initial SGMA Efforts in the Yolo Subbasin

GSA Formation

Water interests in the Yolo Subbasin worked together for three years to develop an efficient and effective groundwater governance structure for complying with and implementing the basin-scale Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The overarching principle behind the formation was to continue and extend the cooperative, collaborative approach practiced for the past three decades by the Water Resources Association of Yolo County (WRA).

History of WRA

The WRA was established in 1993 to serve as a collaborative, consensus-based regional forum to plan, coordinate, and facilitate solutions to water management issues in Yolo County. In 2007, the WRA developed the Yolo Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), which serves as the road map for water resource planning in the region and is a component of the Westside-Sacramento IRWMP. The WRA has succeeded in securing millions of dollars of funding for its member agencies in areas of water efficiency, groundwater management, water quality, and environmental and recreational protection and enhancement.

Local implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

In 2014, the California Legislature and Governor Brown signed into legislation the SGMA. This Legislation called for local management of groundwater basins to achieve and ensure groundwater sustainability. From the beginning, Yolo County interests approached this implementation process in a collaborative fashion that capitalized on the existing relationships among the parties and the robust groundwater monitoring network that has been in place for over 40 years. Recognizing and building on these values, eligible entities came together and accomplished the following in forming the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Yolo Subbasin:

- Partnered with the Yolo County Farm Bureau to inform and educate the local landowners and Cities about the Legislation (“Year of Groundwater”).
- Submitted multiple basin boundary modification requests to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to consolidate the original four Bulletin 118 groundwater subbasins into a single Yolo Subbasin.
- Developed a conceptual governance structure to maintain governance and decision making at the lowest (grassroots) level allowed by the Legislation while protecting and preserving the autonomy and authorities of local agencies.
- Collaborated in developing a single GSA for managing groundwater in the Yolo Subbasin to meet the June 30, 2017 deadline.
- Proposed a fee and voting structure for the GSA that attempted to equitably distribute the roles and responsibilities of implementing agencies and interested parties.
- Started planning processes, utilizing the GSA, to write the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Yolo Subbasin by or before the January 1, 2022 deadline.

Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Joint Powers Authority Formation

The Yolo SGMA Working Group (consisting of eligible entities and affiliated parties) proposed forming a new Joint Powers Authority for SGMA implementation in the Yolo Subbasin, which provides economies of scale to all participants, honors the regional community, recognizes the value of county partnerships, and creates shared accountability for the shared water resources on which we all depend. During the formation of the management structure of the YSGA, an equal partners' approach was used to help the subbasin-wide management agency be successful, which resulted in multiple signatories feeling mutually respected by each other. One voting board seat per signatory was recommended by the Yolo SGMA working group (for both the JPA and MOU signatories).

The YSGA's Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) was officially executed on June 19, 2017 by 19 member agencies and five affiliated parties via memoranda of understandings. Since the YSGA has formed, three additional member agencies have signed onto the JPA, three other member agencies consolidated into one member agency, and an affiliated party has signed onto the JPA, which has resulted in 20 member agencies and six affiliated parties for a total of 26 YSGA members (listed below).

YSGA JPA Membership

1. City of Davis
2. City of West Sacramento
3. City of Winters
4. City of Woodland
5. County of Yolo
6. Dunnigan Water District
7. Esparto Community Service District
8. Madison Community Service District
9. Reclamation District 108
10. Reclamation District 150
11. Reclamation District 307
12. Reclamation District 537 (Consolidation of RD 537, 785, and 827)
13. Reclamation District 730
14. Reclamation District 765
15. Reclamation District 787
16. Reclamation District 999
17. Reclamation District 1600
18. Reclamation District 2035
19. Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
20. Yolo County Flood Control & Water Conservation District

YSGA Affiliated Membership

- California American Water Company, Dunnigan
- Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company
- Private Pumper Representative - Yolo County Farm Bureau appointed
- University of California, Davis
- Environmental Party Representative
- Rumsey Water Users Association

Draft – For internal discussion purposes only
June 11, 2020

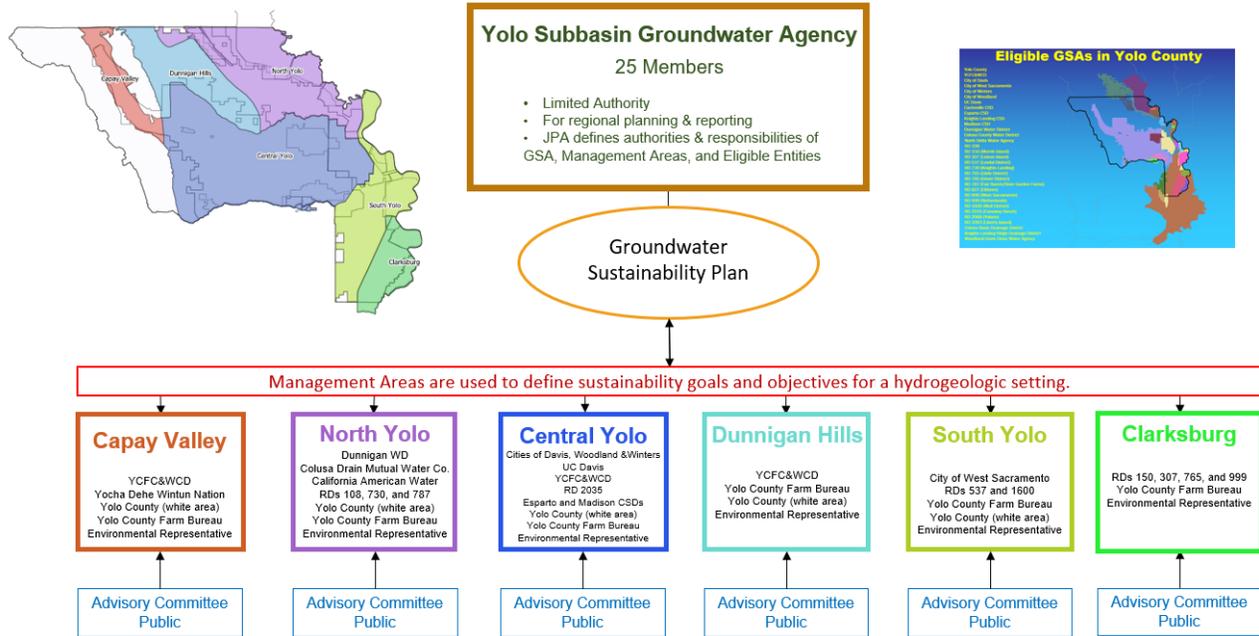


Figure 2. Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Management Area Diagram

Sustainable Groundwater Planning Grant

The YSGA received a \$1M planning grant from the Department of Water Resources to assist in the development of the Yolo Subbasin GSP. The Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is acting as the fiscal entity for this grant and is administering the reimbursement process for the YSGA. The table below summarizes the schedule for utilizing state funding to develop the Yolo Subbasin GSP.

Table 1. GSP Planning Grant Schedule

Categories	Start Date	End Date
Project Administration	11/13/2017	1/31/2022
Stakeholder Engagement	9/26/2017	1/31/2022
Planning Activities	1/1/2015	12/31/2021
GSP Development	1/1/2019	12/31/2021

YOLO SUBBASIN GSP PLANNING PROCESS

The major components of the GSP planning process are listed below and illustrated in Figure 3:

1. Water Budget
2. Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model
3. Stakeholder Communication and Engagement
4. Groundwater Monitoring and Reporting
5. Surface Water and Groundwater Modeling

6. Sustainable Management Criteria

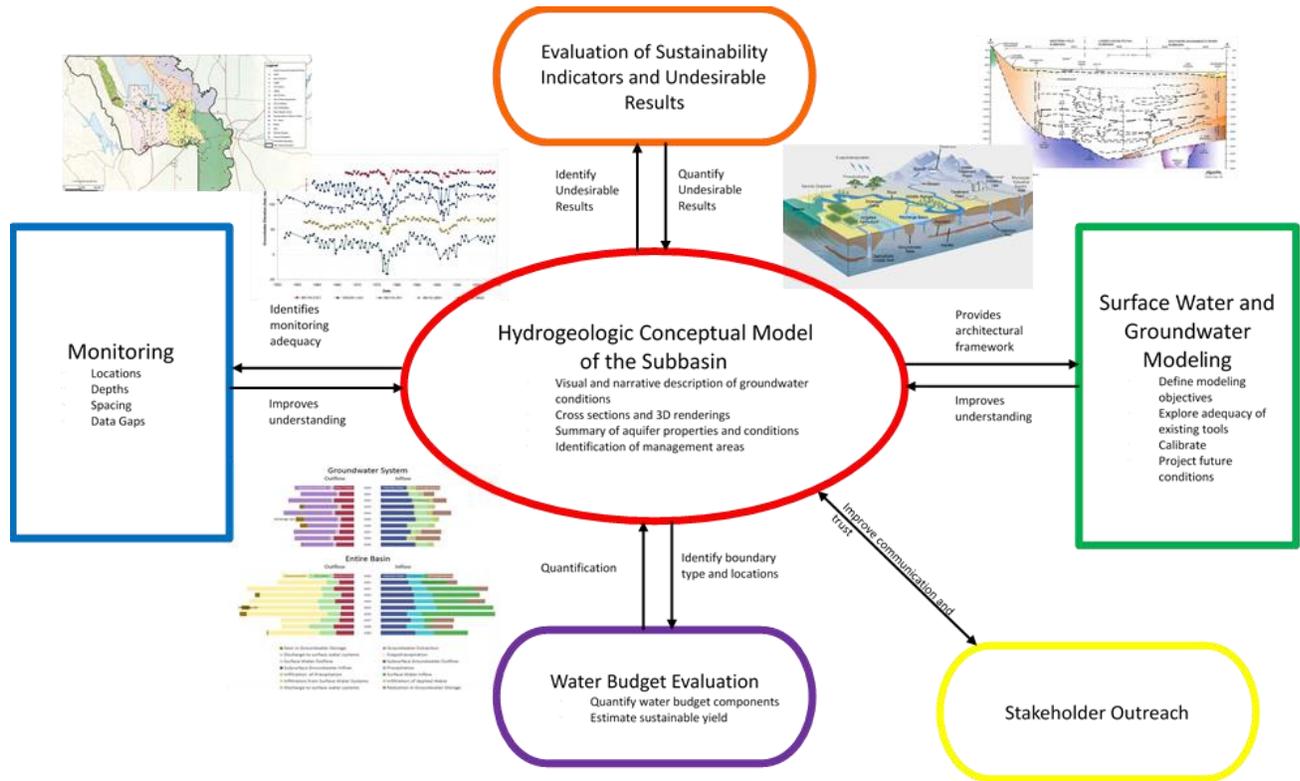


Figure 3. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Components Schematic

Water Budgets

The YSGA has chosen to work with the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) to develop the Yolo Subbasin Water Budget. SEI’s Water Evaluation and Planning model (WEAP) is built on a basic principle of water balance accounting. All the processes in the hydrologic cycle are simulated by WEAP, and the database provides a system for maintaining and updating water demand and supply information. The current model that has been modified for use in the Yolo Subbasin is an enhancement of a published Cache Creek model built by SEI with the YCF&WCD in 2011. WEAP has been coupled with MODFLOW to simulate the groundwater system more accurately. MODFLOW is the USGS modular finite-difference flow model that is widely used by hydrogeologists around the world to simulate the flow of groundwater through aquifers.

As part of this effort, as much data and information has been culled from member agencies to obtain the missing details for comprehensively developing the Yolo Subbasin Water Budget. The water budget includes the quantification of current, historical, and projected water budgets at the subbasin-level; an estimate of sustainable yield; and description of inflows, outflows, and change in storage. The model has been, and will continue, to be used to evaluate candidate sustainable management criteria and projects and management actions to assess measure performance for achieving basin-wide

sustainability. The Water Budget takes into consideration projected changes in climate, land use, and population, and will be calculated into the future for 50 years under several projections.

Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model

The YSGA has a significant amount of historical data, and numerous technical reports that were produced on behalf of the member agencies. Historical reports and empirical data that have been gathered have been the main source of information used to develop the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (HCM). A search of reports that have been created in the different parts of the Yolo Subbasin was conducted during the development of the HCM and Water Budget.

Communication and Engagement

The YSGA has developed this Communication and Engagement Plan to complete this component of the GSP requirement, and to develop a framework for improved communication during the GSP development and implementation process.

Groundwater Monitoring and Reporting

The members of the YSGA have an extensive groundwater level monitoring network that has been utilized for over 60 years comprising over 450 monitoring, agricultural, and domestic wells. There are also 12 wells that are outfitted with continuous, real-time telemetry. The data gathered from each agency is currently reported to the YSGA and included in the Water Resources Information Database (WRID).

The groundwater monitoring and reporting portion of the Yolo Subbasin GSP is captured in two tasks of the GSP Work Plan: 1) Monitoring Network Update and 2) Data Management System Update.

Surface Water and Groundwater Modeling

The coupling of WEAP and MODFLOW has created the Yolo Subbasin's surface water and groundwater "model". The model and participatory workshops will also be used to evaluate candidate sustainable management criteria and projects and management actions to assess how suggested measures may perform as tools for achieving basin-wide sustainability. The water budget simulations for future conditions will consider projected changes in climate, land use, and population for 50 years from present.

Sustainable Management Criteria

The development and implementation of the Sustainable Management Criteria is a culmination of the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model, Water Budget, Monitoring Network Update, Data Management System Update, and Stakeholder Communication and Engagement tasks. The results of the WEAP/MODFLOW model, the hydrogeologic conceptual model, and data collected from the monitoring network have been, and will continue to be, used to inform the stakeholders of current conditions within the subbasin and to provide input for the development of measurable objectives and minimum thresholds for each sustainability indicator.

The criteria are also based on the information gathered during working group, committee, and entity meetings. During the implementation period, after the measurable objectives and minimum thresholds have been established, it may be necessary for the YSGA to develop surface water and groundwater management actions designed to enable the YSGA to achieve its sustainability objectives and avoid the occurrence of undesirable results. These management actions will be evaluated by the YSGA members and may not be necessary for each management area.

GSP Development Process in the Yolo Subbasin

GSP Development

The GSP Technical Team has served as the primary lead on developing and implementing the Yolo Subbasin GSP. The GSP Technical Team has and will conduct technical studies and investigations, including water budget analyses, groundwater modeling, sustainable management criteria evaluation, and drafting of the GSP sections. The GSP Technical Team consists of key staff from Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and selected consultants. The Technical Team will receive, evaluate, and respond to public input, incorporating modifications to processes and key components of GSP development and implementation, as necessary. The GSP Technical Team will keep the Working Group and Board of Directors updated and make recommendations regarding GSP development and implementation (refer to Figure 4 for GSP components).

Governing Body

The business of the YSGA is conducted by a Board of Directors established by the JPA that is composed of one representative from each of the Members and one representative from each of the Affiliated Parties. Each member of the YSGA Board of Directors serves until replaced by the appointing Member or Affiliated Party. The Board of Directors elected a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, and treasurer. All the powers and authority of the YSGA are exercised by the Board, subject, however, to the rights reserved by the Members and Affiliated Parties.

YSGA Board of Directors conduct most business by majority vote of those directors present. The following actions require a two-thirds vote by the directors present:

- a. Approval of the Agency's annual budget;
- b. Decisions related to the levying, imposition or collection of taxes, fees, charges, and other levies;
- c. Decisions related to the expenditure of funds by the Agency beyond expenditures approved in the Agency's annual budget;
- d. Adoption of rules, regulations, policies, bylaws and procedures related to the function of the Agency;
- e. Decisions related to the establishment or adjustment of the Members' or Affiliated Parties' obligations for payment of the Agency's operating and administrative costs as provided in the JPA (Article 5.1);
- f. Approval of the GSP;
- g. Involuntary termination of a Member or Affiliated Party;
- h. Approval of the addition of a Member or Affiliated Party;
- i. Amendment and termination of the JPA Agreement; and
- j. Modification of the Member and Affiliated Party fees.

Appointment of Executive Officer

The Executive Officer administers the activities of the YSGA and is the primary point of contact with the Board Chair. Among other duties, the Executive Officer works with the Board Chair and Vice Chair to establish Board of Directors' meeting agendas, carry out the directives of the Board of Directors, and coordinate the activities of the Working Group.

Establishment of Executive Committee

The Executive Committee administers the YSGA in accordance with policies and procedures as established by the Board. The Executive Committee is comprised of the Chair, the Vice Chair, the Executive Officer, an Urban Representative, and an Agricultural Representative. The Executive Committee shall meet at least twice each quarter and the Chair of the Executive Committee may convene additional Committee meetings as circumstances require. The main purpose of the Executive Committee is to provide direction to the Executive Officer, address administrative issues in a timely manner, and help prepare and review Board agendas. All meetings are open to the public and properly noticed in accordance with the “Brown Act”.

Establishment of the Working Group

The process of creating the YSGA to oversee implementation of the SGMA in the Yolo Subbasin relied heavily on input and feedback from stakeholders working collaboratively in what was called the “Working Group”.

This Working Group, which consisted of member agency staff, policymakers, and any other interested stakeholders that wished to participate, proved an effective forum for vetting issues and achieving consensus. At the June 2017 Board meeting, the Working Group was established as an official subcommittee of the YSGA and was charged with developing recommendations and providing guidance to the Board on the development and implementation of the GSP and other matters related to the efficient management of the YSGA.

Establishment of the Technical Advisory Committee

The GSP Technical Team identified the need to have a smaller committee of technical stakeholders involved in developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, also known as the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC’s role is to advise the GSP Technical Team and Working Group in making sound technical decisions. The TAC will be involved in reviewing the representative well selection process, evaluating the analysis or process for developing the sustainable management criteria, and advising on other processes necessary to complete the GSP.

Decision-Making Process

In forming the YSGA, the Members created a separate legal entity for the purpose of acting as the GSA for the Yolo Subbasin. Members agreed to serve a coordinating and administrative role regarding SGMA compliance within the Subbasin.

The YSGA Board of Directors will be approving and adopting the Yolo Subbasin GSP as allowed

Figure 1. Decision Making Process

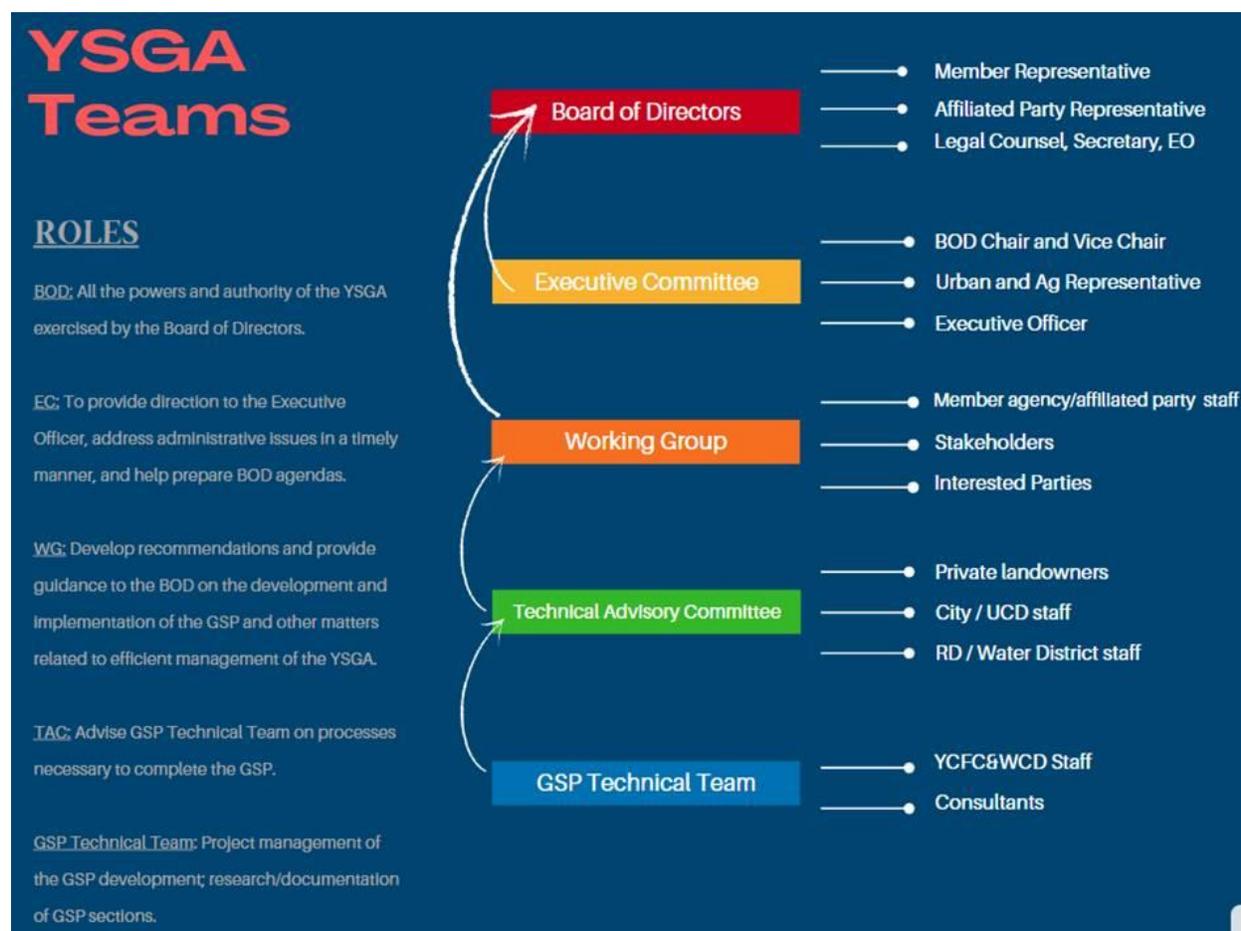


Table 1. Roles in GSP development

Group	Who	Role in GSP Development
GSP Technical Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YCFC&WCD staff • Consultants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of GSP development and implementation • Research, documentation, and update of GSP sections
YSGA Technical Advisory Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Davids (Private Landowner) • Kurt Balasek (City of Winters) • Bill Vanderwaal (RD 108/Dunnigan Water District) • Matt Cohen (City of Woodland) • Camille Kirk (UC Davis) • Ken Loy (Private Landowner) • Bill Brewster/Barrett Kaasa (DWR) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise GSP Technical Team on processes necessary to complete the GSP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SEI Model – Future Land Use projections ○ Representative Wells Selection ○ Sustainable Management Criteria: sustainability indicator, sustainability goal, etc.

<p>YSGA Working Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member agency staff • Affiliated party staff • Stakeholders • Interested parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop recommendations and provide guidance to the YSGA Board on the development and implementation of the GSP and other matters related to the efficient management of the YSGA
<p>YSGA Executive Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YSGA Board of Directors Chair and Vice Chair • YSGA Executive Officer • Urban Representative • Agricultural Representative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide direction to the Executive Officer, address administrative issues in a timely manner, and help prepare and review Board agendas
<p>YSGA Board of Directors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One representative and alternative representative from each of the Members and Affiliated Parties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the powers and authority of the YSGA are exercised by the Board.
<p>Interested Parties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including agricultural users, domestic well owners • Municipal well operators • Public water systems • Local land use planning agencies • Environmental users of groundwater • Surface water users (if there is a hydrologic connection) • The federal government, including the military and managers of federal lands • California Native American tribes • Disadvantaged communities, including those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems • Entities monitoring under the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficial users • Stakeholders • Critical piece of the GSP to provide anecdotal information and engage in citizen science monitoring

Goals and Desired Outcomes

The YSGA is trying to accomplish the following goals:

- Compliance with SGMA regulations for stakeholder engagement (all beneficial users identified)
- A comprehensive GSP that ensures operations within the Yolo Subbasin result in sustainable groundwater supplies
- Conflict-limited development and implementation of the GSP, with the majority of stakeholders comfortable with the Sustainability Goal and Sustainable Management Criteria assessment

The indicators of success or desired outcomes are the following:

- High attendance and participation in workshops and public meetings by stakeholders and beneficial users – unfortunately, this was not achieved in developing the GSP because of the threat of COVID-19 and the inability to host in-person meetings and workshops. High attendance and participation will continue to be a focus during the implementation period of the GSP.
- Effective presentations and education to stakeholders, with a high-level of transparency and open communication that results in limited confusion or the spread of misinformation
- The majority of stakeholders approve of the Sustainable Management Criteria and Sustainability Goal
- Majority of comments received will be from the draft GSP sections, with limited comments received on the final GSP submitted to DWR in January 31, 2022

The challenges or barriers related to outreach activities as part of developing a large planning document such as the Yolo Subbasin GSP include:

- the lack of time or forethought available for planning large meetings;
- the inability to access all beneficial users, including DACs and tribes, and provide individual education on the process and purpose of the document; and
- potential limited focus by stakeholders regarding localized hot spots or singular-well concerns.

Two key opportunities that were identified in outreaching and engaging with the beneficial users to develop the Yolo Subbasin GSP include the potential 1) to develop a new and significant framework for groundwater management, and 2) to set reasonable thresholds for effective operation and management of the subbasin without needing to impose restrictions or metering requirements.

The Yolo Subbasin GSP is expected to be adopted and submitted to the California Department of Water Resources by January 31, 2022. Draft chapters of the GSP were released, as completed, on the <https://www.yologroundwater.org> website.

Public input will be most critical during the following workshops and meetings.

- All Sustainable Management Criteria Workshops
- YSGA Working Group and Board Meetings
- Larger Public Meetings

Public input provided at meetings or workshops will be documented, along with response or follow-up and draft GSP comments have been, and will be, considered and addressed in subsequent GSP revisions, annual reports, and 5-year updates.

Stakeholder Identification

SGMA requires consideration of beneficial uses and users of groundwater, including, but not limited to:

- Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including:
 - Agricultural users
 - Domestic well owners
- Municipal well operators
- Public water systems
- Local land use planning agencies
- Environmental users of groundwater
- Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies
- The federal government, including the military and managers of federal lands
- California Native American tribes
- Disadvantaged communities, including those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems
- Entities monitoring under the California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) Program

Stakeholder Group Identification

People with a financial, political, business, or personal stake in the issue

- Landowners (overlying right holder)
 - Irrigators (farms), domestic users, commercial, state-owned property (CDFW), Yolo Land Trust, tribal landowners
- Water purveyors/suppliers (not already members of the YSGA)
 - Cacheville CSD
 - Knights Landing CSD
 - North Davis Meadows CSA
 - Wild Wings CSA
- Gravel companies (Teichert, Granite)
- Well drillers, consultants, etc.

Organizations, agencies, or individuals that are critical to the GSP process

- YSGA Members and Affiliated Parties
- Yolo County Environmental Health
- CDFW, CDWR, SWRCB, CVRWQCB, USGS
- Interested parties: beneficial users/stakeholders with anecdotal information or beneficial users/stakeholders participating in the groundwater monitoring program
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, Central Valley Regional Quality Control Board, The Nature Conservancy, United States Geological Survey

Organizations, agencies, or individuals that have an interest or will be impacted by the development of the GSP

- Water Resources Association of Yolo County
- Yolo Resource Conservation District
- Yolo Habitat Conservancy
- Cache Creek Conservancy
- Yolo Audubon Society
- Westside IRWM
- Capay Valley Vision
- Yolo County Community Advisory Committees
- Esparto “Watch”
- Madison “Steering Committee”
- Solano County/Solano Subbasin – Solano Collaborative
- Sutter County/Sutter Subbasin
- Sacramento County/N. American Subbasin/S. American Subbasin – Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority
- Colusa County/Colusa Subbasin – Colusa Groundwater Authority

Stakeholder Survey

Yolo County is largely rural and agricultural. Farmer concerns, experiences, practices, and perceptions play an important role in our basin's groundwater sustainability. In 2017, a mail survey was sent out to 638 farmers and landowners in Yolo County. The survey included questions about farm characteristics, perceptions of change in the county, water scarcity and management practices, the SGMA policy, groundwater sustainability, and demographics. The survey received 137 responses – a response rate of 22%. The survey results are summarized in three briefings: 1) Farmer Concerns and Perceptions of Groundwater Conditions; 2) Farmer Participation and Policy Preferences for SGMA; and 3) Farmer Current and Future Groundwater Management Practices. This briefing summarizes farmer concerns and perceptions of groundwater conditions in the Yolo Subbasin.

D. Key findings

- The majority of farmers (at least 80%) indicated concern about groundwater in the basin, especially concern for water quality degradation (91%), reduction in groundwater storage (90%), and lowering of groundwater levels (87%) (Figure 1).
- The majority of farmers think that undesirable groundwater results are already occurring in the subbasin or will happen in the next 10 years (Figure 2). Sixty-five percent of farmers reported currently experiencing a lowering of groundwater levels or expect to experience it in the next 10 years. Similarly, the majority of farmers are experiencing or expect to be experiencing a reduction in groundwater storage (63%); a depletion of surface water (58%); local subsidence (57%); and water quality degradation (55%) in the next 10 years.
- A number of factors are important to farmers' use of groundwater in the Yolo Subbasin. In Figure 3, these factors are scored, with 1 signifying the most important ranking. Family/livelihood and wellbeing and economics ranked as the two most important factors while policy/regulatory factors ranked last.

Focus groups took place in October 2016 in Yolo County. With assistance from the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Meredith Niles et al. used an organizational recruitment strategy, relying on the YCFC&WCD as a key stakeholder in the GSA process with significant local connections to identify and recruit farmer participants. Farmers were selected to represent a diversity of different farm systems (conventional, organic, small, medium, different irrigation technologies, mix of surface water and groundwater) and agricultural products (diversified vegetable production, tree nuts, fruit, olives, row crops such as corn and alfalfa, rice, animal production).

Niles et al. designed 10 questions (see [technical appendix](#)) for the focus groups and recruited 20 farmers into four focus groups (four to six farmers per group). Focus groups were audio recorded, and the recordings were professionally transcribed to facilitate analysis. Results presented here represent dominant themes in the analysis, grouped by DPSIR codes and subcodes ([table 1](#)).

TABLE 1. Drivers, pressures, states, impacts and responses identified by Yolo County farmers for sustainable groundwater management

Drivers	Pressures	States	Impacts	Responses
<p>Agricultural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diverse land uses Drilling new wells, new irrigated lands Permanent crops in new areas <p>Nonagricultural</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban areas and domestic use <p>Water source</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mix of surface water and groundwater (only groundwater in some areas) Reduced surface water allocations, typically from drought, increasing reliance on groundwater 	<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside developers converting land and drilling deep wells Irrigation and perennial crops on highly erodible ground <p>Irrigation technologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drip increasingly common Furrow and flood still used 	<p>Water quantity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less water leaves fields now Even if reservoirs are full, farmers may not get water Uncertainty in groundwater levels and flow <p>Water quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salts Boron <p>Soil quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidence Boron and salts in soil 	<p>Access to water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well levels have varied, but generally held up Drip irrigation has allowed for agricultural expansion Wells positively affected when surface water is available <p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Costly to pump Significant investment in water infrastructure Land values increasing <p>Ecosystem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficient irrigation is decreasing water for habitat Competition for water between fish, farms and waterfowl 	<p>Farm management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crop insurance Fallowing land Changing crops Purchasing water Monitoring wells Digging new wells <p>Regulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competing regulations from different agencies Support for Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

TABLE 1. Drivers, pressures, states, impacts and responses identified by Yolo County farmers for sustainable groundwater management

Farmers expressed a range of perspectives on the SGMA process ([table 2](#)). Opinions were grouped into four categories: regulatory design, defining sustainability, potential policy mechanisms, and farmer involvement.

TABLE 2. Yolo County farmers' perspectives on SGMA

SGMA regulatory design	Definition of sustainability	Potential policy mechanisms	Farmer involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common sense Locally relevant Farmer involvement Solutions oriented Science of groundwater informed by farmer experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capture and reuse Transfers Reasonable use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize surface water over groundwater use Drilling moratorium Limit development Incentives for farmers Water trading Investment in infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity through districts Involvement is critical Lack representation in decisions

TABLE 2. Yolo County farmers' perspectives on SGMA

Survey results demonstrate that farmers in Yolo County have varying perspectives about the factors that led to SGMA and varying responses to the regulation. Some key themes emerged — farmers acknowledged the role of agriculture in sustainable surface water and groundwater management and recognized that many strategies may be necessary across different actors to achieve sustainable water management.

Venues and Tools: Opportunities for Engagement

Stakeholder Meetings and Workshops

Pursuant to Executive Orders from the State of California related to COVID-19, many of the YSGA’s meetings in 2020 were required to be held remotely. Publicly accessible digital meetings were hosted by the YSGA in 202, continued into 2021, and will be utilized periodically by the YSGA in the future. The opportunities for engagement that are discussed in this section are subject to changes in state, local, and federal policies regarding COVID-19. As of January 2022, this section contains information regarding both physical and digital opportunities for engagement.

In 2014, upon legislation of SGMA, water interests in the Subbasin via the WRA and Yolo County Farm Bureau formed a Yolo SGMA Working Group develop an efficient and effective groundwater governance structure for complying and implementing SGMA. The Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency Joint Powers Agreement was officially executed on June 19, 2017. Figure 2 shows a timeline of the YSGA from 2017 – 2022. After the GSP is submitted to DWR on January 31, 2022 the implementation period begins.

Figure 2. YSGA Timeline from 2017 – 2022.



In 2021, the YSGA continued hosting public input meetings. At these meetings, stakeholders will have opportunities to address their ideas, questions, and concerns about GSP development. Section 8.2 contains a running list of public notices and hearings that have occurred. During the implementation period of the GSP, public meetings will continue to occur.

Physical venues for engagement

Physical venues have been identified for public engagement. Table 2 shows some selected venues and their addresses. Selecting meeting locations near DACs and tribal lands will be an important component of communication and engagement during the GSP implementation period.

Table 2. Selected public meeting venues.

Location	Address
Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Board Room	34274 CA-16, Woodland, CA 95695
Winters Community Center	201 Railroad Ave, Winters, CA 95694
Esparto High School	26675 Plainfield St, Esparto, CA 95627
Yolo County Fairgrounds	1250 Gum Ave, Woodland, CA 95776
Rumsey Townhall	14380 Manzanita St, Rumsey, CA 95679
Zamora Town Hall	9810 Blacks St, Zamora, CA 95698
City of Davis – Civic Center	23 Russell Boulevard, Davis, CA 95616

Meeting Notification Process

The YSGA’s approach of notifying interested parties incorporates several different methods to contact the largest audience. These methods of notification include, but are not limited to email, physical delivery of notices, and utilization of community organizations and groups. The Interested Parties email list is regularly updated. Additionally, an existing database of physical addresses allows us to contact interested parties who prefer to receive mail or do not have the ability to receive digital notifications. The Yolo County Farm Bureau, Capay Valley Vision, and Cache Creek Conservancy are examples of community organizations that have shared YSGA meeting notifications within their network.

As the YSGA moves forward, we will continue to develop and refine our methods of meeting notification. Additional email addresses and physical addresses will be incorporated into existing datasets. Expanding our partnerships with local community organizations will allow us to reach a broader network and will be a focus moving forward.

The YSGA does not currently have a social media presence. The efficacy of a social media presence is something that will be evaluated and may be an additional strategy in the future.

Printed Materials

Printed materials can be a good strategy for succinctly sharing relevant information to broad swaths of interested parties. Additionally, useful information can be gathered from stakeholders by using printed materials. Methods of sharing or collecting information via printed materials include, but are not limited to:

- Fliers
- Fact Sheets
- Letter Correspondence
- Presentation Materials
- Stakeholder Surveys

Public Notices and Hearings

Figure 6 shows a list of GSA engagement opportunities that have occurred between 2015 and 2020. This table will be updated as additional meetings and events take place.

Figure 6. Engagement Schedule Aligned with GSP Development

<u>Date</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 10, 2022	YSGA Board of Directors	Remotely (COVID-19)
December 15, 2021	YSGA Executive Committee	Remotely (COVID-19)
November 16, 2021	Yolo County Farm Bureau Ag Roundtable	Woodland
November 15, 2021	YSGA Board of Directors	Remotely (COVID-19)
November 10, 2021	Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee	Remotely (COVID-19)
November 8, 2021	YSGA Executive Committee	Remotely (COVID-19)
October 18, 2021	YSGA Executive Committee	Remotely (COVID-19)
October 18, 2021	Winters Natural Resource Commission	Remotely (COVID-19)
October 11, 2021	Special YSGA Board of Directors	Remotely (COVID-19)
October 7, 2021	GSP Public Meeting – Hungry Hollow Area	Remotely (COVID-19)
August 10, 2021	Yolo County Farm Bureau Board of Directors Meeting	Woodland
September 22, 2021	Yolo RCD Board of Directors	Remotely (COVID-19)
September 20, 2021	YSGA Board of Directors	Remotely (COVID-19)
September 9, 2021	Yolo County Planning Commission	Remotely (COVID-19)
September 8, 2021	YSGA Executive Committee	Remotely (COVID-19)
September 2, 2021	YSGA Working Group	Remotely (COVID-19)
September 1, 2021	YSGA GSP Public Workshop	Remotely (COVID-19)
August 25, 2021	YSGA GSP Public Workshop	Remotely (COVID-19)
August 16, 2021	YSGA Executive Committee	Remotely (COVID-19)
July 29, 2021	YSGA Working Group	Remotely (COVID-19)
July 27, 2021	Yolo Land Trust Board of Trustees	Remotely (COVID-19)
July 26, 2021	YSGA Executive Committee	Remotely (COVID-19)
June 21, 2021	YSGA Board of Directors	Remotely (COVID-19)
June 9, 2021	GSP Public Meeting – Projects in Capay Valley	Remotely (COVID-19)
June 7, 2021	YSGA Executive Committee	Remotely (COVID-19)
May 11, 2021	YSGA Executive Committee	Remotely (COVID-19)
April 27, 2021	North Yolo MA Minimum Threshold Considerations	Remotely (COVID-19)
April 19, 2021	YSGA Working Group Meeting	Remotely (COVID-19)
March 22, 2021	North Yolo MA Discussion of Land Subsidence	Remotely (COVID-19)
March 9, 2021	YSGA Working Group Meeting	Remotely (COVID-19)
February 9, 2021	YSGA Technical Advisory Committee	Remotely (COVID-19)
January 14, 2021	YSGA Technical Advisory Committee	Remotely (COVID-19)

Draft Communication & Engagement Plan for GSP Development and Implementation in the Yolo Subbasin

January 11, 2021	YSGA Board of Directors	Remotely (COVID-19)
December 18, 2020	Yolo Subbasin Farmers Update on GSP Development	Remotely (COVID-19)
December 8, 2020	YSGA Technical Advisory Committee	Remotely (COVID-19)
December 4, 2020	Central Yolo Management Area Working Session	Remotely (COVID-19)
September 29, 2020	Interbasin Coordination Mtg. with S. American Subbasin	Remotely (COVID-19)
June 15, 2020	WRA/YSGA Board of Directors' Board Meeting	Remotely (COVID-19)
June 8, 2020	NCWA's Groundwater Management Task Force Meeting	Remotely (COVID-19)
June 1, 2020	Yolo County/Yolo County Farm Bureau Coordination Mtg.	Remotely (COVID-19)
May 6, 2020	YSGA Working Group Meeting	Remotely (COVID-19)
May 6, 2020	Interbasin Coordination Mtg. with Solano Subbasin	Remotely (COVID-19)
April 13, 2020	NCWA's Groundwater Management Task Force Meeting	Remotely (COVID-19)
March 16, 2020	WRA/YSGA Board of Directors' Board Meeting	Remotely (COVID-19)
March 6, 2020	NCWA Annual Meeting	Chico
February 13, 2020	Capay Valley Discussion -	Sacramento
February 12, 2020	TNC's Agility Lab: Groundwater Recharge	Sacramento
February 11, 2020	ACWA Groundwater Committee Meeting	Sacramento
December 9, 2019	NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force Meeting	Winters
September 17-19, 2019	GRA's Western Groundwater Congress	Sacramento
September 16, 2019	WRA/YSGA Board of Directors' Board Meeting	Woodland
September 9, 2019	NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force Meeting	Winters
September 5, 2019	Interbasin Coordination Meeting with Solano Collaborative	Winters
August 20/23, 2019	NCWA Advancing Groundwater Recharge Meetings	Sacramento
July 31, 2019	Advancing GW Recharge Meeting with Resources Agency, State Water Board, DWR, NCWA	Sacramento
July 16, 2019	Yolo County Board of Supervisors' Strategic Workshop	Winters
June 17, 2019	WRA/YSGA Board of Directors' Board Meeting	Woodland
June 10, 2019	NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force	Woodland
May 30, 2019	Winters Rotary Club Meeting	Winters
May 23, 2019	Capay Valley YSGA SMC Workshop	Guinda
May 2, 2019	Yolo/Solano Subbasin Coordination Meeting	Winters
April 22, 2019	YSGA Board of Directors' Meeting	Woodland
April 3, 2019	YSGA Working Group Meeting	Woodland
March 21, 2019	DWR's GSA Forum	West Sacramento
March 1, 2019	NCWA Annual Meeting	Chico
February 21, 2019	RD 307 Board of Trustees' Meeting	Clarksburg
February 7-8, 2019	WEF's Workshop and Groundwater Tour	Woodland
February 5-6, 2019	GRA's Groundwater Sustainability Bootcamp	UC Davis
February 4-5, 2018	California Irrigation Institute 2019 Conference	Sacramento
January 25, 2019	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Winters
January 24, 2019	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Woodland
January 23, 2019	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Clarksburg
January 16, 2019	Capay Valley Groundwater Users' Meeting	Guinda
January 16, 2019	"NDGSA" Board of Directors' Meeting	Walnut Grove
January 14, 2019	YSGA Board of Directors' Meeting	Woodland
December 11, 2018	Meeting with NCWA and Yolo County Farm Bureau	Woodland
December 10, 2018	NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force	Orland
November 27-29, 2018	ACWA Fall Conference; Groundwater Committee	San Diego
September 17, 2018	YSGA Board of Directors' Meeting	Woodland

September 4, 2018	Meeting Yolo-Zamora Area PP Representative Hauss/Orth Woodland	Woodland
August 29, 2018	Grand Park GW Modeling Meeting (Woodard and Curran)	Woodland
August 28, 2018	“White Area” Meeting with Yolo-Zamora Landowners	Woodland
August 23, 2018	Environ. Meeting with Director Brice and Yolo Audubon	Woodland
August 13, 2018	Agricultural Entities Workgroup Group Meeting	Woodland
August 1, 2018	Meeting with David Gutierrez and Reclamation Districts	Woodland
July 19, 2018	Meeting with Golden Bear Estates’ Representative	Winters
June 18, 2018	YSGA Board of Directors’ Meeting	Woodland
June 14, 2018	State Water Board Water Rights Fee Stakeholder	Sacramento
June 14, 2018	Yolo County Planning Commission	Woodland
June 11, 2018	NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force Meeting	Marysville
June 6-7, 2018	GRA GSA Summit	Sacramento
May 24, 2018	NCWA Water Leaders’ Program	Woodland
May 23, 2018	YSGA Urban Entity Meeting	Woodland
May 22, 2018	Colusa Groundwater Authority Board Meeting	Colusa
May 8-10, 2018	ACWA Spring Conference; Groundwater Committee	Sacramento
May 3, 2018	YSGA Entity Working Group Meeting	Woodland
April 16, 2018	TNC’s Groundwater Resources Hub Unveiling	Sacramento
April 4, 2018	Anne Schneider Lecture: Groundwater-Surface Water	Sacramento
March 19, 2018	YSGA Board of Directors’ Meeting	Woodland
March 19, 2018	Meeting with Jay Ziegler and Sandi Matsumoto	Davis
March 12, 2018	NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force Meeting	Oroville
March 2, 2018	NCWA Annual Meeting	Chico
February 16, 2018	Meeting with RD 150 and The Freshwater Trust	Clarksburg
February 7, 2018	YSGA Working Group Meeting	Woodland
January 29-30, 2018	California Irrigation Institute 2018 Conference	Sacramento
January 26, 2018	Meeting with RD 307 and RD 999 Board Members	Woodland
January 24, 2018	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Clarksburg
January 23, 2018	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Woodland
January 22, 2018	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Winters
January 18, 2018	YCFB Annual Meeting	Woodland
January 18, 2018	Meeting with “Capay Valley Voice”	Woodland
December 19, 2017	NCWA and Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition	Woodland
December 11, 2017	NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force Meeting	Willows
December 7, 2017	PPIC Sacramento Valley Tour Presentation	Woodland
Nov. 28-Dec. 2, 2017	ACWA Fall Conference; Groundwater Committee	Anaheim
November 21, 2017	YCFB/NCWA Groundwater Quality Trend Meeting	Woodland
November 20, 2017	Groundwater Meeting with Graham Fogg	Woodland
November 15, 2017	UC Cooperative Extension Groundwater Workshop	Davis
November 15, 2017	YCFB’s Realtor Program	Woodland
November 13, 2017	YSGA Board of Directors’ Meeting	Woodland
November 8, 2017	CDFA Managed Groundwater Recharge Forum	Sacramento
October 5, 2017	UC Davis Land Use Management Symposium	Davis
October 2, 2017	Rndtbl. Call to Action: Recharge CA’s Depleted Aquifers	Davis
September 26, 2017	Woodland Chamber of Commerce Water Comm. Mtg.	Woodland
September 18, 2017	YSGA Board of Directors’ Meeting	Woodland
September 14, 2017	YCFB 2017 Yolo County Irrigated Lands Program	Woodland
September 11, 2017	YSGA Working Group Meeting	Woodland

July 27, 2017	Center for Land Based Learning CA Farm Academy	Davis
July 25, 2017	Yolo Land Trust SGMA Presentation	Woodland
July 11, 2017	NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force	Woodland
June 19, 2017	Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency BOD Meeting	Woodland
June 19, 2017	RD 765 Trustees Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	West Sacramento
June 19, 2017	RD 827 Trustees Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	West Sacramento
June 19, 2017	RD 785 Trustees Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	West Sacramento
June 19, 2017	RD 537 Trustees Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	West Sacramento
June 7, 2017	RD 1600 Board Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	Woodland
June 6, 2017	Yolo County Board of Supervisors Meeting	Woodland
June 5, 2017	NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force Meeting	Woodland
May 22, 2017	Practitioner's Advisory Panel (PAP) Meeting with DWR	West Sacramento
May 18, 2017	Dunnigan WD Board Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	Dunnigan
May 16, 2017	Woodland Rotary SGMA Presentation	Woodland
May 16, 2017	RD 730 Board Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	Woodland
May 16, 2017	City of Davis Council Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	Davis
May 16, 2017	City of Woodland Council Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	Woodland
May 16, 2017	City of Winters Council Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	Winters
May 10, 2017	Madison CSD Board Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	Madison
May 10, 2017	Esparto CSD Board Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	Esparto
May 9, 2017	Yolo County Board Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	Woodland
May 8, 2017	UCD Water Data Workshop	Davis
May 4, 2017	RD 787 Board Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	Knights Landing
May 3, 2017	Tri-Counties/North Delta Meeting	Davis
May 2, 2017	City of Winters Council Meeting SGMA Presentation	Winters
April 28, 2017	RD 1600 Board Meeting SGMA Presentation	Woodland
April 25, 2017	RD 2035 Board Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	Woodland
April 20, 2017	California Water Commission Presentation	Sacramento
April 20, 2017	RD 108 Board Meeting SGMA Public Hearing	Knights Landing
April 19, 2017	City of West Sacramento SGMA Public Hearing	West Sacramento
April 12, 2017	DWR's CA Regional Sustainability Summit	Sacramento
April 11, 2017	Yolo Subbasin GSA-Eligible Entities Meetings	Woodland
March 23, 2017	Yolo Subbasin GSA-Eligible Entities Meeting	Woodland
March 21, 2017	City of Winters Council Meeting	Winters
March 17, 2017	Yolo County City Managers Meeting	West Sacramento
March 16, 2017	Dunnigan Water District Board of Directors	Dunnigan
March 13, 2017	NCWA Groundwater Management Task Force	Marysville
March 8, 2017	Yolo Subbasin GSA-Eligible Entities Meeting	Woodland
February 22, 2017	Yolo SGMA Public Meeting	Winters
February 15, 2017	Yolo Subbasin GSA-Eligible Entities Meeting	Woodland
February 8, 2017	Yolo SGMA Public Meeting	Woodland
February 7, 2017	Yolo County Board of Supervisors	Woodland
February 1, 2017	Meeting with Colusa Drain MWC	Woodland
January 30-31, 2017	California Irrigation Institute 2017 Conference	Sacramento
January 25, 2017	Yolo Subbasin GSA-Eligible Entities Meeting	Woodland
January 23, 2017	Meeting with Yolo County Supervisor Provenza	Davis
January 12, 2017	Water Utility Advisory Committee Meeting	Woodland
January 12, 2017	Woodland Sunrise Rotary Club Meeting	Woodland

January 7, 2017	Yolo County Farm Bureau Annual Retreat	Avila Beach
January 3, 2017	Woodland City Council Meeting	Woodland
December 29, 2016	Meeting with City of Woodland Councilman Davies	Woodland
December 15, 2016	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Clarksburg
December 14, 2016	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Woodland
December 14, 2016	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Woodland
December 13, 2016	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Winters
December 12, 2016	NCWA Groundwater Task Force Meeting	Richvale
December 1, 2016	ACWA Fall Conference SGMA Panel	Anaheim
November 23, 2016	Capay Valley Vision Meeting	Woodland
November 16, 2016	Yolo County Farm Bureau's Realtor Seminar	Woodland
November 9, 2016	Yolo Subbasin GSA-Eligible Entities Meeting	Woodland
November 3, 2016	Yolo County Landowner's Annual Meeting	Woodland
October 12, 2016	Yolo Subbasin GSA-Eligible Entities Meeting	Woodland
October 7-8, 2016	SGMA Focus Groups with Private Pumpers (x4)	Woodland
October 5, 2016	Water Education Foundation Groundwater Tour	Woodland
September 28, 2016	Yolo SGMA Private Pumpers Meeting	Woodland
September 27, 2016	Solano GSA Staff Advisory Group	Vacaville
September 21, 2016	Yolo Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)	Woodland
September 20, 2016	Yolo SGMA Steering Committee Meeting	Woodland
September 14, 2016	Rumsey Water Users Association	Woodland
September 12, 2016	NCWA GW Management Task Force	Williams
September 8, 2016	Yolo County Supervisors Provenza and Villegas	West Sacramento
September 8, 2016	City of Woodland Chamber of Commerce Meeting	Woodland
August 31, 2016	Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation	Woodland
August 10, 2016	Groundwater Meeting with The Nature Conservancy	Woodland
August 4, 2016	Solano GSA Staff Advisory Group	Vacaville
July 27, 2016	Yolo Subbasin GSA-Eligible Entities Meeting	Woodland
July 21, 2016	Yolo Subbasin SGMA Meeting with RDs 787 and 108	Sacramento
July 21, 2016	California Water Commission BBM Meeting	Sacramento
July 20, 2016	Conaway Ranch SGMA Meeting	Conaway Ranch
July 19, 2016	Practitioner's Advisory Panel (PAP) Meeting with DWR	West Sacramento
July 15, 2016	DWR Basin Boundary Modification Public Meeting	West Sacramento
July 13, 2016	PPIC Event	San Francisco
July 12, 2016	Yolo County Farm Bureau Board Meeting	Woodland
July 11, 2016	Meeting with Solano County Supervisor Vasquez	Woodland
June 21, 2016	ACWA Region 2 & 4 SGMA Event	Antelope
June 20, 2016	NCWA GW Management Task Force	Marysville
June 15, 2016	Groundwater Recharge Event	Winters Canal
June 14, 2016	Meeting with Jay Lund and Corentin Girard	Woodland
June 9, 2016	GRA Conference	Sacramento
June 3, 2016	Water in the West Groundwater Meeting	Stanford
May 27, 2016	NCWA Young Water Leaders Meeting	Woodland
May 24, 2016	Glenn County SGMA Meeting	Willows
May 19, 2016	Conaway Ranch SGMA Meeting	Woodland
May 18, 2016	Westside IRWM Coordinating Committee	Woodland
May 17, 2016	Golden Bear Association SGMA Implementation	Winters
May 17, 2016	Yolo Subbasin GSA-Eligible Entities Meeting	Woodland

May 12, 2016	Solano County Water Agency (SCWA) Board Meeting	Vacaville
May 12, 2016	Clearlake Business Club	Clearlake
May 10, 2016	Solano County Board Meeting	Fairfield
May 4, 2016	Yocha Dehe Meeting	Woodland
April 25, 2016	BBM Request Meeting with Yolo County, DWR, & RDs	West Sacramento
April 21, 2016	Dunnigan Water District Board Meeting	Dunnigan
April 19, 2016	Yolo Subbasin GSA-Eligible Entities Meeting	Woodland
April 13, 2016	Meeting with DWR to discuss BBM Request	Woodland
April 7, 2016	California Farm Academy	Winters
March 31, 2016	Yolo SGMA Public Meeting	Clarksburg
March 30, 2016	Yolo SGMA Public Meeting	Winters
March 29, 2016	Yolo SGMA Public Meeting	Woodland
March 23, 2016	Meeting with RDs 150, 307, and 999	Clarksburg
March 15, 2016	Ag Roundtable	Woodland
March 14, 2016	NCWA GW Management Task Force	Woodland
March 10, 2016	SGMA Presentation	Rumsey
March 8, 2016	Lake County Rotary	Clearlake
March 7, 2016	Solano SGMA Public Meeting	Davis
March 4, 2016	NCWA Annual Meeting	Chico
March 2, 2016	Capay Valley Vision Advisory Committee	Guinda
March 2, 2016	Delta Region SGMA Meeting	Walnut Grove
February 29, 2016	Solano SGMA Meeting	Vacaville
February 11, 2016	Local Government Commission Conference	Portland
February 9, 2016	Yocha Dehe Meeting	Brooks
February 8, 2016	SCWA Water Policy Committee Meeting	Vacaville
January 26, 2016	DuPont Pioneer Grower Meeting	Woodland
January 20, 2016	Yocha Dehe Meeting	Woodland
January 8, 2016	PAP Meeting with DWR	West Sacramento
January 8, 2016	Yolo County Farm Bureau Annual Retreat	Monterey
January 6, 2016	KCRA Groundwater Interview	Esparto
December 29, 2015	Meeting with DWR's David Gutierrez	Sacramento
December 17, 2015	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Clarksburg
December 16, 2015	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Woodland
December 16, 2015	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Woodland
December 15, 2015	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Winters
December 14, 2015	NCWA GW Management Task Force	Orland
December 8, 2015	PAP Meeting with DWR	West Sacramento
November 18, 2015	Yolo County Farm Bureau Realtors Meeting	Woodland
November 5, 2015	Yolo Landowners Meeting	Woodland
October 28, 2015	Yolo Leaders	Winters
September 29, 2015	GSA Boundary Meeting with Yolo County staff	Woodland
September 28, 2015	Patwin Community Meeting	Davis
September 24, 2015	Water Education Foundation Groundwater Tour	Woodland
September 21, 2015	NCWA GW Management Task Force	Marysville
September 21, 2015	Stanford Water in the West	Woodland
September 2, 2015	Groundwater Resources Association Workshop	Modesto
July 24, 2015	PAP Meeting with DWR	West Sacramento
July 9, 2015	Surface-GW Interaction with The Nature Conservancy	Sacramento

July 9, 2015	Colusa Basin Groundwater Governance Meeting	Willows
July 7, 2015	DWR Critical Conditions Meeting	Sacramento
June 22, 2015	PAP Meeting DWR	West Sacramento
June 4, 2015	California Farm Academy	Winters
May 20, 2015	Capay Valley Vision	Esparto
May 5, 2015	Yolo County Board of Supervisors	Woodland
March 24, 2015	Yolo Land Trust	Woodland
March 20, 2015	Farm City Breakfast	Woodland
March 19, 2015	CA Counties Departments of Environmental Health	Woodland
March 12, 2015	Yolo County Planning Commission	Woodland
March 9, 2015	Solano County Water Committee	Vacaville
February 24, 2015	Yolo County Board of Supervisors	Woodland
February 17, 2015	City of Davis City Council	Davis
February 9, 2015	Yolo County Landowners Association	Woodland
February 2, 2015	UC Davis California Water Policy Seminar	Davis
January 26, 2015	California Water Foundation Workshop	Willows
January 12, 2015	WRA of Yolo County Board of Directors	Woodland
December 18, 2014	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Winters
December 18, 2014	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Woodland
December 17, 2014	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Woodland
December 16, 2014	Irrigated Lands Program (Farmer Group)	Clarksburg
December 4, 2014	ACWA Groundwater Panel	San Diego
November 17, 2014	WRA of Yolo County Board of Directors	Woodland
November 6, 2014	Yolo Basin Foundation	Davis
October 9, 2014	Cache Creek Conservancy	Yolo County
September 30, 2014	Woodland Chamber of Commerce	Woodland
September 15, 2014	WRA of Yolo County Board of Directors	Woodland
September 9, 2014	Yolo County Board of Supervisors	Woodland
July 30, 2014	Groundwater Resources Association	Napa
June 24, 2014	Yolo County Ag Futures Alliance	Woodland
June 16, 2014	Reclamation District 108	Grimes
June 16, 2014	WRA of Yolo County Board of Directors	Woodland
June 12, 2014	Yolo County Planning Commission	Woodland
June 10, 2014	Yolo County Board of Supervisors	Woodland
May 20, 2014	City of Winters	Winters

Informational Materials

All stakeholders will have an opportunity to review draft products and materials prepared as part of the development of the Yolo Subbasin GSP.

[GSA Website](#)

All relevant information will be posted to the YSGA's website: <https://www.yologroundwater.org/> (screenshots are shown below). Public meeting notes, minutes, and agendas are posted on the YSGA's website.

Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency

Contact Us: (530) 662-3211

Home About Us ▾ SGMA ▾ Governance ▾ Reports Groundwater ▾ News & Resources Calendar Contact Us ▾

ABOUT US

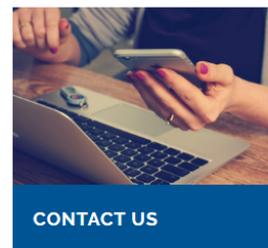
OUR MISSION

SGMA LEGISLATION

NEWS & INFORMATION

About Us

YoloGroundwater.org is the portal for information on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) process in Yolo County. Here you can find information on the groundwater legislation, find reports and data on groundwater conditions, and sign-up to receive notices for SGMA meetings. Through SGMA, the groundwater user community will decide what types of rules will, or will not, be enacted to protect our groundwater resources.



Additionally, on our website, users can find information about:

Table 3. Useful website information.

Partnerships	Handouts/Brochures	Community Groups
Stakeholder Meetings	Community Events	Educational infographics
Physical Venues for engagement	Joining our mail-list	Links to helpful resources

Draft chapters of our GSP will be published to our website. These draft chapters are made available to the public so the YSGA can receive comments and feedback on the plan and make necessary revisions to the GSP.

Interested Persons List

As required by SGMA 10723.4 “Maintenance of Interested Persons List,” YSGA is required to maintain to have a contact list and to regularly send emails to individuals, agencies, organizations, or other interested parties who have expressed interest in the YSGA’s progress.

As the YSGA moves forward, this list will continue to be maintained and continue to grow through additional contact and outreach with community stakeholders. To sign up for this list, please utilize our website: <https://www.yologroundwater.org/contact-us>.

Limitations of Existing Outreach Methods

Limitations of current outreach methods exist. Some of these limitations have been identified below. This list is not comprehensive and will continue to change as the YSGA moves forward.

- Language barrier.
- Lack of coordination between methods.
- When meetings are digital only, people without access to the internet cannot join.
- When meetings are in person only, people without access to transportation cannot join.

If the YSGA determines that limitations our existing outreach methods are hindering the ability to effectively communicate with the public, action will be taken to address these limitations.

Talking Points

Key Messages

Key messages and talking points have been established by the YSGA to effectively communicate with stakeholder groups. These messages and talking points will evolve as the GSP is developed. This section will be reviewed and revised as communication and engagement efforts continue. Our selected key messages are shown below:

- What is SGMA?
- The role of the YSGA and GSAs in general.
- The Mission of the YSGA - The mission of the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency (YSGA) is to provide a dynamic, cost-effective, flexible collegial organization to ensure compliance with SGMA within the Yolo Subbasin. Each of the Member and Affiliated Parties will have initial responsibility for groundwater management within their respective jurisdictional boundaries and the YSGA will serve a coordinating and administrative role for developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.
- What will the GSP be doing?
- How YSGA will implement GSP
 - The GSP is a living document.
 - Incorporating feedback.
- Common uses of groundwater.
- Role of projects and management actions in ensuring sustainability.

When necessary, fact sheets, presentations, or other materials may be made available to help express these key messages to interested stakeholders.

FAQs

In addition to key messages and talking points, the YSGA has created a list of questions and issues that are likely to be brought up in the GSP development process. Table 4 will evolve with the GSP development and implementation process. As additional questions and issues arise, this table will be updated. As the YSGA's GSP is developed and implemented, responses to these questions and issues will be updated.

Common, Question, or Issue	Response
What is the history for the formation of the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency?	Background information can be found in the Critical Elements of the Proposed Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency .
How is the YSGA funded?	Currently the 26 member entities are funding the administrative and monitoring efforts of the YSGA and development of the GSP. The YSGA Board of Directors intend to reconsider the YSGA’s revenue structure and determine whether there is a more equitable, sustainable revenue mechanism for implementing the GSP through 2042.
What is a Groundwater Sustainability Plan?	A plan that includes criteria and projects for ensuring groundwater sustainability over a 20-year period in a groundwater basin. The Yolo Subbasin is a high-priority basin and a GSP needs to be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 31, 2022. The plan must include an assessment of groundwater conditions and criteria that will protect groundwater resources today and in the future.
What is considered “sustainable” groundwater management?	<p>The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires the following to be considered as part of sustainable groundwater management –</p> <p>sustainability criteria must be developed to ensure that each basin avoids “undesirable results” defined as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chronic lowering of groundwater levels 2. Reduction of the amount of storage available for groundwater 3. Degradation of water quality 4. Land subsidence 5. Depletion of interconnected surface water from groundwater use 6. Seawater intrusion
How will SGMA and GSP development and implementation affect my well?	From an operational perspective, there will be little to no change experienced by individual users of wells, including domestic and agricultural users. The GSP is intended to ensure that groundwater use remains sustainable at the subbasin scale.
How can I express my opinions and concerns about how the Yolo Subbasin GSP will affect me?	The public is encouraged to attend committee, Working Group, and Board of Director meetings of the YSGA. Public outreach workshops occurred in Fall 2021 and public outreach meetings will continue in 2022 as the GSP is implemented. Stakeholders may also reach out via info@yolosga.org , online at www.yologroundwater.org , or via phone at 530.662.3211.
Who will fund the projects that are included in the GSP?	The YSGA still needs to discuss the implementation plan for projects that are listed in the GSP. The YSGA JPA discusses the beneficiary pays concept for project implementation, and the YSGA Board of Directors will be considering how to prioritize and fund basin-wide initiatives (projects and management actions) in the future.

Common, Question, or Issue	Response
How do I submit a project for inclusion into the GSP?	The YSGA solicited projects and management actions for the GSP in Spring and Summer 2021. Now that the first version of the Yolo Subbasin GSP is complete, the YSGA Board of Directors will need to determine what schedule or process they'd like in place for considering the inclusion of additional projects and management actions. Compiling the annual report may prove to be a good time to solicit new projects and adopt them in the GSP.
What happens if the GSP is not submitted on time to the State or is considered insufficient in the State's review?	If the GSP is not submitted by January 31, 2022, the State Water Resources Control Board will intervene and take over management of the subbasin. The State Water Board developed a proposed fee schedule related to subbasin intervention that can be accessed here . If DWR finds that the GSP is incomplete, the YSGA will have the opportunity to revise the GSP and resubmit it for further review. If DWR finds that the GSP is insufficient, the State Water Board will intervene in the Yolo Subbasin.
Will agricultural pumps be metered? If they will be, who will pay for it?	Metering of agricultural pumps is not currently included as a project or management action (PMA) in the Yolo Subbasin GSP.
What types of projects or management actions can improve groundwater conditions?	A table of project and management actions (PMAs) for ensuring groundwater sustainability in Yolo Subbasin are included in the Yolo Subbasin GSP. PMAs related to improving groundwater conditions mainly focus on increasing groundwater recharge. One example project is utilizing unlined canals or natural sloughs or creeks to facilitate increased winter recharge of groundwater.
How are you going to know who is pumping and where?	The GSP does not currently intend to identify pumping of groundwater at the individual user scale. Groundwater use and sustainability will be determined at the basin-wide scale, and further examined at the Management Area scale.
Are you going to identify whether well pumps are operated by electricity or fuel?	The GSP does not include projects or management actions related to how pumps are powered.
Will groundwater users have to sign a compliance agreement?	The GSP does not include projects or management actions related to individual groundwater users signing a compliance agreement.
Are you going to share information with Yolo Air Quality Management District or CARB?	The YSGA does not intend to collect, or share, information that would be relevant to the Yolo Air Quality Management District or CARB.
Are you tracking what crops are irrigated for each well?	Information about crop acreages is widely available and can be beneficial to determining total groundwater use in the Yolo Subbasin. Tracking fields linked to individual wells is not currently plan as part of the GSP implementation process and is not a PMA in the GSP.
Are you tracking how many acres the well services?	Information on total irrigated acres and crop types will be evaluated periodically. The GSP does not include PMAs tracking how many acres an individual well services.

Table 4. Common Questions or Issues

Evaluation and Assessment

The goals and desired outcomes outlined in Section 5 of this Communication and Engagement Plan will be evaluated using the criteria described in this section of the document. It is necessary to evaluate and assess our outreach and communication efforts that are laid out in this plan. Evaluation and assessment have occurred during the GSP development process and will continue to occur during GSP implementation.

Regular updates of progress will be made to the Executive Officer or Board of Directors. These updates will include, but will not be limited to:

- Upcoming event status.
- Recaps of recent events.
- Updates and revisions to the Communication and Engagement Plan.
- Requests for review and approval of printed materials – including fact sheets, talking points, and fliers.

Periodic Communication and Engagement reviews will also take place. During these reviews, in-depth discussions will take place between staff, the Executive Coordinator, and/or Board of Directors with a focus on evaluating and assessing our communication and engagement efforts. These periodic reviews will cover:

- Identifying strategies and topics that have worked well.
- How can we improve our outreach and communication for more effective results?
- Lessons learned.
- Additional outreach steps that need to occur.
- What are our next steps?

The YSGA is committed to an open, transparent, stakeholder-driven process. This has been an important component of the GSP development process and will continue to be the YSGA's philosophy during GSP implementation.