

Meeting Brief

- **Overview:** Staff representatives from Antelope, Bowman, Butte, Colusa, Corning, Los Molinos, Red Bluff, Sutter, Vina, Wyandotte Creek, and Yolo subbasins held their sixth inter-basin coordination meeting. Subbasin staff met to discuss desired outcomes for inter-basin coordination through GSP implementation, begin discussing key pillars and elements for a framework for sustained inter-basin coordination, provide updates on their Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development status, and determine next steps for technical information-sharing efforts.
- **Next Steps:** Efforts will shift towards establishing a framework for continued inter-basin coordination and dialogue throughout GSP implementation. Staff and consultants will continue to share technical information during GSP development that contributes to a shared regional understanding of basin conditions. At existing subbasin venues (e.g., GSA meetings, committees, etc.), subbasin representatives will provide regular inter-basin coordination updates and gather public input related to the direction of current efforts and desired priorities, shared concerns, and possible ideas for inter-basin coordination during GSP implementation.
- **Next meeting:** The facilitation team schedule the next meeting via email.

Action Items

| Item | Lead | Completion |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Update inter-basin coordination documents (i.e., information-sharing template and presentation). | CBI | Ongoing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Continue compiling information on cross-boundary flows, stream-aquifer interactions, and common hydrogeologic understanding. | Consulting Teams | As water budgets are finalized |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate with technical consulting teams to determine what other model outputs and figures are needed to better understand and characterize inter-basin flows and stream-aquifer interactions at boundaries. | Christina Buck (Butte County) | Ongoing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Update inter-basin coordination website. | Christina Buck | Ongoing Access Here |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide inter-basin coordination updates to advisory boards and relevant public meetings. Share key questions and concerns at next meeting. | CBI and subbasin representatives | Ongoing Access latest presentation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule next inter-basin coordination meeting in April or May. | CBI | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare a draft document including regulation requirements and an outline framework based on the ideas shared at the meeting with specific discussion questions to support public dialogue and input through existing GSA governance structures. | CBI | |

Summary

1. Meeting Purpose and Introduction

This was the sixth meeting of staff to support the Northern Sacramento Valley (NSV) inter-basin coordination effort. The aim of this meeting was to discuss desired outcomes for inter-basin coordination through GSP implementation (beyond January 2022), begin discussing key pillars and elements for a framework for sustained inter-basin coordination, provide updates on their GSP development status, and determine next steps for technical information-sharing efforts.

2. Meeting Summary

Participants asked for more time to review and provide feedback to the previous meeting summary (2/1/21). Further, participants requested at least a week to review future meeting summaries. Lastly, depending on the frequency of meetings, participants would like to consider confirming meeting summaries at subsequent meetings before they are posted to the website.

3. Framework and Scope for Inter-basin Coordination

The facilitation team reviewed outcomes from the previous meeting and original inter-basin coordination priorities based on the regulation requirements outlined in Article 8, § 357.2. Inter-basin Agreements [access [here](#)]. Moving forward and based on feedback received thus far, the facilitation team proposed focusing on establishing a framework for continued dialogue and inter-basin coordination through GSP implementation. During the meeting, participants had opportunities for personal reflection, small group discussion, and plenary conversation focused on the following themes.

Desired Outcomes for Inter-basin Coordination

Participants shared desired short term (initial GSP development), mid-term (first 5-year update), and long-term (GSP Implementation) outcomes for inter-basin coordination, which are summarized in the table below.

Short-Term (GSP Development)

- ✓ Complete and submit GSPs in compliance.
- ✓ Maintain consistent messaging between the subbasins (outreach & technical).
- ✓ Manage and align expectations, acknowledging time constraints and capacity limitations.
- ✓ Identify tangible and achievable outcomes.
- ✓ Share and compare technical information as much as possible in the timeframe, and perhaps make refinements.
- ✓ Identify discrepancies across technical approaches, before they become a problem in SGMA implementation, as possible
- ✓ Describe timing and methodology for coordinating on technical evaluation and analysis.
- ✓ Coordinate on mutually beneficial PMAs (e.g., monitoring at boundaries), including implementation grant proposals.
- ✓ Foster inter-basin relationships among adjacent subbasins (not necessarily at a regional basis but at boundaries).
- ✓ Demonstrate coordination efforts so far and draft common language for mid-term and long-term coordination, including what the intention is for specific neighbors (moving forward) and what are the topics of focus.

Mid-term (5-Year Update)

- ✓ Maintain consistent messaging between the subbasins (outreach & technical).
- ✓ Follow up on GSP submitted to advance specific details related to inter-basin coordination.
- ✓ Engage in rigorous technical evaluation of GSP, including coordinating on data gaps.
- ✓ Identify discrepancies across technical approaches, before they become a problem in SGMA implementation.
- ✓ Coordinate on mutually beneficial PMAs (e.g., monitoring at boundaries), including implementation grant.

Long-term

- ✓ Identify discrepancies across technical approaches, before they become a problem in SGMA implementation.
- ✓ Maintain consistent messaging between the subbasins (outreach & technical).
- ✓ Write down coordination efforts and priorities to maintain consistency and institutional memory among boards, committee members, decision-makers, staff, etc.
- ✓ Share information and support one another.

Benefits, Concerns, and Issues for Consideration

Following the discussion on desired outcomes, participants shared their thoughts related to potential benefits of establishing an inter-basin coordination framework, as well as concerns or issues they would like to be considered.

Benefits:

- Building upon the existing Six County Memorandum of Understanding for coordinated projects and proposals
- Foster consistency, communication, idea-sharing, and relationship building
- Demonstrate the level of effort and thought invested in inter-basin coordination in the region, for the public and for the Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Create shared language for the respective GSPs
- Promote regional awareness of shared issues
- Identify discrepancies and resolve problems collaboratively, as early as possible

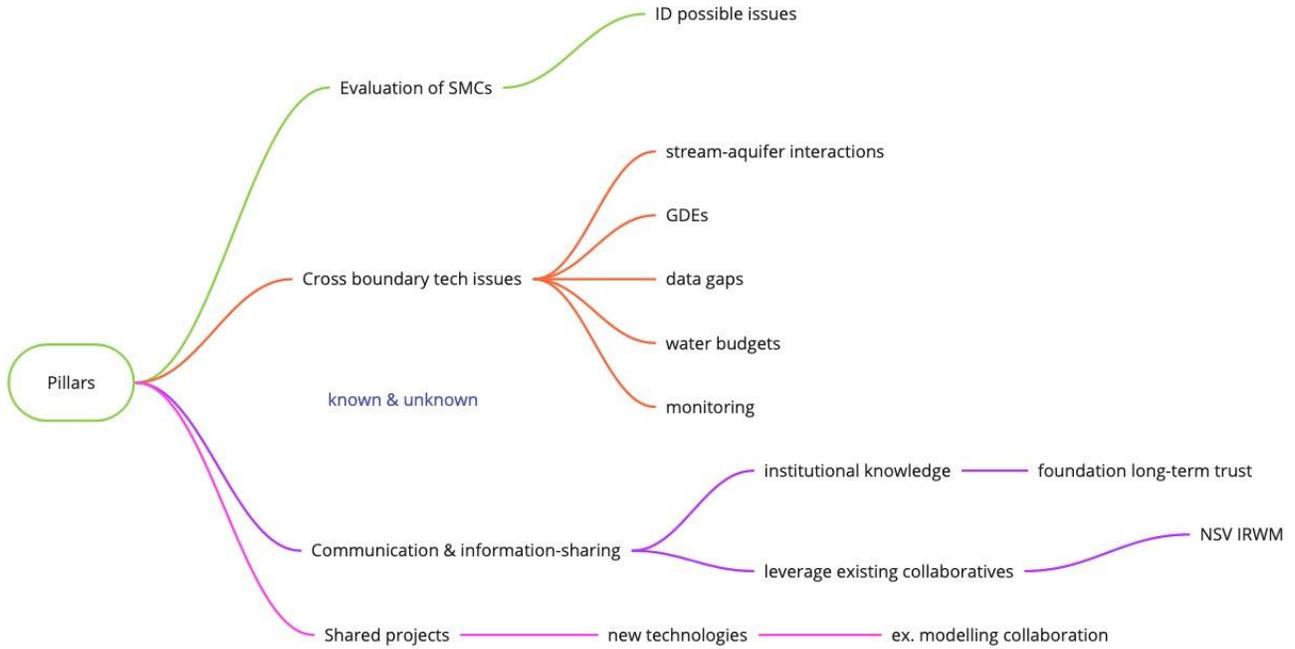
Concerns or Issues

- Time and resource limitations
- GSP development timelines do not always align
- Existing data gaps
- Public trust, expectations, and engagement, in the current context
- Differences among management practices and priorities: coordinating while acknowledging each subbasin's individuality and governance structures

Pillars or foundational elements for an inter-basin coordination framework

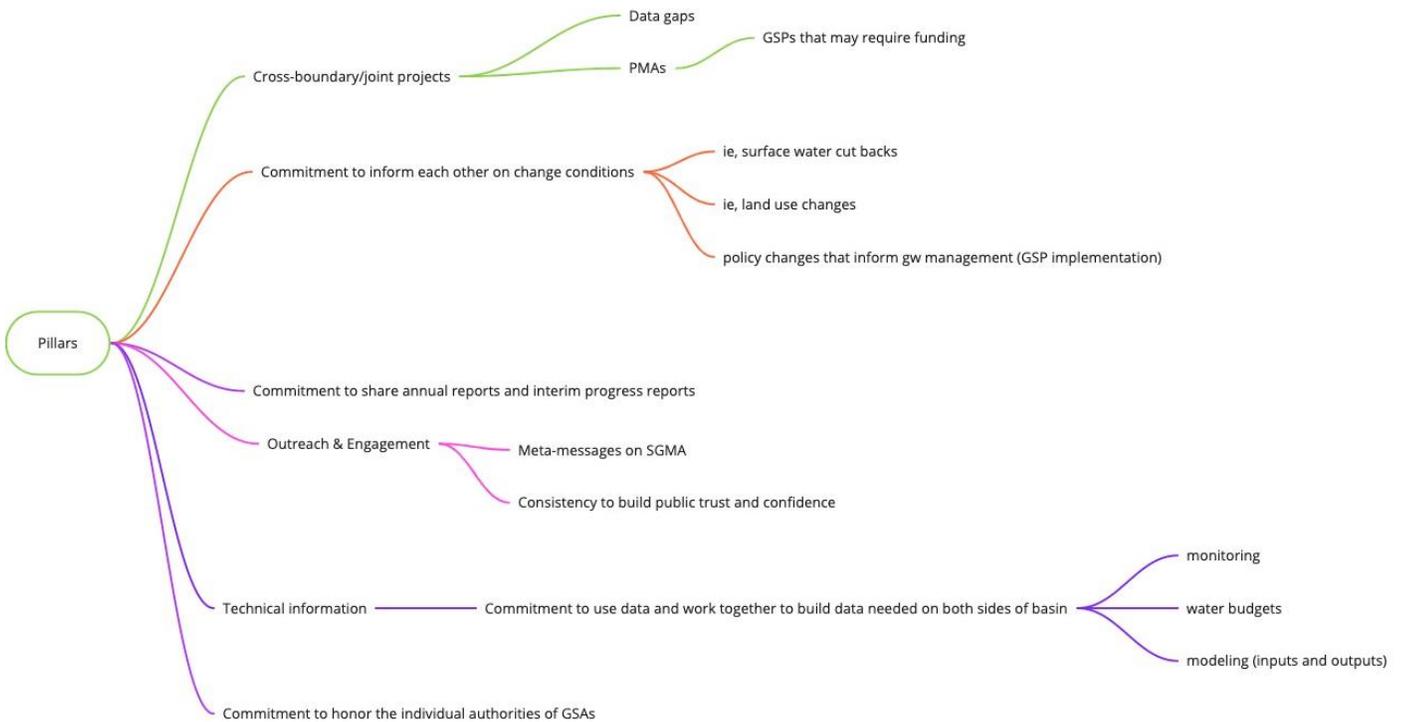
Participants were divided into smaller groups to brainstorm their initial thoughts related to the pillars or foundational elements for inter-basin coordination. Results are shown in the mind maps below.

Group 1



miro

Group 2



Outcomes & Next Steps

- ← Representatives concurred to seek input on the framework using existing institutional structures that vary by subbasin. These structures include GSA Boards, Advisory Committees, and Groundwater Commissions, all of which are public venues. Staff would like to move from providing updates towards receiving input from stakeholders on their desired outcomes, priorities, concerns, and ideas related to inter-basin coordination.
- ← Participants suggested moving from a regional focus on coordination towards focusing on adjacent subbasins at specific boundaries.
- ← The facilitation team will prepare a draft document including regulation requirements and an outline framework based on the ideas shared at the meeting with specific discussion questions. Staff will meet again in May and then gather input at their respective public venues.

4. Technical Information Sharing

The group reflected on next steps and timing for short-term technical information-sharing efforts to support GSP development, which include information from the basin setting chapters (including water budgets), Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC), Monitoring Networks, and Projects and Management Actions (PMAs). Staff shared consultants are largely doing technical coordination on their own.

Given current time and resource constraints, the group acknowledged they had set unrealistic expectations related to the ability to share, compare, and analyze technical information across subbasins to identify significant differences in the next few months. While some comparisons of model results will be possible over the next several months, technical teams will probably not have the ability to address discrepancies during initial GSP development. However, the comparisons will provide a foundation for addressing discrepancies after GSP submittal and inform the GSPs' 5 year update.

At a previous meeting, C. Buck (Butte County) had shared the idea of developing a few templates for general comparison (time series of boundary flows and stream-aquifer interaction, contour maps, harvest cross sections from basin setting) and drafting a memo highlighting work done so far, key findings, and next steps. Given existing limitations, participants would like to focus on the information and output of most value to the respective boards. Participants will revisit this conversation during the next meeting.

5. GSP Development Status

For more subbasin specific updates, visit the websites in the table below.

| Subbasin | Website |
|-------------|---|
| Antelope | Website |
| Bowman | Website |
| Butte | Website |
| Los Molinos | Website |
| Red Bluff | Website |
| Corning | Website |
| Colusa | Websites (Glenn) (Colusa) |
| Sutter | Website |
| Vina | Websites (Vina) (RCRD) |

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Wyandotte Creek | Website |
| Yolo | Website |

Existing public outreach materials:

- Inter-basin Coordination Website [[Access Here](#)]
- Inter-basin Coordination Flyer [[Access Here](#)]
- Inter-basin Coordination Presentation [[Access Here](#)]
- Compiled Modeling Tools Highlights [[Access Here](#)]

Meeting Participants

| Participant | Representation/Affiliation | Subbasins |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Staff | | |
| Christina Buck | Butte County | Butte, Vina, and Wyandotte Creek |
| Paul Gosselin | Butte County | Butte, Vina, and Wyandotte Creek |
| Mary Fahey | Colusa Groundwater Authority | Butte and Colusa |
| Lisa Hunter | Glenn County and Glenn Groundwater Authority | Butte, Colusa, and Corning |
| Ryan Teubert | Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District | Antelope, Bowman, Corning, Los Molinos, and Red Bluff |
| Anjanette Shadley | Western Canal Water District | Butte |
| Kristin Sicke | Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency | Yolo |
| Guadalupe Rivera | Sutter County | Sutter |
| Facilitation Team | | |
| Tania Carlone | Consensus Building Institute | |
| Mariana Rivera-Torres | Consensus Building Institute | |