

## Meeting Brief

- Representatives from Antelope, Bowman, Butte, Colusa, Corning, Los Molinos, Red Bluff, Vina, and Wyandotte Creek subbasins held their second staff-level inter-basin coordination meeting.
- Each subbasin gave an update on its current GSP development status.
- Participants reviewed and provided feedback to a series of documents CBI compiled: (1) technical information inter-basin coordination template; (2) NSV inter-basin coordination topic framing document; (3) NSV inter-basin coordination flyer for public outreach and engagement; and (4) updated Inter-basin Coordination Directory.
- Subbasin representatives decided not to draft voluntary inter-basin coordination agreement(s) at the moment and revisit the conversation at a later stage in GSP development.
- The next meeting will take place on **August 24, 2020 from 1:00-3:00 pm**. Each sub-basin will invite their consultant teams to the next meeting to review and refine the information-sharing template, as well as define inter-basin coordination milestones.

## Action Items

Item	Lead	Completion
<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporate feedback and integrate changes in the inter-basin coordination documents.	CBI	Ongoing
<input type="checkbox"/> Create a shared Dropbox Folder for internal information exchange. Follow up with all subbasin representatives to provide technical assistance.	CBI	Created and Shared. Access <a href="#">here</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide written feedback on inter-basin coordination flyer.	All subbasin representatives	By next inter-basin coordination meeting
<input type="checkbox"/> Schedule the next inter-basin coordination meeting (3 weeks+ from July 29).	CBI	Scheduled for August 24 from 1-3 PM.
<input type="checkbox"/> Share updated inter-basin coordination map, identifying key boundaries and streams.	Subbasin representatives	By next inter-basin coordination meeting

## Summary

### Meeting Purpose and Introduction

This was the second staff-level meeting of the Northern Sacramento Valley (NSV) inter-basin coordination group. The group aims to foster improved and coordinated groundwater management across NSV subbasins. GSA representatives from NSV subbasins – Antelope, Bowman, Butte, Colusa, Corning, Los Molinos, Red Bluff, Vina, and Wyandotte Creek– met for the purposes of:

- Sharing the statuses of GSP development for the various subbasins
- Refining a series of inter-basin coordination documents: (1) technical information inter-basin coordination template; (2) NSV inter-basin coordination flyer for public outreach and engagement; (3) NSV inter-basin coordination flyer for public outreach and engagement; and (4) updated Inter-basin Coordination Directory.

- Reviewing voluntary inter-basin coordination agreement examples from other subbasins and discussing the possibility of drafting one or more voluntary inter-basin coordination agreements in the region.
- Defining next steps and determining participants for future meeting.

## Meeting Materials

1. Agenda
2. Draft NSV Inter-basin Coordination Directory
3. Draft NSV Technical Information-Sharing Template
4. Draft Inter-Basin Coordination Topic Framing
5. SGMA NSV Inter-basin Decision-Log
6. Inter-basin Coordination Summary Document
7. Draft Inter-Basin Coordination Flyer

## GSP Development Status

Each subbasin gave an update on its current Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development status. Staff from other subbasins had the opportunity to ask clarifying questions.

- **Antelope, Bowman, Los Molinos, and Red Bluff Subbasins:** The GSA recently received a grant from the Department of Water Resources for GSP completion. They will be working with Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE). An Ad Hoc Group began having initial meetings and will be using the SVSIM model moving forward. The subbasins are starting to have conversations regarding Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) and are considering bringing The Nature Conservancy into the discussions. Regarding public outreach, Tehama County will begin hosting virtual public meetings in August and September. These meetings will provide an introduction to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and will be recorded for online posting. Tehama County would like to resume small in-person meetings in the Fall, respecting social distancing regulations, since some stakeholders are experiencing internet connectivity issues. They are anticipating the Draft Introduction Chapter to be ready in August or September and the Draft Basin Setting Chapters in December.
- **Corning Subbasin:** Technical work is underway, led by Montgomery & Associates. The two GSAs are beginning discussions on GSP development and discussions around principle aquifer determination are moving forward. The Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) made recommendations to the Corning Sub-basin GSA, which will make decisions next month. Draft Introduction and Basin Setting chapters will undergo internal review before getting to CSAB, possibly in September.
- **Colusa Subbasin:** Joint Colusa Groundwater Authority (CGA) and Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) **Technical** Advisory Committees (TAC) meet frequently to conduct technical reviews and provide feedback to Consultants. Colusa Groundwater Authority is in the process of updating their Joint Powers Agreement and are developing bylaws. The next Joint TAC meeting will take place on August 14, 2020. Further, Colusa Subbasin's Basin Setting Chapters (HCM and water budgets) are wrapping up. The Glenn Groundwater Authority began discussing groundwater substitution transfers, specifically accounting for water transfers in the water budgets and acknowledging their potential role in groundwater substitution transfers. Lastly, Glenn Groundwater Authority set their 2020/2021 Operations fee to \$1.5 per acre and Colusa Groundwater Authority set their fee to \$1 per acre, both lower than last year.
- **Vina, Butte, and Wyandotte Creek Subbasins:** Draft Basin Setting chapters will be soon released for a one-month public review period. Staff will present a compilation of public comments received to the Vina Subbasin Advisory Committee (SHAC) and to the Butte Subbasin Advisory Board (BAB) in August. The various GSAs are now shifting gears to other elements of GSP completion. In

addition, Butte County staff informed others that agricultural groundwater users have filed an application with LAFCO to form the Tuscan Water District.

## Inter-basin Coordination, Information-Sharing & Issue Resolution Framework

### Information-Sharing Template:

In response to subbasin representatives' request to focus on the technical requirements for inter-basin coordination on (1) cross-boundary groundwater flow, (2) stream-aquifer interactions, (3) water budgets, CBI prepared a draft template for technical information-sharing. The document aligned closely with [Article 8 §357.2 \(b\) \(1\) through \(4\)](#). Further, it aimed to document the different models being utilized to identify potential asymmetries and inform strategies to coordinate across basin boundaries. Subbasin representatives provided feedback.

### Comments | Suggestions

- ✦ Include all adjacent subbasins, including others not present in the meeting (i.e. Anderson, Bend, North Yuba, South Battle Creek, and Yolo).
- ✦ For (1) Cross-Boundary Flows and (2) Stream-Aquifer Interactions, focus on the subbasin boundaries.
- ✦ Consider adding a column for streams in (2) Stream-Aquifer Interactions.
- ✦ For (3) Common Hydrogeologic Understanding, consider asking consultants to add a cross-section at subbasin boundaries to assess the hydrogeological conditions of these boundaries.
- ✦ For (4) Sustainable Management Criteria, include a list of monitoring wells associated with each boundary the Useful Resources/ Citations section.
- ✦ Add drop-down menus when possible to maintain consistency.

### Outcomes | Decisions

- ✦ CBI will incorporate suggestions to the document and share with the group for further refinements.
- ✦ Staff and consultants will participate in the next meeting to refine and finalize the document to begin gathering technical information across subbasins.

### Topic Framing Document:

CBI developed a topic framing document as a tool to track the overarching road map, the meeting plan, and the various topics and issues under consideration for inter-basin coordination in the Northern Sacramento Valley. This document is intended to be revised iteratively, closely linked with the information-sharing template, and constantly updated with key information and shared products throughout the collaboration process.

During the meeting, sub-basin representatives provided input and suggested changes. Overall, participant found the document useful, comprehensive, and slightly overwhelming. It could help document the inter-basin cooperation process, identify potential issues, and outline a process to address and resolve conflicts.

### Comments | Suggestions

- ✦ Maintain consistency by streamlining updates.
- ✦ Make sure that all members are working off the most up-to-date version.
- ✦ Add an updated map that includes all adjacent basins and clearly identifies boundaries and nearby streams.

Outcomes | Decisions

- ✦ Subbasin representatives will provide the facilitators an updated map, including all sub-basin and codes for all boundaries and streams.
- ✦ CBI will establish a shared Dropbox Folder (access [here](#)) to aid information-sharing among the group.

**Voluntary Inter-basin Coordination Agreement**

During the first NSV inter-basin coordination meeting, sub-basin representative discussed potential benefits of preparing voluntary inter-basin coordination agreement as a part of GSP development. Inter-basin coordination agreements are agreements that may be formed between Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within adjacent, hydrologically connected groundwater basins.

CBI conducted preliminary research and reviewed submitted Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) to find examples of inter-basin coordination agreements in other inter-connected basins. CBI presented excerpts from two agreements (City of Marina and Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Basin) to inform discussions. The absence of many voluntary inter-basin coordination agreements in the state may raise concerns in the future, as in the San Joaquin Valley, when water budgets do not add up at a regional scale. Data sharing and conflict resolution processes can help at a regional level.

After some discussion, subbasin representatives decided not to draft a voluntary inter-basin coordination agreement for the moment and revisit the conversation at later stages in GSP development. If participants decide to craft one or more voluntary agreements in the future, they would like to maintain a high-level, non-binding language, focused on information-sharing and dispute resolution. This agreement or set of agreements would need to be ready by summer 2021 at the latest. In addition, subbasin representatives highlighted their commitment to ongoing coordination, consultation, and communication throughout the GSP implementation process.

Outcomes | Decisions

- ✦ Sub-basin representatives decided not to draft an agreement for the time being. The topic framing document lays out a comprehensive cooperation process.
- ✦ Voluntary inter-basin agreement(s) will be revisited at a later stage in GSP development. The NSV Inter-basin coordination group would need to make a determination by Summer 2021 at the latest.

**Next Steps**

- CBI will incorporate feedback received and refined the inter-basin coordination documents.
- Each sub-basin will invite their consultant teams to the next meeting to review and refine information-sharing template. Once all consultants agree on template, the group will work together to define deadlines and milestones.

**Meeting Participants**

Participant	Representation/Affiliation	Subbasins
Christina Buck	Butte County	Vina, Butte, and Wyandotte Creek
Kelly Peterson	Butte County	Vina, Butte, and Wyandotte Creek
Paul Gosselin	Butte County	Vina, Butte, and Wyandotte Creek

**NSV INTER-BASIN COORDINATION STAFF KICK-OFF MEETING (7/29/2020)**

<b>Participant</b>	<b>Representation/Affiliation</b>	<b>Subbasins</b>
Mary Fahey	Colusa Groundwater Authority	Colusa and Butte
Lisa Hunter	Glenn County and Glenn Groundwater Authority	Colusa, Corning, and Butte
Ryan Teubert	Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Bowman, Red Bluff, Antelope, Los Molinos, and Corning
Nichole Bethurem	Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District	Bowman, Red Bluff, Antelope, Los Molinos, and Corning
Tania Carlone	Consensus Building Institute	Butte, Vina, Wyandotte Creek, Bowman, Red Bluff, Antelope, and Los Molinos
Mariana Rivera-Torres	Consensus Building Institute	Butte, Vina, Wyandotte Creek, Bowman, Red Bluff, Antelope, and Los Molinos