

# Wyandotte Creek GSA Advisory Committee Meeting

Access meeting materials at: <https://www.wyandottecreekgsa.com/>

## Meeting Brief

- **Overview:** The Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Advisory Committee (WAC) met virtually on September 2, 2021 [[Access Recording Here](#)].
- **Overview of Draft GSP Components and Public Review Process and Timeline:** The WAC received a high-level overview of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) chapters ahead of public release, as well as the public review process and timeline. The public had an opportunity to provide comment [[Access Draft GSP Presentation](#) and [GSP Public Review Schedule](#)].
- **Outreach and Engagement for Public Review of Draft GSP:** The WAC discussed outreach and engagement strategies for public review of the draft GSP and provided input to the Management Committee. The public had an opportunity to provide comment [[Access GSP Workshop Slides](#)].
- **Wyandotte Creek GSA Management Committee Reports:** The Management Committee provided verbal updates.
- **Next Steps:** The WAC will meet again via video conference on November 4, 2021, from 9:00-12:00.

## Action Items

Item	Lead Person(s)	Completion
Upload meeting recording to the website.	Chris Heindell (Thermalito Water and Sewer)	Complete <a href="#">Access Here</a>
Finalize August WAC Meeting Summary and upload to the website.	CBI & Management Committee	Complete <a href="#">Access Here</a>
Prepare for October 20, 2021 GSP Public Workshop	CBI, Management Committee, & Technical Consulting Team	

## Summary

### Introductions & Agenda Review

The facilitator, T. Carlone (Consensus Building Institute, CBI) welcomed participants and reviewed the meeting agenda.

### Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

- During the comment period, a member of the WAC asked for clarification about who would be responsible for implementing projects for well users who are not part of a water district. The participant was encouraged to hold their comment until the draft GSP presentation when it would be answered.

### Meeting Notes Review & Consideration

WAC members reviewed the August 5, 2021, meeting summary [[Access Here](#)]. K. Peterson (Butte County) asked that K. McKillop's (South Feather Water & Power) vote be included in the discussion under the first item.

Overview of Draft GSP Components and Public Review Process and Timeline

The WAC received a high-level overview of the draft GSP from J. Turner and A. Hussein from Geosyntec. The public had an opportunity to provide comment [[Access Draft GSP Presentation](#) and [GSP Public Review Schedule](#)].

The chapter's presented were: 1. information, plan area, and communication; 2. basin setting; 3. sustainable management criteria (SMC); 4. monitoring networks; 5. project and management actions (PMAs); 6. plan implementation; and 7. references. Chapter 6 on plan implementation is a chapter not previously reviewed which includes the following details:



Chapter 7 includes the list of references used in the GSP, all of which must be uploaded to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) website.

On the earlier question about private well-users, A. Hussein replied that the GSA & Butte County would be responsible along with private landowners who are willing to implement projects in White Areas, those not represented by a water agency. The intent of both organizations in this process would be to avail themselves and make landowners aware of funding opportunities for projects. The organizations could also write project and management actions (PMAs) that encourage private landowners to participate and coordinate. The landowners could also look to form a district or a private mutual water company. In essence, there are a range of potential solutions.

K. Peterson outlined the draft GSP public review process and timeline, which is in progress and subject to revisions as follows:

**August**

- 8/5/21 – WAC Meeting
- 8/26/21 - Board Meeting

## September

- Draft GSP released commencing public comment period
- 9/2/21 – WAC Meeting
- 9/23/21 - Board Meeting

## October

- 10/20/21 – GSP Public Workshop
- 10/28/21 - Board Meeting Public Hearing

## November

- 11/4/21 WAC meeting / input
- 11/18/21 Board Public Hearing

## December

- 12/16/21 Board Meeting Adoption of GSP

## January 2022

- GSP submittal and DWR's 60-75 day public comment period

### *General WAC Comments & Input*

- N. Johansson (Agricultural Water User) asked whether there is any proactive work that WAC members can do to fend off misinformation during the public comment period and asked if there were FAQs or other similar resources that members could post on their agency websites. C. Heindell (Thermalito Water & Sewer) added that there are factsheets which break down the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), as well as videos and a brochure. N. Johansson also suggested that the WAC needs to be proactive about directing constituents to the correct sources of information.

### *Outreach and Engagement for Public Review of Draft GSP*

T. Carlone presented plans for outreach and engagement and highlighted that the CBI team is developing materials attempting to use layperson's language for all the subbasins in Butte County. She also highlighted the upcoming public workshop on Wednesday October 20, which will be an opportunity for members of the public to learn about what will be included in the GSP and how they can get involved [Access [GSP Workshop Slides](#)]. The goals of the workshop are to help members of the public become familiar with SGMA, understand that the GSP is just the first step in the SGMA process, get to know their GSA representatives, and be able to explain the GSP in layperson terms. The workshop will take place as a hybrid virtual/in-person meeting.

### *General WAC Comments & Input*

- N. Johansson suggested that presenters focus on helping members of the public answer the questions "What about me?" and "What about my well/my water/my neighborhood?" She suggested that presenters make the information as localized as possible since thinking in terms of subbasins will be new for many constituents. She also recommended a recent presentation by P. Gosselin to the Fire Safe Council (FSC) on "What is SGMA?" and suggested that that be included as a reference. Finally, she suggested that presenters drive home the messages that:
  1. Butte Subbasin is not in critical overdraft;

2. We are trying to prevent that situation; and
  3. Though we are experiencing a drought, this is not a drought task force (and point members of the public to the Butte County Drought Task Force).
- D. Sherwood (Agricultural Water User) raised that members of the public may be keen to hear about potential and ongoing projects, such as the South Feather Project. T. Carlone replied that the intent is to develop one-pagers on each topic in the draft GSP, and that a one-pager on projects is under development.
  - D. Spangler (DWR) also suggested that presenters highlight that the process is an adaptive one and that the plan under review can and will be changed. What is printed will not be the final word for 40 years.
  - Members of the WAC recommended thinking conscientiously about who will be presenting information and giving opening remarks because members of the public want to know who will be ‘taking care of them’?
  - Members of the WAC recommended mailing postcards to residents in the subbasin. However, K. Peterson replied that previous experiences suggest that the costs of mass mailing outweigh the benefits given the number of absentee landowners.

## Wyandotte Creek GSA Management Committee Reports

- K. Peterson reported that the Wyandotte Creek GSA Board met on August 26 to review recommendations from the WAC on chapters from the Draft GSP. The Board agreed with the WAC’s comments on PMAs and will meet next on September 23. More information available at: <https://www.wyandottecreekgsa.com/>

## Public Comment

- A member of the public asked for clarification as to what the repercussions would be if the GSAs were to not approve the draft GSP within the allotted time. Participants outlined that SGMA requires that the GSP and other materials must be approved and submitted by the end of January 2022 after which DWR will have 2 years to review the GSP to assess whether it is adequate or inadequate. During this process they may request additional information of GSAs in the subbasin. If the plan is ruled inadequate then the subbasin would be referred to the State Water Resources Control Board, and the worst-case scenario is that the State Board would develop a plan and charge the subbasin. SGMA also requires annual reports, and the subbasin will have 5-year interim updates.

## Next Meeting

The WAC will meet again via video conference on November 4, 2021, from 9:00-12:00.

Meeting Participants

Participant	Representation/Affiliation	Present
<b>Wyandotte Creek GSA Advisory Committee (WAC) Members</b>		
David Kehn	California Water Service	N
Darin Williams	Agricultural Water User	Y
Duke Sherwood	Agricultural Water User	Y
Kristen McKillop	South Feather Water and Power	Y
Nicole Johansson	Agricultural Water User	Y
<b>Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Member Agency Staff</b>		
Christina Buck	Butte County	N
Kelly Peterson	Butte County	Y
Matt Thompson	City of Oroville	Y
Chris Heindell	Thermalito Water and Sewer	Y
<b>Technical Consultants</b>		
Joe Turner	Geosyntec	Y
Amer Hussein	Geosyntec	Y
<b>State Agencies</b>		
Debbie Spangler	Department of Water Resources (DWR) Northern Region Office	Y
<b>Facilitator</b>		
Tania Carlone	Consensus Building Institute	Y
Olatunji Oniyaomebi	Consensus Building Institute	Y
Brandon Chambers	Consensus Building Institute	Y

Approximately 3 members of the public participated.