

# Wyandotte Creek GSA Advisory Committee Meeting

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

## Meeting Brief

- **Overview:** This was the fourth meeting of the Wyandotte Creek Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Advisory Committee (WAC) [[Access Meeting Recording](#)].
- **Wyandotte Creek GSA Management Committee Reports:** The WAC received verbal updates from the Management Committee and regional inter-basin coordination efforts in the Northern Sacramento Valley [Access [Inter-basin Coordination Presentation](#) | [SGMA 101 Reference Materials](#)].
- **Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) Discussion:** The WAC continued SMC discussions, reviewed input received at the SMC GSA Board Workshop on 2/25/21 and provided insights, observations, and additional input. Public participants had an opportunity to provide feedback [[Access SMC GSA Board Workshop Presentation](#)].
- **Projects and Management Actions (PMAs) Discussion:** the WAC received a presentation from the technical consulting team (Geosyntec) focused on potential groundwater concerns and opportunities that may warrant the implementation of PMAs. WAC members engaged in a brainstorm activity to identify possible relevant PMAs [[Access Slides](#) | [PMA Submittal Form](#) | [Online Board](#)].
- **Next Steps:** The WAC will meet again via video conference on April 1, 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>
Upload updated PMA presentation to the website.	Chris Heindell (Thermalito Water and Sewer)	Complete <a href="#">Access Here</a>
Share a list of possible property owners that could possibly be interested in groundwater recharge projects.	Duke Sherwood (WAC)	Complete Access in correspondence document.
Share the draft language developed describing the various ordinance and land use plans in the subbasin.	Paul Gosselin (Butte County)	
Share Land IQ report showing land-use changes and status of existing agricultural infrastructure with the WAC.	CBI & Management Committee	Complete Access in <a href="#">Correspondence Document</a>
Make changes to the PMA form: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add a link to the Department of Water Resources (DWR) disadvantaged community mapping tool</li> <li>- Add project partners next to proponents</li> </ul>	CBI & Management Committee	Complete <a href="#">Access Here</a>
Reach out to constituents and submit PMA ideas, considering planned, potential, or conceptual projects and management actions. Reach out to management committee and consulting team with questions or for specific guidance.	WAC members	By April 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2021

## Summary

### Introductions & Agenda Review

The facilitator, T. Carlone (Consensus Building Institute, CBI) welcomed participants and reviewed the meeting agenda. WAC members and Wyandotte Creek GSA Management Committee representatives introduced themselves and welcomed Darin Williams, the WAC's newest member representing agricultural users.

### Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

No comments.

### Meeting Notes Review & Consideration

WAC members reviewed and approved the February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting summary [[Access Here](#)].

### Wyandotte Creek GSA Management Committee Reports

#### *Wyandotte Creek GSA Board Update*

The Wyandotte Creek GSA Board met on February 25, 2021 for a board workshop focused on Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) [[Access Materials](#)]. Overall, the board expressed support for the approach, methodology, and the idea of proceeding with drafting the SMC chapters. All WAC members were present for the meeting and shared feedback. WAC participants thought the material was presented in a concise and accessible manner. The meeting was productive and educational. Some suggestions include using updated figures and examples that clearly and accurately represent conditions in the subbasin, since public participants seem to pay close attention to these graphics. Lastly, a WAC member seemed concerned that public participants might feel there is something hidden; therefore, he suggested finding ways to make information more accessible. The GSA could consider sending printed handouts for the public, through outreach partners and stakeholders, to spread the word for future meetings.

#### *Inter-basin Coordination Update*

CBI provided a brief update on inter-basin coordination efforts in the Northern Sacramento Valley (NSV). Staff representatives from 11 subbasins (Antelope, Bowman, Butte, Colusa, Corning, Los Molinos, Red Bluff, Sutter, Vina, Wyandotte Creek, and Yolo) met on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 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. 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. More information can be found at <https://www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management-Act/Inter-basin-Coordination>.

*Projects and Management Actions (PMAs)*

A. Hussain (Geosyntec) gave a presentation focused on potential groundwater concerns and opportunities that may warrant the implementation of PMAs [[Access Slides](#)]. The PMAs comprise efforts to achieve sustainability goals, by either reducing water demand or increasing water supply. Geosyntec shared some examples to generate discussion with the advisory committee. The GSA can include a variety of PMAs in their portfolio to attain SMC.

*Brainstorm Ideas*

WAC members engaged in a brainstorm activity to identify possible PMAs, in relation to the various sustainability indicators. Main ideas emerging from the presentation and discussion are summarized below. The purpose of the exercise was to identify a variety of potential PMAs. Some of these ideas may not be desired or pursued by the Wyandotte Creek’s GSA. The technical consulting team will take ideas from discussion and conduct further analysis.

<i>Potential PMA Concepts</i>	<i>Sustainability Indicators Potentially Benefiting</i>		
	<b>Groundwater Levels</b> (proxy for Storage and Subsidence)	Surface Water Depletion	Water Quality
<b><i>Projects</i></b>			
<i>Data gathering, sharing, and analysis</i>	x	x	x
<i>Domestic well mitigation (e.g., deepening wells)</i>	x		
<i>Education/outreach</i>	x	x	x
<i>Efficiency improvements (surface water, irrigation, conveyance, etc.)</i>	x	x	
<i>Flow control/stormwater projects</i>	x	x	x
<i>Fuel reduction projects</i>	x	x	
<i>Habitat restoration</i>		x	x
<i>In-lieu recharge</i>	x	x	
<i>Infiltration basins/ponds</i>	x	x	
<i>Injection Wells</i>	x		
<i>Land retirement/fallowing</i>	x	x	
<i>Managed aquifer recharge (ASR)</i>	x	x	
<i>Management aquifer recharge (infiltration)</i>	x	x	
<i>Removal of non-native species</i>	x	x	
<i>Shallow monitoring wells</i>	x	x	
<i>Surface water imports</i>	x	x	
<i>Water Conservation</i>	x	x	
<i>Water reuse</i>	x		
<i>Well surveying (ID abandoned domestic wells)</i>	x		
<b><i>Management Actions</i></b>			
<i>Allocation/pumping restrictions</i>	x	x	
<i>Coordinated land and water-use planning</i>	x		
<i>Drought mitigation and planning</i>	x	x	
<i>Establishing monitoring requirements</i>	x		
<i>Groundwater reporting (e.g., metering)</i>	x	x	
<i>Land-use ordinances</i>	x		
<i>Pumping fees</i>	x		
<i>Setting criteria for well depth based on salinity</i>			x
<i>Water availability assessments</i>	x	x	x

Well construction guidelines by problem areas  
Wellhead protection requirements

x  
x

## Information needs:

- Efficiency of current practices, barriers and opportunities for adoption of certain PMAs
- Overview of current ordinances associated with well permitting
- Video logs of wells
- Surface water supply maps in the subbasin, with greater detail related to creeks, canals, etc.

## Outreach Partners and/or Potential Proponents

- Butte County Cattlemen's and Cattlewomen's Associations
- Butte County Environmental Health Department ([link](#))
- Butte County Farm Bureau
- Butte County Fire Safe Council
- Butte County Resource Conservation District
- Butte County UC Cooperative Extension ([link](#))
- California Water Services (CalWater)
- City of Oroville
- Individual ranchers and landowners
- Informal Well Drillers groups
- Land IQ
- Local Resource Conservation Districts ([link](#))
- Natural Resources Conservation Service ([link](#)) through
- Northern Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Plan
- Sacramento River Watershed Program
- South Feather Water and Power
- Subject area experts (e.g., water conservation and use efficiency specialists)
- Thermalito Water and Sewer District (TWSD)

## Process and Schedule

The Wyandotte Creek (WC) GSA will follow an engaged public process through the WC GSA Board and Advisory Committee. The GSA has developed a submittal form to gather ideas [[Access Draft Submittal Form | Access Online Form](#)]. The Management Committee will upload this form on the website. In June 2021, the Wyandotte Creek GSA Board will receive a presentation for potential PMAs for incorporation in the GSP [[More information here](#)].

## Discussion:

- **Timeframe for implementation:** Geosyntec clarified the GSA will have 20 years to achieve sustainability (by 2042) and will have to show progress by meeting interim milestones. The GSA will delineate an implementation plan that shows improvements over time.
- **Public Perceptions:** WAC members were concerned with taking some of the ideas to the public and raising alarm bells unnecessarily regarding projects that may not be adopted. They were cautious about setting public expectations, perceptions, and the associated messaging.

- **Analysis:** WAC members would like to see further analysis related to the 5,000 acre-feet needed, as well as displaying somehow the certainty of certain projects to achieve desired targets.
- **PMA preferences:** In terms of the two types of PMAs described, a WAC member stated that agricultural producers will likely prefer supply enhancement over demand reduction. Another WAC member would like to prioritize drought and flood resilience strategies and stormwater capture. P. Gosselin (Butte County) mentioned a potential project by the Butte/Sutter Flood Control Project to change flood levees in the Feather River and create flood basins.
- **Legal Fees:** A WAC member suggested setting some funding aside to review water right implications of specific projects.
- **Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR):** Geosyntec clarified there are two types of ASR projects. First, ASR projects used for municipal drinking water supply, which have to undergo significant water quality treatment before being injected back into the ground. Second, there are other recharge projects that have more relaxed regulations in terms of water treatment, when not used for drinking water supplies.
- **Prop 68 Funding:** A. Hussein (Geosyntec) highlighted the Proposition 68 Implementation Grants ([link](#)) as a potential funding mechanism. The GSA would need to identify projects that meet the eligibility requirements, include them in the GSP, and apply in a short timeline. Multi-benefit projects tend to be preferred, such as those focused on stormwater, flood protection, and aquifer recharge.
- **Management Actions:** A. Hussein (Geosyntec) reminded the WAC that PMAs can also include policies and regulations. The GSA authority is limited to groundwater management, as it cannot regulate surface water. However, the GSA can set up policies such as metering (install, encourage, etc.), pumping fees (to fund other projects), and percentage credit gains from specific projects.
- **Land-use Planning:** If growth and development are perceived as an issue to maintain sustainability, the GSA could determine how much it wants to weigh in and influence decision-making. The County general plan update will begin soon (summer-fall), which may open the opportunity to influence some of the decisions. In response to a WAC's question regarding relevant land-use planning ordinances related to well-drilling in other connections to groundwater sustainability, P. Gosselin shared the County will share draft language developed for the GSP describing the various ordinance and land use plans in the subbasin.
- **Data needs and availability:** A WAC member expressed concern with jumping towards metering. There are certain portions of the subbasin lacking data, and the GSA could focus on compiling and analyzing data. Agencies have reporting requirements and available data. Further, agricultural communities have pressure with new monitoring requirements. The GSA should aim to leverage existing data and avoid requests that may require significant time and monetary investments. B. Anderson (Geosyntec) suggested linking specific data needs to PMAs whenever possible. Data will determine whether to move forward and could also tie to possible funding.
- **Surface Water Use:** A WAC member suggested focusing on maximizing efficiency in surface water use to minimize groundwater pumping. Targeting new and existing development through code regulations may present opportunities.
- **Water-use efficiency:** Land IQ has developed a useful report illustrating land-use changes and status of existing infrastructure. They are currently doing a survey to evaluate grower irrigation practices, barriers to adoption of new techniques, and strategies to overcome barriers.

## WYANDOTTE CREEK GSA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC) MEETING (3/4/2021)

- **Brainstorm Activity:** B. Anderson (Geosyntec) appreciated the brainstorm activity with the online board and suggested revising the format to illustrate information needs per sustainability indicator.

### Next Steps

- The GSA will continue to gather PMAs online (through the [online form](#)). WAC members were encouraged to reach out to constituents and submit PMA ideas, considering planned, potential, or conceptual projects and management actions. The Management Committee and consulting team can also provide guidance and answer questions.
- The Management Committee and the facilitation team will find ways to visualize and classify the various PMAs identified. Then the WAC will refine ideas and remove undesirable options from the list. The consulting team will write up the PMA Chapter (including planned, proposed, and conceptual PMAs). This chapter will be reviewed internally and then release for a period of public review.
- The WAC will meet again via video conference on April 1, 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	Y
Darin Williams	Agricultural Water User	Y
Duke Sherwood	Agricultural Water User	Y
Kristen McKillop	South Feather Water and Power	Y
<b>Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Member Agency Staff</b>		
Paul Gosselin	Butte County	Y
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
Bob Anderson	Geosyntec	Y
Amer Hussein	Geosyntec	Y
<b>State Agencies</b>		
Debbie Spangler	Department of Water Resources (DWR) Northern Region Office (NRO)	
<b>Facilitator</b>		
Tania Carlone	Consensus Building Institute	Y
Mariana Rivera-Torres	Consensus Building Institute	Y