



**EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN
GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

GWA Steering Committee August 9, 2023

Communication and Engagement (C&E) Plan Update

Objectives of C&E Plan Update:

- Update June 2018 plan to define and prioritize C&E actions that support GSP implementation.
- Focus on C&E actions described in adopted GSP, advise from interested parties, and suggested best practices
- Define roles and responsibilities of:
 - Subbasin GSAs
 - GWA

Communication and Engagement (C&E) Plan Update

- C&E Plan Update (thus far)
 - Work Plan - **Complete**
 - Interviews - **Complete**
 - C&E Plan Update Appendices - **Complete**
 - GSA Manager Survey Analysis and Summary
 - Interested Parties Survey Analysis and Summary
 - GSA Website Audit
 - C&E Inventory Summary

GSA Manager Survey Results (Data Collection)

- Survey Stats
 - 9 questions
 - 9 respondents
 - Distributed via email on 3/23, 3/30, and 4/17
- Survey Demographics
 - 1 City GSA, 1 County GSA, 7 special district GSAs
- Findings included...

Interested Parties Survey Results (Data Collection)

- Survey Stats
 - 18 questions
 - 120 respondents
 - Made open to the public (and in partnership with various organizations) between 3/10 and 4/1
- Survey Demographics
 - Spanned most uses and users of groundwater defined under SGMA
- Findings included...

Interviews

Beneficial User or Use Covered	Name	Title/Role	Agency/Organization/Business	Interview Date
GDE/DAC	Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla	Executive Director	Restore the Delta	3/16/23
Domestic Well/Ranchette	Jeff Wagner	Small Farm/Domestic Well User	N/A	7/11/23
Ag/Small Farm	Richard Rodriguez	Small Farm/RCD Board	N/A	7/12/23
GDE/DAC	Mary Elizabeth	Conservation Chair	Sierra Club Delta-Sierra Group	7/12/23
M&I	David Breitenbucher	GSA Representative	City of Manteca GSA	7/20/23
M&I	Mike Henry	GSA Representative	Lockeford CSD GSA	7/20/23
M&I	Myron Blanton, Douglas Smith, and Barbara Kascht	GSA Representative, Alternate, and Communications Lead	Linden County Water District GSA	7/18/23

C&E Inventory

- Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin 2022 GSP:
 - Section 1.3 – Notice and Communication
 - Section 6.0 – Projects and Management Actions
 - Section 7.7 – Public Outreach
 - Appendix 1-H: Stakeholder Engagement and Public Outreach Plan
 - Appendix 1-I: Public Comments Received
 - Appendix 1-J: Response to Public Comments
- Stanislaus County Superior Court: CalSPA v. Interested Persons re Validity of Eastern San Joaquin GSGS Plan (March 16, 2020)
- California Department of Water Resources (DWR) GSP Assessment Staff Report (January 28, 2022)
- 2022–2023 San Joaquin County Grand Jury Report for Case #0622 (June 26, 2023)

C&E Inventory Recommendations

- **Communication and Engagement Tracker - CWC §10723.8.(a)(4)**
 - Establish a comprehensive Communication and Engagement Tracker that would catalog the type and timing of outreach activities to be posted on the ESJGWA and member agency websites.
- **Comment Portal - CWC §10723.8.(a)(4)**
 - Establish, maintain and respond to public comments through general and project specific email contact portal.

C&E Inventory Recommendations

- **Document Management - § 354.10 (d)(1-4) and CWC §10727.8 (a)**
 - Prepare a common template and style guide for notices and announcements by member agencies; establish a shared comprehensive interested parties database that allows member agencies to distribute information; establish an outreach coordinator to assist GSAs in distribution, as necessary.
- **Enterprise Management System Transparency – SB 272 §6270.5. (a)**
 - Maintain a catalog of data management systems (e.g., interested parties databases) and full transparency around the information collected, uses, and management processes for those systems.

C&E Inventory Recommendations

- **GSP Conformance - § 354.44 (b)(1)(B) and § 354.10 (d)(1-4) and CWC §10727.8 (a)**
 - Section 6.2.8 commits the GSA to post information about planned projects on the agency's website. GSA to establish a "Projects" link on their agency website to provide a link, and status, of this activity.
- **Interested Party Database - CWC §10725.2c and CWC §10723.2 and CWC §10723.4 and CWC §10723.8.(a)(4)**
 - Establish a comprehensive interested parties database accessible for subbasin, GSA, and target audience engagement.

C&E Inventory Recommendations

- **Native American Heritage Commission - CWC §10723.4**
 - Submit and receive Tribal and Sacred Land tribal contact list to the Native American Heritage Commission
- **Staff Resources - § 354.10**
 - Evaluate in coordination with ESJGWA member agencies funding, grant or in-kind support resources for facilitation, media relations, outreach coordination services.

C&E Inventory Recommendations

- **Website Management - CWC §10725.2c and CWC §10723.4**
 - Establish web pages on the ESJGWA and GSA websites, as applicable, to contain clear and accessible audience-specific mapping, information resources, notification processes, administrative and financial records, governance structures, up to date meeting information and materials, decision-making structures, etc.

C&E Inventory Recommendations

- **Workgroup - CWC §10727.8 (a) and § 354.10 (d)(3)**
 - Consider establishment of a Small Community/Under-represented Community Committee to engage on well protection and other related PMAs.
- **Targeted Outreach - CWC §10723.2**
 - Outline and implement specific efforts, possibly through the previously suggested workgroup, to identify, contact, educate, and engage with underrepresented groundwater users and non-English speakers on groundwater resource management in the Subbasin.

Communication and Engagement (C&E) Plan Update

- Next Steps
 - Data (Surveys) and Interview Analysis - **In Progress**
 - Drafting of Main C&E Document – **In Progress**
- Estimated timeframe for GSA review of full draft document is late August.