

**Subject:** FW: Yolo SGMA 2016 Year-in-Review Summary  
**Attachments:** SGMA\_EligibleEntitiesWorking Group\_20161109.pdf; Inflow – Outflow = Change in Storage.pptx; GSA-Formation-Report\_1Conrad.pdf

**2016 Year in Review  
Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation**

As we approach the June 30, 2017 deadline to form a Yolo Subbasin GSA, I want to take a moment to summarize what we have accomplished in 2016. But first, I would like to thank all of you for your active engagement in this process. Even though this involvement has been in addition to your daily work responsibilities, you have all demonstrated dedication, willingness and creativity in an effort to accomplish this task. This has allowed us to establish Yolo as a leader in SGMA implementation in California. This leadership should put us in a good position to receive future grant funding as we move into GSP development and lessen the overall future financial burden on our organizations. While we still have several remaining issues to resolve, I feel confident that we are well on our way to forming a collaborative, mostly county-wide GSA.

The decisions made by the Yolo GSA Implementation Working Group of the Water Resources Association of Yolo County (WRA) and Yolo County Farm Bureau include the following:

- Agreed to consolidate the four Bulletin 118 groundwater basins into a county-wide Yolo Subbasin
- Agreed on Management Areas to define hydrogeologic characteristics
- Agreed to transition the WRA to the GSA and to operate as a single organization
- Developed a governance structure to maintain governance and decision making at the lowest (grassroots) level allowed by the legislation
- Developed a decision tree graphic for demonstrating how participating eligible entities can preserve existing authority, jurisdiction and responsibility
- Agreed to a 2-year timeframe for reopening the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) Agreement to review and adjust where necessary
- Agreed to develop, as part of the GSP process, water balances for each eligible entity. These individual water balances will be incorporated into a subbasin-wide water balance in order to assess and demonstrate overall GSA sustainability. We will accomplish this using the WEAP model and working with SEI. Grant monies have been secured to perform this work.

*Major issues still to be resolved while finalizing the JPA Agreement include*

- 1) deciding on a voting structure,*
- 2) establishing a fee allocation for the first two years, and*
- 3) administration of the white areas.*

## Significant Outreach Activities

- Approximately 75 outreach events took place throughout the year, these include presentations to different government jurisdictions (cities, counties, special districts, water districts, etc.), private well owners, nongovernmental organizations, and individual stakeholders.
- Established and maintained the <http://yologroundwater.org> website
- Conducted a County-wide groundwater subsidence monitoring survey
- Continued the WRA Groundwater Monitoring Program, including 11 real-time groundwater monitoring sensors
- Collaborated with Stanford University on the Status of the Formation of GSAs Report: Stanford Water in the West Report (attached)
- Maintained consistent dialogue and coordination with the Department of Water Resources
- Conducted three Yolo SGMA Public Meetings, attended by more than 500 people
- Conducted Yolo County Farmer Focus Groups, interviewed 25 farmers

For your review, I am including three attachments:

1. The PowerPoint that was used at the November 9, 2016 Working Group Meeting (SGMA\_EligibleEntitiesWorking Group20161109)
2. David Purkey's (SEI) presentation on water balances (Inflow - Outflow = Change in Storage)
3. A Report written by Stanford University that includes Yolo County SGMA implementation efforts as a case study (GSA-Formation Report\_Conrad)

You should all have received invitations to the following Working Group meetings:

1. January 12, 2017: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
2. January 25, 2017: 1 – 3 p.m.
3. February 9, 2017: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

I look forward to seeing all of you in 2017 and to finalizing a SGMA compliant JPA Agreement. Our hope is to have a final document available around the beginning of March for your Board's/Council's review and approval so that we can meet the state-mandated **June 30, 2017 deadline**.

Please let me know if I have missed anything, or if you have any questions or suggestions.

Tim

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