



Strategic Planning for Managing Groundwater

Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Board Workshop

February 2023

Agenda

1. Context Setting
2. Stakeholder Assessment Findings
3. Strategy Document Vision Statement
4. Goals and Strategies
5. Next Steps, Adjourn

Background and Purpose

- Funded by the DWR Facilitation Support Services program.
- To achieve SGMA compliance the GSA must:
 - Maintain groundwater conditions consistent with the sustainable management criteria defined in the GSPs
 - Complete SGMA administrative and reporting functions
- The Multi-Basin Management **Strategy Document** will help the GSA identify, catalog, and prioritize near- and long-term needs and goals to implement the GSPs.
- Stantec started work on this in August 2022 and is anticipated to finish by June 2023.

Interview Process

- An interview questionnaire was developed with input from the GSA Plan Manager.
- Stantec conducted 14 interviews, with:
 - 5 District Board of Supervisors (Board)
 - 3 Advisory Committee Chairs
 - GSA staff
 - Agricultural, environmental, and residential beneficial users
 - Note: Tribes were contacted but declined to be interviewed.
- Interview participants received the questions in advance and were provided with a brief background on the effort.
- Interviews were about 1 hour each.

Interview Process

Interview participants were asked to:

- Identify potential organizational, managerial, financial and institutional goals the GSA should consider,
- Describe how the GSA would measure success in those goals, and
- Elaborate on what changes would be required for the GSA to achieve those goals.

Participants were also asked to define expectations for the Strategy Document and share what success could look like for this process.

Assessment Findings:

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis was then completed based on interview feedback to help the GSA visualize how its ideas for goals and strategies align with potential opportunities and threats, as well as strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths:

- Shared interest in collaborating on SGMA implementation
- High degree of consensus around groundwater recharge and getting projects started sooner rather than later
- Robust collective knowledge of local issues and priorities among Advisory Committee members and local stakeholders

Assessment Findings: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

Weaknesses:

- Lack of staffing capacity to effectively support GSP implementation and a particular need for technical staff and additional staff support for the pursuit and management of grants to offset the costs of GSP implementation
- Need for more clearly defined process for making recommendations and decisions in GSP implementation among Advisory Committee members, GSA staff, and GSA Board members, primarily related to monitoring of sustainable management criteria and minimum thresholds

Assessment Findings: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

Opportunities:

1. Proactively manage groundwater resources and define how the GSA can be better supported by other agencies and institutions. These things could be accomplished through more regular communication and clearly defined relationships (e.g., coordination agreements) with other public agencies at the local, state, and federal scale, and among District departments
2. Increased engagement with Advisory Committee members to leverage their combined wealth of knowledge to identify project opportunities and potential funding sources, receive support with funding applications, implement projects, and support groundwater monitoring
3. Increased public engagement and education throughout GSP implementation

Assessment Findings: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

Threats:

- Unknown impacts of SGMA on agriculture, economic revenue, and property values
- Unknown long-term cost of GSP implementation and the as-yet-to-be-developed financing plan
- Unknown effects of future changes to state regulations and curtailment orders

Assessment Findings: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats

Board Discussion Questions

Do any of the Stakeholder Assessment findings surprise you?

Is there anything you would like to be clarified or augmented?

Vision Statement

Vision Statements guide strategic processes by describing a region's future end state that will result from proactive activities.

A draft vision statement was developed in advance of the interviews, and each participant had the opportunity to voice agreement or offer modifications. The vision statement has been refined to reflect feedback received during the interviews.

Two versions are available for the Board's consideration:

Vision Statement

Option 1:

The District will collaboratively work towards effective groundwater management to achieve and maintain the sustainability of the Shasta Valley, Butte Valley, and Scott Valley Basins, consistent with SGMA and the near- and long-term goals defined in the GSPs, with consideration given to all beneficial groundwater users.

Option 2:

The District will collaboratively work towards effective groundwater management to achieve and maintain the sustainability of the Shasta Valley, Butte Valley, and Scott Valley Basins, consistent with SGMA and the near- and long-term goals defined in the GSPs, with *equitable* consideration given to all beneficial groundwater users.

Vision Statement

Board Discussion Questions

1. What would keeping or getting rid of this word mean?

1/2

Vision Statement

Board Discussion Questions

2. How does the GSA want to move forward?

2/2

Goals and Strategies

Based on the interviews, three goals have been identified:

Communications and Engagement (CE):

Demonstrate the value of SGMA, the GSA, and GSP implementation to the public through regular engagement, education, and communication activities related to GSP implementation.

Decision-Making (DM):

Clarify GSA decision-making roles and responsibilities and the decision-making support processes that inform GSP implementation.

Funds and Resources (FR):

Develop and implement a sustainable funding and resourcing strategy for GSP implementation and GSA administration that minimizes impacts to residents and ensures adequate GSA staff resourcing to effectively implement the GSPs.

Goals Strategies: Communications and Engagement

CE Demonstrate the value of SGMA, the GSA, and GSP implementation to the public regular engagement, education, and communication activities related to GSP implementation.

CE.1 Increase transparency and the accessibility of data and information to the public (e.g., on the GSA website) so that groundwater users in the basin can clearly understand the status of the basin and monitoring efforts.

CE.2 Increase education and engagement of stakeholders and other interested parties on GSP implementation activities, with a focus on communicating information related to projects and management actions and GSP funding and fees.

Goals and Strategies: Communications and Engagement

Board Discussion Questions

Do you agree or disagree with the goal? What should be changed?

Do you agree or disagree with the strategies? What should be changed?

What other strategies related to communications and engagement might we be missing?

Goals and Strategies: Decision Making

DM Clarify GSA decision-making roles and responsibilities and the decision-making support processes that inform GSP implementation.

DM.1 Better define the decision-making roles and responsibilities of GSA Board members, GSA staff, and Advisory Committee members and identify where additional staffing resources may be needed.

DM.2 Establish regular communications and strengthen partnerships and projects with public agencies and key basin stakeholders.

Goals and Strategies: Decision Making

Board Discussion Questions

Do you agree or disagree with the goal? What should be changed?

Do you agree or disagree with the strategies? What should be changed?

For DM.1, how can staffing gaps be determined?

For DM.2, what partnerships should the GSA focus on? And what topics should each partnership focus on? (i.e., topics for coordination agreement)

What other strategies related to decision-making might we be missing?

Goals and Strategies: Funding and Resources

FR Develop and implement a sustainable funding and resourcing strategy for GSP implementation and GSA administration that minimizes impacts to residents and ensures adequate GSA staff resourcing to effectively implement the GSPs.

FR.1 Catalog GSP implementation and administration costs, determine what additional funding and staff resources may be needed, and identify how those remaining costs will be covered, with a priority on minimizing impacts to residents and identifying sustainable funding sources.

FR.2 Secure grant and other external funding sources to support groundwater sustainability efforts within and across the basins.

Goals and Strategies: Funding and Resources

Board Discussion Questions

Do you agree or disagree with the goal? What should be changed?

Do you agree or disagree with the strategies? What should be changed?

For FR.2, are there ways the GSA can be more effective in identifying and applying for funding? When will others lead on developing applications?

What other strategies related to funding and resources might we be missing?

Next Steps

Stantec will use the results of the Board workshop today to:

1. Refine the Vision Statement, Goals, and Strategies
2. Develop potential tactics and actions associated with each goal and begin drafting the Strategy Document
3. Host a second GSA Board Workshop this spring to get direction and consensus on the tactics and actions and prioritize goals
4. Finalize the Strategy Document

Adjournment

Thank you for your participation in this Board Workshop!

You may contact Marisa Perez-Reyes with follow-up questions:

Marisa.perez-reyes@stantec.com