

NASb 2026 Public Meeting Notes – June 24, 2026

Part I – NASb 2025 Water Year 2025 Annual Report

1. Opening and Purpose

The Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) opened with an acknowledgement of the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for grant funding that supported the work presented. The SGA emphasized that public input is an important part of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) amendment process and encouraged attendees to provide comments, questions, and suggestions.

The 2026 North American Subbasin (NASb or Subbasin) 2026 Public Meeting focused on two main topics:

- Overview of the Water Year (WY) 2025 Annual Report and Subbasin conditions.
- GSP Workshop #3 - Update on the GSP amendment, with emphasis on sustainable management criteria (SMC) for interconnected surface water (ISW).

2. SGMA and NASb Background

The SGA provided a background on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and the NASb.

The SGMA was passed in 2014 and became effective in 2015. SGMA requires high- and medium-priority Subbasins to be managed sustainably. The NASb is a high-priority Subbasin and is subject to SGMA. The Subbasin is managed by five Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) which those who were present introduced themselves:

- SGA GSA
- South Sutter Water District GSA
- West Placer GSA
- Sutter County GSA
- RD 1001 GSA

Woodard & Curran (W&C) is supporting the GSAs with technical analysis, annual reporting, monitoring, and the Periodic Evaluation/GSP amendment.

3. GSP and Annual Report Overview

The SGA gave an overview of the GSP and the annual report. The GSP is the main planning document that defines how the Subbasin will achieve and maintain sustainability. A periodic evaluation should be completed every 5 years, or whenever the GSP is amended.

The annual reports are a non-interpreted data transmittal to DWR that provides information on groundwater conditions and implementation of the GSP for the prior water year.

4. Water Year 2025 Conditions

The SGA provided an overview of the data that was included in the Water Year (WY) 2025 Annual Report. Information provided included hydrologic conditions (e.g., average annual precipitation and average monthly precipitation), water supply (e.g., total water use by sector/source, surface water use by sector, groundwater use by sector, and Cosumnes, South American, and North American Integrated Water Resources [CoSANA] Model extractions), groundwater levels (e.g., Spring and Fall contour maps), and

change in groundwater storage (e.g., change in groundwater storage, cumulative change in groundwater storage, and CoSANA model estimated change in groundwater storage).

The SGA also provided an overview of the GSP implementation actions and status that were included in the WY 2025 Annual Report. Items presented included projects and management actions (PMAs) SMC, measurable objectives and minimum thresholds, and Fall 2025 Sustainability Indicators status. During this time SGA went into detail on chronic lowering of groundwater and reductions of groundwater in storage, degraded water quality, inelastic land subsidence, and depletions of ISW. All of which denoted undesirable results are not occurring.

No public comments or questions were made during the designated break for questions/discussions.

Part II – NASb Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Update/Amendment Public Workshop #3 (Sustainability Management Criteria Interconnected Surface Water)

Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC)

W&C, the Consultant assisting the Subbasin with this effort, gave some background on ISW including types of surface water in the Subbasin (e.g., major rivers, canals and drains, and smaller agricultural and urban creeks. They also briefly discussed how their systems function differently within the NASb.

W&C provided a brief overview of ISW beneficial uses and users within the Subbasin.

W&C discussed why ISW SMC criteria are being updated including, but not limited to, new data and information on groundwater conditions and impacts to users; knowledge gained during GSP implementation; additional time to refine best approaches; and the recommended corrective actions provided by the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

W&C showed the approach to updating the ISW SCM including evaluating whether criteria reflect conditions and impacts; map interconnected reaches and monitoring locations; use modeling to relate depletions to groundwater levels; confirm groundwater levels as proxy; estimate depletion volumes at Undesirable Results (URs); and, use groundwater level criteria for depletions.

W&C discussed that groundwater levels are used as a proxy (i.e., indicator) for surface water depletion.

W&C provided an overview of the groundwater model and how it helps estimate how groundwater pumping may affect ISW. The CoSANA model was also discussed and how it evaluated the relationship between depletions and groundwater levels. The results show a clear relationship with lower groundwater levels corresponding to higher modeled surface water depletions. This finding further supported that groundwater levels can be used as a proxy for depletions of interconnected surface water.

Overall, the conclusions of the presentation showed that model results expressed a strong correlation between groundwater levels and depletions, justifying use of groundwater levels as a proxy. And that the estimated depletion when minimum thresholds are met are approximately 288,00 acre-foot per year (AFY).

One public question was received regarding if the 40 monitoring wells is enough for such a large area and how it relates to the modeling data. If/why do we think that is enough data? W&C clarified that the 24 wells previously referenced originated from the original 2021 GPS. While current annual reports must

continue to adhere to the network identified in that original plan, the analysis and proposals outline in the upcoming amendment will serve as the guiding document moving forward. That said, the monitoring network has been expanded to include all groundwater level monitoring sites. Due to some missing data for certain wells, the network currently proposes utilizing 38 monitoring sites. Staff noted that this expanded network (from the original 24 sites) provides appropriate representation of the entire Subbasin and that the physical data collected from these sites assists with calibration of the model prior to generating results. Additionally, the 38 monitoring sites meet the DWR recommendations for spatial coverage and density. We hope to hear more when the guidance formally comes out this year.

Concluding the meeting, SGA provided a very quick update on the next steps for the GSP Evaluation/Amendment process for the Draft GSP anticipated to be adopted by the GSAs late 2026 and submitted to DWR early 2027.