

Cuyama Basin Groundwater
Sustainability Agency
Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Updated May 27, 2018

Prepared for the Cuyama Basin
Groundwater Sustainability Agency
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Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

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The Cuyama Basin GSA Stakeholder Engagement Strategy is considered a living document. It will be updated as necessary throughout GSP development, public review, and implementation.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Overview

In 2014, California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA requires that groundwater sustainability plans be adopted for the most important groundwater basins in California. Under SGMA, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) identified 21 “critically overdrafted” basins and subbasins. SGMA requires that basins designated as high or medium priority **and** critically overdrafted will be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) or a coordinated GSP.

The Cuyama Basin was designated as an important groundwater basin, a medium priority basin, and a critically overdrafted basin. As such, SGMA requires formation of a locally-controlled groundwater sustainability agency (GSA) as the entity responsible for developing and implementing a GSP. The primary goal of the GSP is to develop sustainable groundwater management practices for the future without causing undesirable results. The GSP must be submitted to the State by January 31, 2020.

The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) was formed in June 2017. Under a joint powers agreement, it is comprised of six local agencies that collectively include water supply, water management, and land use responsibilities across the entire basin: Cuyama Basin Water District, Cuyama Community Services District, Santa Barbara County Water Agency, San Luis Obispo County, Ventura County and Kern County. The CBGSA Board of Directors includes representatives from these local agencies.

Implementation of SGMA - Phases of Work

Implementation of SGMA includes the following phases:

Phase 1: GSA Formation and Coordination – This phase concluded with the formation of the Cuyama Basin GSA in 2017.

Phase 2: GSP Preparation and Submission – This phase of work began in 2017 and will continue to January 2019. During this phase, GSAs must develop GSPs with measurable objectives and milestones that ensure basin sustainability.

Phase 3: GSP Review and Evaluation – This phase will take place in 2019. Once the draft GSP is prepared, there will be a public review period before the formal adoption of the GSP by the CBGSA. Once the GSP has been submitted to DWR by January 31, 2020, DWR will hold a 60-day review and comment period for stakeholders.

Phase 4: Implementation and Reporting – Following the submission of the GSP to the DWR, the CBGSA will begin implementation of efforts described in the GSP to reach sustainability within the basin. This will be an ongoing phase, as the goal of SGMA is to reach sustainability by 2040.

Cuyama Groundwater Basin

The Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) is located between the Caliente Range to the north and the Sierra Madre Mountains to the southwest. It is a sparsely inhabited area with towns including Cuyama, New Cuyama and Ventucopa. The land is primarily used for ranching, agriculture, and oil and

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gas production. Average annual precipitation ranges from 7 to 15 inches. The Basin trends west and is drained by the Cuyama River, which is the primary source of recharge to the groundwater Basin. Groundwater in the Basin is mainly unconfined, but confined water and perched water are found locally. Small faults that cut through the Basin fill act as barriers to groundwater movement.

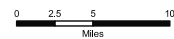
The Basin covers an area of approximately 147,200 acres, or 230 square miles, and extends into four counties, including San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, Kern County, and Ventura County. Figure 1, page 2 shows a map of the Cuyama Groundwater Basin Sustainability Agency Boundaries courtesy of San Luis Obispo County.

Vicinity Map



Cuyama CSD

Cuyama Basin
Water District



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Engagement Strategy Goals

The Cuyama Basin Stakeholder Engagement Strategy has been developed to achieve the following goals:

- Conduct an inclusive outreach and education process that best supports the success of a well-prepared GSP that meets SGMA requirements.
- Offer a comprehensive, transparent outreach and education process that builds understanding and trust among the various stakeholders.
- Using a Planning Roadmap, that aligns the public engagement opportunities with the development of technical information at key points throughout the project, establish an atmosphere of clear, concise, transparent, reliable information flow and opportunities for input.
- Evaluate and update the engagement methods throughout the GSP process as needed.

Key Elements of the Engagement Strategy

Given the importance of the Cuyama Valley and the development of the GSP to the communities, residents, landowners, farmers, ranchers, businesses, and others, it is essential that inclusive stakeholder input be a primary component of the GSP process. This *Stakeholder Engagement Strategy* has been developed to support the preparation and implementation of a well-informed GSP. The strategy is designed to be flexible and will generally follow the GSP Planning Roadmap that aligns public engagement opportunities with the development of technical information throughout the GSP process.

Roles and Responsibilities

The **GSA Board of Directors** is the designated decision-making entity for the GSP process. All meetings will be noticed 72 hours in advance, are open to the public and will include a public comment period. Agendas, minutes, and meeting materials will be available on the CBGSA's website (<http://cuyamabasin.org>). The Board is subject to the Brown Act. CBGSA Directors are listed in Appendix A.

The GSA Board appointed a **Standing Advisory Committee** as the primary body for providing advice and input to the CBGSA Board, and assisting with stakeholder engagement throughout the Cuyama Valley. All meetings will be noticed at <http://cuyamabasin.org> and are open to the public. Agendas, minutes, and meeting materials will be posted on the website. Standing Advisory Committee members are listed in Appendix A.

Public Input, no matter the method received (e.g., phone, email, public meeting), will be shared with both the Board of Directors and the Standing Advisory Committee for consideration throughout the planning process.

Project Schedule

The final GSP must be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources in January 2020. As requested by the CBSGA, the GSP is scheduled for completion in mid-2019, providing ample time for adoption and approval by the CBGSA and its member agencies. The project schedule is designed to solicit, consider, and address public and stakeholder input regarding the important planning elements, including Basin conditions, groundwater modeling, sustainability goals, management actions, implementation plan, and the draft and final GSP. Figure 2, page 8, the **GSP Planning Roadmap**, shows a generalized depiction of the schedule for these planning elements and public and stakeholder engagement.

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Data and Data Evaluation

The GSP will be based on data, modeling, and evaluation of surface water and groundwater conditions, water uses, and water management options. Public outreach and engagement will be an important element of efforts to collect, review, validate, and refine the data and evaluation that will form the basis of the GSP and future management actions.

Public Engagement, Education and Outreach – Implementation of SGMA - Phases 2 and 3

Phase 2: GSP Preparation and Submission began in 2017 and will continue to GSP submission to DWR by January 31, 2020. In 2018 and 2019, the technical development of the GSP will be undertaken working with the GSA Board of Directors, GSA Standing Advisory Committee, and stakeholders for feedback and input. During 2018 and 2019, a series of community workshops will be held in New Cuyama to educate and inform stakeholders about SGMA and the GSP process, while also soliciting feedback and input.

During Phase 2, the GSP planning and development process will include outreach and education activities that involve stakeholders affected by water management in the Cuyama Basin. The outreach and education process will inform and educate them about SGMA, groundwater management, and the GSP planning process; and, solicit and address issues and opportunities to improve groundwater management for the Cuyama Basin. The following activities will be undertaken by the CBGSA:

- Identify existing notification lists that could be used to reach the various social, cultural, and economic elements of the Cuyama Basin population.
- Develop and provide information regarding SGMA, GSP planning, and groundwater management.
- Solicit stakeholder and public input on groundwater analysis and modeling, sustainability goals, management actions, and implementation plans.
- Provide and summarize stakeholder and public input for the Standing Advisory Committee and the CBGSA Board throughout the GSP process.
- Identify and provide opportunities for public input at key project milestones as shown in the Planning Roadmap (figure 1, page 8).

Phase 3: GSP Review and Evaluation will begin in spring 2019. During this phase, once the draft of the GSP is completed, the public review process will begin. A comment period will be held. A community workshop will be held to provide an overview of the GSP content, while giving stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback and comments about the GSP. Once the public review period is completed, public comments will be taken into consideration and incorporated into a final version of the GSP before submitting to DWR by January 31, 2020. Following submittal, stakeholders will be given a 60-day comment period through the DWR's SGMA portal at <http://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/>. Comments will be posted to the DWR's website prior to the state agency's evaluation, assessment, and approval.

Stakeholder Concerns and Questions

Many multi-organization planning processes can be complex and difficult for community members to understand the required decision-making steps and where and how their issues and concerns will be addressed. Groundwater management also includes complex information regarding hydrogeology and water use. Educating and engaging groundwater stakeholders and the community on the complex issues, and meeting the deadlines established by SGMA, requires an organized strategy for stakeholder

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engagement. The first step in that strategy is to understand the important community issues and perspectives regarding groundwater management in the Cuyama Valley.

From January 15 through 27, 2018, the Catalyst team conducted 22 phone conversations with members of the CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee, CBGSA staff, staff from each of the participating counties, and several other community representatives. Participants expressed a wide range of perspectives, comments, concerns, issues, and suggestions. From these perspectives, several common views emerged, which can form the basis for constructive discussion and planning for the GSP. The common themes included the following outreach and planning objectives:

1. **Provide a fair, balanced, and transparent public process** that builds trust and understanding towards the common goal of a GSP that can best benefit everyone in the Cuyama Basin.
2. **Provide a public meeting environment that is inclusive** of all perspectives and all stakeholders.
3. **Provide education on a range of topics**, at key milestones throughout the planning process, beginning with education about SGMA and what a GSP includes.
4. **Provide education and outreach specifically inclusive** of smaller farmers/ranchers and the Hispanic community.
5. **Develop a GSP that is fair** for all stakeholders in the Cuyama Basin.

The various suggestions, concerns, comments, and issues can be grouped into three areas: (1) GSP Planning Process, (2) Analysis and Evaluation, and (3) Outreach and Engagement, which are summarized in Appendix B.

Outreach Methods

Communication strategies have shifted in recent years due to the evolution of online access to information. However, it is important to recognize that not all Cuyama Valley residents have access to email and the internet. Therefore, the outreach methods include both online access and traditional means of hard copy information dissemination. The Cuyama Valley also has a substantial Hispanic population, many of whom speak only Spanish. Therefore, core materials (online and hard copy) will be prepared in Spanish. Based on the comments and suggestions expressed, the following are some of the general outreach tactics envisioned for this project:

1. Hold **regular meetings** with the CBGSA Standing Advisory Committee for technical review of GSP progress and increased opportunity for discussion and input. Include a GSP-specific educational topic at select meetings.
2. Hold **joint meetings/workshops** with the CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee at key milestones that can also serve as opportunities for public input.
3. Utilize **CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee** members for education and consensus building within the Cuyama Valley community.
4. Identify appropriate **venues** for hosting community meetings. Venues identified in New Cuyama include: Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, Cuyama Joint Unified School District facilities, Cuyama Valley Recreation District, and BlueSky.
5. Establish and use the **CBGSA website** (www.cuyamabasin.org) to house information about SGMA, the GSP process, CBGSA Board, Standing Advisory Committee, public meetings, project newsletters, project reports and studies, and groundwater data and information. It also provides options for contacting the CBGSA – via email, writing, or in person. Spanish-language information will be included. An opportunity to sign-up for project emails is included on each page of the website.

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6. Develop a **quarterly newsletter**, in English and in Spanish, to inform stakeholders about GSP planning, technical issues, and opportunities for participation and review in a simple, clear manner. Distribute the newsletter via email to the CBGSA stakeholder contact list and community email lists maintained by the Cuyama Family Resource Center, Cuyama Community Association, and San Luis Obispo County. Provide hardcopies, in English and Spanish, as a part of the Cuyama Recreation District's Quarterly Newsletter, which is mailed to all New Cuyama post office box holders. Volunteers will distribute hard copies at various locations throughout the Cuyama Valley.
7. Host **community workshops** for key stakeholders where project experts share educational information by topic, clarify technical data and issues, and offer opportunities for public questions and input. This includes hosting **Spanish-language information/input sessions**.
8. Host **informal briefing sessions** at various locations such as The Place in Ventucopa, the Buckhorn or Burger Barn in New Cuyama, the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, and/or other community locations such as schools and churches.
9. To assist with noticing of meetings and sharing project information, look to partner with local entities that have **existing email lists**. Entities that have been identified with existing email lists include San Luis Obispo County, CBGSA, Cuyama Family Resource Center, Cuyama Valley Community Association. Other entities that may have email contact lists that are being contacted included the Cuyama Basin Water District, Cuyama Community Services District, and the Blue Sky Center.
10. **Maintenance of Interested Persons List** (per SGMA Section 10723.4). The CBGSA maintains a list of interested persons, and routinely distributes meeting notices and relevant information to the stakeholders who have requested to be included. This list will continue to grow throughout the GSP development process.
11. Use **established outreach channels** such as community posting locations for placement and/or distribution of informational materials such as flyers or posters. Consider posting project information on fence posts leading to the more rural "fingers" of the Cuyama Valley.
12. Connect with **existing social media channels** for possible distribution of project information such as Facebook pages for entities including Cuyama Valley Recreation District, Cuyama Valley High School, Sleepy Creek Ranch, New Cuyama, and others.
13. Create targeted **PowerPoint** presentations for use at Workshops/Community Meetings.
Translate CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee presentations into **Spanish**.

Key Audiences

Knowing the various interested audiences is key to setting a solid course for stakeholder engagement throughout the GSP process. The various interested parties and stakeholders identified to date are listed in **Appendix C**.

According to Water Code section 10723.3, the GSP development process will consider the interests of holders of overlying groundwater rights (including agricultural users and domestic well owners), municipal well operators, public water systems, local land use planning agencies, environmental users of groundwater, surface water users (if there is a connection between surface and groundwater), the federal government, Native American tribes, disadvantaged communities, and other local agencies that were monitoring and managing groundwater usage in the GSP area. Additional relevant stakeholders have also been included.

The Engagement Strategy relies on the GSA governing board, Standing Advisory Committee, and the public to expand the list of interested and affected audiences as the GSP process unfolds.

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Key Messages

In addition to the monthly meetings of the CBGSA Board of Directors and Standing Advisory Committee, which are open to the public, key project messages and educational topics will also be presented via the CBGSA quarterly newsletter and community workshops. Additionally, select Standing Advisory Committee meetings will include an educational topic.

The topics to be covered will address the “Stakeholder Comments and Issues” summarized in Appendix B as well as general educational messages that cover all of the basics such as what is SGMA, what is the GSA, what is the GSP, what is the GSP timeline, etc. Messages will be developed as the GSP process unfolds and will generally be educational in nature. They will be a part of each presentation before the Board, Standing Advisory Committee, Community Workshops, and will be included the quarterly newsletter.

Planning Roadmap

Using established GSP milestones, the GSP planning team has developed an initial roadmap for stakeholder engagement. The GSP Planning Roadmap aligns issue/topic discussions and education with the technical data as it is developed and evaluated. **Figure 2, page 8** depicts the initial Cuyama Basin GSP Planning Roadmap, including the suggested timeline of stakeholder education needs, workshops and other opportunities for public review and input, and the sequencing of key issues for discussion with the CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee.

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APPENDIX A

CBGSA Board Members and Standing Advisory Committee Members

Board of Directors Members

Derek Yurosek	Chairperson, Cuyama Basin Water District
Lynn Compton	Vice Chairperson, County of San Luis Obispo
Byron Albano	Cuyama Basin Water District
Cory Bantilan	Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Tom Bracken	Cuyama Basin Water District
George Cappello	Cuyama Basin Water District
Paul Chounet	Cuyama Community Services District
Zack Scrivner	County of Kern
Glenn Shephard	County of Ventura
Das Williams	Santa Barbara County Water Agency
Jane Wooster	Cuyama Basin Water District

Standing Advisory Committee Members

Roberta Jaffe (Chair)	Landowner, Cottonwood Canyon area
Brenton Kelly (Vice Chair)	Quail Springs Permaculture, Ventucopa area
Claudia Alvarado	Hispanic Community member (<i>resigned in March 2019</i>)
Brad DeBranch	Bolthouse Properties
Louise Draucker	Cuyama Valley resident
Jake Furstenfeld	Sunridge Nurseries, Cuyama Valley resident
Joe Haslett	Organic Ag Products; landowner, Cottonwood Canyon area
Mike Post	Executive Director, Chimineas Ranch Foundation
Hilda Leticia Valenzue	Hispanic Community member

APPENDIX B

Summary of Comments and Issues from Stakeholder Interviews

1. GSP Planning Process

A. Understanding SGMA and the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

The Sustainable Management Groundwater Act (SGMA) is new, and not everyone understands what it requires and what the possible and/or expected outcomes might be. It was suggested that more education occur, early in the process, to better explain SGMA and the GSP process, including specific SGMA features such as management areas and water allocation approaches. It was also suggested that the roles and responsibilities of the CBGSA, Cuyama Basin Water District, Cuyama Community Services District (CCSD), and the counties be clearly defined for the public. Additionally, there was interest in how the GSP is being funded and how funding for solutions will work going forward.

The following is a summary of the groundwater-related topics expressed as suggested topics for further education and information:

SGMA and the GSP

- What is it and what is required?
- What is the definition of "sustainability" in the context of the GSP?
- How will de minimis water users and private well-owners fit into the GSP process?
- Who is responsible for the groundwater problem?
- What are the primary steps in the GSP process?
- When will specific issues be addressed during the GSP process?
- How will the GSP impact various stakeholders?
- What are some of the management and allocation options that will be considered?
- When will conceptual and/or hypothetical scenarios and solutions be available?

Groundwater 101

- What is groundwater?
- Define the groundwater problem in the Cuyama Basin?
- How does groundwater behave in different areas including Cottonwood Canyon, Ventucopa Uplands, Main Valley, and the "fingers" areas within the Cuyama Basin?
- What is happening hydrologically throughout the Cuyama Basin?
- What are: water budget, hydraulic balance, and groundwater modeling?
- How does surface water interact with and impact groundwater?
- What is the role of topography, geography, and geology in groundwater movement, supplies, and levels?
- What groundwater data is being used?

B. Perspectives on Joint Problem-Solving

Under the universally expressed premise, "we are all in this together," concerns were expressed that everyone in the Cuyama Basin learn to work together to achieve a fair and balanced GSP. Everyone is equally anxious about what it means to work together in the context of SGMA and the GSP. This is new to everyone. The anxiousness, in turn, affects individual perspectives on how groundwater works in the Cuyama Basin and on what fairness means. The importance of defining the groundwater problem as

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being essential to solving the problem was widely expressed. Some of the specific comments and suggestions include:

- Establish a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities among the CBGSA Board of Directors, Standing Advisory Committee, participating County's Boards of Supervisors, and CBGSA staff and consultants to support clarity in the decision-making process and to support the process moving forward to meet established timelines.
- Keep the focus on what it takes to get the GSP done to address groundwater overdraft fairly.
- For the Hispanic community perspective, consider adding a representative to the Standing Advisory Committee.

C. Concerns about Fairness, Balance, and Decision-Making

Many expressed concerns that the GSP must balance the needs of all interests, that the community engagement be accessible to everyone, and that outreach must be sure to include small farms/ranches and the Hispanic community. It was suggested that role of the Standing Advisory Committee be clarified further so that members are serving as a direct conduit for information to/from community members.

Additional comments, concerns and suggestions included the following:

- Support the building of understanding and trust among the various Cuyama Basin area residents, community interests, agricultural interests, oil and gas interests, other industry interests, and environmental interests, etc. who may express differing opinions and ideas during the planning process.
- Listen to all audiences, no matter the viewpoint or opinion. With three new organizations now working together (CBGSA, Cuyama Basin Water District, and Cuyama Community Services District), it is critical that the CBGSA Board of Directors, as the decision-making body, listen to all viewpoints whether opposing or new opinions, thoughts.
- Encourage "big ag" to listen to small farmers, ranchers, homesteaders and vice versa.
- Be inclusive of residents, farmers and ranchers in the "finger" areas feeding into the Cuyama Valley.
- Be sure small farms/ranches and the Hispanic community are included.

2. Analysis and Evaluation

For the development of a successful GSP, analysis and evaluation of groundwater data is essential. Comments and concerns were expressed about the analysis and evaluation of the groundwater data that will be used for the preparation of the GSP. Many expressed concerns about the adequacy and reliability of the available groundwater data. It was suggested that mapping used for presentations be simplified and displayed at a scale that is more user-friendly.

The comments and concerns expressed about groundwater assessment and monitoring were generally related to need for more information about the following:

- What is the available data, the basin groundwater conditions (past, present), and Basin boundaries (hydrogeologic and jurisdictional)?
- How will historical changes in the Basin be factored in?
- How will historical groundwater data, anecdotal water information, and oral histories be considered in the GSP process?
- Will water use data be collected "door-to-door" from farmers, ranchers, landowners?
- What is a conceptual and analytic groundwater model?
- What is a water budget?
- Need to fill the gaps in the coverage of information about wells and water in the Basin.

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- Explain how “undesirable results” are defined by SGMA and how they will be used in the GSP.
- Explain what modeling is and the assumptions used.
- How will historical groundwater data, anecdotal water information, and oral histories be considered in the GSP process?
- For a more complete picture of groundwater use, consider using satellite mapping to identify wells not previously identified.

The groundwater management concerns were expressed including:

- Groundwater access and management approaches vary across the Basin, how is that handled in the GSP?
- Developing sustainability goals and criteria is crucial for the success of the GSP.
- Identifying and evaluating management options is important.

Additional comments about evaluation considerations included concerns about:

- What are the possible economic impacts (e.g., jobs, property values, tax revenues)
- What are the possible natural resources impacts?
- What are the land management considerations that may be faced (e.g., dust control)
- What are the costs associated with the possible solutions?
- What will the water and cost allocation methods be?

3. Outreach and Engagement

Everyone was fully supportive of a comprehensive engagement strategy that is inclusive of all stakeholders. It was emphasized that it is essential to listen to all audiences, no matter the viewpoint or opinion. Many expressed the importance of timely, clear and transparent outreach, education and facilitation throughout the GSP process.

A. Additional General Suggestions and Comments

- Provide transparent, clear, and consistent information accessible to all stakeholders.
- Develop educational information and conduct outreach forums for Spanish speaking residents, ensuring that language differences do not become barriers to allowing for an inclusive and transparent planning process.
- Provide technical information in understandable terms for all stakeholders, and translate key materials into Spanish for the Hispanic Community.
- Identify and respond effectively to information and educational requests.
- Identify and coordinate SGMA-related outreach occurring relative to the GSP by entities such as the Cuyama Community Services District, Cuyama Basin Water District, Cuyama Family Resource Center, Blue Sky, and others.
- Through the outreach process, by working toward a shared common goal under SGMA, support the development of an overall vision for the future of Cuyama Valley; help shape a vision for the Cuyama Valley for generations to come.
- Outreach must go beyond those affiliated with the Cuyama Community Services District, Cuyama Basin Water District, Cuyama Family Resource Center, Blue Sky. It must reach residents outside of these spheres.

B. Suggestions and Comments about Outreach and Engagement Tools/Tactics

Communication strategies have shifted in recent years due to the evolution of access to online information. It is important to recognize that not all Cuyama Valley area residents have access to email

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and the internet. Targeted materials will be translated into Spanish. Suggestions and comments about outreach and engagement include the following.

Community Workshops

- Hold periodic joint meetings/workshops with the CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee that serve as public input and education opportunities.
- Host community workshops where project team members are available to provide information by topic, clarify technical data and issues, and offer opportunities for public questions and input. Include hosting sessions in Spanish.
- Use both the CBGSA Board and Standing Advisory Committee members for education and consensus building within the Cuyama Valley community.

Briefings and Informal Availability Sessions

- Host informal sessions at various locations such as The Place, in Ventucopa, CA and the Buckhorn or Burger Barn in New Cuyama, CA, and the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center. These could also occur at local churches or schools.
- Participate in existing events when possible.

Information Availability

- Develop targeted factsheets, flyers, and postings that inform stakeholders about technical issues and GSP progress in a simple, clear manner.
- Use established outreach channels for distribution of information such as posting boards at businesses.
- Develop informational flyers and posters that could be made available at local information boards and posting locations around the Cuyama Valley.
- Tie in with existing social media channels such as the Facebook pages for local organizations including Cuyama Valley Recreation District, Cuyama Valley High School, Cuyama Valley Community Association, Cuyama, New Cuyama, and others.

Other Suggestions

- Suggestions were made to coordinate with the local school teachers to coordinate education about SGMA and groundwater.
- Recommendations were made to conduct a survey about groundwater's use and history.
- Suggestions were made to conduct an "Ideas Contest" to solicit ideas about solutions for the groundwater problem.

APPENDIX C Key Audiences

California Water Code Section 10723.3 Stakeholders

Agricultural Users and Domestic Well Owners

- Holders of Overlying Groundwater Rights
- Small farms, ranches and orchards throughout the Cuyama Valley
- South Cuyama Oil Field
- Cuyama Orchards, Albano family
- Bolthouse Farms, subsidiary of Campbell Soup Company
- Grimmway Farms
- Duncan Family Farms
- Triangle E. Farms
- Walking U Ranch
- Caliente Ranch
- Condor's Hope Ranch
- SZ Ranch
- River Valley Ranch
- Cuyama Valley Solar Facility
- Northfork Ranch - "Harvard" Vineyard, managed by Grapevine Properties

Municipal Well Operators and Public Water System Operators

- Cuyama Community Services District
- Cuyama Mutual Water Company (private operator)
- Ventucopa Water Supply Company (private operator)

Local Land Use Planning Agencies

- Kern, Ventura, San Luis Obispo, and Kern counties
- County Agricultural Commissioners
- [Integrated Regional Water Management program – Santa Barbara County](#)
- [Integrated Regional Water Management program – San Luis Obispo County](#)
- [Watershed Coalition of Ventura County](#), Integrated Regional Water Management program – Ventura County
- Adjacent GSAs

Environmental Groundwater Users

- To be identified

Surface Water Users (if there is a connection between surface and groundwater)

- None

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Federal Government Agencies

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife, 2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, California 93003
- U.S. Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest, Headquarters, 6750 Navigator Way, Ste. 150, Goleta, CA 93117
- U.S. Forest Service, Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Refuge Manager, Debora Kirkland, 2493 Portola Rd. Suite A, Ventura, CA 93003
- USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, 5076 N Marty Ave, Fresno, CA 93711

Native American Tribes

- None in the Cuyama Basin.

Disadvantaged and Severely Disadvantaged Communities

- New Cuyama
- Cuyama
- Ventucopa

Other State and Local Agencies that Monitor and Manage Groundwater Usage

- California Department of Water Resources, Sacramento
- State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento
- Others to be determined

Additional Stakeholders

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

- Board of Directors
- Standing Advisory Committee

Elected Officials

- County Supervisors representing Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties
- Salud Carbajal, Representative, California's 24th congressional district
- Kevin McCarthy, Representative, California's 23rd congressional district
- Assembly Districts: 34th, 35th, and 37th
- Senate Districts: 16th, 17th, 19th

State Agencies

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Headquarters, Mailing: P.O. Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
- California Wildlife Conservation Board, c/o CDFW, 1416 9th Street, Room 1266, Sacramento, CA 95814
- California Natural Resources Agency, 1416 9th St #1311, Sacramento, CA 95814
- San Luis Obispo County, Cooperative Extension, 2156 Sierra Way, Ste. C, San Luis Obispo 93401
- Ventura County, Cooperative Extension, 669 County Square Dr., #100, Ventura, CA 93003
- Kern County, Cooperative Extension, 1031 South Mount Vernon Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93307

Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

- Cachuma Resource Conservation District (CRCD), 44-A La Guardia St 920 East Stowell Road, Santa Maria, CA 93454
- Colleges and Universities: Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo; Cal State Bakersfield; University of Santa Barbara

Business Interests

- Workers and laborers in the Cuyama Valley
- South Cuyama Oil Field
- Cuyama Valley Solar Facility
- Mining activities
- The Place, Ventucopa
- Burger Barn, New Cuyama
- Cuyama Buckhorn, New Cuyama
- C & H Market, New Cuyama
- Hardware Store, Cuyama
- Cuyama Buckhorn, Restraunt and Motel

Local Communities and Community Organizations

- Cuyama Valley Community Association
- Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center
- Cuyama Valley Recreation District
- Blue Sky Center

Disadvantaged Community Organizations

- Community Water Center, Laurel Firestone
- Community Water Center, Debbie Ores
- Clean Water Action, Jennifer Clary
- Leadership Council for Justice and Accountability, Mike Claiborne and Robert Fuentes
- Self Help Enterprises, Paul Boyer

Environmental Interests/Organizations

- Los Padres Forest Watch, <http://lpfw.org>
- Native Plant Society, San Luis Obispo chapter; Kern County chapter, Ventura County chapter
- Friends of California Condors Wild and Free
- Ventura County Audubon Society Chapter, P. O. Box 24198, Ventura, California 93002
- Morro Coast Audubon Society, PO Box 1507, Morro Bay, CA 93443

News Media

There are no news outlets that cover the Cuyama Valley.

APPENDIX D

Links to SGMA and Groundwater Information

California Department of Water Resources, SGMA: <http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/>

California Department of Water Resources Critically Overdrafted Basins:

<http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/cod.cfm>

Department of Water Resources, Draft Guidance for GSP Stakeholder Communication and Engagement

http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GD_C&E_Final_2017-06-29.pdf

Department of Water Resources, Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Digital Toolkit

http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/digital_toolkit.cfm

UC Davis SGMA Resources: <http://groundwater.ucdavis.edu/SGMA/>

Union of Concerned Scientists, A Guide to California's Groundwater Sustainability Plans, in English and

Spanish: [https://www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/ca-and-western-states/groundwater-](https://www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/ca-and-western-states/groundwater-toolkit#.WnSt5KinFPY)

[toolkit#.WnSt5KinFPY](https://www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/ca-and-western-states/groundwater-toolkit#.WnSt5KinFPY)

Union of Concerned Scientist, SMGA information: [https://www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/regional-](https://www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/regional-information/california-and-western-states/sustainable-groundwater-management-act#.Wne0ga2ZPq0)

[information/california-and-western-states/sustainable-groundwater-management-act#.Wne0ga2ZPq0](https://www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/regional-information/california-and-western-states/sustainable-groundwater-management-act#.Wne0ga2ZPq0)

Community Water Center, Union of Concerned Scientists, Clean Water Fund, Stakeholder Guide for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation:

https://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/communitywatercenter/pages/52/attachments/original/1438102537/SGMA_Stakeholder_Engagement_White_Paper.pdf?1438102537

USGS, California Water Use: https://ca.water.usgs.gov/water_use/2010-california-water-use.htm

