

Fall 2024

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) are required under California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) to achieve and maintain sustainable groundwater conditions by 2042. GSAs accomplish this by developing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) and implementing projects and management actions.

The Red Bluff, Los Molinos, and Antelope Subbasins are managed by one GSA: the Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (TCFCWCD). The Corning Subbasin spans the border of Tehama and Glenn Counties and is managed by TCFCWCD GSA and the Corning Subbasin GSA (CSGSA).

Last year, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) awarded a total of \$15 million across the Corning, Red Bluff, Los Molinos, and Antelope Subbasins to fund the GSAs’ efforts to manage their GSPs, address data gaps, and carry out certain projects and management actions.

This Newsletter provides an update on progress made by the GSAs and the consulting team headed by Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) to complete this grant-funded work by the grant’s end date of March 2026.

Upcoming Public Open Houses in Antelope and Corning Subbasins

Mark your calendars! Join us for open house events on recent updates in groundwater management and learn more about addressing data gaps in the Antelope and Corning Subbasins.

ANTELOPE SUBBASIN OPEN HOUSE [\(View Flyer\)](#) [\(RSVP here\)](#)

November 14, 2024 | 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Antelope Elementary School, 22630 Antelope Blvd., Red Bluff

CORNING SUBBASIN OPEN HOUSE [\(View Flyer\)](#) [\(RSVP here\)](#)

November 20, 2024 | 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Corning Senior Center, 1015 4th Ave., Corning

These meetings will be in-person with the option to listen to the main session online. Stations will be available after the main presentation for in-person participants to engage in more specific Q&A. Registration is not required, but for planning purposes is encouraged. Updates and meeting materials will be posted to TehamaCountyWater.org and CountyofGlenn.net/Corning-Sub-basin-GSA.



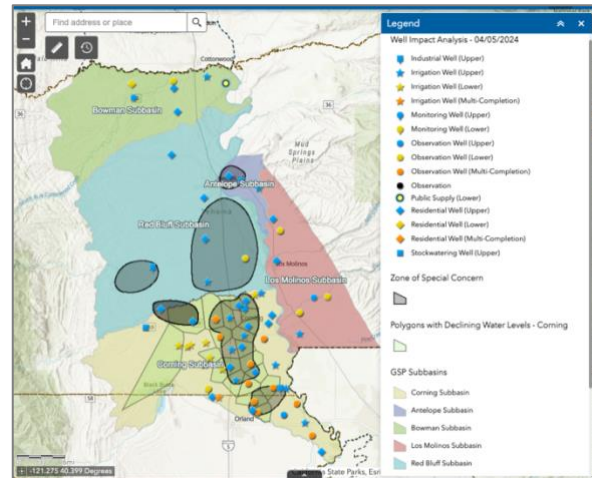


Updated Data Viewer Map

Check out the latest interactive online map with abundant groundwater information for the Corning, Red Bluff, Los Molinos, Antelope, and Bowman Subbasins. Learn more about your groundwater subbasins and zones of special concern. You can also view wells in the monitoring network with corresponding groundwater information such as groundwater levels, measurable objectives, minimum thresholds, etc.

Follow this link to begin exploring!

<https://bit.ly/TehamaGlennSGMADataMapView>



Addressing Data Gaps through Enhanced Monitoring

Funding from the grant is enabling the GSAs to expand the monitoring network and conduct studies needed to fill data gaps and deficiencies outlined in the GSP as well as fund ongoing compliance monitoring needed to complete annual reports for DWR.

Working Together to Enhance and Expand the Monitoring Network

Lots of planning and coordination with DWR has been occurring and environmental compliance documentation has just been cleared by DWR in October 2024. The monitoring network will be expanded starting with multi-completion well installations beginning in early November 2024. Monitoring wells at each location are expected to have three completions at varying depths to track water levels across different parts of the aquifer units and can help establish how connected different layers are.

In the Corning Subbasin, expansion of the GSP monitoring networks will be achieved through the installation of 5 multi-completion wells and 10 interconnected surface water monitoring sites. Additionally, beginning in late 2024, shallower wells will be installed along stream banks and tied to new stream gages installed at the same locations. These wells will be used to track how streams are connected to the groundwater through the subbasin.

A domestic well monitoring program is planned to be implemented by March of 2025. Acoustic non-intrusive monitoring equipment will be installed on 25 volunteer wells to track water levels. More information on the program and how participation will work will be presented at the open house and in follow up emails to interested parties. We are collecting contact information from interested people



through the end of November 2024. If you think you might be interested and want more information, follow the link in the QR code (below) or attend the upcoming open house!



Domestic Well Monitoring

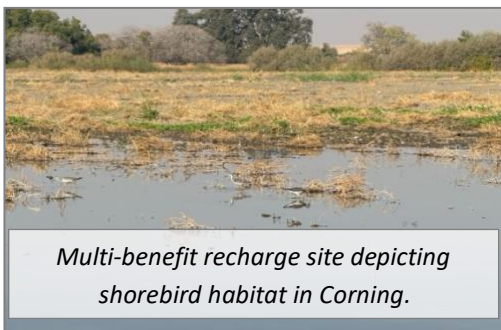
bit.ly/DomesticWellMonitoring-InterestForm

Interested in becoming part of the domestic monitoring program?

Sign up at the link. You will be entered into our list of potential volunteers and will receive an email with a questionnaire near the end of November/early December. After we receive results from the questionnaire, we will select the most appropriate participants from that list. If selected, we will contact you by the end of December to schedule an installation appointment near March.

In the Corning Subbasin, a geologic study is being conducted using the recent airborne electromagnetic survey (AEM) data available from DWR. This study will expand the understanding of the geologic framework of the aquifer throughout the subbasin. It can give insight into how much potential aquifer material exists and how connected it is. The first step currently underway is comparing these new detailed underground maps with their existing computer models to improve our understanding of the region's groundwater resources.

Initial Indications from Recharge Feasibility Work



The recharge team has been continuing to meet with landowners and conduct site visits in the Corning and Red Bluff Subbasins to identify additional potential locations for groundwater recharge.

Since the start of the grant period, approximately 165 acre-feet of water have been recharged through four pilot projects. The largest pilot project being conducted was developed in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). This project began in September and will continue through mid-November.

TNC has provided funding for water, and by the project's conclusion, we anticipate recharging 300 acre-feet. This site has also proven valuable for shorebird habitats, aligning with the project's multi-benefit objectives. Upon completion of this project, a feasibility study will be developed highlighting the recharge benefits achieved.

Looking ahead, two additional pilot projects, targeting recharge through unlined creeks, are planned for completion by the end of the year.



Are you a landowner in Corning, Red Bluff, or Los Molinos Subbasin and **interested in participating in recharge projects**? Follow the link (bit.ly/Recharge-InterestForm) or scan the QR code below

Interested in participating in recharge projects?

We invite landowners in the Corning, Red Bluff or Los Molinos Subbasins interested in recharge opportunities to fill out an interest form survey by following the link to the right or scanning the QR code. Please note that any and all data submitted may be used publicly as part of ongoing recharge activities within the subbasin. Participation in the survey isn't a guarantee of future surface water and/or participation in future recharge activities.



Recharge Opportunities

bit.ly/Recharge-InterestForm

Conjunctive Use Updates

To maximize surface water usage, outreach to water districts within the Corning Subbasin has commenced. Meetings will be scheduled with these districts to assess existing surface water conveyance infrastructure and available surface water supplies. Additionally, outreach efforts have begun with landowners to document barriers to surface water utilization. Sixteen projects have been identified where farmers seek connections to surface water, and two of these projects have been implemented to trial the implementation process. Further data will be gathered on the remaining projects, which will be prioritized as current initiatives exceed the available funding. Implementation of these projects will continue throughout the remainder of the grant period.

On the Horizon

GSP Revision Determinations

On April 22, 2024, revised versions of the Corning, Red Bluff, Los Molinos, and Antelope GSPs (which were determined incomplete by DWR in October 2023) were submitted to DWR for their review. Among other updates, the revised GSPs each include commitments from the GSAs to develop Well Mitigation and Demand Management Programs. DWR's determination letters and the revised GSPs are available on DWR's SGMA portal: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/status>. DWR's determination on the revised GSPs is anticipated by the end of 2024.

Annual Reports

The Annual Report for Water Year 2024, required under SGMA, provides an important update on the health of groundwater basins across the subbasins in Tehama County and Northern Glenn County. Unlike the typical January-to-December calendar year, California uses a "water year" running from October 1 to September 30. This timeline aligns with the state's climate patterns, as most rain falls between October and April, replenishing groundwater and surface water supplies before the dry summer months.



Here's what the annual report includes to give a clear picture of groundwater sustainability:

- **Groundwater Levels and Usage:** The report includes data on groundwater levels, extraction volumes, surface water usage, and total water use in each basin. This information helps track changes from year to year and shows how well the basin is meeting its sustainability goals.
- **Progress of Projects and Management Actions (PMAs):** These may include projects like groundwater recharge (where water is intentionally directed to soak back into the ground) and water-saving practices. The report reviews the success of these actions in supporting long-term water sustainability.
- **Visual Tools:** To make the data accessible, maps, hydrographs, and other visuals are used to show changes in water levels and water use over time. These help community members and stakeholders understand how natural events and human activities impact groundwater.

By compiling this information, the report gives a clear, data-driven snapshot of each basin's progress toward sustainability. This transparency supports local agencies in adjusting plans to keep your groundwater on a path toward long-term health and resilience.

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE) surveys

In addition to the monitoring network enhancements, multiple studies are being conducted to expand the understanding of groundwater throughout the subbasin. A stream gaging study will collect flow measurements along streams at the same time to help understand how connectivity with groundwater changes along the stream and how that connectivity varies over the seasons. Measurements have been collected along select streams where access is available, but we need access to more measurement points.

A groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE) survey is being conducted periodically over the next year as well. Currently, the online mapping tool from TNC is the best data available on the location of GDEs. It is necessary to refine the understanding of GDEs since the mapping tool was developed using satellite data and has the potential to overestimate the GDEs that exist. The SGMA regulations require the GSAs to manage groundwater based on the best available data and if the current data overestimates GDEs in the area, more actions need to be taken to protect those areas.

The GDE survey team is currently seeking access to sites along streams to conduct these surveys and refine the current mapping that has been done. If you have property along a stream and are willing to allow access for either of these studies, reach out to the monitoring team via the well monitoring form (bit.ly/DomesticWellMonitoring-InterestForm).



Upcoming GSA Meetings

Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District GSA Board: TCFCWCD serves as the sole GSA managing the GSPs for the Los Molinos, Red Bluff, and Antelope Subbasins (in addition to the Bowman Subbasin, not covered under this GSP implementation project). TCFCWCD GSA manages the Corning Subbasin in coordination with the CSGSA, described below, under a single GSP. *Regular meetings of the TCFCWCD Board are generally scheduled for 10:00 AM, the third Monday of every month at the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 727 Oak Street in Red Bluff.* TehamaCountyWater.org/GSA

Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee: The CSGSA Committee is responsible for managing the Corning Subbasin in coordination with TCFCWCD under a single GSP. *Regular meetings are generally scheduled for 2:00 PM, the fourth Thursday of every month at the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation Pump Station at 7854 County Road 204 in Orland.* CountyofGlenn.net/Corning-Sub-Basin-GSA

Corning Subbasin Advisory Board: Management decisions for the Corning Subbasin are informed by recommendations from a Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) comprised of representatives from both GSAs. *Regular meetings of the CSAB are generally scheduled for 1:30 PM, the first Wednesday of every other month at the City of Corning Council Chambers at 794 Third Street in Corning.* CorningSubbasinGSP.org/CSAB-meetings

Tehama County Groundwater Commission: Management decisions for the Los Molinos, Red Bluff, Antelope and Bowman Subbasins are informed by recommendations from the Tehama County Groundwater Commission, comprised of appointed and elected members. The Tehama County Groundwater Commission also informs TCFCWCD GSA's decision-making regarding the Tehama County portion of the Corning Subbasin. *Regular meetings are generally scheduled for 8:30 AM, the second Wednesday of every month, also at the Board Supervisors Chambers in Red Bluff.* TehamaCountyWater.org/Meetings/Groundwater-Commission

Public Meetings: Upcoming public open houses in Antelope (Nov 14, [View Flyer](#)) and Corning (Nov 20, [View Flyer](#)). Materials from previous meetings are available on the corresponding GSA's meeting webpage, identified in the resources section of this Newsletter.

Upcoming Meetings at-a-Glance

November 2024

- Nov 13 | Groundwater Commission
- Nov 14 | Antelope Open House
- Nov 18 | TCFCWD Board
- Nov 20 | Corning Open House

December 2024

- Dec 4 | CSAB
- Dec 11 | Groundwater Commission
- Dec 12 | CSGSA Committee
- Dec 16 | TCFCWD Board

2024 11 NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

2024 12 DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



GSA Staff Contacts

Contact Justin Jenson at jjenson@tcpw.ca.gov or 530-690-0700 with questions about groundwater management in Tehama County, or contact TehamaGSA@tcpw.ca.gov to receive email notices from Tehama County.

Contact Lisa Hunter at lhunter@countyofglenn.net or 530-934-6540 with questions about groundwater management in the Corning Sub-basin GSA or to receive email notices from Glenn County.

Resources

Websites:

- Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District GSA: <https://tehamacountywater.org/gsa>
- Corning Sub-basin GSA: <https://www.countyofglenn.net/corning-sub-basin-gsa>
- Corning Subbasin Advisory Board meeting: <https://www.corningsubbasingsp.org/csab-meetings>

GSPs:

- Corning Subbasin GSP: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/preview/94>
- Antelope Subbasin GSP: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/preview/134>
- Red Bluff Subbasin GSP: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/preview/140>
- Los Molinos Subbasin GSP: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gsp/preview/139>

Water Year 2023 Annual Reports:

- Corning Subbasin 2023 Annual Report: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gspar/preview/370>
- Antelope Subbasin 2023 Annual Report: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gspar/preview/367>
- Red Bluff Subbasin 2023 Annual Report: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gspar/preview/369>
- Los Molinos Subbasin 2023 Annual Report: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gspar/preview/368>

Other Information:

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant Award: https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/News/Files/award-list_sgma_r2_final_list_sept2023_w_components_v2.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery
- DWR's Groundwater Recharge webpage: <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Recharge>

For information about [Tehama County's Well Registration Program](#), visit the TCFCWCD website.