

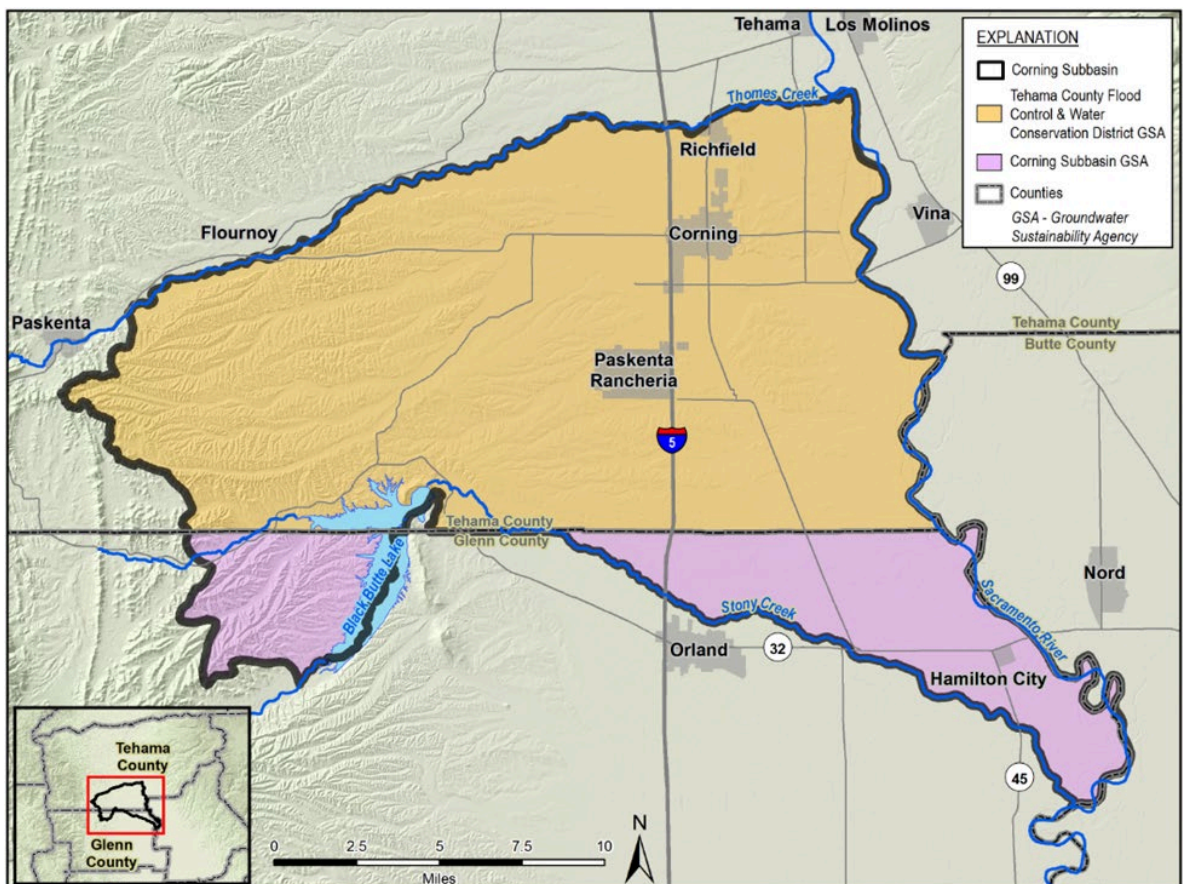
# Corning Subbasin Communications and Engagement Plan

Sustainable Groundwater Management  
Act Implementation, through 2027

January 2025

Prepared for:  
Corning Subbasin

Prepared by:  
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., 2025  
Consensus Building Institute, 2019



<b>Revision</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Date</b>
0	Original C&E Plan developed, to inform communication practices during the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development process	Consensus Building Institute	December 11, 2019
1	C&E Plan was updated	Consensus Building Institute	September 8, 2021
2	C&E Plan was updated	Consensus Building Institute	November 18, 2021
3	C&E Plan was updated	Consensus Building Institute	December 20, 2021
4	Updated based on stakeholder interview feedback and to identify opportunities for public engagement in GSP implementation activities.	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	June 3, 2024
5	Updated broken links in Appendix A: Tribal Engagement Resources	Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.	January 7, 2025

This document should be reviewed periodically, at least on an annual basis, to assess whether the communication and engagement goals are being met and to revise the strategies as applicable, to meet the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

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# CORNING SUBBASIN COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN

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## Abbreviations

C&E	Communications and Engagement
CSAB	Corning Subbasin Advisory Board
CSGSA	Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PMA	Projects and management actions
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014
TCFCWCD	Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

## Glossary

GSP Implementation	GSP implementation consists of management and administration activities, continued groundwater monitoring and implementation of projects and management actions, and outreach and education efforts.
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# CORNING SUBBASIN COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN

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## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Background on SGMA

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown on September 16, 2014. The legislation requires local public agencies to form Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA)—governing bodies with the authority needed to manage their region’s water resources in a manner compliant with the requirements of SGMA—in high- and medium-priority subbasins in California. These GSAs are then required to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) to achieve and maintain long-term sustainable management of their groundwater resources. California’s Department of Water Resources (DWR) determined that the Corning Subbasin (Bulletin 118 Basin Number 5-021.51) located in Tehama and Glenn counties is a high priority basin. This designation required the Corning Subbasin to submit a GSP to DWR no later than January 31, 2022.

Two GSAs in the Corning Subbasin formed by the state-mandated deadline of June 30, 2017: the Corning Sub-basin GSA (CSGSA)<sup>1</sup> and the Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (TCFCWCD) GSA. CSGSA has jurisdiction for the portion of the Corning Subbasin overlying Glenn County whereas TCFCWCD has jurisdiction for the portion that overlies Tehama County.<sup>2</sup> Management decisions for the Corning Subbasin are informed by recommendations from a Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) comprised of representatives from both GSAs.

The GSAs entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the purpose of developing a single GSP for the subbasin, which they submitted to DWR for review on January 28, 2022. On October 26, 2023, DWR issued an incomplete determination and granted the GSAs 180 days to address the Plan’s deficiencies. The revised GSP was resubmitted to DWR on April 22, 2024. The GSAs are tasked with implementing GSP activities and submitting annual reports and periodic evaluations every five years to DWR. By 2042, the subbasin will achieve sustainability and continue to be managed for sustainability into perpetuity.

### 1.2 Communication and Engagement Plans

The Corning Subbasin prepared their GSP through a publicly engaged process in accordance with GSP Emergency Regulations (California Code of Regulations Title 23. Waters Sections 350-358.4), which provides expectations for notification and communication by the GSA with the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the subbasin regarding GSP development milestones. That information was memorialized in the Communications and Engagement (C&E) Plan that was initially prepared in 2019, subsequently modified in 2021, and included in the GSP as Appendix 2A. The goal of the C&E Plan is to educate the public in meaningful ways, communicate what may often be complex concepts in

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<sup>1</sup> CSGSA was established by MOA between the County of Glenn, the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District, and the Monroeville Water District.

<sup>2</sup> TCFCWCD also serves as GSA manager for several other groundwater subbasins in Tehama County. In addition to receiving input from CSAB, the TCFCWCD GSA is advised by the Tehama County Groundwater Commission on recommended management decisions for the Tehama County portion of the Corning Subbasin and the other Tehama County subbasins under their jurisdiction.

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straightforward, comprehensible ways, and demonstrate how input that is received is considered and incorporated, as appropriate, into plans or processes. The GSAs will:

- Enhance understanding and inform the public about water and groundwater resources in the Corning Subbasin, the purpose and need for sustainable groundwater management, and GSP development and implementation activities,
- Engage a diverse group of interested parties and stakeholders and promote informed feedback from community members, groundwater-dependent users, and other interested parties throughout GSP development and implementation,
- Coordinate communication and involvement between the GSAs and other local agencies, elected and appointed officials, and the general public,
- Facilitate effective public engagement through the CSAB,
- Employ a variety of outreach methods that make public participation accessible and that encourages broad participation,
- Respond to public concerns and provide accurate and up-to-date information, and
- Manage communications and engagement in a manner that provides maximum value to the public and constitutes an efficient use of the GSAs' resources.

### **1.2.1 INTERESTED PARTIES**

California Water Code Section 10723.2 identifies interested parties that the GSA must consider when developing and implementing the GSP, including:

- Agricultural users of water, including farmers, ranchers, and dairy professionals
- Domestic well owners
- Municipal well operators
- Public water systems
- Local land use planning agencies
- Environmental users of groundwater
- Surface water users
- The federal government
- California Native American tribes (see Appendix A for Tribal Outreach Guidance Document)
- Disadvantaged communities (including those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems)

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## 1.3 The Need for a Plan Update

The submission of the GSP to DWR in 2022 marked the beginning of the “GSP implementation” phase of SGMA. This shift to plan implementation provided the GSAs an opportunity to consider how communication and engagement with the public will evolve to meet the interests and needs of the communities in the subbasin over the course of the GSP’s 20-year implementation timeline. This plan update is intended to inform communications and engagement through January 2027, when the next periodic evaluation will be conducted.

### 1.3.1 GATHERING FEEDBACK FROM SUBBASIN RESIDENTS

To update the C&E Plan, interviews were conducted with beneficial users of groundwater across the Corning Subbasin. Interviewees were identified by GSA staff and were chosen to represent the diverse stakeholder interests in the Corning Subbasin. Interview questions focused on perceptions of current C&E practices and opportunities for improvement. The results of these interviews were summarized into key themes, and opportunities to address and respond to those key themes are reflected in this 2024 update.

Stantec Consulting Services Inc (Stantec)<sup>3</sup> met with a total of 11 interview participants representing diverse interests in the subbasin to collect feedback on outreach and engagement during the GSP development process and to identify meaningful areas for improvement by the GSAs in incorporating input from the public. Interviews took place between December 2023 and January 2024, and included representatives from:

- City of Corning
- Domestic well owners
- Glenn County Resource Conservation District
- Hamilton City Fire Department
- Northern California Regional Land Trust
- Northern Region Office of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians
- Private irrigation and pumping interests
- Rangeland users from various Cattlemen’s and Cattlewomen’s Associations
- Tehama County Farm Bureau
- University of California Cooperative Extension

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<sup>3</sup> Stantec provides facilitation support to the Corning Subbasin through DWR’s Facilitation Support Services Program, a publicly funded program that supports GSAs with outreach and engagement activities implemented under SGMA.

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### **1.3.2 IMPROVING COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

Four major themes emerged from the interviews:

- 1) Members of the public have highly valued meetings as a place to engage with the two GSAs, and there are opportunities to make those meetings even more effective.
- 2) Some members of the public are not aware of SGMA or the potential impacts of undesirable results, while others are aware of it but have misconceptions about current conditions, the status of GSP projects and management actions (PMA), or the role SGMA can play in achieving sustainability.
- 3) There exists a perception that the two GSAs have not been responsive to public input, and that there are limited spaces to provide adequate public input.
- 4) Many members of the public do not know the difference between the two GSAs and have difficulty accessing information that clarifies this. It is not always clear when something pertains to them.

The GSA managers identified multiple opportunities to build upon and expand the existing C&E Plan to address and respond to these themes to sustain and improve communications and engagement for stakeholders in the Corning Subbasin. The results are integrated throughout this C&E Plan.

This update also builds on and expands the original C&E Plan to include information about GSP implementation activities such as development of annual reports, periodic GSP evaluations and amendments, modeling and monitoring of current and future subbasin conditions, and implementation of projects and management actions.



## 2.0 Outreach Activities

GSP implementation consists of management and administration activities, continued groundwater monitoring and implementation of projects and management actions, and outreach and education efforts. GSAs are expected to submit annual reports to DWR communicating their progress toward achieving sustainability using their GSP as a road map and must evaluate their Plans (and submit amendments, if appropriate) at least every five years according to that progress.

This section draws on the findings of the interviews to provide tools, activities, and strategies the GSAs may build on and employ to establish and maintain awareness and understanding of SGMA and the GSP implementation process among specific stakeholder groups. Many of the methods and tactics described in this section can be made successful by continuing to leverage existing partnerships or forging new connections with trusted partners. These partnerships can continue to provide access to communication outlets and events which can enhance outreach and engagement during GSP implementation.

### 2.1 Public Meetings

Public meetings and hearings represent one of the most meaningful ways that members of the public engage with groundwater planning in the Corning Subbasin. Regular meetings of the GSAs and the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) constitute opportunities for the public to provide official comments on programs, plans, and proposals, and share viewpoints and concerns. Public meetings are noticed and conducted in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act), when applicable.

The CSAB is comprised of elected officials and designees appointed by each of the two GSAs. As specified in the MOU that formed the CSAB, its purpose is to establish:

- A GSA cooperation forum,
- A publicly noticed meeting process in accordance with the Brown Act for public involvement in GSP implementation in the subbasin,
- A mechanism for GSAs to raise and attempt in good faith to resolve disputes that may occur between and among GSAs, and
- To make advisory recommendations to GSAs concerning implementation of the GSP.

When evaluating options and making decisions pertaining to the Corning Subbasin, the GSAs and CSAB solicit public input through a variety of public forums, including public meetings, public workshops, written and verbal comments, meetings with stakeholder organizations, and other applicable methods. Input can be made during public comment periods at GSA meetings, at CSAB meetings, and in writing. During these public meetings, there may be opportunities for two-way dialogue. This may be facilitated by the addition of a Q&A component to certain agenda items. Currently, public comments are permitted on all agenda items, but the stakeholder interviews indicated that some community members may not be aware

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of this opportunity. Input received from the public is documented in a public record, including, but not limited to, meeting minutes.

The meetings are currently held in person with a call-in/hybrid option for remote participants to listen in to and view proceedings. All interview participants appreciated the hybrid meeting format, and it therefore represents a high priority to consider continuing into the future. Additionally, meeting recordings could be posted online so that those who cannot attend are able to review asynchronously, which interviewees said would be very helpful.

Historically, there has been some inconsistency in the meeting schedule, which interview participants indicated made it difficult to track opportunities for engagement. To the extent possible, the GSAs can create more reliability in the meeting schedule by reducing the number of meeting cancellations and providing further advance notice for special meetings beyond the required 24-hours.

### **2.2 Public Workshops**

The GSAs and CSAB may convene public workshops, which stakeholder interviewees stated would be beneficial. These workshops provide more informal opportunities for people to learn and ask questions about groundwater, SGMA, and GSP implementation activities. Workshops can be organized in a variety of ways, including open houses, stations where people can ask questions one-on-one, and traditional presentations with facilitated question and answer sessions. To solicit feedback from people who may not be comfortable speaking in public, workshops may include small group breakout discussions, comment cards, surveys, and other techniques to promote inclusion. Whatever format is used, workshops will be designed to maximize opportunities for public engagement.

### **2.3 Member Agencies' Governance Briefings**

CSAB members will brief their respective councils or boards regularly on GSA activities. The CSAB is composed of representatives from each GSA, and as such members will also liaise with their respective GSA regularly to ensure that discussion and communication from the CSAB is being considered by each GSA, and vice versa. In particular, public comment made at CSAB meetings will be shared with the GSAs and public comment made at GSA Board Meetings will be shared with the CSAB so that public input can be incorporated in relevant activities.

Additionally, the CSGSA is composed of three member agencies. CSGSA Committee members will brief their respective councils or boards regularly on GSA activities, and vice versa. This will ensure there are no siloes and that information is frequently exchanged between the GSA and its member agencies.

## **3.0 Outreach Tools**

The GSAs in the Corning Subbasin will continue to use a variety of communications and engagement tools to keep the public informed, which may include communication through interested parties lists, websites, informational materials, newspaper notices, bulletins, mailings, and other electronic methods.

### **3.1 Interested Parties Lists**

SGMA mandates the creation of an interested parties list. A number of individuals in the subbasin do not have access to internet consistently, and it has been suggested that the GSAs consider alternatives for communicating with those people who do not use email to ensure that they are included in groundwater planning processes.

The two GSAs in the Corning Subbasin currently maintain separate email list-servs for interested parties, which are used to share information about upcoming GSA or CSAB meetings, public workshops, and GSP/GSA milestones. GSAs can contribute names of organizations, agencies, and individuals to the list. Whenever new inquiries are made and when new individuals participate in public meetings and workshops, their names will be added to the list if requested. Additionally, the GSAs will continue to add the names of partner organizations to the interested parties list when requested, to ensure that those partners are aware of GSA activities.

The lists are broad and include anyone who would like to stay informed about SGMA activities. GSA staff will continue to coordinate on the distribution of periodic updates to the interested parties lists. The lists will also be used for dissemination of information about public workshops, public meetings, and other engagement opportunities.

### **3.2 Websites**

The GSAs' websites will be a tool for distributing and archiving meeting and communication materials as well as a repository for any studies and informative, educational materials. Each GSA is responsible for ensuring its websites are updated on a consistent basis to ensure up to date, timely information.

Currently, three websites serve the Corning Subbasin: the CSGSA website, the TCFCWCD website, and the Corning Subbasin GSP website. As identified during the stakeholder interview process, there are opportunities to improve clarity between the sites. GSA staff plan to review the current website structure and inter-play between the websites, and make revisions to websites with a goal to provide relevant, up-to-date information, improve navigability, and ensure that the information posted on each is coordinated and cohesive. Additionally, maps and resources such as the Operations Plan (included in Appendix C to this document) may be posted to improve understanding of respective roles of the GSAs in managing the subbasin. The table below demonstrated what types of content can be found on each website, which may be revised after the website review process is complete.

**Table 1. Corning Subbasin Website Contents**

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Website	Content
Corning Subbasin GSP Website: <a href="https://www.corningsubbasingsp.org/">https://www.corningsubbasingsp.org/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CSAB meeting information</li><li>• GSP materials and Annual Reports</li></ul>
Corning Sub-basin GSA Website: <a href="https://www.countyofglenn.net/corning-sub-basin-gsa">https://www.countyofglenn.net/corning-sub-basin-gsa</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Corning Sub-basin GSA meeting information</li><li>• CSGSA long-term funding information</li><li>• Announcements of public meetings</li></ul>
Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District GSA Website: <a href="https://tehamacountywater.org/gsa/">https://tehamacountywater.org/gsa/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Board of Directors meeting information</li><li>• Tehama County Groundwater Commission meeting information</li><li>• District maintained groundwater well monitoring data</li><li>• Public workshop announcements and recordings</li></ul>

### 3.3 Informational Materials

Developing a variety of informational materials is supportive to successful education and outreach initiatives and helps to circulate consistent, accurate information. This will help the general public become aware of SGMA, the potential impact of undesirable results, current conditions in the subbasin, the status of PMAs, and the role that SGMA can play in achieving sustainability. This was indicated as a gap in the interview process, and accordingly the Corning Subbasin GSAs will consider developing a range of materials to build on their education and outreach programs, which may include:

- **Talking Points:** Clear, concise messages for the GSAs to use when communicating with media, organizations, and stakeholders to improve accessibility and understanding.
- **Milestone Fact Sheets and PMA Updates:** Short, easy-to-read information for the GSAs to distribute while communicating with the public about GSP implementation progress or DWR grant-funded implementation projects underway in the Corning Subbasin.
- **Periodic Updates:** Regular updates developed by GSA staff for distribution using existing communications tools (see next section).
- **Newspaper editorials:** Editorial articles which may be developed by GSA staff for submittal to local news sources (see below under “newspaper notices” for a list of local news sources).
- **Operations Plan:** Document with the goal to help communicate the distinction between the two GSAs, and support understanding how the two entities relate to one another, to the GSP, and to SGMA overall (See Appendix C).
- **Graphic Maps:** Simple images which delineate various topics or projects graphically. An example would be a map depicting the GSAs geographic boundaries and associated governing bodies. The map may include inlays with educational materials that clearly demonstrate which GSA is relevant to a given resident on the subbasin.
- **Informational Fliers and Materials:** Additional informational fliers and materials developed by the GSAs to support the public in learning and understanding SGMA, the GSAs, GSP, and PMAs, as well as the role that SGMA can play in achieving groundwater sustainability.

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There may be some informational fliers and materials developed specifically for the use of partner agencies in explaining the value that GSAs provide, particularly for users that use very little groundwater, as well as current basin conditions. These informational fliers may be sent out as needed to partner agencies to share with their networks.

### **3.4 Newspaper Notices and Radio**

The GSAs may develop press releases, Public Service Announcements, or notices about upcoming public meetings in local newspapers and local radio. Multiple interview participants confirmed that they learned about upcoming GSA meetings in newspapers, particularly the Red Bluff Daily News. When practicable, newspaper postings may include a map to help readers identify if the meeting is relevant to them. Since interview participants most frequently cited the Red Bluff Daily News, the GSAs may prioritize outreach through that newspaper. Additional newspapers may include the Chico Enterprise Record, the Corning Daily Observer, and the Sacramento Valley Mirror. Press releases may be distributed to local and regional media and elected officials. See Appendix B for a media contact list.

### **3.5 Community Bulletin Boards**

In order to reach audiences that may not use the internet, interview participants suggested leveraging existing community bulletin boards. These community bulletin boards may be used to disseminate information about upcoming public meetings and events. Some community bulletin boards include, but are not limited to:

- Hamilton City Community Services District Community Calendar
- Corning Transportation Center banner board
- Corning Veteran's Memorial Hall
- City of Red Bluff Chamber of Commerce bulletin
- Church bulletins
- Grocery stores

### **3.6 Mailing and Utility Bill Notifications**

GSAs may use postcards or other means to include updates and relevant GSP implementation in utility bills or other regular mailings. These mailings and utility bill notifications may be targeted towards specific users, as suggested by stakeholder interviewees. For example, they may be sent to areas with high densities of domestic wells to alert them of the domestic well mitigation program, or they may be sent to a location where a proposed project is under consideration to be implemented. These mailings could include information for opportunities to provide comment, attend meetings, and otherwise share feedback, where appropriate.

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### **3.7 Social Media**

Existing Facebook, Twitter, and other emerging social media technologies may be leveraged to provide updates on implementation activities to interested parties. These tools may be used to increase awareness of GSA activities but would be paired with other outreach to ensure that those individuals in the Corning Subbasin without social media are included in the process. Stakeholder interviewees stressed the importance of using continuing to leverage multiple methods of outreach in this region.

### **3.8 Surveys**

Online tools, such as Survey Monkey, may be used periodically to gather stakeholder ideas and to provide feedback on key issues. This may occur particularly at or following public workshops and meetings, and findings from the surveys will be used to evaluate outreach results and adjust as appropriate.

### **4.0 Leveraging Partnerships, Coordinating with Neighbors**

#### **4.1 Potential Outreach Partners**

In addition to the communication tools listed above, the GSAs may continue to build on existing partnerships and develop new partnerships with organizations that share audiences or goals, to distribute information related to GSP implementation such as educational materials, informational fliers, meeting notices, fact sheets, and updates on SGMA milestones. Several of these entities indicated in their interview that their organization would be willing to make space for GSA updates in their existing newsletters or meeting venues. These potential partnering agencies and organizations include, but not limited to:

- California Water Service
- Capay Landowners Association
- City of Corning
- Corning Rotary Club
- Corning Water District
- Glenn Colusa Irrigation District
- Glenn County Farm Bureau
- Glenn County Resource Conservation DistrictHamilton City CSD
- Kirkwood Water District
- Monroeville Water District
- North Sacramento Valley (NSV) Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) group
- Northern California Regional Land Trust
- Orland Unit Water Users Association
- Paskenta Band of the Nomlaki Indians
- Reclamation District 2140
- Shasta-Tehama Watershed Education Coalition
- Tehama Colusa Canal Authority

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- Tehama County Farm Bureau
- Tehama County Groundwater Commission
- Tehama County Resource Conservation District
- Thomes Creek Water District
- Willows Lions Club

### 4.2 Inter-Basin Coordination

While inter-basin agreements are optional under SGMA, GSAs in the Corning Subbasin intend to coordinate with adjacent subbasins to share technical information and to ensure that the implementation of the GSPs in adjacent subbasins are compatible and will not cause any adverse effects in the Corning Subbasin or any other adjacent subbasins.

Adjacent subbasins include:

- Butte Subbasin
- Colusa Subbasin
- Los Molinos Subbasin
- Red Bluff Subbasin
- Vina Subbasin

Informal exchange of information and collaboration has been occurring between staff and consultants working on GSPs in subbasins throughout the region. A report for inter-basin coordination was developed to outline a framework for inter-basin coordination for sustainable groundwater management in the Northern Sacramento Valley. It describes a menu of options for ongoing communication and collaboration between and among groundwater subbasins over the twenty-year implementation of SGMA. This framework can be used by GSAs to support GSP development and implementation. Staff throughout the region presented the framework as a supporting document to guide and inform discussions with GSAs and at other subbasin-specific public venues, such as advisory committees, groundwater commissions, or other relevant venues. These discussions could help determine GSA priorities and the desired approach each GSA would like to take to draw upon the inter-basin coordination framework within their individual GSPs.

Subbasin staff acknowledge that while this report builds upon a long-standing history of regional collaboration, this is just the beginning of inter-basin coordination efforts under SGMA. Therefore, this framework will be continually refined throughout GSP implementation and inter-basin coordination activities will occur on an ongoing basis.



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Visit the website for more information:

<https://www.buttecounty.net/waterresourceconservation/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management-Act/Inter-basin-Coordination>

# **APPENDIX A**

## **Tribal Engagement in the Corning Subbasin: Guidance Document**

# Appendix A Tribal Engagement in the Corning Subbasin: Guidance Document

## SGMA's Tribal References

- **SGMA Section 10720.3.** ...any federally recognized Indian Tribe, appreciating the shared interest in assuring the sustainability of groundwater resources, may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a groundwater sustainability plan or groundwater management plan under this part through a joint powers authority or other agreement with local agencies in the basin. A participating Tribe shall be eligible to participate fully in planning, financing, and management under this part, including eligibility for grants and technical assistance, if any exercise of regulatory authority, enforcement, or imposition and collection of fees is pursuant to the Tribe's independent authority and not pursuant to authority granted to a groundwater sustainability agency under this part.
- **Guidance Document for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater Engagement with Tribal Governments:** [https://cawaterlibrary.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/GD\\_Tribal\\_Final\\_2017-06-28.pdf](https://cawaterlibrary.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/GD_Tribal_Final_2017-06-28.pdf)

## Must a local agency exclude federal and tribal lands from its service area when forming a GSA?

- No, federal lands and tribal lands need not be excluded from a local agency's GSA area if a local agency has jurisdiction in those areas; however, those areas are not subject to SGMA. But, a local agency in its GSA formation notice shall explain how it will consider the interests of the federal government and California Native American tribes when forming a GSA and developing a GSP. DWR strongly recommends that local agencies communicate with federal and tribal representatives prior to deciding to become a GSA. As stated in Water Code §10720.3, the federal government or any federally recognized Indian tribe, appreciating the shared interest in assuring the sustainability of groundwater resources, may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a GSP or groundwater management plan through a JPA or other agreement with local agencies in the basin. Water Code References: §10720.3, §10723.2, §10723.8

## Tribal Outreach Resources

The following are links to agency tribal outreach resources and considerations, each of which captures important principles and resources for tribal outreach. A short summary of key outreach principles can be found below.

- CalEPA Tribal Consultation Policy Memo (August 2015): <https://calepa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Tribal-Policy-2015Policy.pdf>

- DWR Tribal Engagement Policy (March 2016): [https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Delta-Conveyance/Tribal-Engagement/DWR Tribal Engagement Policy\\_508.pdf](https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Delta-Conveyance/Tribal-Engagement/DWR_Tribal_Engagement_Policy_508.pdf)
- CA Natural Resources Agency Tribal Consultation Policy (November 2012): [https://resources.ca.gov/CNRALegacyFiles/docs/tribal\\_policy/Final Tribal Policy.pdf](https://resources.ca.gov/CNRALegacyFiles/docs/tribal_policy/Final_Tribal_Policy.pdf)
- SWRCB Proposed Tribal Beneficial Uses: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about\\_us/public\\_participation/tribal\\_affairs/beneficial\\_uses.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/about_us/public_participation/tribal_affairs/beneficial_uses.html)
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge resources: <http://climate.calcommons.org/article/tek>
- Water Education Foundation Tribal Water Issues: <https://www.watereducation.org/topic-tribal-water-issues>

#### Key Outreach Principles:

- Engage early and often
- Consider tribal beneficial uses in decision-making (identified by region here); identify and seek to protect tribal cultural resources
- Share relevant documentation with tribal officials
- Conduct meetings at times convenient for tribal participation with ample notifications
- Request relevant process input/data/information from tribes
- Empower tribes to act as tribal cultural resources caretakers
- Designate a tribal liaison(s) where appropriate
- Share resources for tribal involvement as is feasible
- Develop MOUs where relevant
- Be mindful of the traditions and cultural norms of tribes in your area

#### Key Outreach Partners/Liaisons

- California Indian Water Commission, Inc.
- DWR Office of Tribal Advisor
- DWR Regional Office

# **APPENDIX B**

## **Media Contact List**

## Appendix B Media Contact List

This appendix is presented with minimal changes to its original form that was included in the 2019 C&E Plan for GSP development. Contacts were updated during the 2024 C&E Plan Revision, where known.

Action News Now	Larua Eng	<a href="mailto:leng@actionnewsnow.com">leng@actionnewsnow.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:news@actionnewsnow.com">news@actionnewsnow.com</a>	530-520-5970
Appeal-Democrat (County Transcript, News Desk, Corning Observer	News Desk	<a href="mailto:adnewsroom@appealdemocrat.com">adnewsroom@appealdemocrat.com</a>	530-749-6552 530-749-4780
Chico Enterprise Record	News Desk	<a href="mailto:localnews@chicoer.com">localnews@chicoer.com</a>	520-896-7761
CPAY Radio	Bruce		530-345-6397
KRCR	News Director	<a href="mailto:news@kaftv.com">news@kaftv.com</a>	530-232-5702
NSPR	Sarah Bohannon	<a href="mailto:sebohannon@csuchico.edu">sebohannon@csuchico.edu</a>	530-893-39323
Red Bluff Daily News	George Johnston	<a href="mailto:gjohnston@redbluffdailynews.com">gjohnston@redbluffdailynews.com</a>	
The Sacramento Valley Mirror	Doug Ross	<a href="mailto:valleymirror@pulsarco.com">valleymirror@pulsarco.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:yfiles@yahoo.com">yfiles@yahoo.com</a> ; <a href="mailto:yfiles@gmail.com">yfiles@gmail.com</a> ;	

# **APPENDIX C**

## **Corning Subbasin Operations Plan**

# **Corning Subbasin (5-021.51) Operations Plan**

Prepared by Stantec Consulting, Inc.  
November 2023



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## Appendices

Operations Plan Record of Changes

Memorandum of Understanding Among Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Corning Subbasin

Memorandum of Agreement for the Formation of the Corning Sub-Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency – original (2017) and amended (2020)

Corning Subbasin Stakeholder Communications and Engagement Plan, Appendix 2A to the Corning Subbasin GSP

## Acronyms

CSAB	Corning Subbasin Advisory Board
CSGSA	Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
Operations Plan	Corning Subbasin Operations Plan
PMA	Projects and Management Actions
SGM	Sustainable Groundwater Management
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
Subbasin	Corning Subbasin
Tehama County FCWCD	Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

## Key Definitions/Glossary

**GSP Implementation** – includes all activities following GSP adoption, such as updates to the Plan, development of annual reports, modeling and monitoring, and projects and management actions.

## 1. Operations Plan Scope

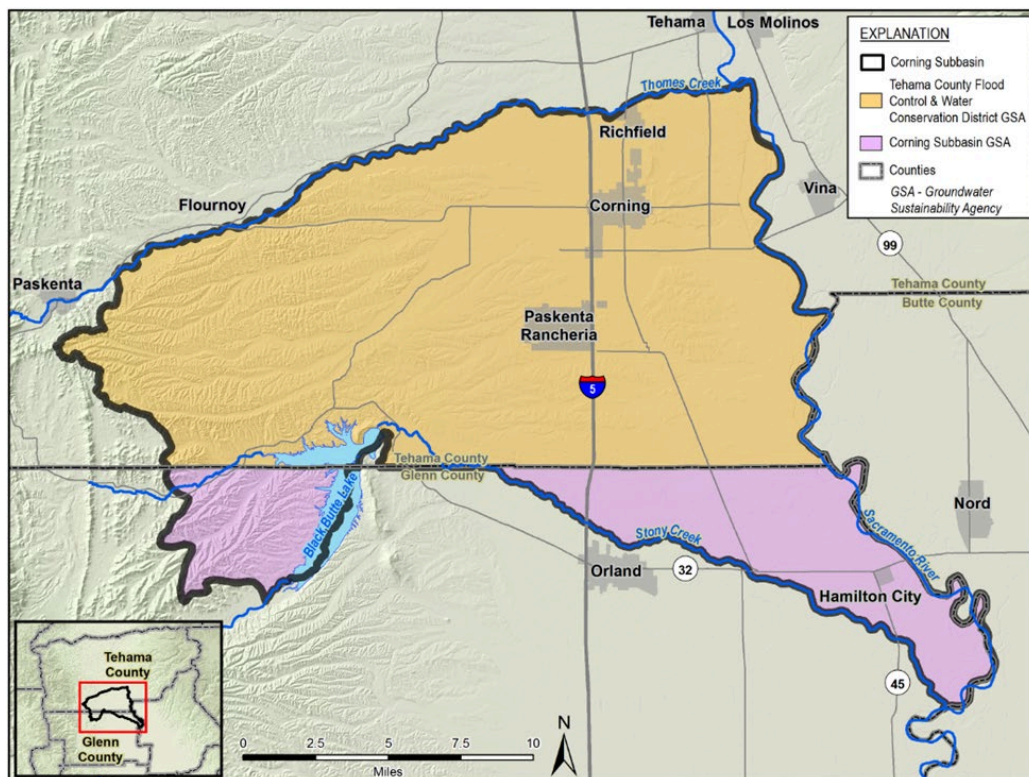
This Corning Subbasin Operations Plan (Operations Plan) has been developed with the Corning Subbasin to document its organizational structure and operations. This Operations Plan describes the governance structure of the two Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) and their associated supports and delineates the organizational roles and responsibilities of those entities to implement the Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) over the 20-year time horizon required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This Operations Plan is intended to assist subbasin managers in formalizing roles and responsibilities for GSA administration and GSP implementation and may also serve to support discussions on cost-sharing responsibilities and maintenance of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the agencies.

This Operations Plan also documents subbasin-level and GSA-level priorities for administrative and implementation tasks, and their approaches to administration, compliance, education and communication, and project management activities.

## 2. Governance and Organization

The Corning Subbasin is managed by two GSAs, shown in **Figure 2-1**. The Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (Tehama County FCWCD) is the GSA for the Tehama County portion of the Subbasin. The Glenn County portion of the Subbasin is governed by the Corning Sub-basin GSA (CSGSA), which is comprised of multiple agencies through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA),<sup>1</sup> including: Glenn County, the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID), and the Monroeville Water District.

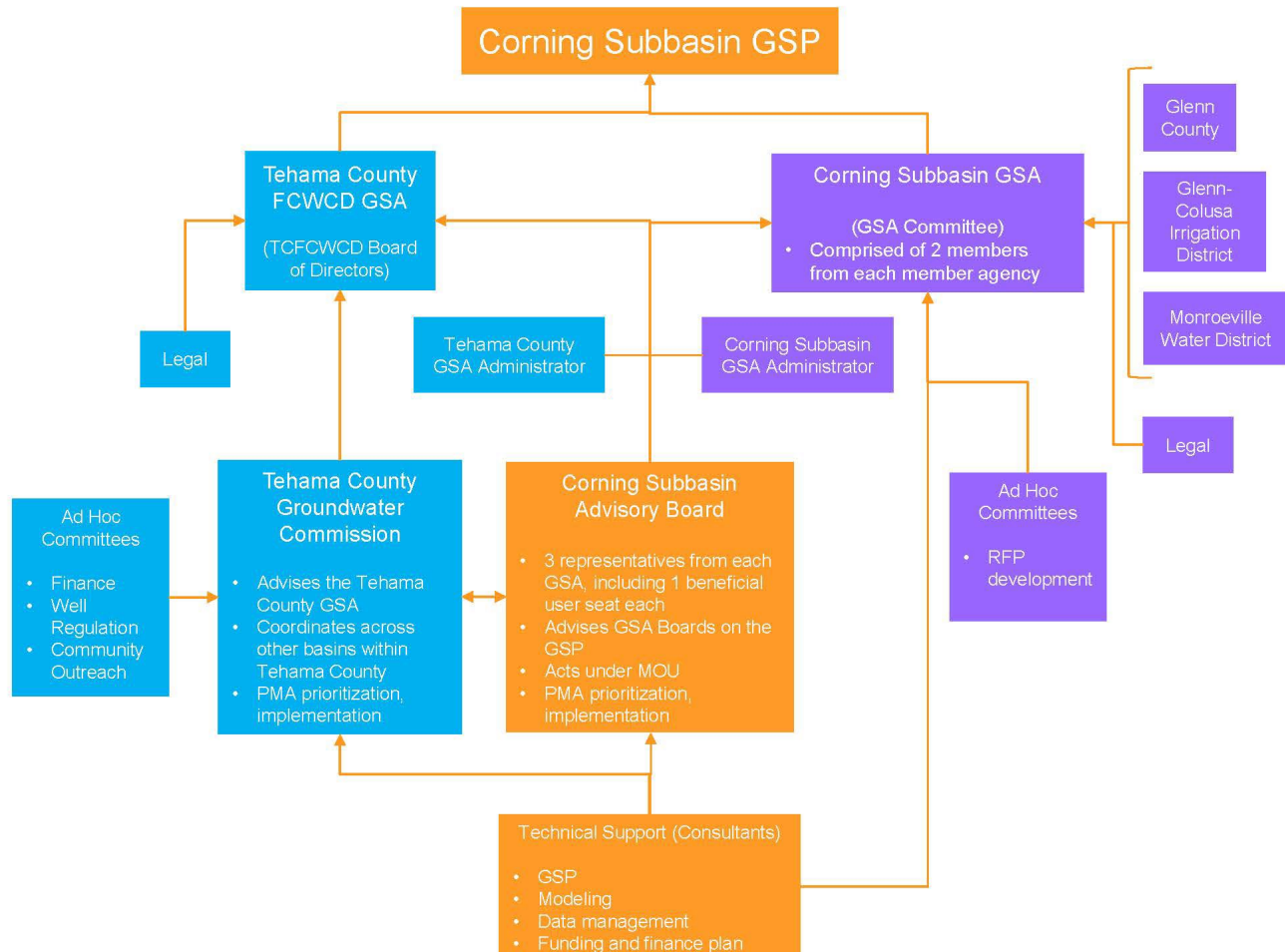
**Figure 2-1 Corning Subbasin GSAs**



<sup>1</sup> Memorandum of Agreement for the Formation of the Corning Sub-Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, entered into on July 6, 2017, between the County of Glenn and the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District, subsequently amended on July 7, 2020 to include Monroeville Water District.

The two GSAs formed an MOU<sup>2</sup> to develop and implement a coordinated GSP for the Corning Subbasin, which was submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on January 28, 2022. The governance and organizational structure of the GSAs are depicted in **Figure 2-2** and further described below.

**Figure 2-2 Corning Subbasin Governance and Organization**



### Corning Subbasin GSA

The CSGSA is governed by a GSA Committee made up of two representatives from each of the three member agencies. The six-member GSA Committee is advised by a six-member Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB). The CSGSA has the authority to form ad hoc committees to provide recommendations on specific topics as directed by the CSGSA for example: finance, fee structures, community outreach, or development of requests for proposals.

The CSGSA is supported by an administrator who works in concert with the administrator of the Tehama County FCWCD GSA to convene the CSAB and manage implementation of the Corning Subbasin GSP. Legal counsel also informs GSA decision-making.

### Tehama County FCWCD GSA

The Tehama County FCWCD Board of Directors acts as the governing body of the GSA. In addition to sharing management responsibilities for the Corning Subbasin, the Tehama County FCWCD GSA is the sole manager of

<sup>2</sup> Memorandum of Understanding Among Groundwater Sustainability Agencies in the Corning Subbasin, signed January 2020 between the Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.



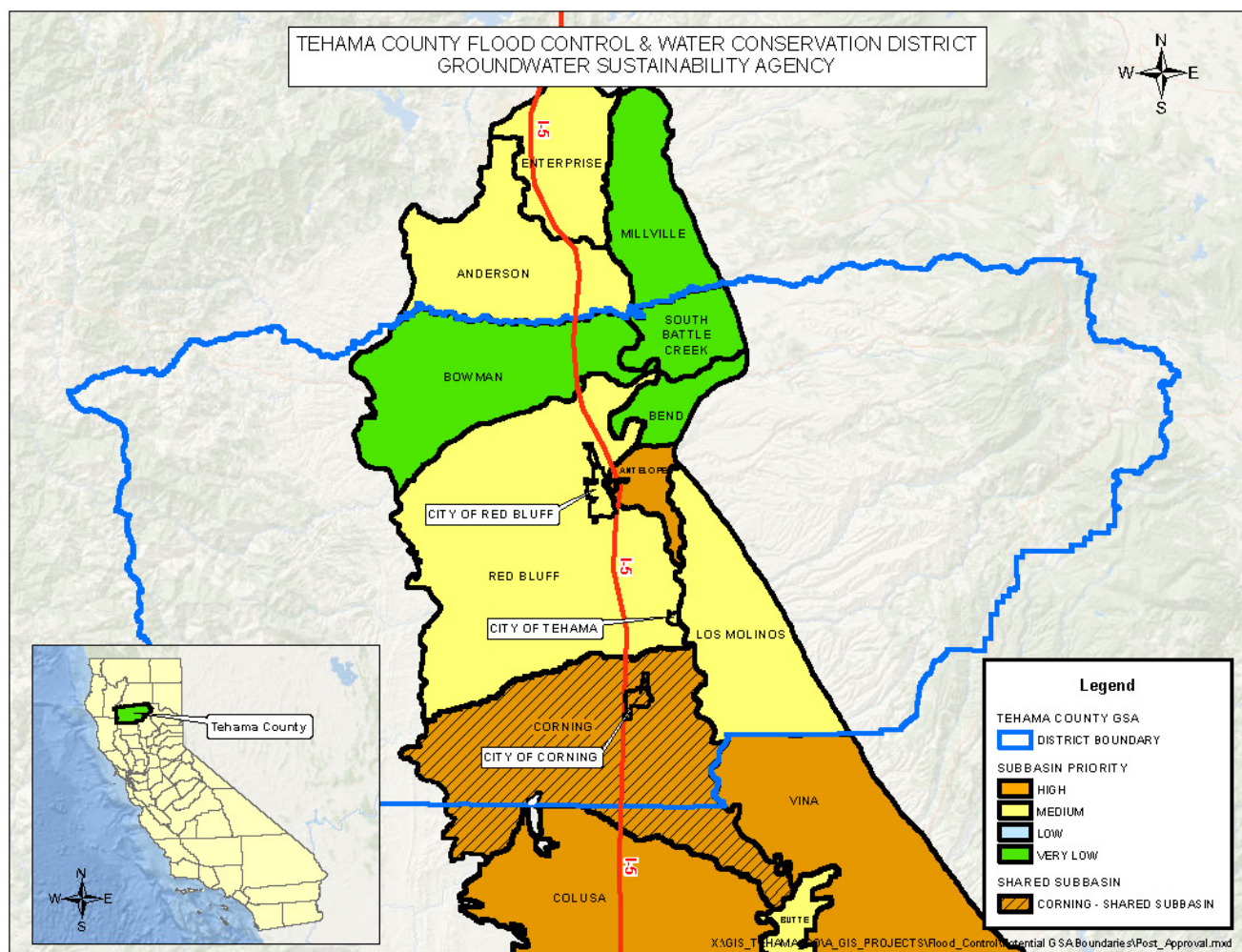
six other subbasins located in Tehama County: Bowman, Red Bluff, Los Molinos, Antelope, Bend, and South Battle Creek, shown in **Figure 2-3**.

The Tehama County FCWCD Board of Directors is advised by the Tehama County Groundwater Commission, an 11-member body created in 2016, comprised of appointed representatives of cities and districts in the County to advise the numerous subbasins within Tehama County on matters related to SGMA. The Tehama County Groundwater Commission has the authority to form ad hoc committees to provide recommendations on specific topics like finance, fee structures, well registration, community outreach, or development of requests for proposals.

Tehama County FCWCD GSA is also advised by the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB), which includes membership from both GSAs and is further described in the next sections.

The Tehama County FCWCD GSA is supported by an administrator who works in concert with the administrator of the CSGSA to convene the CSAB and manage implementation of the Corning Subbasin GSP. Legal counsel also informs GSA decision-making.

**Figure 2-3 Tehama County FCWCD GSA**



### Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

The CSAB provides a forum for representatives of both GSAs to identify and resolve disputes in good faith, receive input from members of the public, and develop recommendations on topics including but not limited to GSP development and implementation. The CSAB has the authority to form ad hoc committees to develop topic-specific recommendations. The CSAB and its ad hoc committees do not carry decision-making authority. Further details regarding the CSAB roles and responsibilities are documented in the MOU.

CSAB membership includes three representatives and one alternate from each GSA—at least one each of which must be a part of their respective governing bodies. CSAB members serve four-year terms and may be reappointed. Table 2-1 reflects CSAB membership as of May 2023.

**Table 2-1 Corning Subbasin Advisory Board Membership, as of November 2023**

<b>Tehama County FCWCD GSA</b>	<b>Corning Sub-basin GSA</b>
Matt Hansen, Director, Tehama County FCWCD Board of Directors (appointed 01/22)	Grant Carmon, Supervisor, CSGSA, Glenn County Board of Supervisors (appointed 03/21)
Steven Gruenwald, Grower, Capay (appointed 01/20)	Brian Mori, Grower, Stakeholder Representative (appointed 03/21)
David Lester, Commissioner, Tehama County Groundwater Commission (appointed 01/20)	Julia Violich, CSGSA, Monroeville Water District (appointed 03/20)
<i>Alternate:</i> Ian Turnbull, Member of the AB3030 TAC for the District (appointed 01/20)	<i>Alternate:</i> John Amaro, CSGSA, Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (appointed 03/20)

### 3. Roles and Responsibilities

Responsibility for managing the Corning Subbasin is shared across the GSAs' decision-making bodies, advisory groups, staff, and contracted consultants. Consistent with their roles as described in Section 2, Table 3-1 details the responsibilities for each entity.

**Table 3-1 Roles and Responsibilities for Corning Subbasin Activities**

<b>Roles</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
<b>Tehama County FCWCD Board of Directors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serving as the final decision-making authority for matters pertaining to the Tehama County FCWCD GSA.</li> <li>Adopting and implementing the Corning Subbasin GSP and subsequent GSP Five-Year updates.</li> <li>Ensuring long-term funding and financing for GSA and GSP activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Corning Subbasin GSA Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serving as the final decision-making authority for matters pertaining to the Corning Subbasin GSA.</li> <li>Adopting and implementing the Corning Subbasin GSP and subsequent GSP Five-Year updates.</li> <li>Ensuring long-term funding and financing for GSA and GSP activities.</li> </ul>
<b>Corning Subbasin Advisory Board</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing recommendations for consideration by the Tehama County FCWCD Board of Directors and Corning Subbasin GSA Committee on matters pertaining to the development and implementation of the Corning Subbasin GSP, including funding cost-share, financing basin-wide projects, updates to the GSP, public input, and dispute resolution.</li> <li>Developing recommendations for prioritization of projects and management actions for GSP implementation.</li> <li>Primary public venue for basin-wide updates and input.</li> </ul>
<b>Tehama County Groundwater Commission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing recommendations for consideration by the Tehama County FCWCD Board of Directors on matters related to groundwater management in the Tehama County portion of the Corning Subbasin.</li> <li>Possible prioritizing of projects and management actions for implementation.</li> </ul>

<b>Corning Subbasin GSA Member Agency Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setting CSAB agendas, reviewing meeting minutes prepared by TCFCWCD GSA staff, coordinating on meeting materials, and finalizing meeting packet.</li> <li>• Posting CSAB agenda to Corning Subbasin GSP website.</li> <li>• Maintaining the CSGSA website and Corning Subbasin GSP website.</li> <li>• Identifying and applying for grant opportunities.</li> <li>• Conducting public communication and engagement activities.</li> <li>• Facilitating inter- and intra-basin coordination in coordination with Tehama County FCWCD GSA staff.</li> <li>• Serving as the Point of Contact for Corning Subbasin Facilitation Support Services.</li> <li>• Serving as Corning Subbasin GSP Plan Manager.</li> <li>• Managing grants and/or consultant contracts as needed.</li> </ul>
<b>Tehama County FCWCD GSA Staff</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reviewing CSAB agendas prepared by CSGSA staff, preparing meeting minutes, and coordinating on meeting materials.</li> <li>• Posting CSAB agendas to the Tehama County meeting portal and posting boards.</li> <li>• Maintaining Tehama County website and social media accounts.</li> <li>• Identifying and applying for grant opportunities.</li> <li>• Conducting public communication and engagement activities.</li> <li>• Facilitating inter- and intra-basin coordination in coordination with CSGSA member agency staff.</li> <li>• Managing the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Round 2 grant.</li> <li>• Managing grants and/or consultant contracts as needed.</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Consultants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitoring groundwater conditions and updating the groundwater model(s).</li> <li>• Developing Annual Reports and Five-Year Updates to the GSP.</li> <li>• Assisting with data storage and management.</li> <li>• Conducting a funding and finance option study for each GSA, to inform decision-making by GSAs.</li> <li>• Participating in stakeholder engagement as needed.</li> <li>• Assisting with implementation of specific projects or management actions as needed, such as monitoring network enhancements, recharge projects, or conjunctive use projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Legal Counsel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparing updates or revisions to the MOU between the GSAs.</li> <li>• Reviewing contract agreements, such as those between the GSAs, member agencies of a GSA, grantors, and consultants.</li> <li>• Attending GSA Board meetings and serving on ad hoc committees, as needed.</li> <li>• Providing legal advice to their respective GSAs, as needed.</li> <li>• Responding to complaints or other legal actions, as directed by the GSA they counsel.</li> </ul>

#### 4. Shared Work Plan Activities

The following table describes the anticipated shared activities between the GSAs. These activities are to be conducted in a coordinated manner in fulfillment of the Subbasin's responsibilities under SGMA, as the GSAs jointly manage the Corning Subbasin. The activities in this table are anticipated to be shared between Corning Subbasin and Tehama County FCWCD GSA staff. A description of the tasks to be carried out and the associated key outcomes and timelines follow. For the most part, this work is funded through in-kind contributions of the GSA member agencies, apart from those tasks indicated as grant-funded in parentheses.

Task	Description	Key Outcome(s)	Timeline/ Due Date
<b>GSA Managers' Meetings</b>	<p>Meetings between GSA staff to handle administrative matters pertaining to the GSAs and GSP, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration and implementation of the GSP, including management of grants and other contracts</li> <li>• Preparation of CSAB meeting agendas and materials</li> <li>• Review of the Corning Subbasin Operations Plan (at least annually) for revisions or additions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of topics for CSAB meetings</li> <li>• Preparation of materials for CSAB meetings, as appropriate</li> <li>• Identification of recommendations to GSA Boards, as needed</li> <li>• Identification and preparation of joint work, such as Request for Proposals, support materials for meetings, public outreach materials, event planning, or related topics</li> <li>• Identification and preparation of grant reporting documentation, grant amendments, invoicing, or related</li> <li>• Coordination on management of consultants working on basin-wide tasks and review of invoices as needed</li> </ul>	Monthly, as needed
<b>Corning Subbasin Advisory Board</b>	<p>Meetings of the CSAB to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive updates from GSA managers or others on the implementation of the GSP, specific projects and management actions, grant status, and basin conditions</li> <li>• Collaborate and provide input on basin-wide management, planning, and implementation.</li> <li>• Generate recommendations for consideration by the applicable GSA Boards</li> <li>• Serve as the primary public venue for basin-wide updates and input</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-development of the CSAB meeting agenda (drafted by CSGSA, reviewed by Tehama County FCWCD, and finalized by CSGSA)</li> <li>• Preparation of meeting materials (lead author to be determined based on topic)</li> <li>• Preparation, posting, and distribution of final CSAB meeting agenda and materials through respective channels and websites</li> <li>• Co-development of meeting minutes (prepared by Tehama County FCWCD with review by CSGSA)</li> <li>• Beneficial uses and users of the subbasin are represented in decision-making</li> <li>• Engagement with the public</li> </ul>	Bi-monthly, unless otherwise determined
<b>SGM Grant Program Administration (grant funded)</b>	<p>Tehama County FCWCD GSA serves as grant manager and will collaborate with CSGSA to accomplish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of grant agreement with DWR and subrecipient agreements.</li> <li>• Co-development of scopes of work and provision of support documentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Execution of Grant Agreement</li> <li>• Execution of Subrecipient Agreement(s) as applicable</li> <li>• Timely submission of quarterly invoices and reports</li> <li>• Provision of status updates as needed</li> </ul>	Ongoing, completed by June 2026

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of invoicing and reporting procedures for grant management</li> <li>Completion of task tracking, reporting, and invoicing requirements</li> </ul>		
<b>Cost-Sharing Agreements and Accounting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing, updating as needed, and enacting cost-share agreements between different parties for funding the GSAs, including tracking decision-making.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transparent accounting of shared costs between the GSAs</li> <li>Development of cost-sharing agreements for specific projects or tasks as needed</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b>Annual Reports (grant funded)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Execution of contracts with consultants, as needed</li> <li>Preparation and submission of annual reports on Corning Subbasin conditions to DWR</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timely submission of comprehensive Annual Reports on Corning Subbasin conditions (grant funds cover reports for 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025)</li> <li>Presentations to GSAs, CSAB, stakeholders as needed (to be further defined)</li> </ul>	Due April 1 on an annual basis
<b>GSP Updates (grant funded)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modifications to the GSP in response to the DWR determination, if needed</li> <li>Execution of contracts with consultants, as needed</li> <li>Coordination with stakeholders, GSA Boards, and CSAB</li> <li>Preparation of Five-Year GSP Updates</li> <li>Refinement of the depletion of interconnected surface water undesirable result sustainable management criteria</li> <li>Communication of progress and activities to the public</li> <li>Completion of grant reporting and invoicing requirements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five-Year GSP Updates in 2027, 2032, 2037, and 2042</li> <li>Other amendments to the GSP, as needed</li> <li>May include Regional Model Update Technical Memorandum</li> <li>Timely and comprehensive completion of grant reporting and invoicing requirements</li> </ul>	First Five-Year GSP Update due January 31, 2027
<b>Monitoring Network Enhancements, Data Collection (grant funded)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Execution of contracts with consultants, as needed</li> <li>Coordination with stakeholders, GSA Boards, and CSAB</li> <li>Communication of progress and activities to the public</li> <li>Completion of grant reporting and invoicing requirements</li> <li>Collection of RMS well data and posting to the SGMA portal twice per year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address data gaps</li> <li>Improved monitoring network</li> <li>Timely, coordinated data collection</li> </ul>	Ongoing, completed by Spring 2026



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional coordinated activities for this project are to be determined</li> </ul>		
<b>Regional Conjunctive Use Project (grant funded)</b>	Coordinated activities for this project are to be determined.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successful implementation of the regional conjunctive use project</li> <li>Additional details are anticipated to be added as the project gets underway</li> </ul>	Ongoing, completed by Spring 2026
<b>Implementation of Recharge-Focused Projects and Management Actions (grant funded)</b>	Coordinated activities for these projects and management actions are to be determined. It is anticipated that this will include the development of consistent messaging to use across the subbasin.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinated implementation of recharge-focused projects and management actions</li> <li>Additional details are anticipated to be added as the project gets underway</li> </ul>	Ongoing, completed by Spring 2026
<b>Interested Parties List</b>	Maintenance of separate interested parties list, but coordination of shared materials and messaging to keep members of the public informed of GSA activities and key milestones.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informed members of the public and effective method for distribution of GSA materials or news</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b>Outreach and Engagement Activities</b>	Conduct outreach and engagement activities that engage varied beneficial uses and user groups, including coordination of logistics for project-related workshops. Also includes updates to and maintenance of the websites to ensure timeliness and consistency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of potential improvements identified in stakeholder interviews</li> <li>Public understanding and support for GSA and GSP activities</li> <li>Various events or activities</li> <li>Up-to-date and consistent websites</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b>External Coordination</b>	Representation of the Corning Subbasin GSAs in coordination with other planning and management groups, such as neighboring subbasins, regional workgroups, Integrated Regional Water Management Groups, and others.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced coordination with external parties</li> <li>Facilitation of inter-basin coordination, with support from DWR-funded FSS</li> </ul>	Ongoing
<b>Basin Point of Contact</b>	Fulfillment of basin point of contact responsibilities under SGMA, including maintaining up-to-date information on the SGM Portal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responsive, cooperative relationship between the Corning Subbasin and DWR</li> </ul>	Ongoing

## 5. Communications and Engagement

As part of GSP development and implementation, SGMA requires outreach and engagement with a broad range of stakeholders to ensure the interests of all beneficial users of groundwater are fairly considered. This section

documents how communications and engagement are carried out in the Corning Subbasin. For details on the strategies referenced here, see the Corning Subbasin Stakeholder Communications and Engagement Plan.<sup>3</sup>

### Interested Parties Lists

The Tehama County FCWCD GSA and CSGSA maintain separate interested parties lists.

- Individuals who reside in the Glenn County portion of the subbasin are encouraged to join the County of Glenn interested parties list, which also distributes information pertaining to the Colusa and Butte Subbasins, and other County related information via email.
- Individuals who reside in the Tehama County portion of the subbasin are encouraged to join the interested parties list for the Tehama County FCWCD, which also distributes information pertaining to the Bowman, Los Molinos, Red Bluff, and Antelope Subbasins via email.

The interested parties lists are used to send emails with meeting notices, e-newsletters, committee vacancies, and other relevant news. Regular and consistent communication and engagement, made via an updated interested parties list, is critical to successful subbasin operations.

### Websites

There are three websites where information about the Corning Subbasin is maintained: the Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan website, the CSGSA website (a sub-page of the Glenn County website), and the Tehama County FCWCD website. These websites and their access links are listed in Table 4-1. Regular and timely maintenance of these sites is important to ensure subbasin materials are both transparent and accessible to the public. Content that is shared on each site should be consistent with the other sites, and there should be several instances of cross-referenced material, allowing content to be shared across the websites.

**Table 5-1 Corning Subbasin Websites**

Websites	Contents	Maintenance Responsibility
<b>Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan</b> <a href="https://www.corningsubbasingsp.org/">https://www.corningsubbasingsp.org/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSAB meeting information</li> <li>• GSP materials and Annual Reports</li> </ul>	GCID staff (in their role as member agency of the CSGSA) updates the website at the direction of GSA Managers
<b>Glenn County</b> <a href="https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/planning-community-development-services/water-resources/sustainable-groundwater-management-6">https://www.countyofglenn.net/dept/planning-community-development-services/water-resources/sustainable-groundwater-management-6</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corning Sub-basin GSA meeting information</li> <li>• CSGSA long-term funding information</li> <li>• Announcements of public meetings</li> </ul>	Glenn County staff (in their role as member agency of the CSGSA) updates the website at the direction of the CSGSA Committee
<b>Tehama County FCWCD</b> <a href="https://tehamacountywater.org/gsa/">https://tehamacountywater.org/gsa/</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board of Directors meeting information</li> <li>• Groundwater Commission meeting information</li> <li>• District Maintained Groundwater Well Monitoring data</li> <li>• Public Workshop announcements and recordings</li> </ul>	Tehama County FCWCD GSA staff

<sup>3</sup> Corning Subbasin Stakeholder Communications and Engagement Plan, Appendix 2A to the Corning Subbasin GSP, prepared December 2019 and amended November 2021.

## 6. Budgeting

Under SGMA, GSAs are required to maintain groundwater conditions consistent with the thresholds set for each of the sustainable management criteria as defined in the GSP. They are also required to complete administrative functions such as updating the GSP every five years and submitting annual reports to DWR. Those responsibilities are collectively referred to as “GSP implementation” and will be maintained through 2042.

In order to more accurately detail and document the Corning Subbasin budgeting process, this Operations Plan includes a summary of activities proposed under the GSP, as well as an outline of the costs associated with those activities. In addition, the Operations Plan outlines expectations of the responsible partner agencies to share in those costs. This section includes:

- Itemization of GSP implementation activities and the associated budgeted costs
- Outline of expectations for partner agencies to share in those costs

## 7. Funding

There are several ways for GSAs to fund GSP activities. Thus far, the Corning Subbasin has used outside grants, funding contributions from its member agencies, and in-kind support (such as staff time and office materials) to develop the GSP and initiate GSP implementation. As the subbasin moves into long-term GSP implementation, the GSAs are currently exploring additional funding and financing strategies. This Operations Plan outlines past, current, and potential future funding approaches.

### Cost-Sharing

Cost-sharing among member agencies was established in Section 12 of the MOU and built upon in Section 8.9 of the GSP.

12.1. **Funding and Contributions.** This Agreement shall be initially funded through a GSP grant awarded by the DWR to the County of Glenn and through in-kind contributions of Members. In subsequent years and as needed, continuing cooperation may be funded by additional Member contributions. If the Members decide that cost-sharing is required for any contract or expenditure made pursuant to this Agreement, any cost-sharing allocations shall be agreed to in writing by the Members in advance of executing any contracts with consultants, vendors, or other contractors or incurring any expense. Such written approval for cost-sharing shall be subject to any necessary approvals required by each Member's governing body or designee pursuant to that Member's contract approval procedures. Any such contracts shall be drafted in a manner that reflects that consultants, vendors, or contractors hired to perform work under this Agreement are working on behalf of the Members and will be expected to work with the Members on a collective basis and with each Member on an individual basis, as needed. Such contracts shall be made enforceable by the Members. The contracts shall include appropriate indemnity and insurance provisions agreed upon by the Members. In the event a Member of this Agreement acts as the official contracting party and executes a contract on behalf of the Members (the "Contracting Party"), the Contracting Party:

12.1.1. shall comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws including, without limitation, the California Public Contract code and California Labor Code;

12.1.2. shall provide the other Members a reasonable opportunity to review any bids received and to review and provide input on any draft contract prior to its execution;

12.1.3. shall not approve any change orders that increase the cost of the original contract by more than 10% without prior consultation and written consent of the other Members;

12.1.4. shall provide diligent oversight of the work conducted by any contractor, vendor, or consultant under contract executed pursuant to this Agreement; and

12.1.5 shall maintain complete, accurate, and clearly identifiable records with respect to all contracts executed, and provide to the other Members, upon reasonable request, all records, documents, reports, conclusions, work product, and other information related in any way to any contract executed on behalf of the Members pursuant to this Agreement.

Currently, the GSAs have agreed to share costs for Corning Subbasin Annual Reports in the following way:

- Two thirds of costs are contributed by Tehama County FCWCD GSA
- One third of costs are contributed by CSGSA

This cost share approach may serve as a foundation for future cost-share arrangements for other required GSP activities and tasks; it is anticipated that all new tasks that require a cost share by the GSAs will be reviewed and the proportional costs decided upon on a per-task basis.

### Grant Funding

Costs for certain projects and management actions (PMA) may be covered in part or in whole by grants. A summary of the status of those various grants and their administrators from April 2022 onward is provided in Table 7-1. Grants which supported GSP development are not accounted here.

**Table 7-1 Potential or Awarded Grants for GSP Implementation**

Grant Opportunity	Status of Award	Applicant	Activities Included
<b>DWR Sustainable Groundwater</b>	Final award, September 2023.	Tehama County Flood Control and Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Reports</li> <li>• GSP Updates</li> </ul>

<b>Management (SGM) Implementation Grant</b>	Contract expected early 2024	Conservation District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring Network Enhancements, Data Collection</li> <li>Regional Conjunctive Use Project</li> <li>Implementation of recharge-focused PMAs</li> </ul>
<b>DWR Facilitation Support Services</b>	2022-Present	Glenn County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operations Plan</li> <li>Inter-basin Coordination meeting facilitation</li> <li>Communications and Engagement Plan Update</li> <li>Informational materials</li> </ul>

## 8. Dispute Resolution

Specific areas of disagreement have not yet surfaced. When they do, it will be important for the GSAs to have processes in place for appropriately identifying and resolving disputes as they arise. Section 9.2 of the MOU states:

It is the desire of Members to informally resolve all disputes and controversies related to this Agreement, whenever possible, at the least possible level of formality and cost. If a dispute occurs, the disputing members shall meet and confer in an attempt to resolve the matter. If informal resolution cannot be achieved, the matter will be referred to the Advisory Board for resolution. The Advisory Board may engage the services of a trained mediator, or resort to all available legal and equitable remedies, to resolve disputes, the costs of which would be equitably shared upon agreement of disputing Members.

In a subsequent iteration, this Operations Plan may expand on and detail the different levels of dispute resolution referenced in the MOU.

### Staff to Staff

This level of dispute resolution is between the administrators of the two GSAs and may include several different types of dispute resolution method, such as consensus or negotiation. Examples of the types of dispute resolution that are appropriate for GSA staff to resolve are anticipated to be generated at a later date.

### Within and Between Advisory Groups

Discrepancies may arise within an Advisory Group or between Advisory Groups. In the case where disputes or disagreements in recommendations occur within or between such bodies, this level of coordination is intended to document such differences and clearly communicate those nuances to the GSA(s) associated with that Advisory Group to inform their decision-making. Examples of the types of dispute resolution that may be pursued between Advisory Group bodies may be generated at a later date.

### Advisory Group to GSA

GSAs may choose to take actions that differ from the recommendations of the groups which advise them. For the Corning Sub-basin GSA, this applies for decisions by the Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee that run counter to either the CSAB or the ad hoc committees formed by the CSAB. For the Tehama County FCWCD GSA, this applies for decisions by the Tehama County FCWCD Board of Directors that run counter to either the Tehama County Groundwater Commission, the CSAB, or the ad hoc committees of either. Discrepancies between a Board decision and Advisory Committee recommendation are to be clearly communicated and documented. Examples of the types of dispute resolution that may be pursued between Advisory Groups and their associated GSAs may be generated at a later date.

### GSA to GSA

This level of resolution is to address disputes that may arise between the two GSAs, the Tehama County FCWCD Board of Directors and the Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee. Examples of dispute resolution at this level may be generated at a later date.

# Record of Changes

It is anticipated that the Operations Plan will be reviewed annually at a minimum.

Version	Date	Description of Changes	Author
1	November 2023	Initial development.	Stantec