



# Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Meeting Minutes

July 27, 2023 | 2:00 p.m.

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Pump Station  
7854 County Rd 203, Orland, CA 95963

Public participation was also offered via teleconference

1. Call to Order

- Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

	Party Representative	Member Agency
X	Tom Arnold (Chairman)	County of Glenn
X	Grant Carmon (Vice Chairman)	County of Glenn
X	John Amaro	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
	Pete Knight	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
	Julia Violich	Monroeville Water District
	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District

Roll call was taken as noted above. A quorum of members was not present.

3. Meeting Minutes

- \*Approval of May 11, 2023 special meeting minutes.
  - \*Approval of June 6, 2023 special meeting minutes.
  - \*Approval of June 15, 2023 special meeting minutes.
- A quorum of members was not present and no action was taken on Items 3.a, 3.b, or 3.c.

4. Period of Public Comment

- Mr. Arnold invited public comments; whereby no comments were heard.

5. Staff Reports

- Staff had nothing additional to report.

## 6. Financial Report

- a. \*Review and accept financial reports.
- b. \*Review and consider approval of claims.

- A quorum of members was not present and no action was taken on Items 6.a or 6.b.

## 7. \*Consider approval of the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Budget.

- A quorum of members was not present and no action was taken on Item 7.

## 8. Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CSGSA) Operations and GSP Implementation Fee Project

- a. Receive an update on the CSGSA Fee Project, outreach meeting, and timeline.
- b. Irrigated/Non-Irrigated Long-Term Fee Policy

- Lisa Hunter stated the project is currently in the required 45-day notice period and the public hearing is scheduled for August 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the GCID pump station conference room. She stated the public workshop was held July 19, 2023 in which 12 members of the public attended as well as staff, consultants, and CSGSA members. A revised coversheet has been prepared to correct the calculation error in the original coversheet and should be mailed out. Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) has prepared a Draft Irrigated/Non-Irrigated Policy and she encouraged discussion on the policy. A revised policy will be brought to the meeting on August 8.
- Del Reimers stated his concerns with the classifications on the notices he received and indicated the map was incorrect. He further stated his continued concern with the amount of the fee and lack of confidence in the consulting firm. Kevin Donnelley also shared concerns regarding the subbasin boundaries and division of his parcel into two subbasins. He stated the surface water users provide significant benefit to the region and have invested in the project for many years and he objects to the fee process.
- Mr. Reimers stated there was a concern raised at the public meeting that a landowner could lose their property if the fee is placed on the tax bill and they are unable to pay. Ian Turnbull asked how a refund process would work. Mr. Arnold stated he is uncomfortable with landowners potentially losing their land to pay mandated fees from State requirements.
- Discussion ensued on State intervention, State fees, and what could happen if the CSGSA fee is not adopted. Valerie Kincaid, CSGSA Counsel, stated if the protest succeeds, the CSGSA cannot adopt the property-related fee and the agency becomes an unfunded agency or could be funded in other ways, such as through a groundwater extraction fee. She reviewed that that State requires reporting and charges a well head and extraction fee. Additionally, fees may be incurred on an interim plan.

- Debbie Dotson stated her frustration with the fees, the budget and finding ways to reduce the budget, and suggested finding volunteers to help with the work. She reiterated her concerns with placing the fee on the tax bill. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of placing a fee on the tax bill versus agency collection.
- Brandon Davison suggested adding a “de minimus user” definition to Section 2, User Class of the draft policy. Ms. Kincaid stated it may be inconsistent with the current direction and cause a rangeland issue. De minimus users may use up to 2 acre-feet per year, but it cannot be for commercial use. The GSA cannot require a meter for de minimus users, but may regulate and charge fees. Additional discussion ensued on well types and usage, the protest form, and representation on the CSGSA.
- Ms. Hunter requested any comments on the draft policy be sent to her to compile for the next meeting.

#### 9. Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

- Ms. Hunter stated Department of Water Resources (DWR) released a batch of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) determinations. Mr. Turnbull (stakeholder) and Mr. Davison (DWR) provided additional information stating the Corning Subbasin determination was not part of the release; however, Butte Subbasin, Vina Subbasin, and Wyandotte Creek Subbasin GSPs were all approved with recommended corrective actions.

#### 10. Corning Sub-basin Advisory Board Report

- Mr. Arnold stated he was concerned with the recommended cost-share split. Mr. Carmon and Mr. Turnbull explained the Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) rationale that the CSGSA portion of the basin is approximately one-third of the basin. Following the explanation, Mr. Arnold stated he supported the cost-share split.
- Mr. Carmon stated the CSAB hopes there will be a cost-savings with the suggested three-year contract with a consultant and he felt it was important to do a Request for Proposals (RFP) process to select the consultant.

#### 11. Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Member Reports and Comments

- Mr. Arnold invited CSGSA member reports and comments; whereby no comments were heard.

#### 12. Next Meeting

- A special meeting is scheduled for August 8, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. It was requested that staff confirm availability with the members to ensure a quorum would be present. A special meeting may be scheduled the week of July 31.

#### 13. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.