

Guidance for Public Comment in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee (GSPAC) Process

Prepared January 6, 2021

Pathways for Public Comment:

There are a number of pathways for the public to provide input as part of the GSPAC:

- Submit comments to County staff prior to GSPAC meetings (written, email or verbal).
- Provide comments during GSPAC meetings, consistent with the guidance below.
- Provide responses and comments in periodic online surveys related to Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Sections and overall Plan development.

Planning Public Comments at GSPAC Meetings:

The table below indicates items on which public comment is invited.

Agenda Item or Topic	Public Comment Invitation
Public Comment	YES
Secretary-Director's Report	NO* - No action, status report only
Briefing, discussion or adoption of Draft GSP Sections	YES - Input and comment may inform and improve draft GSP sections
External Briefing from Technical Expert(s)	YES - Public input may provide additional information for consideration
Status Report from Workgroup	NO* - No action, status report only
Future Agenda Items	NO* - No action. Ideas from the public for future agenda items should be provided during the initial Public Comment period
GSPAC recommendation(s) regarding adoption on of the Full GSP	YES

*Opportunity for public comment may be provided at the discretion of the GSPAC Chair.

How to Make Effective Comments:

Members of the public can be most effective in conveying their comments by taking the following simple steps:

- **Prepare:** Prepare to provide input on GSP development and/or specific agenda items by reviewing meeting documents and conferring with others in advance as needed. Provide any written materials 24 hrs. in advance if possible.
- **Plan and Communicate:** Plan your key points ahead of time, to the extent possible. Be clear about your interests and concerns.
- **Be Relevant:** Be clear about how your ideas relate to GSPAC's charge, agenda items and discussions.
- **Be Concise:** Be concise and respectful of everyone's time. You will have a maximum of three minutes, however it is not necessary to use the entire time.