



Meeting Summary: ECC GSP
East Contra Costa GSP Working Group and
Communications Committee Meeting
When: Wednesday April 14, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Where: Zoom call

Attendees: Aaron Trott, Casey Wichert, Dan Muelrath, Debbie Cannon, Faithe Lovelace, James Wolfe, Jackson Cook, Maggie Dunton, Marilyn Tiernan, Megan Murray, Nacho Mendoza, Mike Davies, Paul Seger, Ryan Hernandez, Scott Buenting, Tom Elson, Vicki Kretsinger

ACTION ITEMS April 2021

ITEM	OWNER	DUE
1. Return comments on “Undesirable Results” for each GSA (email sent 4/5/2021)	All GSAs	Fri April 16
2. Return comments on Section 8 “Management Actions” (email sent 4/8/2021)	All GSAs	Fri April 16
3. Return Section 8 Project Descriptions (see template for Projects emailed on April 13)	COB, DWD, (Antioch done)	Wed. April 21st
4. Discuss well process/permitting with CC County Environmental Health	Ryan	May 12
5. Review other submitted GSPs for how well permitting process worked	Jackson	May 12
6. Criteria to implement well permit restrictions line)	LSCE	May 12
7. What is average number of individuals responding to SMC survey in other subbasins?	Megan	May 12
8. What grant funding is available for GSP implementation costs?	Jackson	May 12
9. GSAs provide outreach updates to Lisa Beutler	All Working Group Members	Monthly
10. ECC Subbasin Tribal Outreach	Debbie and Lisa	April 21
11. Check on list of wells in subbasin (septic database?)	Ryan	May 12
12. ECC Working group review budget and provide feedback to be included in Section 9 Plan Implementation. Ryan will set up meeting for GSAs to discuss.	Ryan and All Working Group Members	May 12

Meeting Summary

1. Tom’s presentation reviewed:
 - a. Model status
 - i. Explained three model scenarios: climate change (precipitation, ET), sea level rise, and sustainable yield.
 - ii. Ryan asked whether the model is considering the Delta Stewardship Councils Delta Vulnerability Study. Tom stated that LSCE would review the Study for consistency with the climate change and sea level rise scenarios.
 - b. Requested feedback on Sustainable Management Criteria and Projects and Management Actions (see Action Items 1, 2 and 3).
 - c. Three Management Actions for new and existing wells and specifically permitting of new wells:
 - i. Ryan raised the concern of enforcing Management Actions and whether Contra Costa County would need to change its permitting system to account for GSP requirements for new or existing wells. Ryan stressed how important

- it will be to make sure the Management Actions for permitting wells is outlined clearly in the GSP and the need to identify specific conditions for permitting so that the County Board can act accordingly.
- ii. Dan: DWD is working on a policy for metering of wells. Paul clarified that this is only for public wells and that it will be done with complete transparency.
 - iii. Aaron suggested the proposed well permitting process should be similar to current building code practices. Arron also suggested that the applicant should pay for studies to determine if the new well will be negatively impacting nearby wells.
 1. Mike Davies suggests review of submitted GSPs to learn how other GSAs are handling the well permitting process. Vicki commented that submitted GSPs may not have provided details of the permitting process.
 2. Jackson Cook will review submitted GSPs and report back his findings.
 - iv. Tom reminded the group that Title 23 gives GSAs authority for enforcing well restrictions including spacing and pumping quantity. Ryan noted that well permitting is a ministerial process with no present discretionary options. Tom acknowledged the County's permit process and suggested that Ryan may wish to involve the County's legal counsel to reconcile GSA authorities with respect to conditions for operating wells. and the responsibilities of GSAs to achieve and maintain sustainability.
2. Megan Murray filled in for Lisa Beutler with Stantec and provided a summary of outreach and communication progress.
 - a. GSAs need to continue to update Outreach and Communications at the following link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ECC_GSP_Coms
 - b. Megan reviewed the questions and responses for the Sustainable Criteria Survey.
 - c. Dan raised the question of how ECC survey participation compared to other basins.
 - d. Arron asked if we could determine if the survey participants were individuals or part of an organizations.
 - e. Megan let the group know she would pass along Dan and Arron's questions to Lisa and report back to group.
 3. Debbie reviewed the schedule for adopting and finalizing the GSP and the budget for the next five years.
 - a. Reminded the group that each GSA will need to submit 90-day notice of intent to adopt GSP before July 1st.
 - b. Aaron asked about potential funding for future GSP related activities. He expressed concern over the long term costs to the GSAs for implementing the GSP.
 - c. Aaron asked that the GSAs meet to review internally the budget prior to approval. Ryan will set up a meeting.
 4. Jackson Cook filling in for Bill from DWR had the following updates:
 - a. Prop 1 Round 2 funding to begin Summer 2021, a workshop on Round 1 survey results and Round 2 Concepts will be on May 6th.
 - i. [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](https://gotowebinar.com)

- b. Clarified that if the GSAs want to update a Project in the Subbasin the GSP does not need to be updated but the new Project should either be presented in the annual report or on a dynamic project list that is posted on the Subbasin website.
5. James Wolfe reported that Brentwood had received payments for progress report9.
6. Next meetings:
 - a. Wednesday April 21, 10-11:30 am. Communications meeting.
 - b. Wednesday May 12th,10 am to 11:30 am, ECC GSP Working Group.



Agenda: ECC GSP
East Contra Costa GSP Working Group and
Communications Committee Meeting
When: Wednesday April 14, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/93403665275?pwd=VTd0N2hFdWcyMFdLT21aVkRka3A2UT09>

Purpose

1. GSP Sections: Section 7 Sustainable Management Criteria, Section 8 PMA,
2. Outreach and Communications

Agenda

#	Item	Presenter
1.	<p>GSP Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint Presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft Section 5-Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use for sustainability under climate change ▪ Use for sustainability indicators. Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can be used for chronic lowering of GWL and with GWL as proxy for depletions of interconnected surface water, storage indicators, and subsidence. ○ Might be used to assess how changes in gradients might affect groundwater quality (plume movement, baywater intrusion). ▪ Draft Section 7-Sustainable Management Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undesirable Results for 6 Sustainability Indicators (email sent 4/5/2021, hard deadline for GSA comments: Friday April 16th) ▪ Send Section 7 out for GSA review on April 22, not include final MTs (from model) ▪ Draft Section 8-Projects and Management Actions-listed projects from IRWM and Management Actions to include in GSP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A PMA is not required to be listed in the GSP to receive DWR grant funding. Can 1) describe in annual report or 2) have a dynamic project list approved by the GSAs that is publicly available (similar to IRWM process). ▪ Include 6 projects. Two each from Brentwood Antioch and DWD. ▪ Management Actions: Discuss excel file and list of MAs sent in email sent 4/8/2021. GSAs return comments by April 16th <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well permitting—(not including De Minimis users)-way to institute well spacing requirement. Protects municipal wells. County then request new well do interference testing. 	Tom

#	Item	Presenter
2.	<p>GSP Outreach & Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSA outreach documentation-submit to Stantec--status • Section 6 outreach: Post to website (newspaper-April 2nd, post survey and document on website) • Sustainable Management Criteria survey to interested parties • Communications meeting Wed. April. 21, 10 am to discuss survey and public meeting • Public Meeting: Wednesday June 9th 4-5:30 Zoom. Present/discuss: monitoring network, SMC, PMAs, Plan Implementation • Website-updates 	Megan
3.	<p>GSP Schedule</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See table with current timeline below <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GSAs discuss NOI to adopt a GSP and who to send to. DWR states that it is up to the GSAs to decide. Sent no later than July 1st. 	Debbie
4.	<p>Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PR9 (4th quarter 2020): was signed on February 17th. • PR10 will be submitted by the end of April 	Debbie/ James
5.	DWR Updates	Bill
6.	<p>Upcoming Meetings:</p> <p>Communications Meeting Call: Wednesday April 21, 10-11:30 am.</p> <p>GSP Working Group Conference Call: Wed. May 12th 10-11:30am.</p>	

Table 1 Tentative GSP Schedule (3/27/2021)

GSP Section	To GSAs for review	Post to ECC Website	Public Comment Period/ Due Date
1. Introduction to East Contra Costa GSP		April 2020	April to July 2020
2. Plan Area			
3. Basin Setting		October 2020	10/30/2020 to 1/15/2021
4. Historical, Current, and Projected Water Supply		November 2020	11/2020 to 1/15/2021
5. Water Budget	April/May 2021	June 2021	6/1/2021 to 7/1/2021
6. Monitoring Network, Data Management System and Reporting	Jan 26-Feb 25 2021	April 8, 2021	4/8/2021 to 5/3/2021
7. Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC)	April 25-May 25	June 5 ^a	6/5 to 7/5/2021
8. Projects and Management Actions (PMA)			
9. Plan Implementation			
10. References	May 25-June 25, 2021	July 5, 2021 ^a	7/15/2021 to 8/15/2021
11. Notice and Communications			
90 Day Notice of Intent to Adopt			7/1/2021 to 9/28/2021
Public Draft GSP with Public Meeting (all public comments due by 9/30/2021)			9/1/2021 to 9/30/2021
Submit Board package with final GSP			10/15/2021
Board adoption by each GSA and "Public hearing" ^b			11/16/2021 or Dec
Submit to DWR			Final date 1/31/2022

Blue text indicates document has been submitted.

a. **Public Outreach:** 1) March: Public Survey about SMC, 2) June 9th, 2021 4-5:30 pm virtual public meeting (monitoring network, SMC, PMA, Plan Implementation); 3) August/September 2021: public meeting (entire GSP).

b. All GSAs adopt the same GSP. The GSP cannot be changed after the first GSA adoption. The Board adoption/public hearing will be after final public comments are due (9/30/2021), any comments on the GSP after this date can be made to DWR.

ACTION ITEMS March 10, 2021

ITEM	OWNER	DUE
1. Questionnaire sent to GSA regarding beneficial uses and users and undesirable results for inclusion in Section 7.	LSCE	April 12
2. GSAs provide outreach updates to Lisa Beutler	All Working Group Members	Monthly
3. Provide Newsletter to group	Dan	March 12
4. Provide SMC survey for group to review	Lisa	Done
5. ECC Subbasin Tribal Outreach	Debbie and Lisa	April 21
6. Post Section 6 to ECC Website	CCWD	Done
7. Check on list of wells in subbasin (septic database?)	Ryan	April 14
8. Send recurring Zoom invite for monthly meetings and delete phone invite	Faithe	Done
9. Database of septic tanks in ECC subbasin-Only by block group, not by APN.	Aaron King, LSCE	Done

Attachment 1 Notice of Intent to Adopt a GSP

Attachment 1

Notice of Intent to adopt a GSP

A GSA may adopt a GSP only after a public hearing is held with at least 90 days' advance notice to the city or county within the area of the proposed plan or amendment.

Regulation:

10728.4. ADOPTION OR AMENDMENT OF PLAN FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING

A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt or amend a groundwater sustainability plan after a public hearing, held at least 90 days after providing notice to a city or county within the area of the proposed plan or amendment. The groundwater sustainability agency shall review and consider comments from any city or county that receives notice pursuant to this section and shall consult with a city or county that requests consultation within 30 days of receipt of the notice. Nothing in this section is intended to preclude an agency and a city or county from otherwise consulting or commenting regarding the adoption or amendment of a plan.

Suggested letter of notice to adopt. Example from Paso Robles Subbasin:

GSA Letterhead

Date (before July 1st)

Name (City or county within the area of the proposed plan or amendment)

Address

Subject: Notification of Proposed Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the East Contra Costa Subbasin

Dear ___:

In accordance with California Water Code Section 10728.4, this letter serves as written notification for the East Contra Costa Subbasin – "Name of GSA" (GSA) to adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan at the conclusion of a public hearing held at least 90 days from providing this notice. California Water Code Section 10728.4 also requires the GSA to review and consider any comments received from the County in response to this notice, and to consult with the County if requested within thirty days of receipt of this notice.

If you have any questions, please free to contact ____

Sincerely,



East Contra Costa Subbasin GSP Development

Monitoring, Sustainable Management Criteria, Projects and Management Actions

Working Group Meeting

Tom Elson and Debbie Cannon
LSCE

April 14, 2021



This slide presentation is for discussion purposes only. The content is preliminary and reflects work-in-progress on GSP development for the East Contra Costa Subbasin.

Modeling Status

Sustainable Management Criteria (Section 7)

Projects and Management Actions (GSP Section 8)

Base Scenario

Uses 1997-2018 time period to calculate water budgets

Three future scenarios:

1. Climate change
2. Sea level rise
3. Sustainable yield

Requirement for climate change and sea level rise scenarios

CCR 23 Section 354.18(e), Each Plan shall rely on the best available information and best available science to quantify the water budget for the basin in order to provide an understanding of historical and projected hydrology, water demand, water supply, land use, population, climate change, sea level rise, groundwater and surface water interaction, and subsurface groundwater flow. If a numerical groundwater and surface water model is not used to quantify and evaluate the projected water budget conditions and the potential impacts to beneficial uses and users of groundwater, the Plan shall identify and describe an equally effective method, tool, or analytical model to evaluate projected water budget conditions.

Modeling Status, cont.

Climate Change Scenario

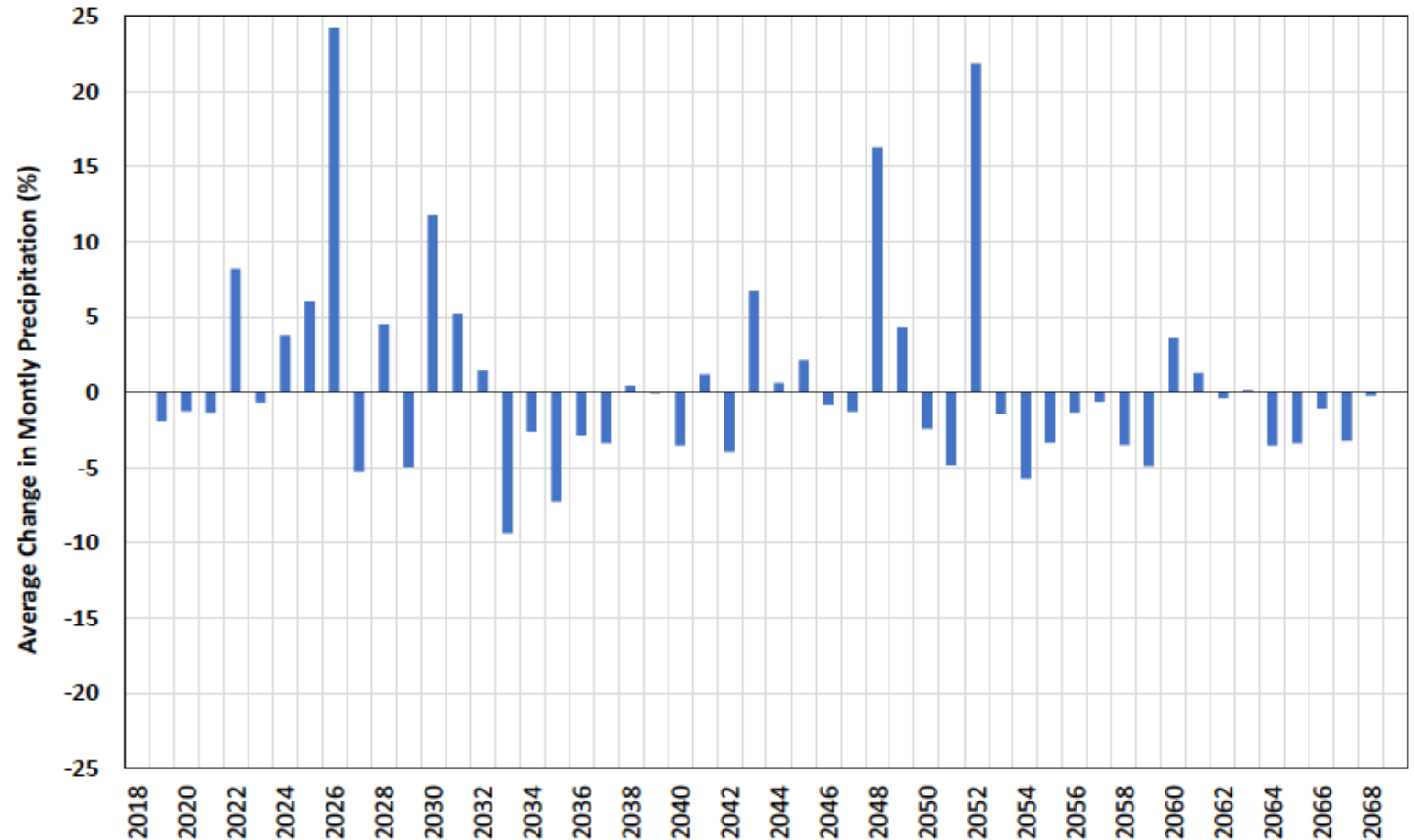
Data sets provided by DWR

Data Type	Specific Data
Climate	Precipitation, reference ET
Hydrology	Central Valley stream inflows
Hydrology	Statewide unimpaired streamflow change factors ^b
Water Operations	Diversion/deliveries and reservoir outflow data

Modeling Status, cont.

Climate Change Scenario

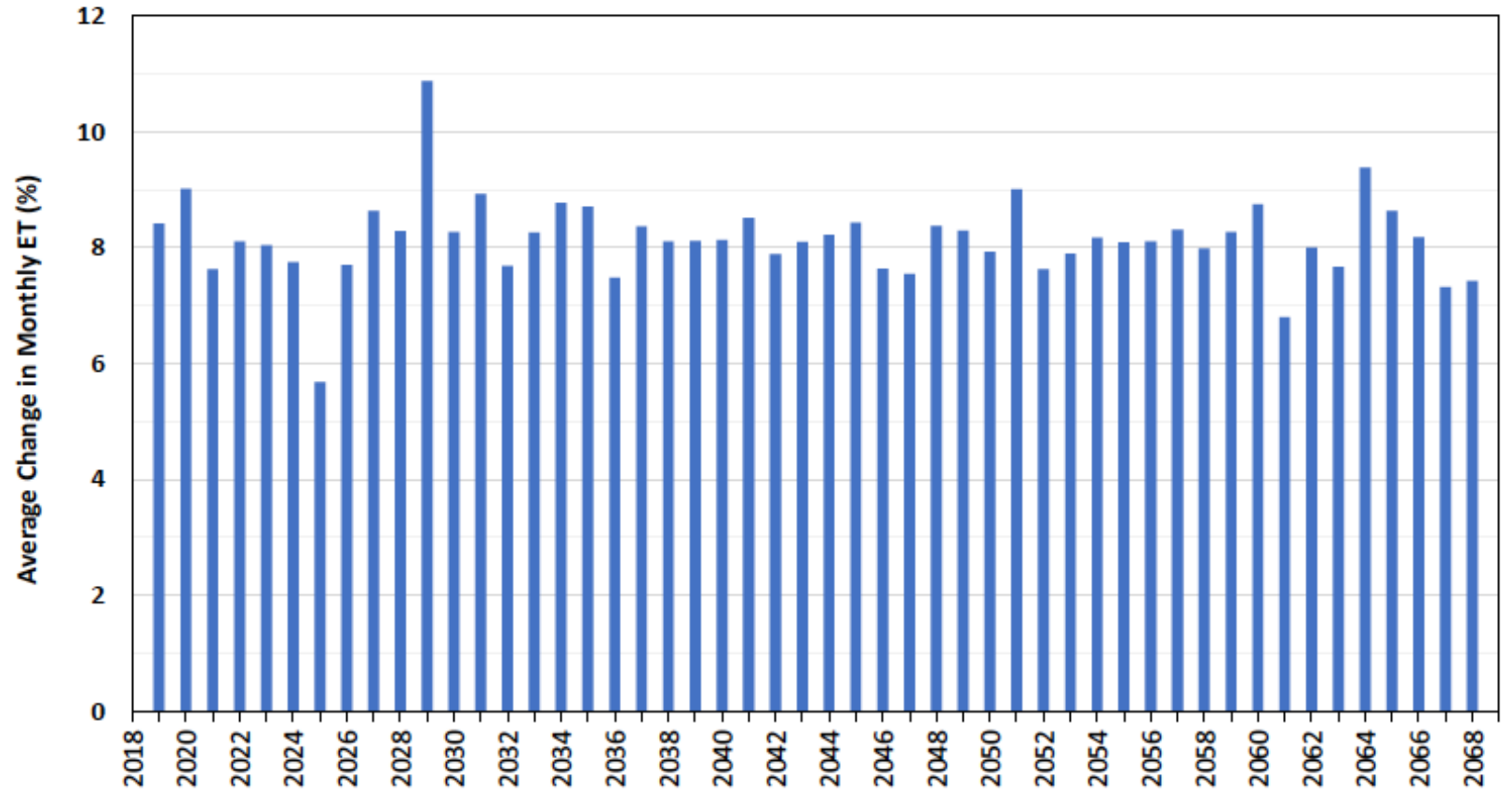
Average percent change of monthly precipitation compared to representative historic water year



Modeling Status, cont.

Climate Change Scenario

Average percent change of monthly evapotranspiration compared to representative historic water year



Sea Level Rise Scenario

NRC's predicted rise (0.5 feet in 2030 and 1.5 feet in 2070)

- Values for each intervening year linearly interpolated using these predictions
- Raises the model head boundary condition in the Delta

Sustainable Yield Scenario

Using climate change adjustments

- Increase groundwater pumping and reduce surface water reliance until changes in groundwater storage are unsustainable
- This scenario will be used to set, or guide, Minimum Thresholds for applicable sustainability indicators

Sustainable Management Criteria (Section 7)

- Draft Section 7 to be distributed April 22 (will not include MTs in this version; waiting on model results)
- Email sent on April 5th seeking input/comments on what constitutes undesirable results for each GSA (request response by April 16)

Projects and Management Actions (GSP Section 8)

- Draft Section 8 to be distributed April 22
- Culled Projects from IRWM (6 tentatively included in draft)
- Suggested management actions sent via email April 8 (request response by April 16)

Rationale for Projects and Management Actions

- To address future uncertainties as modeled to ensure sustainability irrespective of past and present conditions
- If modeling tool indicates that sustainability is reasonably achievable, number of projects and management actions should be commensurate with priority ranking (Medium) and the fact that the ECC Subbasin relies on multiple sources of supply

Draft Sections 7 and 8, cont.

Management Actions

Type	No.	Management Action
Wells	1	Restrict well spacing
	2	Require meter/ Withdrawal Fees/Tiered Pricing:
	3a	New Well Permitting Requirements: specific conditions that may include monitoring, usage reporting, and usage limits.
	3b	New Well Permitting Requirement: GSAs by their own discretions limit well completion zones
Agri-cultural	4	Voluntary Land Purchase/Retirement
	5	Irrigation Efficiency
	6	Promote Voluntary Fallowing of Agricultural Land
	7	Encourage proactive agricultural practices to benefit water quality and limit evaporation
Municipal	9	Municipal Water System Leak Detection & Repair
	10	Urban Conservation (indoor/outdoor)
	11	Municipal Water Conservation Efforts
Industrial	12	Recycled Water Incentives - Industrial Facilities
	13	Promoting Best Water Use Practices
Storm-water	14	Promote Stormwater Capture
	15	Water Conservation and Stormwater Pollution Education & Outreach

Management Actions

Regulation of new wells with consideration of sustainability issues in each GSA will require coordination with permit agency – Contra Costa County

Management Actions

*Regulation of new wells under GSA
authorities granted through SGMA*

Type	No.	Management Action
Wells	1	Restrict well spacing
	2	Require meter/ Withdrawal Fees/Tiered Pricing:
	3a	New Well Permitting Requirements: specific conditions that may include monitoring, usage reporting, and usage limits.
	3b	New Well Permitting Requirement: GSAs by their own discretions limit well completion zones

Sustainability Criteria – Initial Feedback

- East Contra Costa Subbasin
- As of April 9, 2021
- 13 Responses (+11 Public + 1 Staff, +1 Consultant)
- Questions were prefaced with background information

LOCATION OF RESPONSES

 Byron –Bethany Irrigation District GSA	 City of Antioch GSA	 City of Brentwood GSA	 Contra Costa County GSA	 Contra Costa Water District	 Diablo Water District GSA	 Discovery Bay Community Services District GSA	 East Contra Costa Irrigation District GSA
		1	4*	3	7		1

*Some people checked Contra Costa County and another agency which is why the numbers are greater than 12.

SECTOR

General Public	Economically Disadvantaged Communities	Other Government Entities	Public Water Systems
9*	2	1	2

*Some selected general public and another sector.

DEFINITIONS

The sustainability goal is a component of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that describes the mission or objective of the entire basin, how the conditions of the groundwater are going to be managed, and what measures the GSA will take to bring the basin into sustainability within the 20-year planning and implementation period. **The sustainability indicators** are the effects caused by groundwater conditions that are occurring within a basin that, when significant and unreasonable, become [undesirable results](#).

- Under SGMA there are SIX undesirable results:

1. Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
2. Reduction of groundwater storage
3. Seawater intrusion
4. Land subsidence
5. Water quality degradation
6. Depletion of interconnected surface water

The significant and unreasonable occurrence of any of these six sustainability indicators constitutes an undesirable result.

Overview of ECC Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability Indicators

SGMA requires GSAs to develop and implement Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for managing and using groundwater. Each GSP must consider the following sustainability indicators:



Groundwater-Level Declines

Long-term declines in groundwater levels occur when groundwater withdrawals exceed recharge of the aquifer system. Such declines are indicative of unsustainable groundwater use, and are the primary cause of the other sustainability indicators, described below.



Land Subsidence

Extensive groundwater withdrawals from aquifer systems have caused land subsidence in many California basins. Land subsidence can damage structures such as wells, buildings, and highways. They also can create problems in the design and operation of facilities for drainage, flood protection, and water conveyance. Groundwater-level and land-subsidence monitoring provide the information needed to guide mitigation efforts and management of future effects.



Seawater Intrusion

Seawater intrusion associated with lowering of groundwater levels is an important issue in many of California's coastal groundwater basins. Quantifying the rate and extent of seawater intrusion involves understanding the aquifer-ocean interconnection and distinguishing among multiple sources of saline water.



Groundwater-Storage Reductions

Long-term declines in groundwater levels, if predominant within a basin and not offset by rising groundwater levels, cause long-term reductions in groundwater storage. Changes in groundwater storage can be estimated by using direct measurements, such as measuring groundwater levels, and indirect measurements, such as remote sensing, coupled with modeling tools.



Interconnected Surface-Water Depletions

Groundwater and surface water are interconnected resources. Much of the flow in streams, and the water in lakes and wetlands, is sustained by the discharge of groundwater, particularly during dry periods. Coordinated measurement and modeling of surface and groundwater conditions generally are needed to estimate surface-water changes that result from groundwater development.



Water-Quality Degradation

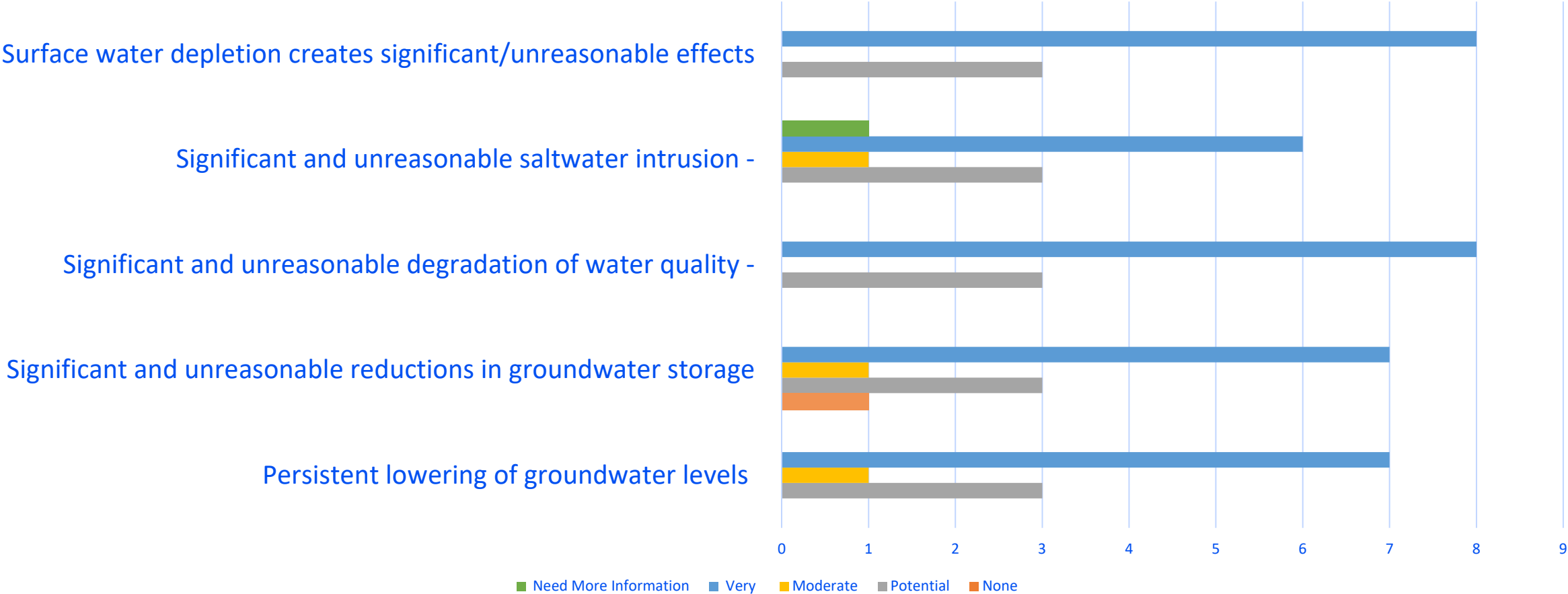
Determining changes in groundwater quality over time, often associated with changing groundwater levels, involves systematic monitoring of constituents of concern, coupled with understanding of the dynamics of the groundwater-flow system.

Figure 1-2. Sustainability Indicators¹

¹ Figure courtesy USGS

Degree of Concern About Sustainability Indicators

Question: How concerned are you about?



Other Comments ...

- The groundwater study indicates the groundwater quantity and quality in Oakley area is stable. There are naturally elevated levels of some contaminants that are mitigated with blending of surface water. Elevated nitrates are a result of historic agriculture use of fertilizers, etc.
- We need to always preach and act as we are always in a drought. Wasted water is wasted water, no matter if there is a drought or not!!
- In general, we really should only be using our fresh water to drink, grow food and for personal hygiene. Too many people are watering lawns and wasting it. I feel that people with drought resistant yards need to also be given further credit that incentivizes us all to leave behind lawns that keep being watered and wasting money. We literally wasting our water.
- I am worried about overuse of the aquifer as a fresh water source if other sources are not maintained correctly.

ECC Groundwater Sustainability Indicators

Not all six of these indicators will apply to every groundwater basin. It is up to the GSA to provide enough evidence that the indicator does not occur or would not occur in the future within their Groundwater Sustainability Plan. If an indicator is already creating an [undesirable result](#), the Groundwater Sustainability Plan must lay out the path that the basin will take to achieve sustainable groundwater management within 20 years.

In preparing their GSP, GSAs must consider the condition of each of the six sustainability indicators and quantify at what point they become significant and unreasonable in that basin. **What is considered “significant and unreasonable” is left for the local GSAs and stakeholders to decide.**

When defining what an undesirable result is, the GSA must consider all beneficial uses and users of groundwater, as well as land use and property interests in the basin. These interests include, but are not limited to, all of the following:

- (a) Holders of overlying groundwater rights, including agricultural users and domestic well owners.
- (b) Municipal well operators.
- (c) Public water systems.
- (d) Local land use planning agencies.
- (e) Environmental users of groundwater.
- (f) Surface water users, if there is a hydrologic connection between surface and groundwater bodies.
- (g) The federal government, including, but not limited to, the military and managers of federal lands.
- (h) California Native American tribes.
- (i) Disadvantaged communities, including, but not limited to, those served by private domestic wells or small community water systems.
- (j) Entities monitoring and reporting groundwater elevations in all or a part of a groundwater basin managed by the groundwater sustainability agency.

Question: Based on your understanding of the sustainability indicators and the beneficial uses and users, what would you suggest be included in the definitions of undesirable results for the following indicators?

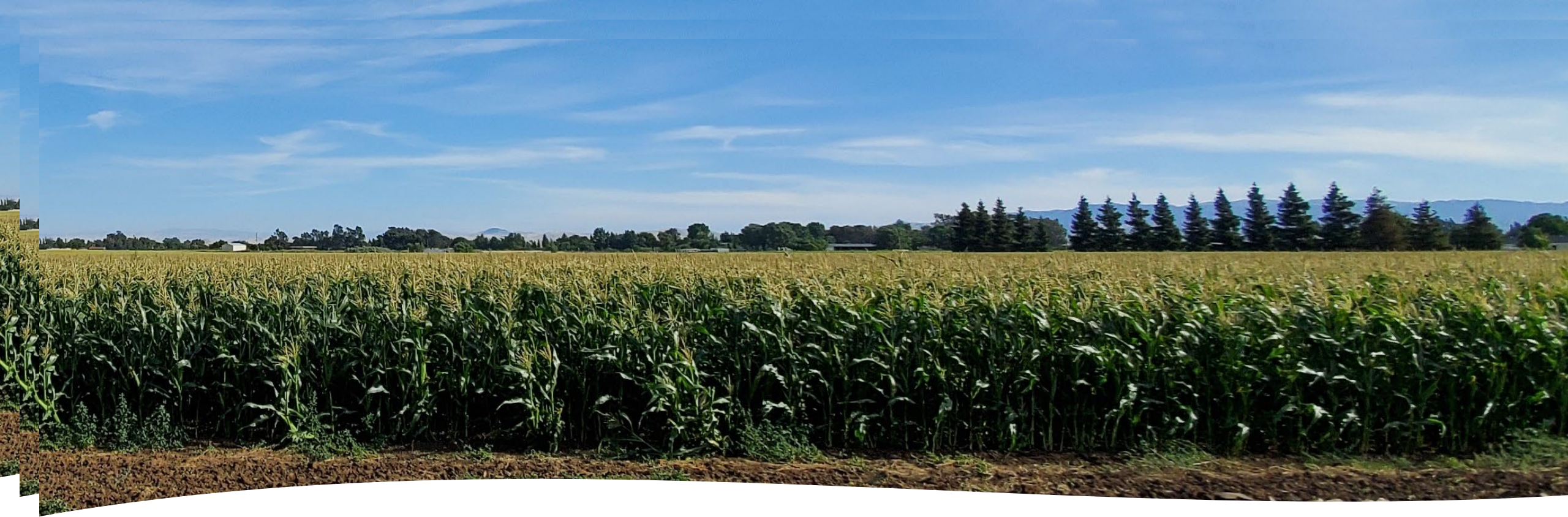
For Groundwater Decline:

- Withdrawals exceed the recharge rate
- Crops dying, increase of fires that are unsafe for us all, also decline in our health

All:

- Maintain balanced aquifer systems (withdrawals \leq recharge).
- Share why this is happening and exactly what are the effects.
- Share why this is happening. Can it be reversed?
- Share why this is happening and how we can help.





OPT-OUT

Participants were given the option of being added to the mailing list for future participation.

- 4 Participants opted-out.