



**Stanislaus & Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association
Groundwater Sustainability Agency**
1231 11th Street | Modesto, CA 95354
Phone: (209) 526-7564 | Fax: (209) 526-7352
Email: John.Davids@mid.org

AGENDA

February 10, 2021 (1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

Webinar Digital Platform or Phone Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87846141611>

By phone: 1-669-900-9128

Webinar ID: 878 4614 1611

This meeting is being conducted via webinar for all seven member agencies, pursuant to Executive Orders signed by Governor Gavin Newsom related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including provisions regarding the Brown Act. Members of the public and member agency staff may join the meeting utilizing Zoom's webinar feature if desired, or a phone number as provided in this Agenda. Members of the public will continue to have the opportunity to provide public input via the webinar or phone features. Members of the public may also email public comments by 3:00 p.m. on the day preceding the GSA meeting to: strgba.org. If public comments are timely submitted by email, then those comments will be identified during the public input section of the Agenda or during a specific agenda item if the agenda item is identified in the email. The Brown Act does not require a member of the public to state her or his name; please indicate in your email if you would like your name stated or if you want to remain anonymous.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public may participate in this meeting in the two ways described below.

Instructions for Participating in STRGBA GSA & Technical Advisory Meeting via Zoom Webinar or Phone

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5. If you wish to speak under Business from the Public, or after the Chairman calls for Public Comment, click on the “Raise Hand” button to request to speak.

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1. Call to Order/Welcome and Introductions
(Four agencies needed for a quorum)

2. Business from the Public

Who: Public

Expected Outcome: Interested persons are welcome to introduce any topic within the Agency's jurisdiction. Matters presented under this heading may be discussed but no action will be taken by the Agency at this meeting.

3. Topic: Approve 1/13/21 Meeting Minutes [Action Item]

Who: John Davids, Committee

Expected Outcome: Approval

4. Topic: Near Term Public Outreach Activities [Action Item]

Who: Gordon Enas, Committee

Expected Outcome: Approval

5. Topic: Budget and Schedule Update

Who: Gordon Enas, Committee

Expected Outcome: Discussion

6. Topic: GSP Update

Who: Todd Groundwater, Committee

Expected Outcome: Discussion

7. Topic: Monitoring Well Update

Who: Todd Groundwater, Committee

Expected Outcome: Discussion

8. Next Meeting

March 10, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom

9. Items too late for the agenda



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MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2021 (1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The following members of the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency (STRGBA GSA) attended via Zoom:

Modesto Irrigation District (MID):	John Davids
Oakdale Irrigation District (OID):	Eric Thorburn
City of Modesto:	Miguel Alvarez
Stanislaus County:	Walt Ward

Other Attendees:

Alexis Stevens, Somach, Simmons & Dunn
Stacy Henderson, Terpstra Henderson
Hilary Reinhard, Provost & Pritchard
Gordon Enas, MID
Samantha Wookey, MID
John Mensinger, MID
Liz Elliott, Todd Groundwater
Phyllis Stanin, Todd Groundwater
Louisa Waycott
Kirsten Pringle, Stantec

Amanda Peisch-Derby, DWR
John Brichetto
Matthew Toste
Claudia Hidahl
John Mauterer
John Beckman
Hilary Reinhard
Robert Demont
Debbie Montalbano
Louie Brichetto

2. Business from the Public

N/A

3. Approve 12/9/20 Minutes [Action item]

Ward moved, 2nd by Thorburn, to approve 12/9/20 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

4. GSP Budget and Schedule

Enas reported that Todd Groundwater has expended approximately 50% of the budget and 63% of the time scheduled through November 30, 2020.



5. Public Outreach Update

Wookey informed the group that MID and West Turlock GSA staff are working on a joint Turlock/Modesto subbasin fact sheet. Once finalized the factsheet will be circulated to both GSAs for approval before posting to their individual websites. Also, a GSA newsletter is planned for release this spring. Enas also mentioned that the public outreach team met with Stantec and DWR to amend the scope of work for the Facilitation Support Services (FSS) contract and extend the contract through 2021. The FSS application amendment will be resubmitted to DWR for approval.

6. GSP Update

Stanin informed the group that the GSA and consultants will be describing and discussing sustainable management criteria over the next few months with the goal of selecting criteria by the end of March 2021.

7. Monitoring Well Update

Elliott stated Gregory Drilling is scheduled to begin drilling the monitoring wells at the beginning of February. Ground Zero Analysis subcontracted to managing daily progress of the project. They have also started the permitting process with Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources, as well as preparing encroachment permits. Davids asked if the encroachment permits could be approved at staff level. Ward stated that the permits can be approved at staff level.

8. Next meeting

February 10, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom webinar

9. Items too late for the agenda

N/A



AGENDA REPORT

GSA Meeting Date: February 10, 2021

Subject:	Near-Term Public Outreach Activities.
Recommended Action:	Resolution approving and authorizing the Chairman to implement Near-Term Public Outreach Activities.
Background and Discussion:	<p>STRGBA GSA has entered into a contract with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for Facilitation Support Services (FSS) using their contractor, Stantec. The original contract was amended by DWR on January 21, 2021 to include the following Near-Term Outreach Activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. GSA Outreach Toolkit: Provide GSA representatives with a package of template materials which can be used to conduct outreach and give presentations to local community organizations and industry associations. Stantec will develop template presentation slides, talking points, and social media posts.2. Recorded Presentations: Educate and inform stakeholders and interested parties on key SGMA topics to prepare them to participate in monthly coordination and TAC meetings and comment on draft GSP chapters. Recordings will be 5 – 7 minutes long. STRGBA GSA will provide speakers and Stantec will help develop slides and handle recording logistics. Topics may include sustainable management criteria, water budgets, projects and management actions, and groundwater monitoring networks.3. Office Hours: Schedule designated times for interested parties to ask questions and engage in informal discussions with GSA representatives on topics related to the GSP. Anticipate holding 3 – 4 office hour sessions throughout 2021 using a virtual meeting platform such as Zoom. STRGBA GSA will provide speakers and Stantec will assist with logistics and notetaking.
Alternatives, Pros and Cons of Each Alternative:	<p>Pros: Provides broad range of outreach opportunities to promote engagement with the public on SGMA, implementation of the GSP, and groundwater issues facing the Modesto Subbasin.</p> <p>Cons: None</p>
Concurrence:	The list of Near-Term Public Outreach Activities was prepared by the FSS consultant, Stantec, in cooperation with GSA member agencies. The GSA member agencies authorized MID staff to submit the FSS contract application to DWR at the October 9, 2019 GSA meeting.

Fiscal Impact:	Staff time for document preparation, video presentations, and virtual meetings with the public.
Recommendation:	Resolution approving and authorizing the Chairman to implement Near-Term Public Outreach Activities.
Attachments:	Supporting documents attached: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Other supporting docs <input type="checkbox"/> None attached <i>Note: Original contracts and agreements are housed in the Board Secretary's Office, phone (209) 526-7360.</i>

Presenter

Gordon Enas
2/5/2021
Date Signed

GSA Chairman

John B. Davids, P.E.
2/5/2021
Date Signed



AGENDA REPORT

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-1

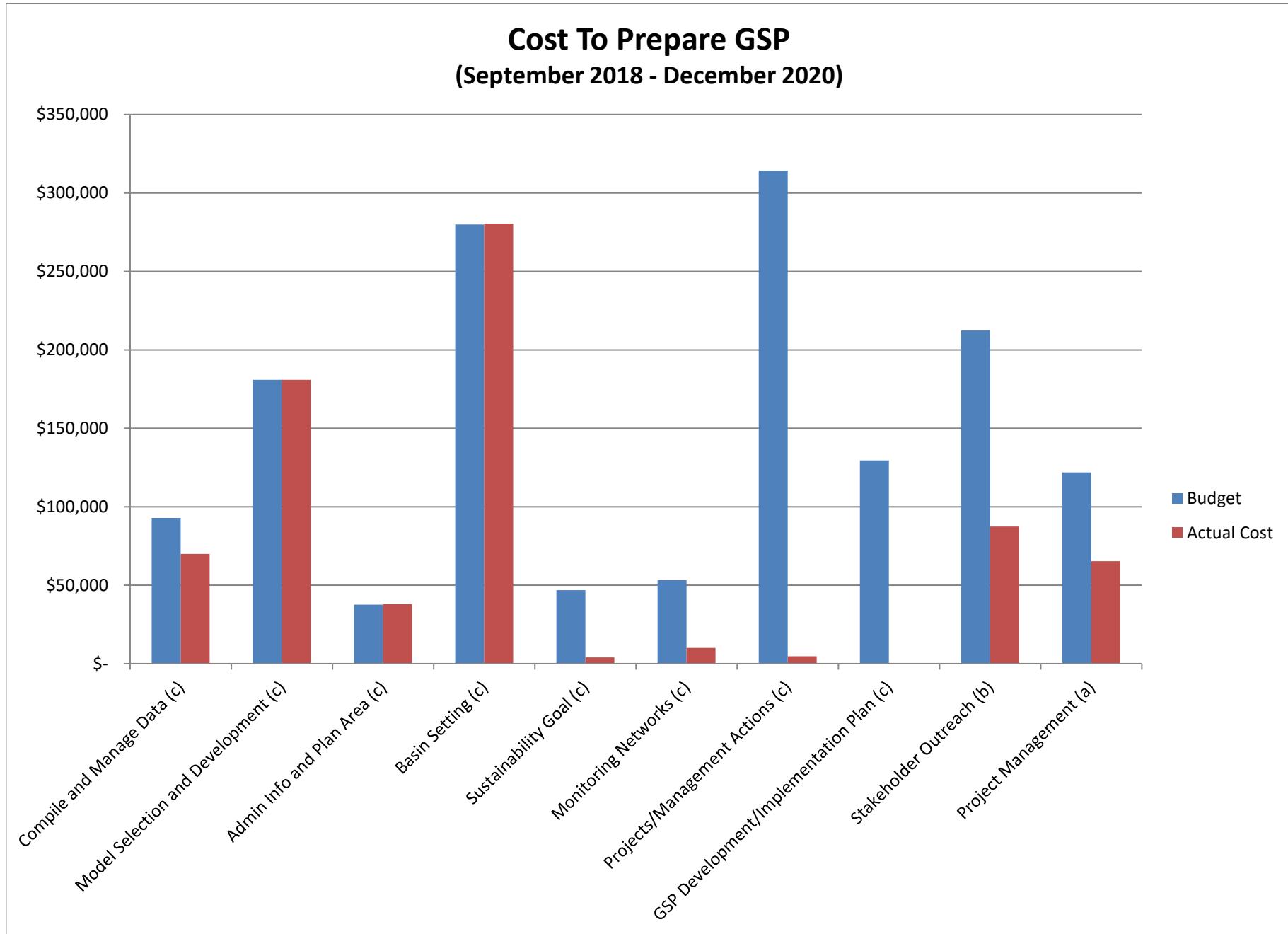
RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN TO IMPLEMENT NEAR-TERM PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency (STRGBA GSA) is required under SGMA to provide opportunities for public engagement, encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the Modesto Subbasin, and inform the public about progress implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan; and

WHEREAS, STRGBA GSA has entered into a contract with DWR for Facilitation Support Services to aid the GSA in its efforts to work through challenging water management situations, and foster discussions among diverse water management interests and local stakeholders as it prepares the Plan; and

WHEREAS, STRGBA GSA desires to enhance and expand its current public outreach activities with a more concentrated effort at reaching out to stakeholders as it works to complete the GSP.

BE IT RESOLVED, The Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency does hereby approve and authorize the Chairman to implement Near-Term Public Outreach activities.





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AGENDA

February 10, 2021 (2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

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 - a. Wait until the last four digits of your phone number is called by the Host.



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2. Business from the Public

Who: Public

Expected Outcome: Interested persons are welcome to introduce any topic within the Agency's jurisdiction. Matters presented under this heading may be discussed but no action will be taken by the Agency at this meeting.

3. Topic: Approve 1/13/21 Meeting Minutes [Action Items]

Who: John Davids, Committee

Expected Outcome: Approval

4. Topic: Sustainable Management Criteria

Who: Todd Groundwater, Committee

Expected Outcome: Discussion

5. Next Meeting

TBD

6. Items too late for the agenda



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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2021 (2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The following members of the Stanislaus and Tuolumne Rivers Groundwater Basin Association Groundwater Sustainability Agency (STRGBA GSA) attended via Zoom:

Modesto Irrigation District (MID):	John Davids
Oakdale Irrigation District (OID):	Eric Thorburn
City of Modesto:	Miguel Alvarez
Stanislaus County:	Walt Ward

Other Attendees:

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Matthew Toste
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John Mauterer
John Beckman
Hilary Reinhard
Robert Demont
Debbie Montalbano
Louie Brichetto

2. Business from the Public

None

3. Approve 12/9/20 Minutes [Action item]

Thorburn moved, 2nd by Ward, to approve 12/9/20 meeting minutes. Motion carried.



4. Technical Workshop #10 – Sustainable Management Criteria

Stanin gave a presentation on Sustainable Management Criteria, which is the next step in the GSP development process. There are six sustainability indicators that must be considered in the GSP, and the GSA will need to determine which of the indicators are applicable to the Modesto Subbasin both now and in the future. Stanin also discussed how to define “undesirable results” and the need to develop a sustainability goal for the GSA. Stanin’s presentation can be accessed at the STRGBA GSA website: www.strgba.org.

Meeting participants engaged in the following discussion of five of the six sustainability indicators (SI) with the GSA members and consultant team:

SI: Reduction of Groundwater in Storage

- Davids asked if Stanislaus County required well completion reports when they provided public funding for well construction? Ward responded to the affirmative and that the reports are available from the County.
- Henderson asked if the GSA is looking into developing sustainable management criteria basin-wide or by operational zone? Stanin responded that the GSA will likely establish metrics for the entire subbasin, but will vary by zone. For instance, they may set criteria at specific wells that are part of the monitoring network which may cover different zones.
- Ward asked when will minimum thresholds (MT) and minimum objectives (MO) be discussed the GSP process? Stanin responded that the GSA’s have discretion over determining undesirable results and have flexibility on incorporating MT’s and MO’s into the definition. If one well goes below a MT, it doesn’t necessarily mean that the whole basin is out of compliance.

SI: Seawater Intrusion

- Ward also mentioned that connate water shouldn’t be classified as seawater intrusion and should be eliminated from consideration. Stanin agreed and recommended that since seawater intrusion is not applicable to the Modesto Subbasin, that it be removed from consideration in the sustainability indicator analysis.

SI: Land Subsidence

- Davids commented that it should be clarified that Non-District East extractors are not causing land subsidence on the east side of the basin. Stanin agreed, and added that subsidence was specific to dewatering of the clay layers.



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SI: Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

- Davids commented that projected depletion of surface water from the rivers is a significant issue, specifically for our discussions with the adjacent basins.
- Director Mensinger asked since the State Water Board's proposed regulations want to take more water from the Tuolumne River, if the river is adding to the groundwater how can the deficit be made up? And is there an opportunity for the GSA to take management actions to reduce amount of groundwater flowing to the river? Davids responded that if the SWB regulations are imposed, future releases to the Tuolumne River at La Grange will not reach the flow compliance point in Modesto. He also added that this will be an important discussion as we begin to discuss management actions.

SI: Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE)

- Stanin mentioned that streamflow depletions could impact ecological communities if depletion is significant.
- Reinhard asked if the GSA is planning to ground truth GDE's as shown on DWR maps? Stanin replied that we are not planning this in detail since the analysis is complicated and time consuming. We can analyze GDE's from a holistic standpoint by looking at historic water levels and inferring whether or not GDE's are impacted. But first we would need to identify potential GDE's and go from location to location and eliminate them from consideration using historical data.

5. Next Meeting

TBD

6. Items too late for the agenda

N/A



MODESTO SUBBASIN GSP

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING

February 10, 2021



PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Continued Discussion of Sustainability Indicators
 - Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels
- DRAFT Sustainability Goal for the Modesto Subbasin



CHRONIC LOWERING OF GROUNDWATER LEVELS

SUSTAINABILITY INDICATOR

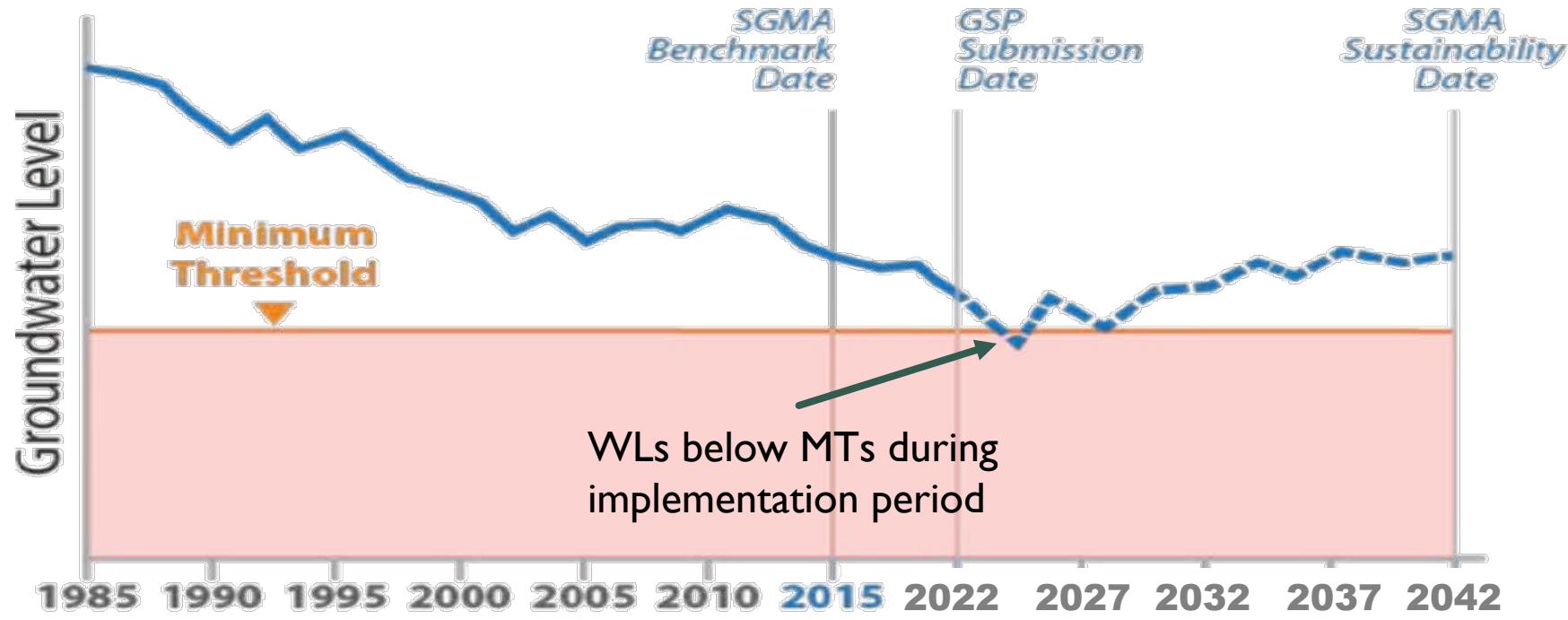
					
Chronic Lowering of Water Levels	Reduction of Groundwater in Storage	Degraded Water Quality	Seawater Intrusion	Inelastic Land Subsidence	Depletion of Inter-connected Surface Water

- *Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels* is an undesirable result when a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply would occur if continued over the planning and implementation horizon. (§10721(x)(1))
- Also leads to overdraft conditions and affects beneficial uses of wells
- How should we define Undesirable Results and select a minimum threshold (MT) for the Modesto Subbasin?



APPLICATION OF THE MINIMUM THRESHOLD DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

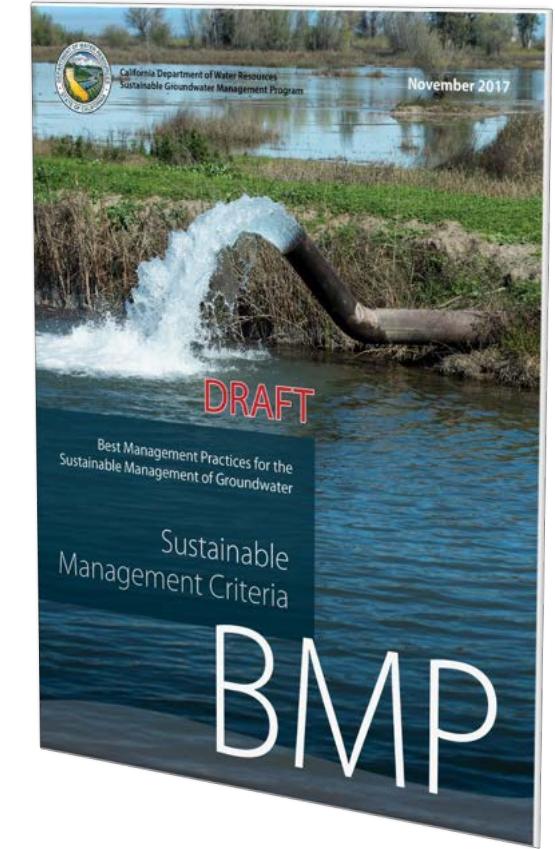
- Minimum Threshold (MT) defines the undesirable result
- SGMA allows 20 years to avoid undesirable results and achieve sustainability
- Water levels may fall below the MT in the initial implementation period





CONSIDERATIONS FOR MINIMUM THRESHOLDS (MTs)

- Historical groundwater levels and rates of decline
- Depths and screen intervals of municipal, agricultural, and domestic wells – adverse impacts to local wells?
- Impacts of water levels on pumping costs
- Adjacent basin's MTs for groundwater elevations
- Potential impacts of lower groundwater levels on groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs)
- Different conditions in each principal aquifer and monitoring site



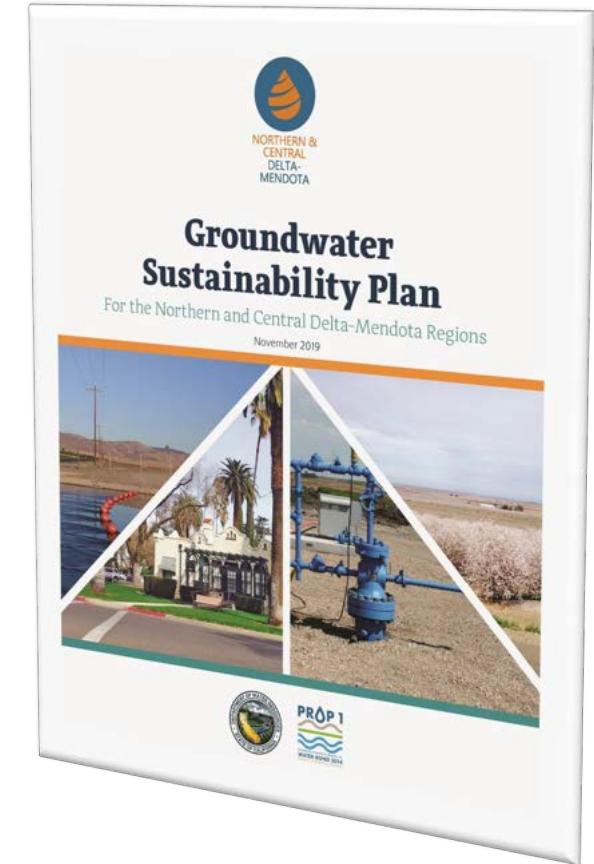


ADJACENT SUBBASINS SELECTED MTs BASED ON HISTORICAL Low WATER LEVELS

Delta Mendota Subbasin (Northern & Central GSP Regions)

Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels

- Undesirable results occur when significant and unreasonable change in water levels impacts beneficial users of groundwater
 - Dewatering of shallow wells, higher pumping costs, need to modify wells for groundwater access
- MTs
 - Historical low water level for Upper Aquifer
 - 95% of historical low water level for Lower Aquifer



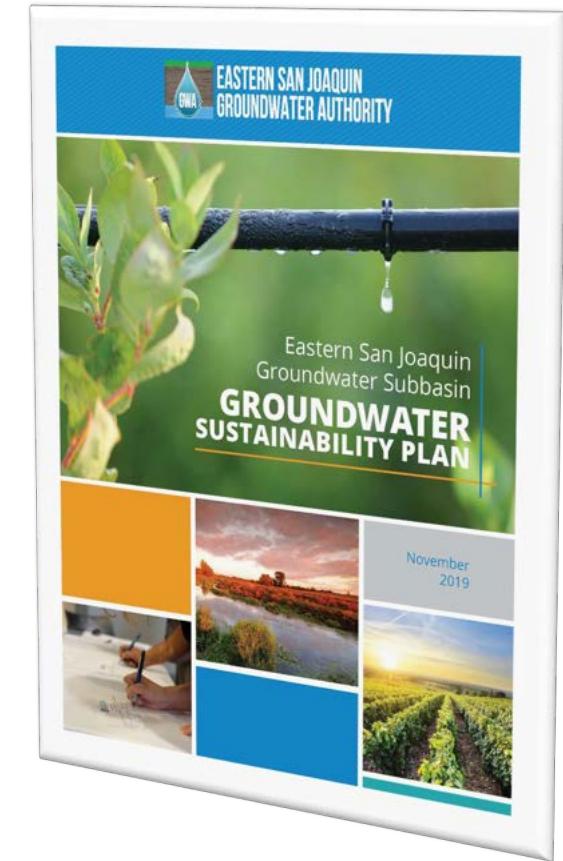


ADJACENT SUBBASINS SELECTED MTs BASED ON HISTORICAL Low WATER LEVELS

Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin GSP

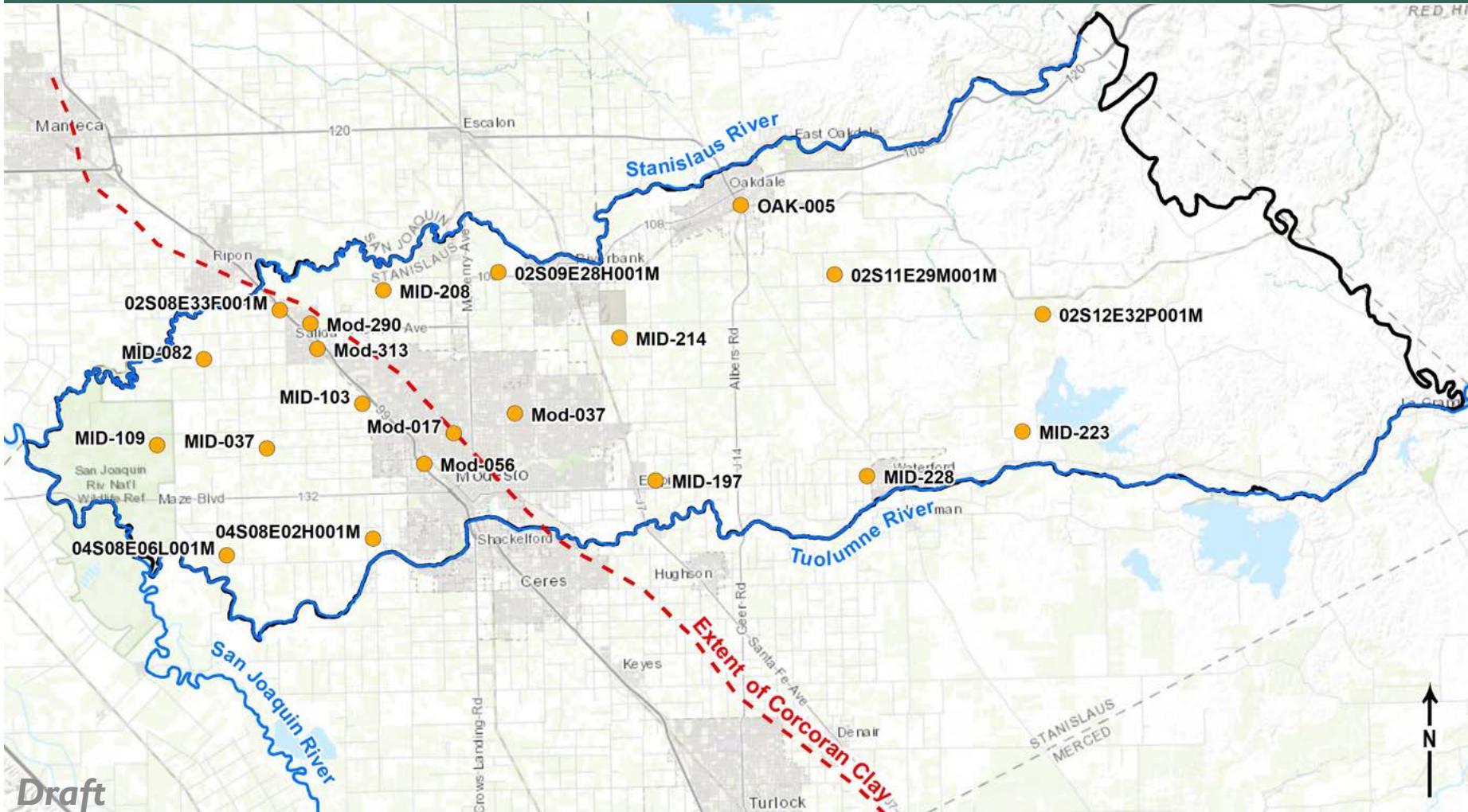
Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels

- Undesirable results definition considers historical drought levels and domestic well depths
- MTs – shallower of:
 - historical drought low (1992 or 2015-2016) with a buffer of the historical fluctuation, or
 - 10th percentile of domestic well depth (protects 90% of domestic wells)





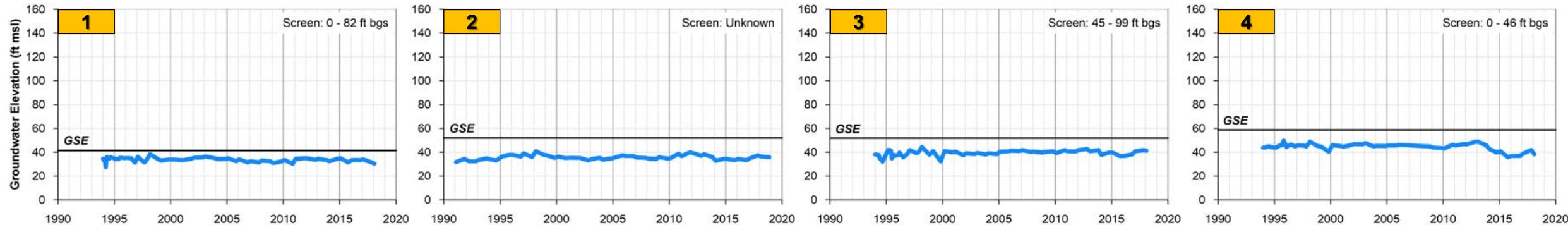
HISTORICAL GROUNDWATER LEVELS IN THE MODESTO SUBBASIN



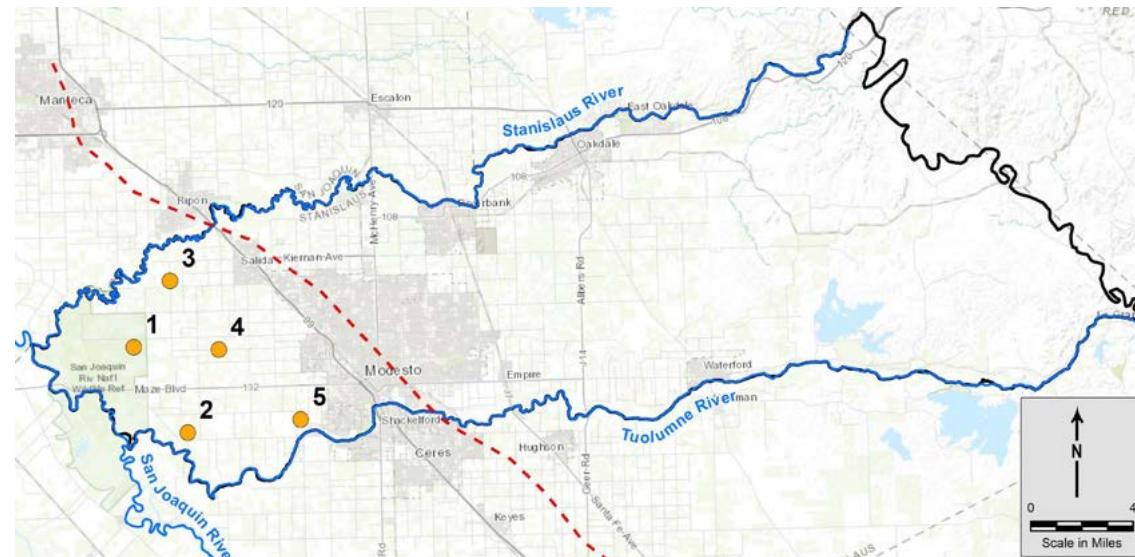
- Review of representative hydrographs
- Evaluate by Principal Aquifer



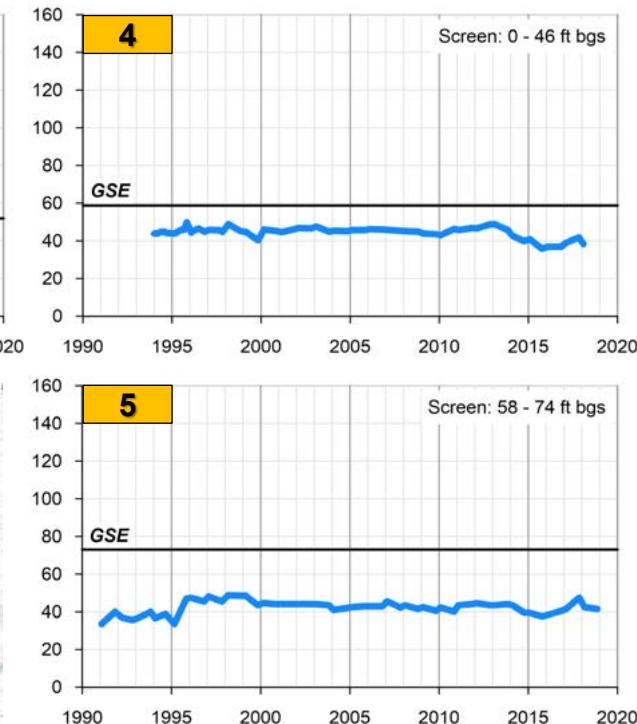
HISTORICAL GROUNDWATER LEVELS WESTERN UPPER PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



- No significant long-term declines
- Water levels recover during wet periods

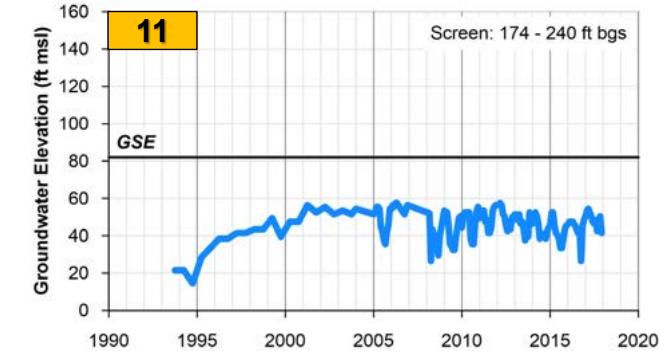
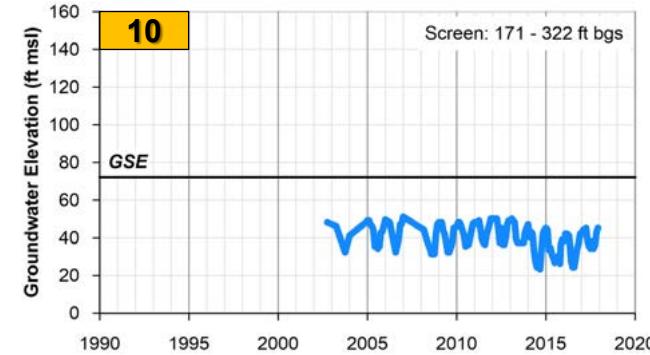
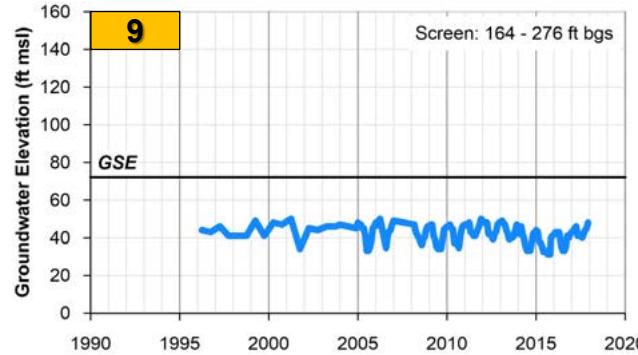


Western Upper Principal Aquifer Wells





HISTORICAL GROUNDWATER LEVELS WESTERN LOWER PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



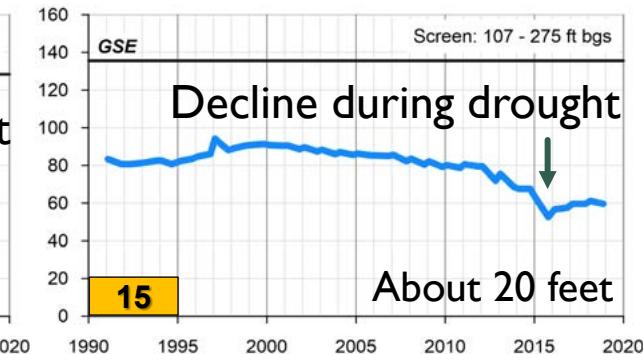
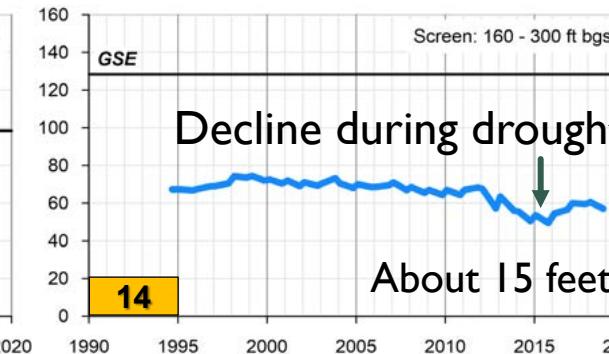
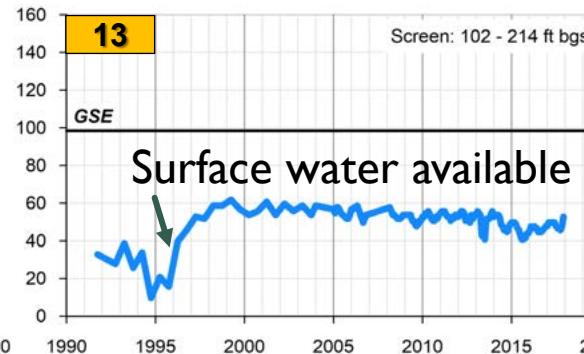
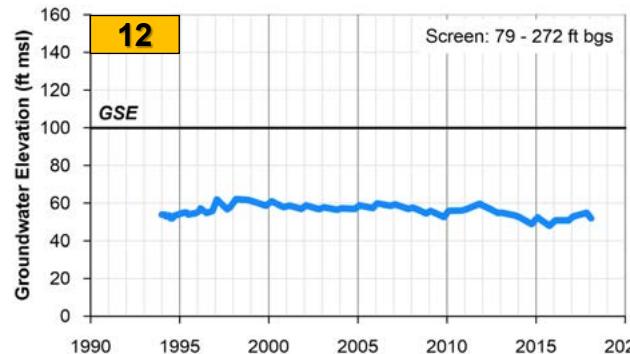
- No significant declines indicated by three wells monitored in the Western Lower Principal Aquifer
- Only a few wells monitored below the Corcoran Clay
- Additional monitoring data needed to evaluate water level declines in this aquifer



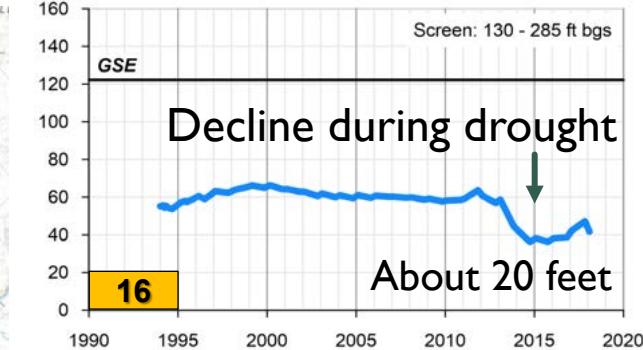
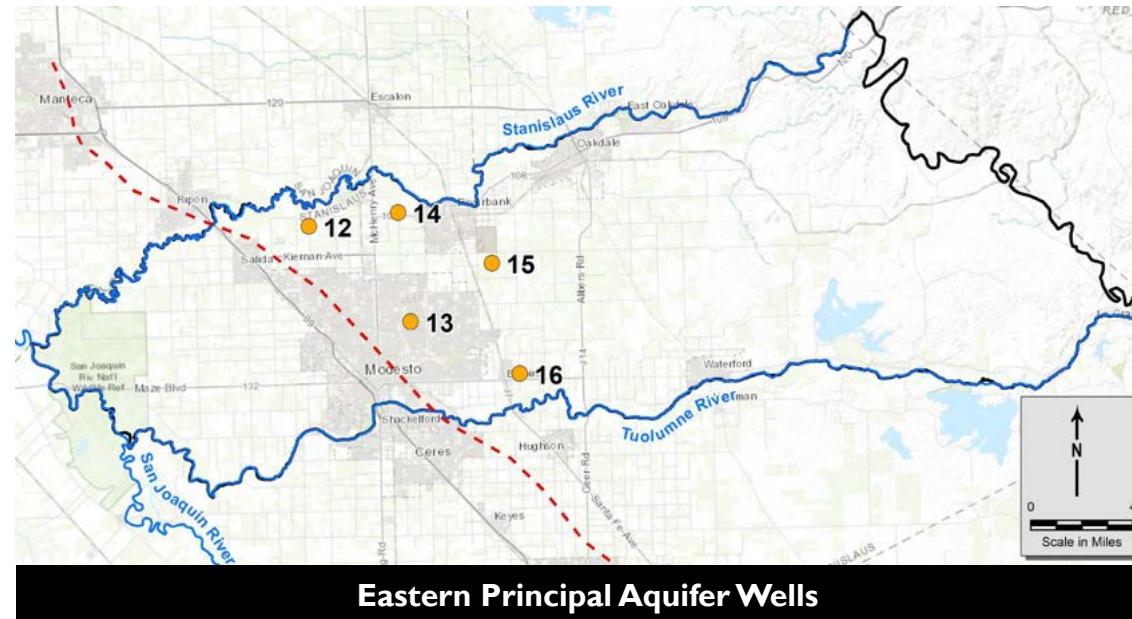
Western Lower Principal Aquifer Wells



HISTORICAL GROUNDWATER LEVELS EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER

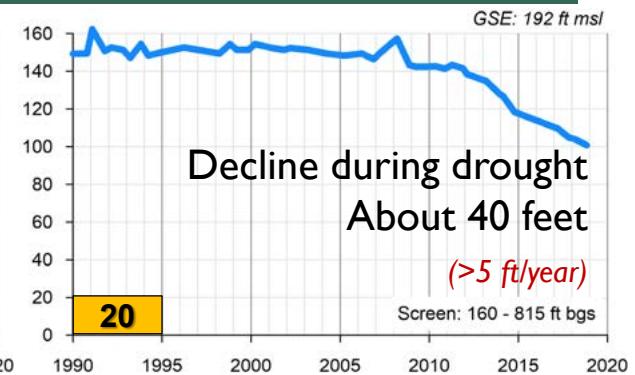
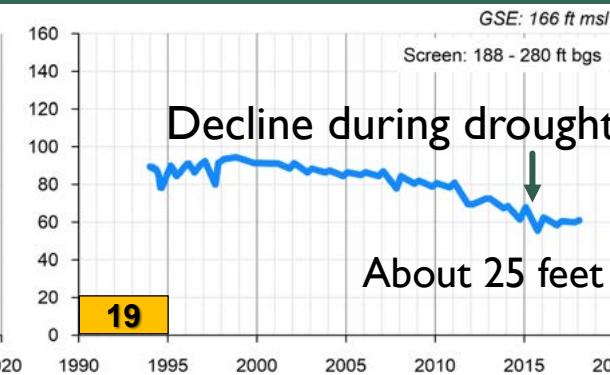
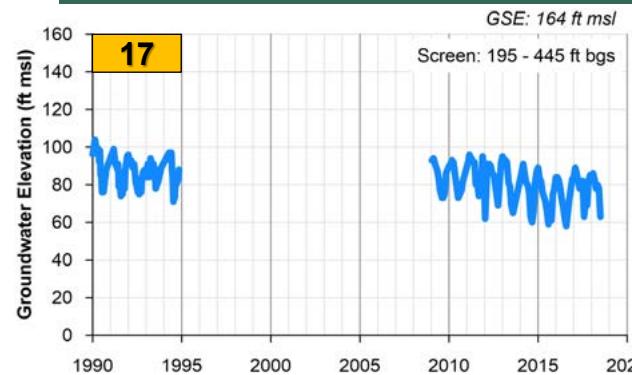


- Declines in Eastern Principal Aquifer
- City of Modesto Well (#13 above) water levels rose when surface water became available
- Eastern-most wells have not recovered fully from drought (#14, 15, and 16)

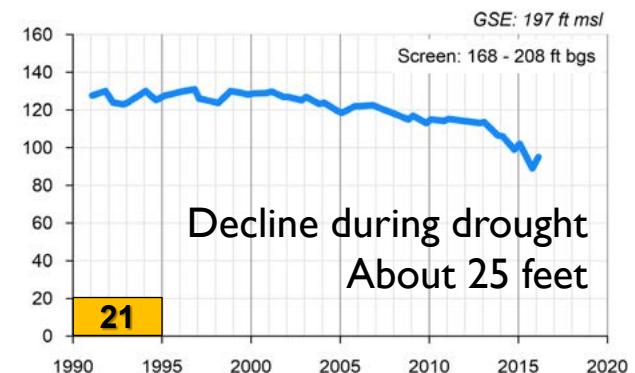
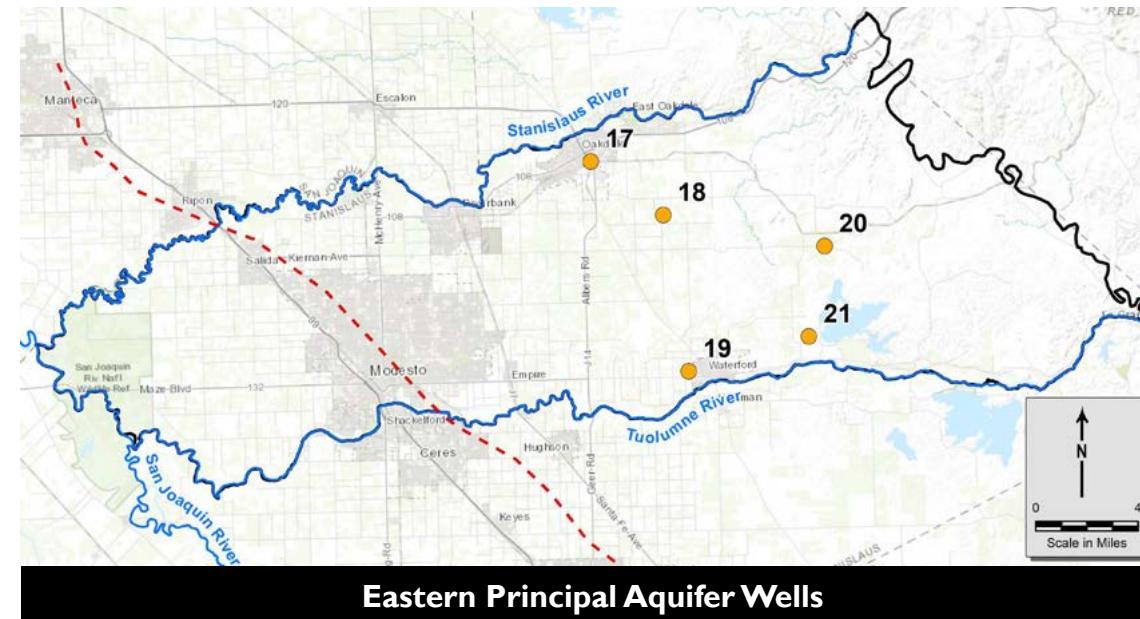




HISTORICAL GROUNDWATER LEVELS EASTERN PRINCIPAL AQUIFER



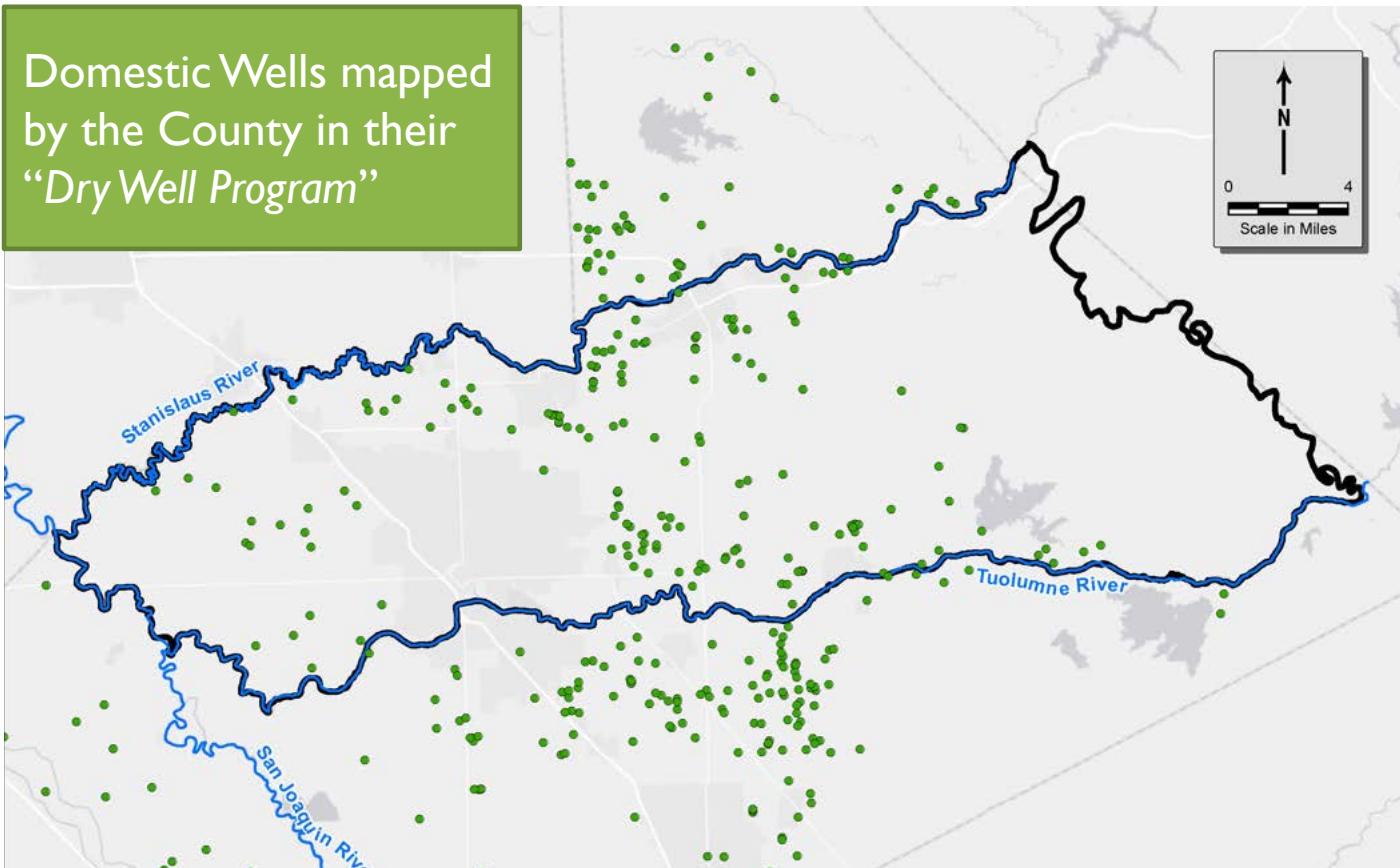
- Largest water level declines in Non-District East area
- Declines of 25 ft to 40 ft during recent drought
- Rate of decline more than 5 feet/year for some wells





DOMESTIC WELL PROBLEMS IN RECENT DROUGHT

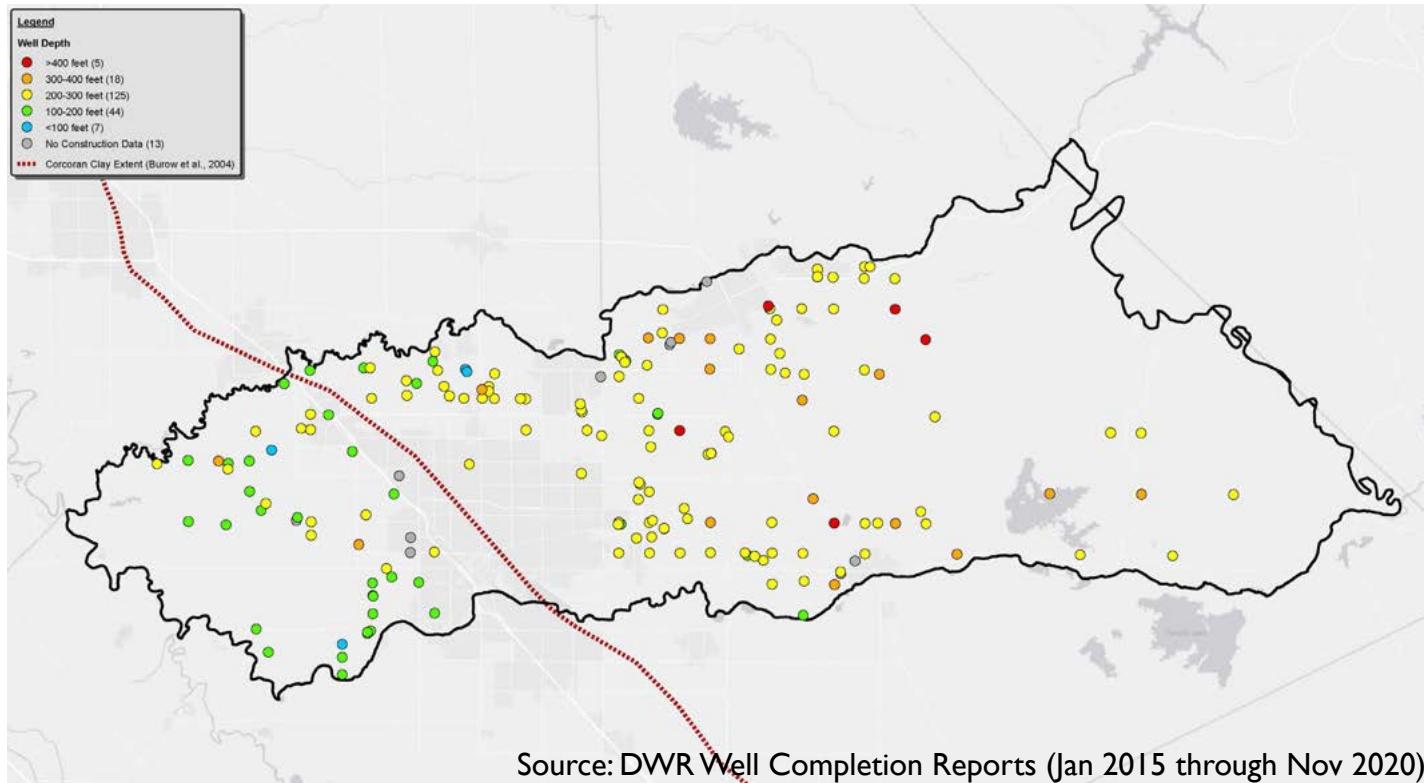
Domestic Wells mapped by the County in their “Dry Well Program”



- Domestic well owners reported water supply problems to Stanislaus County during recent drought 2014-2017
- County assisted well owners and mapped problem wells
- Most problem wells were old and/or shallow (<100 feet deep)
- 159 wells mapped in the Modesto Subbasin

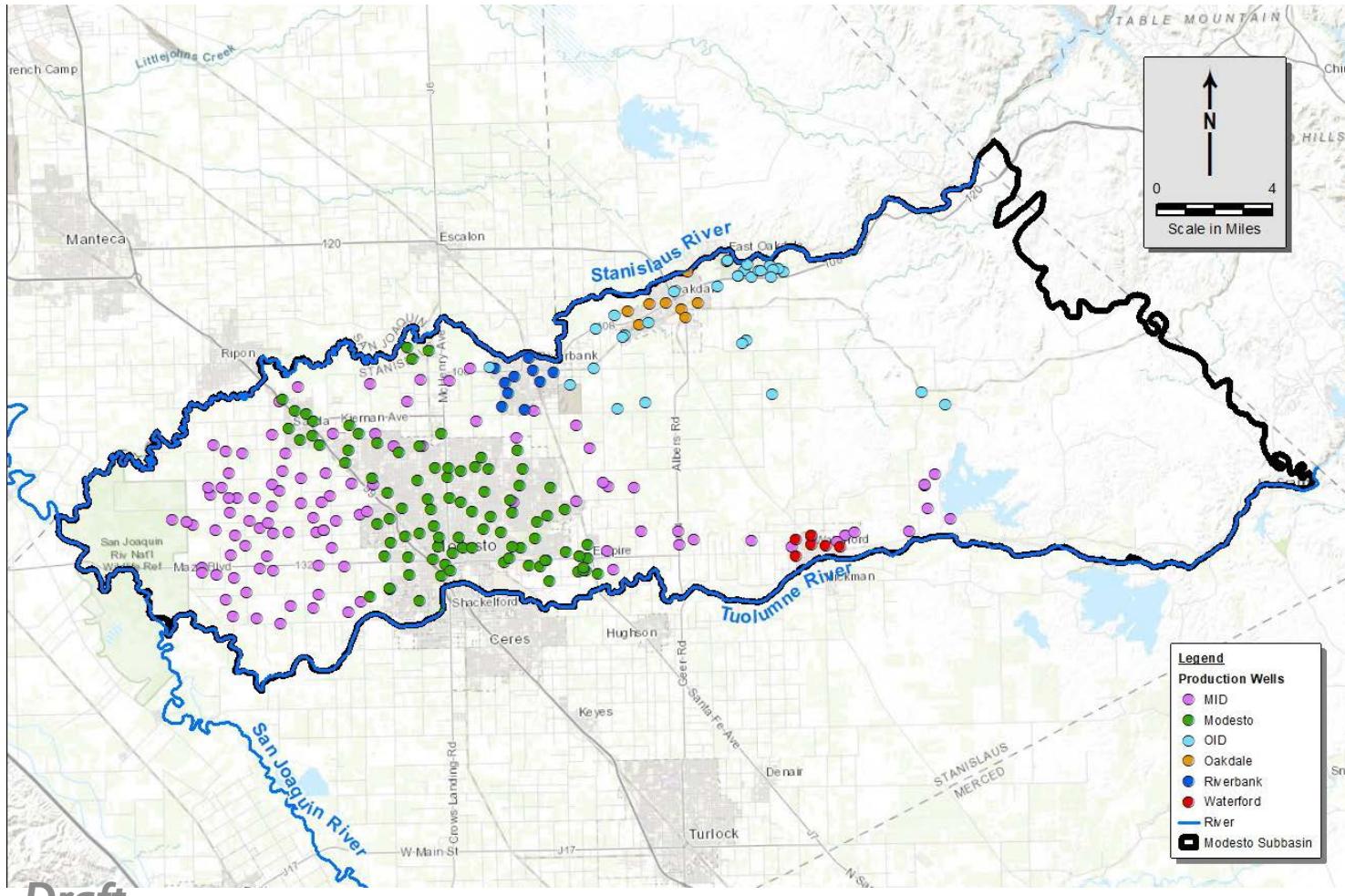


DOMESTIC WELLS CONSTRUCTED SINCE 2015



- 212 new domestic wells drilled since 2015
- May be replacement wells for previously failed wells
- Approximately 60% drilled to depths between 200 and 300 feet (yellow dots)

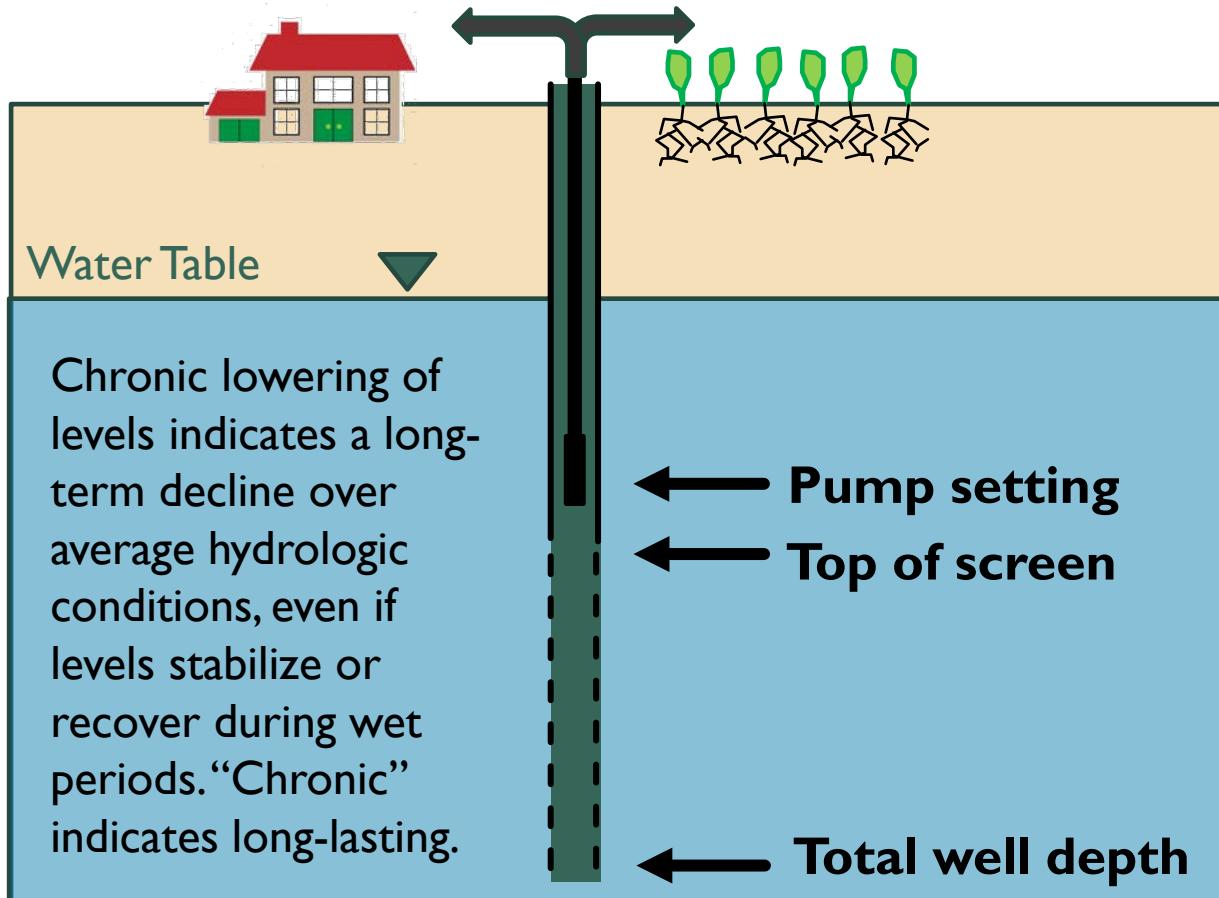
AGENCY/PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELLS



- About 250 wells
- Municipal drinking water supply wells
- Irrigation district wells to augment agricultural supply
- Adverse well impacts during recent drought conditions?
- Ability to provide supply during additional multi-year drought?



CHRONIC LOWERING OF WATER LEVELS



- Have water level declines affected beneficial uses of wells?
- During the recent drought of record, did we have:
 - Dry wells?
 - Operational issues?
 - Water quality concerns?
- Request feedback from TAC members on known adverse impacts to wells.



SUSTAINABILITY GOAL – SGMA DEFINITION

- *Sustainability goal* refers to “the existence and implementation of one or more groundwater sustainability plans that achieve sustainable groundwater management by identifying and causing the implementation of measures targeted to ensure that the applicable basin is operated within its sustainable yield.” (§10721(u))



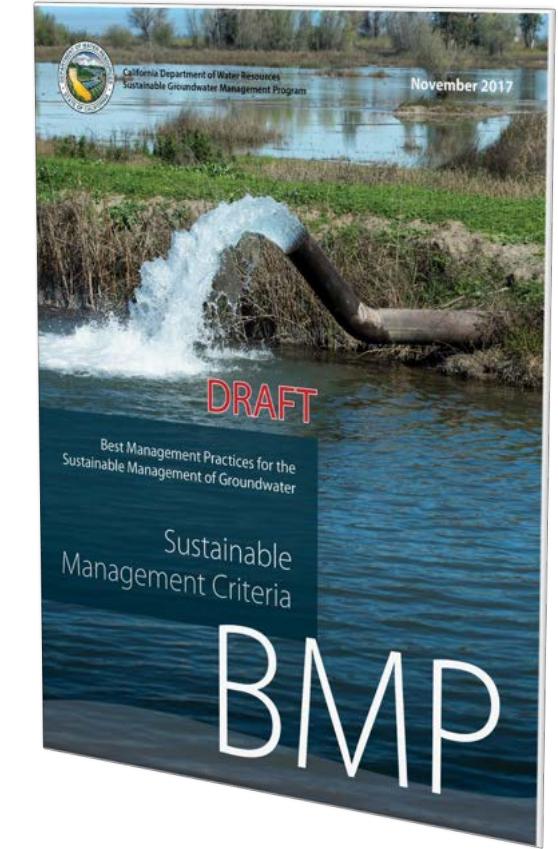
SUSTAINABILITY GOAL – SGMA REQUIREMENTS

- Mission statement for the GSP
- One “succinct” goal for the entire Subbasin
- Interactive Goal: can modify during project development
- Example of concepts incorporated by other Subbasins
 - Avoid undesirable results (mandatory concept).
 - Provide operational flexibility.
 - Focus on drought protection.
 - Allow for adaptive management.



GOAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR SUSTAINABILITY GOAL

- State the GSA's objective or mission statement for the basin.
- Summarize the overall purpose for sustainably managing groundwater resources and reflect local economic, social, and environmental values within the basin.
- Summarize the measures that will be implemented – e.g., demand reduction and/or groundwater recharge projects – to operate the Subbasin within its sustainable yield.
- Explain how the goal will be achieved in 20 years (e.g., groundwater levels will be raised or remain above some threshold value, future land subsidence will be reduced or eliminated, etc.).
- Sustainability goal can only be finalized after undesirable results (and MTs) have been defined, projects and management actions have been identified, and the projected impact of those projects and management actions on groundwater conditions have been evaluated.





SUSTAINABILITY GOAL EXAMPLES

DELTA-MENDOTA AND EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN SUBBASINS

The Delta-Mendota Subbasin will manage groundwater resources for the benefit of all users of groundwater in a manner that allows for operational flexibility, ensures resource availability under drought conditions, and does not negatively impact surface water diversion and conveyance and delivery capabilities.

This goal will be achieved through the implementation of the proposed projects and management actions to reach identified measurable objectives and milestones through the implementation of the GSP(s), and through continued coordination with neighboring subbasins to ensure the absence of undesirable results by 2040.

The sustainability goal description for the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin is to maintain an economically-viable groundwater resource for the beneficial use of the people of the Eastern San Joaquin Subbasin by operating the Subbasin within its sustainable yield or by modification of existing management to address future conditions.

This goal will be achieved through the implementation of a mix of supply and demand type projects consistent with the GSP implementation plan.



SUSTAINABILITY GOAL EXAMPLES

DRAFT GOAL – TURLOCK SUBBASIN

The draft **Sustainability Goal for the Turlock Subbasin** is to manage groundwater in a sustainable manner that avoids undesirable results. This goal is supported by and includes the following actions:

- Manage the Subbasin within its defined sustainable yield by the end of the 20-year implementation period and maintain sustainable management throughout the Planning Horizon.
- Develop and implement a series of projects and management actions to increase and preserve the quantity and quality of a sustainable groundwater supply.
- Provide a reliable groundwater supply through multi-year droughts.
- Optimize conjunctive use of surface water and groundwater.
- Monitor groundwater conditions and sustainable management criteria to avoid undesirable results.
- Allow for operational flexibility in the use of Subbasin groundwater resources.
- Modify groundwater management activities as needed through periodic evaluations of GSP implementation and ongoing adaptive management.



REQUEST FEEDBACK FROM TAC MEMBERS

- Do you have ideas to incorporate into the Subbasin Sustainability Goal?
- Are there mission statements for your agency that you'd like to consider?
- Would you like for the technical team to provide a draft goal for you to consider and mark-up?
- We'd like to incorporate your input into a DRAFT Sustainability Goal by February 26; goal will be finalized toward the end of the project.



Please provide comments and input to technical team by Feb 26

NEXT STEPS

- TAC feedback on wells and undesirable result definition for chronic lowering of water levels
- Sustainable Management Criteria for other sustainability indicators
- Ongoing model analyses:
 - Climate Change
 - Sustainable Yield
- Identification and screening of Projects and Management Actions

QUESTIONS?

