Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

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Provide Public Comment by 2:30 pm the day of the meeting by either email or mail.

E-mail comments to:
ekang@scvwa.org

- Or -

Mail comments to:

Eunie Kang
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

*All written comments received after 2:30 pm the day of the meeting will be posted to **scvgsa.org** the next day. Disclaimer: Pursuant to the Executive Order N2920 Issued by Gov. Newsom, public may not attend meetings in person. Public may use the above methods to attend and participate in the public meetings.

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SCV GSA

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HOLLY SCHROEDER – CHAIR
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ENVIRONMENTAL
SANDRA CATTELL
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STEVE SLIGH

MEDIUM PUMPERS
ROY MARSON
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SMALL PUMPERS
DENNIS OSTROM

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF MEETING OF SANTA CLARITA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency – Board Room
Rio Vista Treatment Plant Facility
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

WEB AND TELECONFERENCE ONLY
NO PHYSICAL LOCATION FOR MEETING

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.

WEB AND TELECONFERENCING NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order N-29-20 issued by Governor Gavin Newsom on March 17, 2020, any Committee Member may call into a Committee meeting using the Committee's **Call-In Number 1 (669) 900-9128, Meeting ID: 619 966 7251, Password: 516663 or Zoom by clicking on the link: us02web.zoom.us/j/6199667251?pwd=VXZQZWJ6anozOCtWMHh1UFVNbUlzUT09 Meeting ID: 619 966 7251, Password: SCV-GSA-20**

without otherwise complying with the Brown Act's teleconferencing requirements.

Pursuant to the above Executive Order, the public may not attend the meeting in person. Any member of the public may listen to the meeting or make comments to the Committee using the call-in number or Zoom link above. Please see the notice below if you have a disability and require an accommodation in order to participate in the meeting.

We request that the public submit any comments in writing if practicable, which can be sent to ekang@scvwa.org or mailed to Eunie Kang, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. All written comments received before 2:30 PM the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Committee members and posted on the Santa Clarita Valley Water Groundwater Sustainability Agency's website prior to the start of the meeting. Anything received after 2:30 PM the day of the meeting will be posted on the SCV-GSA website the following day.

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

2. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Members of the public may comment as to items not on the agenda at this time. Members of the public wishing to comment on items covered in this agenda may do so now or prior to each item as they arise. (Comments may, at the discretion of the Chair, be limited to three minutes for each speaker.)

3. GENERAL AGENDA ITEMS

ITEMS			PAGE
3.1	*	Approval of the Minutes of the January 12, 2021, Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting	1
3.2	*	Discussion of the Sustainable Management Criteria Development	3

4. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

5. ADJOURNMENT

*** Indicates attachment**
♦ To be distributed

NOTICES:

Any person may make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation needed for that person to be able to participate in the public meeting by telephoning Eunie Kang, at (661) 297-1600 or writing to Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. Requests must specify the nature of the disability and the type of accommodation requested. A telephone number or other contact information should be included so that Agency staff may discuss appropriate arrangements. Persons requesting a disability-related accommodation should make the request with adequate time before the meeting for the Agency to provide the requested accommodation.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.5, non-exempt public records that relate to open session agenda items and are distributed to a majority of the Committee less than seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting will be available for public inspection at the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, located at 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, California 91350, during regular business hours. When practical, these public records will also be made available on the Agency's Internet Website, accessible at http://www.scvgsa.org.

Posted on January 22, 2021

Santa Clarita Valley
Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)

ITEM NO. 3.1

Meeting Minutes: Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 4:00 P.M.
SCV-GSA SAC – Web and Teleconference Zoom Virtual Meeting

Committee Members Present:

Eric Adair, Vice Chair (Business Group)
Matt Carpenter (Large Pumper Group)
Sandra Cattell (Environmental Group)
Stacy Fortner (Environmental Group)
Dan Masnada (At Large Group)
Holly Schroeder, Chair (Business Group)
Steve Sligh (Large Pumper Group)

Committee Members Absent:

Roy Marson (Medium Pumper)
Danny Mascari (Medium Pumper)
Dennis Ostrom (Small Pumper Group)

Other Attendees:

Steve Cole, SCV Water Agency
Dirk Marks, SCV Water Agency
Rick Viergutz, SCV Water Agency
Kathie Martin, SCV Water Agency
Eunie Kang, SCV Water Agency
Tom Bunn, Lagerlof, LLP
Tara Bravo, CV Strategies
Jeff Barry, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.
John Porcello, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

A copy of the Agenda is attached.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Holly Schroeder welcomed the committee members and members of the public and called the meeting to order.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. General Agenda Items

3.1 Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2020 SAC Regular Meeting

Upon motion of Eric Adair, seconded by Matt Carpenter and carried, the minutes of the November 18, 2020 SAC Regular Meeting was approved by the following voice votes:

Eric Adair, Vice Chair	Yes	Danny Mascari	Absent
Matt Carpenter	Yes	Dan Masnada	Yes
Sandra Cattell	Yes	Dennis Ostrom	Absent
Stacy Fortner	Yes	Holly Schroeder, Chair	Yes
Roy Marson	Absent	Steve Sligh	Yes

DRAFT

3.2 Discussion of the Sustainability Goal and Sustainable Management Criteria
Jeff Barry with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. presented the proposed sustainable management criteria identifying chronic water level decline, chronic reduction of groundwater in storage and land subsidence.

A Special Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled on January 27, 2021 to further review and provide recommendations to the sustainability goal and sustainable management criteria.

There was no public comment on item 3.2.

4. Request for Future Agenda Item
There were no requests for future agenda items.

5. Meeting Adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

ITEM NO. 3.2

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Stakeholder Advisory Committee Memorandum

DATE: January 27, 2021

TO: SCV-GSA Stakeholder Advisory Committee

FROM: SCV-GSA Staff

SUBJECT: Discussion of the Sustainable Management Criteria Development

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Summary:

This memorandum on Preliminary Draft Sustainable Management Criteria is the third in a series of four memorandums to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) on this topic. These memorandums inform your committee's consideration and feedback on the forthcoming Draft Technical Memorandum on Sustainable Management Criteria which will be discussed during the February 24, 2021 SAC meeting. We look forward to additional discussion and SAC input during these meetings.

Background:

During the November 18, 2020 SAC meeting, staff provided an overview of Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC). The SMC is a framework for sustainability that describes the GSA's Sustainability Goal (desired groundwater basin condition within 20 years of plan adoption) and how progress is measured.

Measuring progress toward meeting the Sustainability Goal is done in three key areas:

1. The ***Measurable Objectives*** are the desired future basin conditions that allow for sustainable management of the groundwater resource while allowing operational flexibility to manage for anticipated variable conditions such as droughts.
2. The ***Minimum Thresholds*** are quantifiable criteria that typically represent seasonal minimums (often expressed as groundwater elevations but can be other quantifiable measures) at key locations below which significant and unreasonable impacts occur or would be anticipated.
3. ***Undesirable Results*** occur when effects related to any of the six sustainability indicators become *significant and unreasonable* due to groundwater pumping. The presence of undesirable results are often, though not exclusively, indicated by several wells failing to meet their minimum groundwater elevations over a given period of time.

The basin conditions previously shared with your committee and at public workshops generally indicate past and future basin operations are unlikely to create undesirable results upon

sustainability indicators. The final SMC will include quantifications of the Measurable Objectives and Minimum Thresholds. Developing the full SMC is an iterative process because each of these SMC components need to work together.

During the January 12, 2021 SAC meeting, we discussed Sustainable Management Criteria for the first three sustainability indicators (chronic lowering of groundwater levels, chronic reduction in storage, and land subsidence).

We propose our next discussion start with the material on the following pages that describe the final three Sustainable Management Criteria for degraded water quality, depletion of interconnected surface water, and seawater intrusion (which is not applicable in this basin due to its inland location). This memorandum differs from that of January 12, 2021 in that additional text has been added to the following pages to detail the three additional criteria. Our presentation will include an example of how the GSA may initiate a management action if minimum thresholds are not met.

Following this meeting, the GSP team will consider your input and continue preparing the Draft Technical Memorandum on Sustainability Criteria due to your Committee on February 10, 2021. Our following SAC meeting is February 24, 2021 where we will present the Draft Technical Memorandum and seek any additional feedback prior to the March 10, 2021 public workshop on Sustainable Management Criteria.

Preliminary Draft Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC)

1) **Sustainability Goal and Objectives**
   a) Sustainability Goal
   "The goal of this GSP is to sustainably manage the groundwater resources of the Upper Santa Clara River Basin for current and future beneficial uses of groundwater, including the river environment through an adaptive management approach that builds on robust science and monitoring and considers economic, social and other objectives of a wide variety of stakeholders."

   b) Qualitative Objectives for Meeting Sustainability Goals
      i) Avoid Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels ***(Previously Discussed January 12, 2021 and being refined)***
      ii) Avoid Chronic Reduction of Groundwater Storage ***(Previously Discussed January 12, 2021 and being refined)***
      iii) Avoid Land Subsidence ***(Previously Discussed January 12, 2021 and being refined)***
      iv) Avoid Degraded Water Quality
         (1) Maintain access to drinking water supplies
         (2) Maintain access to agricultural water supplies
         (3) Maintain quality consistent with current ecosystem uses
      v) Avoid Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water
         (1) Avoid significant and unreasonable effects caused by groundwater extraction to beneficial uses including groundwater dependent ecosystems
         (2) Maintain sufficient groundwater levels and surface water flow to sustain aquatic habitat where Unarmored Threespine Stickleback (UTS) are present (e.g. at the I-5 Bridge)
      vi) Seawater Intrusion
         (1) Not applicable to this basin due to its inland presence.

2) **Approach to Defining Undesirable Results**
   a) Criteria for defining undesirable results in the basin
      i) Must be significant and unreasonable effects caused by pumping, including to:
         (1) groundwater production
         (2) beneficial uses, including GDEs and threatened or endangered species
      ii) Exceedance of a minimum threshold in specified number of representative wells
      iii) SMC Criteria may be refined based on monitoring data and analysis

3) **Example Undesirable Results**
   a) Chronic lowering of groundwater levels ***(Previously Discussed January 12, 2021 and being refined)***

   b) Chronic Reduction of groundwater storage ***(Previously Discussed January 12, 2021 and being refined)***

   c) Land subsidence ***(Previously Discussed January 12, 2021 and being refined)***

   d) Degraded Water Quality
      i) Water management actions interfere with existing groundwater remediation efforts creating permanent loss of groundwater supply.

ii) Concentrations of regulated contaminants in untreated groundwater from private domestic or agricultural wells exceed regulatory thresholds.
iii) Significant and unreasonable loss of municipal groundwater supply due to migration of contaminant plume and inability to pump and treat groundwater or reasonably secure an alternative water supply.
iv) Groundwater pumping strategies cause concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS), chloride, nitrate or sulfate to exceed Water Quality Objectives and basin-wide assimilative capacity described in the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan to the extent new State permits for distribution of recycled water are put at risk.

e) Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water
i) Permanent loss or significant degradation of existing native riparian or aquatic habitat due to lowered groundwater levels caused by pumping
ii) Temporary acute loss of aquatic habitat in specific locations critical to sensitive aquatic species due to lowered groundwater levels caused by pumping

f) Seawater intrusion
i) Not applicable in this basin due to its inland position.

4) **Options for Setting Quantitative Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives for each Sustainability Indicator**
a) Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels ***(Previously Discussed January 12, 2021 and being refined)***

b) Chronic Reduction of Groundwater Storage ***(Previously Discussed January 12, 2021 and being refined)***

c) Land Subsidence ***(Previously Discussed January 12, 2021 and being refined)*** *

*A geotechnical investigation regarding land subsidence is underway and the SAC will be briefed on its findings in February 2021.

d) Degraded Water Quality
i) Minimum Thresholds for Contaminants*

*Because of existing regulatory oversight and actions regarding groundwater contamination in this basin (which occurred prior to 2015) by State and Regional Board's, the California Department of Toxic Substances Control, and other agencies, we are not proposing another layer of oversight (minimum thresholds) for the regulated contaminants, such as perchlorate, VOCs, and PFAS. This approach is consistent with other GSAs.

ii) Minimum Thresholds for TDS, Chloride, Nitrate, Sulfate
(1) Concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS), chloride, nitrate and sulfate in 20% of wells in the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan's (SNMP) management zones that exceed Water Quality Objectives and basin-wide assimilative capacity.
iii) Measurable Objectives for Contaminants
(1) Maintain municipal pumping for beneficial uses consistent with volumes quantified in the applicable Urban Water Management Plan for wet, normal dry, and multiple dry years.

(2) Maintain non-municipal pumping- including for private domestic, golf courses, and agricultural users, as well as contaminant remediation pumping, consistent with volumes quantified in the applicable Urban Water Management Plan for wet, normal, dry, and multiple dry years.
(3) As will be discussed in forthcoming Chapter 7, data gaps exists with private wells that can be supported by monitoring; however the measurable objective proposed is that groundwater quality from private wells will meet or be better than Basin Plan objectives.

iv) Measurable Objective for TDS, Chloride, Nitrate, Sulfate
(1) Concentrations of total dissolved solids (TDS), chloride, nitrate and sulfate meet Water Quality Objectives (as described by use type, i.e. ag, domestic, muni) and basin-wide assimilative capacity as described in the Salt and Nutrient Management. (Note as discussed in forthcoming Chapter 7, a data gap exists for private wells that needs to be filled consistent with the Salt and Nutrient Management Plan Monitoring Program).

e) Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

i) Minimum Thresholds

Minimum thresholds for depletion of interconnected surface water are focused on preventing undesired results to GDEs and sensitive species in the Subbasin. To avoid undesired results to GDEs, *groundwater trigger* levels are identified that that initiate active monitoring of the impacted resource. If analysis concludes that continued decline in groundwater would result in undesired results a management action would be initiated to avoid that level where a permanent loss of habitat would occur or levels of surface water decline to unacceptable levels in areas critical to the UTS. Trigger levels that require active monitoring may include the following:

(1) Groundwater levels within GDE zones that fall below the lowest historical (within previous 20 years) groundwater levels.
(2) Groundwater levels fall below the lowest historical (within previous 20 years) levels where Unarmored Threespine Stickleback are present (e.g., I-5 Bridge area).

ii) Measurable Objectives
(1) Average future groundwater water levels that do not result in permanent loss of habitat at monitoring locations within the GDE management zone.
(2) Maintain flow in the river where UTS are present (e.g. I-5 Bridge area) needed to sustain aquatic habitat. Utilize groundwater elevation data as a surrogate for measuring surface water flow if a surface water flow gauge is not present.

5) Consideration of Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

a) Where suitable monitoring points do not exist, a field work plan will be needed to install monitoring wells located in areas suitable for assessing groundwater levels within a GDE zone. Once groundwater levels reach the Trigger level in any of the river reaches, an evaluation of the cause of the decline would be conducted. The evaluation should consider the following:

i) Is the affected river segment supported by surface flow from WRP discharges? (Surface water may support habitats during temporary periods of low groundwater.)

ii) Is the historic low groundwater level already below the tree/shrub root depths? (If so, further declines in the same year may not result in a permanent loss of GDEs.)
iii) Will the GDEs survive the temporary loss of access to groundwater? (Depending on the season, groundwater levels may be expected to rise above historic lows within a month or two, avoiding permanent loss of habitat. When groundwater levels are restored sufficiently quickly in the winter months, effects to GDEs may not be significant.)
iv) Has the Management Action Trigger been reached often in recent years? Droughts that lower groundwater levels are a natural occurrence, but do not occur every year. To sustain GDEs over the long term, groundwater levels affected by drought conditions must recover sufficiently quickly and remain elevated most years in order to support healthy, sustainable habitats over the long term.)
v) Are the declines in groundwater levels resulting from pumping?
vi) Has new information been obtained that can be used to refine the trigger level?

If the evaluation concludes that the low groundwater levels may result in significant and unreasonable effects, management actions including reduced groundwater pumping would quickly be enacted to restore groundwater levels at or above levels that are consistent with avoiding undesirable results.