SCV GSA

MAY 2021

SANTA CLARA RIVER VALLEY EAST GROUNDWATER SUBBASIN

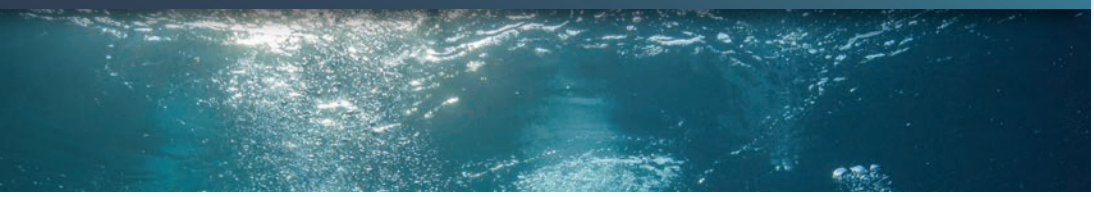
PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The following management actions are under development in the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Basin to attain and maintain sustainability according to Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) regulations.

Groundwater management actions are intended to improve the understanding of groundwater use in the Basin, improve monitoring of groundwater conditions, avoid undesirable results, and address sustainability indicators established in the draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP).

The effect of the management actions will be reviewed annually, and management actions will be implemented as necessary to avoid undesirable results. During implementation of the GSP, annual monitoring reports will be prepared.

At a minimum, the reassessment process would be conducted as part of the 5-year GSP review and report.



Management Action Details

Data Gaps

While we know a great deal about the basin, the GSP rules require some additional monitoring take place to fill data gaps. This would be achieved through installing shallow wells, elevation surveys, and sampling for:

- Water levels within the groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDE) area
- Reference point elevation for all monitoring locations, including the riverbed in selected areas by GDE monitoring wells
- Domestic well water quality
- Subsidence benchmarks for monitoring land surface elevation

Basin-wide Management Actions

- Addressing data gaps
- Monitoring, reporting, and outreach
- Promoting best water use practices
- Actions if minimum thresholds are reached
- Actions if groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDE) Action Triggers are reached
- Other management actions to promote sustainable groundwater management

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Monitoring, Reporting and Outreach

NEW MONITORING will help evaluate trends and compare data to sustainable management criteria; it includes domestic water quality; groundwater-dependent ecosystems (GDEs); subsidence; and extraction data from well owners pumping more than 2 acre-feet per year.

ANNUAL REPORTS will be submitted to the state Department of Water Resources starting on April 1, 2022, to provide required monitoring data, and will be available to Basin stakeholders.

INFORMATION WILL BE SHARED on the GSA website and at regular meetings; stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide input on monitoring, reporting and outreach in the Basin.

Promoting Best Water Use Practices

In addition to existing municipal conservation programs such as rebates and water-use audits, the GSA will work with private well operators to facilitate workshops or other programs designed to communicate best water use practices for private wells such as efficient irrigation practices.

Actions if Minimum Thresholds are Reached and Undesirable Results Expected

In the event minimum thresholds are reached and undesirable results are expected, actions could include the items listed below. Sustainability indicators include chronic lowering of groundwater levels, chronic reduction in storage, subsidence, and depletion of interconnected surface water.

- *Shifting pumping to another location so groundwater levels increase above thresholds*
- *Increasing the quantity of imported water into the basin*
- *Implementing water conservation*
- *Coordinating with state and local agencies on issues affecting groundwater*

Actions if Triggers are Reached

If historically low groundwater levels are detected in groundwater-dependent ecosystem (GDE) monitoring wells (or two feet higher in one area) an evaluation process will be conducted to determine next steps. If undesirable results are expected, potential actions, in addition to ongoing monitoring, could include:

- *Shifting location or stopping pumping in the wells near the GDEs*
- *Expanding the amount of water imported into the basin*
- *Enacting a water conservation program to reduce overall pumping*
- *Collaborating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to avoid significant effects to GDEs*
- *Engaging private well owners and stakeholders if non-municipal wells are contributing*