

Summary of Key Changes

SCV GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan

A number of changes were made to the public draft GSP to reflect input from local basin stakeholder, staff, the Stakeholder Advisory Committee, and the GSA Board as described in Appendix O. This final GSP includes the following substantive changes:

Executive Summary

- Emphasized that the basin is in balance and sustainable now and will be in the future. Our focus is to maintain sustainability.

Section 1 – Introduction to the GSP

- No substantive changes.

Section 2 – Agency Information

- No substantive changes.

Section 3 – Description of Plan Area

- Included a map and discussion of Disadvantaged Communities within the basin.
- Identified the average depths of domestic wells on a map.
- Acknowledged that new climate change factors may be considered in the next GSP update.

Section 4 – Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model

- No substantive changes.

Section 5 – Groundwater Conditions

- Identified Whittaker-Bermite on a map.
- Updated the subsidence evaluation and corrected errors.
- Identified representative monitoring wells on the map.
- Included references to native fish present in parts of the river.

Section 6 – Water Budgets

- No substantive changes.

Section 7 – Monitoring Networks

- Included discussion of point source discharges to the Santa Clara River from two WRPs, treated groundwater from the Whittaker-Bermite facility, and periodic discharge of treated groundwater from SCV Water wellhead treatment facilities.
- Identified planned effluent monitoring at the planned Newhall Ranch WRP.
- Clarified the number and location of representative monitoring wells included in the monitoring program.
- Clarified that planned new production wells and GDE monitoring wells will be included in the monitoring program as representative wells where sustainability will be measured.
- Corrected the number of LA County land surface elevation benchmarks that will be included in the subsidence monitoring program (on the order of 10).

- Removed references to early-action trigger levels, action trigger levels, and intermediate-action trigger levels. These clarifications do not modify any triggers previously discussed but simplify the text.
- Added limited periodic biological monitoring at GDE monitoring locations to assess conditions at those locations.
- Added collection of enhanced vegetation index (EVI) data (time series, and map view) for the GDE area as a screening tool to assess changes in GDE area vegetation annually during the summer.
- Clarified that a GDE evaluation would be performed if the GDE triggers are approached or reached.

Section 8 – Sustainable Management Criteria

- Included a provision that if minimum thresholds are exceeded, the GSA will consult with applicable landowners before determining which management actions should be deployed and how they should be deployed.
- Subsidence monitoring will occur at least twice per year, and more frequently if water levels reach historic lows.
- Included reference to maintaining sufficient groundwater levels and surface water flow in the river and pools to sustain aquatic habitat where UTS and other native fish are present.
- Clarified that the GDE monitoring and management program includes triggers intended to prevent cessation of flow and loss of pools in areas where native fish reside and prevent permanent loss of GDEs, as presented in Appendix E and further expanded on in Section 7.3.7 and Section 9.5.5.
- Clarified undesirable results associated with increases in contaminant concentrations caused by pumping or by actions taken by the GSA. The GSA will continue to collaborate with state agencies and SCV Water to help address contamination and avoid further impacts to beneficial uses.
- Added that as part of GSP implementation, the GSA will conduct outreach to private well operators and seek participants for a water quality monitoring program that is in addition to the existing municipal water quality monitoring. Water quality data will regularly be reviewed and analyzed consistent with the Sustainable Management Criteria. If it is determined that increases in contaminant concentrations are being caused by pumping and leading to undesirable results, then management actions would be initiated after consultation with municipal pumpers and applicable landowners.
- Clarified the minimum threshold for land subsidence: The subsidence measured between June of one year and June of the subsequent year shall be no more than an average of 0.1 foot in any single year and a cumulative 0.5 foot in any 5-year period observed at 10 percent or more monitoring locations.
- Clarified that planned new production wells and GDE monitoring wells will be included in the monitoring program as representative wells where sustainability will be measured.
- Provided an explanation for why groundwater levels will be used as a proxy for assessing stream depletion.

- Corrected some minimum threshold values for water levels based on updated measuring point elevations (Table 8-2). No GDE triggers were changed.
- Clarified that a GDE evaluation will be conducted if trigger levels (shown on Table 8-6) are approached or reached such that:
 - Groundwater levels within GDE areas are at the lowest historical (within previous 50 years) groundwater levels if caused by groundwater extraction.
 - Groundwater levels that are 2 feet above the lowest historical (within previous 50 years) levels where UTS and other native fishes are present (e.g., I-5 Bridge area) that rely on surface flow and pools
- Added that the GSA will consult with applicable landowners to evaluate whether groundwater extraction contributes to possible impacts to GDEs and the nature and extent of possible management actions.

Section 9 – Projects and Management Actions

- No substantive changes.

Section 10 - GSP Implementation

- No substantive changes.

Section 11 – Notice and Communication

- Added section on outreach to disadvantaged communities (DAC) including DAC map.
- Included discussion of outreach to DACs during GSP implementation.

Appendix C – Groundwater Conditions

- Corrected small discrepancies between updated subsidence evaluation tech memo and basin conditions tech memo prepared by LSCE.

Appendix E – Evaluation of Effects to GDEs

- Corrected historic low values for groundwater levels based on changes to reference point elevations (Table 2).

Appendix G – Model Development Report

- Added a new map (Figure 1-6) that more clearly distinguishes the areal extent of the Saugus Formation versus the areal extent of the Alluvial Aquifer.

Appendix N – Communications and Engagement Plan

- Clarified that outreach to DACs was performed during GSP development.

Appendix O – Responses to Comments

- Added a complete log of public comments received on the draft GSP and responses to comments.
- Included memos to GSA Board for each meeting that describe outreach efforts and questions received from the public.