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SANTA CLARITA VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Monday, Oct 27, 2025 at 1:00 PM

Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency Administration Building
E. G. "Jerry Gladbach Water Treatment Plant Boardroom
27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This meeting is conducted in person at the address listed above. As a convenience to the public, members of the public may also participate virtually by using the **Agency's Call-In Number 1-833-568-8864, Webinar ID: 161 411 8831 or Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link:scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1614118831**
Any member of the public may listen to the meeting or make comments to the Board using the call-in number or Zoom Webinar link above. However, in the event there is a disruption of service which prevents the Agency from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using either the call-in option or internet-based service, this meeting will not be postponed but will continue without remote participation. The remote participation option is provided as a convenience to the public and is not required.

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, Board Secretary, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency, 27234 Bouquet Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91350. All written comments received before 10:00 AM on the day of the meeting will be distributed to the Board members and posted on the SCV-GSA website prior to the start of the meeting. Anything received after 10:00 AM on the day of the meeting will be posted on the SCV-GSA website the following day.

1. REGULAR PROCEDURES

1.1 Call to Order

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

1.3 Public Comments – Members of the public may comment as to items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency that are 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 at the time each item is considered. (Comments may, at the discretion of the Board's presiding officer, be limited to three minutes for each speaker.) To participate in public comment from your computer, tablet, or smartphone, click the "raise hand" feature in Zoom. You will be notified when it is your turn to speak, please unmute when requested. To participate in public comment via phone, dial *9 to raise your hand. When it is your turn to speak, dial *6 to unmute.

1.4 Approval of Agenda

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and non-controversial and will be acted upon by the Board by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items prior to the time the Board votes unless any Board member, staff or the public, requests specific items be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar for separate action.

ITEMS			PAGE
2.1	*	Approve Minutes of June 2, 2025, Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Regular Board of Directors Meeting	1

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

ITEMS			PAGE
3.1	*	Quarterly Status Update of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation	3

4. SCV-GSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

5. DIRECTOR REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6. ADJOURNMENT

*** Indicates attachment**
♦ Indicates handout

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, Secretary to the Board of Directors, 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 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 Board 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 scvgsa.org.

Posted on October 20, 2025

DRAFT

ITEM NO. 2.1

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency – June 2, 2025

A regular board meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SCV-GSA) was held in person at 1:00 PM on Monday, March 3, 2025. A copy of the agenda is inserted in the Minute Book of the SCV-GSA preceding these minutes.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Jason Gibbs, Maria Gutzeit, Carolina Hernandez, Dirk Marks, Gary Martin, Gina Natoli, and Ken Petersen (Alternate for William C. Cooper)

DIRECTORS ABSENT: William C. Cooper

Also in attendance were SCV-GSA Board Secretary Eunie Kang and General Counsel Tom Bunn, who participated virtually. SCV Water Agency Assistant General Manager Steve Cole, Principal Water Resources Planner Rick Viergutz, Water Resources Specialist Rick Vasilopulos, Engineer Mark Aumentado, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, and other staff members were present.

President Gibbs called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M. A quorum was present.

Item 1.3: There was no public comment.

Item 1.4: There were no changes to June 2, 2025, Board Agenda and it was accepted as presented.

Item 2.1: Upon motion of Director Marks, seconded by Director Gutzeit and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar by the following roll call votes:

President Gibbs	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Gutzeit	Yes	Director Natoli	Abstain
Director Hernandez	Yes	Director Petersen	Yes
Director Marks	Yes		

Item 3.1: Upon motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Natoli and carried, the Board approved the authorization of the completion of the upland monitoring initiative by the following roll call votes:

President Gibbs	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Gutzeit	Yes	Director Natoli	Yes
Director Hernandez	Yes	Director Petersen	Yes
Director Marks	Yes		

Item 3.2: Upon motion of Director Martin, seconded by Director Marks and carried, the Board approved and adopted the SCV-GSA Fiscal Year 2025/26 budget by the following roll call votes:

President Gibbs	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Gutzeit	Yes	Director Natoli	Yes
Director Hernandez	Yes	Director Petersen	Yes
Director Marks	Yes		

Item 3.3: Upon motion of Director Petersen, seconded by Director Hernandez and carried, the Board designated Vice President William Cooper as the SCV-GSA voting delegate for ACWA election for the 2026-2027 term by the following roll call votes:

President Gibbs	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Gutzeit	Yes	Director Natoli	Yes
Director Hernandez	Yes	Director Petersen	Yes
Director Marks	Yes		

Item 3.4: Rick Viergutz provided a quarterly update on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan's progress. He covered several key topics, including the grant-reimbursed basin-wide well review and deep monitoring well installation, the voluntary groundwater monitoring program, outreach efforts for the groundwater extraction reporting program, advancements in updating the hydrogeologic conceptual model, and the five-year look-ahead update.

Item 4: Steve Cole expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the staff for their diligent efforts, with special recognition to Rick Viergutz for his dedication and hard work.

Item 5: There was no request for items to be included in future agenda.

Item 6: The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 P.M.

_____
Eunie Kang, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

_____
President of the Board

ITEM NO. 3.1

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: October 27, 2025

TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors

FROM: SCV-GSA Staff

SUBJECT: Quarterly Status Update of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

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OVERVIEW

Implementation of the DWR-approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan is underway. Consistent with the Administrative Services Agreement, SCV Water Staff continue to coordinate and manage administrative and technical aspects of GSP implementation.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation

Consistent with SGMA and GSA Board direction, staff have initiated activities to implement the GSP. Key efforts and status updates are summarized below.

- Addressing Data Gaps

    - De minimis well owner Water Quality Monitoring Program
      Well owner outreach was completed through targeted mailing to parcel owners in canyon areas with domestic wells. 40 mailers were sent out in January 2025, but no responses to the volunteer water quality monitoring program were received. We have determined that mailing additional flyers is likely not useful, so our next step will be to publicize this voluntary monitoring program along with the outreach for the GSP 5-Year Update. Further, we will soon include a web page to keep this opportunity open to future participants.

    - Non-de minimis well Extraction Reporting Program
      Staff have contacted the known non-de minimis well operators to arrange one-on-one workshops with them. So far, we have conducted two workshops, one with Disney staff, and one with the Eternal Valley Cemetery staff. These were productive and helpful engagement opportunities. Other well operators have not responded to our requests. We plan to make the request one more time to those that have not responded yet, but if no responses are received, we will finalize the draft reporting program documents within the next month.

    - Land Subsidence Monitoring Program
      Staff have contracted with MNS Engineers to implement the Land Subsidence Monitoring Program. This work measures elevation at 12 existing benchmark

locations twice per year. We recently completed the fourth land surface elevation monitoring event (September 2025). The survey results are pending review by SCV Water. This fourth monitoring event will allow our first comparison of semi-annual ground surface elevation changes (if any) between spring and fall periods of the preceding two water years. The SCV GSA also provided a comment letter on DWRs Draft Subsidence Best Management Practices document (described below).

- Domestic Well Study
  SCV Water staff continues work under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation Grant to document private well locations, status, and potential annual production. SCV Water staff has notified the Department of Water Resources about the limited records from State and County sources. Currently, staff is focusing on the canyon areas. SCV Water staff submitted a request to Los Angeles County for available data. Less than half of the data requested has been shared. Because there is limited availability of good well data but estimated groundwater extraction in these areas is still important, staff are estimating groundwater extraction by land use instead. Staff is utilizing satellite imagery to identify indicators such as buildings, pools, lawns, and horse ranches, which, combined with demand factors, will be used to estimate groundwater extraction and enhance understanding of private groundwater use in these areas.

- Data Management System (DMS).
  - SCV Water utilizes support from Geosyntec Consultants to operate the SCV-GSA DMS. Routine work includes SCV Water providing data (such as groundwater elevations, groundwater extraction, precipitation, etc) for incorporation into the DMS. Additionally, Geosyntec is working with SCV Water's GIS team to transition the DMS into SCV Water's Data Warehouse, a central data hub which will be the definitive source for all future reporting. This transition will help save on costs and improve the efficiency and accuracy of data sharing for reporting. SCV Water staff will continue to work with Geosyntec during this transition process, which is expected to slowly take place over the next 12-24 months.

- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem monitoring.
  - The field work for this year's River based GDE evaluation program was completed in October 2025. New SCV Water employee Piotr Szocinski joined consultants from ESA/Dudek for biological monitoring efforts at GDE locations. Initial assessments show conditions are at similar levels to 2024.

- Monitoring, Reporting, and Outreach
  From the monitoring and reporting perspective, groundwater elevation data is measured regularly by SCV Water, and tracked against the GSP Minimum Thresholds on a regular basis. Since our last quarterly update to your Board, we have implemented a new internal process to produce more frequent reports of groundwater elevations versus minimum thresholds. These results are reported to the internal SCV Water team monthly so that, in the event of any concerning water level trends, we can more carefully monitor areas if needed. However, there are no groundwater elevation concerns at this time. The most recent data shows that with three exceptions for GDE Wells, groundwater elevations are

above minimum thresholds. As we have explained in the past, there are known technical issues with the groundwater elevation minimum thresholds (and triggers) at several GDE wells that will be corrected in the GSP 5-Year Update.

From an outreach perspective, SCV Water continues its coordination with Five Point on groundwater elevation measurements and GDE Evaluations. Further, we continue conducting outreach to non-de minimis well operators. We also coordinate with LA County on well permitting.

- County Well Permitting
  With termination of key provisions of the Governor's Executive Order requiring GSAs to make consistency findings for permits, the SCV GSA is no longer making these findings. However, we continue to coordinate with LA County on well permitting.

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Round 2 Grant Implementation
  With the ~5.3M DWR award of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Grant to the SCV GSA we are advancing the grant program's workplan. It includes three main tasks, and each are underway.

  - Monitoring Well Installation: Construction of monitoring wells has commenced

  - Existing Contracted GSP Implementation: Work underway includes ongoing data compilation for assembling the GSA Annual Report (Board adoption expected in March 2026), ongoing work regarding de minimis well (water quality monitoring) and non-de minimis well (well registration and extraction reporting).

  - Domestic Well Survey: As described above, we are working to wrap this effort up, as State and County data on wells are not sufficient for a focused study.

Specific GSP 5 Year Update Efforts

- Contracting, Budget, and Schedule
  - We are moving forward with RFP development for consultant services for the GSP 5-Year update to assist with outreach and workshop facilitation.
  - We have added funds into two existing consultant purchase orders to support technical work for the GSP 5-Year Update consistent with the adopted budget.
  - The current approach we are taking has a more assertive schedule to complete the GSP 5-Year Update than last described to your Board. With the more assertive schedule and clarifications to the scope, it appears additional funding above the estimated 25/26 budget may be needed. The scope and budget is being reviewed in more detail so it can be refined. The adopted budget includes a 10% contingency ($71,500) for consultant services.

- Hydrogeological Conceptual Model
  - Development of the updated Hydrogeological Conceptual Model has been completed. As a reminder, this model is a 3D Geologic Model, not a groundwater flow model. However, the 3D Geologic Model informs updates (which are underway now) of the groundwater flow model. Consultant support on this effort

included detailed reviews of existing and previously unreviewed geologic logs in the basin to better refine the aquifer depths and thicknesses. Further, some of this refinement of lithologic data was done for the first time in certain areas, such as north of the San Gabriel Fault. The recent geophysical survey data and interpretations were also incorporated into the Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model. With a better understanding of geologic information, the model's basin structure was updated. Certain key updates were made to increase or decrease the thickness of the Saugus Formation, to clarify its stratigraphy where data is available, and to adjust the alluvial thickness. Further additional details regarding evidence of shallow confined aquifer conditions were described in the model.

- Groundwater Flow Model
    - The groundwater flow model used for the GSP 5 Year Update is being prepared by a separate SCV Water team, in close coordination with the SCV-GSA team. Completion of the updated groundwater flow model is expected in late spring 2026, and this is consistent with the GSP 5-year Update schedule.

SCV GSA engagement on DWR Draft Guidance Documents for GSPs

In November 2024 the SCV GSA sent a comment letter to DWR on its "Technical Papers Related to Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water Caused by Groundwater Use" (attached) This comment letter from the SCV GSA commented on three draft documents related to interconnected surface water depletions. The next step for DWR as we understand is for it to release a single guidance document on the same subject. DWR has indicated the release of this document may take place in the next couple months. The "timing significance" of this new draft document release is important, as it comes during the process of GSP 5-year update, with timing of the final document expected to be in fall 2025 as described in a talk by DWR representative at GSA meeting in October 2025. We understand that there will be a round of comments on the guidance document after it will be released, and it is unknown when the final draft will be available after addressing comments. This means the degree GSAs can consider this to-be-released draft (and final) for the GSP 5-Year Update (due January 2027) may be limited. We will evaluate further when the latest draft is provided.

In September 2025, the SCV-GSA sent a comment letter to DWR on its "Draft Land Subsidence BMP" (attached). The two key comments from the SCV-GSA on this document were that a) it appeared the draft BMP may be more strict than the GSP regulations and DWR should make it clear what the GSP regulations require, and b) it will take many years for some GSAs, including the SCV- GSA to determine if land subsidence is taking place, and if so, what factors may be causing it, and then what next steps for the GSA might be.

October 2025 Groundwater Resources Association meeting "Western Groundwater Congress"

SCV Water staff presented at the 2025 Western Groundwater Congress related to work being conducted for the SCV-GSA. Sarfaraz Alam Ph.D. presented an abstract describing the geophysical study utilized to help update the SCV-GSA's Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model (attached), and Rick Viergutz presented an abstract describing an overview of existing anthropogenic contamination in this basin, a review of agencies that regulate water quality, DWRs comment letters to this GSA regarding water quality sustainable management criteria,

and the SCV-GSA approach to establish water quality management zones. Both presentations were well received, and good discussions followed.

Six Month Look Ahead

The next six months will focus on routine GSP implementation, and items related to the GSP 5-Year Update including contracting, consultant management, initiating outreach, workshops and groundwater flow model development. A detailed review of the scope of consultant services for the GSP 5-Year Update is underway, and additional budget funds beyond those adopted in the current budget may be required.

CONCLUSIONS

Several activities regarding GSP Implementation, and the 5 Year Update, are underway. The absence of two Final DWR BMPs, one for Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water, and the other for Land Subsidence suggests fully incorporating BMPs may not be practical for the current GSP 5 Year Update underway, but we will continue to evaluate. We continue to engage with DWR on its BMP's, and LA County on well permitting.

Attachments:

Abstracts
Comment Letters to DWR

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Mapping Subsurface Complexity Using Electrical Resistivity: Insights from the Santa Clara River Corridor

Sarfaraz Alam[1], Rick Viergutz[1], Najwa Pitois[1], Nigel Crook[2]

[1]Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, [2]hydroGEOPHYSICS, Inc. (HGI)

Abstract:

The Santa Clarita East Subbasin is comprised of two aquifer systems: the Alluvium and Saugus Formation. A regional Groundwater Flow Model was developed to support preparation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The current conceptualization of the Alluvial Aquifer thickness around one of the groundwater dependent ecosystems near I-5 is based on limited subsurface data, resulting in uncertainty in model results, which has implications for the representation of surface water–groundwater interaction in this area.

To address this limitation, in February 2025, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency, in collaboration with HGI, conducted a non-invasive electrical resistivity tomography (ERT) survey to fill critical data gaps in hydrostratigraphic characterization. The project aimed to delineate riverbed sediments, assess depth to bedrock, and evaluate potential connections to underlying aquifers. The goal of this project was to better characterize the subsurface and help improve model representation.

Eleven survey lines totaling approximately 19,230 feet—ten cross-sections and one longitudinal profile—were acquired. This survey enabled high-resolution two-dimensional imaging without violating constraints imposed by endangered species habitats and infrastructural limitations.

The ERT profiles revealed significant variations in the thickness and grain size of alluvial layers, with clear identification of resistive zones likely composed of dry, coarse sediments, and more conductive regions interpreted as fine-grained or saturated zones. In several areas, the Saugus Formation was inferred to be near surface or at depth, and potential confined aquifers under artesian pressure were identified downstream of I-5. Fault-like features were also detected, though often masked by infrastructural interference.

These findings offer valuable insights into hydrogeologic complexity in the region and will directly inform future groundwater model refinements and resource management strategies, particularly in ecologically sensitive zones. The study demonstrates the utility of geophysical methods as a practical and environmentally sensitive tool for subsurface characterization in challenging settings.

Complexities of Addressing SGMA Groundwater Quality Sustainable Management Criteria for Contaminants in Urban Basins

Submission By: Rick Viergutz, CEG, Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency

Many agencies hold statewide authority to regulate groundwater quality and cleanup. However, under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) are required to establish Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) to address undesirable results, including contamination. While GSAs must consider these issues, they do not have the same authority to mandate or carry out groundwater cleanup efforts as other agencies.

The Santa Clarita Valley (SCV) GSA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was approved by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in January 2024, with several recommended corrective actions-one of which addressed the agency's approach to set Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for groundwater contamination. The basin includes a complex regional perchlorate plume with a decades-long history of investigation, various approaches for cleanup, litigation, and more. Some municipal wells currently have wellhead treatment systems for perchlorate in place, and other treatment systems are currently under construction.

The SCV GSA's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) argued that groundwater contamination is already regulated by multiple state agencies, and that in this urban basin, municipal providers routinely treat groundwater at the wellhead as part of standard operations. As such, the GSP did not propose adding new requirements for contamination management. However, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) flagged this approach as inconsistent with GSP regulations, which require the establishment of Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs) for groundwater quality. In response, the GSA reviewed DWR's comments on other urban basin GSPs and found that addressing contamination within the SMC framework is also a complex issue for DWR.

The SCV GSA has met with DWR and is evaluating strategies to address the feedback. Options range from creating metrics that meet SGM requirements but may not change the current regulatory practices, to more nuanced approaches—such as establishing groundwater quality management zones for areas affected by the regional perchlorate plume.

Jennifer Nyman, Senior Principal Engineering at Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. is also a contributing author.

Presenter's Previous Experience:

Rick Viergutz is the Principal Water Resources Planner with the Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency (SCV Water) in Southern California, and the SCV-GSA's Point of Contact. He has 30 years' experience ranging from engineering geology to water resources planning.

Santa Clarita Valley
Groundwater Sustainability Agency

SCV
GSA

September 23, 2025

California Department of Water Resources
Sustainable Groundwater Management Office
sgmps@water.ca.gov

RE: Comment on Department of Water Resources Draft Land Subsidence BMP

To Whom it May Concern:

Following SCV GSA adoption of its GSP in 2020, a semi-annual land surface elevation monitoring program was implemented as part of its subsidence monitoring program. To date, data does not indicate the presence of land subsidence from groundwater extraction. It may take several more years of land surface elevation monitoring before semiannual trends in ground surface elevation changes, if any, are identified. If so, additional study will be needed to determine the cause or causes, including the role of the San Gabriel fault which cuts across the groundwater basin. Certain sections of this significant fault are identified with Holocene displacement.

1. It appears the draft BMP may suggest stricter minimum thresholds for subsidence than the regulatory requirements. We suggest the draft BMP be clarified to reflect statutory and regulatory requirements, separately from recommended best management practices.

2. The SCV GSA has embarked on a multi-year land surface elevation monitoring program to better understand if land subsidence is taking place. If found, it will take some time to fully understand its cause or causes, and then to determine any necessary steps for the GSA to take. In the case of the SCV GSA, and similar basins without evidence of subsidence, it may take many years for GSAs to determine how to best consider DWR's final Land Subsidence BMPs.

Sincerely,

Rick Viergutz

Rick Viergutz
Principal Water Resources Planner

Santa Clarita Valley
Groundwater Sustainability
Agency

SCV
GSA

November 18, 2024

California Department of Water Resources
Sustainable Groundwater Management Office
sgmps@water.ca.gov

RE: Comment on Department of Water Resources Technical Papers Related to Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water Caused by Groundwater Use

To Whom it May Concern:

1. The papers primarily focus on how groundwater extraction can affect interconnected surface water (ISW). However, ISW depletion can be affected by other factors, such as evapotranspiration by non-native vegetation such as Arundo, and native vegetation. We suggest the papers also provide suggestions to water managers on how best to describe and quantify evapotranspiration in the context of ISW depletion.

2. We suggest DWR provide guidance for consideration by GSAs on ISW depletion in streams which have differing lengths of gaining and losing reaches over time.

3. The paper defines depletion as the difference between simulated pumping and no-pumping scenarios, where the suggestion is to run the simulation over long periods. While this approach allows for a longer simulation period, potentially capturing extended lag times between pumping and ISW response, it introduces concerns about accuracy. Specifically, using a very long historical period can add layers of uncertainty due to limited and less reliable data for earlier times, as well as potential inaccuracies in the baseline model's representation of past conditions.

   We suggest groundwater extraction contributions to ISW depletion could be estimated using recent periods of simulation. For instance, depletion could be calculated by comparing a baseline simulation from recent years with a no-pumping scenario for the same period. This period for some basins could be sufficient to determine lag time between pumping and

depletion. This method relies on reliable data from recent years, providing greater confidence in the model's accuracy. We suggest DWR provide suggestions to water managers on these topics.

Sincerely,

Rick Viergutz
Principal Water Resources Planner