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

Monday, March 23, 2026, 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: 161 619 1414 or Zoom Webinar by clicking on the link:scvwa.zoomgov.com/j/1616191414**
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	*	Approval of Minutes from the January 27, 2026, Special Board Meeting of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency	5

3. DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION AGENDA ITEMS

ITEMS			PAGE
3.1	*	Consideration to Adopt the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 2025 Annual Report	7
3.2	*	Summary of the February 4 and March 5, 2026, Public Workshops on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation	9
3.3		Quarterly Status Update of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Implementation	

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 March 16, 2026

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DRAFT

ITEM NO. 2.1

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency – January 27, 2026

A special 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 Tuesday, January 27, 2026.

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Maria Gutzeit, Carolina Hernandez and Dirk Marks

Also in attendance were SCV-GSA Board Secretary Eunie Kang and General Counsel Tom Bunn; SCV Water Agency Communications Manager Kevin Strauss, Director of Water Resources Ali Elhassan, Principal Water Resources Planner Rick Viergutz, Information Technology Technician II Jonathan Thomas, and additional staff members. Participating virtually was consultant Katie Evans from Woodard & Curran.

President Gibbs called the meeting to order at 1:03 P.M. A quorum was present.

Item 1.3: There was no public comment.

Item 1.4: There were no changes to January 27, 2026, Board Agenda and it was accepted as presented.

Item 2.1: Upon a motion by Director Martin, seconded by Director Natoli, and carried, the Board approved the rotational schedule appointing Vice President William Cooper as Board President and Dirk Marks as Vice President for the 2026 term, by the following roll-call vote:

President Gibbs	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Vice President Cooper	Yes	Director Natoli	Yes
Director Ford	Yes	Director Petersen	Yes

Item 3.1: Upon a motion by Director Gibbs, seconded by Director Martin, and carried, the Board approved the Consent Calendar by the following roll-call votes:

President Cooper	Yes	Director Martin	Yes
Director Ford	Yes	Director Natoli	Yes
Director Gibbs	Yes	Director Petersen	Yes

Item 4.1: The Board received an update on the January 7, 2026, public kickoff meeting for the SCV-GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation. Thirty-two members of the public attended, along with eight panelists. The workshop introduced the purpose of the periodic evaluation, explained opportunities for public participation and comment, and previewed upcoming phases.

Item 4.2: The Board received an update on the 2025 Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) monitoring results, noting that all surveyed areas were in good condition with no evidence of significant water stress. Groundwater elevations remained generally consistent with the previous year despite lower precipitation levels. Although some stream channel and flow changes were observed, none indicated any areas of concern. The report concluded that no undesirable results were identified for the reporting year.

Item 4.3: The Board received its quarterly update on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation, including key information on the schedule for the GSP periodic evaluation public workshops, the SGM Round 2 Grant tasks, the future release of the Department of Water Resources (DWR) Interconnected Surface Water Best Management Practices, DWR's recent release of final Best Management Practices for Land Subsidence, and a six-month outlook.

Item 5: Staff provided an update on the Bouquet Canyon Creek Recovery Project. L.A. County has indicated it is moving forward with project design and anticipates beginning construction on select project elements by 2027. Arundo removal work in Bouquet Creek began in early January under a limited schedule due to the start of the nesting season in early February. Recent rainfall resulted in wet channel conditions that prevent the use of machinery under current permit requirements, so crews have been performing the work manually. Equipment is being staged along nearby trails with support from the City of Santa Clarita to ensure public access is maintained. Staff recognized the contractor's efforts to meet permitting requirements and thanked Director Carolina Hernandez for her assistance in expediting a necessary flood control permit, allowing work to begin in early January.

Item 6: No items were requested for future agendas.

Item 7: The meeting adjourned at 1:53 P.M.

_____
Eunie Kang, Board Secretary

ATTEST:

_____
President of the Board

ITEM NO. 3.1

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: March 23, 2026

TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors

FROM: SCV-GSA Staff

SUBJECT: Consideration to Adopt the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 2025 Annual Report

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OVERVIEW:

By April 1 of each year, the SCV GSA is required by the State to submit the SCV GSA Annual Report. This year's report covers water year 2025 (October 1, 2024-September 30, 2025) and is provided for the Board's consideration and adoption. It can be viewed here: 2025 Annual Report Santa Clara River East GW Subbasin GSP

The information in the attached Annual Report indicates that the basin was operated in a sustainable manner during water year 2025. The Basin continues to experience year-to-year variations in storage that primarily reflect the effects of variable rainfall, as has been observed historically. Groundwater levels and storage increased with the onset of above-average rainfall during water years 2023 and 2024. In water year 2025, annual precipitation (7.64 inches) was 9.84 inches lower than annual average rainfall (which is 17.48 inches for the historical period of record from 1930 through 2025), which together with slightly higher pumping caused a decrease in the volume of water in storage. However, on a cumulative basis, the volume of groundwater in storage remains higher than existed on January 1, 2015.

The Basin's sustainable management criteria (SMCs) generally are being met, and no undesirable results have been verified to have taken place. Data collected in recent years at groundwater dependent ecosystem (GDE) monitoring locations indicate that (1) in some instances groundwater elevations went below SMC specified in the GSP (such as at GDE-B), but upon evaluation it was clear no undesirable results occurred, and (2) with additional time and data collection, it has become clear that the values of the SMCs at each GDE monitoring location need to be revised. A need for clarification of the Sustainable Management Criteria relating to inorganic water quality has also been identified. Needed clarifications are being addressed as part of the State-required Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

The attached report contains a description of other ongoing activities related to GSP implementation steps, including but not limited to monitoring, reporting, and activities related to outreach.

CONCLUSION:

The annual report finds that the basin was operated sustainably in water year 2025. Efforts will continue in water year 2026 to fill data gaps, implement the GSP and carry forward the State-required Periodic Evaluation of the GSP. The Periodic Evaluation will review Sustainable Management Criteria and updates to the criteria will be made as needed to reflect the improved understanding of the Basin.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the SCV-GSA Board of Directors adopt the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) 2025 Annual Report.

ITEM NO. 3.2

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board Memorandum

DATE: March 23, 2026

TO: SCV-GSA Board of Directors

FROM: SCV-GSA Staff

SUBJECT: Summary of the February 4 and March 5, 2026, Public Workshop on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Periodic Evaluation

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DISCUSSION:

The work in preparing the Periodic Evaluation of the approved GSP is underway. A series of workshops are planned, with the second and third workshop completed on February 4 and March 5, 2026, respectively. Efforts surrounding the workshops, and the workshops themselves, allow the SCV GSA to engage in an open and transparent public process to advise the community about the Periodic Evaluation process. The workshops also provide documentation of our efforts with public engagement and associated public input.

Leading up to the February and March workshops, the Communications team provided notices on social media and sent two emails to multiple interested party lists which included the most recent SCV GSA interested party list, the Urban Water Management Plan list, and a larger basin-wide email list comprised of SCV Water customers. In all, emails notifying the public of the workshop were sent to 15,637 individuals and were opened by approximately 61% of recipients. The second workshop was attended by one in-person participant and six virtual participants, and third workshop was attended by four virtual attendees. SCV Water's Senior Communications Specialist Laura Gallegos welcomed participants to the workshop, and Principal Water Resources Planner Rick Viergutz presented key concepts and next steps, with additional presentation support from our consulting teams.

The presentations (attached) described the content of workshops 2 and 3 and how the public can engage in the process now and moving forward, with multiple approaches for engagement, such as through attending workshops, GSA BoD meetings, and submitting comments. Questions submitted during the workshops were minimal, however participants were engaged in activities to solicit their input. In Workshop 2, feedback focused on strategies to engage private well owners and participants generally supported the proposed approach to revisions in Sustainable Management Criteria. In Workshop 3, participants supported defining undesirable results in real-world terms (including impacts to wells and groundwater-dependent ecosystems), protecting groundwater through an optimized water-supply mix, and requested clearer explanations of how the groundwater flow model informs Sustainable Management Criteria. Overall, the workshops were well attended, and we believe participants were provided with a good understanding of what the Periodic Evaluation is, why it is being conducted, and some of

the key technical tasks. Details on outreach activities, workshop attendance, and feedback are described in the attached outreach update memo.

In addition to the workshops, we have updated the GSA website to include additional information about the Periodic Evaluation and conducted a gaps analysis of the email distribution list, resulting in our consultant team contacting some additional organizations with an offer to include them in further communication; however, no recently contacted organization has accepted that offer.

NEXT STEPS

The SCV GSA team has started planning for the fourth workshop. The fourth workshop scheduled for May 4 will provide an update on the groundwater model and any update on the groundwater level sustainable management criteria.

We plan to provide a briefing to the Board following the fourth workshop, and each subsequent workshop too so that the Board can have regular updates on progress, and provide input as needed as we advance this process.

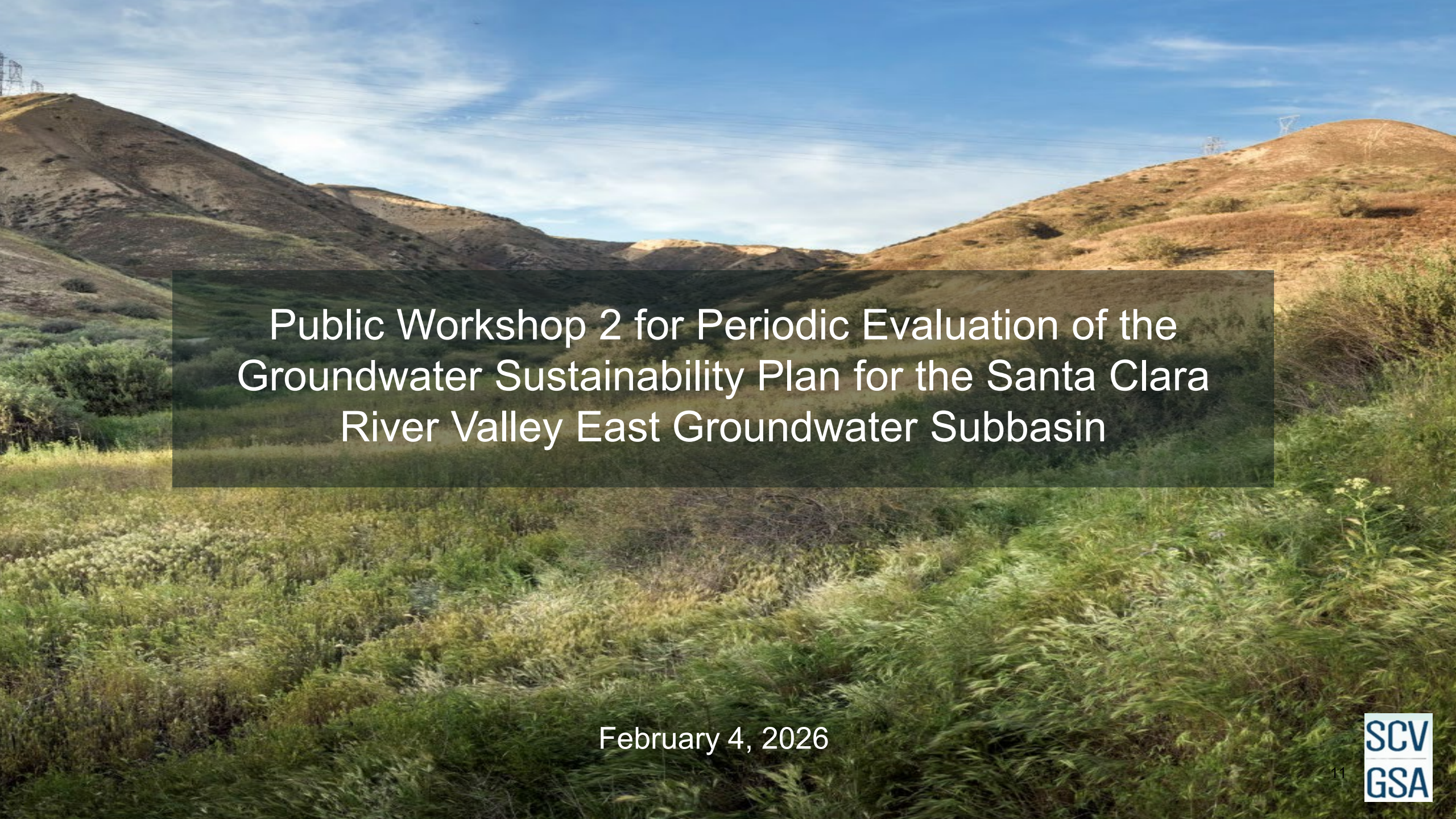
A tentative timeline for future events is listed below

Month	Description
March 23, 2026	Special GSA Board Meeting
May 4, 2026	Workshop 4: Revised groundwater level SMC, updated flow model
June 1, 2026	GSA Regular Board meeting
August	Special GSA Board meeting presenting public draft for Periodic Evaluation
September	30-day public review of draft PE
November	Special GSA Board meeting presenting draft final PE
December	Public hearing, Board adoption of the proposed final PE, submittal of the Periodic Evaluation to DWR

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an information item only. No action is required.

Attachment: Slide deck for workshops 2 and 3.



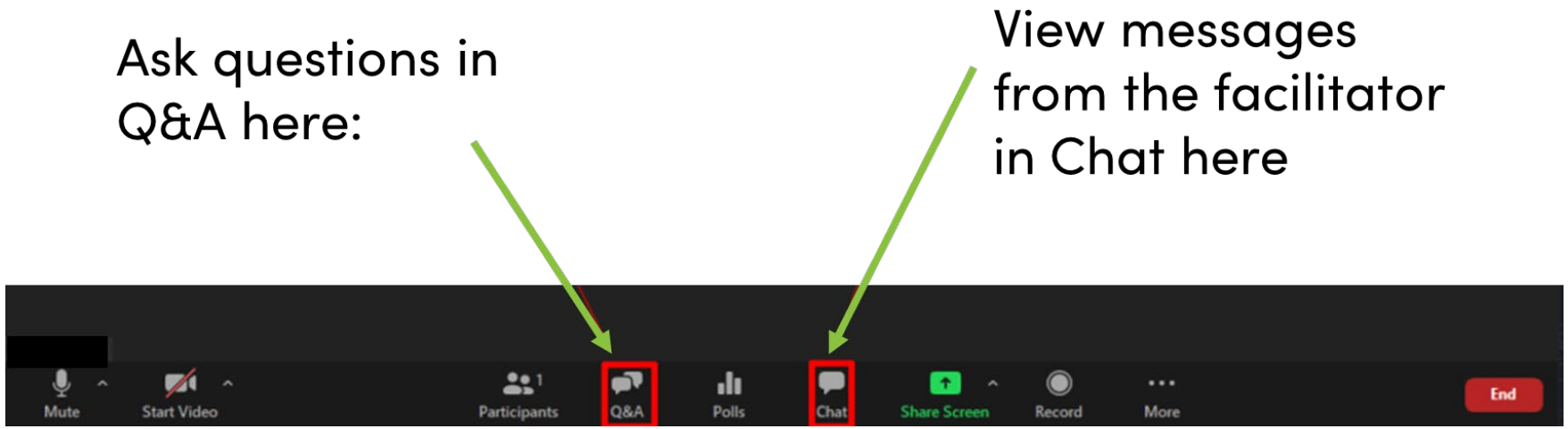
Public Workshop 2 for Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin

February 4, 2026

SCV GSA

HOW TO ENGAGE IN TONIGHT'S WORKSHOP

- Workshop will be about 1 hour, with 30 min. of Q&A
- Enter questions as they come to you



- For questions after tonight's workshop, please email scvgsa@scvwa.org.

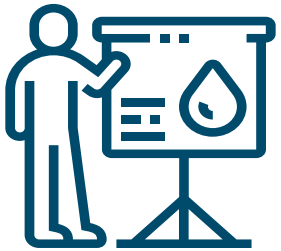
OUTLINE

- **Part 1: Welcome**
  - Purpose of tonight's workshop
  - Team Introductions

- **Part 2: Potential Use of Domestic Wells in Water Quality Monitoring**

- **Part 3: Clarification of Salt and Nutrients**
  - Potential Changes discussed in Periodic Evaluation

- **Part 4: DWR's Recommended Corrective Actions (regarding water quality)**
  - Background and DWR Recommended Corrective Action for use of Agricultural Wells in Monitoring
  - Background and DWR Recommended Corrective Action regarding Undesirable Results for Contaminants, Establish Minimum Thresholds, Measurable Objectives, and Interim Milestones



- **Part 5: Engagement Activity**
  - How the public can participate

SCV GSA

PART 1: WELCOME

PURPOSE OF TONIGHT'S WORKSHOP

- The SCV-GSA is conducting this meeting, and other workshops related to the State-required Periodic Evaluation, to inform the public about the current groundwater basin sustainability, needed clarifications to the GSP, and to obtain input from the public.

- Tonight's workshop will cover the Department of Water Resources' Recommended Corrective actions regarding water quality, and discuss two other related items regarding domestic wells, and salts and nutrients.

INTRODUCTIONS

SCV-GSA Team

- Public engagement, ongoing technical development, and communication
  - Kevin Strauss, Communications Manager
  - Laura Gallegos, Senior Communications Specialist
  - Rick Viergutz, Principal Water Resources Planner
  - Sarfaraz Alam, Senior Water Resources Planner

Intera Team

- Technical development, communication
  - Tyler Hatch, Director of Technical Services, Principal Engineer
  - Trevor Jones, Senior Water Resources Engineer

GSI Water Solutions

- Technical development, advisement
  - John Porcello, Principal Groundwater Hydrologist and Water Resources Consultant

Woodard & Curran

- Katie Evans, Senior Communications Strategist

BACKGROUND

- The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was adopted by the SCV GSA in January 2022
  - DWR Regulations require a Periodic Evaluation of the GSP every 5 years (by January 2027)
- Workshop topics focus on DWR comments and a needed clarification, and Recommended Corrective Actions

Comments and needed clarification

- Use of domestic wells in water quality monitoring (Part 1)
- Potential clarification on Salts and Nutrients (SCV GSA Staff-determined need) (Part 2)

Recommended Corrective Actions Groundwater Quality: (Part 3)

- Clarify if Agricultural Wells will be used to Fill Water Quality Data Gaps, Including for Contaminants
- Clarify Undesirable Results for Contaminants, Establish Minimum Thresholds, Measurable Objectives, and Interim Milestones

PART 2: POTENTIAL USE OF DOMESTIC WELLS FOR WATER QUALITY MONITORING TO FILL DATA GAPS

WATER QUALITY DATA GAPS IN CANYON AREAS

- The approved GSP identified data gaps regarding domestic water quality, primarily in canyon areas.
  - The GSP identified the need to conduct outreach and seek participation from domestic well owners in a voluntary program of well water quality testing.
  - Outreach conducted, but no volunteers identified yet.
- DWRs comment to the SCV GSA team is that they felt additional effort on this topic would be beneficial
- The next slide identifies work we've conducted so far

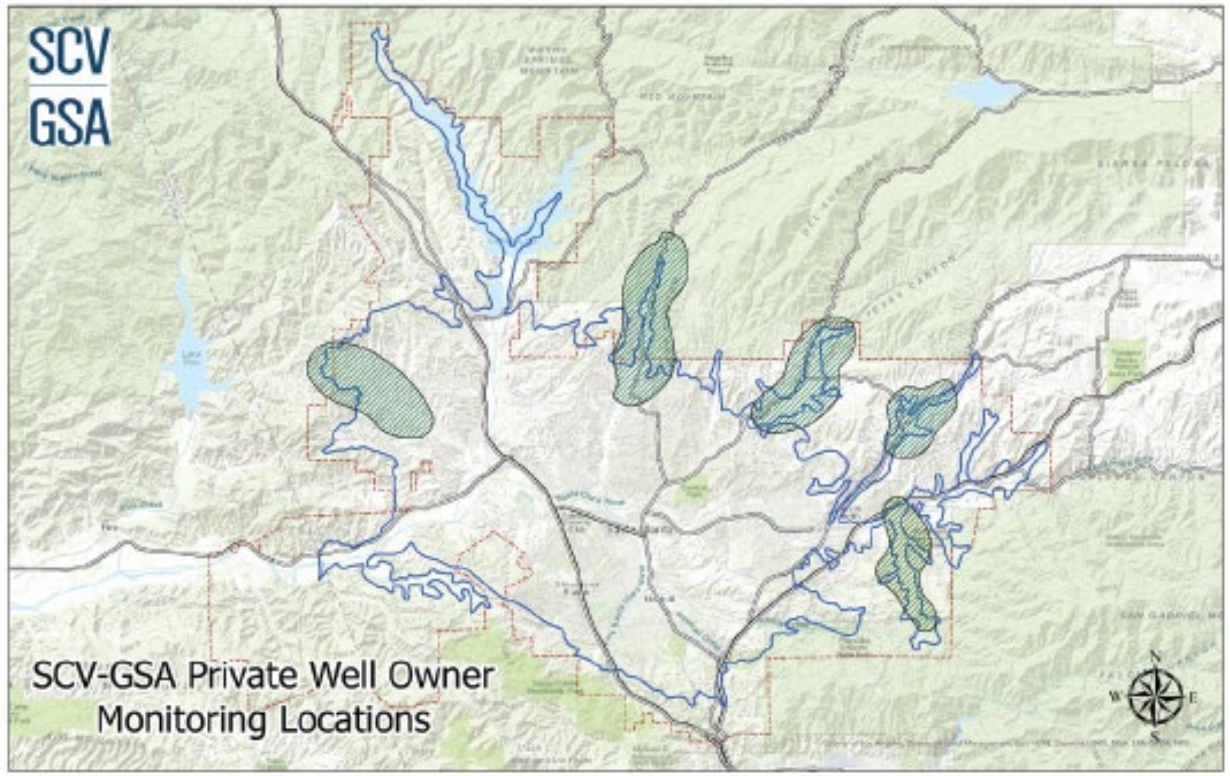
VOLUNTARY GROUNDWATER MONITORING PROGRAM FOR OWNERS OF DE MINIMIS WELLS (SPECIFIC CANYON AREAS)

Outreach and Results

- Thirty-nine flyers mailed in January 2025
- Response requested by March 1
- No responses to date
- In January 2026 we discussed at first GSP public workshop

- Next Steps
  - Continue to get the word out during the Periodic Evaluation Process
  - Keep DWR appraised
- **Website update will provide more information**

Location Map



WATER QUALITY DATA GAPS IN CANYON AREAS

- **SUMMARY**
- The SCV GSA Team will continue to seek volunteers through the Periodic Evaluation Process as appropriate.
  - If volunteers come forward, we would have a phone call to answer their questions and also determine if their well would be a good fit for this voluntary program.
  - Groundwater sampling and analysis would be done at the SCV GSA's expense
    - Water quality results provided to well owner, and considered in GSA Annual Report
- Open to suggestions from members of the public

QUESTIONS

PART 3: CLARIFICATION REGARDING SALTS AND NUTRIENTS (SCV GSA TEAM IDENTIFIED ITEM)

THE GSP DEFINES UNDESIRABLE RESULTS TO INCLUDE

- Water Management Actions that interfere with existing groundwater remediation efforts or cause plume migration, creating permanent loss of groundwater supply.
- Concentrations of regulated contaminants in untreated groundwater from private domestic or agricultural or municipal wells exceed regulatory thresholds.
- Loss of municipal groundwater supply due to migration of a contaminant plume and inability to pump and treat groundwater or reasonably secure an alternative water supply.
- Groundwater pumping that causes concentrations of TDS, chloride, nitrate, and sulfate to exceed WQOs or basin-wide assimilative capacity, described in the 2016 SNMP, or puts new state permits for distribution of recycled water at risk.
- Interference with remediation activities. Water Management actions implemented under the GSP that interfere with existing remediation efforts creating permanent loss of groundwater supply.

CONCEPTS WITH SALTS & NUTRIENTS

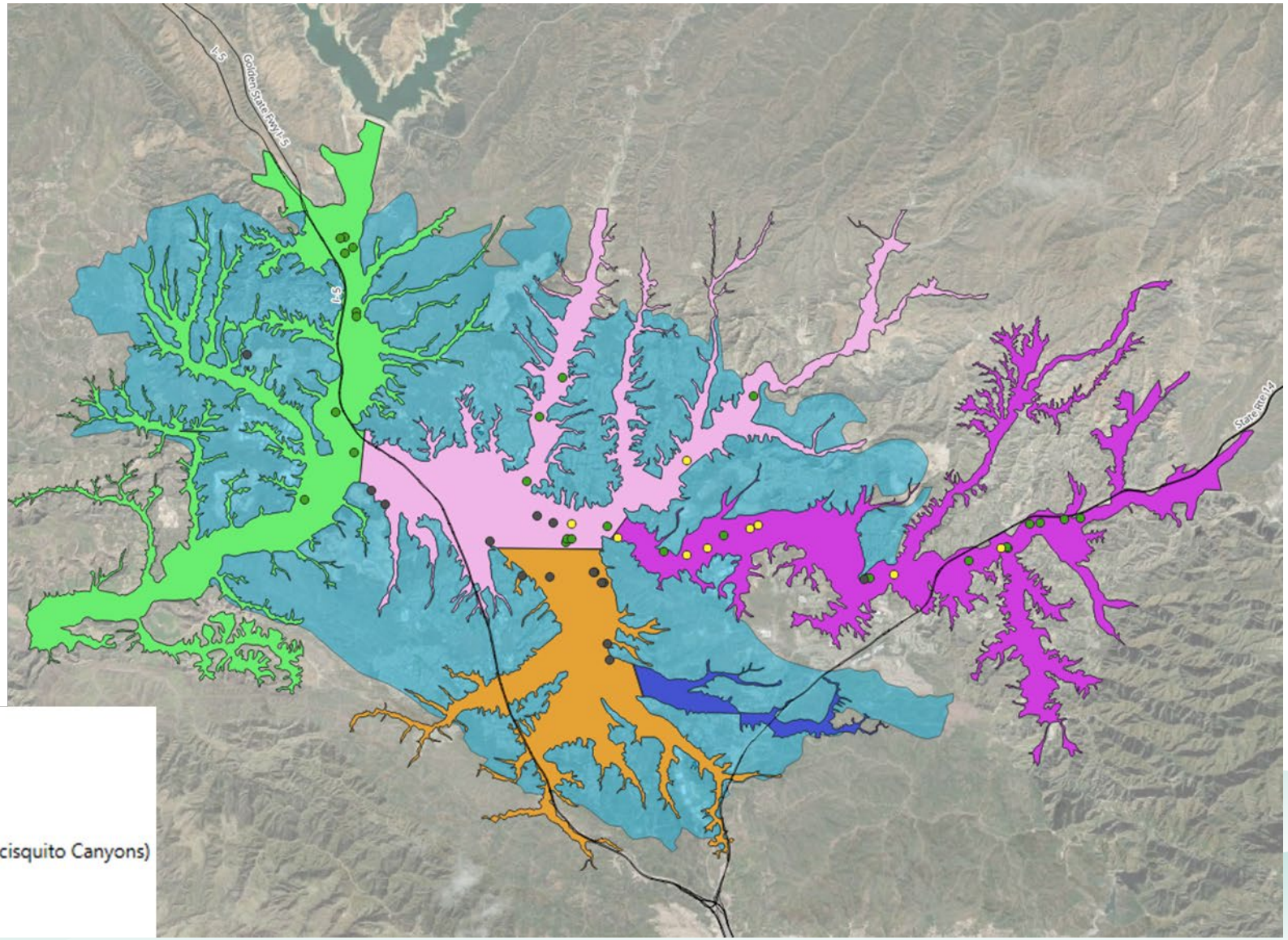
- Why are Salts and Nutrients Monitored?
  - The State of California requires monitoring (under **Salt and Nutrient Management Plans**) due to State interest in encouraging use of recycled water, and
  - The State of California sets Water Quality Objectives for Salts and Nutrients
  - Increases in salts and nutrients can reflect water quality degradation

- Did the SCV GSA create a special Salt and Nutrient Monitoring program for its GSP?
  - Yes, but part of it relies on the existing State-required monitoring plan above

CONCEPTS WITH SALTS & NUTRIENTS

- What are Salts and Nutrients?
  - Salts are minerals in the water, like sodium, magnesium, potassium, chloride, etc.
  - Nutrients are generally limited to nitrogen (nitrate, nitrite, ammonia) but may include phosphorous and potassium.
  - Found naturally but can also be added through land use like agriculture, septic systems, recycled water use.
- Groundwater from many wells is analyzed for salts and nutrients.
  - Concentrations are generally below State water quality standards across the basin, but…a small number of isolated exceedances were observed in 2024. **(Graphic Next Slide)**
  - The question becomes, are these isolated exceedances a concern?

SALT AND NUTRIENT MONITORING WELLS AND WATER QUALITY ANALYSES



SNMP Wells

- Exceedance of Minimum Threshold
- Insufficient Data
- No Exceedance of Minimum Threshold

SNMP Management Zone Boundaries

- Management Zone 1 (Santa Clara - Mint Canyon)
- Management Zone 2 (Placerita Canyon)
- Management Zone 3 (South Fork)
- Management Zone 4 (Santa Clara - Boquet and San Francisquito Canyons)
- Management Zone 5 (Castaic Valley)
- Management Zone 6 (Saugus Formation)

SCV GSA

CHANGES BEING CONSIDERED TO THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

- One of the mathematical methods in the GSP to determine if the exceedances were a concern, suggested they could be a concern - However..
- We have found the number and locations of wells in a zone exceeding water quality objectives indicate a localized water quality condition that reflects naturally occurring salts, rather than a regional water quality problem.
- We will better explain this in the Periodic Evaluation and potentially make some adjustments in how an Undesirable Result is identified.
  - This is under study at this time.

QUESTIONS

PART 4: DWR RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTIONS REGARDING WATER QUALITY

DWR'S RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION:

CLARIFY IF AGRICULTURAL WELLS WILL BE USED TO FILL WATER QUALITY DATA GAPS, INCLUDING FOR CONTAMINANTS

- “Clarify whether agricultural wells will be included to help address water quality data gaps”
- “Clarify whether contaminants would be sampled in agricultural wells”
- Approach:
  - The SCV GSA Team will evaluate the need to fill potential data gaps described by DWR
  - If data gaps exist, the SCV GSA can evaluate the adequacy of agricultural wells for such monitoring
  - SCV GSA can then communicate with agricultural well owners to determine best options

QUESTIONS

PART 4 (CONTINUED): DWR RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

CLARIFY UNDESIRABLE RESULTS FOR CONTAMINANTS, ESTABLISH MINIMUM THRESHOLDS, MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES, AND INTERIM MILESTONES

CONCEPTS WITH CONSTITUENTS OF CONCERN

- Constituents of Concern (COCs) are those that may affect suitability for drinking water use (like those constituents above drinking water standards). Examples:
  - Contamination (Perchlorate, Volatile Organic Compounds)
  - Emerging Chemicals (for example PFAS)

- Throughout the State of California (and nation) groundwater can be affected by Constituents of Concern from disposal of waste, chemical leaks, etc.

- Every 5 years SCV Water wells are sampled as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. This rule requires a list of 30 constituents of concern to be developed and tested

- Specialized monitoring wells are also sampled by others, including Whittaker as part of State required monitoring plans.

CONSTITUENTS OF CONCERN IN OUR GROUNDWATER BASIN

- Groundwater monitoring has identified constituents of concern in the shallow and/or deep groundwater.
- Primarily perchlorate, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and PFAS.
  - Perchlorate has been detected in the Basin since 1997
  - Volatile Organic Compounds such as TCE and PCE have been detected
  - PFAS are persistent chemicals monitored under State notification.

- Monitoring, treatment, and response actions are conducted in coordination with State regulatory agencies such as Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC), Division of Drinking Water (DDW), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)

APPROVED GSP SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA FOR CONTAMINANTS

- Minimum Thresholds for contaminants (e.g., perchlorate, VOCs), were not established in the GSP because the contaminants existed before the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (2015) and are regulated locally by multiple State agencies.
  - We will explain this further in a moment

- The SCV-GSA seeks to avoid increases in contamination caused by groundwater pumping

HOW ARE PFAS CHEMICALS ADDRESSED IN THE BASIN

- SCV Water has installed treatment systems on certain municipal wells to remove PFAS chemicals to maintain its groundwater supply.
- Unlike perchlorate and VOCs there are no California Maximum Contaminant Levels established for PFAS compounds (yet). Instead, the State has established Response Levels for PFAS compounds.
  - If it exceeds the Response Level, actions are taken.
  - SCV Water takes the action of treating the water to address PFAS.
- The Federal MCL does not require compliance until April 2029
- **Investigation is still being conducted regarding PFAS**

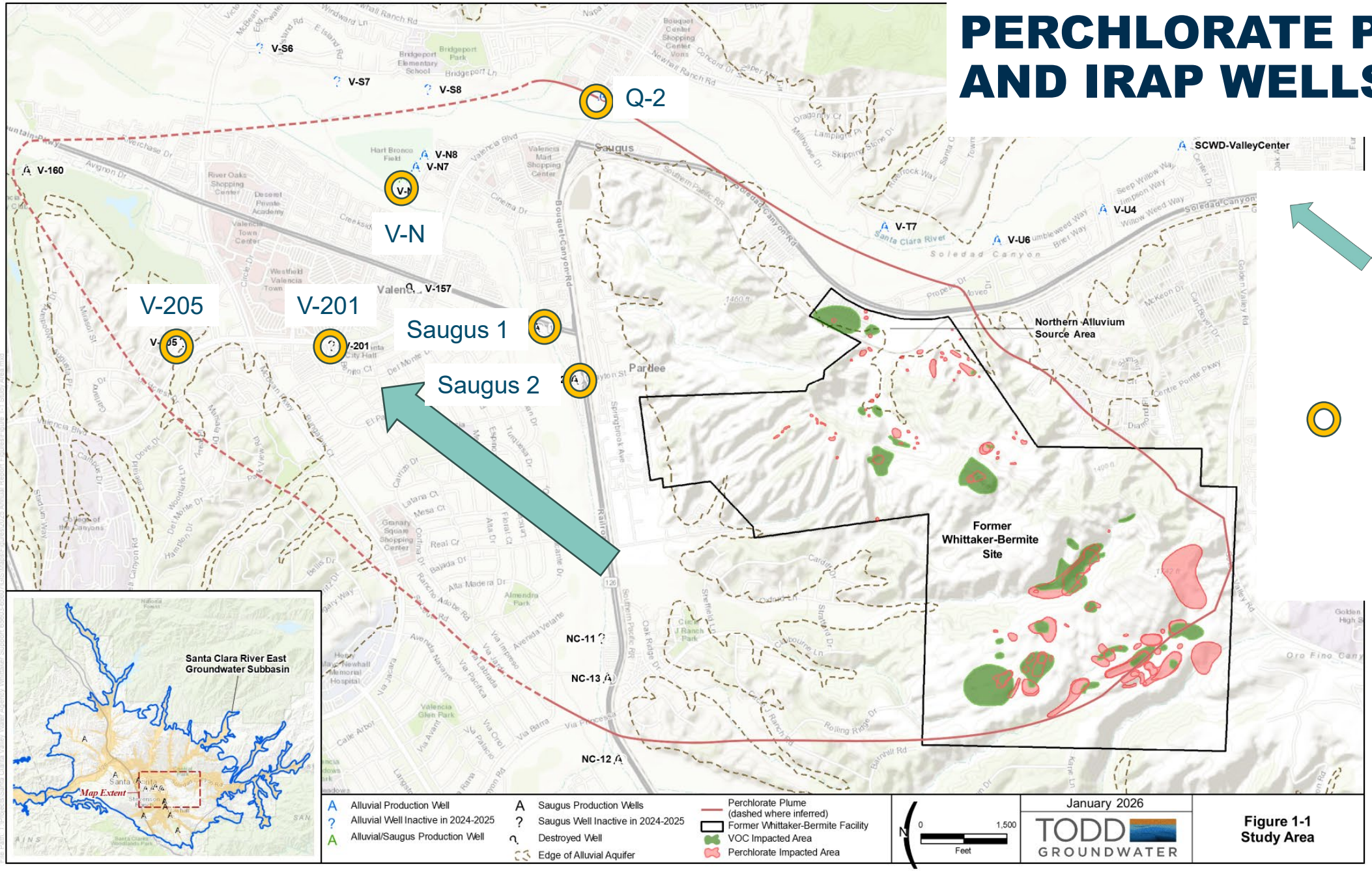
HOW ARE PERCHLORATE AND VOCs ADDRESSED

- Whittaker Bermite is a known source area for Perchlorate and VOCs
- Perchlorate and VOCs have moved “downstream” and entered areas where municipal groundwater pumping takes place, contaminating some municipal wells.
    - Contamination initially discovered in municipal wells in the late 1990s.
        - Some wells were destroyed due to this
        - A water treatment system added to Saugus 1 and Saugus 2
        - More treatment systems added since

HOW ARE PERCHLORATE AND VOCs ADDRESSED

- Restoration of Municipal Groundwater Supply following Perchlorate and VOC contamination is a complex process requiring approvals from multiple state agencies.
  - The State's Division of Drinking Water requires studies, special monitoring, and special permits.
  - The State's Department of Toxic Substances Control approves an **Interim Remedial Action Plan** (IRAP) that provides for restoration of municipal groundwater supply using well head treatment.
    - It recognizes use of municipal wells can also help to remove some contaminant mass
- Approved IRAP for (Saugus 1, Saugus 2, Well N, Well Q2, V-201, V-205)

PERCHLORATE PLUME AND IRAP WELLS



DWR RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION

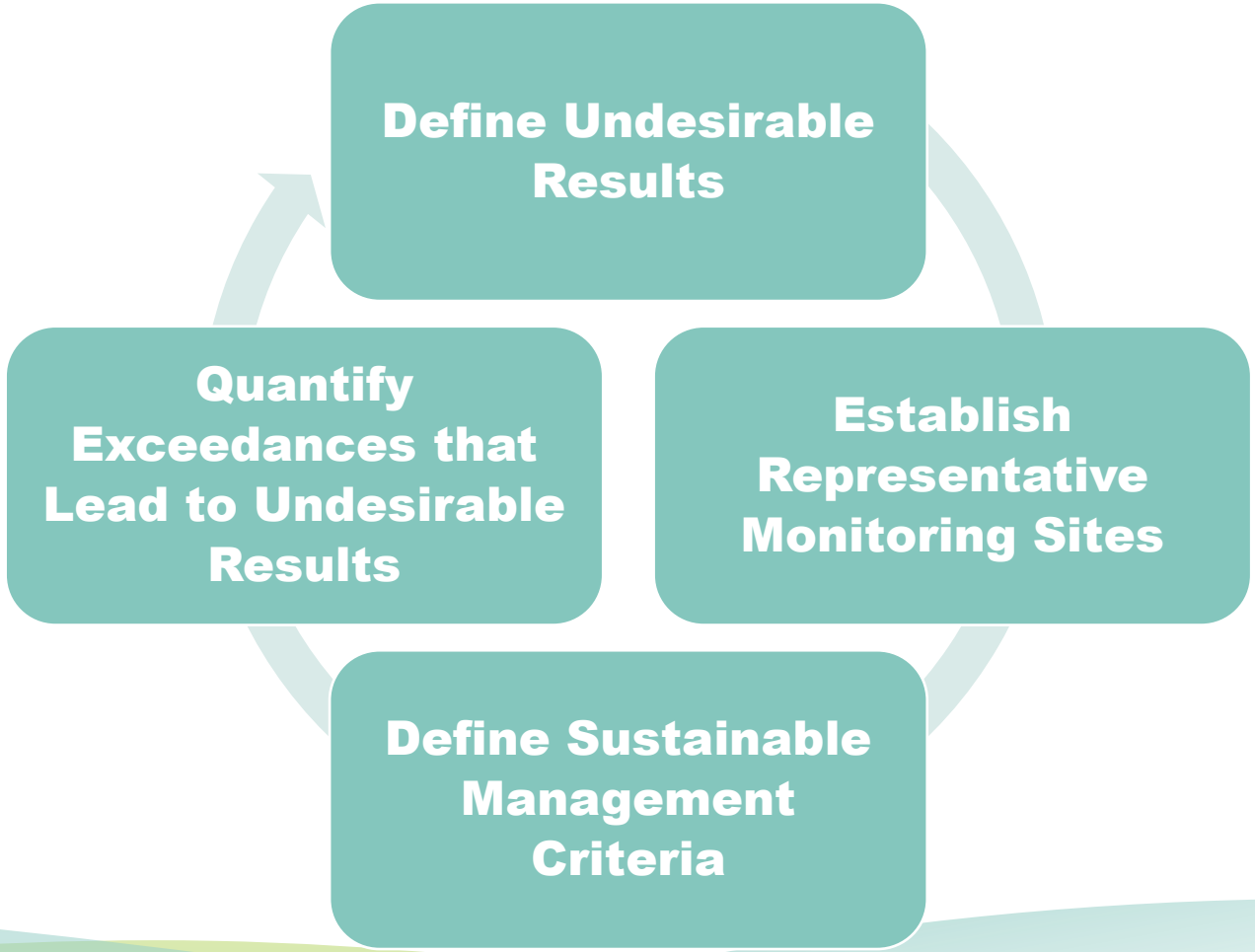
- “Describe undesirable results pertaining to contaminants with a combination of exceedances of minimum thresholds in the Subbasin and select representative monitoring sites to monitor contaminant concentrations. Establish minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones pertaining to contaminants in the manner required by the GSP Regulations.”

- For the Periodic Evaluation, the SCV GSA is focusing on perchlorate and VOCs from the known regional contamination plume.

ARE CHANGES TO THE GSP SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA FOR CONTAMINANTS PROPOSED AT THIS TIME?

- Yes, through this Periodic Evaluation, the SCV GSA will be establishing sustainable management criteria for perchlorate and VOCs
- The SCV GSA anticipates continuing to evaluate contaminant sustainable management criteria throughout GSP implementation, as encouraged under SGMA

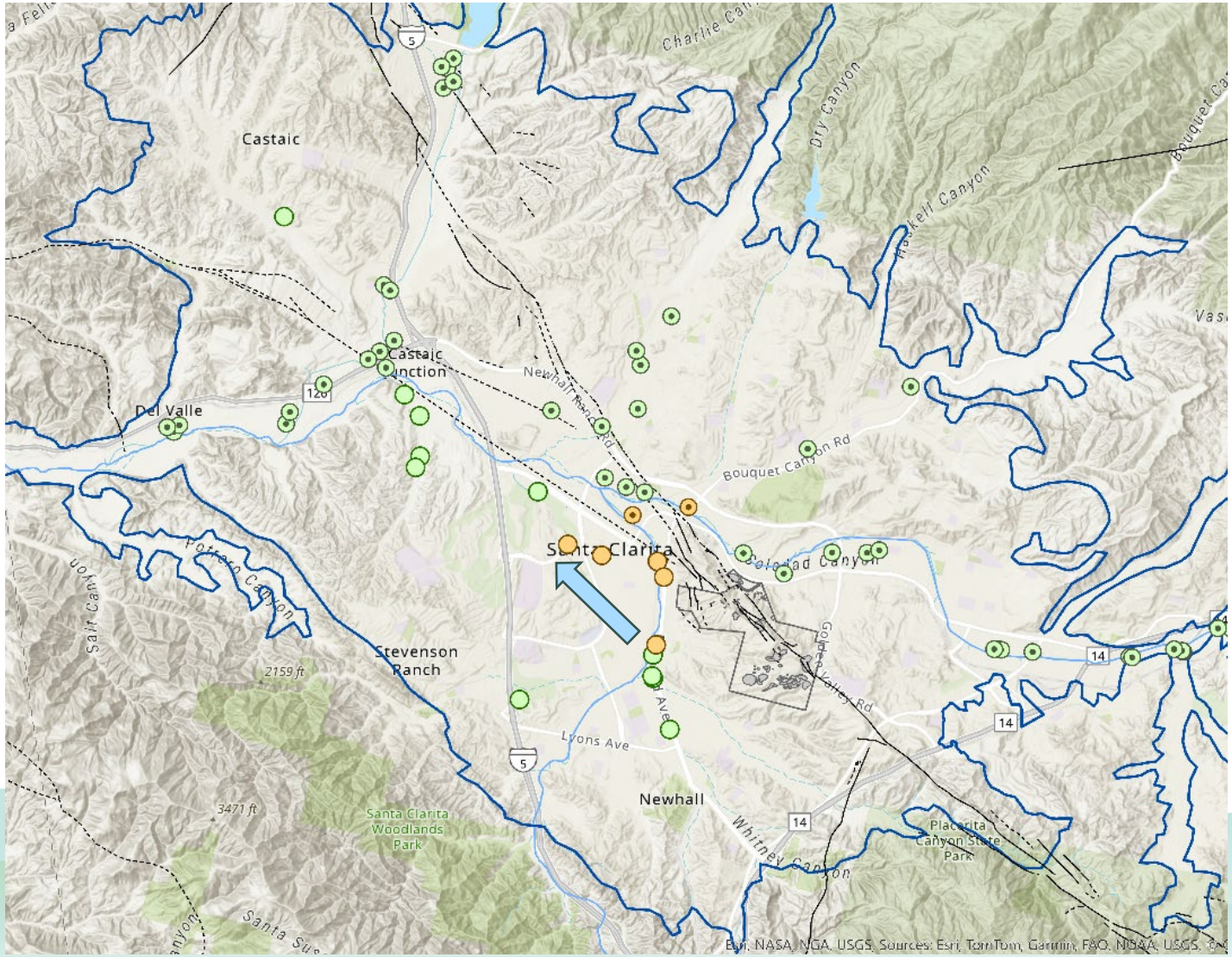
DEFINING SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA



THE GSP DEFINES UNDESIRABLE RESULTS TO INCLUDE

- **Water Management Actions that interfere with existing groundwater remediation efforts or cause plume migration, creating permanent loss of groundwater supply.**
- **Concentrations of regulated contaminants in untreated groundwater from private domestic or agricultural or municipal wells exceed regulatory thresholds.**
- **Loss of municipal groundwater supply due to migration of a contaminant plume and inability to pump and treat groundwater or reasonably secure an alternative water supply.**
- **Groundwater pumping that causes concentrations of TDS, chloride, nitrate, and sulfate to exceed WQOs or basin-wide assimilative capacity, described in the 2016 SNMP, or puts new state permits for distribution of recycled water at risk.**
- **Interference with remediation activities. Water Management actions implemented under the GSP that interfere with existing remediation efforts creating permanent loss of groundwater supply.**

ESTABLISHING REPRESENTATIVE MONITORING SITES



Saugus Well

Alluvial Well

No historical exceedances

Regulatory exceedance

Generalized GW flow direction

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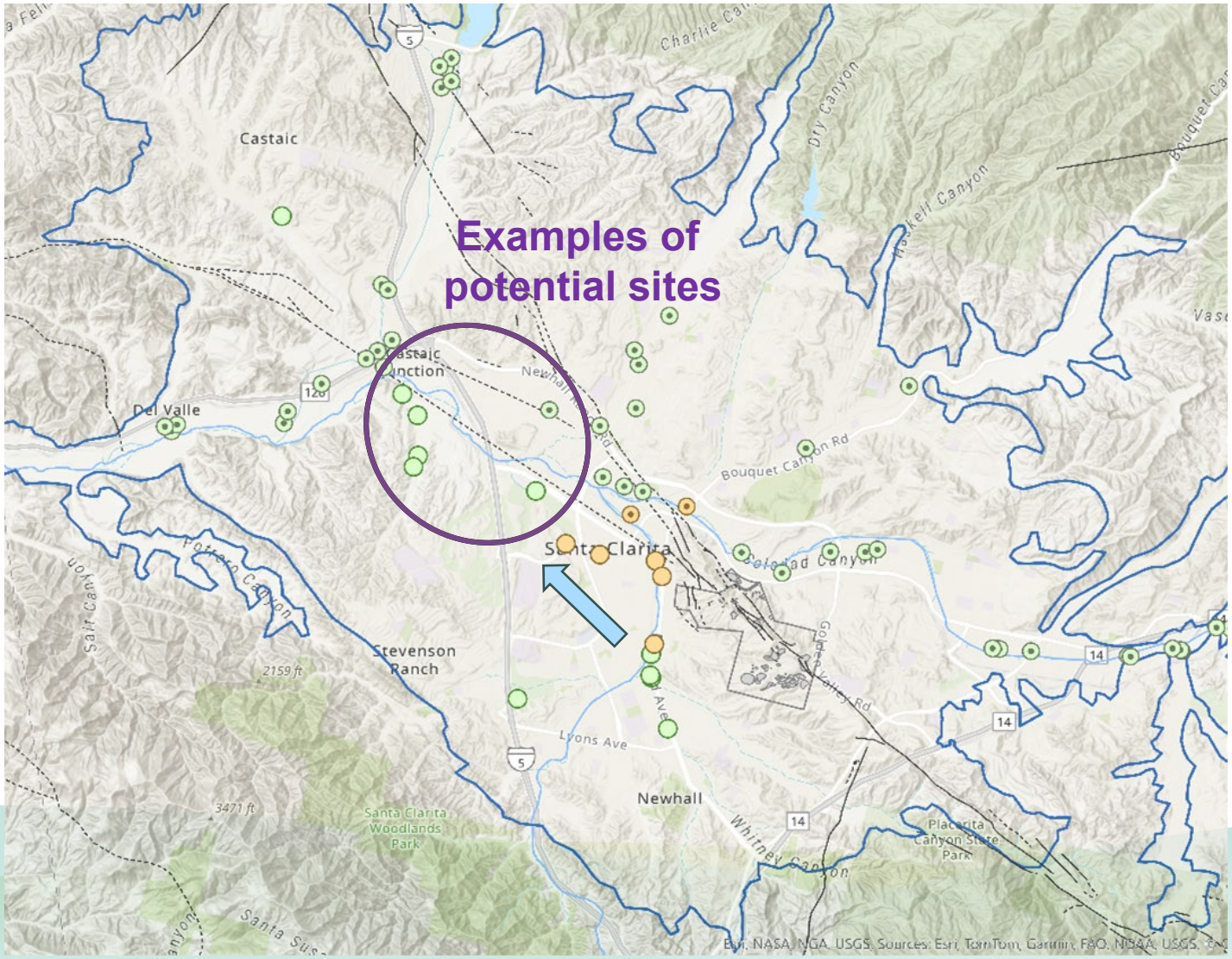
ESTABLISHING REPRESENTATIVE MONITORING SITES



- ✓ Production Wells
- ✓ No history of regulatory exceedances
- ✓ Located downgradient of know contamination
- ✓ Includes Alluvial and Saugus wells
- ✓ Example locations only- actual locations under study

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PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

Minimum Thresholds ("want to avoid this")

One or more additional production wells exceeding regulatory thresholds (meaning MCLs) for perchlorate and or VOCs

Measurable Objective ("where we would like to be operating")

Zero additional production wells exceeding regulatory thresholds

Interim Milestone

Water quality does not affect the ability to meet anticipated demands specified in the UWMP

Considerations

Minimum thresholds and measurable objectives will not be applied to production wells that are currently managed under the Interim Remedial Action Plan, which has been approved by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (Saugus 1, Saugus 2, Well N, Well Q2, V-201, V-205)

QUANTIFYING THE ONSET OF UNDESIRABLE RESULTS

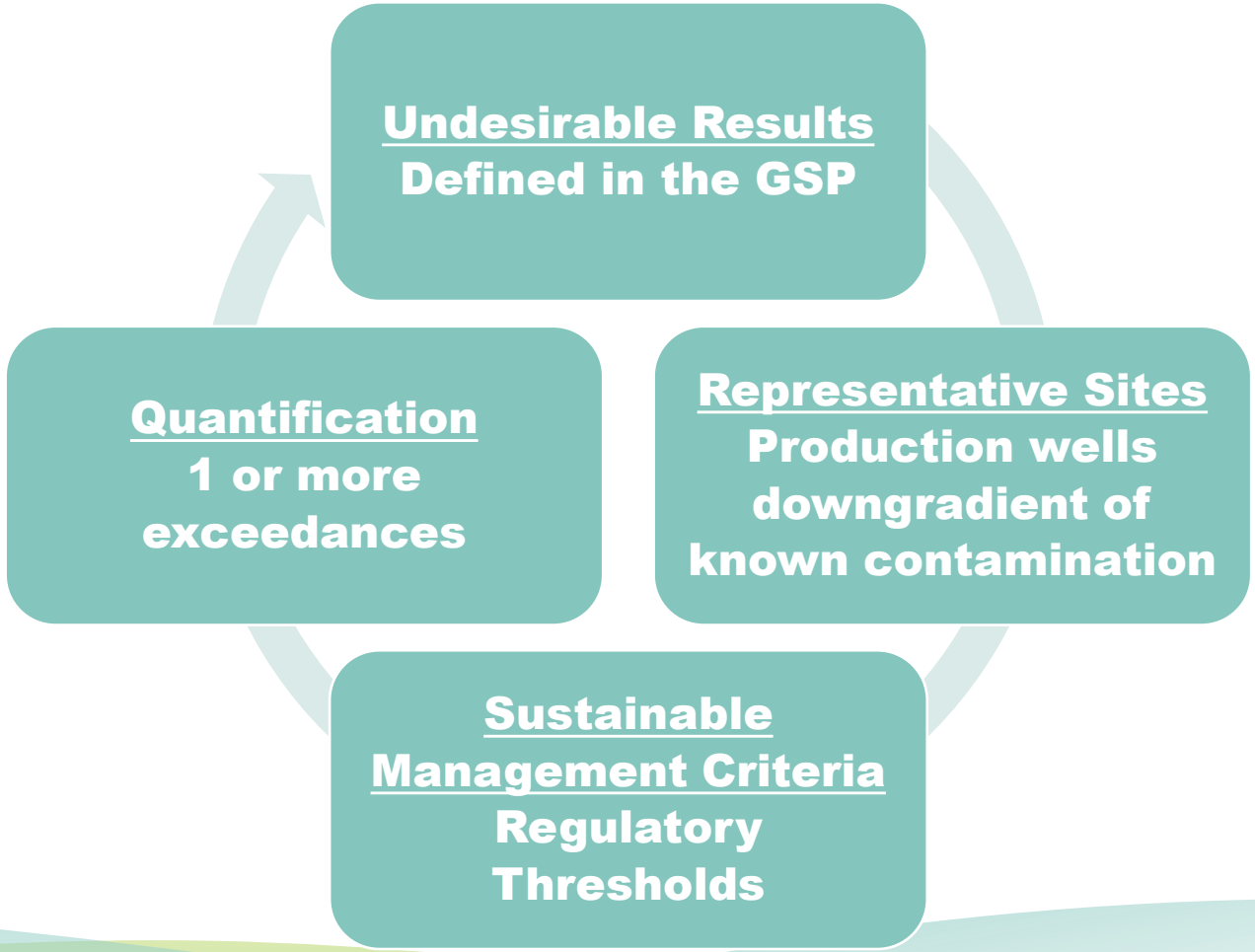
What is an Undesirable Result for contaminants?

One or more minimum threshold exceedances is considered an undesirable result (production well shutdown due to regulatory exceedance)

What happens if undesirable results occur?

SCV GSA, or one of its member agencies on behalf of the GSA, will notify California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) of minimum threshold exceedance and seek DTSC engagement to direct evaluation and cleanup by the responsible party to protect the production well or wells

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CONTAMINANT MANAGEMENT



QUESTIONS

PART 5: ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY

Click link in the chat

or

Please go to **menti.com**

Code: 9984 5383

Or

Scan this QR code

GSP PERIODIC EVALUATION SCHEDULE FOR 2026

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HOW THE PUBLIC CAN PARTICIPATE

1. Attend public workshops, meetings, and hearings.
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3. Share local knowledge, and observations about groundwater conditions.

Stay informed through GSA websites, email updates, and notices.

INFORMATION FOR UPCOMING WORKSHOP

SCV-GSA Workshop 3

March 5, 2026, 6-7:30 p.m.

Hybrid

Location: SCV Water Engineering Conference Room

26521 Summit Circle, Santa Clarita, CA 91350

Register for virtual participation via Zoom: https://bit.ly/4rq4W1c

or scan QR code:

Scan me

Q&A

SCV
GSA

THANK YOU!

For questions after tonight's workshop, please email scvgsa@scvwa.org.

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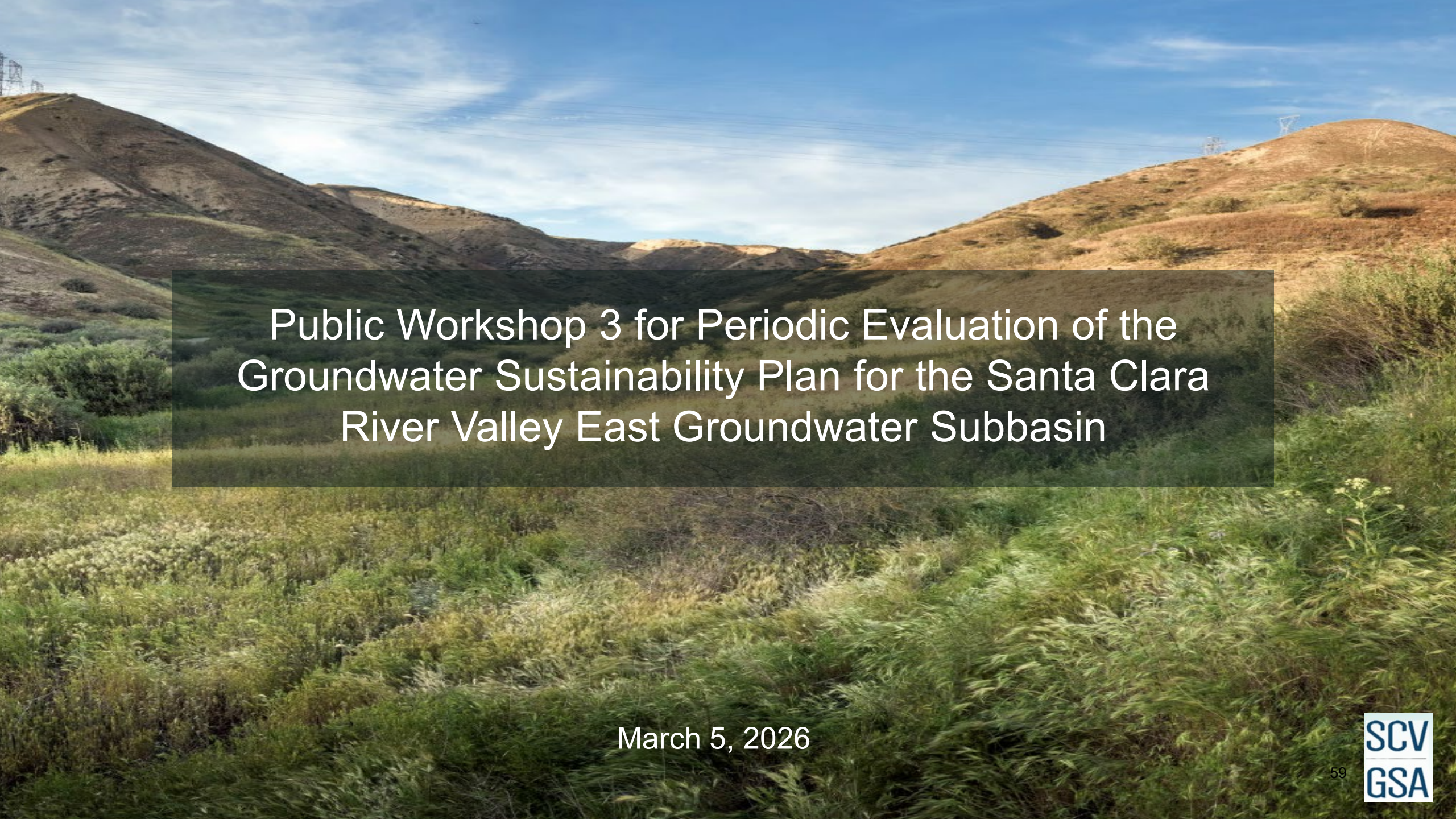


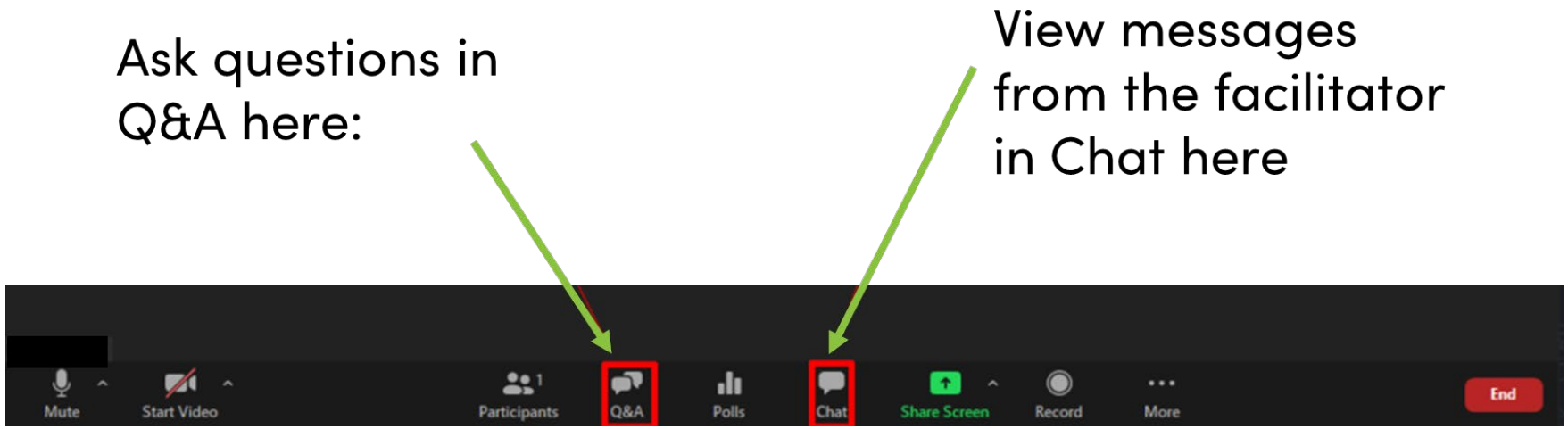
Public Workshop 3 for Periodic Evaluation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Santa Clara River Valley East Groundwater Subbasin

March 5, 2026

SCV GSA

HOW TO ENGAGE IN TONIGHT'S WORKSHOP

- Workshop will be about 1 hour, with 30 min. of Q&A
- Enter questions as they come to you



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OUTLINE

Part 1: Welcome and Team Introduction

Part 2: DWR's Recommended Corrective Action on Groundwater Levels

Part 3: DWR's Recommended Corrective Action on Interconnected Surface Water

Part 4: Engagement Activity

PURPOSE OF TONIGHT'S WORKSHOP

The SCV-GSA is conducting this meeting, and other workshops related to the State-required Periodic Evaluation, to inform the public about current groundwater basin sustainability, needed clarifications to the GSP, and to obtain input from the public.

Tonight's workshop will cover the Department of Water Resources' **Recommended Corrective Actions** regarding **Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels** and **Interconnected Surface Water**.

INTRODUCTIONS

SCV-GSA Team
- Public engagement, ongoing technical development, and communication
  - Kevin Strauss, Communications Manager
  - Laura Gallegos, Senior Communications Specialist
  - Rick Viergutz, Principal Water Resources Planner
  - Sarfaraz Alam, Senior Water Resources Planner

Intera Team
- Technical development, communication
  - Tyler Hatch, Director of Technical Services, Principal Engineer

GSI Water Solutions
- Technical development, advisement
  - John Porcello, Principal Groundwater Hydrologist and Water Resources Consultant

Woodard & Curran
- Katie Evans, Senior Communications Strategist

QUICK OVERVIEW

- The GSP identifies an “undesirable result” as groundwater levels below a minimum threshold in a certain percentage of wells over *3 years*.

- **However**- DWR informed the GSA that they are looking for a specific description of an “undesirable result”…*for example, “***Inability to meet future groundwater demand for municipal, agricultural, and domestic uses due to declining groundwater levels caused by pumping”**

- Clarifying this text for DWR is the first step in addressing the recommended corrective action.

QUICK OVERVIEW

- The goal tonight is to discuss these concepts with you about updating the text for this specific “undesirable result” and get your feedback.
- The technical team will regroup and arrive at appropriate text for the “undesirable result” and we will share that at a future workshop.
- The next step then is to establish groundwater levels that reflect that undesirable result.
- Step 1- get the text right, Step 2- determine groundwater levels.

PART 2: DWR'S RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR CHRONIC LOWERING OF GROUNDWATER LEVELS

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR CHRONIC LOWERING OF GROUNDWATER LEVELS (RCA 2)

a. Describe the specific undesirable results to be avoided through implementing the Plan.

b. Revise the sustainable management criteria to be based on seasonal low static groundwater levels to ensure potential impacts to beneficial uses and users are considered.

c. Establish minimum thresholds at representative monitoring wells that account for the specific undesirable results to be avoided in response to a. above.

THE APPROVED GSP DEFINES UNDESIRABLE RESULTS FOR CHRONIC LOWERING OF GROUNDWATER LEVELS THIS WAY

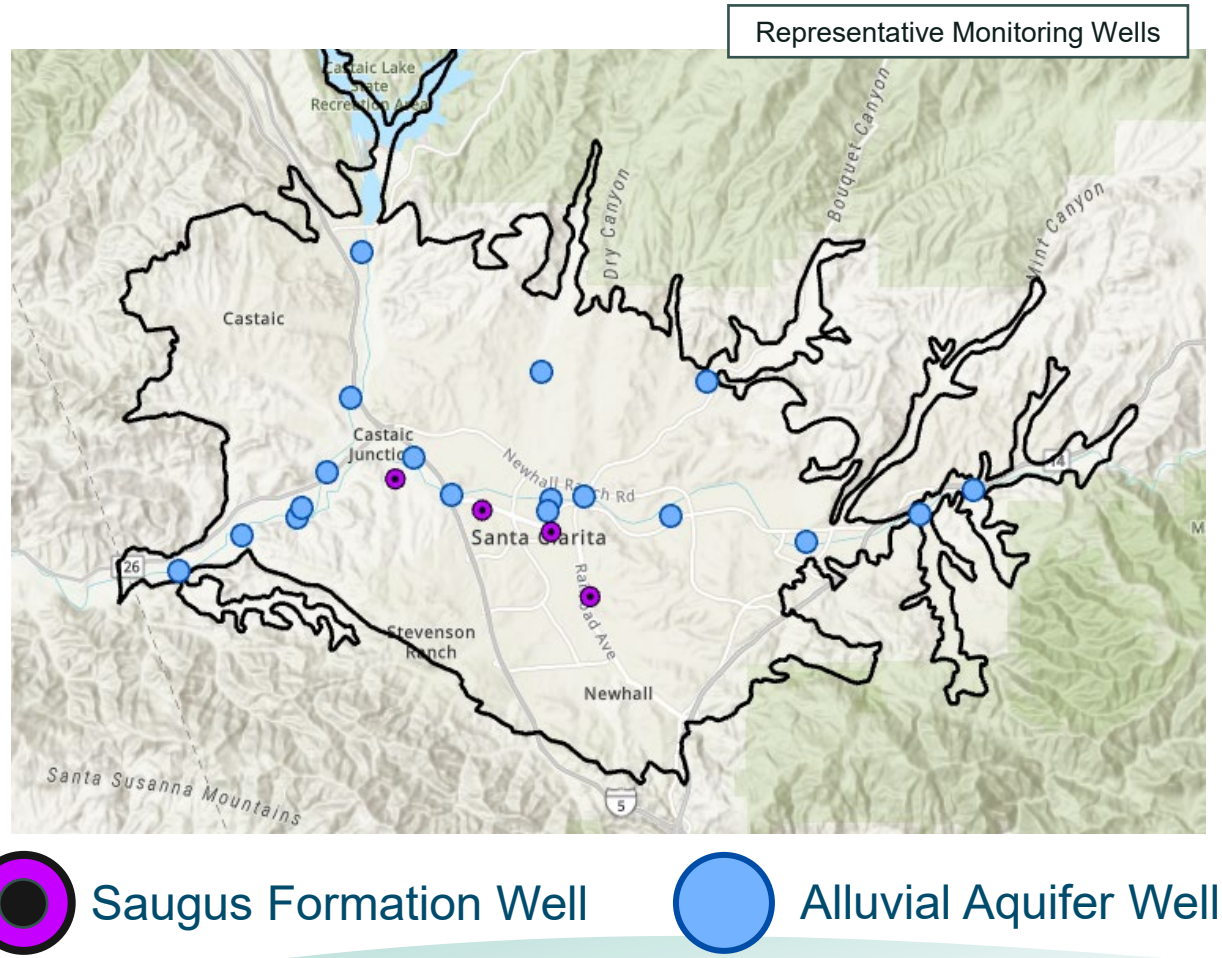
Alluvial aquifer:

Groundwater levels fall below minimum thresholds in 25% of representative wells for 3-years

Saugus Formation:

Groundwater levels fall below minimum thresholds in 50% of representative wells for 3-years

A DWR Recommended Corrective Action is to make above language specific to an undesirable result



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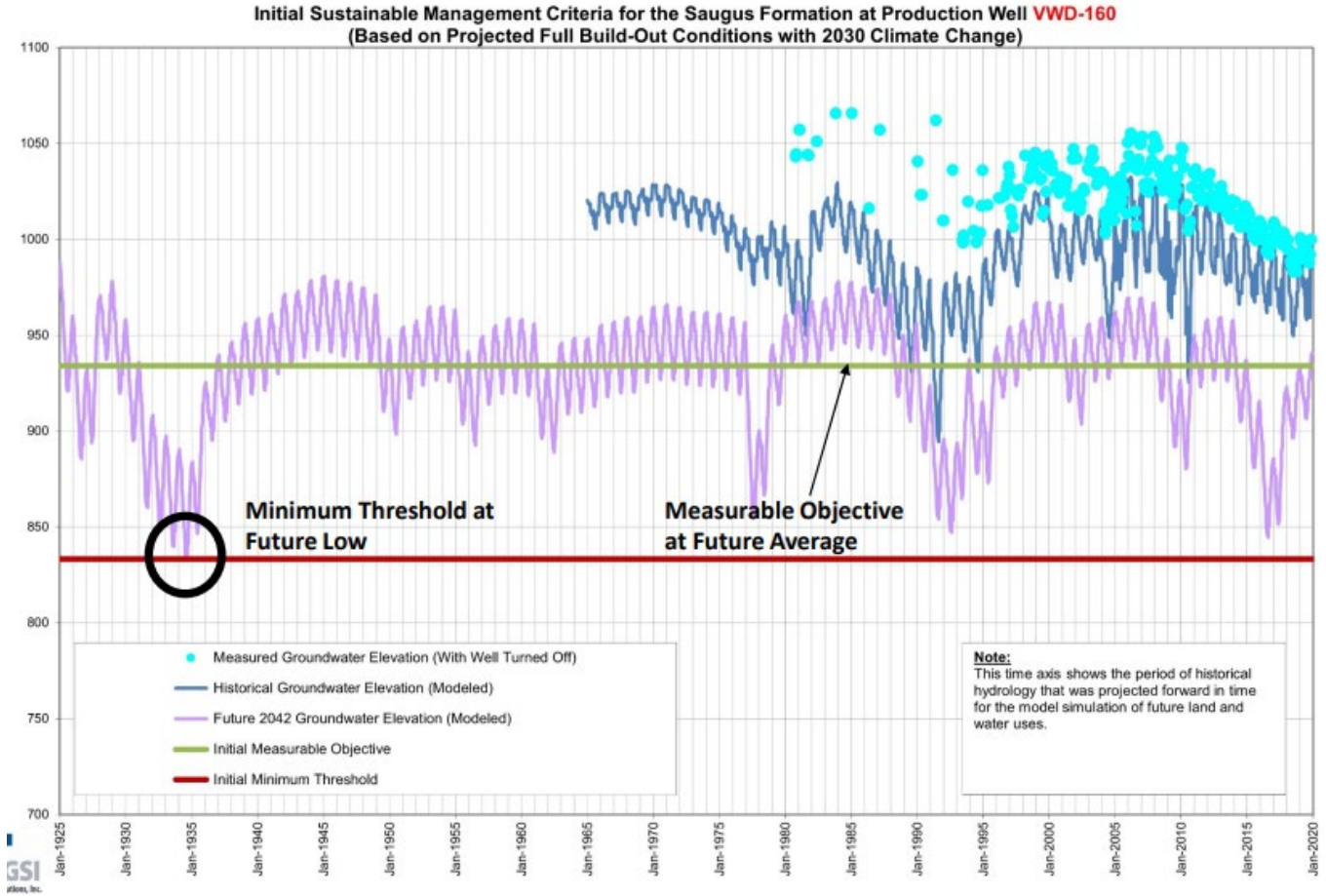
THE APPROVED GSP SETS MINIMUM THRESHOLDS



Set using the historical low or projected low water level under full build-out conditions.

Keeping water level above the red line is desired for groundwater sustainability

DWR ASKED SCV GSA TO CLARIFY UNDESIRABLE RESULTS FOR CHRONIC LOWERING OF GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Two examples of potential text changes for undesirable results to meet DWRs requirement are listed below. *Stakeholder input opportunities tonight.*

“Inability to meet future groundwater demand for municipal, agricultural, and domestic uses due to declining groundwater levels caused by pumping.”

“loss of municipal supply because groundwater elevations are too low”

Ultimately, the GSP will relate the definition of undesirable results to minimum water levels

SUSTAINABILITY GOAL OBJECTIVES ANTICIPATED TO REMAIN THE SAME (AND INCLUDE)

Regarding Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels

- Maintain groundwater levels that continue to support current and future groundwater uses and a healthy river environment in the Basin

Regarding Interconnected Surface Water

- Avoid significant and unreasonable effects (i.e., undesirable results) on beneficial uses in the Basin, including GDEs, caused by groundwater extraction

- GSP Executive Summary contains full listing of objectives.

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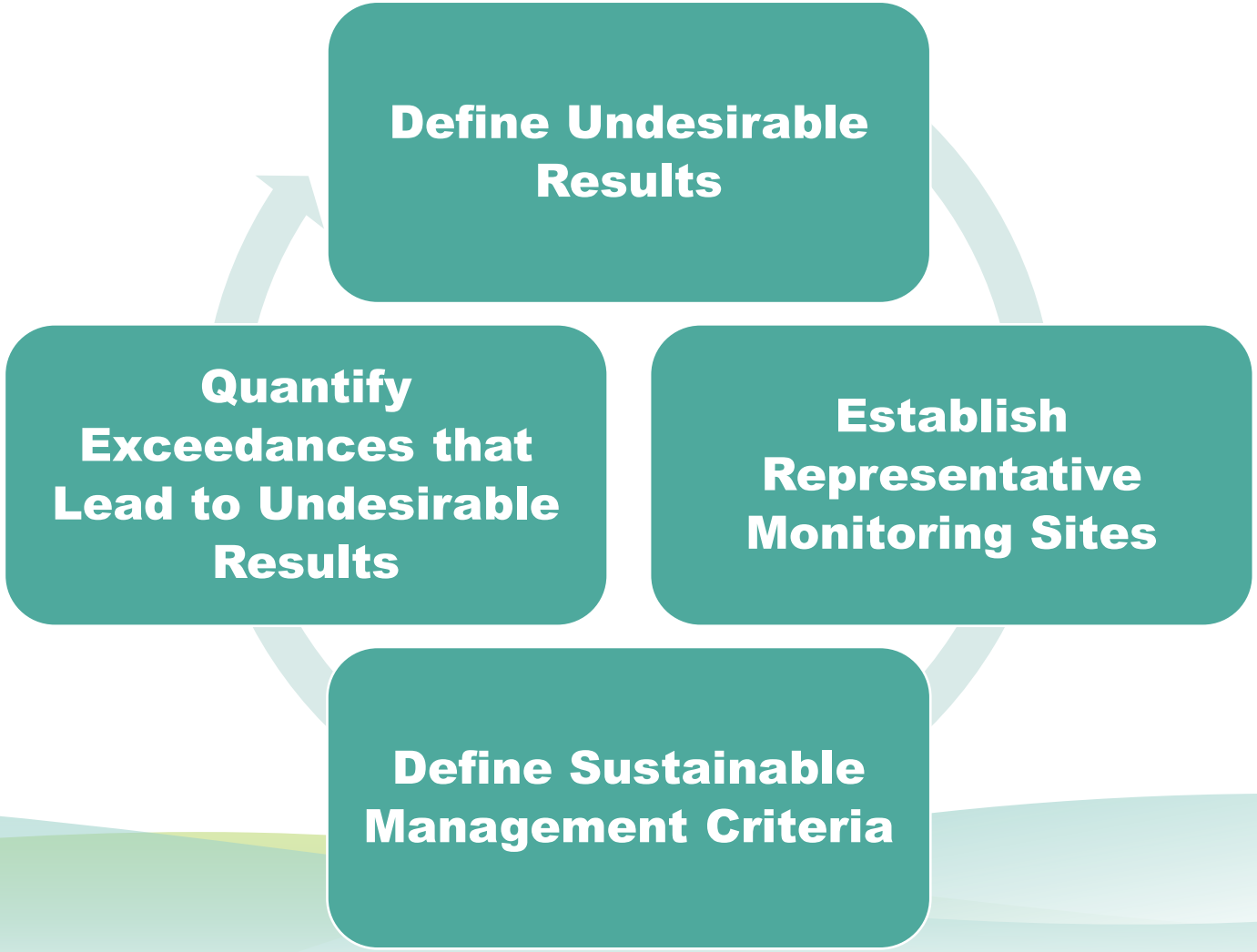
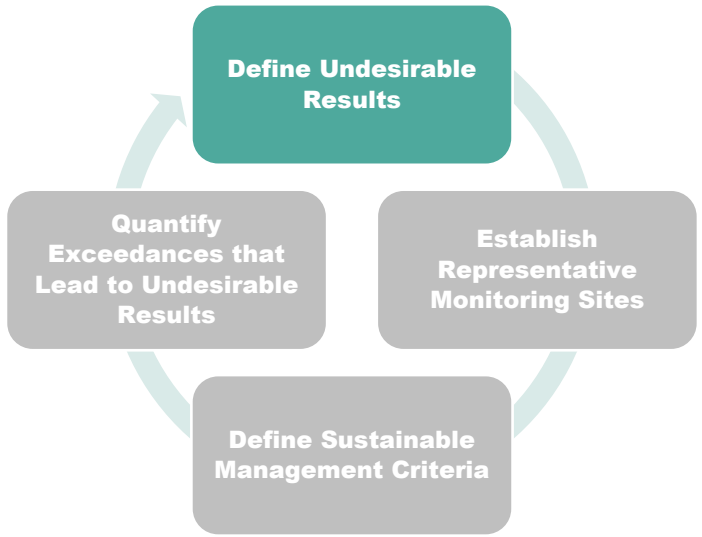
HOW SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA ARE ESTABLISHED UNDER SGMA



CONNECTION BETWEEN GOAL AND UNDESIRABLE RESULTS



Sustainability Goal Objective includes

Maintain groundwater levels that continue to support current and future groundwater uses and a healthy river environment in the Basin

Example Undesirable Result

“Inability to meet future groundwater demand for municipal, agricultural, and domestic uses due to declining groundwater levels caused by pumping”

DEFINING UNDESIRABLE RESULT

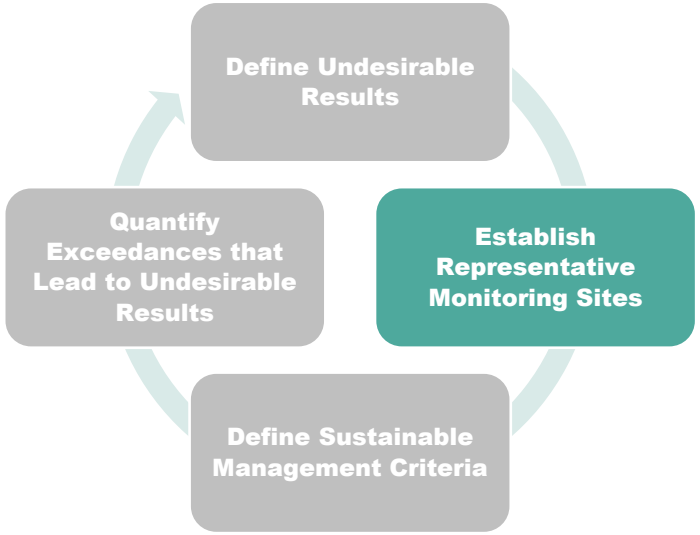
Example Undesirable Result

“Inability to meet future groundwater demand for municipal, agricultural, and domestic uses due to declining groundwater levels caused by pumping”

This clarification

1. Meets DWRs RCA
2. Relates water levels to supplies

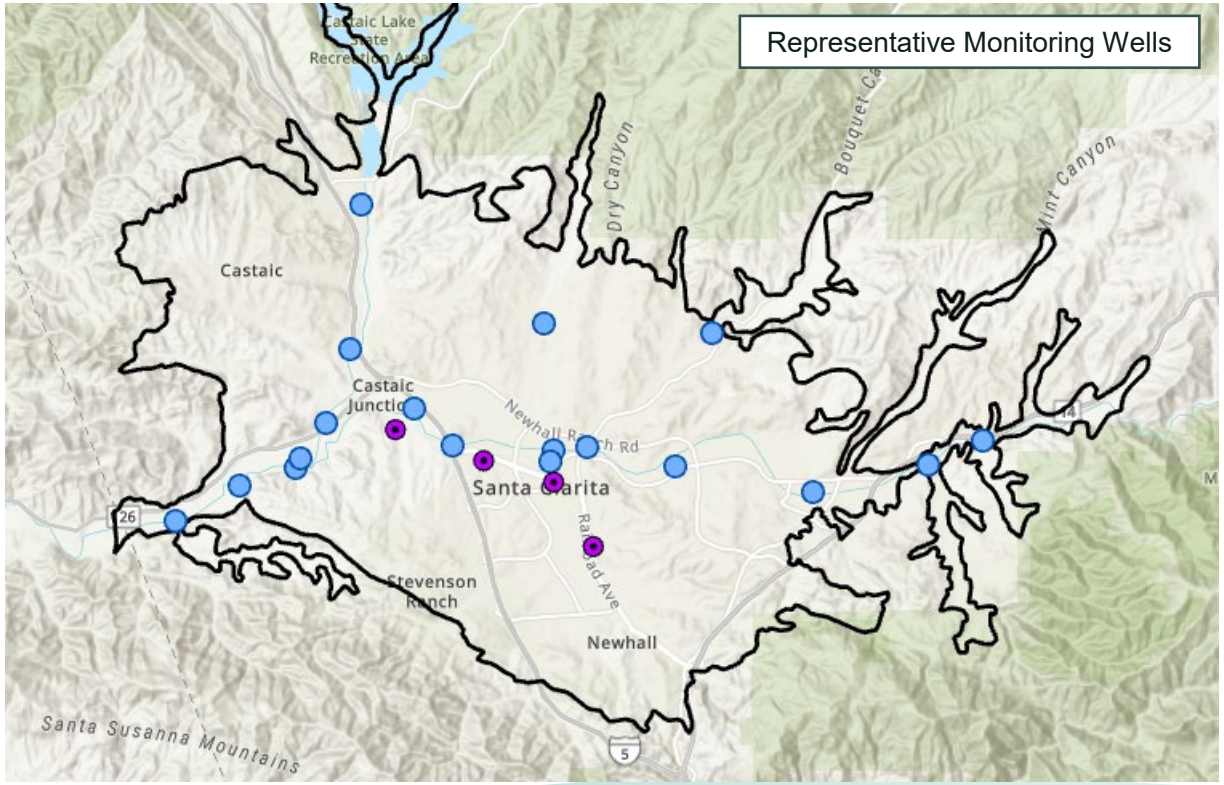
MONITORING NETWORK WILL BE UPDATED USING NEW DATA



- Incorporate data collected since the initial GSP
- Account for wells that have been impacted by recent flooding (GDE-E)

Saugus Formation Well

Alluvial Aquifer Well



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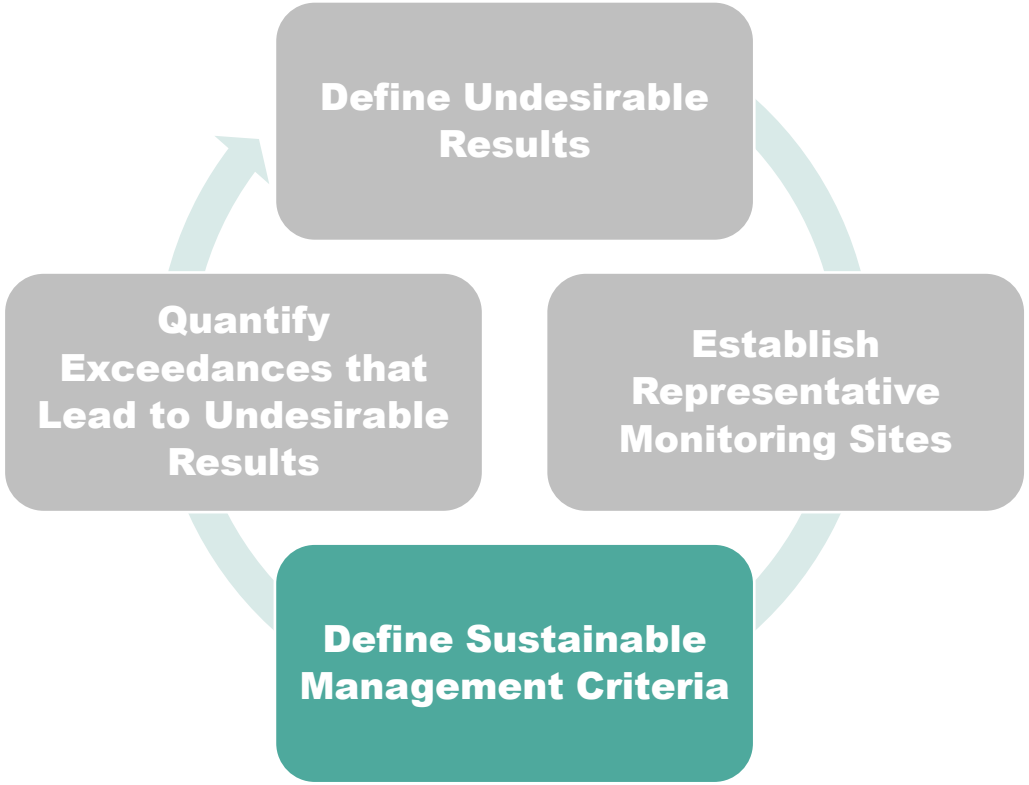
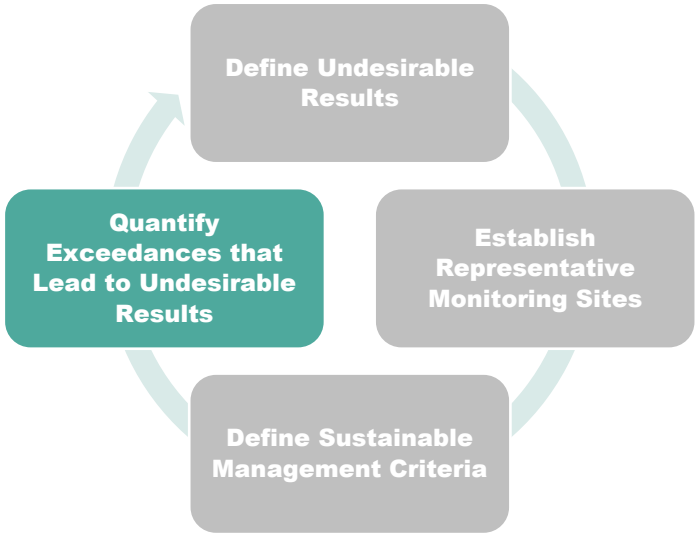


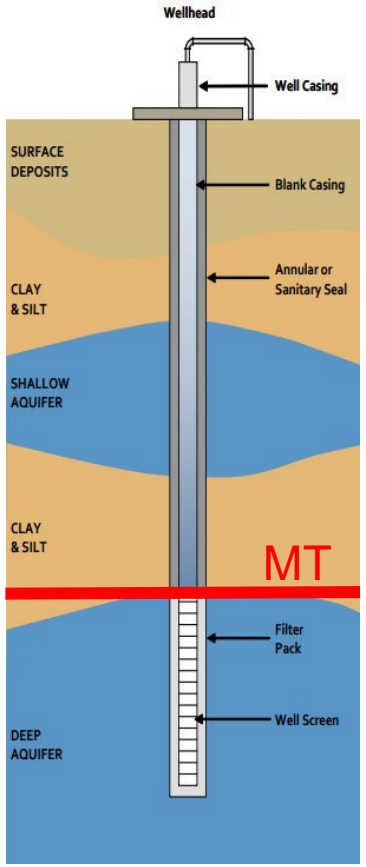
APPROACH FOR SETTING MINIMUM THRESHOLDS

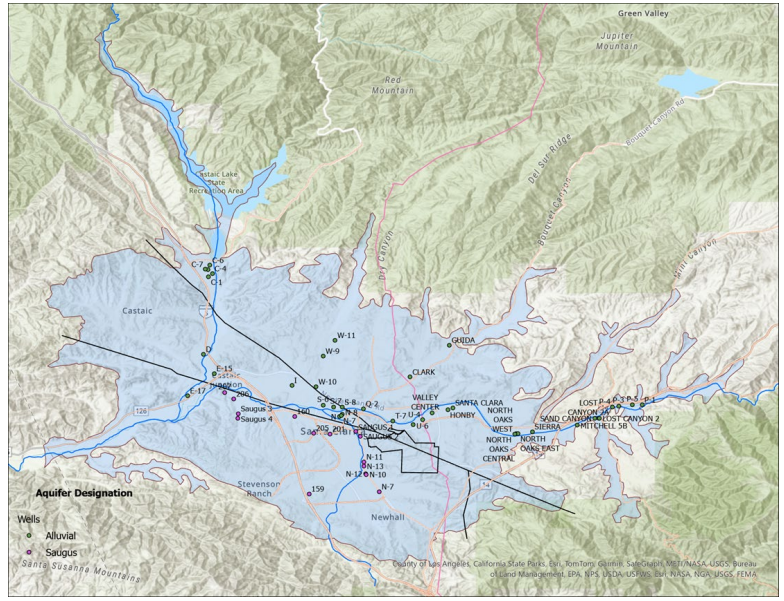
Steps

- Identify Beneficial Uses and Users
- Define water levels that relate to undesirable results
- Considering all information, identify most appropriate level or levels

ESTABLISH DECISION PROCESS FOR UNDESIRABLE RESULTS

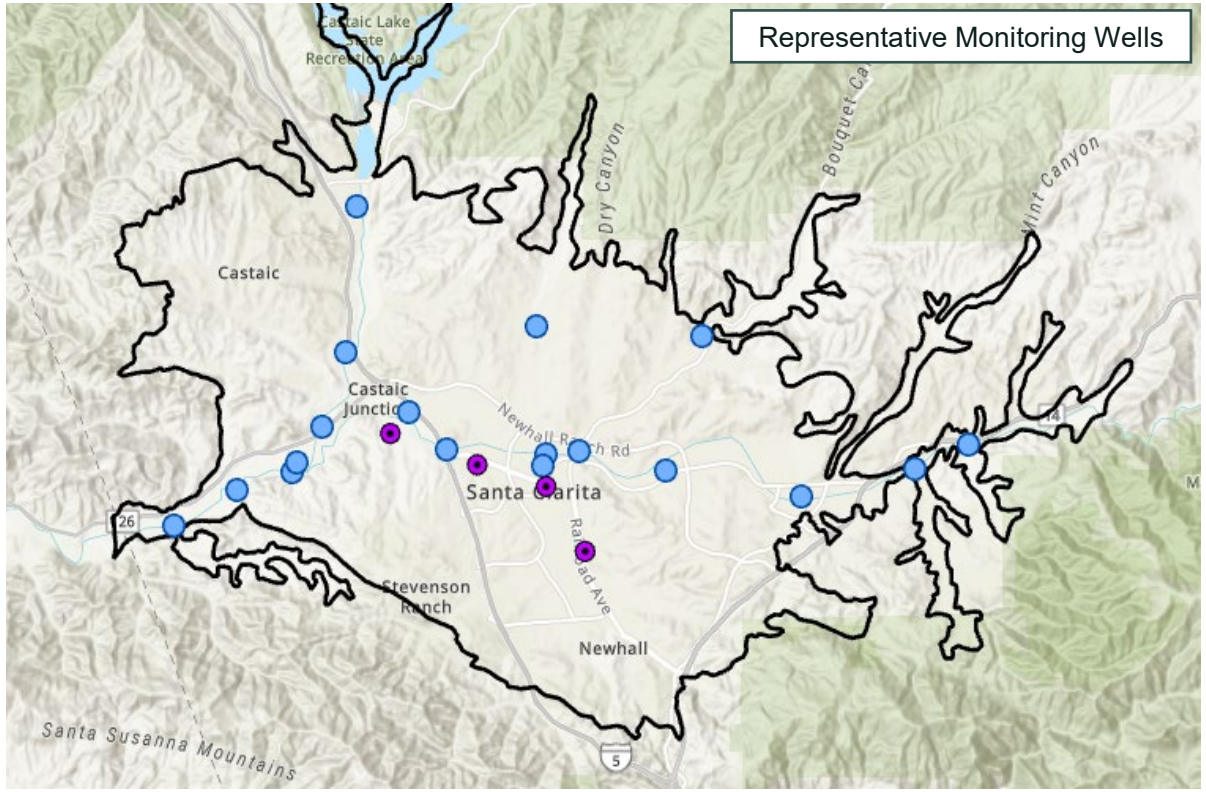




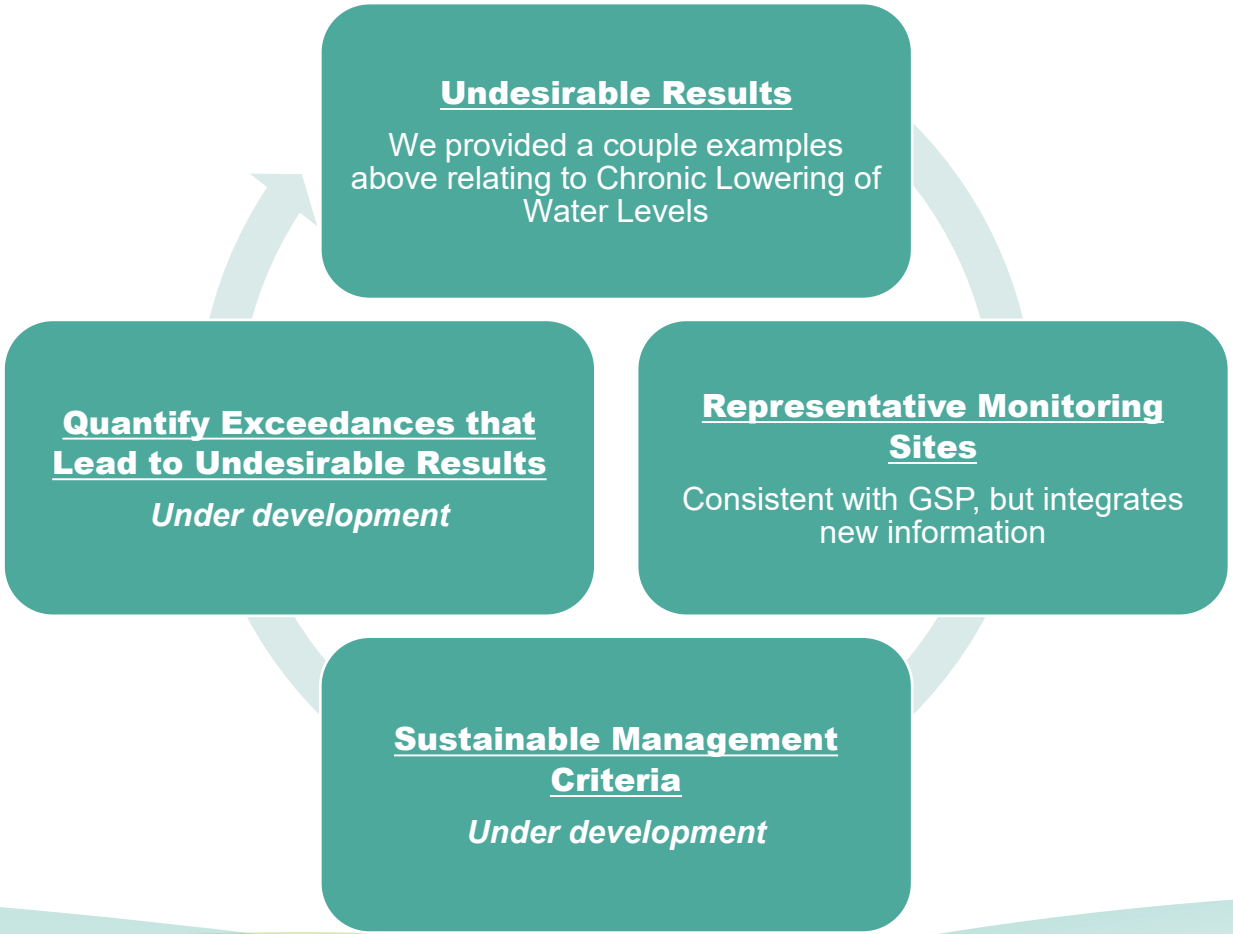


Example Undesirable Result below

“Inability to meet future groundwater demand for municipal, agricultural, and domestic uses due to declining groundwater levels caused by pumping”



REVISED SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA



QUESTIONS

PART 3: DWR'S RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER

GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS

Sustainability Goal Objectives include

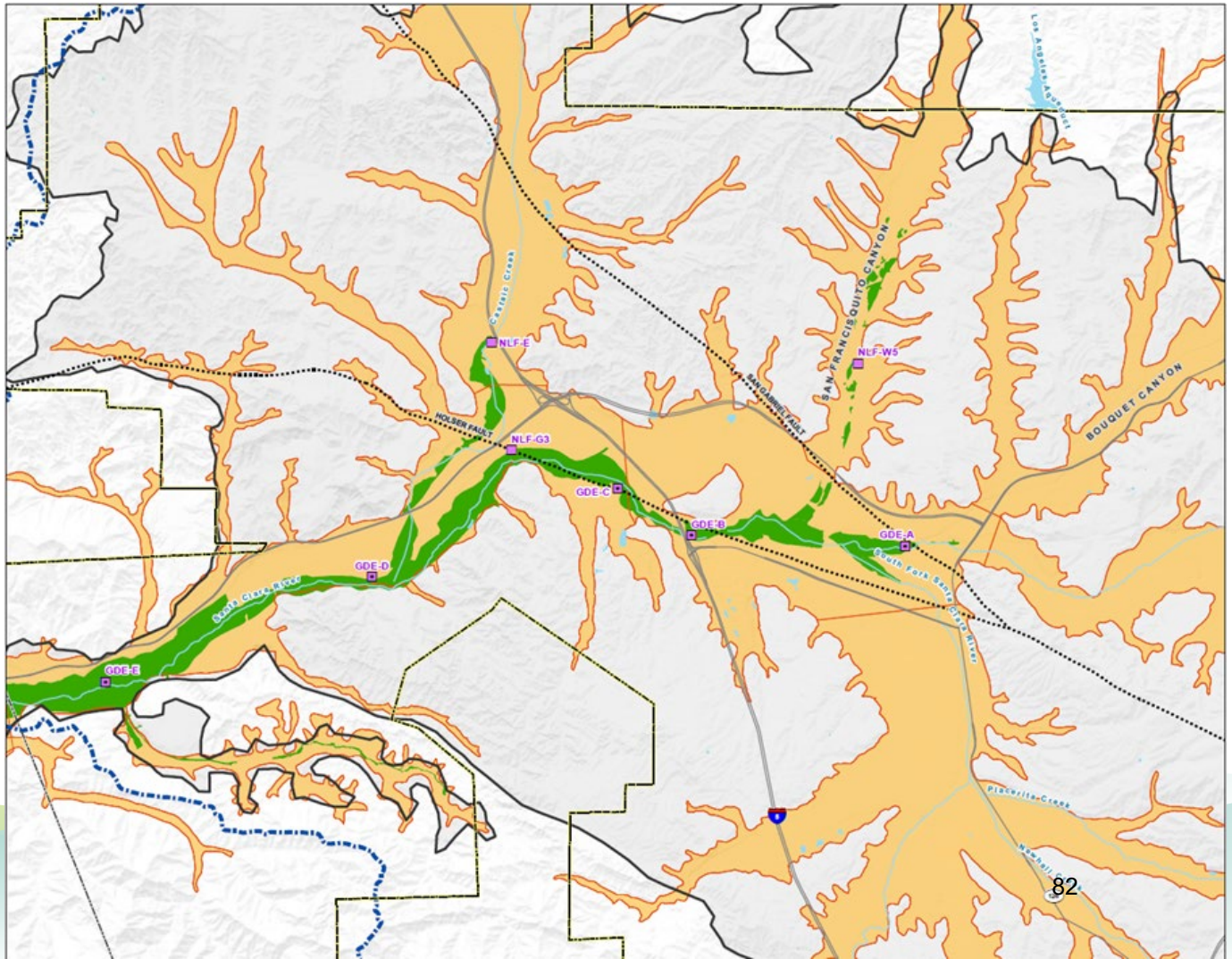
Chronic Lowering of Water Levels

Maintain groundwater levels that continue to support current and future groundwater uses and a healthy river environment in the Basin

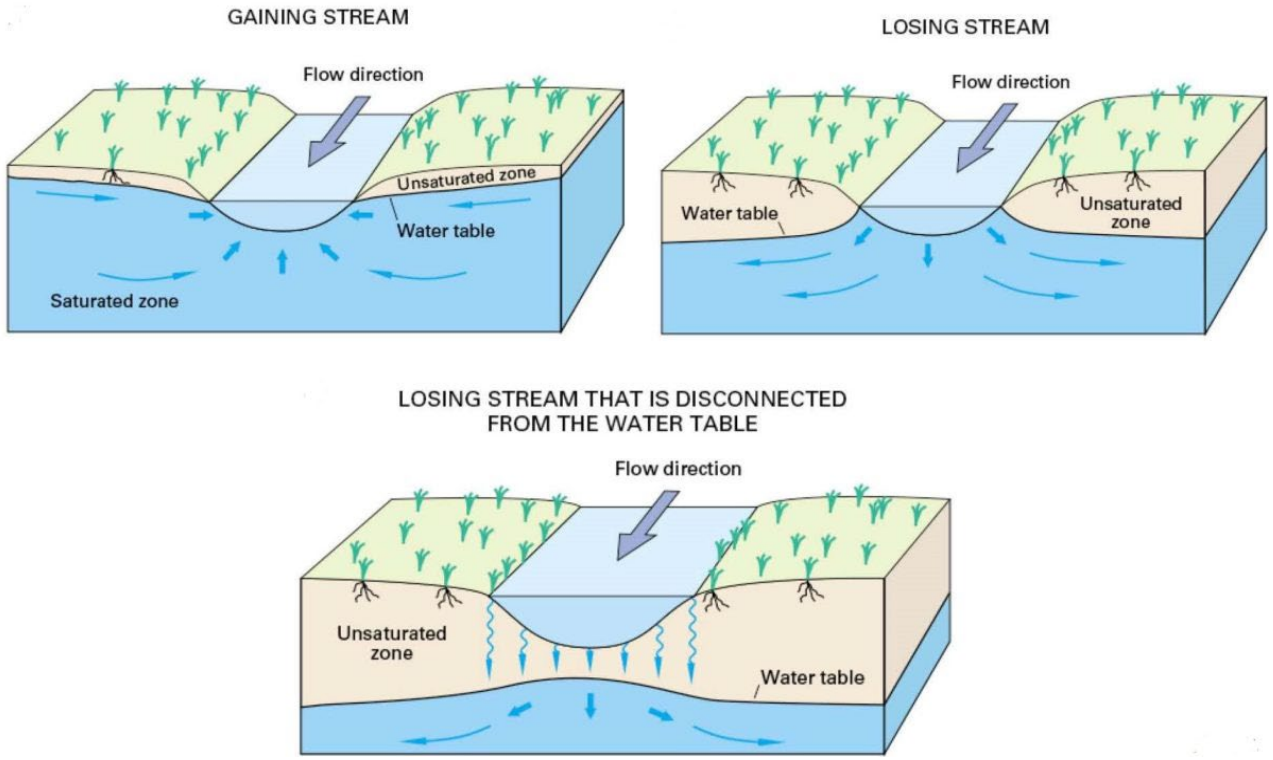
Interconnected Surface Water

Avoid significant and unreasonable effects (i.e., undesirable results) on beneficial uses in the Basin, including GDEs, caused by groundwater extraction

Potential GDE (green) and monitoring wells (pink)



WHAT ARE INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATERS?



An interconnected surface water is surface water body (e.g., river, creek, pond) that is hydraulically connected to the underlying aquifer

RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION FOR DEPLETION OF INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER (RCA 4)

a. Define how the GSA determines an undesirable result is occurring in the Subbasin with one or multiple minimum threshold exceedances as required by the GSP Regulations.

b. Consider utilizing the interconnected surface water guidance, as appropriate, when issued by the Department to establish quantifiable minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and management actions.

c. Continue to fill data gaps, collect additional monitoring data, and implement the current strategy to manage depletions of interconnected surface water and define segments of interconnectivity and timing.

d. Prioritize collaborating and coordinating with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies as well as interested parties to better understand the full suite of beneficial uses and users that may be impacted by pumping induced surface water depletion within the GSA's jurisdictional area.

APPROACH TO CONSIDER DWR RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION (RCA 4) (SLIDE 1 OF 2)

a. Define how the GSA determines an undesirable result is occurring in the Subbasin with one or multiple minimum threshold exceedances as required by the GSP Regulations.

We are planning to adjust minimum thresholds at GDE wells based on data collected at special monitoring wells to better reflect groundwater elevations that may pose a concern to GDEs

b. Consider utilizing the interconnected surface water guidance, as appropriate, when issued by the Department to establish quantifiable minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and management actions.

We'll take a look at when it comes out and see how it can be considered in this Periodic Evaluation.

APPROACH TO CONSIDER DWR RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTION (RCA 4) (SLIDE 2 OF 2)

C. Continue to fill data gaps, collect additional monitoring data, and implement the current strategy to manage depletions of interconnected surface water and define segments of interconnectivity and timing.

Need DWRs forthcoming guidance here.
Replacing some river monitoring wells is anticipated (some have been washed away with storms)

D. Prioritize collaborating and coordinating with local, state, and federal regulatory agencies as well as interested parties to better understand the full suite of beneficial uses and users that may be impacted by pumping induced surface water depletion within the GSA's jurisdictional area.

The public process with the Periodic Evaluation, including tonight's is part of our ongoing collaborative efforts.

NEXT STEPS

- Evaluate groundwater elevations (at GDE wells) that better represent the potential of undesirable results for GDEs
- Review Interconnected Surface Water Guidance, when available from the Department.
- Continue working toward identifying ways to improve understanding of how groundwater pumping may impact GDEs and habitat i.e. fill data gaps.
- Prepare for May 4 Workshop 4 “Revised groundwater level SMC, updated flow model”
- Coordinate and Collaborate

QUESTIONS

PART 4: ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY

Click link in the chat

or

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SCV
GSA

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