PERIODIC EVALUATION OF GSP

Santa Clarita Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency

August 31, 2026 Board Meeting

Item 3.2

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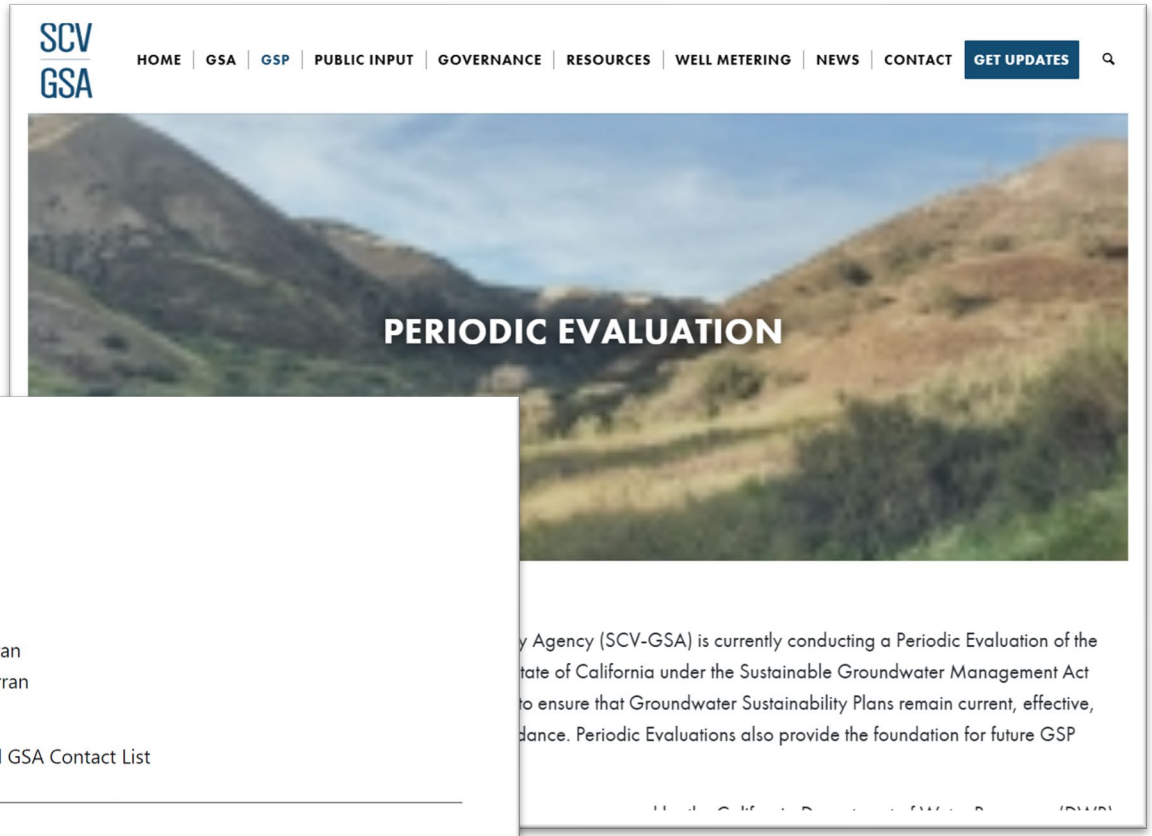
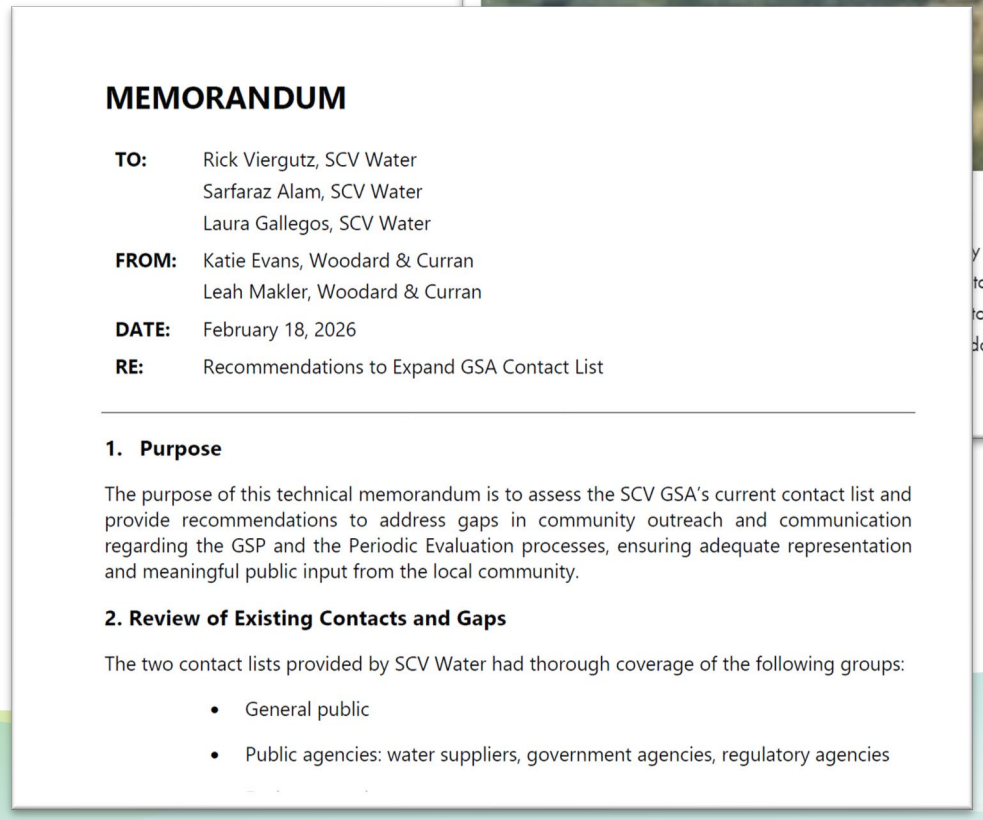
PUBLIC OUTREACH

- Completed Gaps Analysis
- Website Revision and Periodic Updates





MEMORANDUM

TO: Rick Viergutz, SCV Water
Sarfaraz Alam, SCV Water
Laura Gallegos, SCV Water

FROM: Katie Evans, Woodard & Curran
Leah Makler, Woodard & Curran

DATE: February 18, 2026

RE: Recommendations to Expand GSA Contact List

1. Purpose

The purpose of this technical memorandum is to assess the SCV GSA's current contact list and provide recommendations to address gaps in community outreach and communication regarding the GSP and the Periodic Evaluation processes, ensuring adequate representation and meaningful public input from the local community.

2. Review of Existing Contacts and Gaps

The two contact lists provided by SCV Water had thorough coverage of the following groups:

- General public
- Public agencies: water suppliers, government agencies, regulatory agencies

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THE PUBLIC BY THE NUMBERS

- **324** • unique contacts in email listserv
- **4** • specific emails sent
- **4** • workshops held to date
- **16,000** • newsletter subscribers (newsletter included information 3 times!)

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PERIODIC EVALUATION STEPS

Draft Periodic Evaluation

- Publicly available
- Written and verbal comments accepted

Comments

- Documented
- Reviewed
- Considered in final revision

Adoption

- Public hearing
- Adoption by SCV GSA Board of Directors

State Review

- Final submitted to CA Department of Water Resources
- Guides future planning

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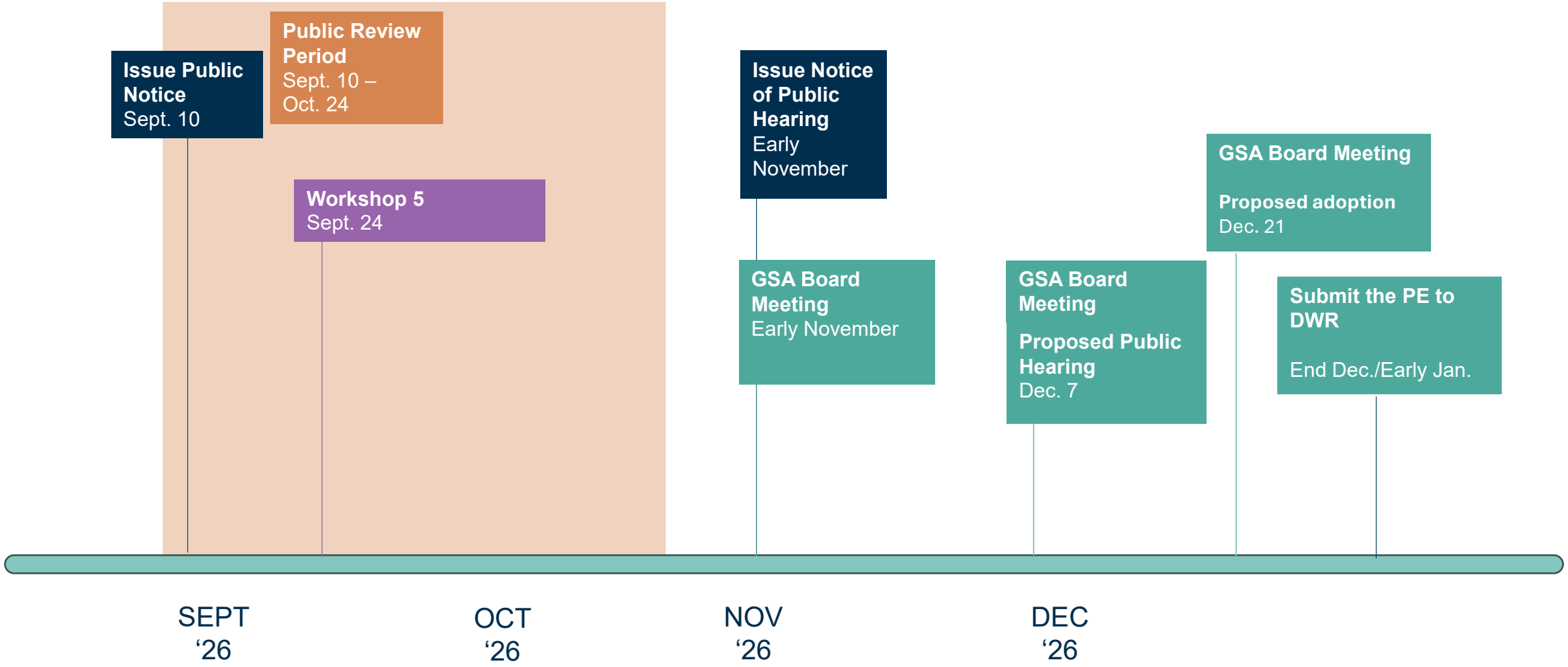
FORMAL REVIEW PROCESS



THE PERIODIC EVALUATION IS A FIVE-YEAR CHECK-IN

SGMA requires SCV-GSA evaluate its approved Groundwater Sustainability Plan at least every five years

Progress Towards Sustainability	DWR Recommended Corrective Actions	New Information	Does the GSP Need to be Amended?
• Meeting measurable objectives • Occurrence of undesirable results	• Technical analyses or projects • Proposed revisions to GSP elements	• New data and technical studies • Regulatory or agency changes	• Need for substantive changes to the GSP • Need for new projects and management actions

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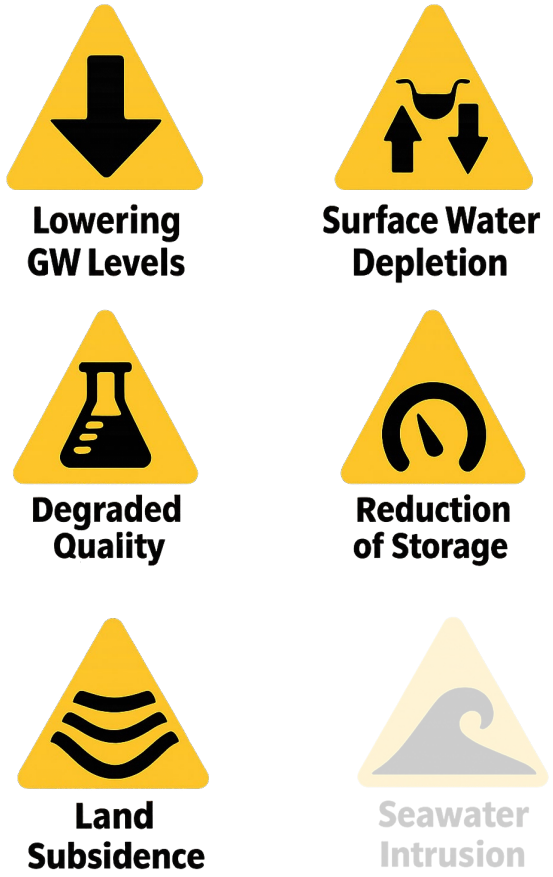
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

- **Minimum Thresholds** – define where an "undesirable result" is likely to occur
  - *What we want to avoid*
- **Measurable Objectives** – define the desired long-term conditions representative of groundwater sustainability
  - *Where we want to operate*
- These criteria are defined at specific monitoring sites (wells) in the Basin.



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THE BASIN HAS REMAINED SUSTAINABLE SINCE GSP ADOPTION

Measurable objectives were met in most groundwater wells

Groundwater storage increased by more than 100,000 Acre-Feet

No indication of permanent subsidence caused by groundwater extraction

Salt and Nutrient concentrations were stable or decreased

Measurable objectives were met at most GDE wells

Habitat monitoring showed stable environmental conditions

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DWR IDENTIFIED FOUR RECOMMENDED CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

All four Recommended Corrective Actions (RCAs) are addressed in this first Periodic Evaluation

RCA 1 Basin Setting	RCA 2 Groundwater Levels	RCA 3 Degraded Water Quality	RCA 4 Interconnected Surface Water
• Evaluate HCM • Assess subsidence risk • Clarify the sustainable yield	• Define specific undesirable results • Refine minimum thresholds	• Incorporate contaminants (perchlorate & VOCs)	• Clarify how an undesirable result will be identified • Consider DWR guidance ***(not yet released)***

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RCA 1: BASIN SETTING

Technical Studies and Activities

- Geophysical investigation
- 3D Geologic Model Update
- Subsidence Susceptibility Evaluation
- Ongoing Flow Modeling and Updates

New Information and Responses

- Improved understanding of Alluvial Aquifer and Saugus Formation Geometry **(integrated into flow model)**
- Geologic evaluation indicates low subsidence risk
- Periodic Evaluation clarifies that the sustainable yield is preliminary **(Interconnected Surface Water guidance is forthcoming)**

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RCA 2: GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Recommended Corrective Action 2

Revise the minimum thresholds to correspond to specific undesirable result

Well Impact Analysis

Objective

Identify local groundwater elevations that would result in a potential inability to meet future groundwater supply needs

Considerations

Projected supply needs (2026 UWMP and Stakeholder Outreach)

Existing infrastructure (well construction and delivery infrastructure)

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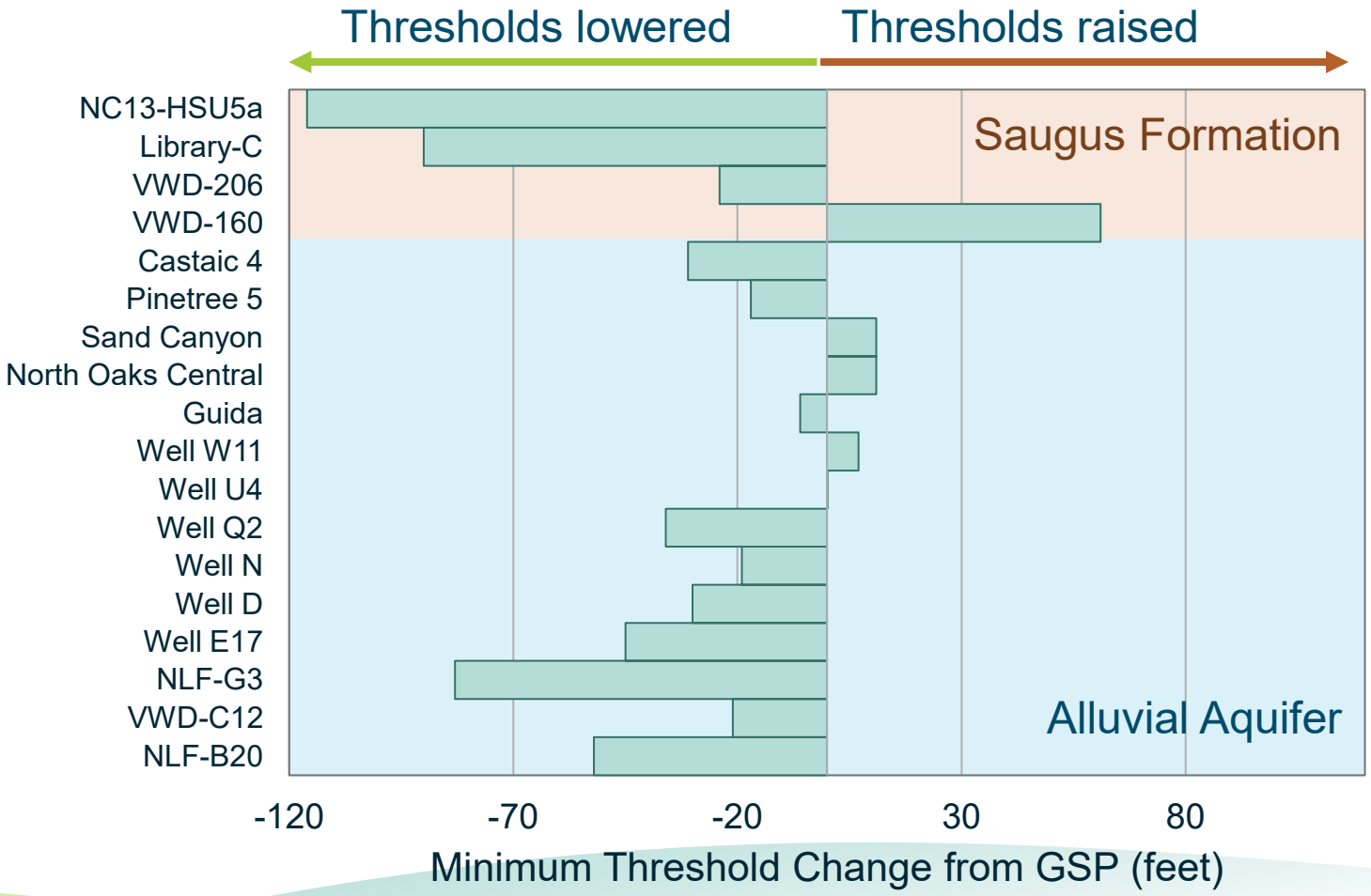
RCA 2: GROUNDWATER LEVELS

- Minimum thresholds were updated using the well impact analysis
- They identify groundwater levels where municipal and agricultural supply reliability could be affected
- They are protective limits – not intended operating levels



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RCA 4: INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER

DWR's Request	Background and New Data	SCV-GSA's Response
Clarify how an impact to environmental users and the River environment will be identified Consider future DWR guidance	The GSP recognizes riparian and aquatic habitat as important Basin resources Four years of comprehensive habitat monitoring has resulted in new data and improved understanding Groundwater levels have supported healthy ecosystem and river environment	GDE minimum thresholds are being updated using new data Clarify the existing program to evaluate impacts through targeted habitat monitoring Guidance will be considered when released and incorporated into future flow modeling efforts

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RCA 4: INTERCONNECTED SURFACE WATER

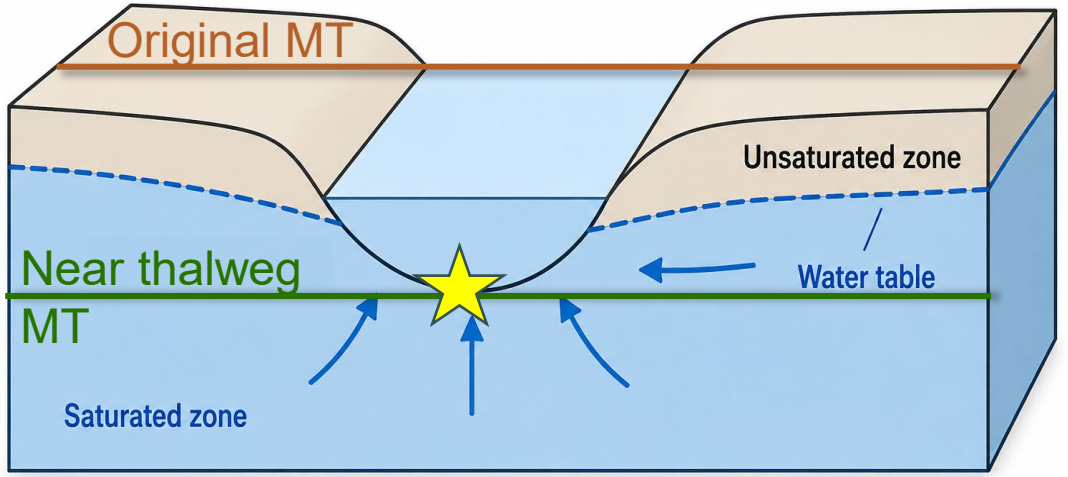
- The GSP set minimum thresholds higher than land surface (too high)

Two primary revisions

- Correcting land surface elevations based on post-GSP survey
- At GDE-B, proposed thresholds are being evaluated, with consideration of Santa Clara River thalweg

Monitoring Network Updates

- New and replacement GDE wells planned for installation in FY 27/28 because older wells flood damaged



River thalweg
lowest channel bottom elevation of the local reach

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RCA 3: CONTAMINANTS

DWR's Request

Define Sustainable Management Criteria for:

- Perchlorate
- Volatile Organic Compounds

Existing Regulatory Oversight

Contamination originates from the Whittaker-Bermite site

DTSC and DDW oversee investigation, cleanup, and drinking-water compliance

SCV-GSA's Response

Monitor sentinel wells for potential contaminant migration

0
Measurable Objective
No additional wells above MCL

≥1
Minimum Threshold
Additional well above MCL

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RCA 3: CONTAMINANTS

Sentinel Wells

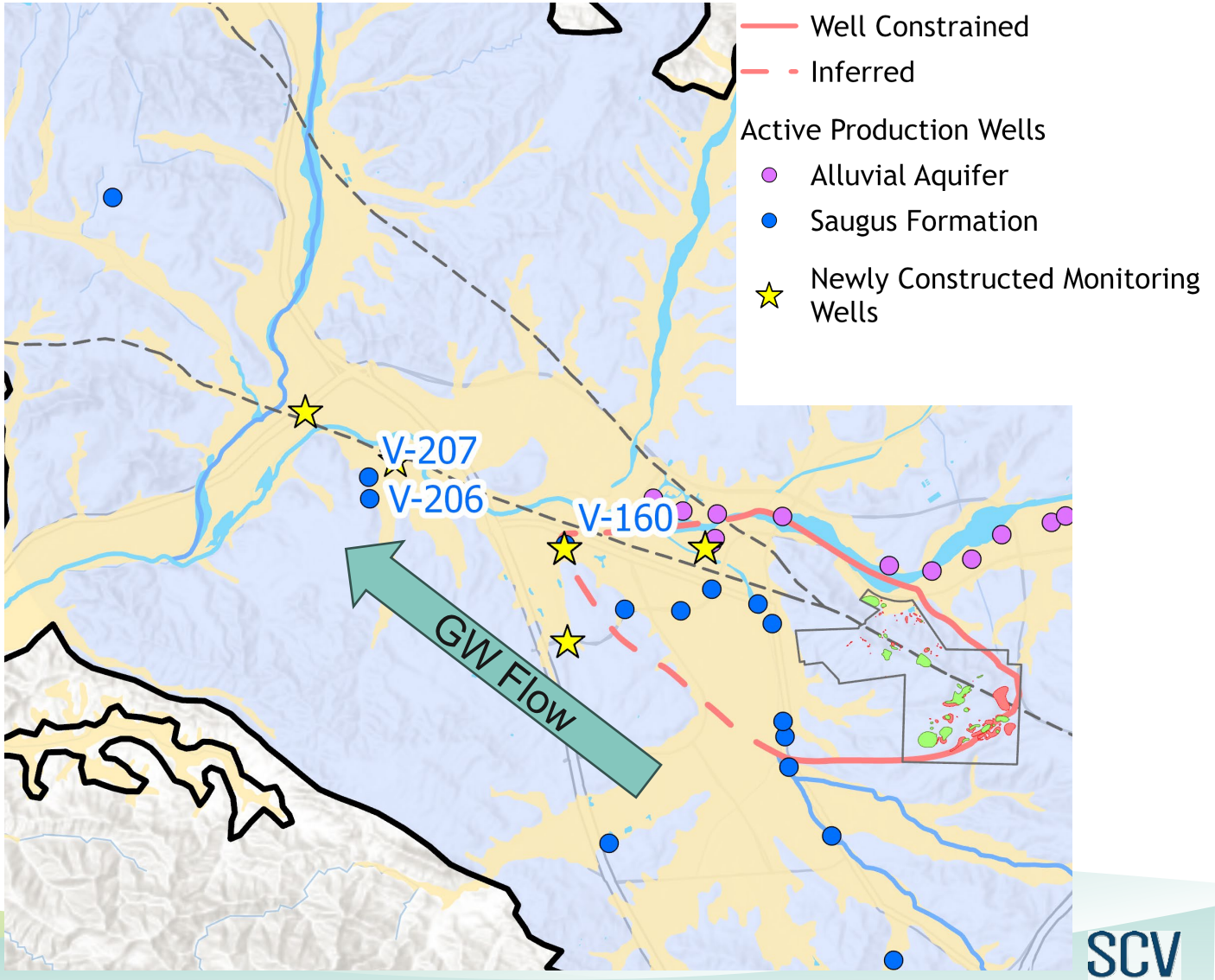
- One or more newly constructed monitoring (sentinel) wells will be added

Production Wells

- Active Production Wells
- Contaminants are below MCLs

If concentrations are increasing

DTSC will be engaged to direct evaluation and cleanup



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WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE PERIODIC EVALUATION

The Periodic Evaluation has been developed based on SGMA Regulations and DWR's Guidance

Technical Evaluation of the GSP

- ☐ Introduction
- ☐ Significant New Information
- ☐ Groundwater Conditions Update
- ☐ Project and Management Actions Update
- ☐ Evaluation of Basin Setting
- ☐ Monitoring Network Evaluation

Engagement and Administration

- ☐ GSA Authorities and Enforcement Activities
- ☐ Outreach and Engagement
- ☐ Other Information
- ☐ Summary of Proposed or Completed Plan Revisions

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TARGETED REVISIONS STRENGTHEN THE GSP'S TECHNICAL FOUNDATION

Basin Setting

Refined HCM – no material change to understanding of the Basin

Groundwater Levels and Storage

Revised minimum thresholds based on potential well impacts and clarified the impacts that are avoided

Water Quality

Established criteria for perchlorate and VOCs and refined well-specific criteria for salts and nutrients

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TARGETED REVISIONS STRENGTHEN THE GSP'S TECHNICAL FOUNDATION

Interconnected Surface Water

- Corrected GDE well criteria using surveyed elevations
- Criteria at five locations will be reconsidered when replacement wells are constructed and baseline data are collected

Monitoring Networks

Updated to reflect new and planned wells, GDE well replacements, and subsidence monitoring

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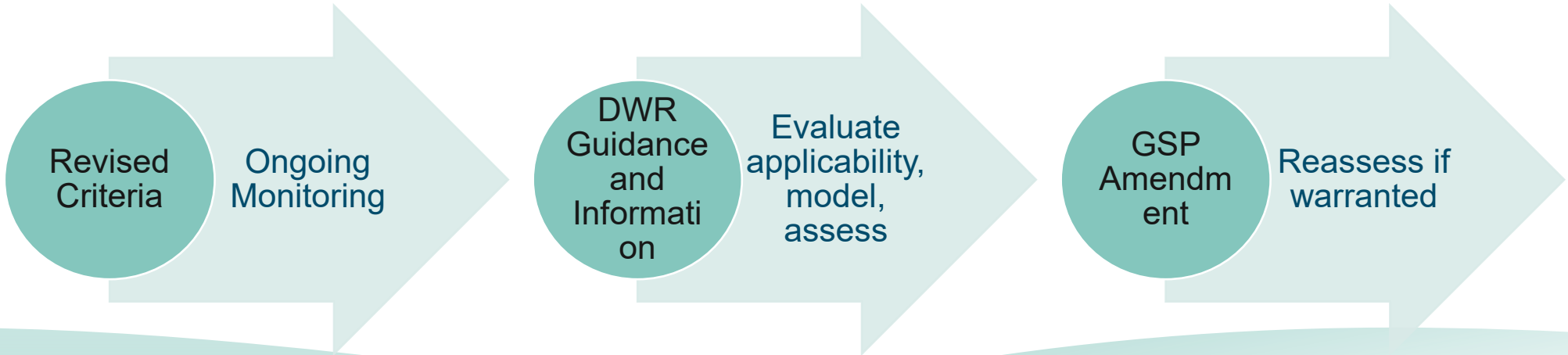
NO GSP AMENDMENT IS NEEDED AT THIS TIME

The Periodic Evaluation makes targeted technical refinements without changing

- The Basin's Sustainability Goal
- The overall management strategy
- The significant and unreasonable effects the GSP is designed to avoid



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the SCV-GSA Board:

1) Authorize release of the Public Draft Periodic Evaluation on September 10, 2026, for a 45-day public comment period
2) Authorize holding a public hearing on the Draft Periodic Evaluation December 7, 2026
3) Consider Approval of the Periodic Evaluation December 21, 2026

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