



**Board of Directors Meeting
April 16, 2020
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
MINUTES**

Directors Present

Director Kelly Long, Chair
Director Ed McFadden, Vice Chair/Secretary/Treasurer
Director Tim Holmgren (arrived at 6pm)
Director Gordon Kimball
Director Glen Pace
Director Candice Meneghin

Staff Present

Anthony Emmert, executive director
Scott Nave, legal counsel
Kris Sofley, clerk of the board
Eva Ibarra, clerk of the board

Public Present

Lisa Ballin, CSUS, College of Continuing Education, Consensus & Collaboration Program
Bryan Bondy, Bondy Groundwater Services
Dan Detmer, UWCD
Rachael Laenan, Kimball Ranches
Tim Moore, DBS&A
Tony Morgan, DBS&A
George Reid
Steve Zimmer

1. Call to Order - First Open Session

Chair Long called the meeting to order at 5:01p.m. and asked everyone to join her in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance

1.A Pledge of Allegiance

1.B Directors Roll Call

Directors roll call confirmed that five directors were present (Long, McFadden, Kimball, Pace and Meneghin) and that Director Holmgren was not present.

1.C Public Comments

Chair Long asked if there were any public comments. Bryan Bondy, who identified himself as the executive director for the Mound Basin and Upper Ventura River Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, commented on the SGMA deadline extension due to the COVID-19 pandemic and asked if the FPBGSA would be interested in coordinating with these other agencies on addressing issues relating to DWR deadlines extended to 2022. Long replied that perhaps Executive Director Emmert could address that in his update.

1.D Approval of Agenda

Motion

Motion to approve the agenda, Vice Chair McFadden; Second, Director Meneghin.

Voice vote: five ayes (Kimball, Long, McFadden, Meneghin, Pace); none opposed; none abstaining; one absent (Holmgren). Motion carries 5/0/1.

2. Updates

2A Director Announcements/Board Communications Information Item

Fillmore Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Kimball reported that the Fillmore Pumpers Association held its Board meeting in March and had canceled its April meeting. He said that the members were pleased that Mr. Bondy was participating in the FPBGSA meetings, as the members had asked him to attend and comment, as appropriate, on various issues under discussion by the FPBGSA Board and update the Boards of the Fillmore and Piru Pumpers Associations accordingly.

Piru Pumpers Association Stakeholder Director Update

Director Pace echoed Director Kimball's report. He said that he was anxious to get information out to the pumpers once the FPBGSA Stakeholder Workshop is rescheduled. He said that the efforts of officers and representatives to the GSA are ongoing.

Environmental Stakeholder Director Update

Director Meneghin reported her participation at the Friends of the Santa Clara River meeting on March 20 and the Water Talk, part of the Water Management Program, was held at the Piru Community Center on March 10, and reported that there was good participation from community leaders and that she collected contact details. She also shared the Stakeholder Workshop information, but since the event was canceled, the Board needs discussions on outreach. On March 31 and April 1 Director Meneghin attended an NGO Groundwater collaborative meeting that was held virtually via Zoom. She said the meeting was very helpful as participants shared lessons learned regarding monitoring networks and that the environmental groups are sharing priorities with environmental

justice groups and sharing resources. She said she would pass that information on to the Board's clerk so that she could share that information with the other directors. She also reported that on April 20 there was a meeting among the greater Ventura Stakeholders including participation from Santa Clarita, Mound Basin and Upper Ventura River GSAs. The Friends of the Santa Clara River are helping implement a grant on behalf of the County of Ventura's Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County through DWR's Integrated Regional Water Management Disadvantaged Community Engagement program.

City of Fillmore Member Director Update

Director Holmgren was not present

United Water Conservation District Member Director Update

Vice Chair McFadden reported that he received an update from UWCD's General Manager Mauricio Guardado who informed him that Lake Piru was up 6.5 feet and that enabled recharge at Freeman Diversion.

County of Ventura Member Director Update

Chair Long reported that the ad hoc committee has discussed stakeholder engagement and its concerns, including a discussion of reaching out to DWR with other GSAs to request an extension of deadlines to allow for greater stakeholder engagement. She said the County would be extending the Stay at Home COVID-19 guidelines to May 15 and may begin relaxing somethings like public transportation, but the challenge to keep people safe continues to avoid a second wave of illness. She said the Governor issues ordinance and the County must follow. She added that she appreciates everyone working together and in keeping everyone safe. She said that if anyone wanted more information, they should visit the Ventura.org/OES webpage.

2B Executive Director Update

Information Item

Mr. Emmert reported that the Auditing firm has completed its work and staff has reviewed and approved the auditors' report, which will be presented to the Board at the May Board meeting.

Mr. Emmert said groundwater billing and receivables began in March and is ongoing. The GSA's first and second progress reports and invoices to DWR have been approved and payment is pending. The GSA's third report and invoice will be submitted tomorrow with the changes requested by DWR; and staff is currently preparing report and invoice number four.

UWCD's Water Resources team had a meeting with an "expert panel" to review the development of its Groundwater Model.

UWCD staff is working in coordination with the Mound Basin GSA to develop an estimating methodology for Water Year (01 Oct – 30 Sep) Groundwater Reporting.

Mr. Emmert discussed his participation in the March 10 Water Talks event at the Piru Community Center. He also reported that a similar event scheduled for March 21 at the Fillmore Senior Center was canceled and will be rescheduled.

Mr. Emmert reported that he is coordinating with Eddie Pech at DWR regarding SGMA deadlines, including a potential grant time extension due to COVID-19 incident impact and that he is coordinating with other GSAs regarding potential request to California legislature regarding SGMA time extension, which he estimates to be about three months.

Vice Chair McFadden said that the GSA needs to look at all the options regarding the extensions, especially regarding modifying outreach, striking some sort of compromise, if possible.

Chair Long said that would be good agenda item – how to move forward with stakeholder outreach.

2C Legal Counsel Update

Information Item

Scott Nave, legal counsel, reported that aside from item 2E on the agenda, there were no updates.

2D Groundwater Sustainability Plans Development Update

Information Item

Tony Morgan, of Daniel B. Stephens and Associates, presented PowerPoint slides (see attached presentation) depicting the revisions to the schedule of Board topic discussions, and provided a recap of activities to date, including the Board's adoption of ***Guiding Principles*** and ***Communication and Engagement Plan (CEP)***. Mr. Morgan also reported that he and his team have prepared the ***Draft Sampling and Analysis Plan*** and are in the process of drafting the technical memorandum addressing ***Monitoring Plan and Data Trends*** analysis. He also reported efforts are underway on the analysis of ***Subsidence Potential*** (one of the six Sustainable Management Criteria) and are currently doing internal beta testing of the GSA's ***Database Management System (DBMS)***.

Mr. Morgan said that the DBMS would be presented for Board review at the May Board meeting and then provided various references and resources for the Board's background regarding Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems and other topics. He said he would have a more detailed schedule on future issues at the next Board meeting.

2E Board of Directors Oath of Office
Motion

Scott Nave, the GSA's legal counsel, reported that in reviewing the statues of the JPA, which is a distinct entity, his firm concluded that the Directors should take an Oath of Office, administered by the Clerk of the Board. The Directors will also sign and date a written oath which the Clerk will send to the County Clerk.

3. CONSENT CALENDAR

3A Approval of Minutes

The Board will consider approving the Minutes from the Board Meeting of February 20, 2020.

3B Approval of Warrants

The Board will consider approving the following invoices for payment:

Red Sky Productions	\$ 550.00	videotaping Stakeholder Workshop
County of Ventura IT	\$ 80.00	Jan and Feb webhosting
Daniel B Stephens & Assoc.	\$13,645.70	Dec 15-Jan 30 GSP Consulting
OMLO LLP	\$ 1,325.50	February legal services
UWCD	\$12,338.18	admin, finance and tech services
County of Ventura IT	\$ 64.34	Mar webhosting; domain renewal
Daniel B Stephens & Assoc.	\$38,196.79	Feb GSP Consulting
OMLO LLP	\$ 890.00	Jan and Mar legal services

3C Monthly Financial Report

The Board will receive a monthly profit and loss statement and balance sheet for the FPBGSA from UWCD's accounting staff.

Motion to approve the Consent Calendar, Director Meneghin; Second, Director McFadden. Voice vote: five ayes (Kimball, Long, McFadden, Meneghin, Pace); none opposed; one absent (Holmgren). Motion carries 5/0/1.

4. ACTION ITEMS

4A Request for Comment/Request for Waiver of Ventura County Water Well and Water Well Permit Prohibitions regarding 3836 Howe Rd, Piru, APN 057-0-010-110
Motion

Mr. Emmert explained to the Board that the Ventura County Public Works department had requested the FPBGSA Board's opinion on a resident of Piru's request for a waiver of the County's water well permit prohibition. Chair Long asked for the Board's thoughts and opinions and invited questions.

Director Pace explained that the resident had been using a connection through a neighbor's line to the Waring Water system for over 20 years. As guidelines and regulations have changed over the years, it was determined that this access needed to be corrected but in order to properly access the Waring Water system, the resident would have to tunnel under Highway 126 which was both cost prohibitive and time intensive.

Director Meneghin asked if the current access met CPUC requirements. Director Pace clarified that the meter is north of the 126 highway and is a private meter that connects on to someone else's service and as a water company, they cannot control the access. Director Meneghin said that the domestic well usage would be less than 2AF, qualifying as de minimis use. She said that this point has been brought up before and that collectively, these situations could be problematic. She reminded the Board of its Guiding Principles and stated that she would abstain from voting on this matter.

Director Pace reiterated that the resident had been using the Waring Water system for 20 years, so they are already using groundwater resources, only the access would change. Mr. Emmert agreed, stating that this is not a new usage, but rather a continuation of water from the same basin and it is the same amount of water, just cleaning up an old system error.

Motion to provide a letter to the Ventura County Public Works department in support of the requested waiver, providing for permitting of a new well construction, Director McFadden; Second, Director Kimball. Voice Vote: four ayes (Kimball, Long, McFadden, Pace); none opposed; one abstaining (Meneghin); one absent (Holmgren). Motion carries 4/0/1/1.

4B Draft Frequently Asked Questions Document

Motion

The Board reviewed the draft "Frequently Asked Questions" as presented by Lisa Ballin. Ms. Ballin explained that the document would be used at Stakeholder Workshops and for posting on the GSA's website and social media sites to educate beneficial users and interested parties.

Chair Long asked if there were any questions, comments or modifications to the FAQs as presented. None were offered. She reiterated that this is a living document and as such can be modified at any time. As Stakeholder Outreach develops, if more questions are asked frequently, those questions and responses can be added to this document.

Motion to approve the draft Frequently Asked Questions document as presented, Director Meneghin; Second, Director Pace. Voice vote: five ayes (Kimball, Long, McFadden, Meneghin, Pace); none opposed; one absent (Holmgren). Motion carries 5/0/1.

4C Formation of Ad Hoc Committee to Develop Agency 's Draft Budget and Rates

Motion

The Board discussed establishing an ad hoc committee to develop the draft Fiscal Year 2020-2021 budget and associated groundwater charges with UWCD finance staff in preparation for the Board of Directors May 2020 budget workshop. Mr. Emmert cited previous involvement of Board members as ad hoc finance committee advising and guiding budget development.

Chair Long said the ad hoc committee would review budget and then bring the proposed budget for FY2020-21 to the Board, as was done in the past. She then volunteered Director Kimball and Vice Chair McFadden to serve on that ad hoc committee.

Motion to create a Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget and fees ad hoc committee and appoint Vice Chair McFadden and Director Kimball to serve on that committee, Director Meneghin; Second, Director Pace. Voice vote: six ayes (Holmgren, Kimball, Long, McFadden, Meneghin, Pace); none opposed, none absent. Motion carries 6/0/0.

4D Stakeholder Workshop

Motion

The Board reviewed the canceled April 2, 2020 Stakeholder Workshop recommendations from the ad hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee, which included the suggestion of combining the canceled April 2 meeting discussions with the proposed July Workshop topics. Ms. Ballin also suggested prerecording a SGMA 101/Hydrologic Conditions presentation which could be posted on the Agency's website for viewing prior to the July meeting. She also suggested securing distribution through local access public television.

Director Kimball said guidance should be sought from the Water Boards regarding virtual meetings and whether that would satisfy stakeholder engagement requirements. Ms. Ballin said that it was more about being *extensive* and there was no prescription regarding what form outreach takes, just that the Agency provides an opportunity for engagement for all.

Chair Long said that all GSAs and DWR are looking at stakeholder engagement and it is a big question. You must consider those who do not have internet access or even a computer. Need to ask DWR what is acceptable. And in July, what will the protection

policy be regarding COVID-19? Can we put 50 people in a room in July? The Board alone is six people and with staff, we need more direction from DWR.

Director Meneghin said that everyone benefits with in-person meetings, and if there is an extension does that include meetings. She suggested in put from stakeholders regarding the justification for extensions.

Ms. Ballin said that some stakeholder engagement is educational, but input regarding the Board's decision making process, perhaps Tony Morgan could provide input regarding what stage do we need to get input on decisions.

Mr. Morgan replied that he thought in person meetings provided a big benefit over virtual meetings, and some virtual meetings may need to be okayed by DWR, allowing the Agency to satisfy Brown Act requirements.

Vice Chair McFadden said that a delay is beneficial for everything except costs. If we push this off for a year, the burden is on the assessment payers.

Mr. Morgan added that the grant also has an end date, which would also need to be addressed if an extension is requested.

Chair Long suggested that the Agency write a letter to DWR asking for clarification on stakeholder engagement and the extension of deadlines and asked who will write the letter.

Mr. Emmert said he would contact Eddie Pech at DWR and said the first move is to attempt to move forward even knowing that we are missing some stakeholders as some is better than none. Eventually, we will have the public meetings. The legislature needs to hear how critical the stakeholder engagement is to this process and then perhaps we can put something together collectively with the other GSAs for consideration by the legislature.

Chair Long thought this was a good way forward, working in collaboration with Mound Basin and Upper Ventura and reiterated how important communication with stakeholders is to understanding how money is being used by the Agency and for what purposes the money is being spend.

Ms. Ballin then called the Board's attention to the flyer included in the Board packet and said that it was a first attempt at messaging. Vice Chair McFadden thanked Mr. Morgan for his summary and said the flyer was also posted on the Agency's website

Director Holmgren joins the meeting at approximately 6pm.

Motion to postpone the Stakeholder Workshop and draft a letter to DWR requesting an extension of deadlines as well as clarification on what qualifies as stakeholder engagement and authorizing the Chair to sign the letter once it is drafted, Vice Chair

McFadden; Second, Director Pace. Voice vote: fives ayes (Kimball, Long, McFadden, Meneghin, Pace), none opposed, one absent (Holmgren). Motion carries 5/0/1.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

5A Introduction to Sustainability Management Criteria

Information Item

Daniel B. Stephens & Associates' Tony Morgan presented information regarding the criteria for sustainable water management (see attachment). He included access to Best Management Practices, Sustainable Management criteria, terminology and descriptions of what is sustainability and the six sustainability indicators, also known as the six deadly sins of SGMA.

Mr. Bondy asked, as a point of clarification, if this information was being presented hypothetically. Mr. Morgan replied yes. Then Mr. Bondy asked if he would build on his comments from the last meeting regarding defining vertical zones as principal aquifers for the purpose of regulation. He said, if so, each point Mr. Morgan made will have to be made for each of those principal aquifers which requires a lot more work and a lot more analysis. He said this is a foundational decision.

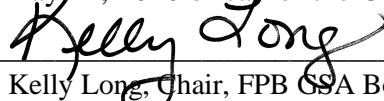
Chair Long said that the Fillmore and Piru basins are being addressed separately with individual GSPs. Mr. Bondy asked if each zone was being managed separately. Mr. Bondy and Mr. Morgan then discussed who would make this decision as Mr. Morgan thought it would be the Board's decision and Mr. Bondy thought it was too technical and should be made by the consultants.

FUTURE TOPICS FOR BOARD DISCUSSION


Ad hoc for defining sustainable management criteria, discussion of principal aquifer (lump or split)

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Long adjourned the meeting at 6:48p.m. to the next Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, May 21, 2020 or call of the Chair.

ATTEST: 
Kelly Long, Chair, FPB SSA Board of Directors

I certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Fillmore and Piru Basins Groundwater Sustainability Agency's Board of Directors meeting of April 16, 2020.

ATTEST: 
Eva Ibarra, Clerk of the Board

Item 2D - GSP Consultant Update

- Major Activities
- Board Discussion Topics / Schedule
- FAQs - Agenda Items 4B
- Stakeholder Engagement Workshop - Agenda Item 4D
- Intro to Sustainability Management Criteria - Agenda Item 5A



Item 2D - GSP Consultant Update

Major activities have included, for example:


- Board adoption of **Guiding Principles**;
- Completion of and Board of Director adoption of a **Communication and Engagement Plan (CEP)**;
- **Draft Sampling and Analysis Plan** prepared;
- **Monitoring Plan and Data Trends** analysis Technical Memorandum in progress;
- Analysis of **Subsidence Potential** (one of the six Sustainable Management Criteria) underway; and
- **Database Management System (DBMS)** in internal beta testing.



Board Discussion Topics / Schedule

	Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3
Mar-2020	Process & Management Actions, content	Intro to Sustainable Management Criteria	
Apr-2020	Intro to Sustainable Management Criteria	GDEs	
May-2020	Data Base Management System Update/Demo	GDEs	Management Areas
Jun-2020	GW model review (UWCD)	Management Areas	

- Proposed technical topics for discussion at Board meetings
- Introduction to important elements in the GSP
- References to suggested reading materials (e.g., DWR Best Management Practices or Guidance Documents) - resources on flash drive



May 2020 Reference / Background Materials

Data Base Management System

Regulations - Article 3 Technical and Reporting Standards

- § 352.4 Data and Reporting Standards
- § 352.6 Data Management System
- § 354.40 Reporting Monitoring Data to the Department

May 2020 Reference / Background Materials

GDEs are frequently addressed in the following sections of the Regulations:

- § 351 Definitions
- § 354.8 Description of Plan Area
- § 354.10. Notice and Communication
- § 354.16. Groundwater Conditions
- § 354.18. Water Budget
- § 354.26. Undesirable Results
- § 354.28. Minimum Thresholds
- § 354.34. Monitoring Network
- § 354.38 Assessment and Improvement of Monitoring Network
- § 355.4 Criteria for Plan Evaluation
- § 355.8 Department Review of Annual Reports

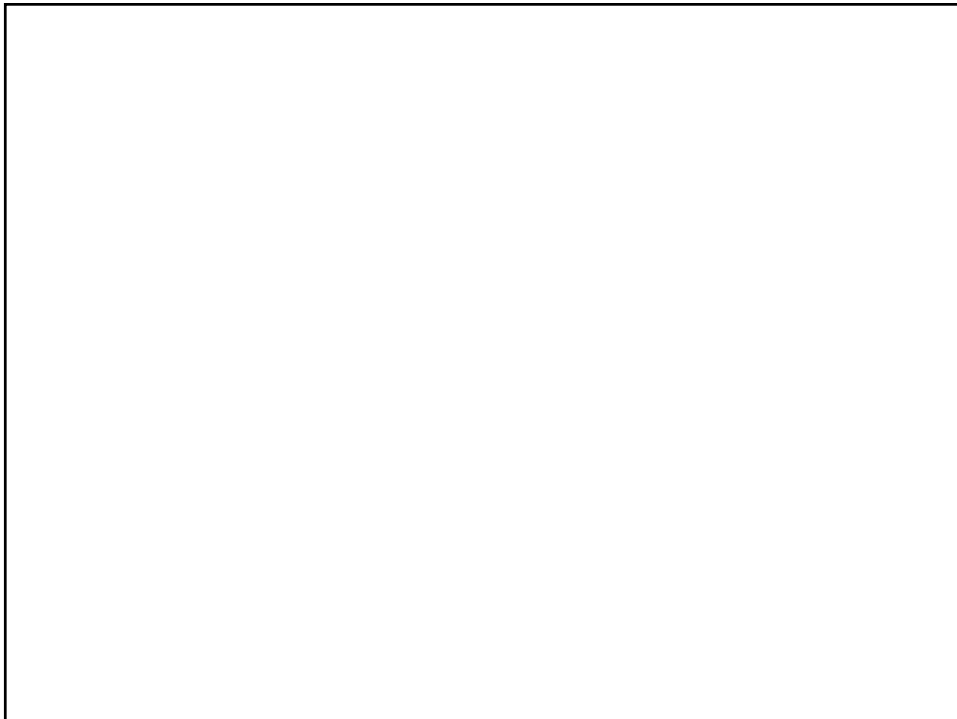
May 2020 Reference / Background Materials

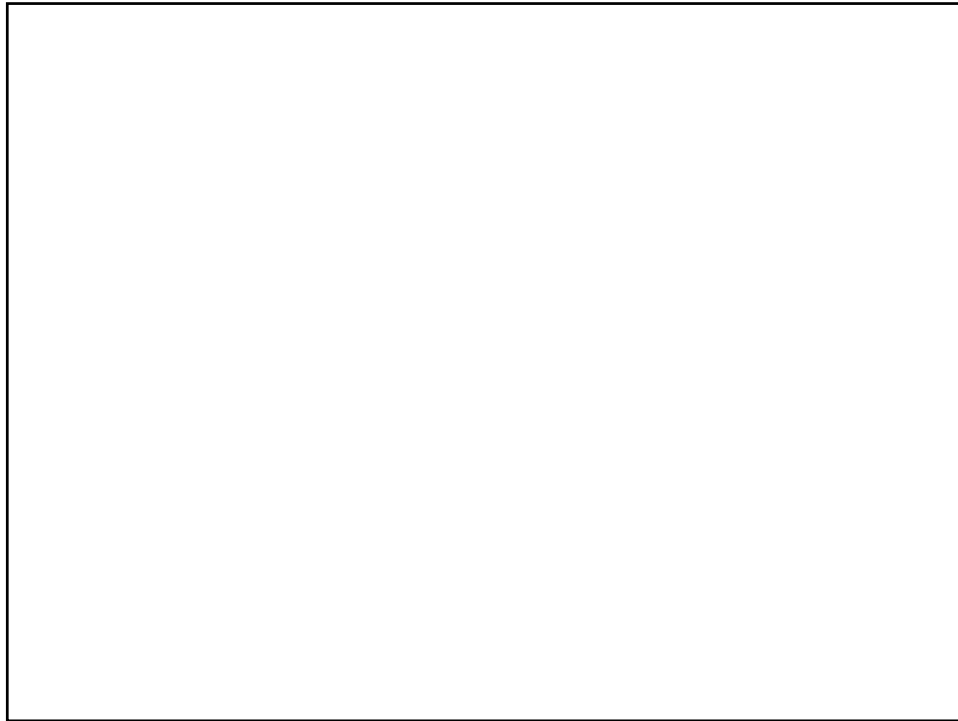
<https://groundwaterresourcehub.org/what-are-gdes/importance-of-gdes/>

https://groundwaterresourcehub.org/public/uploads/pdfs/GWR_Hub_GDE_Guidance_Doc_2-1-18.pdf

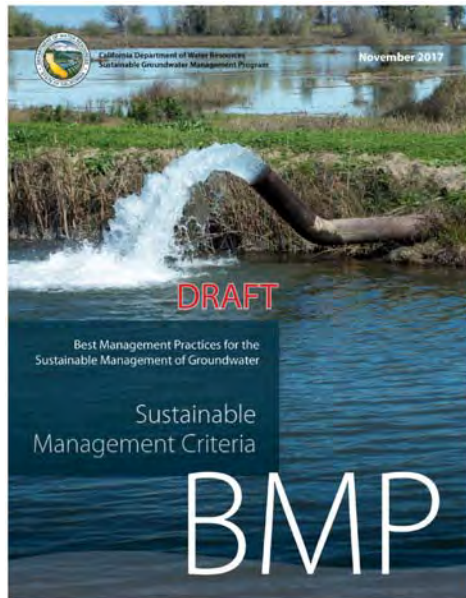
https://groundwaterresourcehub.org/public/uploads/pdfs/TNC_NCdataset_BestPracticesGuide_2019.pdf

Questions ?





Item 5A - Intro to Sustainable Management Criteria



- Draft BMP developed by DWR
- **GOAL** - sustainable groundwater conditions within 20 yrs



Sustainability is the Goal

§ 354.24. Sustainability Goal

- A single sustainability goal for the basin
- Achieved within 20 years of GSP implementation
- Maintained without causing undesirable results



What is Sustainability?

...sustainable groundwater management - the management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizons without causing undesirable results...

...so **sustainable groundwater management** - is not a number, but absence of undesirable results...

“Sustainable yield” means the maximum quantity of water, calculated over a base period representative of long-term conditions in the basin, that can be withdrawn annually from a groundwater supply without causing an undesirable result.

What is Sustainability?

“**Planning and implementation horizon**” means a 50-year period over which a groundwater sustainability agency determines that plans and measures will be implemented in a basin to ensure that the basin is operated within its sustainable yield.

“**Undesirable results**” occur when significant and unreasonable effects for any of the six sustainability indicators are caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin. Used by DWR to determine whether the sustainability goal has been achieved within the basin.



Six Sustainability Indicators (aka *6 Deadly Sins of SGMA*)

S&U = significant and unreasonable

undesirable results have these effects

Sustainability Indicators

	Chronic lowering of GW levels indicating S&U depletion of supply
	Depletions of interconnected SW that have S&U impacts on beneficial uses of SW
	S&U degraded water quality
	S&U land subsidence that interferes with surface land uses
	S&U seawater intrusion
	S&U reduction of GW storage

Sustainable Management Criteria

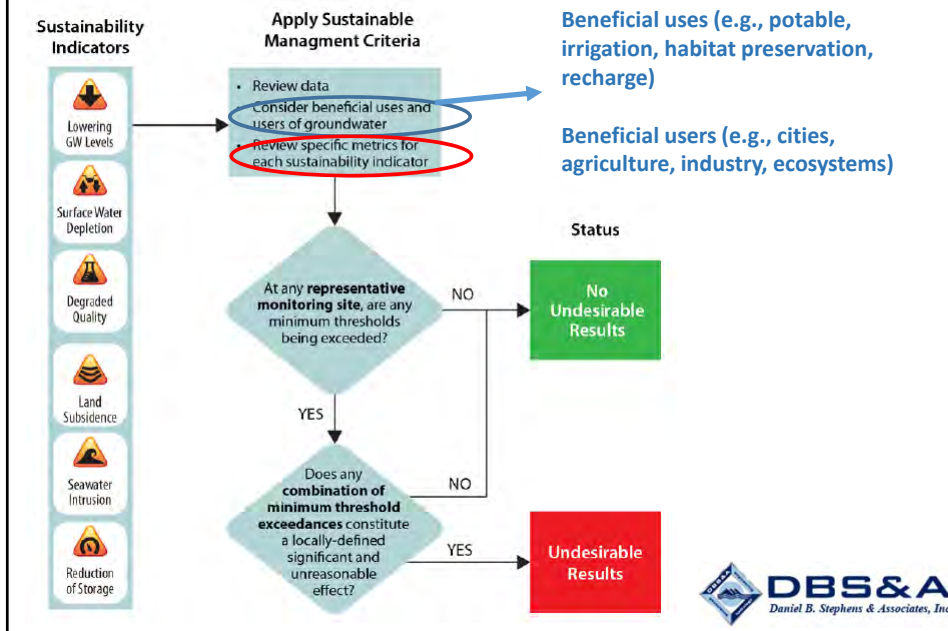
Significant and Unreasonable – defined by GSA. Basic element of “local control” inherent to SGMA.

Minimum Threshold – a numeric value for each sustainability indicator used to define undesirable results. A quantitative value that if exceeded may cause an “undesirable result” - cannot be an arbitrary number.







Measurable Objective – specific, quantifiable goals for the maintenance or improvement of specified groundwater conditions. Included in an adopted Plan to document progress towards achieving the sustainability goal for the basin.



How does all of this fit together?



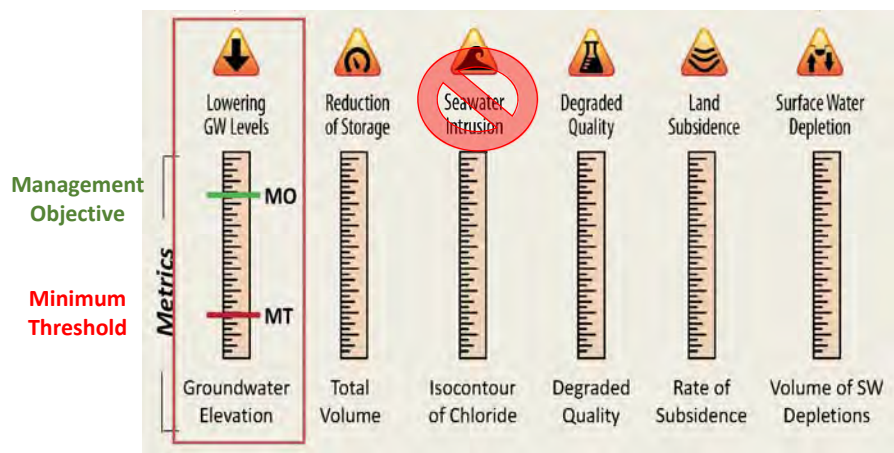
Sustainability Indicator Metrics

Sustainability Indicators	 Lowering GW Levels	 Reduction of Storage	 Seawater Intrusion	 Degraded Quality	 Land Subsidence	 Surface Water Depletion
Metric(s) Defined in GSP Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater Elevation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extraction Volume 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chloride concentration isocontour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration of Plumes Number of supply wells Volume Location of isocontour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate and Extent of Land Subsidence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volume or rate of surface water depletion

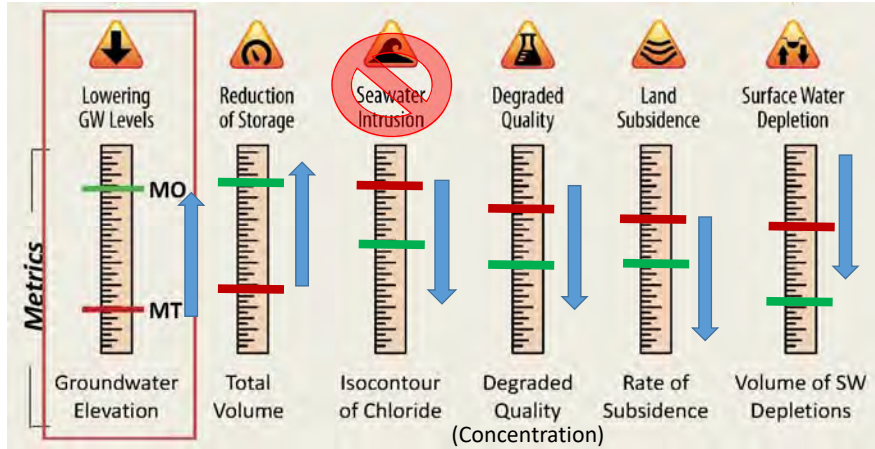
How are we going to measure the status of various groundwater sustainability indicators?



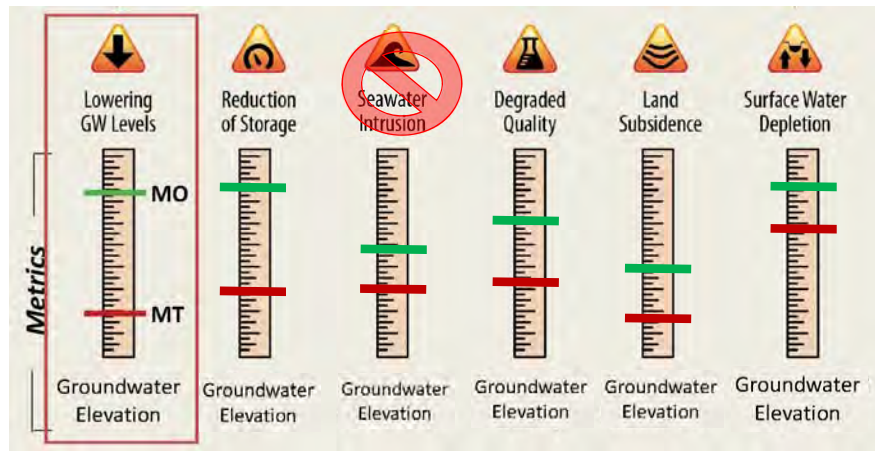
Metrics - MOs - MTs



Metrics - MOs - MTs



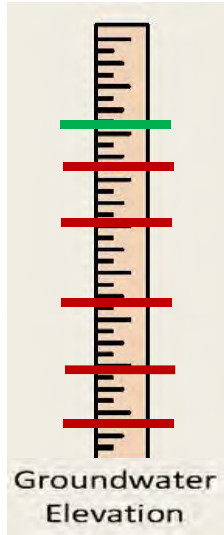
Metrics - MOs - MTs



Surrogate metrics are allowed!



Metrics - MOs - MTs

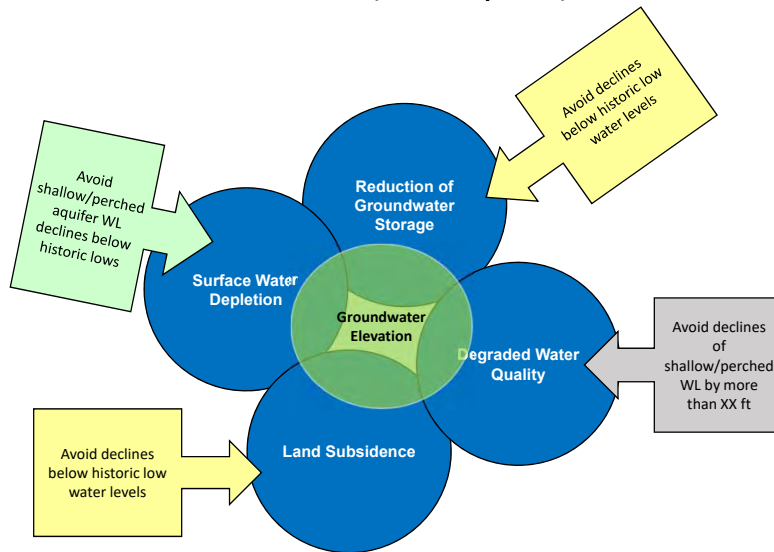


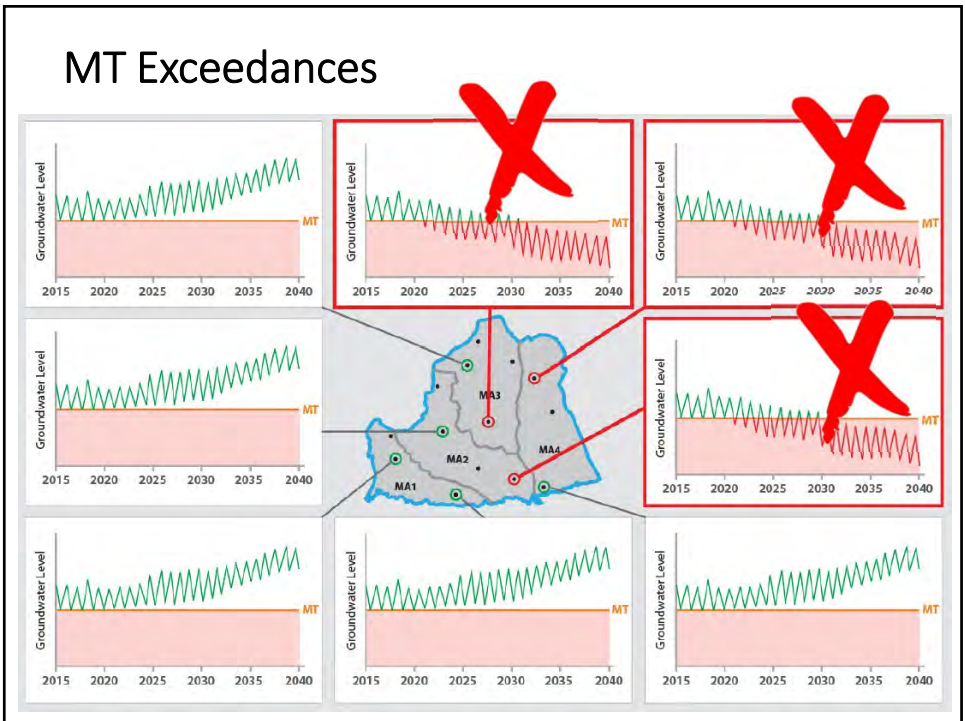
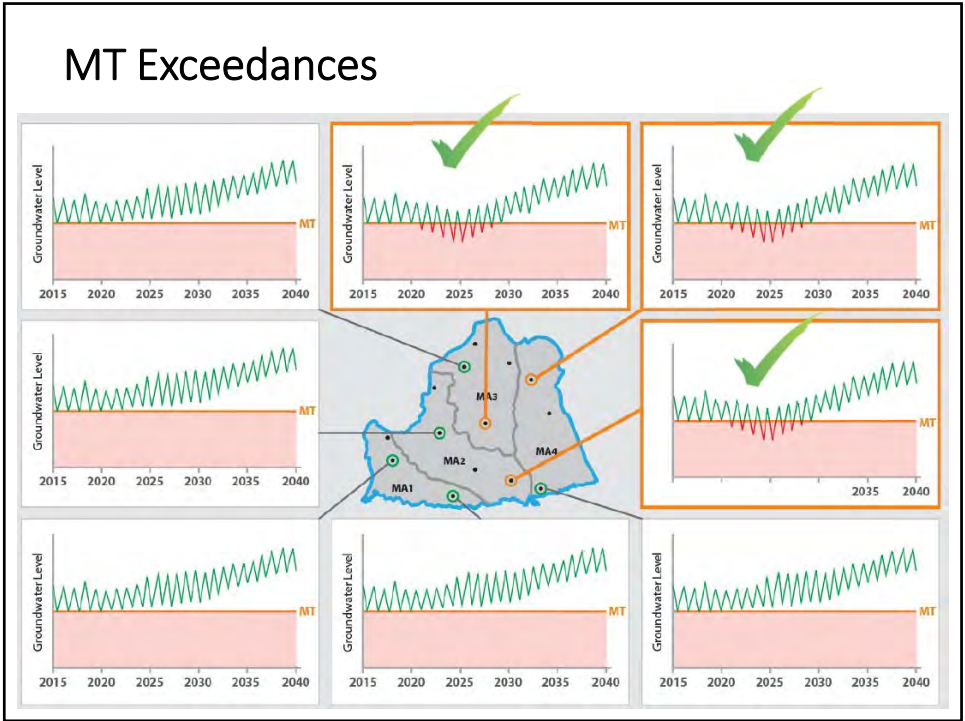
- Multi-Indicator MO
- SW Depletion
- Degraded Quality
- Reduction of Storage
- Sea Water Intrusion
- Subsidence

Can be different for each groundwater basin OR management area within a basin



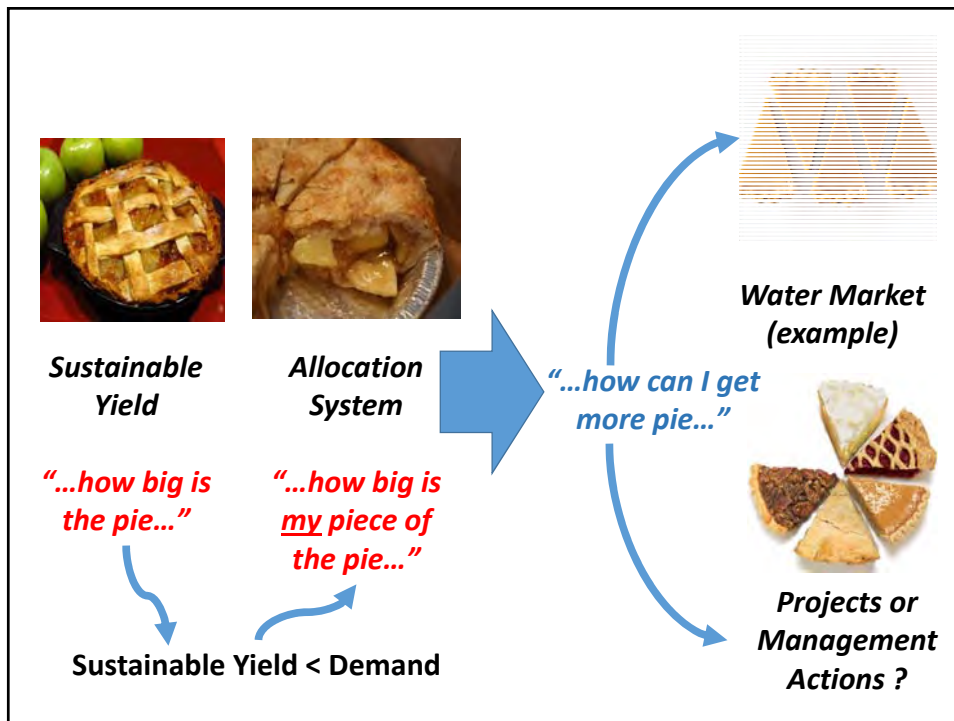
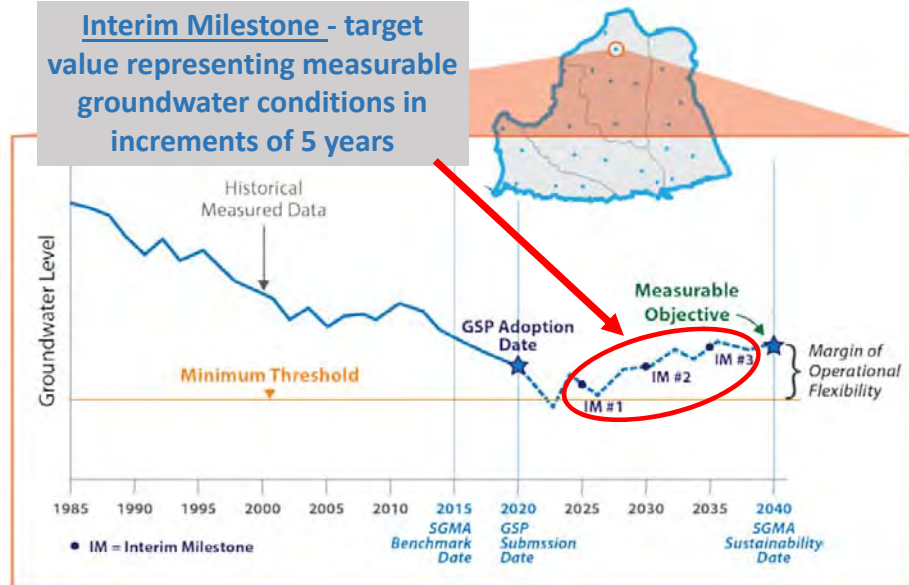
Sustainability Indicators and Minimum Thresholds (examples)





MTs-MOs-IMs & Margin of Operational Flexibility

Interim Milestone - target value representing measurable groundwater conditions in increments of 5 years



Questions ?

