

Subbasin Announcements

The Public Draft of a single groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin was released this week. The release triggered a 30-day public comment period on the draft document. Chapters 1 – 8 of the document were released for comment in early May with Chapters 9 - 14 released this week. A webinar and a public meeting to discuss the full draft will be held in June. More details can be found on page 2 of this newsletter

Water Leadership Institute

Citizens from a variety of backgrounds are participating in a Water Leadership Institute in the Subbasin. The Institute is an education and training program teaching valley residents about water issues. A joint program of Environmental Defense Fund and the rural Community Action Center, the Institute, thirty Central Valley residents are participating in the current cohort.

After learning about the history of water and its use in the Basin during the first session, participants received more in-depth information on current water use categories and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) during sessions in April and May. The Institute includes a “train the trainer” component so participants are capable of transferring knowledge and skills to others in their communities. The final session, which includes graduation, is scheduled June 15.

Water Quality Monitoring

GSAs in the Subbasin are collecting groundwater samples to measure so-called “constituents of concern” (COCs) in the region’s groundwater. COCs are the compounds that are measured and reported to state regulators annually. To coincide with the impending adoption of a single GSP for the Subbasin, new COCs were added to this year’s sampling regimen. Each GSA must sample at least one well from each aquifer it uses to extract water.

To make sure results are consistent and easy to compare, GSA representatives recently agreed to use the same analytical methods for measuring constituent levels. The data will be used to guide management actions as necessary.

State Water Board Chairman Tours Project Sites

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) will decide whether the Subbasin’s single GSP is sufficient to achieve groundwater sustainability by 2040 or to place the area on probation until a better plan is developed. In an effort to demonstrate the work already underway to achieve sustainability, GSA representatives have been conducting tours for SWRCB members and staff.

Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel and two staff members toured groundwater recharge and water recycling projects in the northern half of the Subbasin in April. It was the third such tour since authority for the area’s GSP was transferred from DWR to SWRCB.

Upcoming Meetings and Important Dates

Coordination Committee

Second Monday
1:00 PM SLDMWA Boardroom*

Northern Management Committee

First Wednesday
1:00 PM Patterson City Hall

Central Management Committee

Fourth Thursday
10:00 AM SLDMWA Boardroom*

Questions? Contact your local GSA or
Send an email to dmsgma@sldmwa.org

Visit deltamendota.org for current and
upcoming meeting information

* May-June 2024 Delta-Mendota Subbasin Newsletter can be accessed online at: <https://deltamendota.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/DM-Newsletter-May-June-2024-ADA.pdf>

Full Single GSP Now Available

How to Find Out More

The full public draft of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin single GSP is now available for review on the [Delta Mendota SGMA website](#).* In addition to reading the draft there are **three more ways** for you to find out more.

Briefing on Chapters 1-8, and 14

A 45-minute overview of the Draft GSP and a more detailed description of the first half of the document was provided during a May 10 online briefing. The recording and session presentation materials are on the Delta Mendota SGMA [website](#).*

Briefing Webinar June 7 on Chapters 9-13, and 15-16

Register [HERE](#) (<https://tinyurl.com/mt9mvaam>) for a 45-minute overview of the additional Draft GSP chapters. It is scheduled for lunchtime on Friday June 7. During this session you will learn more about the GSP Sustainable Management Criteria, Projects and Management Actions, and Plan Implementation. Additional information will be provided on the GSP comment period and other timelines.

In-Person Meeting on Full GSP, Tuesday June 18, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in Los Banos

RSVP [HERE](#)** for an in-person meeting on the Full GSP. During the first hour the project team will provide an overview of the Full GSP. The meeting will then shift to an Open House where participants are invited to ask questions and provide feedback on the plan. During the session information will also be provided on how to remain engaged and attend additional public meetings as the Draft GSP moves forward. The meeting will be held at the Los Banos Community Center, 645 7th Street, Los Banos, CA 93635. Your RSVP will help us plan for adequate seating.

Sample of GSP Topics to be Covered June 7

Sustainability Goal

Chapter 12 explains GSPs must describe the subbasin's Sustainability Goal. The Delta-Mendota

Subbasin goal is to “manage groundwater resources for the benefit of all users of groundwater in a manner that allows for operational flexibility, ensures resource availability under drought conditions, and does not negatively impact surface water diversion and conveyance and delivery capabilities.”

Minimum Thresholds

Minimum Thresholds (MTs), explained more in GSP Chapter 13, are numeric values that define *Undesirable Results*. For example, in the Delta Mendota Subbasin a key indicator of sustainability is groundwater levels. The *chronic lowering of groundwater levels is a Sustainability Indicator*. The Subbasin MT for *Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels* set groundwater level at or above 2015 groundwater elevations. In simple terms, exceeding this MT would be an *undesirable result* requiring correction. The chronic lowering of groundwater influences several other key *sustainability Indicators*, including *Reduction of Groundwater Storage, Land Subsidence, Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water*, and, potentially, *Degraded Water Quality*. The MT level will support the avoidance of Undesirable Results for other Sustainability Indicators.

Projects and Management Actions

GSPs must include the projects and management actions the Subbasin will use to meet its sustainability goal. Chapter 15 of the GSP presents the Projects and Management Actions (P/MAs) proposed or currently under implementation by the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies. The Subbasin's strategy to achieve sustainability includes a combination of P/MAs that both reduce Basin-wide groundwater pumping and augment groundwater supplies with other sources. This includes development and future implementation of a Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) by January 2025. The goal of the PRP is to achieve a 42,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) reduction in pumping from the Basin by 2030 and avoid (MT) exceedances.

* GSP is on the web HERE: <https://deltamendota.org/draft-gsp-documents>

**RSVP for in-person meeting HERE: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RSVPJune18>