Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Meeting Materials

April 25, 2024 | 2:00 p.m.

Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Main Pump Station
7854 County Road 203, Orland, CA 95963

Remote Public Participation Option:
Microsoft Teams meeting
Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 283 871 087 460
Passcode: Cp3DQF
Dial-in by phone
+1 323-676-6164,,677736511# United States, Los Angeles
Find a local number
Phone conference ID: 677 736 511#
Need help?

---

1. **Call to Order**

   The Chair will call the meeting to order.

2. **Roll Call**

   Staff will conduct roll call.

3. **Meeting Minutes**

   a. *Approval of February 22, 2024 meeting minutes.

   Draft meeting minutes for the February 22, 2024 meeting are attached.

   Attachments:

   - February 22, 2024 meeting minutes

Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee
Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2024 | 2:00 p.m.
Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Pump Station
7854 County Rd 203, Orland, CA 95963

Public participation was also offered via teleconference

1. Call to Order
   - Mr. Arnold called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.
2. Roll Call

	Party Representative	Member Agency
X	Tom Arnold (2023 Chairman)	County of Glenn
X	Grant Carmon (2023 Vice Chairman)	County of Glenn
X	John Amaro	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X	Pete Knight	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
X	Julia Violich (2:03 p.m.)	Monroeville Water District
X	Seth Fiack	Monroeville Water District

Roll call was taken as noted above. A quorum of members was present.

3. Election of Officers
   a. *Election of Chairperson
   b. *Election of Vice Chairperson
   c. *Election of Secretary

Mr. Arnold opened nominations for Chairperson; whereby, Mr. Carmon nominated John Amaro. Mr. Fiack moved to close the nominations for Chairperson.

It was unanimously voted to elect John Amaro to serve as the 2024 Chairperson.

Mr. Amaro assumed Chairman duties.

Mr. Amaro opened nominations for Vice Chairperson; whereby, Mr. Knight nominated Tom Arnold, and Mr. Amaro nominated Grant Carmon. Mr. Knight moved to close nominations.

Mr. Amaro called for a vote of the 2024 Vice Chairperson nominations. **Grant Carmon was elected to serve as the 2024 Vice Chairman on the following vote:**

Tom Arnold: Knight

Grant Carmon: Amaro, Carmon, Fiack

Mr. Amaro opened nominations for Secretary; whereby, Mr. Knight nominated Lisa Hunter. Mr. Knight moved to close nominations.

It was unanimously voted to elect Lisa Hunter to serve as the 2024 Secretary.

4. Meeting Minutes

    a. *Approval of January 25, 2024 meeting minutes.

- No corrections or additions were made to the draft meeting minutes.

On a motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Fiack the January 25, 2024 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

5. Period of Public Comment

- Answering a question from Jim Brobeck, Valerie Kincaid, CSGSA Counsel, stated that during the GSP amendment and re-adoption process, a notice is required to be given to the cities and counties at least 90 days before the public hearing. Written public comments are welcome to be submitted prior to the public hearing and comments will also be heard during the public hearing period. It was noted GSP development and schedule will be discussed during a later agenda item.

6. Staff Reports

- Ms. Hunter reported zero well permit acknowledgement forms have been received since January 25, 2024. She stated the agreement with CliftonLarsonAllen has been executed and they are ready to move forward with the audit process. She stated she will work with Ms. Kincaid to bring forward a draft version of the committee by-laws. She further stated since the CSGSA has a funding source, further discussion will be held on reimbursement to Glenn County for provided administrative services. Responding to a question from Del Reimers, clarification was provided regarding funding sources, member agency contributions, and administrative reimbursement.

7. Financial Report

    a. *Review and accept financial reports.

    b. *Review and consider approval of claims.

- Relating to Item 7.a., Ms. Violich asked for clarification regarding the Professional Services line item found in the financial report. Ms. Hunter stated the Professional Services line item includes consultant, administrative, and legal staff services. It was noted that a higher amount of interest accrued in 2024, and to consider adjusting the figure in the budget next year. There was a discussion on the budgeted amount for administrative reimbursement to the County.

On motion by Ms. Violich, seconded by Mr. Arnold, the financial reports were unanimously accepted as presented.

- Mr. Amaro invited comments or questions regarding the claims; whereby, none were heard.

On motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Knight, the claims were unanimously approved as presented.

8. Insurance through Golden State Risk Management Authority

    a. *Authorize Chairman to sign Agreement for Admission of New Member to the Golden State Risk Management Authority.

    b. *Authorize Chairman to sign letter of no known loss.

    c. *Authorize purchase of insurance in an amount not to exceed $1,800.

- There was a discussion on the various details of the policy, including pricing, types of coverage, and coverage through member agency policies.

On motion by Ms. Violich, seconded by Mr. Carmon, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the Chairman to sign the Agreement for Admission of New Member to the Golden State Risk Management Authority.

On motion by Ms. Violich, seconded by Mr. Knight, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter of no known loss.

On motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Fiack, it was unanimously ordered to authorize the purchase of insurance in an amount not to exceed $1800.

9. *Consider allocating funds for reimbursement of water-related costs for groundwater recharge and authorize the Chairman to approve the purchase of water.

- Ms. Hunter opened the item stating this relates to discussions from the previous Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting. She stated if winter water is available and there are landowners willing to volunteer their property, this may streamline recharge efforts, by allowing payment for water as soon as it becomes available. Discussion ensued on the water source, importance of recharge projects, water expenses, conveyance to projects, location of potential sites, and potential cost splits.

On motion by Mr. Fiack, seconded by Mr. Knight, it was unanimously approved to allocate $3,000 for reimbursement of water-related costs for groundwater recharge and authorize the Chairman to approve the purchase of water.

10. Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CSGSA) Operations and GSP Implementation Fees

    a. Receive an update on the CSGSA Fees and User Classification Change Requests.

    b. *Consider User Classification Change Request appeal for parcels 032-320-006-000, 032-320-008-000, and 032-340-015-000.

    c. Discussion on CSGSA Fee Policy and Variance Process.

- Relating to Item 10.a. Ms. Hunter stated the direct-bill invoices are ready to be mailed. An insert with contact information, useful links, and a map will be included with the invoice to alleviate some questions parcel owners may have regarding the CSGSA fees.

- Relating to Item 10.b. Ms. Hunter presented the User Classification Change Request documentation included in the agenda packet. In response to a question, Ms. Hunter clarified the landowner was requesting a classification change on a portion of the property. There was discussion on user classification definitions, Land IQ data, and the potential variance policy that has been previously discussed. Considering the current policy language and definitions, there was general consensus, supporting the staff determination to deny the User Classification Change Requests.

On motion by Mr. Carmon, seconded by Mr. Knight, it was unanimously ordered to deny the User Classification Change Request appeals for parcels 032-320-006-000, 032-320-008-000, and 032-340-015-000.

- Regarding Item 9, Jim Brobeck, stated concerns regarding ownership of water in storage and asked who would own the water if purchased and whom would extract the water? Ms. Kincaid clarified the GSA's role and intent for water recharged to be part of the common supply which would be outlined in an agreement between the landowner and GSA. Discussion ensued on recharge as a beneficial use and the limitations that apply. Mr. Reimers expressed concerns with points of diversion regarding recharge water.

- Regarding Item 10.c. Ms. Hunter introduced the item and requested recommendations from the CSGSA on the proposed variance process. Discussion ensued on various components of the variance process including administrative efforts and costs associated with the process, adding some language to capture non-irrigated easements (such as a conservation or wildlife habitat easement), and minimum acreage to be eligible for a variance. Ms. Hunter stated the intent of the presented policy is to give landowners the option to carve the parcel into a more granular approach. Ms. Violich agreed with the key points for discussion included in the meeting packet, stating all the important points were included.

11. Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

    a. Receive update on Corning Subbasin GSP Implementation activities.

    b. Receive update on Corning Subbasin GSP "Incomplete" Determination.

    c. Concurrence with approach for estimating overdraft.

    d. Discussion on approach for revisions to Projects and Management Actions.

    e. Discussion on Sustainable Management Criteria for Groundwater Levels.

- Ms. Hunter stated Items 11.a. through 11.e. will be captured in the presentation conducted by John McHugh and Eddy Teasdale from the Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) team. Ms. Hunter stated the purpose of Item 11 is to achieve general direction from the CSGSA on the approach to address the GSP incomplete determination and related revisions. John McHugh began the presentation with an introduction and background on the GSP deficiencies identified by Department of Water Resources (DWR), including overdraft conditions and Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels.

- Mr. McHugh presented potential considerations for a dry well mitigation program and recommended the CSGSA pass a resolution showing a commitment to develop and implement a well mitigation program. There was discussion on beneficial users, eligibility, funding sources, implementing parameters, and the possibility of cost-sharing. Ms. Hunter stated three options for the CSGSA to consider regarding the well mitigation plan: do nothing, commit to developing a plan via a resolution, or implement a fully detailed well mitigation plan. There was general consensus from the CSGSA to consider a resolution with a commitment to create and implement a well mitigation program with funding and specific timelines for creation to incorporate into the GSP revisions.

- Mr. McHugh presented the overdraft estimation and approach for potential revisions. The recommendation from LSCE was to use the 2015-2023 average change in storage. Mr. Carmon stated his concerns in regards to recharge projects falling short of efforts, stating demand management will be necessary. Mr. Arnold stated the importance of diverting flood water to assist with recharge efforts. Regarding demand management, Mr. Mori recommended focusing on problem areas within the subbasin. Ms. Violich exited the meeting. Following discussion comparing between the two data methods (empirical vs. modeled), there was general consensus from the CSGSA to use the empirical groundwater measurement data as recommended.

- Relating to Item 11.d., Mr. McHugh presented on Projects and Management Actions, and discussion ensued on recharge projects, grant funding, water rights and land use issues. A Demand Management workplan example was presented and there was discussion on the economic effects a demand management plan may cause. Ms. Kincaid provided clarification on water rights, stating landowners have a correlative right (shared) to available groundwater and do not have priority over other landowners,

such as in surface water rights. She discussed the challenges the subbasin may face if the State Water Resources Control Board assumed control of the basin. There was general consensus from the CSGSA to consider a resolution that would commit the GSA to create and implement a demand management program with funding and specific timelines for creation.

- Relating to Item 11.e., Mr. McHugh presented on the potential modification of minimum thresholds relating to groundwater levels. Discussion took place on existing SMC and related analysis, potential modifications to the SMC and related analysis, and pros and cons of reducing the number of Representative Monitoring Point (RMP) wells. Mr. McHugh presented an interactive map showing where reported dry wells are located and analysis of potential SMCs. Mr. Carmon exited the meeting. Discussion ensued on existing minimum thresholds and various minimum threshold options. There was general consensus with the approach to set the groundwater level minimum threshold to the 2020-2022 groundwater lows in focus areas, and 10 feet deeper elsewhere. Mr. Teasdale indicated the undesirable results definitions will also need refinements, which will be brought back.
- Mr. McHugh presented the next steps including the schedule of upcoming meetings and deadlines.

12. Committee Reports

    a. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

    b. Corning Subbasin GSP Determination Response Ad Hoc Committee

    c. Audit Services Ad Hoc Committee

- Relating to Item 12.a., Mr. Amaro stated most of the topics at the CSAB meeting have been discussed. Ms. Hunter added the next CSAB meeting is on March 6, 2024.
- Relating to Item 12.b. Ms. Hunter stated the ad hoc committee has not met since January, but will be involved in the conversations relating to the GSP revisions.
- Relating to Item 12.c. Ms. Hunter stated the responsibilities of the Audit Services Ad Hoc Committee have been completed.

13. Review Committees and Revise as Needed

    a. *Assign new committees, update membership, and/or dissolve committees as needed.

- Ms. Hunter recommended appointing John Amaro and Julia Violich as primary CSAB members and Grant Carmon as an Alternate CSAB member for a four-year term ending February 21, 2028.

On motion by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Arnold, it was unanimously ordered to appoint John Amaro and Julia Violich as primary CSAB members and Grant Carmon as an Alternate CSAB member for a four-year term ending February 21, 2028.

- Ms. Hunter recommended dissolving the Audit Services Ad Hoc Committee.

On motion by Mr. Knight, seconded by Mr. Arnold, it was unanimously approved to dissolve the Audit Services Ad Hoc Committee.

14. Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Member Reports and Comments

- Mr. Fiack encouraged obtaining water when it is available and stated Monroeville Water District is looking for opportunities to partner in recharge projects.

15. Next Meeting

- The next regular scheduled meeting is March 28, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

16. Adjourn

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

4. Period of Public Comment

Members of the public are encouraged to address the Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee. Public comment will be limited to three minutes. No action will be taken on items under public comment.

---

5. Staff Reports

Staff from members of the Corning Sub-basin GSA will provide relevant updates, such as a brief status update of GSP implementation, grant agreements, and project agreements. Reminders and clarifications may be made, and direction may be provided to staff.

---

6. Financial Report

a. *Review and accept financial reports.

b. *Review and consider approval of claims.

The transaction listing, budget to actuals, balance sheet, and claims summary are attached.

Attachments:

- Balance Sheet (February 2024)
- Budget to Actuals (February 2024)
- Transaction Listing (February 2024)
- Balance Sheet (Draft March 2024)
- Budget to Actuals (Draft March 2024)
- Transaction Listing (Draft March 2024)
- Claims Summary

COUNTY OF GLENN
General Ledger Summary
Balance Sheet Accounts
For the Period Ending:
Feb 29, 2024

Organization Key: 04797000 - CORNING SUB-BASIN GRNDWTR SA

Object Type	Object Group Description	Object Code	Balance
ASSETS			
	CURRENT ASSETS		
		00100 - CASH IN TREASURY	185,446.56
	CURRENT ASSETS - Summary		**$185,446.56**
AS - Summary			**$185,446.56**
FUND EQUITY			
	FUND EQUITY		
		00974 - UNRESERVED RETAINED EARNINGS	32,814.97
	FUND EQUITY - Summary		**$32,814.97**
	BUDGETARY ACCOUNTS		
		00997 - ESTIMATED REVENUES	(352,884.00)
		00999 - APPROPRIATIONS	352,884.00
	BUDGETARY ACCOUNTS - Summary		**$0.00**
FB - Summary			**$32,814.97**

COUNTY OF GLENN
General Ledger Summary
Budget to Actuals
For the period Ending:
Feb 29, 2024

Organization Key	Object Type	Object Group Description	Object Code	Current Year Budget	Current Year Actuals	Remaining Budget	% of Budget Used
04797000 - CORNING SUB-BASIN GRNDWTR SA							
	REVENUES						
		USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY					
			44300 INTEREST	0.00	356.81	(356.81)	0.00%
		USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY - Summary		**$0.00**	**$356.81**	**($356.81)**	**/0**
		INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE					
			56200 OTHER GOVT AGENCIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
		INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE - Summary		**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**/0**
		CHARGES FOR CURRENT SERVICES					
			61152 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT	352,884.00	179,077.51	173,806.49	50.75%
		CHARGES FOR CURRENT SERVICES - Summary		**$352,884.00**	**$179,077.51**	**$173,806.49**	**50.75%**
	RV - Summary			**$352,884.00**	**$179,434.32**	**$173,449.68**	**50.85%**
	EXPENDITURES						
		SERVICES & SUPPLIES					
			03150 INSURANCE	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00%
			03220 OFFICE EXPENSE	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00%
			03230 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	314,950.00	25,219.86	289,730.14	8.01%
			03240 PUBLICATIONS	1,000.00	124.80	875.20	12.48%
		SERVICES & SUPPLIES - Summary		**$320,950.00**	**$25,344.66**	**$295,605.34**	**7.90%**
		OTHER CHARGES					
			05700 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	9,000.00	1,458.07	7,541.93	16.20%
		OTHER CHARGES - Summary		**$9,000.00**	**$1,458.07**	**$7,541.93**	**16.20%**
		CONTINGENCY					

COUNTY OF GLENN
General Ledger Summary
Budget to Actuals
For the period Ending:
Feb 29, 2024

Organization Key	Object Type	Object Group Description	Object Code	Current Year Budget	Current Year Actuals	Remaining Budget	% of Budget Used
			09900 CONTINGENCY	22,934.00	0.00	22,934.00	0.00%
		CONTINGENCY	**- Summary**	**$22,934.00**	**$0.00**	**$22,934.00**	**0.00%**
	XP - Summary			**$352,884.00**	**$26,802.73**	**$326,081.27**	**7.60%**
Net Return/ (Cost)				**$0.00**	**$152,631.59**	**($152,631.59)**	**7.60%**

Glenn County Short [T R A N S A C T I O N L I S T I N G] 02/01/2024 - 02/29/2024 Page 1
WED, APR 17, 2024, 1:24 PM --req: KMURRAY---leg: GL JL--loc: ONSITE----job:2543650 J345-----prog: GL440 <1.61>--report id: GLFLTR02

SORT ORDER: SUB-SUB within ORG KEY

SELECT ORGANIZATION KEY: 04797000

Lg	UNIQUE ACCOUNT	Primary Ref	Transaction Description	SS	Ref Date	Job No	Debit	Credit	NET
GL	04797000-00100	TTLOH	AutoID:Total Job:2452375	OH	02/07/24	02452375	0.00	11,300.61	-11,300.61
******Total *SUBS 00100			CASH IN TREASURY			DR	0.00	11,300.61	-11,300.61
GL	04797000-00670	TTLOH	AutoID:OH011573 Job:2452351	OH	02/07/24	02452351	0.00	11,300.61	11,300.61
GL	04797000-00670	TTLOH	AutoID:Total Job:2452375	OH	02/07/24	02452375	11,300.61	0.00	0.00
******Total *SUBS 00670			CHECKS PAYABLE			CR	11,300.61	11,300.61	0.00
GL	04797000-03230	CSGSA-2414	PARIS KINCAID W A# 3400 PARIS	OH	02/07/24	02452351	480.00	0.00	480.00
GL	04797000-03230	CSGSA-40436	LUHDORFF AND SC A#221097 LUH &	OH	02/07/24	02452351	6,470.61	0.00	6,950.61
GL	04797000-03230	CSGSA-40529	LUHDORFF AND SC A#221097 LUH &	OH	02/07/24	02452351	1,575.00	0.00	8,525.61
GL	04797000-03230	CSGSA-40661	LUHDORFF AND SC A#221097 LUH &	OH	02/07/24	02452351	1,350.00	0.00	9,875.61
GL	04797000-03230	CSGSA-40816	LUHDORFF AND SC A#221097 LUH &	OH	02/07/24	02452351	1,425.00	0.00	11,300.61
******Total *SUBS 03230			PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			DR	11,300.61	0.00	11,300.61
******Total *KEY 04797000			CORNING SUB-BASIN GRNDWTR SA			DR-CR	22,601.22	22,601.22	0.00
			** G R A N D T O T A L **			DR-CR	22,601.22	22,601.22	0.00

COUNTY OF GLENN
General Ledger Summary
Balance Sheet Accounts
For the Period Ending:
Mar 31, 2024

Organization Key: 04797000 - CORNING SUB-BASIN GRNDWTR SA

Object Type	Object Group Description	Object Code	Balance
ASSETS			
	CURRENT ASSETS		
		00100 - CASH IN TREASURY	186,848.63
	CURRENT ASSETS - Summary		**$186,848.63**
AS - Summary			**$186,848.63**
FUND EQUITY			
	FUND EQUITY		
		00974 - UNRESERVED RETAINED EARNINGS	32,814.97
	FUND EQUITY - Summary		**$32,814.97**
	BUDGETARY ACCOUNTS		
		00997 - ESTIMATED REVENUES	(352,884.00)
		00999 - APPROPRIATIONS	352,884.00
	BUDGETARY ACCOUNTS - Summary		**$0.00**
FB - Summary			**$32,814.97**

COUNTY OF GLENN
General Ledger Summary
Budget to Actuals
For the period Ending:
Mar 31, 2024

Organization Key	Object Type	Object Group Description	Object Code	Current Year Budget	Current Year Actuals	Remaining Budget	% of Budget Used
04797000 - CORNING SUB-BASIN GRNDWTR SA							
	REVENUES						
		USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY					
			44300 INTEREST	0.00	2,600.97	(2,600.97)	0.00%
		USE OF MONEY & PROPERTY - Summary		**$0.00**	**$2,600.97**	**($2,600.97)**	**/0**
		INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE					
			56200 OTHER GOVT AGENCIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
		INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE - Summary		**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**/0**
		CHARGES FOR CURRENT SERVICES					
			61152 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT	352,884.00	181,395.42	171,488.58	51.40%
		CHARGES FOR CURRENT SERVICES - Summary		**$352,884.00**	**$181,395.42**	**$171,488.58**	**51.40%**
	RV - Summary			**$352,884.00**	**$183,996.39**	**$168,887.61**	**52.14%**
	EXPENDITURES						
		SERVICES & SUPPLIES					
			03150 INSURANCE	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00%
			03220 OFFICE EXPENSE	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00%
			03230 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	314,950.00	28,379.86	286,570.14	9.01%
			03240 PUBLICATIONS	1,000.00	124.80	875.20	12.48%
		SERVICES & SUPPLIES - Summary		**$320,950.00**	**$28,504.66**	**$292,445.34**	**8.88%**
		OTHER CHARGES					
			05700 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	9,000.00	1,458.07	7,541.93	16.20%
		OTHER CHARGES - Summary		**$9,000.00**	**$1,458.07**	**$7,541.93**	**16.20%**
		CONTINGENCY					

COUNTY OF GLENN
General Ledger Summary
Budget to Actuals
For the period Ending:
Mar 31, 2024

Organization Key	Object Type	Object Group Description	Object Code	Current Year Budget	Current Year Actuals	Remaining Budget	% of Budget Used
			09900 CONTINGENCY	22,934.00	0.00	22,934.00	0.00%
		CONTINGENCY	**- Summary**	**$22,934.00**	**$0.00**	**$22,934.00**	**0.00%**
	XP - Summary			**$352,884.00**	**$29,962.73**	**$322,921.27**	**8.49%**
Net Return/ (Cost)				**$0.00**	**$154,033.66**	**($154,033.66)**	**8.49%**

SORT ORDER: SUB-SUB within ORG KEY

SELECT ORGANIZATION KEY: 04797000

Lg	UNIQUE ACCOUNT	Primary Ref	Transaction Description	SS	Ref Date	Job No	Debit	Credit	NET
GL	04797000-00100	JE242810	AutoID: JE004347 Job: 2512414	JE	03/15/24	02512414	35.96	0.00	35.96
GL	04797000-00100	JE242811	AutoID: JE004347 Job: 2512414	JE	03/15/24	02512414	68.52	0.00	104.48
GL	04797000-00100	JE242818	AutoID: JE004349 Job: 2513113	JE	03/18/24	02513113	54.82	0.00	159.30
GL	04797000-00100	TTLOH	AutoID:Total Job:2499269	OH	03/20/24	02499269	0.00	3,160.00	-3,000.70
GL	04797000-00100	TTLCR	AutoID: CR032224 Job: 2514680	CR	03/22/24	02514680	1,926.01	0.00	-1,074.69
GL	04797000-00100	JE242894	AutoID: JE004356 Job: 2520017	JE	03/25/24	02520017	232.60	0.00	-842.09
GL	04797000-00100	JE243062	AutoID: JE004376 Job: 2524872	JE	03/31/24	02524872	2,244.16	0.00	1,402.07
******Total *SUBS 00100			CASH IN TREASURY			DR	4,562.07	3,160.00	1,402.07
GL	04797000-00670	TTLOH	AutoID:OH011836 Job:2499208	OH	03/20/24	02499208	0.00	3,160.00	3,160.00
GL	04797000-00670	TTLOH	AutoID:Total Job:2499269	OH	03/20/24	02499269	3,160.00	0.00	0.00
******Total *SUBS 00670			CHECKS PAYABLE			CR	3,160.00	3,160.00	0.00
GL	04797000-03230	CSGSA-2443	PARIS KINCAID W A#3400 PARIS K	OH	03/20/24	02499208	3,160.00	0.00	3,160.00
******Total *SUBS 03230			PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			DR	3,160.00	0.00	3,160.00
GL	04797000-44300	JE243062	03/2024 INTEREST APPORTIONMENT	JE	03/31/24	02524872	0.00	2,244.16	2,244.16
******Total *SUBS 44300			INTEREST			CR	0.00	2,244.16	2,244.16
GL	04797000-61152	JE242810	CORNING SUBBASIN PARCEL FEE	JE	03/15/24	02512414	0.00	35.96	35.96
GL	04797000-61152	JE242811	CORNING SUBBASIN PARCEL FEE	JE	03/15/24	02512414	0.00	68.52	104.48
GL	04797000-61152	JE242818	TO PAY INV#24-CSGSA-15	JE	03/18/24	02513113	0.00	54.82	159.30
GL	04797000-61152	243521	DP 252059-252062 GCOE 24-CSGSA	CR	03/22/24	02514680	0.00	1,028.65	1,187.95
GL	04797000-61152	243521	DP 252059-252062 GCOE 24-CSGSA	CR	03/22/24	02514680	0.00	41.54	1,229.49
GL	04797000-61152	243521	DP 252059-252062 STATE OF CA-P	CR	03/22/24	02514680	0.00	343.52	1,573.01
GL	04797000-61152	243521	DP 252059-252062 GCID 24-CSGSA	CR	03/22/24	02514680	0.00	512.30	2,085.31
GL	04797000-61152	JE242894	CORNG SUB-BAS INV24-CSGSA11	JE	03/25/24	02520017	0.00	232.60	2,317.91
******Total *SUBS 61152			SPECIAL ASSESSMENT			CR	0.00	2,317.91	2,317.91
******Total *KEY 04797000			CORNING SUB-BASIN GRNDWTR SA			DR-CR	10,882.07	10,882.07	0.00
			** G R A N D T O T A L **			DR-CR	10,882.07	10,882.07	0.00

Claims Summary

Corning Sub-basin GSA
Invoices to be paid
Meeting Date: April 25, 2024

Invoice Date	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
4/1/2024	2474	Paris Kincaid Wasiewski LLP	$ 480.00
4/22/2024	L241226955	CliftonLarsonAllen LLP	$ 5,000.00
Total			$ 5,480.00

7. Conflict of Interest Code

a. Review Draft Conflict of Interest Code pursuant to the Political Reform Act.

b. *Authorize staff to release the Draft Conflict of Interest Code for public comment pending Counsel review.

The Political Reform Act requires Government Agencies to adopt a Conflict of Interest Code (COIC) unique to the agency. The first step in the process is for the CSGSA to release a draft COIC for a 45-day public comment period prior to considering the COIC for adoption. Once a COIC is adopted by the CSGSA, it will be submitted to code reviewing body for their consideration and approval. The COIC must be updated regularly, at least every other year. More information can be found at the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) website: http://www.fppc.ca.gov/learn/rules-on-conflict-of-interest-codes.html

Attachments:

- Draft CSGSA Conflict of Interest Code

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE FOR THE
CORNING SUB-BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

The Political Reform Act (Government Code Section 81000, et. seq.) requires state and local government agencies to adopt and promulgate conflict of interest codes. The Fair Political Practices Commission has adopted a regulation (2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730) that contains the terms of a standard conflict of interest code, which can be incorporated by reference in an Authority's code. After public notice and hearing, the standard code may be amended by the Fair Political Practices Commission to conform to amendments in the Political Reform Act. Therefore, the terms of 2 California Code of Regulations Section 18730 and any amendments to it duly adopted by the Fair Political Practices Commission are hereby incorporated by reference. This regulation and the attached Appendices, designating positions and establishing disclosure requirements, shall constitute the conflict of interest code of **Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CSGSA).**

Individuals holding designated positions shall file their statements of economic interests with the **CSGSA,** which will make the statements available for public inspection and reproduction. (Gov. Code Sec. 81008.) All statements will be retained by the Glenn County on behalf of the CSGSA.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE FOR THE
CORNING SUB-BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
APPENDIX A-Designated Positions

Position	Disclosure Category
CSGSA Committee Members	1, 2
Administrator	1, 2
Treasurer	1, 2
Internal Committee Member	1, 2
General Counsel	1, 2
Special Legal Counsel	1, 2
Consultants/New Positions	*

Note: The designated positions are filled by employees or board members of member agencies who act in a staff capacity for the CSGSA.

*Consultants/new positions shall be included in the list of designated positions and shall disclose pursuant to the broadest disclosure category in the code subject to the following limitations:

The CSGSA may determine in writing that a particular consultant or new position, although a "designated position," is hired to perform a range of duties that is limited in scope and thus is not required to comply fully with the disclosure requirements described in this section. Such determination shall include a description of the consultant's or new position's duties and, based upon that description, a statement of the extent of disclosure requirements. The CSGSA's determination is a public record and shall be retained for public inspection in the same manner and location as this conflict of interest code. (Gov. Code Section 81008)

The following positions are NOT covered by the conflict-of-interest code because they must file under Government Code Section 87200 and, therefore, are listed for informational purposes only:

- CSGSA Committee Members/Alternates

An individual holding one of the above listed positions may contact the Fair Political Practices Commission for assistance or written advice regarding their filing obligations if they believe that their position has been categorized incorrectly. The Fair Political Practices Commission makes the final determination whether a position is covered by Government Code Section 87200.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE FOR THE
CORNING SUB-BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
APPENDIX B-Disclosure Categories

1. Investments and business positions in business entities, and income, including receipt of loans, gifts, and travel payments, from sources of the type that provide services, supplies, materials, machinery, or equipment of the type utilized by the CSGSA.

2. Interests in real property located within the jurisdiction of the CSGSA, or within two miles of the jurisdictional boundaries of the CSGSA, or within two miles of any land owned or used by the CSGSA.

8. Discussion on Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee (CSGSA) Bylaws.

The CSGSA should consider developing bylaws to guide the organization and provide clarity on certain matters. The existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be referenced to provide consistency between the organizational structure documents.

The CSGSA is encouraged to hold discussion on overarching components and specific details to include in the bylaws and provide direction to staff and counsel.

Attachments:

- Example of Bylaws Table of Contents
- First Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement for the Formation of the Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FIRST AMENDMENT TO
MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR THE FORMATION OF THE CORNING SUB-BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ("MOA"), a copy of which is attached hereto as Attachment 1 and incorporated herein by this reference, by and between the County of Glenn ("County") and Glenn Colusa Irrigation District ("GCID") is hereby amended as follows:

Pursuant to Paragraph 8 of the MOA, the parties agree as follows:

> The Monroeville Water District ("MWD"), a local agency under California Water Code Section 10721(n), is hereby made a signatory to this MOA.

All other terms and conditions of the MOA shall remain in full force and effect.

In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the provisions of this amendment and the MOA, it shall be resolved such that the provisions of this amendment shall control in all respects.

COUNTY OF GLENN:

_____ Date: 7/7/2020
LEIGH McDANIEL, CHAIRMAN
GLENN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GLENN COLUSA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

_____ Date: 5/7/2020
DONALD R. BRANSFORD, PRESIDENT
GCID BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MONROEVILLE WATER DISTRICT

_____ Date: 6-3-2020
SETH FIACK, CHAIRMAN
MWD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____ Date: 7/6/20
WILLIAM J. VANASEK
GLENN COUNTY COUNSEL

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR THE FORMATION OF THE CORNING SUB-BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

THIS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT (MOA) is made and entered into on July 6, 2017, by and between the County of Glenn ("Glenn County" herein) and the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District ("GCID" herein) each a "Party" and collectively the "Parties".

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law Senate Bills 1168 and 1319 and Assembly Bill 1739, known collectively as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 ("SGMA") codified at Water Code Section 10720 *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, SGMA went into effect on January 1, 2015; and

WHEREAS, SGMA was amended on January 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of SGMA is to create a comprehensive management system in the State of California by creating a structure to manage groundwater at the local level, while providing authority to the State to oversee and regulate, if necessary, local groundwater use; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10720.7 requires that all basins designated as high-or-medium priority basins designated in Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 be managed under a Groundwater Sustainability Plan, or coordinated Groundwater Sustainability Plans, pursuant to SGMA; and

WHEREAS, the Corning Sub-basin (Basin Number 5-21.51, DWR Bulletin 118) is located within the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin and is designated a medium-priority basin; and

WHEREAS, Water Code Section 10723.6 authorizes a combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to elect to become a Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") by using a memorandum of agreement or other agreement; and

WHEREAS, each of the Parties to this MOA is a local agency with either water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities within the Glenn County portion of the Corning Sub-basin and are qualified to become a GSA and adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan ("GSP") under SGMA; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire to collectively manage groundwater in the Corning Sub-basin within their jurisdictional boundaries and intend on working collaboratively with each other and other interested parties to develop and implement a single GSP within the Glenn County portion of the Corning Sub-basin to sustainably and cost-effectively manage groundwater in the Corning Sub-basin pursuant to the requirements of SGMA.

NOW THEREFORE, incorporating the above recitals herein and exhibits attached, it is mutually understood and agreed by the Parties as follows:

1. **PURPOSE.** This MOA is entered into by and between the Parties to facilitate a cooperative and ongoing working relationship to comply with SGMA in the Corning Sub-basin by, among other things, forming a GSA and developing and implementing a single GSP within the Glenn County portion of the Corning Sub-basin. This MOA is not intended to form a new legal entity.

2. **CORNING SUB-BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY.** The Parties hereby establish the Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("CSGSA") to manage that portion of the Corning Sub-basin within Glenn County as set forth in Exhibit A, which exhibit shall be amended to reflect any future changes to the Corning Sub-basin boundary lines as determined by the California Department of Water Resources ("DWR").

3. **GSA GOVERNING BODY.**

   There is hereby established a GSA Committee for the Glenn County portion of the Corning Sub-basin, which shall be subject to the following:

   3.1 Each Party shall appoint two representatives ("Party Representative") to participate on the GSA Committee. Each Party may appoint an alternate representative ("Alternate Representative") in case a Party Representative cannot act. At its sole discretion, a Party may replace its Party Representatives or Alternate Representative at any time by providing notice to the other Party.

   3.2 The GSA Committee may adopt resolutions, bylaws and policies to provide further details for conducting its affairs consistent with the MOA and applicable law and amend the same from time to time. Meetings of the GSA Committee shall be called, noticed and conducted subject to the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Govt. Code sections 54950 et seq.)

   3.3 A quorum to transact business shall be a simple majority of the GSA Committee. All proposed actions or resolutions must pass by a simple majority vote, provided however, actions or resolutions to adopt budgets or any type of fee/charge, or to approve the GSP, must pass by a 75 percent vote.

   3.4 The GSA Committee shall have all powers that a GSA is authorized to exercise as provided by SGMA, including developing a GSP consistent with the SGMA and DWR's regulations and imposing fees to fund GSA and GSP activities.

4. **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES.**

4.1 The Parties agree, through the GSA Committee, to jointly develop and implement a GSP for the Glenn County portions of the Corning Sub-basin in accordance with SGMA.

4.2 The Parties agree, through the GSA Committee, to work in good faith and coordinate all activities to carry out the purposes of this MOA in implementing the policies, purposes, and requirements of SGMA in the Glenn County portion of the Corning Sub-basin, including, but not limited to: continuing to meet and confer, coordinate and collaborate to discuss and develop governance, management, technical, financial, and other matters, including respective roles and responsibilities for activities such as, but not limited to, the following: modeling, metering, monitoring, hiring consultants, conducting public outreach and engagement and developing and maintaining a list of interested persons pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.4, budgeting and other tasks determined by the Parties.

4.3 The Parties shall, through the GSA Committee, coordinate with each other to cause all applicable noticing and submission of required information to DWR regarding formation of the CSGSA.

5. **EXEMPTION FROM CEQA.** The Parties recognize and agree that, pursuant to Water Code Section 10728.6 and Public Resources Code 21065, neither this MOA nor the preparation or adoption of a GSP constitutes a "project" or approval of a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or the State CEQA Guidelines, and therefore, this MOA is expressly exempt from CEQA review.

6. **LAND USE AUTHORITY**. Nothing herein shall be construed or interpreted as superseding or restricting the land use authority of the County of Glenn within the Corning Sub-basin.

7. **FUNDING.** Unless agreed to otherwise, each Party's participation in this MOA is at its sole cost and expense. Costs incurred to retain consultants to assist with development of the GSP and perform related studies as approved by the GSA Committee, and to implement the GSP, shall be shared by the Parties as agreed to by the Parties. The Parties may consider levying a charge pursuant to SGMA. There are several vehicles to capture costs for implementing SGMA pursuant to section 10730 set seq. of SGMA.

8. **ADMISSION OF NEW PARTIES**. Additional parties that meet the definition of "local agency" under California Water Code Section 10721(n) may become signatories to this MOA upon approval by the Parties and execution of an amendment to this MOA by the new party's legislative body.

9. **TERM**. This MOA shall continue and remain in effect unless and until terminated by the consent of the Parties, or as otherwise provided in this MOA or as authorized by law.

10. **TERMINATION AND WITHDRAWAL.**
Upon termination of the MOA or withdrawal of any Party from the MOA, each Party reserves the right to become its own GSA, to the extent authorized by SGMA, and to thereafter exercise the powers conferred to a GSA, within the Party's boundaries.

10.1 Termination: Either Party may terminate this MOA upon 120-days written notice. If one Party provides notice of termination, the Parties shall meet and confer during the 120-day notice period regarding: (i) whether, as a result of the termination, a coordination agreement or other arrangement is necessary to satisfy the requirements of SGMA; and (ii) any other issues and steps that are necessary to avoid triggering a probationary status determination by the State Water Board. Any resolution of issues pertaining to termination and any other GSA issues shall be undertaken in a manner that satisfies all requirements of SGMA, including any requirement to file any new GSA notices.

In the event that there are more than two Parties to this MOA, this MOA shall continue and remain in effect unless and until terminated by the unanimous written consent of the Parties, or as otherwise provided in this MOA or as authorized by law. Upon termination of this MOA, each Party agrees to pay its share of any expenses incurred or accrued in accordance with section 7 of this MOA up to the date of termination.

10.2 Withdrawal: In the event there are more than two Parties to this MOA, any Party may decide, in its sole discretion, to withdraw from this MOA by providing 120-days written notice to the other Parties. A Party that withdraws from this MOA shall remain obligated to pay its share of costs and expenses incurred or accrued under this MOA and any related cost-sharing agreement or arrangement up to the date the Party provides its notice of withdrawal as provided herein. In the event of withdrawal by one of the Parties, the Parties shall meet and confer during the 120-day notice period regarding: (i) whether the withdrawing Party wishes to seek GSA status for a portion of the Corning Sub-basin underlying the jurisdictional area or service area of the withdrawing Party; (ii) whether, as a result of the withdrawal, a coordination agreement or other arrangement with the withdrawing Party is necessary to satisfy the requirements of SGMA; and (iii) any other issues and steps that are necessary to avoid triggering probationary status of the Corning Sub-basin and State Water Board intervention. Any resolution of issues pertaining to withdrawal and any other GSA issues shall be

undertaken in a manner that satisfies all requirements of SGMA and DWR, including any requirement to file any new GSA notices.

11. **AMENDING THE MOA.** This MOA and Exhibits hereto may only be amended by a subsequent writing, approved and signed by all Parties.

12. **JURISDICTION.** This MOA shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California.

13. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This MOA constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties with respect to the subject matter of this MOA and supersedes any prior oral or written agreement, understanding, or representation relating to the subject matter of this MOA.

14. **SEVERABILITY.** If one or more of the provisions contained in this MOA are invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, the validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not be affected or impaired in any manner.

15. **INDEMNIFICATION.** Each Party shall indemnify each of the Parties and their board members, officers, employees, agents or volunteers from and against any and all liabilities arising from or in connection with any negligent act or omission or willful misconduct taken by the indemnifying Party, its board members, officers, employees, agents or volunteers, under or in connection with this MOA. This indemnification provision will continue to bind the Parties after the termination of this MOA for liabilities that arise or arose from the indemnifying Party's negligent act or omission or willful misconduct in connection with this MOA.

16. **NOTICES.** All notices and other communications given under the terms of this MOA must be in writing and served personally or by certified US mail. Any such notices shall be addressed to the Parties as set forth as follows or to such other address as the Parties may hereafter designate by written notice. The date of receipt of the notice shall be the date of actual personal service or three days after the postmark on certified mail.

Glenn County
Marcie Skelton
Agricultural Commissioner
P.O. Box 351
Willows, CA 95988

Glenn Colusa Irrigation District
Thad Bettner
General Manager
P.O. Box 150
Willows, CA 95988

17. **RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES**. The Parties shall remain at all times as to each other, wholly independent entities. No Party shall have the authority to incur any debt, obligation, or liability on behalf of another Party unless expressly provided by written

agreement of the Parties. No employee, agent, or officer of a Party shall be deemed for any purpose whatsoever to be an agent, employee or officer of another Party.

18. **NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES.** This MOA is not intended, and will not be construed, to confer a benefit or create any right on a third party or the power or right to bring an action to enforce any of its terms.

19. **WITHDRAWAL OF NOTICE TO DWR.** Upon execution of this MOA by both Parties, each Party shall formally notify DWR of its withdrawal or rescission of its previous notification to DWR regarding its intent to be a GSA in the Corning Sub-basin to allow the CSGSA to become the GSA for the Glenn County portion of the Corning Sub-basin.

20. **COUNTERPART EXECUTION.** This MOA may be executed in counterparts and each executed counterpart shall be effective as the original.

Glenn County

Keith Corum, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

Date June 27, 2017

Glenn Colusa Irrigation District

Donald R. Bransford, President
Board of Directors

Date 7/6/17

Approved as to Form:

Alicia Ekland, County Counsel
Glenn County, California

9. Discussion on CSGSA Staffing.

CSGSA member agency staff have provided in kind services to fill the role for staffing the CSGSA. Glenn County has led staffing efforts and prior grant management and GCID has contributed to the development and maintenance of the Corning Subbasin GSP website and has made their conference room available to hold meetings. With the adoption of a stable funding source and a budget for administrative services, it is recommended the CSGSA explore staffing options and confirm the desired approach to maintain staffing. The two basic options include:

1. Contracted Services (agreement for services)
    a. Staff from member agencies
    b. Contracted staff (consultant/firm)
2. Self-Employ (hire staff directly)

Additionally, direction should be given regarding consideration to reimburse staff services that were budgeted for fiscal year 2023/2024 and provided by Glenn County (general staffing) and GCID (website).

---

10. CSGSA Operations and GSP Implementation Fees

a. Discussion on Revised CSGSA Fee Policy and Variance Process.

b. *Approve Revised CSGSA Fee Policy

At the January 25, 2024 meeting, there was a lengthy discussion on potential updates to the CSGSA Fee Policy including the addition of a variance process. At the February 22, 2024 meeting, the CSGSA held additional discussion and confirmed key points to include in a draft revised policy. Staff and counsel prepared a draft revised fee policy for the CSGSA to discuss and provide additional input, which was presented at the March 28, 2024 meeting. The item was tabled and requested to bring back to a future meeting.

It is recommended the CSGSA discuss the revised fee policy, provide additional input, and consider approving the revised fee policy.

Additional updates may be provided.

Attachments:

- Draft Revised CSGSA Fee Policy

Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Fee Policy

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Introduction

The Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CSGSA) ~~is~~ developed~~ing its~~ long-term fees in 2023 to fund GSA Administration, GSP Implementation and SGMA compliance costs for the FY23-24 through FY27-28 period. The CSGSA ~~is~~ approved~~ing~~ a~~n~~ ~~new~~ Irrigated/Non-Irrigated fee structure to achieve more equity for those subject to the fee. The CSGSA ~~needs to~~ developed an associated fee policy to ensure equitable billing for services received.

Purpose

This is a policy document developed by the CSGSA to implement the ~~new~~ Irrigated/Non-Irrigated fee structure approved in 2023. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that each parcel subject to the fee is properly classified into the correct user class and charged the correct fee amount on a per acre and annual basis based on the unique user class fees. The policy recognizes that the manner in which each parcel is charged under the new fees needs to be clearly defined to ensure landowners understand the fee, to promote consistency in fee determination, and simplify any potential reclassification of parcels into the correct user class for accurate fee purposes.

Adopted Irrigated/Non-Irrigated Fees

The new 2023 CSGSA ~~proposed~~ fees include three user classes: Non-Irrigated, Irrigated-Surface Water, and Irrigated-Groundwater. Each fee has a unique per acre per year fee which reflects the respective benefit of CSGSA services. Appendix A includes the ~~proposed r~~Resolution approving the ~~new~~ CSGSA 2023 fees.

SECTION 2 – USER CLASS DEFINITIONS

The CSGSA ~~is~~ developed~~ing~~ its long-term fees in 2023 to recover adequate revenues to achieve SGMA compliance for all landowners in the service area. The three (3) distinct user classes are defined below. Initial designations include a single user classification per parcel.

Fee User Class Definitions

Non-Irrigated User Class: Includes parcels within the CSGSA service area that open space, natural habitat, vacant, dry land farmed or rangeland. Parcels included in this user class have no groundwater wells or wells used only for minimal domestic use on large parcels consisting of 5 acres or more.

Irrigated-Surface Water User Class: Includes parcels within the CSGSA service area that use surface water primarily which may include parcels within the surface water provider service area or have individual water rights or permits for surface water allocations directly from the Sacramento River, Stony Creek, or another source. Parcels that use surface water with groundwater in a supplemental fashion will be classified as irrigated-surface water users.

Irrigated-Groundwater User Class: Includes parcels within the CSGSA service area that use groundwater primarily and do not have access to or the right to use surface water supplies. These parcels will typically have a well(s) on the parcel, or a nearby parcel, serving as the primary source of water supply. Urban areas or residential areas that rely on groundwater for domestic supply are included in this category.

Other Definitions

County: Glenn County located in northern California.

CSGSA: The Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

GIS: Geographic Information Systems

Landowner: The landowner of record for a parcel subject to the CSGSA fee based on County assessor parcel data.

Parcel address: The address of the property subject to the CSGSA fee based on County assessor parcel data.

Parcel Acreage: The total acreage of the parcel subject to the CSGSA fee based on County assessor parcel data or GIS calculations data. If there is more than one acreage figure for a parcel the CSGSA will generally base fees on the lower acreage figure or the acreage figure that most accurately represents the parcel acreage. Multiple sources of data will be referenced in order to verify use of accurate acreage data for assessing CSGSA fees.

Parcel Acreage For Boundary Parcels: For parcels with a portion of the land area within the CSGSA service area boundary, the net acreage of the parcel subject to the CSGSA fee located within the CSGSA boundary will be used for fee assessment purposes based on GIS calculations data.

SECTION 3 – CURRENT USER CLASSIFICATIONS

This section allows landowners subject to the fee to understand how their parcel(s) are classified under the ~~new~~ CSGSA Irrigated/Non-Irrigated 2023 fee structure with three (3) user classes. The CSGSA will make parcel level fee data easily available to landowners subject to the fee. CSGSA Service Area Boundary Appendix B includes the CSGSA service area boundary. Parcels with a portion of their acreage within the CSGSA boundary will only be assessed fees based on their acreage within the CSGSA service area boundary. Parcels are assigned a single user classification during the initial designation process.

CSGSA Service Area Parcel User Class Delineations Appendix B includes a CSGSA service area parcel map indicating user class delineations based on the approved 2023 fees and associated definitions included in this ~~draft~~ policy document. Landowners may identify parcel classification by viewing this map which categorizes parcels based on the three (3) user classes included in the approved fees for the fee assessment process. The parcel map delineations will be updated periodically based on changes in land use necessitating a change or to address any errors in initial classification. ~~As parcel reclassifications are approved the user class map will be updated accordingly.~~

SECTION 4 – USER CLASSIFICATION CHANGE REQUEST

Landowners may request a change in user classification (and associated fee assessment) (User Classification Change Request) to correct an error in the initial classification based on implementation of the ~~new~~ CSGSA Irrigated/Non-Irrigated fee structure approved in 2023 (see Appendix A). The purpose of this policy is to ensure that each parcel subject to the fee is properly classified into the correct user class and charged the correct fee amount on a per acre and annual basis based on the unique user class fees. The CSGSA recognizes category classification may need to be reviewed in limited circumstances.

Basis For User Classification Changes

Landowners may request reclassification of their parcel(s) under the ~~new~~ 2023 CSGSA fees based on the following circumstances: (1) parcel is classified improperly (not in correct user class); (2) parcel fee assessment amount is incorrect (based on acreage inaccuracy or incorrect user classification); or (3) parcel land use has changed requiring the parcel to be reclassified into a different user class. To request a User Classification Change, the landowner must fill out a User Classification Change Request form.

User Classification Change Request

The CSGSA may consider User Classification Change Requests after a landowner has submitted the respective form requesting a specific change. The CSGSA has the option of providing both electronic and manual forms. The information requested will~~ould~~ include, at a minimum, landowner name, parcel address, parcel user classification, and parcel acreage. ~~A sample of potential draft manual and electronic forms are included in Appendix C.~~ A User Classification Change Request may be submitted at any time. ~~must be submitted not more than 45 days from the County's issuance of the tax bills which includes the CSGSA property related fee.~~ Approved changes will apply to the current fiscal year and future years. The CSGSA staff will review, and process User Classification Change Request within 15 business days of receiving the Request form. All Request forms received will be stored electronically for CSGSA records. Request forms may be submitted electronically or via handwritten form. Staff will review the Request form and the existing information related to the parcel at issue to determine whether reclassification is appropriate based on the definitions included in this Policy. Approved Change Requests will be signed and dated by authorized staff, provided to the requesting party, and kept in CSGSA records. If Change Requests are not approved, staff will provide the denial and indicate the reason denying the reclassification request to the requesting party. There are no Application fees levied by the CSGSA in processing these Applications.

SECTION 5 – MULTIPLE USE VARIANCE PROCESS

Landowners may request a multiple use variance in which a parcel may be classified in more than one user classification. To request a multiple use variance, a landowner must complete a Multiple Use Variance Request form.

The CSGSA may consider a variance on a case-by-case basis after a landowner has submitted the respective form provided by the CSGSA. The CSGSA has the option of providing both electronic and manual forms. The information requested will include, at a minimum, landowner name, parcel address, parcel user classifications, and parcel acreage per user classification. The landowner is responsible for providing sufficient information that could support the delineation of parcels into the appropriate user classifications based on the current definitions.

The Multiple Use Variance Form may be submitted at any time, and any approved changes will take effect the following fiscal year. The CSGSA staff will review, and process Multiple Use Variance Request within 30 business days of receiving the Request form. All Request forms received will be stored electronically for CSGSA records. Request forms may be submitted electronically or via handwritten form. Staff will review the Request form and the existing information related to the parcel at issue to determine whether the variance is appropriate based on the definitions included in this Policy.

Commented [LH1]: Discussion on requirement for non-irrigated habitat (or similar) portions to be designated habitat/wetlands, or protected in such a way that would not allow the parcel owner to change the use to irrigated cropland.

Approved Variance Requests will be signed and dated by authorized staff, provided to the requesting party, and kept in CSGSA records. If Variance Requests are not approved, staff will provide the denial and indicate the reason denying the reclassification request to the requesting party. Any denial may be appealed to the CSGSA Board using the appeals process outlined below.

An application fee of not less than $200 will be levied by the CSGSA to process Multiple Use Variance Request Applications. Should the processing of the application take more than two hours of staff time, the applicant will be responsible for costs for additional time and materials to continue processing the variance request. Approved changes will not be effective until all fees have been paid in full.

SECTION 6~~5~~ – ~~USER CLASSIFICATION~~ APPEALS PROCESS

Landowners who request a parcel user class reclassification under Section 4 or a multiple use variance under Section 5 of this policy who are denied the request, may appeal the decision to the CSGSA Committee. The Appeal must be submitted to the CSGSA Committee within 30 days of the date the denial by staff was issued. The Appeal must be written and include specific reasons the denial was improper based on the Classification Policy definitions and any supporting facts in support thereof. The CSGSA Committee will consider the appeal at the first Committee meeting that occurs at least 15 days after receiving the Appeal. If the staff determination is not supported by evidence, the CSGSA Committee may grant the Appeal and approve the User Classification Change Request or Multiple User Variance Request as applicable; if the staff determination is supported and consistent with the Policy, the CSGSA Committee shall deny the Appeal.

11. Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

a. Receive presentation on the Corning Subbasin Water Year 2023 Annual Report.

b. Receive update on Corning Subbasin GSP Implementation activities.

c. *Discussion and consider approval of Notice of Exemption for monitoring network enhancements and data gap construction activities for the Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Projects and Management Actions Implementation Project.

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) are leading the Tehama County GSP Implementation Project, which includes the Glenn County portion of the Corning Subbasin. The following tasks are included in the project:

- Task 1. Grant Management and Administration
- Task 2. GSP Implementation, Outreach, and Compliance Activities
- Task 3. Ongoing Monitoring, Data Gaps, and Enhancements
- Task 4. Projects and Management Actions- Recharge Focused
- Task 5. Projects and Management Actions- Regional Conjunctive Use
- Task 6. General Consulting Services on an As Needed

Task 2 of the grant includes the development and submittal of the required Annual Report. LSCE will give a presentation on the Corning Subbasin Water Year 2023 Annual Report results. The report was submitted by the April 1, 2024 deadline and can be accessed on the SGMA Portal at: https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/gspar/preview/370.

Additionally, the LSCE team has been making great strides in progress on the remaining grant tasks and will present updates on these activities.

Of particular importance, the Revised Corning Subbasin GSP was adopted by the CSGSA on April 11, 2024 and the Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District GSA on April 15, 0224. The Revised GSP was submitted to DWR on April 22, 2024. Following DWR's completeness review, the Revised GSP will be posted to the SGMA Portal.

LSCE has also prepared a Notice of Exemption relating to Task 3 which is attached for review and consideration of approval.

Additional updates may be provided on activities relating to the Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Implementation or Revisions.

Attachments:

- Corning Subbasin Water Year 2023 Annual Report Presentation
- GSP Implementation Update Status Presentation
- Notice of Exemption for monitoring network enhancements and data gap construction activities for the Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Projects and Management Actions Implementation Project

Corning Sub-Basin WY 2023 Annual Report Update

Eddy Teasdale, PG, CHG (LSCE) &
Jeff Davids, PhD, PE (DE)

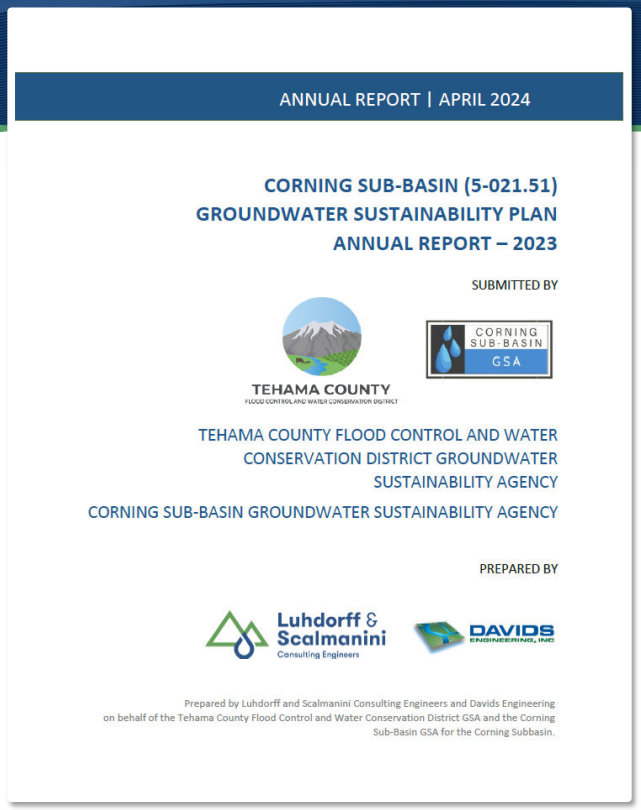
April 22, 2024

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers

DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Where are We Headed Today?

- Overview
- Groundwater Conditions
- Water Supply and Water Use
- Progress Towards GSP Implementation


ANNUAL REPORT | APRIL 2024

CORNING SUB-BASIN (5-021.51)
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN
ANNUAL REPORT – 2023

SUBMITTED BY

TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CORNING SUB-BASIN GSA

TEHAMA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

CORNING SUB-BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

PREPARED BY

Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers

DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Prepared by Luhdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers and Davids Engineering on behalf of the Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District GSA and the Corning Sub-Basin GSA for the Corning Subbasin.

LSCE

DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

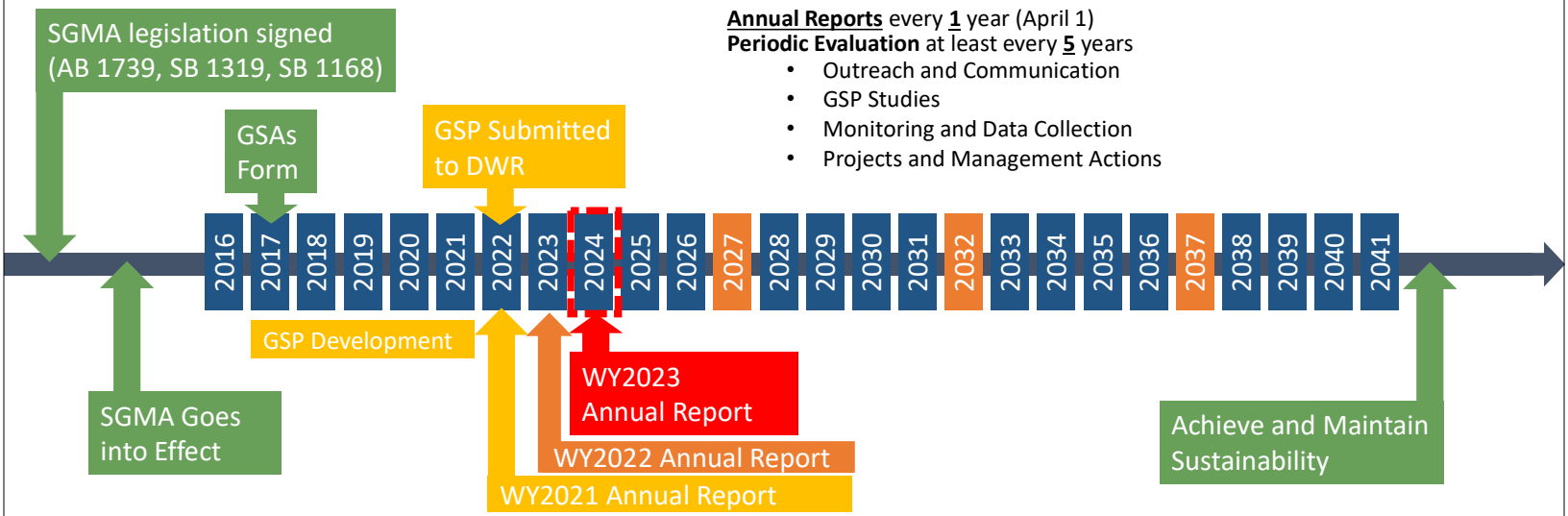
Slide 2

Annual Report Requirements

- Updates on Groundwater Conditions
  - Groundwater Elevation (Hydrographs, Contour Maps)
  - Change in Groundwater Storage
- Water Supply and Water Use
  - Groundwater Extraction
  - Surface Water Supplies
  - Total Water Use
- Progress Toward Plan Implementation
  (e.g., implementation of planned projects and management actions)

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Overview – SGMA Implementation Timeline

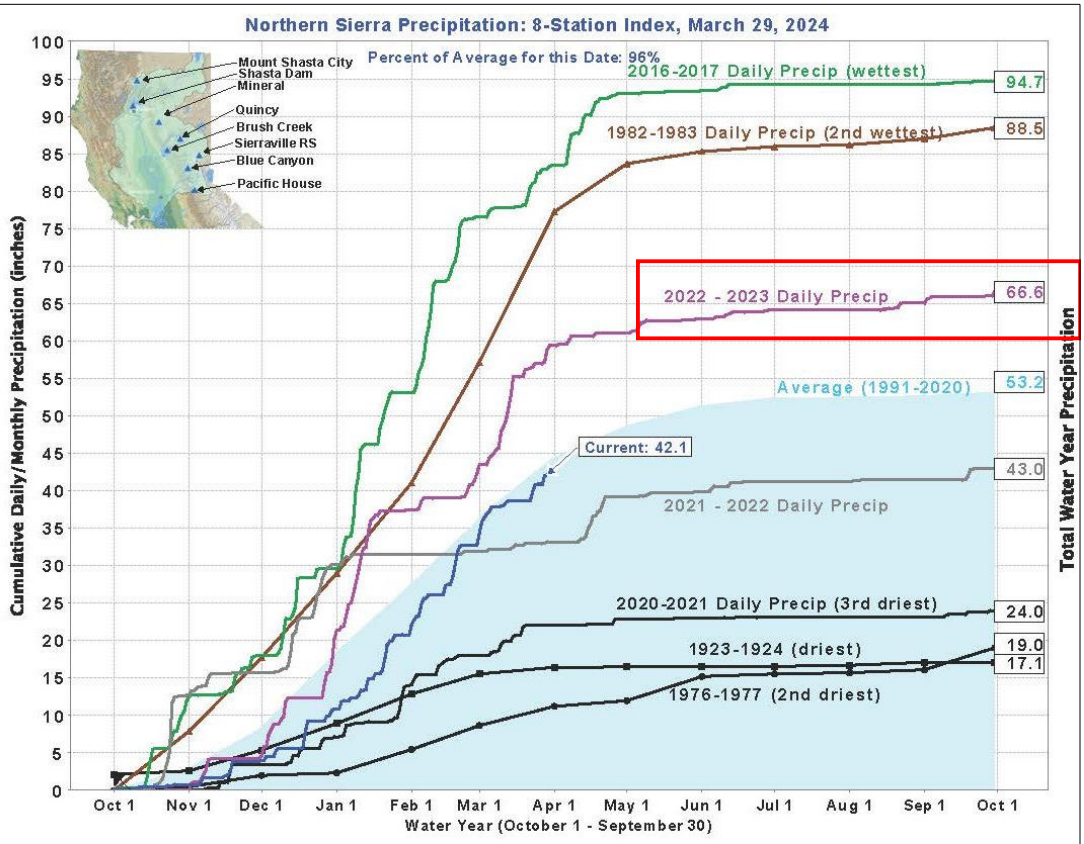


Annual Reports every **1** year (April 1)
Periodic Evaluation at least every **5** years
- Outreach and Communication
- GSP Studies
- Monitoring and Data Collection
- Projects and Management Actions

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

2023 WY Conditions

- Classified as a “Wet Year”
  - Above average precipitation (CDEC, DWR graph)
  - WY 2023 Cumulative Precipitation 66.6 inches
  - WY 2022 Cumulative Precipitation 43.0 inches
  - Avg Cumulative Precipitation 53.2 inches



LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions

- Groundwater Elevations
  - 54 Representative Monitoring Point Wells
- Groundwater Storage
  - Utilizing RMP wells
- Subsidence
  - InSAR
- Interconnected Surface Water
  - 7 Shallow Wells

Lowering Groundwater Levels

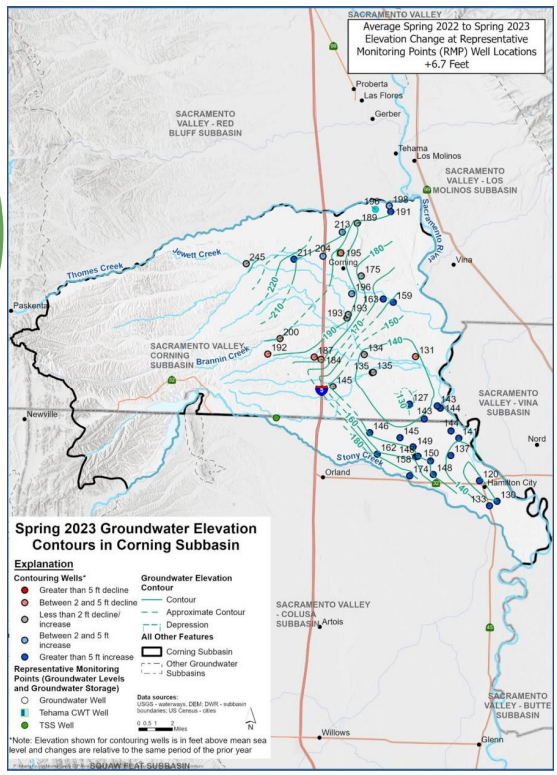
Surface Water Depletion

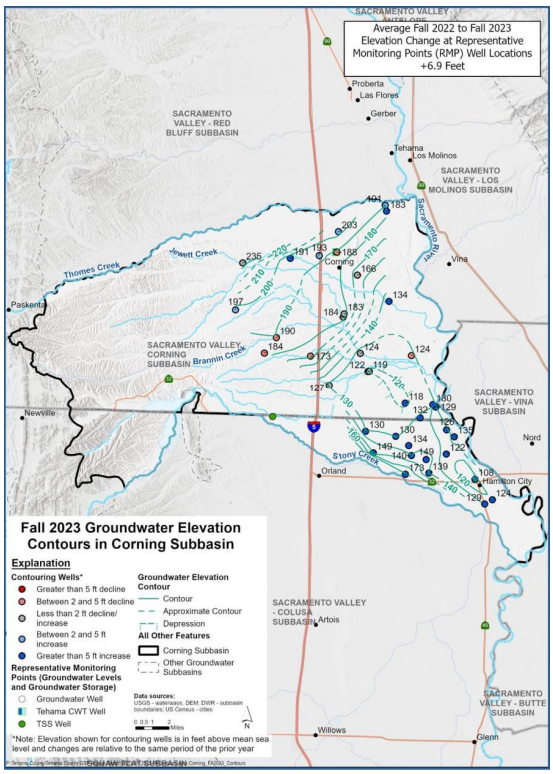
Reduction of Storage

Land Subsidence

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



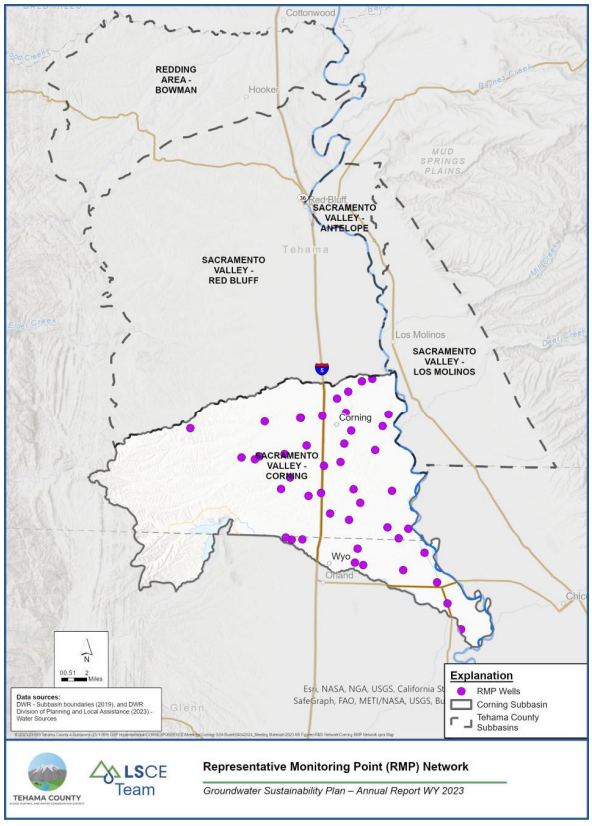


LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations

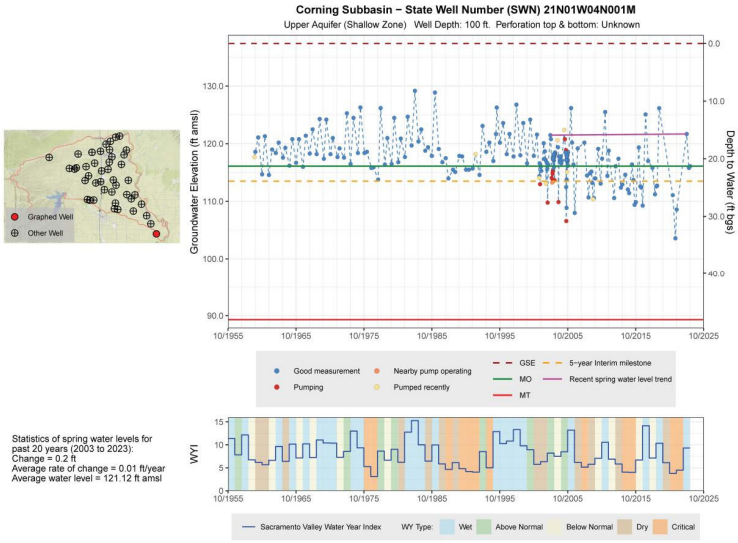
Groundwater Elevations

- 54 Representative Monitoring Point (RMP) Wells
- All wells below the MO in Fall 2023.
- All but two groundwater measurements above the MT in 2023.
- Undesirable results occur when 20% of the RMP wells fall below the MT in two consecutive years.

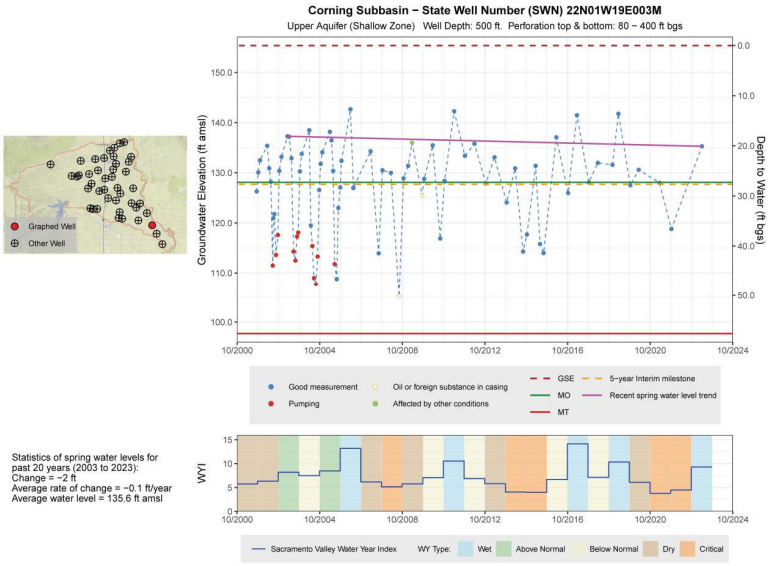


LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



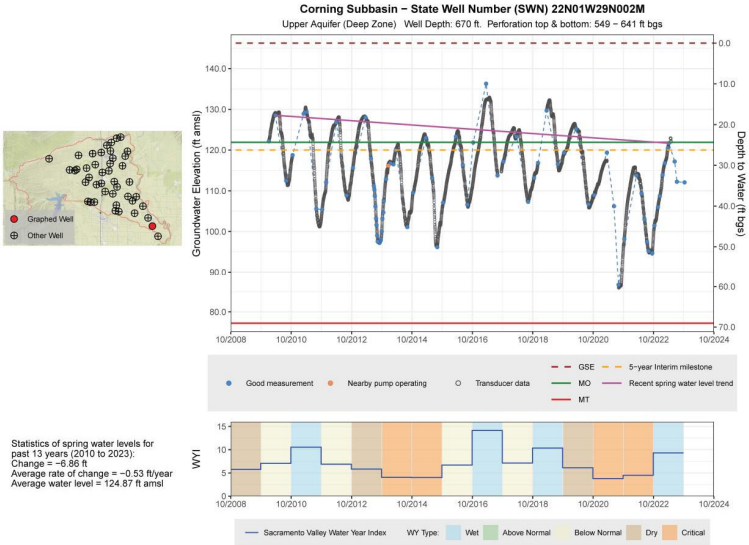
Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = 0.2 ft
Average rate of change = 0.01 ft/year
Average water level = 121.12 ft amsl



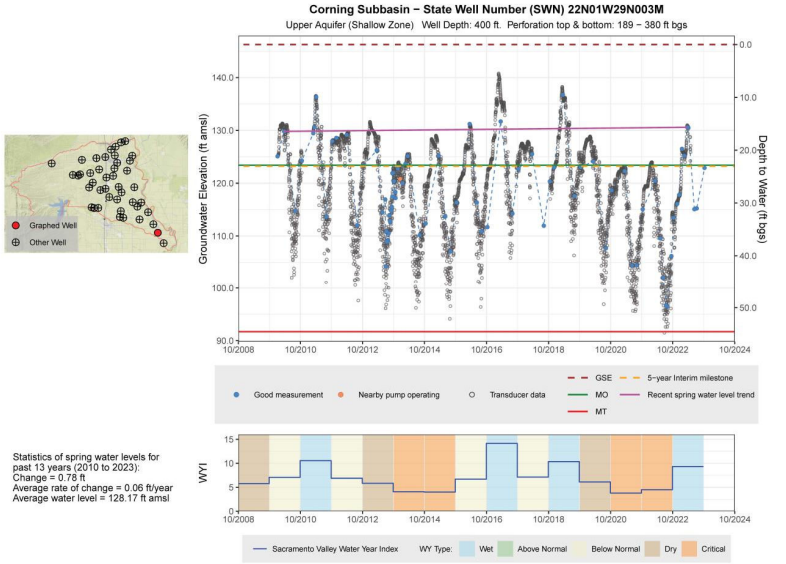
Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −2 ft
Average rate of change = −0.1 ft/year
Average water level = 135.6 ft amsl

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



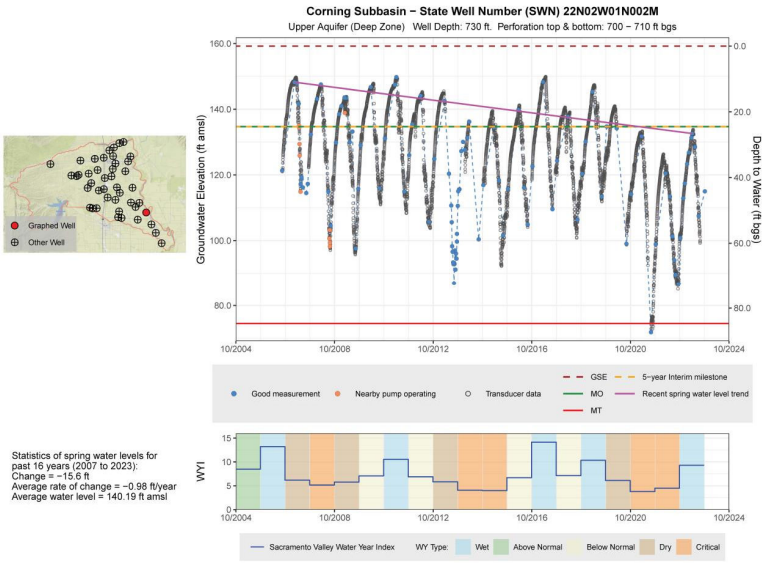
Statistics of spring water levels for past 13 years (2010 to 2023):
Change = −6.86 ft
Average rate of change = −0.53 ft/year
Average water level = 124.87 ft amsl



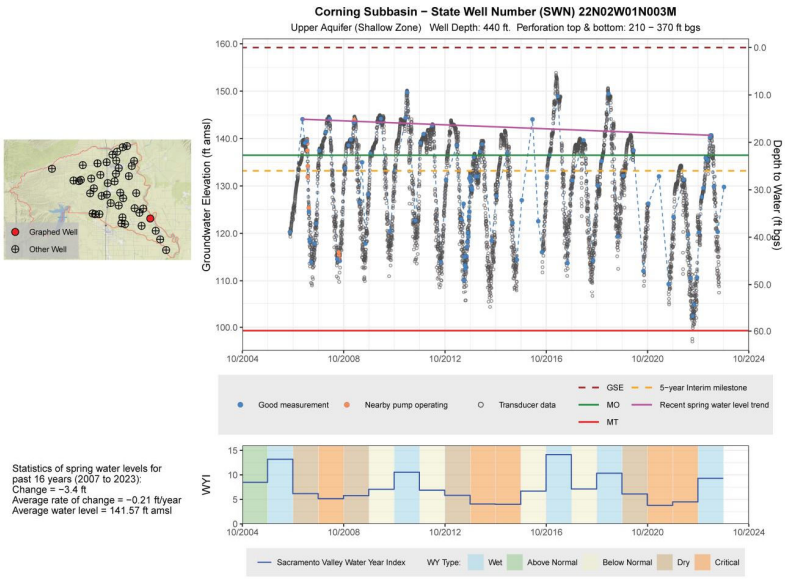
Statistics of spring water levels for past 13 years (2010 to 2023):
Change = 0.78 ft
Average rate of change = 0.06 ft/year
Average water level = 128.17 ft amsl

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations

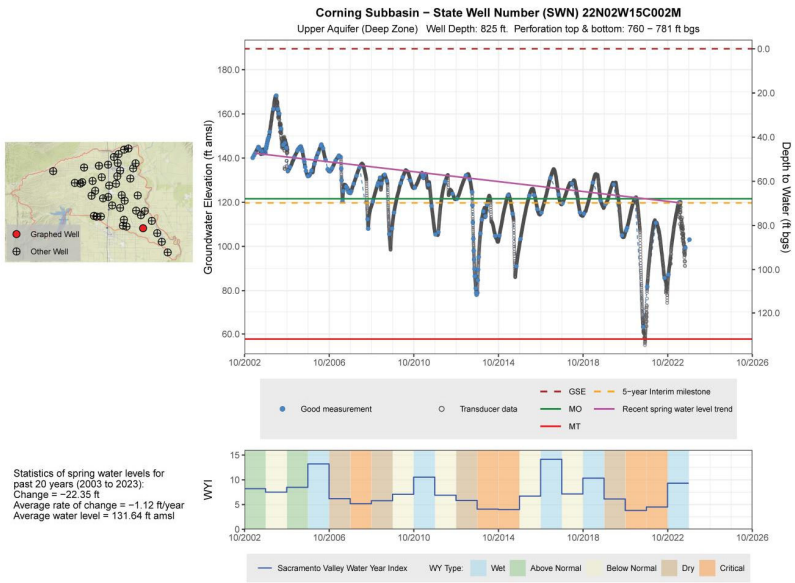


Statistics of spring water levels for past 16 years (2007 to 2023):
Change = −15.6 ft
Average rate of change = −0.98 ft/year
Average water level = 140.19 ft amsl

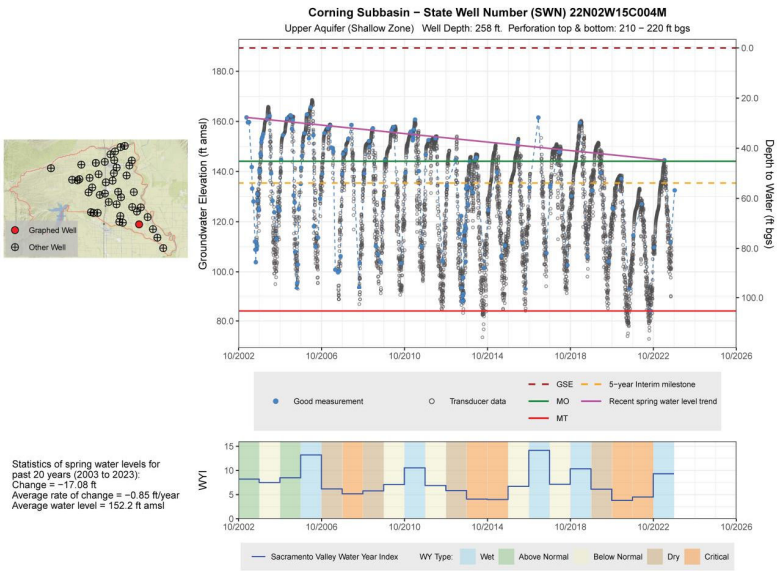


Statistics of spring water levels for past 16 years (2007 to 2023):
Change = −3.4 ft
Average rate of change = −0.21 ft/year
Average water level = 141.57 ft amsl

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations

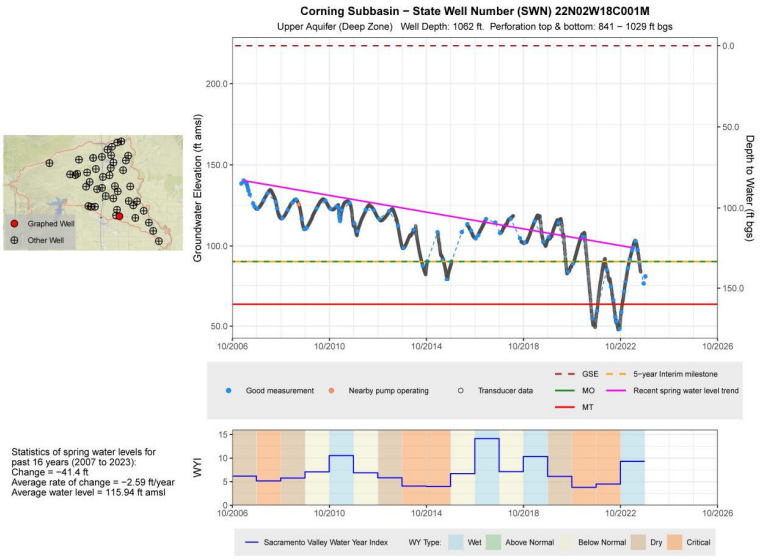


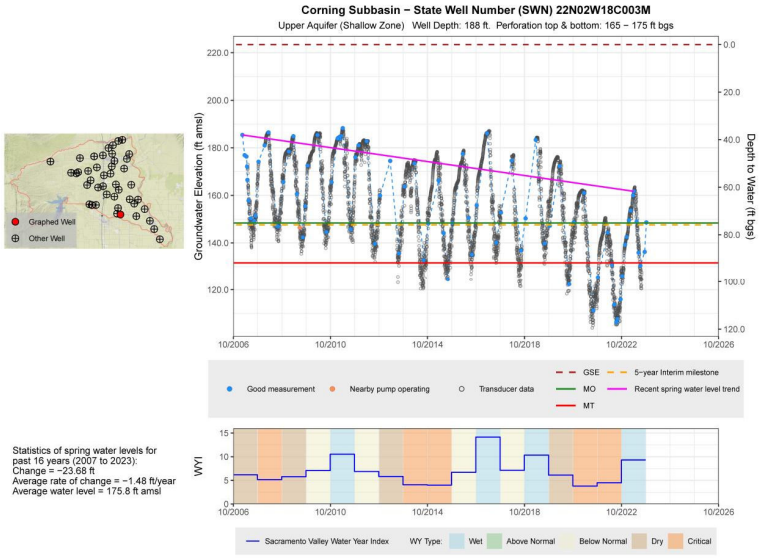
Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −22.35 ft
Average rate of change = −1.12 ft/year
Average water level = 131.64 ft amsl



Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −17.08 ft
Average rate of change = −0.85 ft/year
Average water level = 152.2 ft amsl

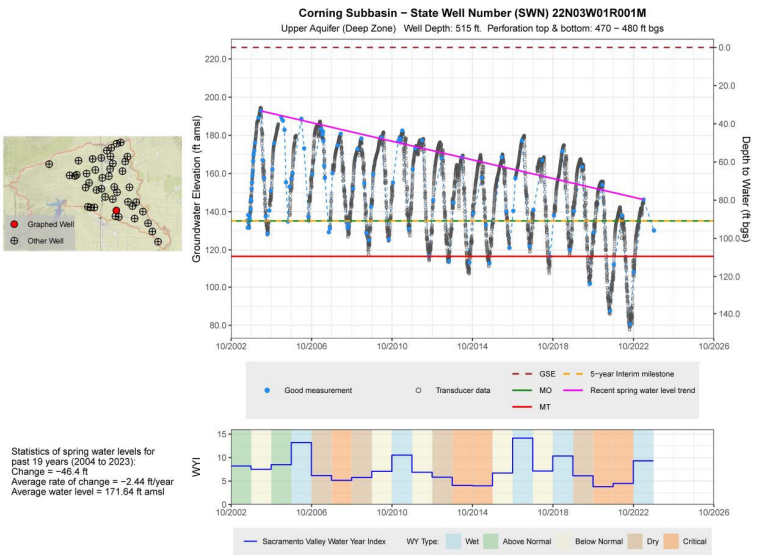
Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations

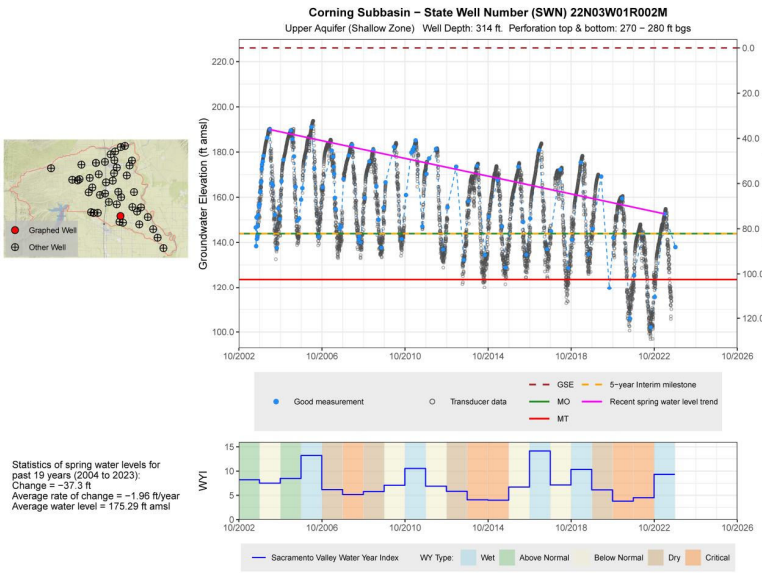




LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

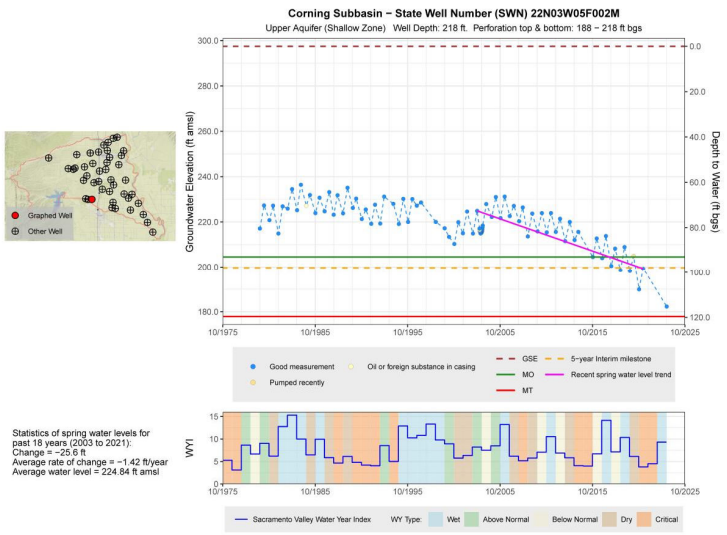
Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



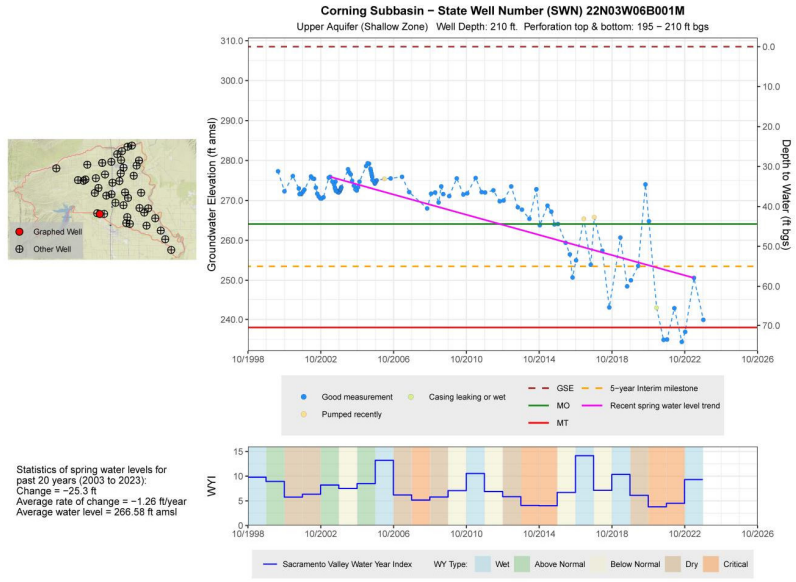


LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



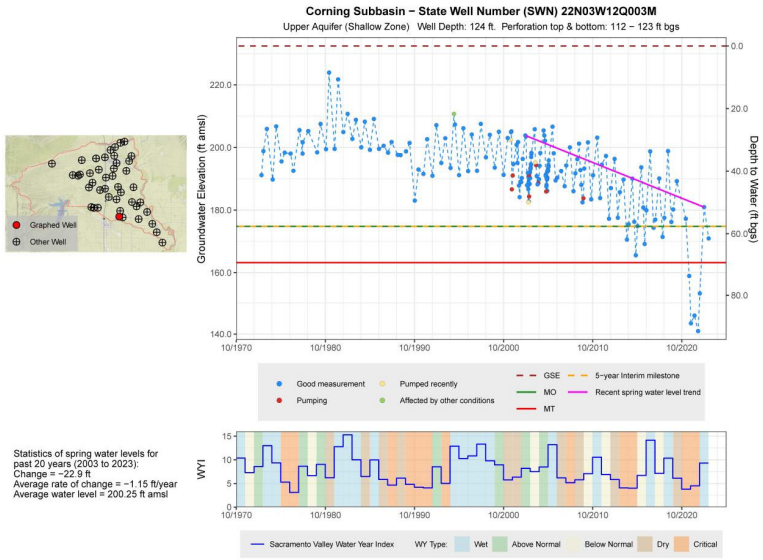
Statistics of spring water levels for past 18 years (2003 to 2021):
Change = −25.6 ft
Average rate of change = −1.42 ft/year
Average water level = 224.84 ft amsl



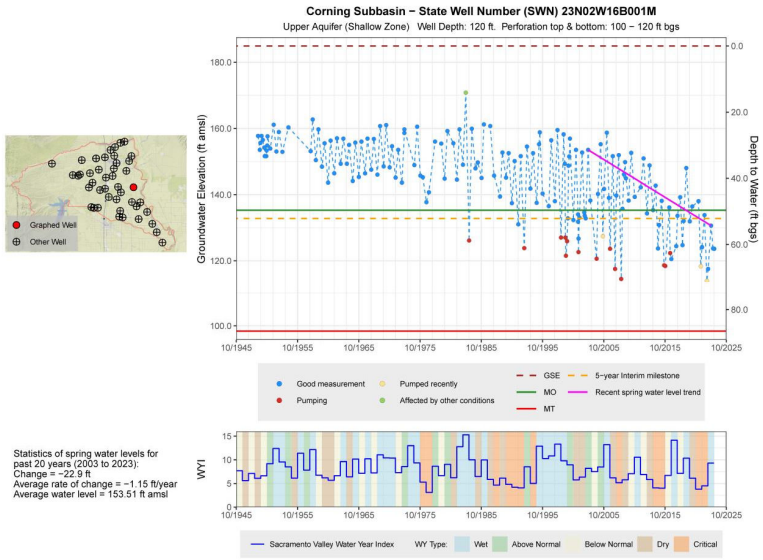
Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −25.3 ft
Average rate of change = −1.26 ft/year
Average water level = 266.58 ft amsl

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



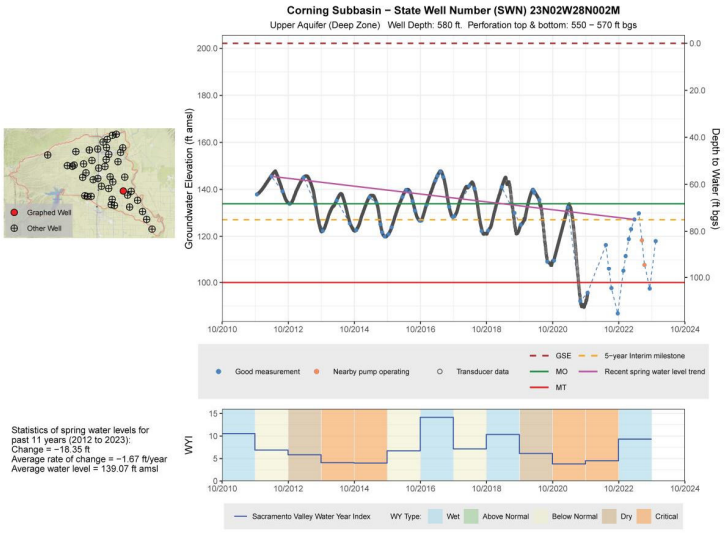
Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −22.9 ft
Average rate of change = −1.15 ft/year
Average water level = 200.25 ft amsl

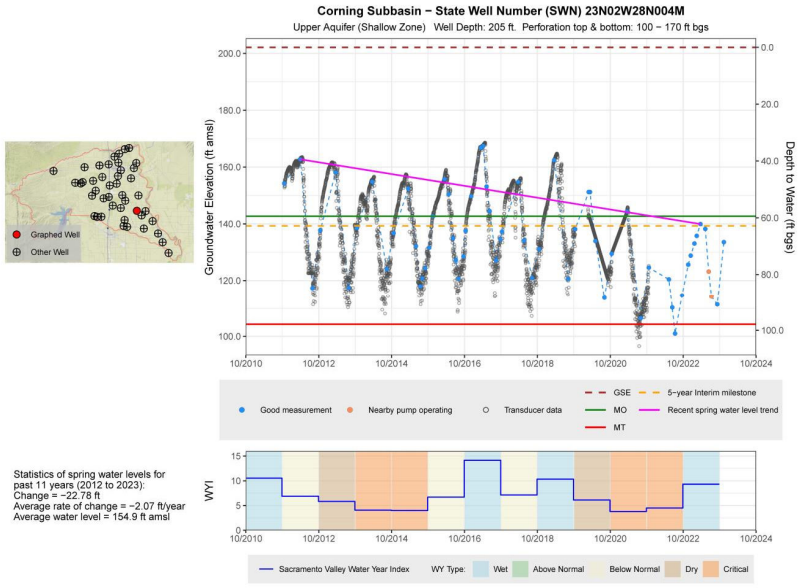


Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −22.9 ft
Average rate of change = −1.15 ft/year
Average water level = 153.51 ft amsl

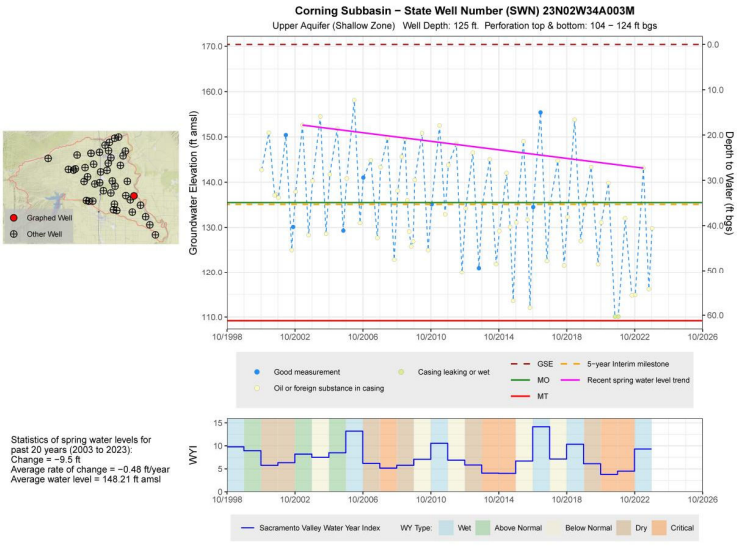
LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

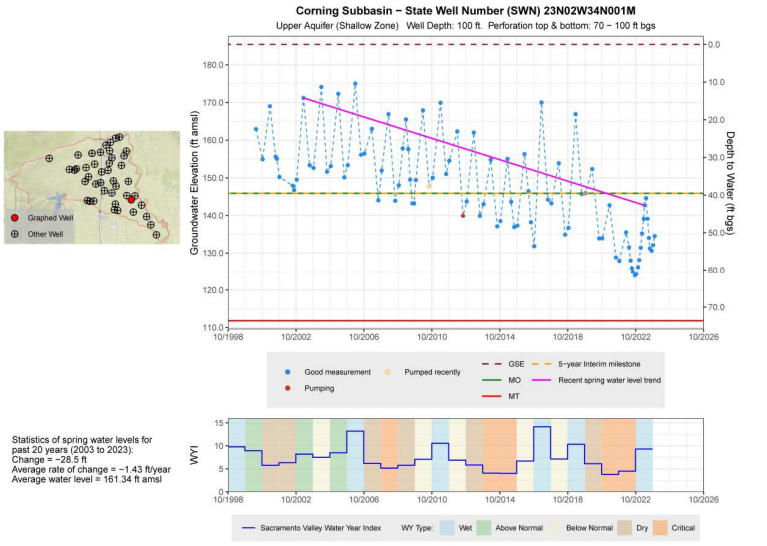
Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



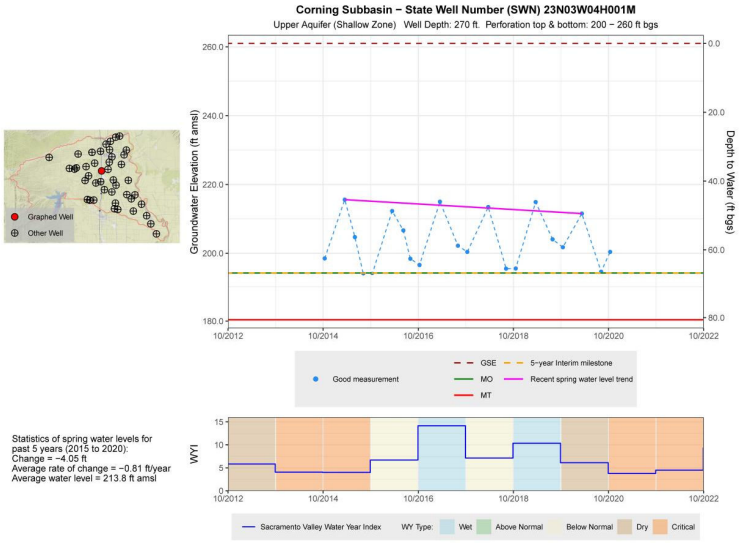


Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations

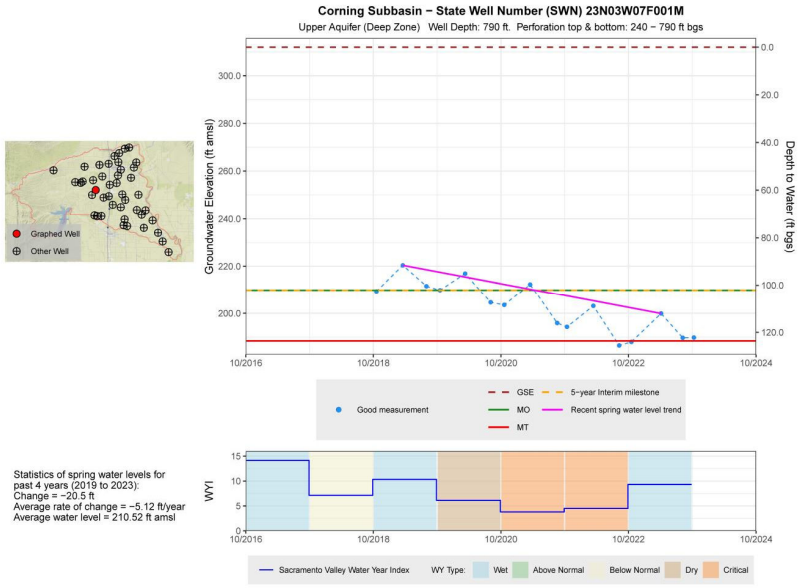




Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



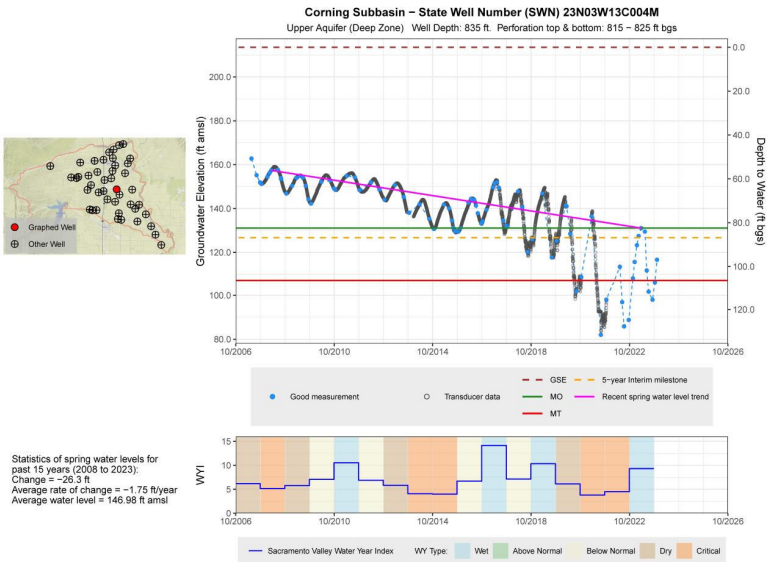
Statistics of spring water levels for past 5 years (2015 to 2020):
Change = −4.05 ft
Average rate of change = −0.81 ft/year
Average water level = 213.8 ft amsl



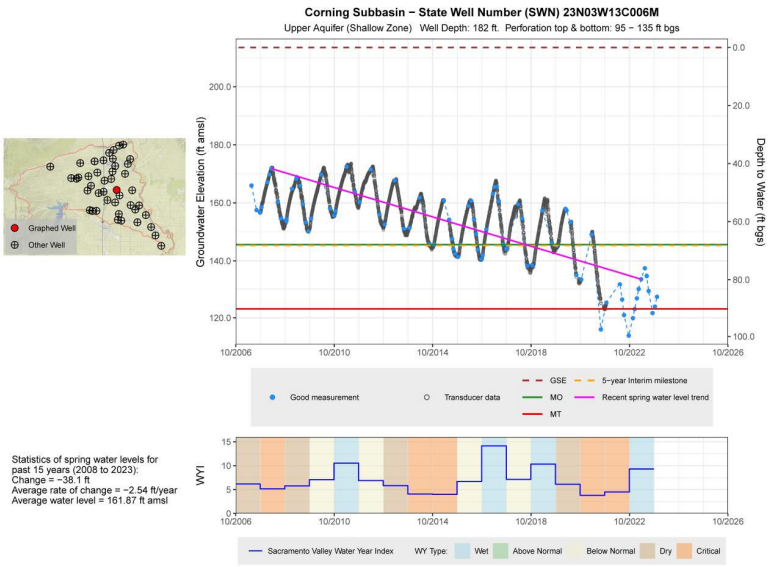
Statistics of spring water levels for past 4 years (2019 to 2023):
Change = −20.5 ft
Average rate of change = −5.12 ft/year
Average water level = 210.52 ft amsl

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



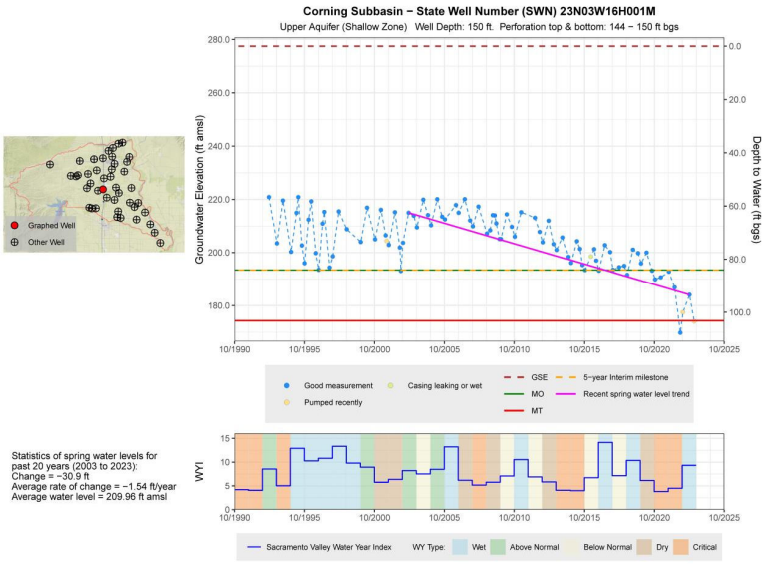
Statistics of spring water levels for past 15 years (2008 to 2023):
Change = −26.3 ft
Average rate of change = −1.75 ft/year
Average water level = 146.98 ft amsl



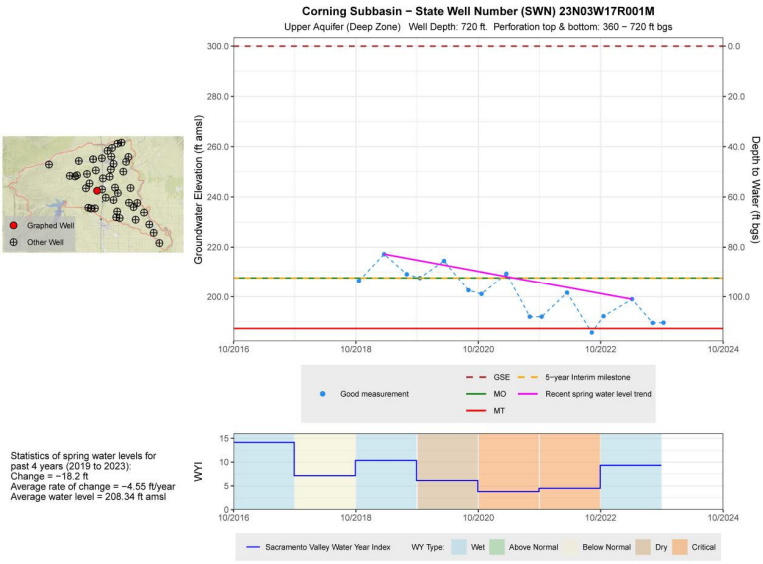
Statistics of spring water levels for past 15 years (2008 to 2023):
Change = −38.1 ft
Average rate of change = −2.54 ft/year
Average water level = 161.87 ft amsl

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



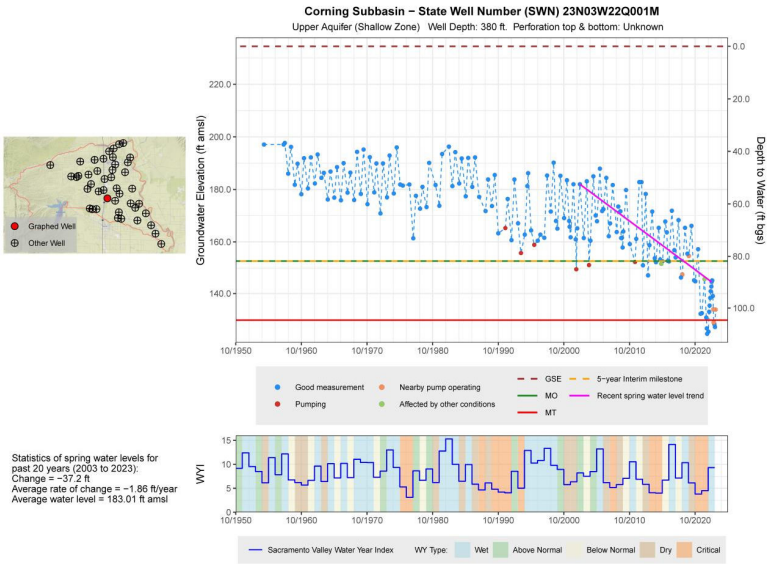
Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −30.9 ft
Average rate of change = −1.54 ft/year
Average water level = 209.96 ft amsl



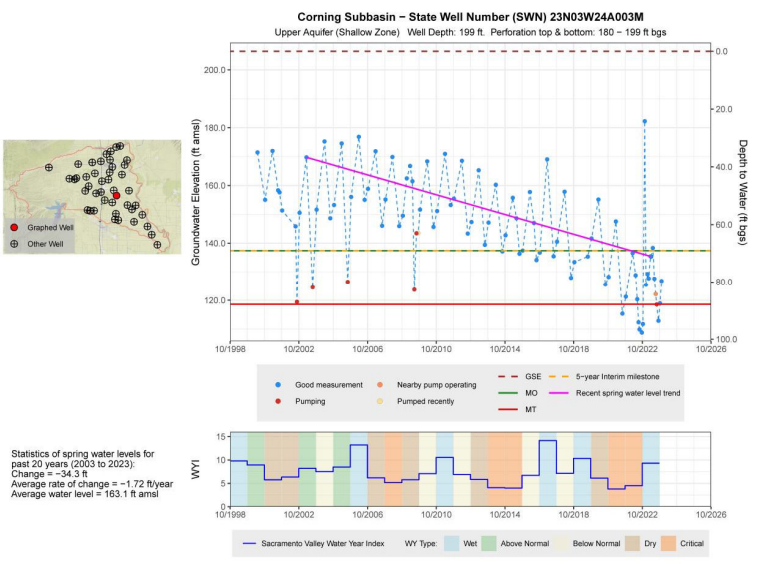
Statistics of spring water levels for past 4 years (2019 to 2023):
Change = −18.2 ft
Average rate of change = −4.55 ft/year
Average water level = 208.34 ft amsl

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



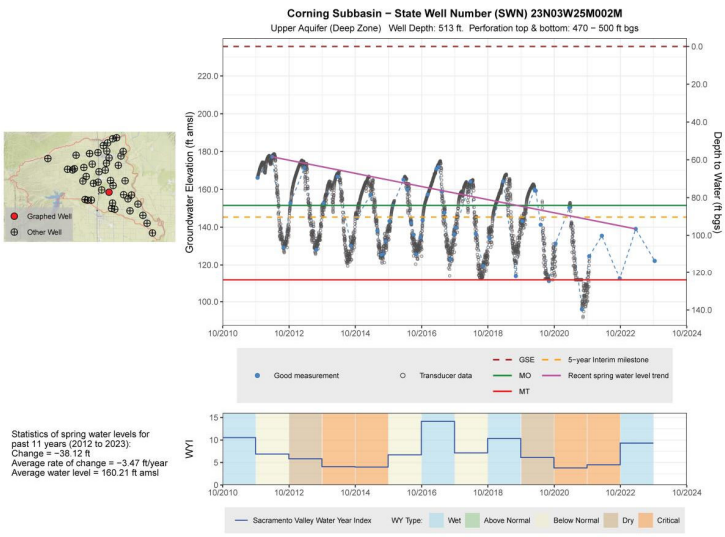
Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −37.2 ft
Average rate of change = −1.86 ft/year
Average water level = 183.01 ft amsl

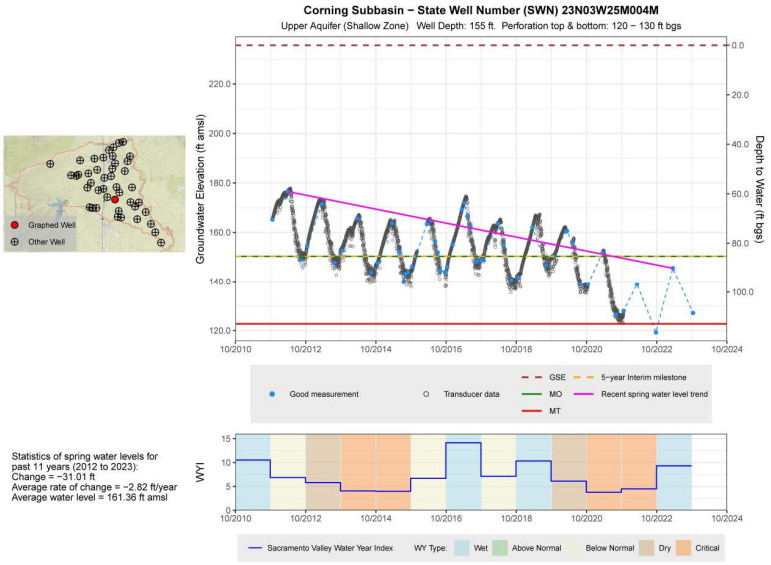


Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −34.3 ft
Average rate of change = −1.72 ft/year
Average water level = 163.1 ft amsl

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations

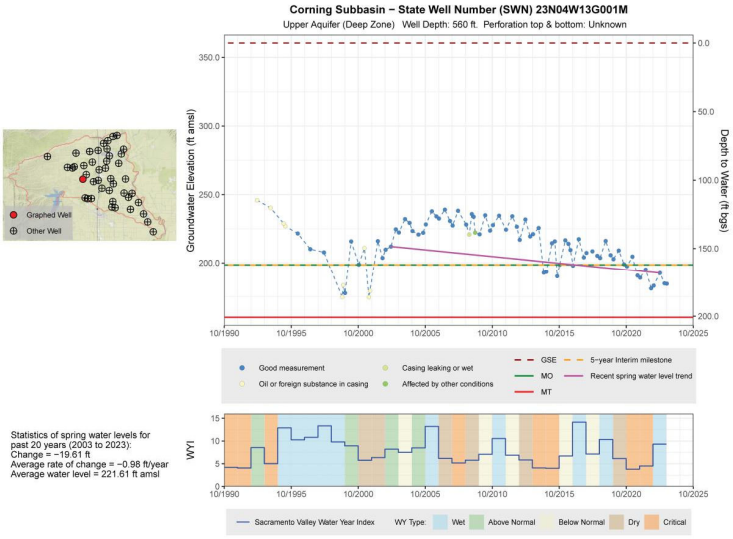


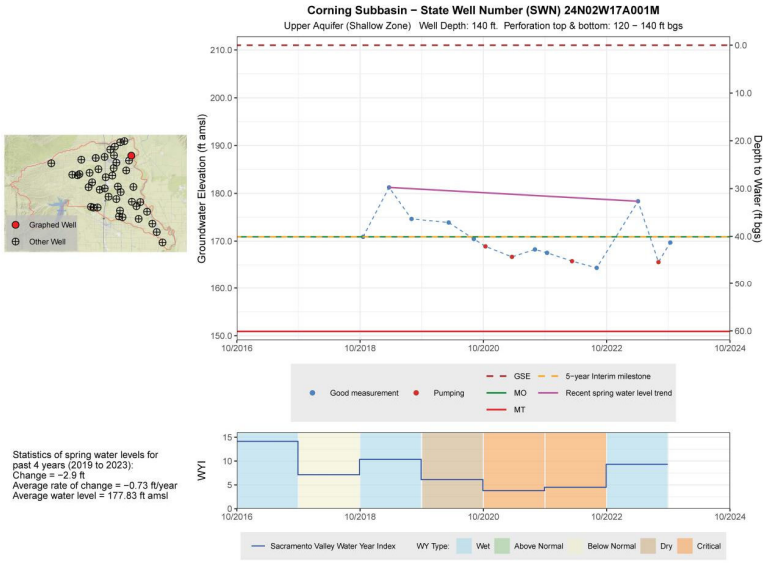


LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Slide 23

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations

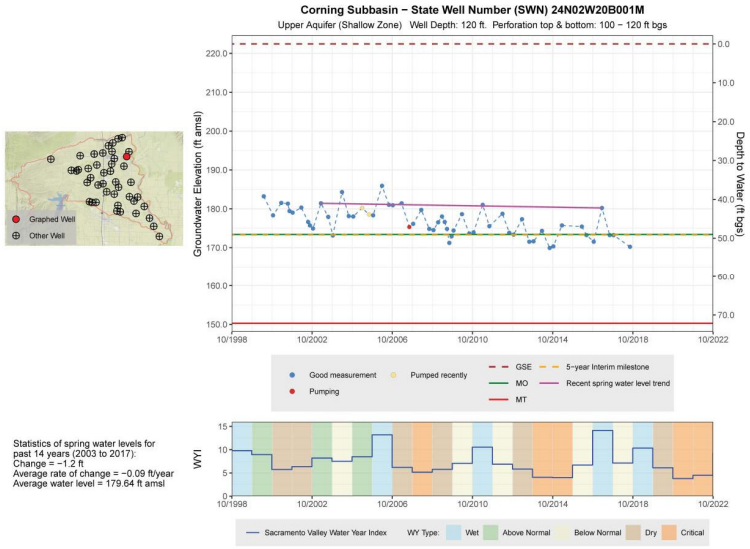




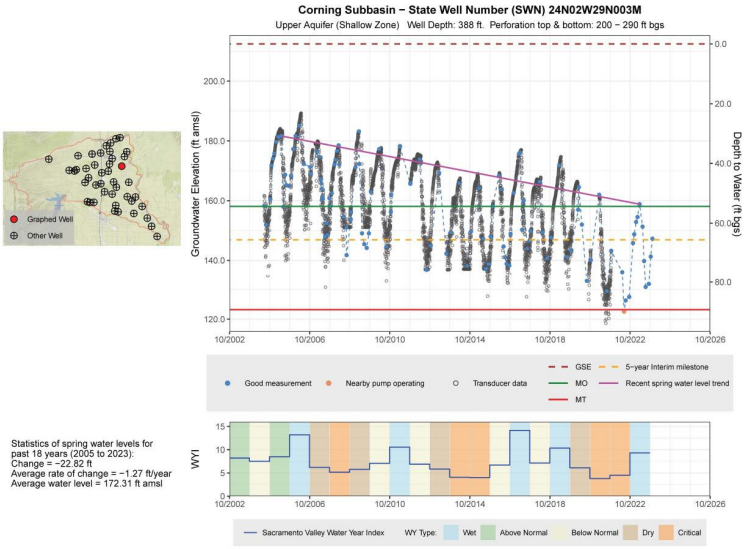
LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Slide 24

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



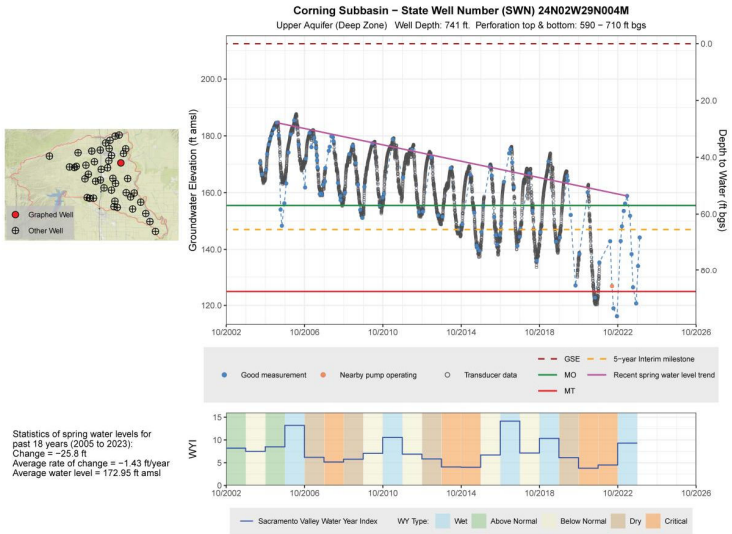
Statistics of spring water levels for past 14 years (2003 to 2017):
Change = −1.2 ft
Average rate of change = −0.09 ft/year
Average water level = 179.64 ft amsl



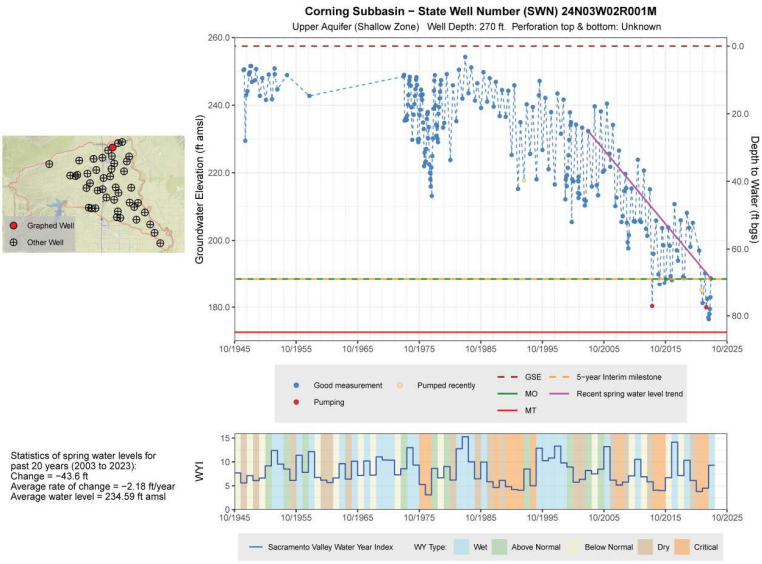
Statistics of spring water levels for past 18 years (2005 to 2023):
Change = −22.82 ft
Average rate of change = −1.27 ft/year
Average water level = 172.31 ft amsl

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



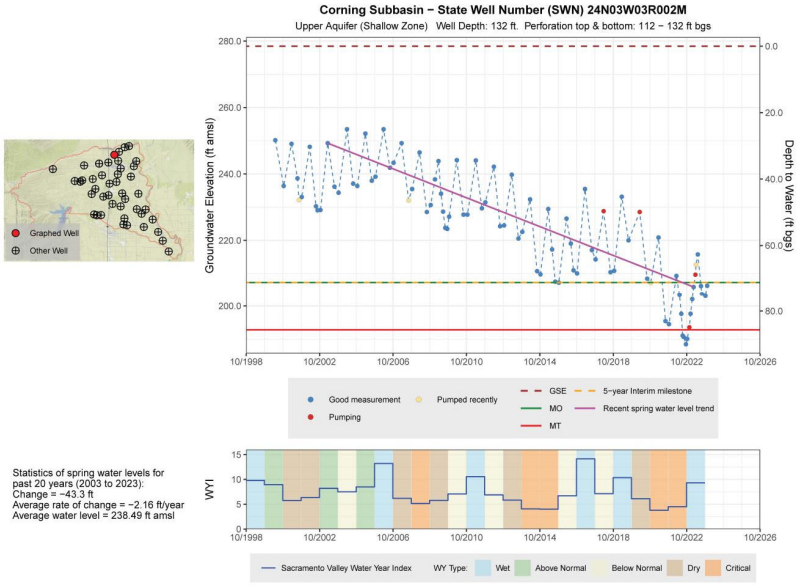
Statistics of spring water levels for past 18 years (2005 to 2023):
Change = −25.8 ft
Average rate of change = −1.43 ft/year
Average water level = 172.95 ft amsl



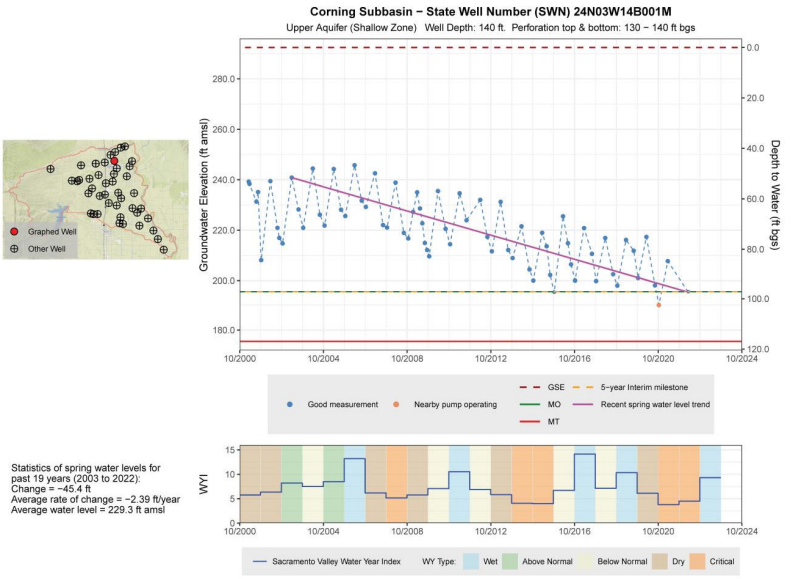
Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −43.6 ft
Average rate of change = −2.18 ft/year
Average water level = 234.59 ft amsl

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



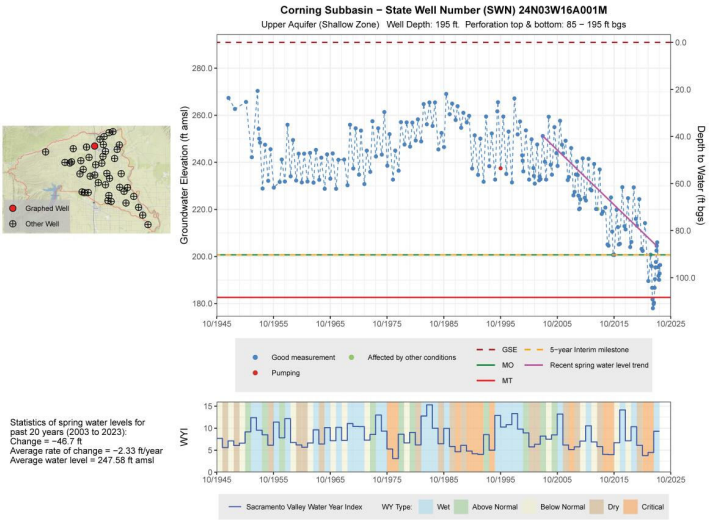
Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −43.3 ft
Average rate of change = −2.16 ft/year
Average water level = 238.49 ft amsl



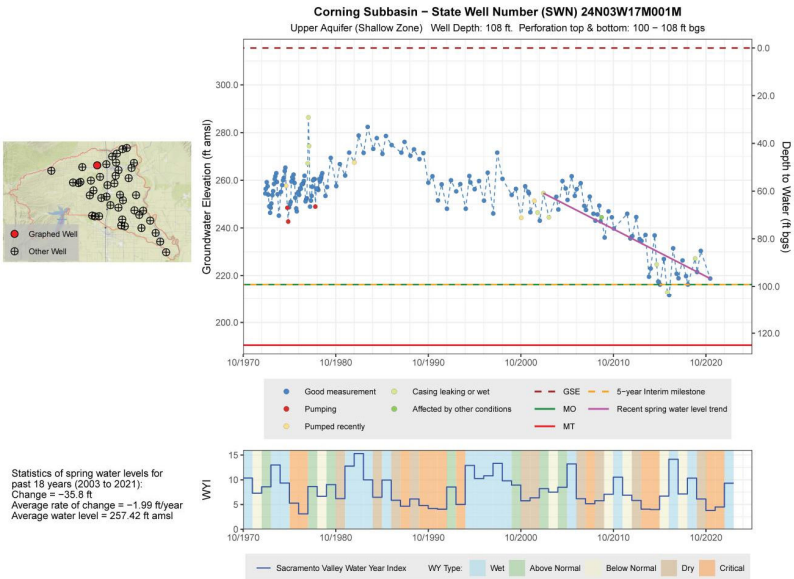
Statistics of spring water levels for past 19 years (2003 to 2022):
Change = −45.4 ft
Average rate of change = −2.39 ft/year
Average water level = 229.3 ft amsl

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations



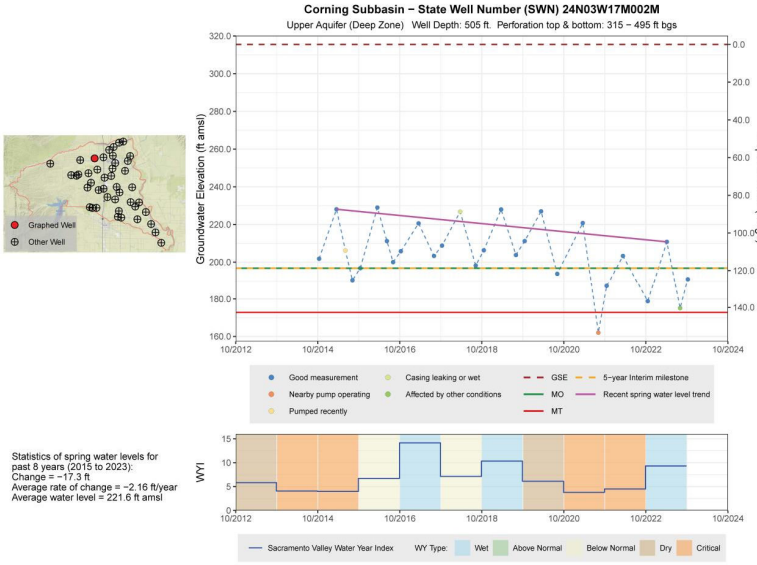
Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −46.7 ft
Average rate of change = −2.33 ft/year
Average water level = 247.58 ft amsl

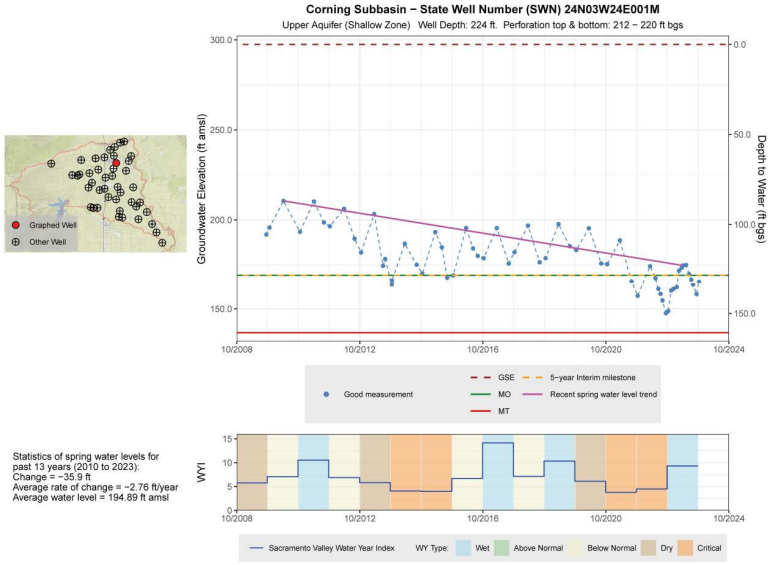


Statistics of spring water levels for past 18 years (2003 to 2021):
Change = −35.8 ft
Average rate of change = −1.99 ft/year
Average water level = 257.42 ft amsl

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations

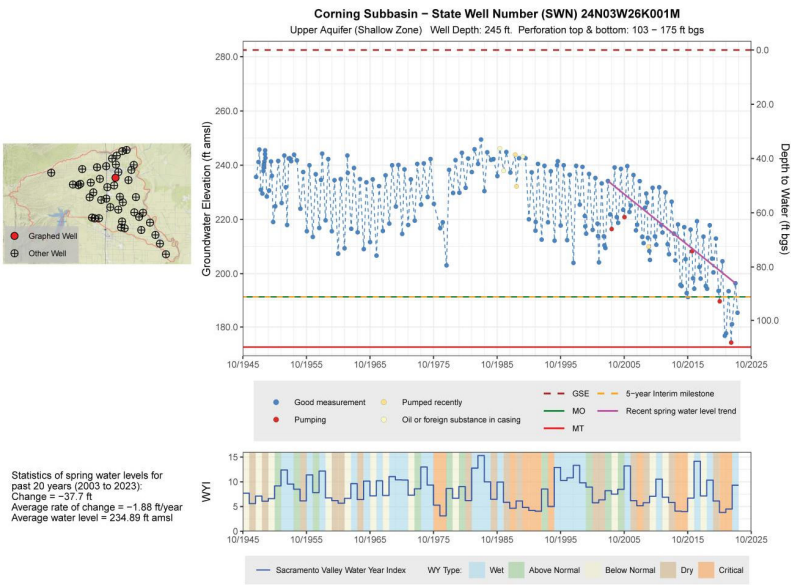


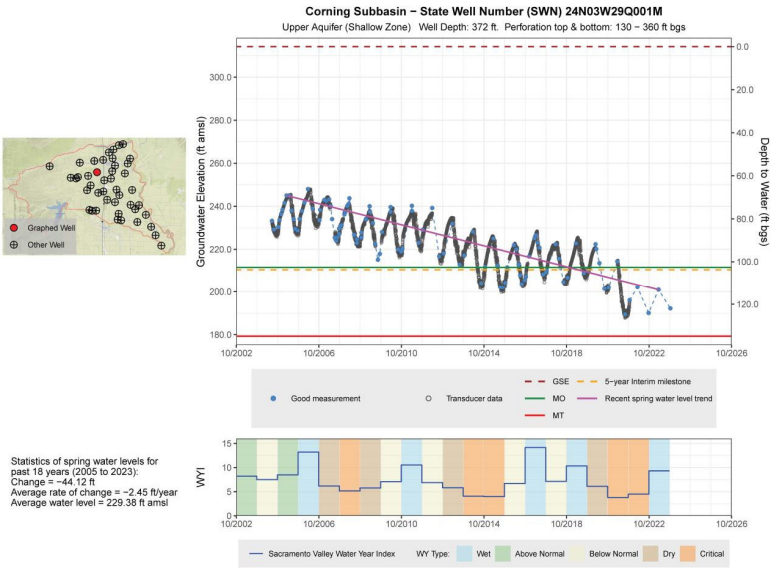


LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Slide 29

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations

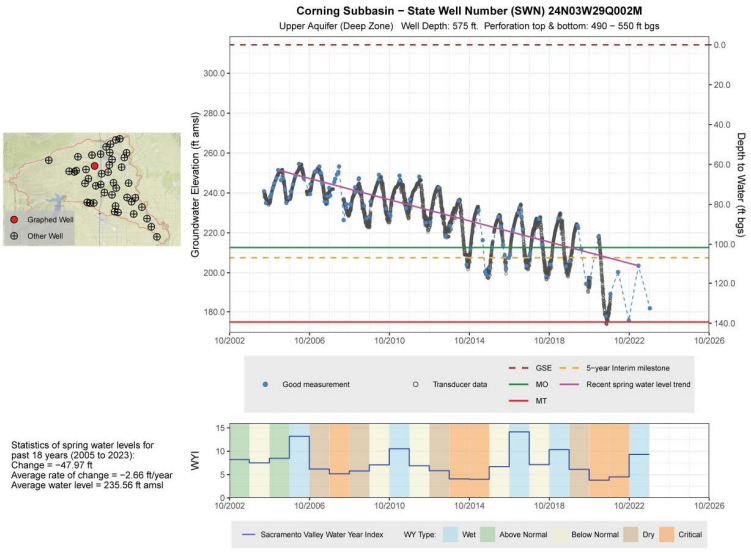




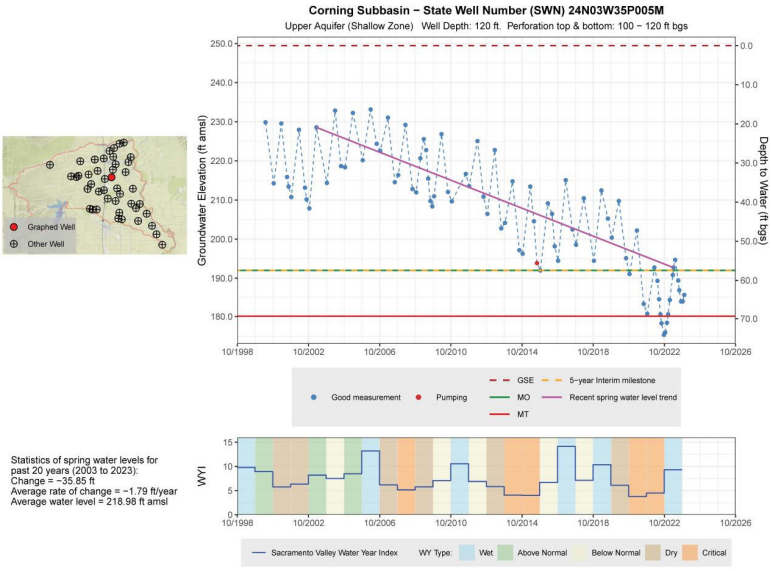
LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Slide 30

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations

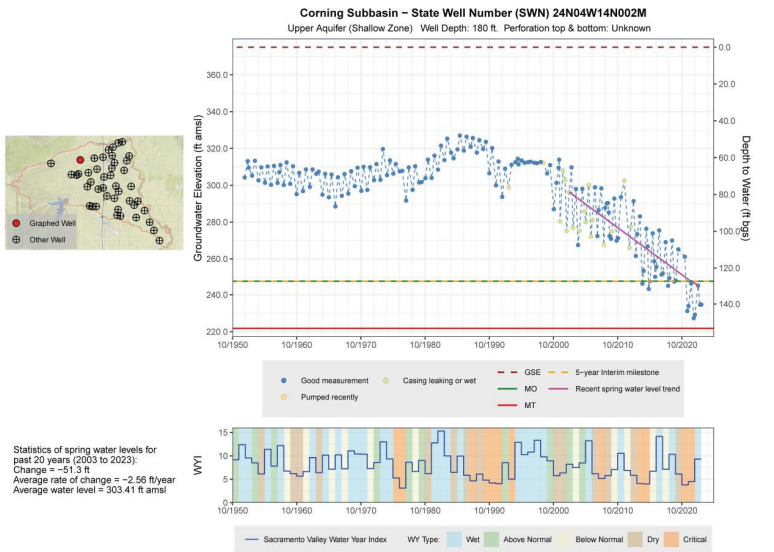


Statistics of spring water levels for past 18 years (2005 to 2023):
Change = −47.97 ft
Average rate of change = −2.66 ft/year
Average water level = 235.56 ft amsl

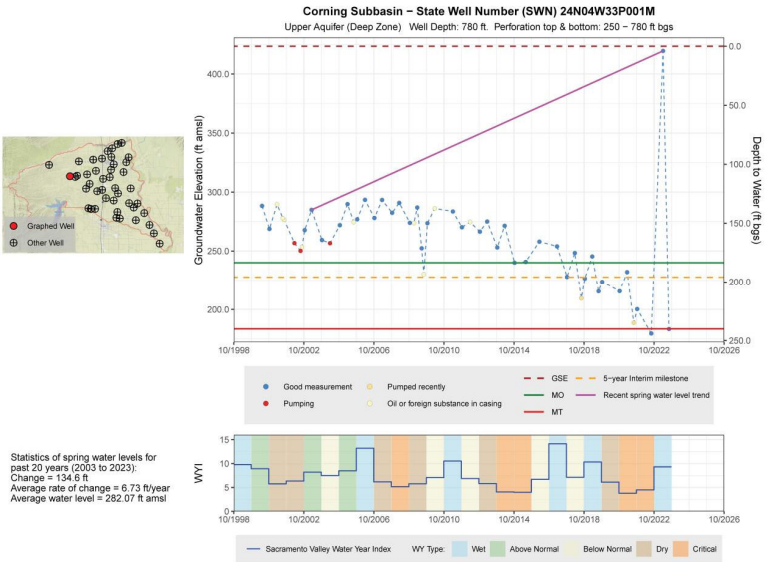


Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −35.85 ft
Average rate of change = −1.79 ft/year
Average water level = 218.98 ft amsl

Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations

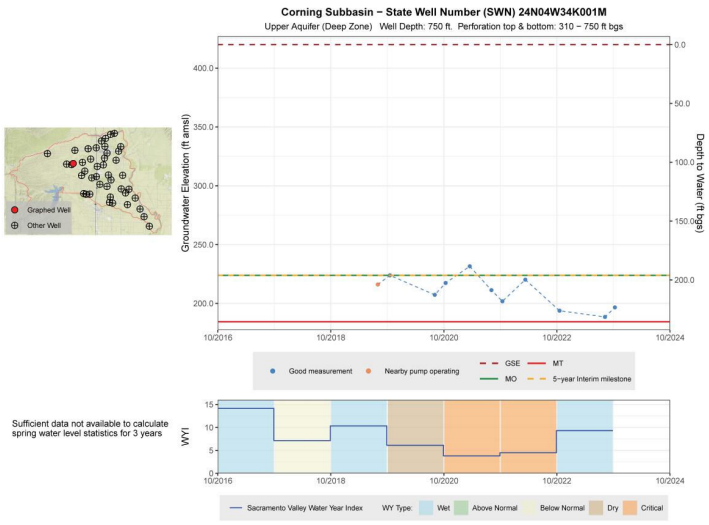


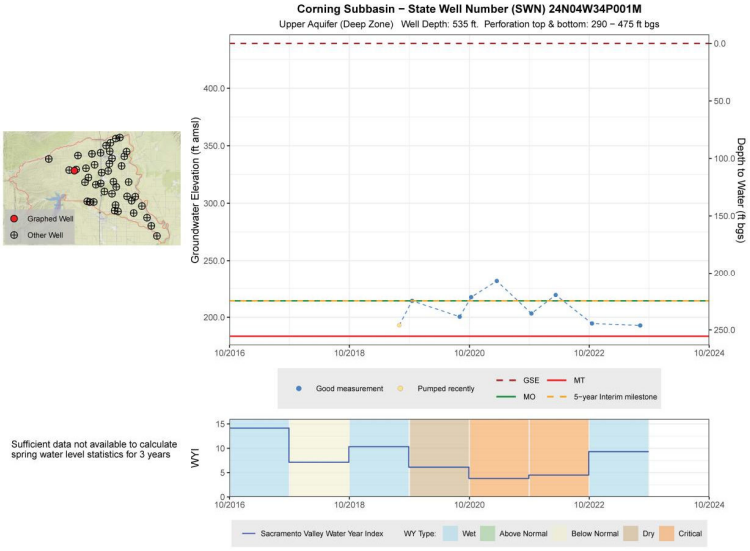
Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = −51.3 ft
Average rate of change = −2.56 ft/year
Average water level = 303.41 ft amsl



Statistics of spring water levels for past 20 years (2003 to 2023):
Change = 134.6 ft
Average rate of change = 6.73 ft/year
Average water level = 282.07 ft amsl

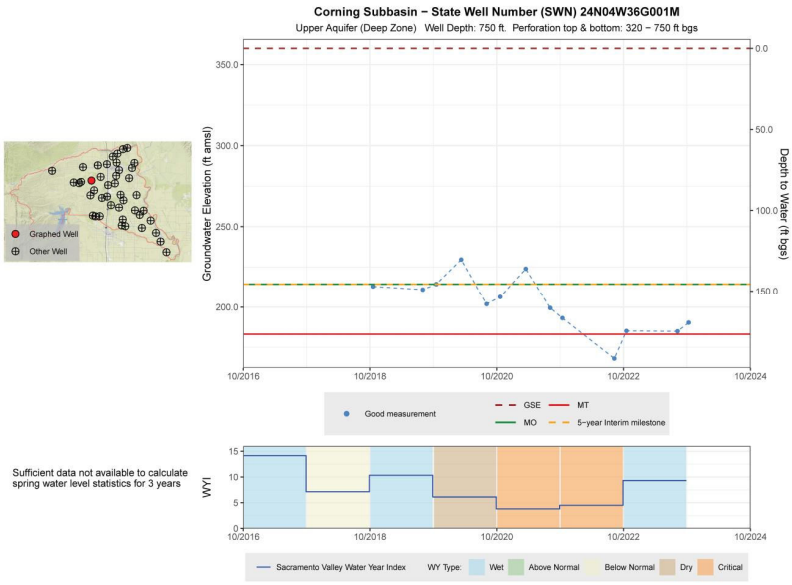
Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations

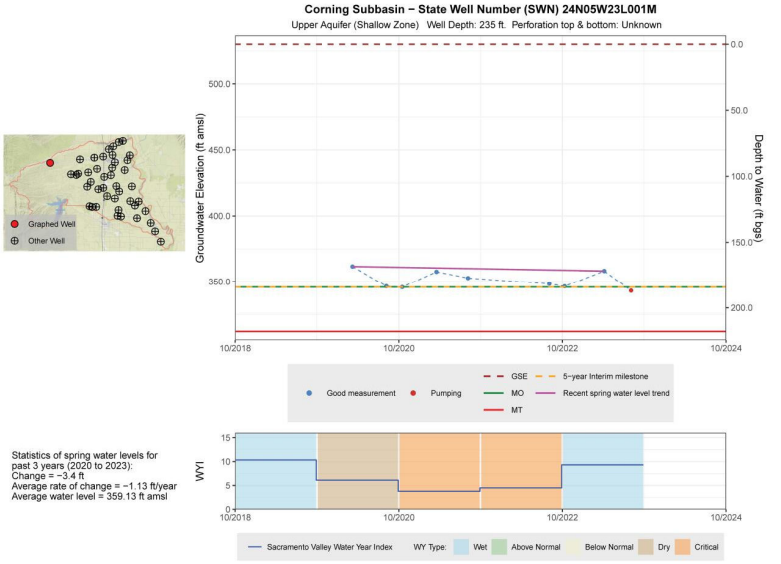




LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

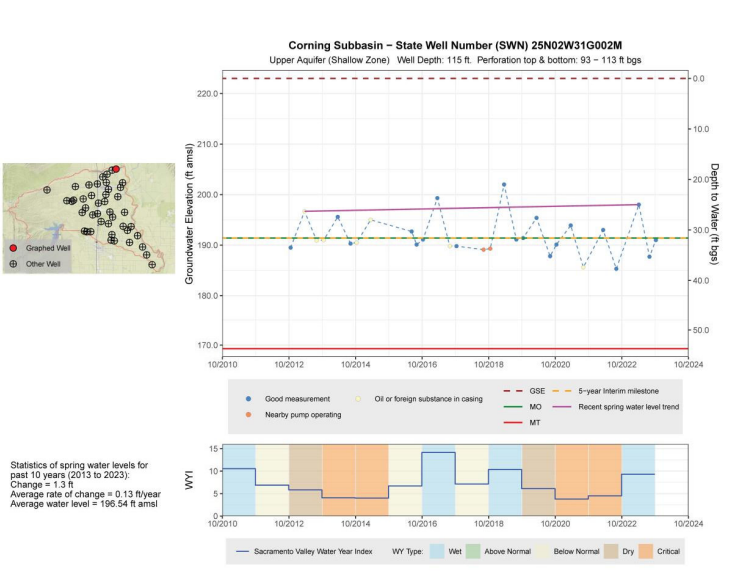
Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations

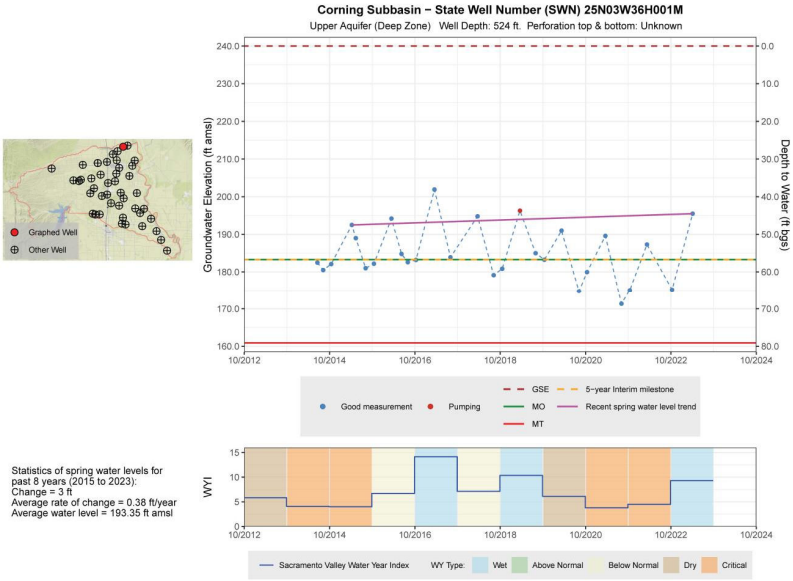




LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

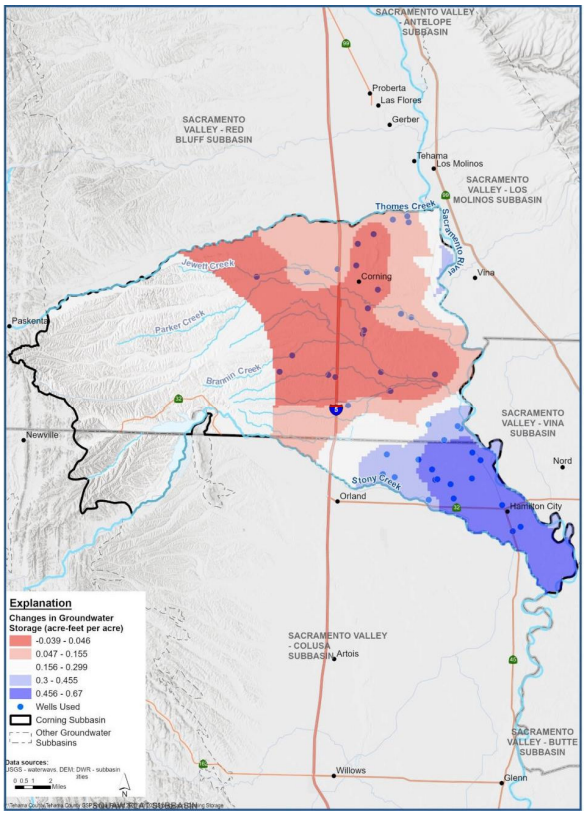
Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Elevations





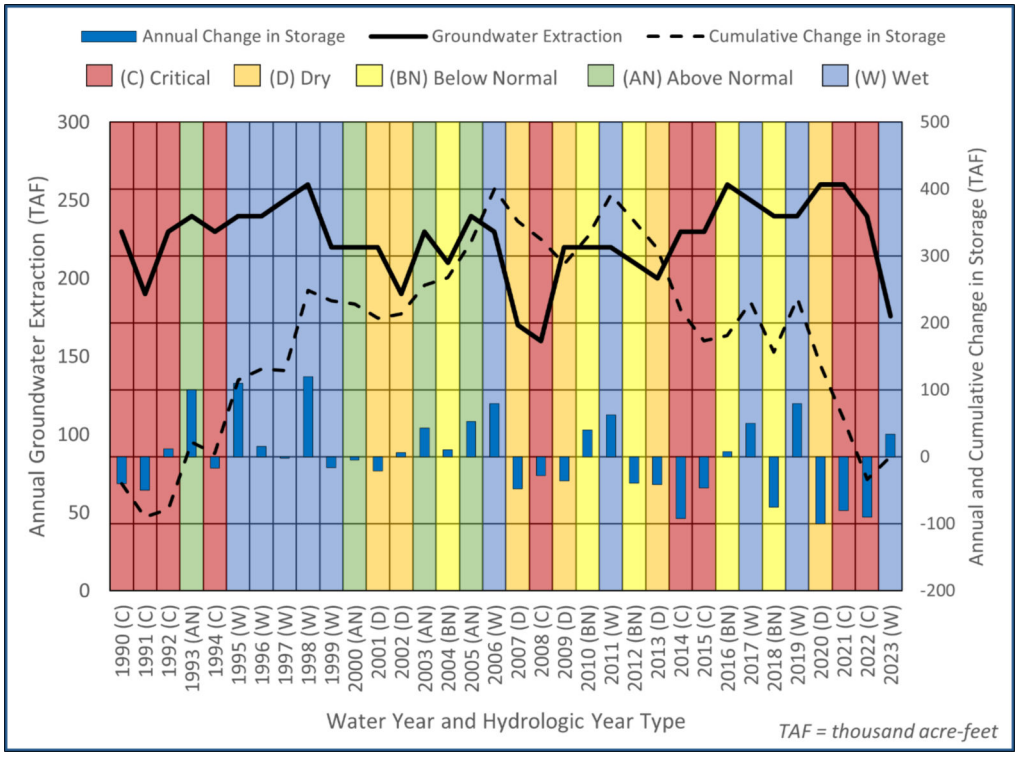
LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Annual Groundwater Storage



LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Cumulative Groundwater Storage



LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

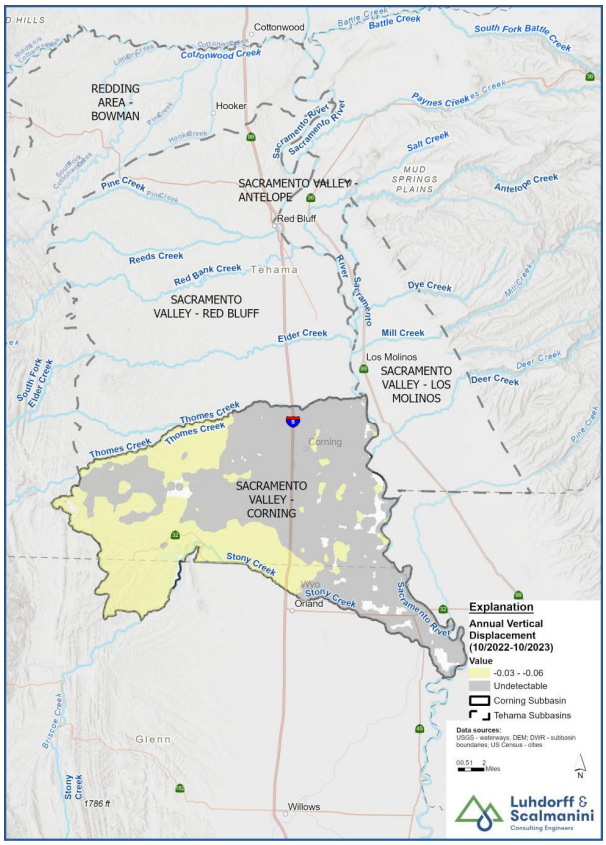
Groundwater Conditions – Groundwater Storage

Change in Groundwater Storage Based on Seasonal High Groundwater Levels	
Aquifer	**2023 (AF)**
Primary Aquifer	33,844
Lower Aquifer	NA
Total	**33,844**

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Groundwater Conditions – Land Subsidence

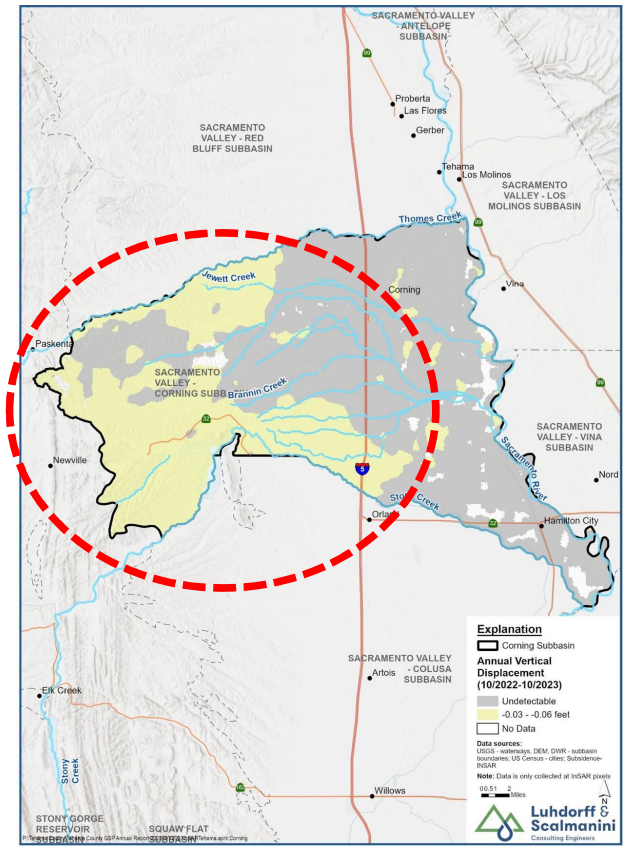
- Land Subsidence
  - Utilizing Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR)
- Minimum Threshold (MT) = 0.5 feet per five years (0.1 foot per year)
- Measurable Objective = Zero Inelastic Subsidence



Slide 39

Groundwater Conditions – Land Subsidence

- WY 2023 (InSAR) = -0.03 to -0.06 ft
- Highest Subsidence in the Southwestern Portion of Subbasin



Slide 40

Groundwater Conditions – Interconnected Surface Water

Table 5-3 Measurable Objectives, Minimum Thresholds, Undesirable Results for Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water

State Well Number /Representative Monitoring Point (RMP) ID	Groundwater Elevation (feet above mean sea level)				Spring 2023 vs. MO	Fall 2023 vs. MO
	2023 Measurements		MO	MT		
	Spring (seasonal high)	Fall (seasonal low)				
22N01W29N003M	126.02	123	123.4	91.7	2.62	-0.41
22N02W01N003M	133.7	128.16	136.5	99.3	-2.8	-8.34
22N02W15C004M	131.98	129.45	144.1	84	-12.12	-14.65
22N02W18C003M	151.35	144.11	148.4	131.6	2.95	-4.29
22N03W01R002M	146.41	134.23	143.9	123.6	2.51	-9.67
23N02W28N004M	139.95	--	142.7	104.3	-2.75	--
24N02W29N003M	158.84	141.27	158.1	123.2	0.74	-16.83

MO = Measurable Objective, MT = Minimum Threshold, -- = Indicates Missing or Questionable Measurement, NA = Indicates non-determined MO, MT due to insufficient history

- Spring and Fall 2023, all groundwater elevations were above the established MT

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Water Supply and Water Use (Water Budget)

Table 3-4. Estimated Uncertainty in Water Use Estimates

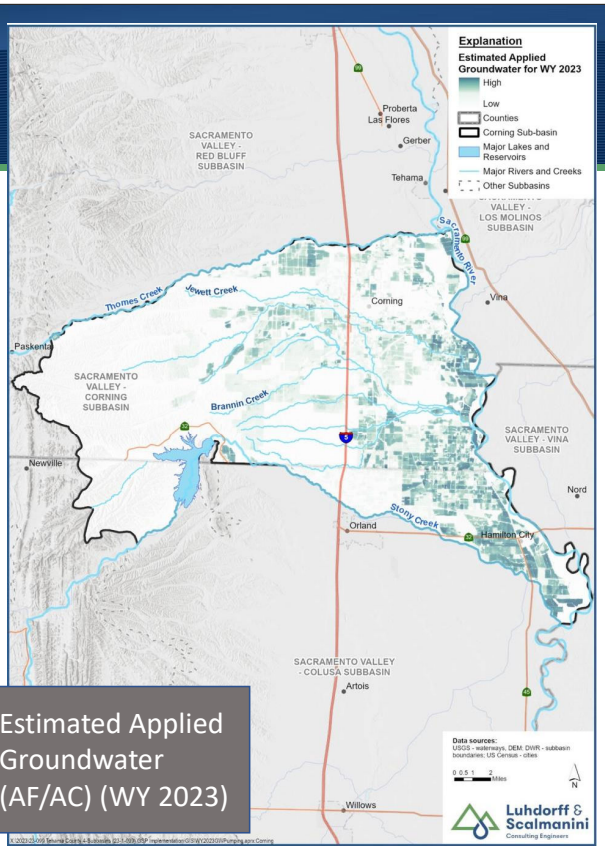
Water Budget Component	Data Source	Estimated Uncertainty (%)	Source
Groundwater Water			
Agricultural	Measurement	20%	Typical uncertainty from water balance calculation.
Municipal/Industrial	Measurement/Estimate	5%	Typical accuracy of municipal water system reporting.
Rural Residential	Calculation	15%	Estimated from per capita water use and Census information.
Surface Water			
Agricultural	Calculation	10%[1]	Estimated from Senate Bill 88 measurement accuracy standards.

[1] *Higher uncertainty of 10-20% is typical for estimated surface water inflows, including un-gaged inflows from small watersheds into creeks that enter the Basin.*

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Estimated Water Use

Table 3-3. Total Water Use by Water Use Sector				
Sector	WY 2023 (AF)			
	Groundwater	Surface Water	Total	Total Irrigated Area (acres)
Agricultural	171,000	24,000	**195,000**	**72,000**
Municipal	4,000	0	**4,000**	--
Rural Residential	300	0	**300**	--
Total	**175,000**	**24,000**	**199,000**	**72,000**



Estimated Applied Groundwater (AF/AC) (WY 2023)

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

GSP Implementation

Table 5-4. Summary of Project Implementation Status			
GSP Section Reference	Project (Proponent)	Current Status	Notable Progress Since Last Annual Report
3.2.8	Ongoing Monitoring, Data Gaps, and Enhancements	Funded	DWR SGM Grant Program application submitted in December 2022 was funded to address data gaps identified in the GSP.
7.2	GSP Implementation, Outreach, and Compliance Activities	Funded	The DWR SGM Grant Program application submitted in December 2022 was funded during the planning phase.
7.4.1	Recharge and Conjunctive Use Focused Projects	Funded	DWR SGM Grant Program application submitted in December 2022 was funded to plan and roll out recharge projects identified in the GSP.
7.4.4.4	California Olive Ranch	In Planning	Project is in planning phase, water to be used to recharge areas of used in-lieu.

Table 5-5. Summary of Management Actions			
GSP Section Reference	Management Action	Current Status	Notable Progress Since Last Annual Report
7.3.1.1	Well Management Program: Well Inventory	In Progress	Program is in its second year, well inventory is in progress (Tehama GSA).
7.3.1.1	Well Management Program: Well Incident Reporting System	In Progress	System is in place, collecting dry well and related incidents (Glenn County).
7.3.1.3	Policy and Ordinances that Control Pumping Growth	In Progress	Program is in effect; well permitting process has been re-evaluated; permits are issued on a 3 tier basis (Glenn County).

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

GSP Implementation

GSP Corrective Actions (Due 4/24/2024):

1) The GSAs should revise the GSP to provide a reasonable assessment of overdraft conditions and include a reasonable means to mitigate overdraft.
2) The GSAs must provide more detailed explanation and justification regarding the selection of the sustainable management criteria for groundwater levels, particularly minimum thresholds, and measurable objectives, and quantitatively describe the effects of those criteria on the interests of beneficial uses and users of groundwater.

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Annual Report Summary

- WY 2023 had above average precipitation and streamflow.
- Groundwater levels increased in Spring and Fall from last year and were on average, 24 feet above MTs and 5 feet below the MOs.
- WY 2023 groundwater extraction was less than the 22-year average pumping (2000-2022) and less than the average of last four wet years.
- Cumulative change in groundwater storage is –500 AF between 2022 and 2023
- All sustainability indicators (SIs) are in compliance with their MTs, except for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels SI
- Groundwater conditions are on track to meet the first 5-year 2027 Interim Milestones for groundwater levels at RMP well.

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Annual Report Summary

Work is needed in areas with groundwater level declines and impacts to shallow wells through:

1. Reducing groundwater demand and increasing conservation activities
2. Increasing groundwater recharge
3. Increasing surface water supplies
4. Land use management

- GSA is proactive in GSP implementation (grants, outreach, funding)

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

Discussions / Questions?

LSCE DAVIDS ENGINEERING, INC

GSP Implementation Status Update

Corning Sub-basin GSA Meeting

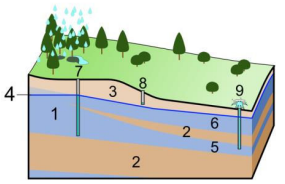
April 25, 2024

Outline

- Overview of GSP Implementation Tasks
  - Task 1 – Grant Management
  - Task 2 – GSP Implementation, Outreach and Compliance
  - Task 3 – Ongoing Monitoring
  - Task 4 – Groundwater Recharge
  - Task 5 – Projects and Managements Actions – Corning Regional Conjunctive Use

Task 1. Grant Management and Administration

- Met with DWR on 1/30/2024 to discuss Grant reporting requirements
- **DWR Grant Administration** – will ensure timely reimbursement of eligible project expenses to the Tehama FCWCD
- **DWR Progress Reports** – will ensure timely DWR project updates
- **DWR Environmental Review** – will ensure compliance with CEQA for project-related activities and actions



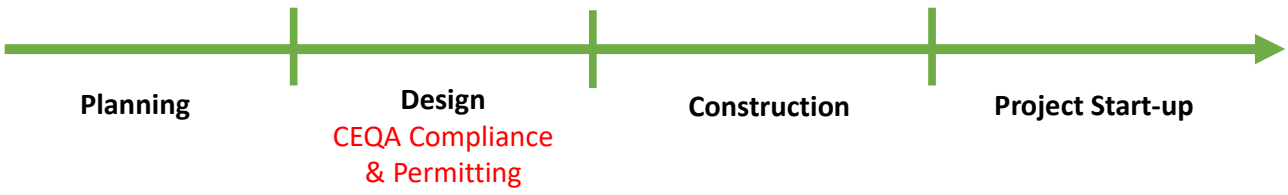
Groundwater Recharge

LSCE

Tehama GSA GSP Implementation Project Environmental Review – Getting To Recharge

Project Activities	**Environmental Compliance Strategy**
All Planning/Design Activities	Notice of Exemption - Planning
Monitoring Network/Data Gaps	Notice of Exemption - Construction
GW Recharge Projects	DWR CEQA Exemption - Construction

- Milestone: Feb. 2024 – Approve and File Notices of Exemption
- Receive updates on future environmental compliance actions



LSCE

Task 2. GSP Implementation, Outreach, and Compliance Activities

- **Task 2.1** – GSP Annual Reports: Complete
- **Task 2.2** – Update GSP based on DWR Determination Letters: Complete
- **Task 2.3** – Stakeholder Engagement and Community Outreach: Created an informational flyer
  - Working with CBI and Stantec to produce a stakeholder outreach and engagement plan
- **Task 2.4** – Develop Long-Term Funding Strategy
- **Task 2.5** – Develop & Implement Policy Framework for Water and Land Use Restrictions
- **Task 2.6** – Regional Surface Water/Groundwater Interactive Model
- **Task 2.7** – 5-year GSP Update (Periodic Update)

LSCE

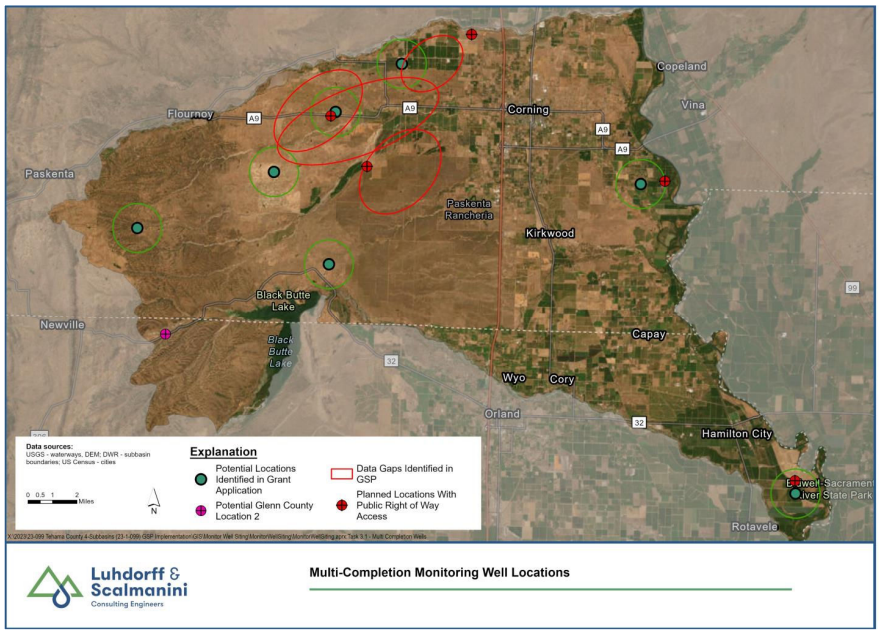
Task 3. Ongoing Monitoring, Data Gaps, & Enhancements for Corning & Antelope Subbasins

- **Task 3.1** – Installation of Multi-Completion Monitoring Wells
- **Task 3.2** – Install SW/GE Monitoring Sites
- **Task 3.3** – Synoptic Stream Gauging
- **Task 3.4** – Biological Investigation (Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems)
- **Task 3.5** – Community Domestic Monitoring
- **Task 3.6** – Groundwater Levels and Quality Monitoring (Antelope Only)
- **Task 3.7** – Expand Groundwater Quality Monitoring
- **Task 3.8** – Video Log Current Wells with Unknown Construction Details
- **Task 3.9** – Expand Geologic Understanding of Subbasin

LSCE

Task 3.1 - Progress: Multi-Completion Monitoring Wells

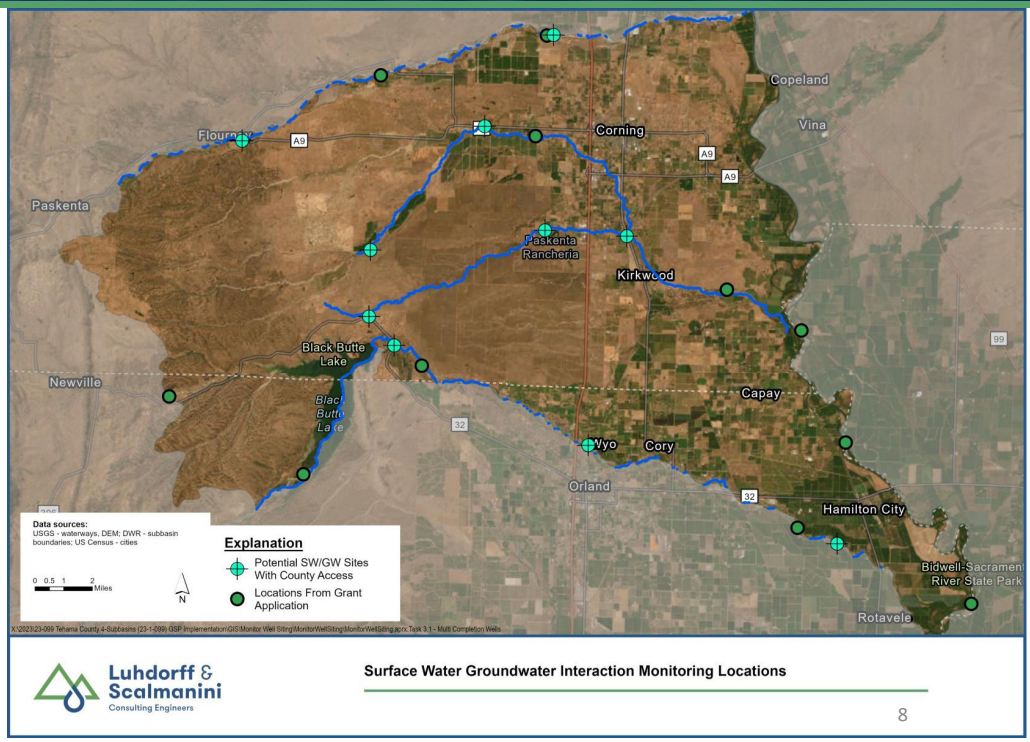
- Identified locations for MC Wells:
  - Filling GSP data gaps and
  - Public Right of Way/County Access
- In progress:
  - Drafting Technical Specifications and Work Plans
  - Performing Site Visits



LSCE

Task 3.2 - Progress: Surface Water/ Groundwater Site Identification

- Identified Potential Locations for SW/GW Sites:
  - Locations have County public right of way
  - Fill Data Gaps
- In progress:
  - Finalizing Locations
  - Drafting Technical Specifications
  - Performing Site Visits



LSCE

Task 3.3 - Progress: Synoptic Stream Gaging

- Reconnaissance Stream Survey Thomas Creek:
  - Identified accessible measurement points
  - Utilized drone to refine reach definitions
- In progress:
  - Stoney/Brannin Creek Reconnaissance planning
  - Developing work plan based on field survey

LSCE

Task 3.3 - Progress: Synoptic Stream Gaging

LSCE

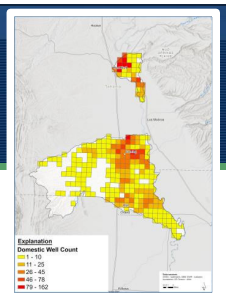
Task 3.5 - Progress: Domestic Monitoring (Telemetry Equipment)

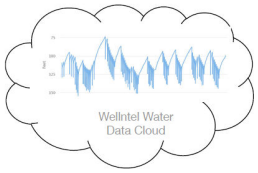
- Telemetry equipment will be installed in volunteer wells
- Involves sensors installed in/near the well; remote data transmittal
- Data collected long-term, available via dashboard
- In progress: Finalizing vendor and purchasing first-round equipment

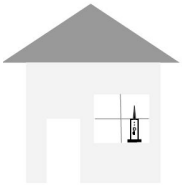
LSCE

Task 3.5 - Progress: Domestic Monitoring

- Setting Up Pilot/Demonstration
  - Pilot volunteer in Glenn County
  - WellIntel Sounder/Data Logger
- In Progress:
  - Secure Pilot/Demonstration of different equipment
  - Finalize and Decide what company to use
  - Work with DWR to outfit more wells

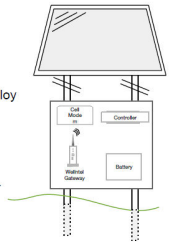






LOCAL
Internet connection within business, farm or home within 1,800' of sensor
- Duplex radio connection
- Gateway connected to router
- No WIFI or login necessary
- If connection lost, sensor logs for download

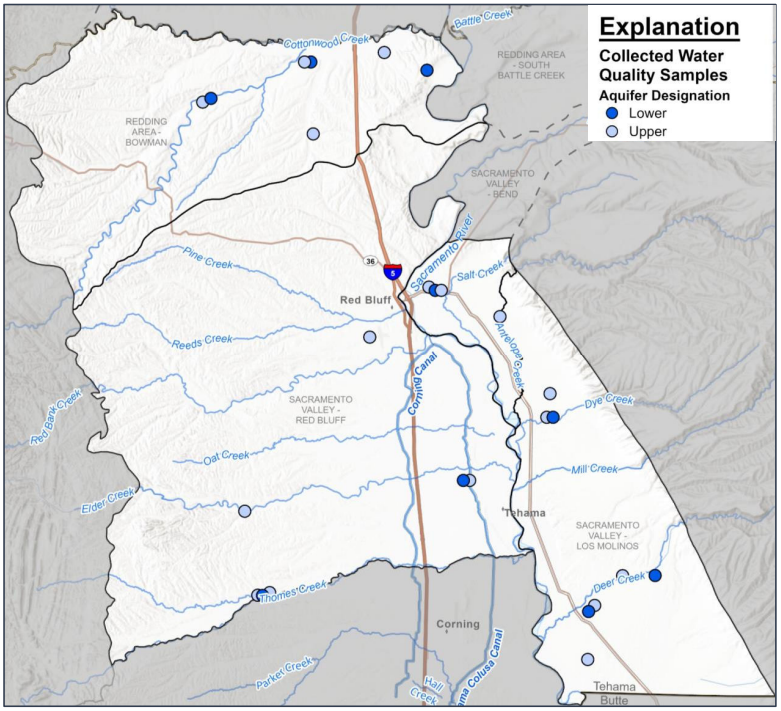
REMOTE
No local broadband connection, deploy cellular base station within 1,800' of sensor
- Duplex radio connection
- Gateway connected to modem
- Cell carrier agnostic
- If connection lost, sensor logs for download or upload when re-connected



LSCE

Task 3.7 - Progress: Groundwater Quality Compliance Sampling

- Samples were collected and tested for TDS
- Reported in Annual Reports
- In progress: expanding monitoring network in Corning Subbasin



LSCE

Seeking Potential Volunteers

- Interested in providing a location for installing of multi-completion wells
- Interested in providing access for a stream SW/GW station (access to stream)
- Interested in Domestic Well Monitoring
- Interested in sampling for TDS in Corning Subbasin

LSCE

Task 4

Groundwater Recharge

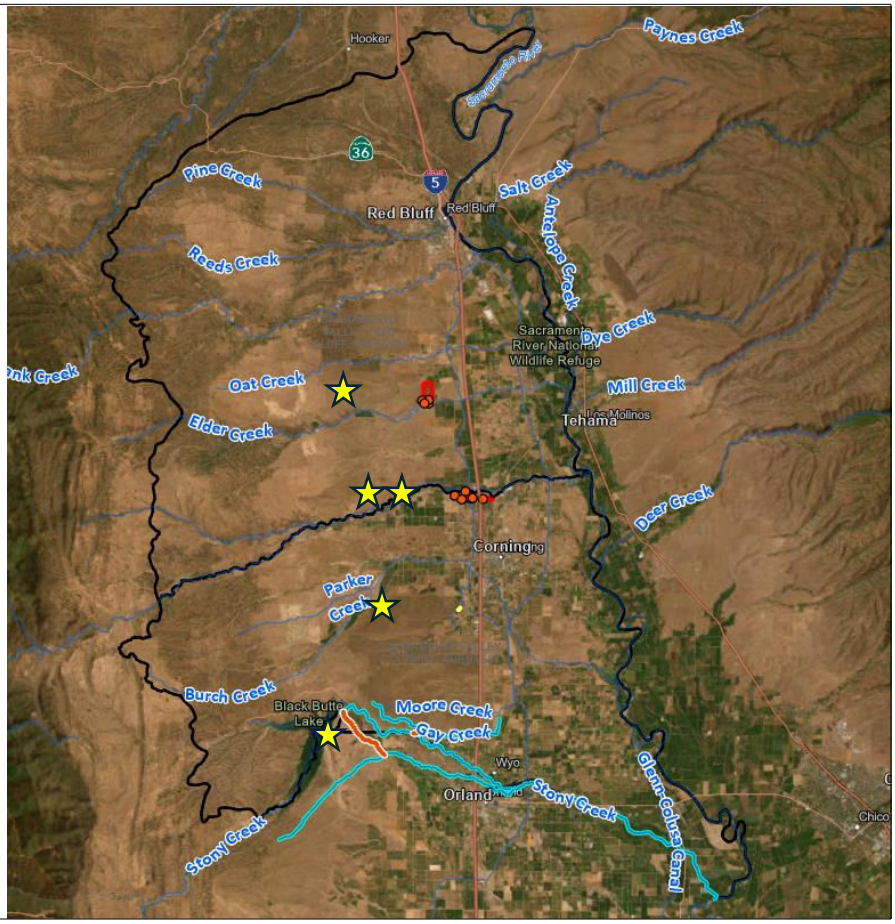
Luhdorff & Scalmanini Consulting Engineers

Overview

- ❑ Site Visits
- ❑ Site Profiles
- ❑ Temporary Permit Opportunities

LSCE

- 15 site visits completed



LSCE

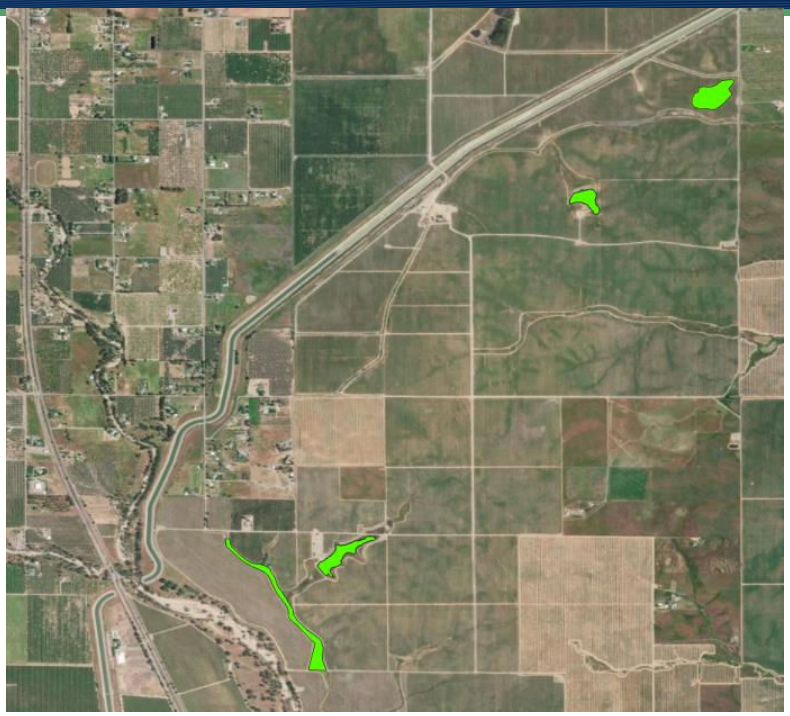
Rolling Hills Casino

- Corning Subbasin
- Brannin Creek Dry Wells
- Potential Water sources:
  - Corning Canal

LSCE

California Olive Ranch

- Corning Subbasin
- 2 operating modes
  - 1) Irrigation Season
  - 2) Storm Season
- Potential Water sources:
  - Corning Canal



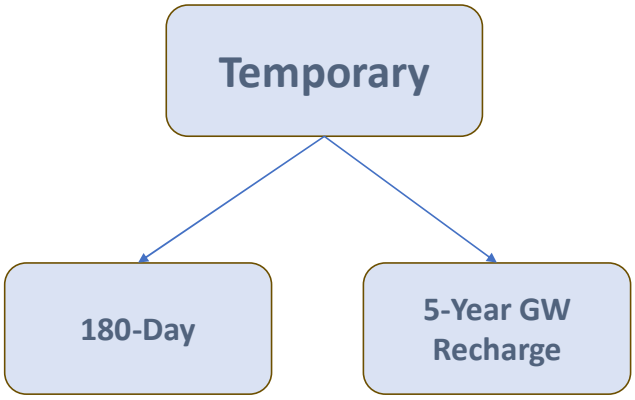
LSCE

Additional Sites

Site	Subbasin	Type	Water Right
Rice Creek	Corning	Unlined Creek	Yes
Burch Creek	Corning	Unlined Creek	TBD
North Thomes Creek	Red Bluff/Corning	Unlined Creek	TBD
Rancho Tehama	Red Bluff	Unlined Creek	TBD
Duck Ponds	Corning	Pond	Yes
Middle Fork Hall Creek	Corning	Unlined Creek	Yes
Simpson Rd	Corning	Farmland	Yes
Northwest Corning	Corning	Farmland	Yes
Thomes Creek	Corning	Farmland	TBD
Thomes Creek	Corning	Unlined Creek	TBD

LSCE

Permitting and Water Rights



Temporary Permit Water Availability

Thomes Creek:

- approximately 4200 ac-ft available on average
- available over approximately 11 days
- 300 cfs total diversion

Elder Creek:

- Approximately 3700 ac-ft available on average
- Available over approximately 11 days
- 300 cfs total diversion

Screening potential sites for temporary permits

LSCE

Seeking Potential Volunteers

- Interested in exploring recharge opportunities

LSCE

Task 5. Projects and Management Actions – Corning Regional Conjunctive Use

In-lieu recharge opportunities:

- Site identification
- Assessment of infrastructure needs
- 2 site visits completed

Site	Subbasin	Water Right	In Lieu Recharge Amount (ac-ft)
Alston	Corning	Yes	442
Hart Farms	Corning	Yes	60
Curiel	Corning	Yes	650
Crain	Corning	Yes	208
MAG Farms	Corning	Yes	422

LSCE

Questions?

LSCE

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: X Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ Office of the County Clerk-Recorder
Glenn County
516 West Sycamore Street
Willows, CA 95988

FROM: Corning Sub-basin GSA
225 N. Tehama Street
Willows, CA 95988

Project Title:
Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan Projects and Management Actions Implementation Project.

Project Location - Specific:
Portion of the Corning Subbasin per DWR Bulletin 118 located within Glenn County.

Project Location – City:
Not Applicable.

Project Location – County
Glenn County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Corning Subbasin is implementing its Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to achieve and maintain groundwater sustainability within the Subbasin in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. This Project includes the construction-related activities for expanding monitoring networks and filling data gaps through calendar year 2026 associated with implementation of the GSP. These activities are more fully described in Attachment B.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:
Corning Sub-basin GSA.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:
Corning Sub-basin GSA.

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- ❑ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ❑ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ❑ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 4, Section 15304, Title 14 CCR; Class 6, Section 15306, Title 14 CCR.
- ❑ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:
See Attachment A hereto.

Lead Agency Contact Person:
Lisa Hunter, Secretary

Area Code/Telephone/Extension:
530-934-6540

Signature:

Date:

Lisa Hunter, Secretary

Signed by Lead Agency

Date received for filing at OPR:

Corning Subbasin GSP Projects and Management Actions Implementation Project

Notice of Exemption for Corning Subbasin Monitoring Network Enhancement Activities

Covering Construction Activities for Monitoring Network Enhancements To Fill Data Gaps

Attachment A

Reasons Why Project is Exempt

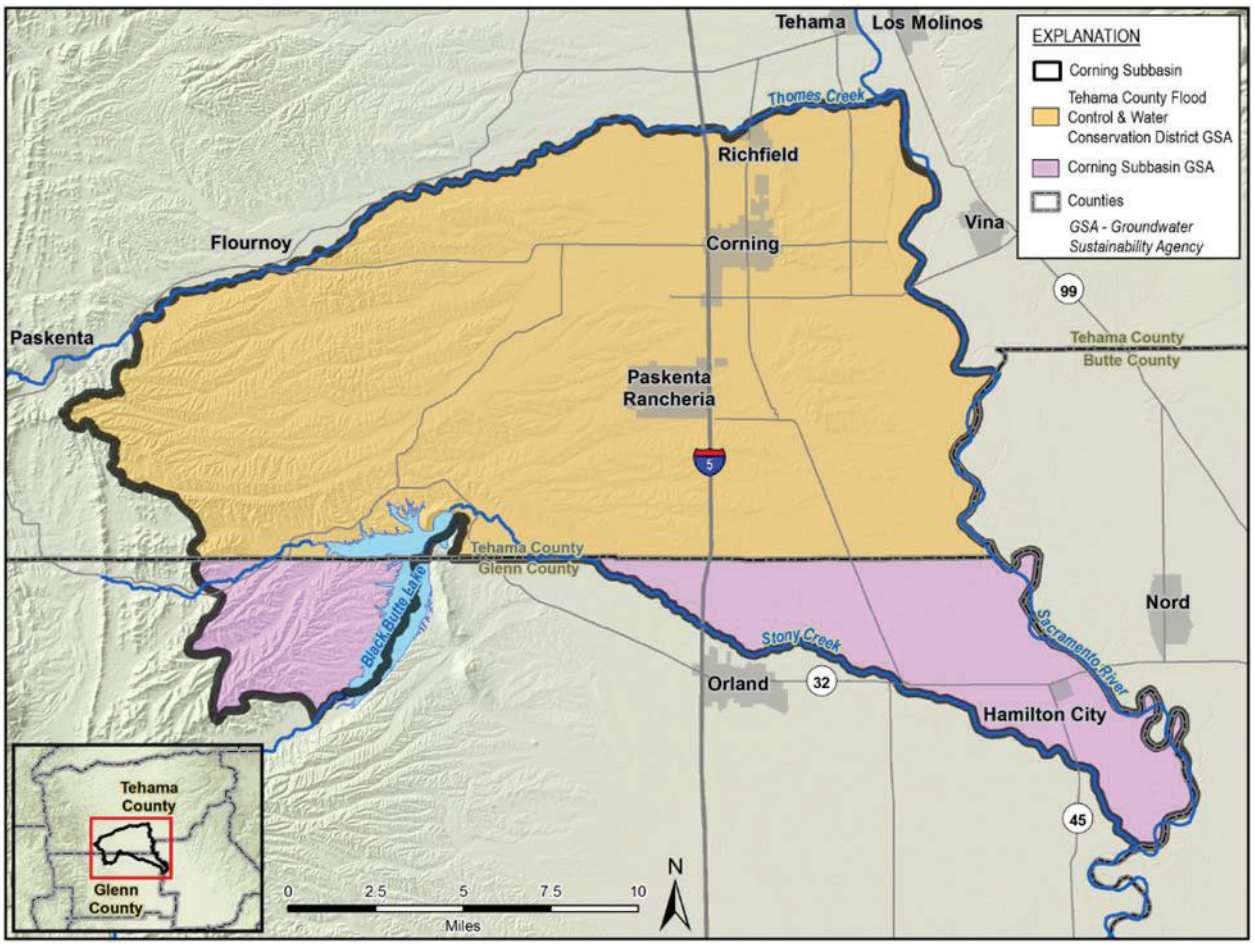
The proposed construction and installation of additional monitoring wells and stream gages for the Project fits within the Class 4 (Minor Alterations to Land) exemptions under CEQA. (CEQA Guidelines 15304.) The Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land exemption applies to "minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry and agricultural purposes." The exemption applies to activities that include "minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored." (CEQA Guidelines Section 15304(t).) The Project may involve minor alterations to the land, including trenching and drilling activities for monitoring well construction. Given the Project's narrow scope, the Project is not expected to result in a significant environmental impact and is not expected to have a significant effect on the environment.

The proposed construction and installation of additional monitoring wells and stream gages for the Project also fits within the Class 6 (Information Collection) exemptions under CEQA. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15306). Class 6 consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded. The Project will consist of collecting additional data to fill data gaps related to inform better understanding groundwater sustainability conditions and actions that improve groundwater sustainability in the Corning Subbasin. The Project is not expected to result in a significant environmental impact and is not expected to have a significant effect on the environment.

Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
Corning Subbasin GSP Projects and Management Actions Implementation Project
Corning Subbasin (portion in Glenn County)
Notice of Exemption – For All Monitoring Network and Data Gap Construction Activities
---

The Corning Subbasin is located in both Tehama and Glenn counties. The Tehama Flood Control & Water Conservation District is the GSA with management authority for the portion of the Corning Subbasin located within Tehama County and the Corning Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CSGSA) is the GSA with management authority for the portion of the Corning Subbasin located within Glenn County.

This Notice of Exemption is being filed by the CSGSA to comply with CEQA for all Project construction related activities occurring in the portion of the Corning Subbasin located within Glenn County (highlighted in purple below).



Information follows on the proposed construction activities associated with expanding groundwater monitoring networks and filling data gaps for implementation of the Corning Subbasin GSP for actions in the Corning Subbasin within Glenn County.

Attachment B

Corning Subbasin

Monitoring Network Enhancements and Data Gaps – Planned Construction Activities (2024-2026)

Description

Task 3: Data Gaps, Monitoring, and Domestic Well Monitoring Planning
Component 3 consists of the installation of monitoring wells, surface water stream gages, a biological survey, conducting geophysical surveys, performing aquifer tests, a domestic well program, and domestic well outreach. Implementing the following tasks will expand the understanding of Subbasin hydrogeologic and hydrologic conditions. Task 1: Data Gaps, Monitoring, and Domestic Well Monitoring Planning, Task 2: Data Gaps, Task 3: Groundwater Level and Quality Monitoring, Task 4: Domestic Well Program, Task 5: Stream Gaging, Task 6: Biological Survey, Task 7: Expand Groundwater Quality Network, Task 8: Understand Subbasin Subsurface, and 9: Domestic Well Outreach.

This component will enhance the monitoring network and fill data gaps. The component includes the installation of monitoring wells (both multi-completion and single completion), the installation of surface water stream gages, a biological survey, video logging, conducting geophysical surveys, performing aquifer tests, a domestic well program, and domestic well outreach. The single completion monitoring wells will be shallow and proximal to the surface water gages to improve the understanding of the connection and flow between the surface water and groundwater systems. The stream gages and shallow wells will be equipped with dataloggers to compare the stream stage with shallow groundwater levels at comparable times. Synoptic measurements in combination with stream gage data will be used to obtain flow measurements for major creeks. A biological survey will be conducted to identify Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE's) and assess potential undesirable effects from the depletion of groundwater feeding surface water related ecological communities. Each stream gage will have proximal shallow monitoring wells as described in Section 5 of the GSP.

There will be five (5) multi-completion monitoring wells, ten (10) stream gages and thirty (30) shallow monitoring wells installed in total. The shallow wells and surface water gages are needed to fill data gaps described in Section 5 of the GSP. The installation of monitoring wells will also further characterize the hydrogeology in the Subbasin.

Making enhancements to the monitoring network will enhance groundwater level and quality monitoring groundwater and surface water monitoring. It will provide needed additional information to update and modify the hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM) and the ground water model. Installation of the multi-completion monitoring wells includes lithologic logging and geophysical logging. The multi-completion monitoring wells will be designed to obtain vertical information within different hydrogeologic zones. Water quality and water level data collected from the wells will be representative since the lithology and well construction will be known. Additionally, new AEM surveys and aquifer tests will provide new data to refine the HCM. These wells and surveys will fill vertical and horizontal data gaps; higher density data means shorter distances to interpolate geology and water conditions. It follows that it will improve estimates of change in storage based on equipotential lines and storage coefficients.

Installation of shallow monitoring wells and stream gages will further characterize the hydrogeology and hydrology in the Subbasin. Monitoring of wells and streams will enhance the understanding of conditions and the relationship between the groundwater and surface water systems. Specifically for streams,

synoptic measurements and stream gage data may be processed and used to better characterize if major creeks are gaining or losing, this data also contributes to defining the relationship between groundwater and surface water. The interconnected surface water indicator is described in the GSP as having the most prominent data gaps compared to all other indicators. Preliminary locations where synoptic measurements may be collected are at basin boundaries (inflow and outflow of the basin) and at confluences. The final location of these synoptic measurement locations will be based on a review of available stream gages, available hydrogeologic and hydraulic information, and adjusted based on secured access agreements.

The existing groundwater monitoring network is limited in its geographic distribution within the service area. Section 5 of the GSP identifies 58 representative monitoring points (RMPs) indicative of the general conditions in the Subbasin. RMP wells were divided into two categories of shallow and deep wells, where shallow wells are defined as < 450 ft bgs. Only about a third or 21 wells in the RMP are in the deep category. To better understand groundwater conditions, wells in the RMP and general monitoring network with unknown construction will be video logged to determine the screening interval of the well. RMP and wells with unknown construction will be identified as well.

The GSP does not utilize the same network for groundwater quality monitoring, the GSP uses a combination of existing active groundwater quality monitoring networks such as State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) water supply well monitoring, DWR quality data, CVRWQCB IRLP, Glenn County annual testing, and Central Valley Dairy Representative Monitoring Program as described in Section 5 of the GSP. Relying on existing monitoring programs, leaves the Subbasin subject to other agencies. As described in Section 5 of the GSP, DWR does not currently plan to continue monitoring the observation well groundwater quality network in the Subbasin. To further expand the groundwater monitoring network described above, Corning GSA plans to expand the groundwater quality monitoring network to include domestic wells.

There are twelve (12) existing multi-completion monitoring wells or clusters in the Subbasin, six (6) in Tehama County and six (6) in Glenn County. Two (2) additional multi-completion wells are planned (Glenn TSS Well, Tehama CWT Well). Multi-completion wells are valuable for characterizing groundwater conditions in the Subbasin as they provide information about groundwater levels from different hydrogeologic zones at different depths at a single point in the Subbasin. They can be used to help define vertical flow of groundwater. Isotopic analysis of groundwater samples collected from different depths in the multi-completion wells will provide discrete recharge rates in the Subbasin. Samples will be collected following the methods of the Stable Isotope Recharge Study (Brown and Caldwell, 2017).

To further characterize hydrogeology and expand the groundwater monitoring network, Corning GSA will install five (5) multi-completion monitoring wells in the Subbasin at locations that lack deeper monitoring sites. Notably, data gaps in groundwater conditions have been described in Section 3 of the GSP, these gaps are mostly located in the western portion of the Subbasin. Preliminary locations where deeper wells are needed are shown on the attached Corning Subbasin maps. The final location of these monitoring wells will be based on a planning phase and adjusted based on secured access agreements. The final construction of these monitoring wells will be based on the known geology, groundwater conditions, the HCM, and field conditions encountered during drilling. The budget and schedule contained herein is based on the preliminary design that each multi-completion well will consist of up to three (3) discrete wells at varying depths with the deepest being completed to approximately 1,000 ft bgs. Each monitoring well will have pressure transducers, data loggers, and telemetry equipment installed and set to record groundwater levels at least hourly. This will result in a substantial increase in groundwater level measurements. The monitoring wells will be incorporated into the GSP monitoring network and monitored by the GSA on a regular basis following the same protocols for monitoring the current network.

Currently, the interconnected surface water monitoring network consists of five active stream gages that measure river stage, and a subset of eight (8) of the thirty-seven (37) shallow wells in the RMP groundwater monitoring network. Section 5 of the GSP describes the main contributor to this data gap as a lack of shallow (<450 ft) monitoring wells in the vicinity of interconnected surface waters and GDEs. Updates to the monitoring network to fill this data gap are proposed in the GSP by installing additional wells and other monitoring networks, as appropriate.

To fill this data gap, the GSA will install thirty (30) shallow monitoring wells or piezometers in total and ten (10) new stream gages. The shallow monitoring wells or piezometers will be installed adjacent to and in conjunction with new stream gages. Each stream gage will have three (3) shallow wells or piezometers installed at varying depths to be finalized based on a review of the HCM. For planning purposes, the wells are expected to be < 450 feet below ground surface (bgs) as outlined in Section 5 of the GSP. A review of the operational capacity will be conducted on current stream gages to identify if any of the current stream gages need to be updated or replaced to fulfill data collection requirements. New stream gages will record hourly, and the proximal wells and piezometers will be equipped with pressure transducers and data loggers so that measurements are synchronized. Preliminary locations where new surface water/groundwater monitoring sites are needed are shown on the attached Corning Subbasin maps. The final location of these monitoring sites will be based on a review of groundwater dependent ecosystems, available hydrogeologic and hydraulic information, and adjusted based on secured access agreements.

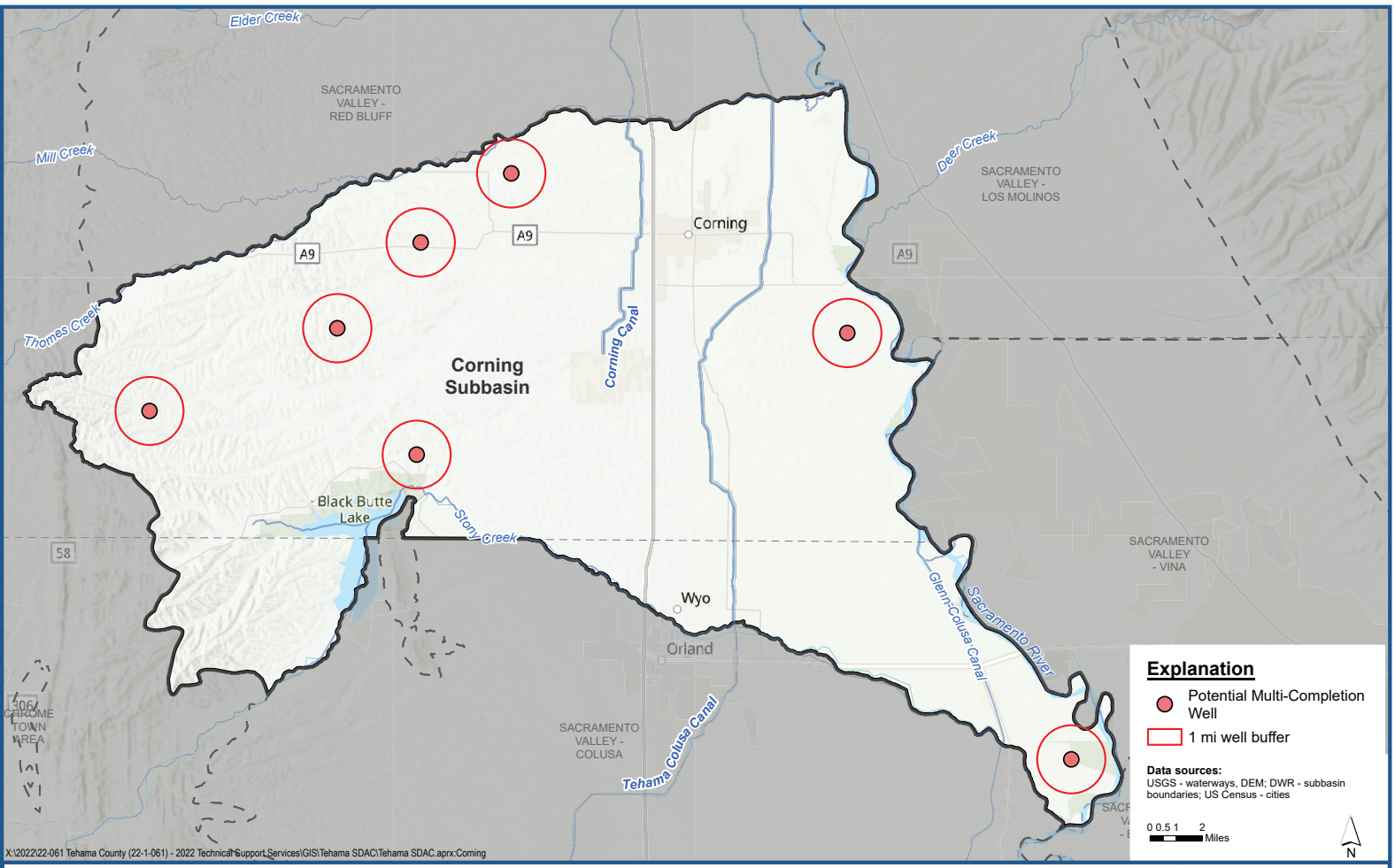
A critical reason for expanding the interconnected surface water monitoring network is to predict and avoid undesirable results to beneficial uses of surface water including GDEs. GDE's in the Subbasin exist where vegetation depends on access to the shallow groundwater and in areas where streams and creeks are connected to groundwater as described in Section 3 of the GSP. Expanding the monitoring as explained above will help define where and when groundwater is connected to surface water. Potential groundwater dependent ecosystems (iGDE) must meet three (3) criteria 1. iGDEs exist as defined by The Nature Conservancy and DWR. 2. The area is near a riverine environment and existing data demonstrate surface water and groundwater are interconnected. 3. Water levels in this area are consistently less than 30 feet below ground surface, the maximum groundwater level thought to be accessible to the deepest root systems of GDE species. A field biological study will further identify and map GDE. The GSA will partner with qualified CSU, Chico staff with experience and expertise in ecological mapping. Standard ecological mapping techniques will be used to define the boundaries where GDE exist in the Subbasin. The studies will initially be conducted in areas identified as iGDE in the GSP as shown on the attached Corning Subbasin maps and then expanded based on information from planning efforts and field observations. Biological studies will take place multiple times over a period of three years to define how GDE changes over time.

The domestic well program is intended to enhance the Subbasin monitoring network by incorporating domestic wells. It will also help create an inventory of dry wells. A dry well occurs when groundwater levels have fallen below the total depth of the well or below the pump. From October 2021 to October 2022, 78 wells throughout Tehama County and 9 in Glenn County were reported dry through the State's online reporting system. A dry well inventory will also allow the GSA to better manage assistance to domestic well owners and enable the GSA to target well owners in locations where domestic wells are known to go dry. It will better define how well conditions relate to beneficial uses and users. Shallow domestic wells are susceptible to depressed water levels (become dry) creating a barrier to the **Human Right To Water**. Domestic well users, particularly those who are economically disadvantaged, are more vulnerable as the cost for well deepening/replacement and alternative supplies may be prohibitive.

Domestic well outreach, as part of this component, will provide educational materials and resources to domestic well owners, focusing on domestic well owners who live in areas where wells are known to go

dry as described above. This effort will engage the domestic community in the Subbasin. **The goal** of domestic well outreach is to provide education, engage, and educate stakeholders. **The objectives** are 1. Develop a well owners guide, including educational resources and resources for testing, inspection, and replacement. 2. Summarize the program and findings on the GSA's website, annually. The **need** for domestic well outreach, in addition to funding, is the dedicated GSA staff and participation by the Corning Subbasin community. Potential locations for implementing the domestic well program and outreach are shown on the attached Corning Subbasin maps.

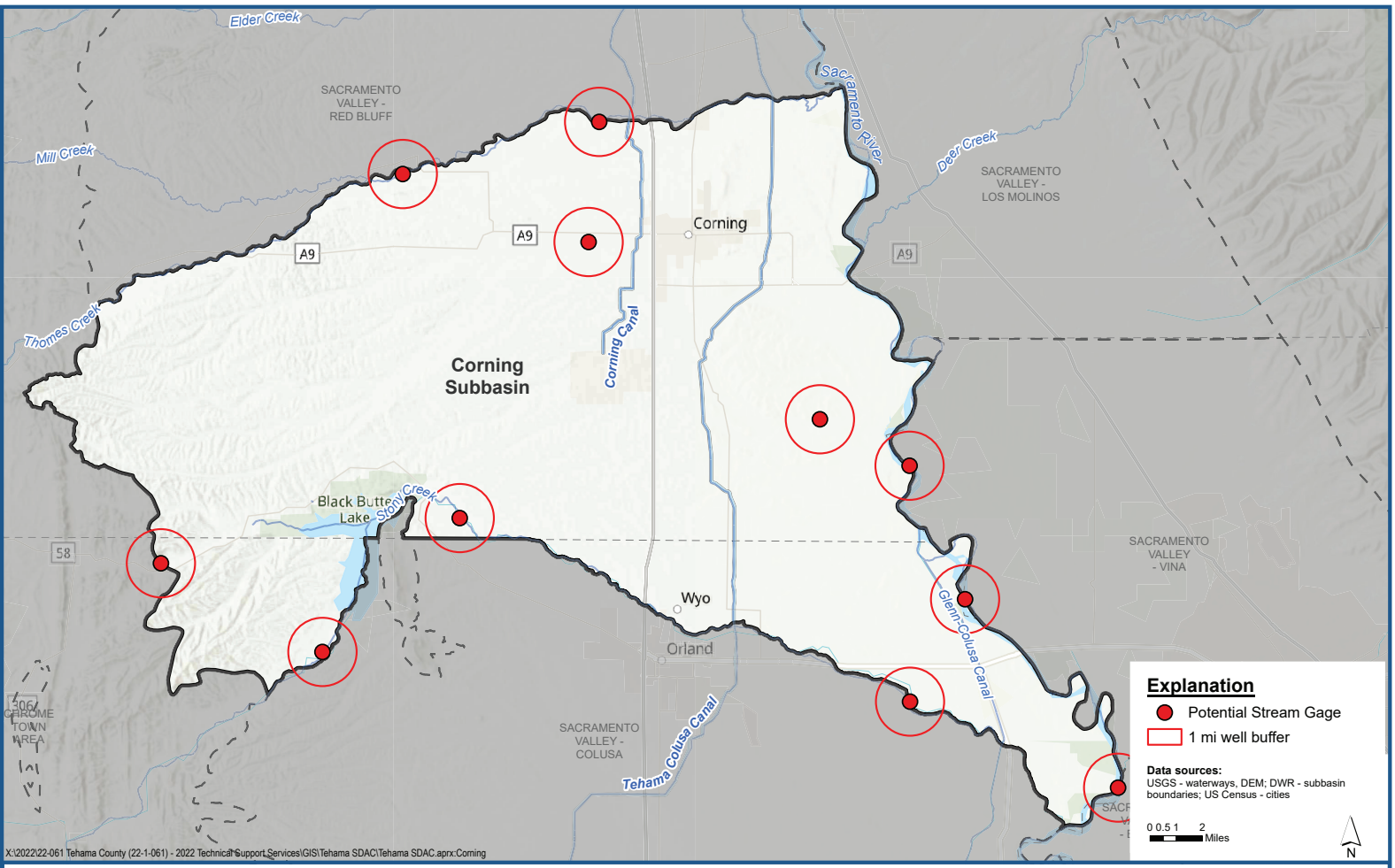
The **goal** of this component are delivery of a valuable service to the well owner community and enhanced characterization of both hydrogeologic and hydrologic conditions. The **objectives** are to fill data gaps, enhance groundwater and surface water monitoring, assess the surface water ecology and engage and educate stakeholders. The **needs** for this component, in addition to funding, are skilled and experienced people to conduct each task of the component. The component will meet the goals, objectives and needs by implementing the scope of work, providing there is sufficient funding, based on the budget request, herein.



Luhdorff & Scalmanini
Consulting Engineers

Potential Multi-Completion Well Monitoring Points

Corning Subbasin Proposition 68 Round 2 Gant Application



Luhdorff & Scalmanini
Consulting Engineers

Potential Surface Water/Groundwater Monitoring Points

Corning Subbasin Proposition 68 Round 2 Gant Application

12. Legislation

a. *Discuss and consider opposition, support, or no opinion of Assembly Bill 2079

Assembly Bill 2079, introduced by Assembly Member Bennett, is suggesting significant changes to water well permitting, inter-agency coordination, and public noticing. The bill text and bill analysis are attached.

Attachments:

- AB 2079 Bill Text
- AB 2079 Bill Analysis

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2024

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 21, 2024

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2023–24 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL No. 2079

Introduced by Assembly Member Bennett

February 5, 2024

An act to add Article 5 (commencing with Section 13807) to Chapter 10 of Division 7 of the Water Code, relating to groundwater.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2079, as amended, Bennett. Groundwater extraction: large-diameter, high-capacity *water* wells: permits.

Existing law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans, except as specified. Existing law authorizes any local agency or combination of local agencies overlying a groundwater basin to decide to become a groundwater sustainability agency for that basin and imposes specified duties upon that agency or combination of agencies, as provided.

Existing law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to adopt a model water well, cathodic protection well, and monitoring well drilling and abandonment ordinance implementing certain standards for water well construction, maintenance, and abandonment and requires each county, city, or water agency, where appropriate, ~~not later than January 15, 1990,~~ to adopt a water well, cathodic protection well, and monitoring well drilling and abandonment ordinance that meets or

exceeds certain standards. Under existing law, if a county, city, or water agency, where appropriate, fails to adopt an ordinance establishing water well, cathodic protection well, and monitoring well drilling and abandonment standards, the model ordinance adopted by the state board is required to take ~~effect on February 15, 1990,~~ *effect,* and is required to be enforced by the county or city and have the same force and effect as if adopted as a county or city ordinance.

This bill would require a local enforcement agency, as defined, to perform specified activities at least 30 days before determining whether to approve a permit for a new large-diameter, high-capacity well, as defined. By imposing additional requirements on a local enforcement agency, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program. The bill would ~~require~~ *require, upon notice,* a groundwater sustainability agency with oversight for the area of the basin where the ~~local enforcement agency has well permitting jurisdiction~~ *proposed large-diameter, high-capacity well is to be located* to provide specified information to the local enforcement agency, including, but not limited to, the name of the applicable groundwater sustainability agency, the agency manager and contact information, and the applicable sustainable management criteria related to groundwater levels, including the groundwater level measurable objectives and minimum thresholds. The bill would ~~provide various requirements for the local enforcement agency to consider before approving or denying a permit.~~ *require a local enforcement agency, before approving a permit for a large-diameter, high capacity well, to provide specified information to the applicant. The bill would prescribe certain standards a local enforcement agency would be required to follow in the approval or denial of the permit, including the location of the proposed large-diameter, high capacity well and specified geological and water supply considerations.* The bill would provide exemptions for its provisions for specified ~~wells if they are proposed to be constructed with well screens and pump depths below the applicable minimum thresholds for groundwater levels as reported by the groundwater sustainability agency.~~ *water wells.* The bill would provide that its provisions apply only to applications for permits for the construction, maintenance, abandonment, or destruction of water wells in basins identified in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The groundwater extraction from large-diameter, high-capacity wells can interfere with nearby drinking water wells and result in impacts to critical infrastructure from subsidence.

(b) It is in the public interest to ensure that the permitting of new wells extracting groundwater will be conducted to minimize the impacts to drinking water wells and subsidence.

(c) Sustainable groundwater management in many parts of the state requires coordination between local agencies permitting water wells and groundwater sustainability agencies managing groundwater basins.

(d) People, businesses, and industries seeking to construct or operate water wells should be adequately informed about groundwater conditions and groundwater management programs that may affect the current or future use and operation of their wells.

(e) Applicants seeking, and agencies permitting, the construction and operation of water wells should take into account the reliability and sustainability of the groundwater sources intended to be used to avoid unexpected or unplanned well dewatering or loss of well production capacity, which could lead to higher rates of unexpected, unplanned, or premature well abandonment and dereliction that could pose additional threats to groundwater quality.

(f) Agencies issuing permits for the construction and operation of water wells should consider the potential for those wells to cause or contribute to land subsidence, which can have impacts on water quality by adversely affecting the concentration of naturally or artificially occurring chemical constituents of concern and posing other serious public health and economic problems.

~~SECTION 1.~~

SEC. 2. Article 5 (commencing with Section 13807) is added to Chapter 10 of Division 7 of the Water Code, to read:

Article 5. Well Sustainability

13807. This article shall apply only to applications for permits for the construction, maintenance, abandonment, or destruction of water wells in basins identified in the Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118.

~~13807.5. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:~~

~~(a) The groundwater extraction from large-diameter, high-capacity wells can interfere with nearby drinking water wells and result in impacts to critical infrastructure from subsidence.~~

~~(b) It is in the public interest to ensure that the permitting of new wells extracting groundwater will be conducted to minimize the impacts to drinking water wells and subsidence.~~

~~(c) Sustainable groundwater management in many parts of the state requires coordination between local agencies permitting water wells and groundwater sustainability agencies managing groundwater basins.~~

~~(d) People, businesses, and industries seeking to construct or operate water wells should be adequately informed about groundwater conditions and groundwater management programs that may affect the current or future use and operation of their wells.~~

~~(e) Applicants seeking, and agencies permitting, the construction and operation of water wells should take into account the reliability and sustainability of the groundwater sources intended to be used to avoid unexpected or unplanned well dewatering or loss of well production capacity, which could lead to higher rates of unexpected, unplanned, or premature well abandonment and dereliction that could pose additional threats to groundwater quality.~~

~~(f) Agencies permitting for the construction and operation of water wells should consider the potential for those wells to cause or contribute to land subsidence, which can have impacts on water quality by adversely affecting the concentration of naturally or artificially occurring chemical constituents of concern and posing other serious public health and economic problems.~~

~~13808.~~

13807.1. The following definitions shall apply to this article:

(a) "Community water system" has the same meaning as provided in Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

(b) "Domestic well" has the same meaning as provided in Section 116681 of the Health and Safety Code.

~~(a)~~

(c) "Large-diameter, high-capacity well" means any water well with a diameter of more than eight inches and intended to produce greater than two acre-feet annually.

~~(b)~~

(d) "Local enforcement agency" means any city, county, or water agency that has adopted and is administering an ordinance for the construction, maintenance, abandonment, or destruction of a water well pursuant to this chapter.

(e) "Public water system" has the same meaning as defined in Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

(f) "State small water system" has the same meaning as provided in Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

~~13808.5.~~

13807.2. (a) A local enforcement agency shall perform all of the following activities at least 30 days before determining whether to approve a permit for a new large-diameter, high-capacity well:

(1) Provide electronic notice to the general public by posting notice of receipt of the application and the contents of the application on the local enforcement agency's internet website.

(2) Provide notice to all groundwater sustainability agencies managing within a 10-mile radius of a proposed well, including those in adjacent basins or counties, as applicable.

(3) Provide notice to all other local enforcement agencies, if any, administering well permitting programs within the basin in which the activities covered in the application would occur.

(4) Provide written notice through the United States Postal Service to the registered owners or agents of all parcels within a one-mile radius of the site where the activities covered in the application would occur and any relevant information on the well permitting process.

(5) Provide notice to the state board if the well is to be located within a groundwater basin that is designated as a probationary basin.

(b) ~~The~~ *Upon notice, a* groundwater sustainability agency with oversight for the area of the basin where the ~~local enforcement agency has well permitting jurisdiction~~ *proposed large-diameter, high-capacity well is to be located* shall provide all of the following information to the local enforcement agency:

(1) The name of the applicable groundwater sustainability plan being implemented and where an electronic copy of the plan may be accessed.

(2) The name of the applicable groundwater sustainability agency, the agency manager and contact information, and the applicable sustainable management criteria related to groundwater levels, including the groundwater level measurable objectives and minimum thresholds.

(3) The estimated depth to the groundwater level based on the most recent monitoring conducted by the groundwater sustainability agency for the area of the basin where the proposed activities covered by the application would occur.

(4) Any fees, allocation, metering, spacing determinations, or other regulations or ordinances that the groundwater sustainability agency has adopted.

(5) Any updates to the information provided pursuant to this subdivision as ~~necessary,~~ *necessary within 30 days,* should changes occur.

(6) Notice of an inadequate determination, if applicable, by the department of the groundwater sustainability plan and the status of any action of the state board resulting from the department determination.

(c) Before approving any well permit for a large-diameter, high-capacity well, a local enforcement agency shall provide all of the following information to the applicant:

(1) The basin name, number, and priority as assigned by the department in its most recent Bulletin 118.

(2) The name of all groundwater sustainability agencies, if any, managing the basin in which the activities covered in the application would occur.

(3) Information on regulations or ordinances adopted by the groundwater sustainability agency relevant to the construction and operation of the proposed well.

(4) Notice to the applicant that the approval of the application and granting of any associated permit is subject to the regulatory

authority of any groundwater sustainability agency managing the portion of the basin in which the activities covered in the application would occur. The notice shall specifically inform the applicant that in addition to any regulatory authority already being exercised, a groundwater sustainability agency *or the state board for a probationary groundwater basin* may exercise authority to limit groundwater extraction, the imposition of fees, and metering.

~~13809.~~

13807.3. (a) A local enforcement agency shall not approve a permit for a large-diameter, high-capacity well if that well is proposed to be located within one-quarter mile of a well used for supplying domestic water to one or more persons or to a community.

(b) (1) A local enforcement agency shall not approve a permit for a large-diameter, high-capacity well if that well is proposed to be located within one-quarter mile of an area that has subsided greater than 0.5 feet in total since January 1, 2015, as reported and defined by the department based upon provided InSAR subsidence data report posted on the Natural Resources Agency open data portal and department internet websites.

(2) A local enforcement agency may approve a permit for a large-diameter, high-capacity well if the area identified in paragraph (1) has not had subsidence of ~~over~~ *more than* 0.1 feet ~~for four consecutive years,~~ *over the preceding four years,* is consistent with the local groundwater sustainability plan, and is screened above geologic units known to be susceptible to compaction.

(c) ~~A~~ *For areas subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (Part 2.74 (commencing with Section 10720) of Division 6), a* local enforcement agency shall not approve a permit for any well unless that well is screened below the minimum thresholds applicable to that portion of the basin as established by the groundwater sustainability agency pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section ~~13808.5.~~ *13807.2.*

(d) To ensure the reliability and long-term operation of *water* wells within its jurisdiction, a local enforcement agency may determine not to approve an application or grant a permit based on criteria that are more stringent than those provided in this section.

~~13809.5.~~

13807.4. This article does not apply to applications or permits for *any of* the following ~~wells if they are proposed to be constructed with well screens and pump depths below the applicable minimum thresholds for groundwater levels as reported by the groundwater sustainability agency pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 13808.5 or otherwise provided to the local enforcement agency by the groundwater sustainability agency:~~ *water wells:*

(a) Wells that will draw less than two acre-feet per ~~acre.~~ *year.*

(b) Wells that will be located on a parcel of five acres or fewer that is in an area that has been zoned by the local land use authority for rural residential use.

(c) ~~Public supply wells or~~ *Drinking water wells of a public water system,* state small *water system,* or *a* community water ~~systems.~~ *system.*

(d) Large-diameter, high-capacity wells for the replacement or reconstruction of an existing large-diameter, high-capacity well that meets all of the following conditions:

(1) The replacing or reconstructed well shall not have a larger diameter or be used to pump more water annually than the previous well.

(2) The well being replaced shall be abandoned prior to initial operation of the replacing well.

(3) The replacing well is in substantially the same location as the well it is replacing or is to be moved to a location that would lessen impacts to domestic wells and wells that provide water for state small water systems or community water systems.

~~SEC. 2.~~

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.

O

Date of Hearing: April 23, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE
Diane Papan, Chair
AB 2079 (Bennett) – As Amended April 16, 2024

SUBJECT: Groundwater extraction: large-diameter, high-capacity water wells: permits

SUMMARY: Requires greater interagency coordination and public notice regarding applications to drill water wells and prohibits a local agency from approving new "large-diameter, high-capacity" wells within one-quarter mile of domestic wells and areas of significant land subsidence. Specifically, **this bill**:

1) Provides that this bill shall only apply to the 515 groundwater basins identified by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in Bulletin 118.

2) Defines "large-diameter, high-capacity well" as any water well with a diameter greater than eight inches and that pumps more than two acre-feet (AF) of water annually.

3) Defines "local enforcement agency" (LEA) as any city, county, or water agency that has adopted and is administering an ordinance for the construction, maintenance, abandonment, or destruction of a water well.

4) Requires an LEA to do the following at least 30 days prior to approving a permit for a large-diameter, high capacity water well:

    a) Notify the public by posting the application on the LEA's website;

    b) Notify all groundwater sustainability agencies (GSA) within a 10-mile radius of the proposed well;

    c) Notify all other LEA's in the groundwater basin, if any;

    d) Notify via U.S. Postal Service all registered owners or agents of parcels within a one-mile radius of the proposed well. The notice shall include information about the well permitting process; and

    e) Notify the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) if the proposed well is to be located in a probationary basin.

5) Requires, upon notice, a GSA with oversight of the area where a proposed large-diameter, high-capacity well is to be located to provide the following information to the LEA:

    a) The name of the applicable groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) and where an electronic copy of the GSP may be accessed;

    b) The name of the applicable GSA, the GSA manager and contact information, and applicable sustainable groundwater sustainable management criteria;

    c) The estimated depth to the groundwater level based on most recent monitoring for the area where the large-diameter, high-capacity well is to be located;

d) Any fees, allocation, metering, spacing determinations, or other regulations or ordinances that the GSA has adopted;

e) Any updates to the information provided [i.e., information described in (a) through (d) and (f)] should changes occur; and

f) Notice of an inadequate determination, if applicable, and the status of any action by the State Water Board pertaining to the inadequate determination.

6) Requires the LEA to provide the following information to an applicant before approving a permit for a large-diameter, high-capacity well:

a) The basin's name, number, and priority as designated by DWR;

b) The name of all GSAs managing the basin, if any, where the well will be located;

c) Any regulations or ordinances adopted by the GSA relative to the construction and operation of the well;

d) Notice that the well is subject to the regulatory authority of a GSA or State Water Board, if applicable. Specifically that such authority may include limiting groundwater pumping, imposing fees, and requiring metering.

7) Prohibits an LEA from approving a large diameter, high-capacity well within one-quarter of a mile of a domestic well.

8) Prohibits an LEA from approving a large diameter, high-capacity well within one-quarter of a mile of an area that DWR has reported as having subsided more than 0.5 feet since January 1, 2015 based on data provided in the InSAR subsidence data report. Provides, however, that an LEA *may* approve a well in such an area if the area has not had more than 0.1 feet of subsidence over the preceding four years and if the well is consistent with an applicable GSP and is screened above geologic units know to be susceptible to compaction.

9) Prohibits, in basins subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), an LEA from approving a permit for any well unless it is screened below the minimum thresholds established in the GSP applicable to the area of the basin where the well is to be located.

10) Provides that an LEA may deny an application to approve a well based on criteria that is more stringent than that outlined in this bill.

11) Provides that this bill does not apply to applications or permits for any of the following:

a) Wells that pump less than two AF annually;

b) Wells that will be located on a parcel five acres or less that is zoned rural-residential;

c) Drinking water wells of a public water system, state small water system, or a community water system;

d) Large-diameter, high-capacity wells for the replacement of an existing large-diameter, high capacity well so long as it will not pump more water annually than the well being replaced, is substantially in the same location as the well being replaced and meets other specified conditions.

12) Provides that no reimbursement by the state is required by this bill because local agencies have the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to cover the implementation costs.

EXISTING LAW:

1) Requires, under SGMA, local agencies to sustainably manage groundwater in high- or medium-priority basins by 2040. Defines sustainable management of groundwater as the avoidance of the following six "undesirable results:" (a) chronic lowering of groundwater levels; (b) reduction of groundwater storage; (c) seawater intrusion; (d) degraded water quality; (e) land subsidence; and (f) depletions of interconnected surface water (Water Code § 10720 *et seq.*).

2) Requires DWR to designate groundwater basins as high-, medium-, low-, or very low-priority and requires that the designation be based on specified criteria, including population of the overlying basin, number of wells in the basin, and irrigated acreage in the basin (Water Code § 10722.4).

3) Permits a GSA to require registration of any groundwater extraction facility (e.g., groundwater well) within its management area (Water Code § 10725.6).

4) Prohibits a GSA from issuing a permit for the construction, modification, or abandonment of a groundwater well unless authorized by a county to do so. Permits a GSA to request that a county forward permit applications for construction, modification, or reactivation of groundwater wells to the GSA before approval and requires counties to consider such a request from a GSA [Water Code § 10726.4 (b)].

5) Defines "well" or "water well" as any artificial excavation for the purpose of extracting water from, or injecting water into, the underground. Excludes oil and gas wells, geothermal wells, and wells used to dewater during destruction or stabilize hillsides or earth embankments from the definition of "well" and "water well" (Water Code § 13710).

6) Requires every person who drills, expands, or destroys a water well, cathodic protection well, groundwater monitoring well, or geothermal heat exchange well to file a well completion report with DWR containing specified information within 60 days of completing the construction, alteration, abandonment, or destruction of the well (Water Code § 13751).

7) Defines "domestic well" as a groundwater well used to supply water for the domestic needs of an individual residence or water system that is not a public water system and has no more than four connections [Health and Safety Code § 116681(i)].

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. This bill is keyed fiscal.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose of this bill**. This bill requires disclosure of information regarding permit applications for large-diameter, high-capacity wells and prohibits such wells where excessive land subsidence is occurring and near existing domestic wells. According to the author, "SGMA was passed to establish a statewide framework to help protect groundwater basins from over-pumping and have them reach long-term sustainable pumping levels. In March of 2022, the Governor signed Executive Order (EO) N-7-22 to establish new well permitting requirements in order to ensure new wells were evaluated for their impact on neighboring wells and land subsidence. Thousands of wells were permitted, with only a cursory ministerial approval process between the 2014 passage of SGMA and the governor's 2022 [EO]. Thousands of drinking water wells that often times served disadvantage communities went dry during that same period. [DWR] performed an extensive review followed by a thorough report on the implementation and effectiveness of the Governor's [EO]. [This bill] now implements the recommendations from DWR to ensure that new wells are evaluated for their impact on neighboring wells and land subsidence."

2) **Background**. According to DWR, groundwater provides approximately 40% of California's water supply in a "normal" year and as much as 60% in dry years. DWR estimates there are two million groundwater wells in California at present and indicates that between 7,000 and 15,000 new wells are constructed each year. Permitting for construction, alteration, or destruction of groundwater wells is handled by local agencies; typically this is a county department of environmental health, but cities and water agencies also exercise this authority in some cases. LEAs at a minimum, ensure compliance with well standards set by DWR (in Bulletin 74) before issuing a permit. Some LEAs adopt standards for wells that surpass DWR guidelines.

   Oftentimes, a permit for a groundwater well is deemed a "ministerial" action by an LEA. Ministerial actions do not require the exercise of any discretion by the LEA: "'ministerial' describes a governmental decision involving little or no personal judgement by the public official as to the wisdom or manner of carrying out the project. The public official merely applies the law to the facts as presented but uses no special discretion or judgement in reaching a decision" (14 California Code of Regulations § 15369).

   Governor's drought EOs. The Governor issued EO N-7022 on March 28, 2022, to extend the then existing drought emergency and require various administrative responses to the previous drought. Among these actions, paragraph nine of EO N-7-22 prohibited a local or public agency from issuing a permit for a new groundwater well or the alteration of an existing well in a groundwater basin subject to SGMA "without first obtaining written verification from a [GSA] managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable [GSP] adopted by that [GSA] and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan." Furthermore, the EO required that an LEA determine that a proposed new well or modification of an existing well would not likely interfere with nearby wells and would not cause subsidence that would harm infrastructure before issuing a permit. EO N-3-23 issued on February 13, 2023 again extended the then existing drought emergency and the provisions related to groundwater well permitting with minor changes to address any wells that must be moved related to the construction of high-speed rail.

Groundwater Well Permitting: Observations and Analysis of Executive Orders N-7-22 and N-3-23 (EO report). Completed in March 2024, this report notes that local agencies adopted various approaches to complying with the well permitting requirements of the EOs. These approaches included individual consultation on a permit-by-permit basis, reliance on existing requirements deemed sufficient, reliance on information submitted by applicants, passage of a broad resolution claiming any new well was consistent with relevant GSPs, and reliance on a report by a licensed professional. In some cases, GSAs and LEAs were simply unwilling to perform the verification process mandated in the EOs. There was little that DWR could do for those opting to not comply; as the EO report notes, "there is also no mechanism in the EOs to ensure compliance." The EO report notes that at least 1,911 wells were reported as going dry via the voluntary Dry Well Reporting System from March 2022 through August 28, 2023 and that there were several areas of land subsidence of up to one foot in parts of the Sacramento Valley and San Joaquin Valley. The EO report includes DWR recommendations for statutory concepts to replace the EOs: 1) require disclosures; 2) set minimum standards; 3) exempt certain discrete types of wells and procedures; and 4) establish applicability of requirements (i.e., specify to groundwater basins are subject to requirements). This bill is based on the recommendations contained in the EO report.

Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (InSAR) subsidence data report. This dataset is derived from satellite imagery collected by the European Space Agency ESA Sentinel-1A satellite and processed by TRE ALTAMIRA, Inc. under contract with DWR. DWR makes this subsidence data available to GSAs as part of its SGMA technical assistance program for GSP development and implementation. Data collection began in late 2014. The dataset includes point data that represent average vertical displacement values for 100 meter by 100 meter areas. The data was updated in 2018, 2019, and 2020 and has been updated quarterly since October 2021 (with the latest update in January 2024). This bill prohibits permitting a new large-diameter, high-capacity well within one-quarter mile of an area identified as having greater than 0.5 feet of land subsidence since January 1, 2015 based on InSAR data and interpretation.

3) **Arguments in support**. CleanEarth4Kids.org supports this bill asserting that many California communities face serious shortages of drinking water due in part to unregulated overpumping of groundwater. CleanEarth4Kids.org observes that groundwater levels plummeted during droughts experienced over the past decade and a half and that "high-capacity wells were drilled with no oversight or thought to the impacts to our drinking water." CleanEarth4Kids.org argues this bill is necessary to protect our children's health and future.

4) **Arguments in opposition**. The Valley Ag Water Coalition (VAWC) opposes this bill "because it represents an unnecessary intrusion into local control, interferes with the regulatory authority granted to [GSAs] under [SGMA], and adds burdensome requirements on GSAs at a time when they are focused on implementation of [GSPs]—the majority of which have been approved by [DWR]." VAWC further asserts the approach contained in this bill is contrary to the principle of SGMA that groundwater should be managed locally and tailored to unique local conditions which DWR has embraced when evaluating GSPs. Finally, VAWC contends that this bill "threatens state and local investments in groundwater banks and indirect potable reuse projects by prohibiting or interfering with the withdrawal of water placed into aquifers throughout the state."

5) **Oppose unless amended**. The California Chamber of Commerce (CalChamber) and a number of agricultural trade associations have taken an "oppose unless amended" position on this bill arguing "that a stringent limitation on essentially any new non-drinking water well is [not] the appropriate way to address a decades-long and complex issue" and that "when SGMA was developed, the focus on achieving groundwater sustainability was rightfully on the relative use of groundwater: on how much water is used. It did not focus on how many wells are or may be in existence." CalChamber et al. maintain this bill should focus on communication between GSAs, LEAs, and well permit applicants. In addition, CalChamber et al. seek several amendments to: 1) limit notifications of permit applications to only properties with wells; and 2) exempt adjudicated basins and basins with a statutorily designated groundwater agency [Water Code § 10723(c)] from this bill.

6) **Proposed committee amendments**. The Committee may wish to request that the author to somewhat narrow the application of this bill so that water wells for recharge, water quality, and municipal purposes are excluded and to make clarifying and technical amendments:

Amendment 1 – exclude drinking water wells, wells that are part of a conjunctive use or water banking program, and wells used for groundwater remediation from this bill and make technical and clarifying changes:

13807.4. This article does not apply to applications or permits for any of the following ~~*water wells*~~:

(a) Wells that will draw less than two acre-feet per year.

(b) Wells that will be located on a parcel of five acres or fewer that is in an area that has been zoned by the local land use authority for rural residential use.

(c) Drinking water wells of *an urban retail water supplier* ~~*a public water system*~~, state small water system, or a community water system.

(d) Large-diameter, high-capacity wells for the replacement or reconstruction of an existing large-diameter, high-capacity well that meets all of the following conditions:

(1) The replacing or reconstructed well shall not have a larger diameter or be used to pump more water annually than the previous well.

(2) The well being replaced shall be abandoned prior to initial operation of the *replacement* ~~*replacing*~~ well.

(3) The ~~*replacing*~~ *replacement* well is in substantially the same location as the well it is replacing or is to be moved to a location that would lessen impacts to domestic wells and wells that provide water for state small water systems or community water systems.

(e) Wells associated with or part of a conjunctive use or water banking program or project that has approved environmental document consistent with Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.

(f) Wells that are part of a groundwater remediation or protection project that aims to address groundwater contamination, water quality, or sea water intrusion.

Amendment 2 – Add definition of urban retail water supplier:

13807.1. The following definitions shall apply to this article:

(a) "Community water system" has the same meaning as provided in Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

(b) "Domestic well" has the same meaning as provided in Section 116681 of the Health and Safety Code.

(c) "Large-diameter, high-capacity well" means any water well with a diameter of more than eight inches and intended to produce greater than two acre-feet annually.

(d) "Local enforcement agency" means any city, county, or water agency that has adopted and is administering an ordinance for the construction, maintenance, abandonment, or destruction of a water well pursuant to this chapter.

(e) "Public water system" has the same meaning as defined in Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

(f) "State small water system" has the same meaning as provided in Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

(g) "Urban retail water supplier" has the same meaning as provided in Section 10608.12 of the Water Code.

Amendment 3 – make technical and clarifying changes:

13807.2. … (b) *If the proposed large-diameter, high-capacity well is to be located in an area subject to management by a groundwater sustainability agency, the applicable* ~~*Upon notice, a*~~ groundwater sustainability agency ~~*with oversight for the area of the basin where the proposed large-diameter, high-capacity well is to be located*~~ shall*, upon notice of a permit application*, provide all of the following information to the local enforcement agency:

(1) The name of the applicable groundwater sustainability plan being implemented and where an electronic copy of the plan may be accessed.

(2) The name of the applicable groundwater sustainability agency, the agency manager and contact information, and the applicable sustainable management criteria related to groundwater levels, including the groundwater level measurable objectives and minimum thresholds.

(3) The estimated depth to the groundwater level based on the most recent monitoring conducted by the groundwater sustainability agency for the area of the basin where the proposed activities covered by the application would occur.

(4) Any fees, allocation, metering, spacing determinations, or other regulations or ordinances that the groundwater sustainability agency has adopted.

(5) Any updates to the information provided pursuant to this subdivision as necessary within 30 days, should changes occur.

(6) Notice of an inadequate determination, if applicable, by the department of the groundwater sustainability plan and the status of any action of the state board resulting from the department determination.

(c) Before approving any well permit for a large-diameter, high-capacity well, a local enforcement agency shall provide all of the following ~~*information*~~ to the applicant:

(1) The basin name, number, and priority as assigned by the department in its most recent Bulletin 118.

(2) The name of all groundwater sustainability agencies, if any, managing the basin in which the activities covered in the application would occur.

(3) Information on regulations or ordinances adopted by the groundwater sustainability agency relevant to the construction and operation of the proposed well, *if applicable*.

(4) *If applicable, notice* ~~*Notice*~~ to the applicant that the approval of the application and granting of any associated permit is subject to the regulatory authority of any groundwater sustainability agency managing the portion of the basin in which the activities covered in the application would occur. The notice shall specifically inform the applicant that in addition to any regulatory authority already being exercised, a groundwater sustainability agency or the state board for a probationary groundwater basin may exercise authority to limit groundwater extraction, the imposition of fees, and metering.

7) **Related legislation**. AB 1563 (Bennett) of 2023 would have prohibited a county, city, or any other well permitting agency from approving a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a critically overdrafted basin subject to SGMA unless certain conditions are met. AB 1563 died in the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee.

AB 429 (Bennett) of 2023 was substantially similar to AB 1563. AB 429 was referred to this Committee but never heard.

AB 2201 (Bennett) of 2022 would have required local agencies that permit groundwater wells to obtain written verification stating that a proposed well will not undermine sustainable groundwater management or cause well interference prior to approving a permit application for a groundwater well, unless the well was exempted. AB 2201 returned to the Assembly for a concurrence vote, but was never taken up.

SB 1317 (Wolk) of 2016 would have required a city or county overlying a high- or medium-priority basin to prohibit the issuance of a permit for a new groundwater extraction facility or require a permit applicant to demonstrate that extraction of groundwater from the proposed facility would not contribute to, or create, an undesirable result. SB 1317 was referred to this committee but never heard.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Coastkeeper Alliance
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Civicwell
Clean Water Action
Cleanearth4kids.org
Community Water Center
Environmental Law Foundation
Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability
Natural Resources Defense Council
Restore Hetch Hetchy
Sierra Club California
We Advocate Through Environmental Review

Opposition

South San Joaquin Irrigation District
Valley Ag Water Coalition

Oppose Unless Amended

Agricultural Council of California
Association of California Water Agencies
California Apple Commission
California Association of Wheat Growers
California Association of Winegrape Growers
California Bean Shippers Association
California Blueberry Association
California Blueberry Commission
California Cattlemen's Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Citrus Mutual
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
California Farm Bureau Federation
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Groundwater Association
California League of Food Producers
California Municipal Utilities Association
California Pear Grower Association
California Seed Association
California State Association of Counties
California Walnut Commission
Cucamonga Valley Water District
Desert Water Agency
Eastern Municipal Water District
Grower-Shipper Association of Central California

Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Jurupa Community Services District
Kern County Water Agency
Kings River Conservation District
Modesto Irrigation District
Northern California Water Association
Olive Growers Council of California
Rancho Water
Regional Water Authority
Solano County Water Agency
Southern California Water Coalition
United Ag
United Water Conservation District
Water Replenishment District of Southern California
Western Agricultural Processors Association
Western Growers Association
Western Municipal Water District
Wine Institute

Analysis Prepared by: Pablo Garza / W., P., & W. / (916) 319-2096

13. Committee Reports

a. Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

b. Corning Subbasin GSP Determination Response Ad Hoc Committee

Corning Subbasin Advisory Board

The Corning Subbasin Advisory Board (CSAB) met on March 6, 2024, March 27, 2024, and April 3, 2024. The CSAB has generally been focused on providing feedback and recommendations on various GSP Revisions including Groundwater Level Sustainable Management Criteria, commitment to develop and implement a well mitigation program, and commitment to develop and implement a demand management program. Additionally, the CSAB received updates on the development of the Corning Subbasin Water Year 2023 Annual Report and Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Grant activities.

The next CSAB meeting is scheduled to take place June 5, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.

CSAB meeting materials, including presentations, agendas, and meeting summaries are available on the website at: www.corningsubbasingsp.org.

Members: John Amaro, Brian Mori, Julia Violich, Grant Carmon (Alternate)

Corning Subbasin GSP Determination Response Ad Hoc Committee

The CSGSA and Tehama County Flood Control and Water Conservation District GSA each formed an ad hoc committee that will participate in meetings with GSA staff, LSCE, and DWR to clarify and discuss the incomplete determination and understanding of the deficiencies.

The Revised Corning Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan has been adopted and submitted to the Department of Water Resources. The committee's assigned tasks are complete.

Members: Tom Arnold, Brian Mori

---

14. Review Committees and Revise as Needed

a. *Assign new committees, update membership, and/or dissolve committees as needed.

The CSGSA may consider changes to existing committees or assignment of new committees.

The Corning Subbasin GSP Determination Response Ad Hoc Committee has completed the assigned tasks.

Recommendation: Dissolve the Corning Subbasin GSP Determination Response Ad Hoc Committee.

Additional discussion and revisions may take place.

15. Corning Sub-basin GSA Committee Member Reports and Comments

Members of the CSGSA Committee are encouraged to share information, reports, comments, and suggest future agenda items. Action cannot be taken on matters brought up under this item.

16. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

17. Adjourn

The meeting will be adjourned.