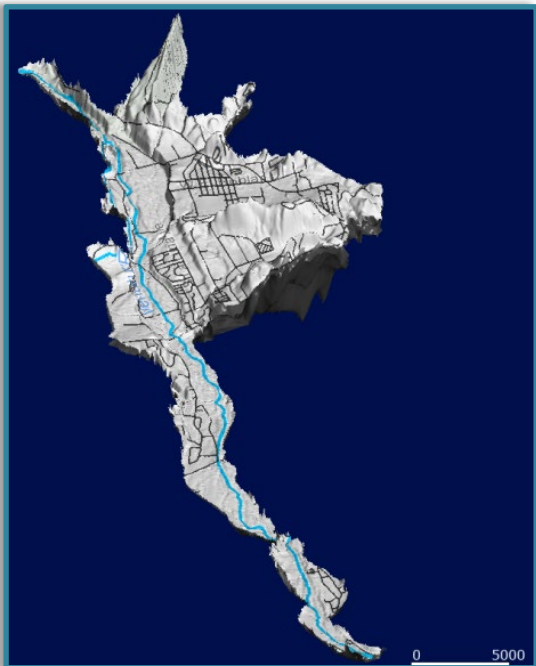


Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development Update

Your Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development team remains hard at work developing the GSP for the Upper Ventura River Groundwater Basin (UVRB). The GSP will describe the groundwater basin, goals for sustainable management of the basin groundwater resources, and an implementation plan to achieve those goals by no later than 2042. A significant portion of the GSP development costs are covered by a Proposition 1 Groundwater Sustainability Planning Grant from the State. The GSP must be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources on or before January of 2022, otherwise the State Water Resources Control Board will take over management of the Basin. Thus, the GSP presents an opportunity for locals to decide how the UVRB should be managed and local participation is key to the process. For more information about our overall GSP planning process, please see our GSP development schedule at: <https://uvrgroundwater.org/sgma-overview/>.

Since our last newsletter, the GSP development team completed a draft of the hydrogeologic conceptual model (HCM) and groundwater conditions sections of the GSP. These sections describe the physical attributes of the Basin, groundwater levels, and groundwater quality. This information is being used to help develop the sustainable management criteria for the Basin. The HCM and groundwater conditions sections were posted on-line at <https://uvrgroundwater.org/sgma-overview/> and are available for review and comment by stakeholders. Please use our online comment form on the page listed above form to submit your comments or questions.



Also since our last newsletter, the GSP development team has been focused on developing a numerical model to simulate groundwater and surface water conditions in the Basin. The model will be completed in early 2021 and will be used to simulate 50 years of future groundwater conditions to help evaluate whether projects or management actions will be necessary for sustainable management of the Basin. On December 10, the UVRGA Board received a presentation from staff concerning assumptions for the 50-year model simulations and provided feedback.

Lastly, the Agency began developing sustainable management criteria

(SMC) for the Basin. Please see Page 2 for more information about the SMC.



UVRGA Has Entered the Most Important Phase of the GSP Planning Process – Developing Sustainable Management Criteria for the Basin.

Your Participation is Very Important to the Planning Process!

**GSP Public Workshop
No. 2
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
4 p.m.
On-line.**

A workshop will be held to present key GSP aspects and give opportunities for stakeholder input. Your active participation is highly encouraged!

**Please visit our website to register for the workshop:
<https://uvrgroundwater.org/>**

Get Involved!

At the core of SGMA is the idea that locals should make groundwater management decisions, not the State. Your input is critical for ensuring the UVRGA GSP reflects local values. Please join our interested parties list at:

<https://uvrgroundwater.org/join-interested-parties-list/>
or contact our Executive Director, Bryan Bondy for more information at:
bbondy@uvrgroundwater.org



Board Meetings

Regular Board Meetings are scheduled monthly on the second Thursday. Please visit our website for more information.

To receive Board meeting agendas via e-mail, please join our interested parties list at:

<https://uvrgroundwater.org/join-interested-parties-list/>

Sustainable Management Criteria

As discussed in our prior newsletter, The GSP must include Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) for each of the six applicable sustainability indicators. SMC are the most important part of the GSP because they define conditions in the basin that are to be avoided and conditions that are desirable to achieve.

Sustainability Indicators	Lowering GW Levels	Reduction of Storage	Seawater Intrusion	Degraded Quality	Land Subsidence	Surface Water Depletion
						

UVRGA began developing the SMC for the Basin in mid-2020. The UVRGA Board began this process in June by receiving an overview of SMC requirements. The UVRGA Board then released a draft Sustainability Goal for public comment on June 23 and adopted the goal on August 13. The sustainability goal can be viewed at <https://uvrgroundwater.org/uvrga-sustainability-goal-adopted-8-13-20/>.

On August 13, the UVRGA staff presented an initial screening of the sustainability indicators to the Board. The seawater intrusion sustainability indicator was eliminated for further consideration due to the physical impossibility of seawater intrusion into the Basin. On December 10, UVRGA staff presented an approach for addressing the subsidence sustainability indicator. It was proposed that the subsidence sustainability indicator be screened out because there is a very low potential for subsidence in the Basin. SMC will not be developed for the subsidence indicator, but subsidence monitoring will be included in the GSP and will be used to reevaluate this decision every five years. Staff presented draft SMC for the degraded water quality indicator to the Board on January 14, 2021. The draft SMC for degraded water quality will be posted on the UVRGA website and will be presented during GSP Public Workshop No. 2. The remaining indicators will be addressed once groundwater modeling results are available.

Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Grant Pursued by UVRGA

In October 2020, UVRGA applied for a \$3.8M grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board to fund construction of a groundwater/surface water interaction monitoring network and two years of baseline monitoring. The grant could fund up to seventeen groundwater monitoring well clusters along the Ventura River and three stream gauges to address data gaps in the Basin. The grant scope also includes two years of baseline monitoring of groundwater levels, stream flow, and water quality. Addressing data gaps and monitoring are required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and this grant would provide a significant cost savings to the region. The data will also be used to update and improve the UVRGA groundwater model of the basin and update the GSP, which is required by 2027. The monitoring facilities and baseline data will also be available to others working on projects in the region, such as the State Water Resources Control Board, Watershed Instream Flow Enhancement & Water Resiliency Regional Framework (VRIF), and the Ventura River Watershed Council. UVRGA will be reaching out to landowners to seek access for construction of the proposed monitoring facilities.

