

## **UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 13, 2022**

The Regular Board meeting was held via teleconference, in accordance with Upper Ventura River Groundwater Agency Board Resolution No. 2021-05. Directors present were Mike Etchart, Bruce Kuebler, Jenny Tribo, Emily Ayala, Arne Anselm, Pete Kaiser and Vivon Crawford (arrived during Item No. 7). Also present: Executive Director Bryan Bondy, Agency Counsel Steven O'Neill, and Administrative Assistant Maureen Tucker. Identified public members present: Mary Bergen, Mike Flood, Bert Rapp, Burt Handy, Alma Quezada, Jim Kentosh, Burt Handy, and Justin Martinez.

### **1) CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Etchart called the meeting to order at 1:02p.m.

### **2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Executive Director Bryan Bondy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **3) ROLL CALL**

Executive Director Bondy called roll.

Directors Present: Bruce Kuebler, Emily Ayala, Arne Anselm, Pete Kaiser, Mike Etchart, and Jenny Tribo.

Directors Absent: Vivon Crawford

### **4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND RENEWAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-05**

Chair Etchart asked for any proposed changes to the agenda.

Director Kaiser moved agenda approval and the renewal of Resolution 2021-05. Director Kuebler seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:                    B. Kuebler – Y E.Ayala – Y Mike Etchart - Y

J.Tribo – Y A.Anselm - Y P.Kaiser - Y

Director Absent: Vivon Crawford

### **5) PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA**

Chair Etchart asked for public comments on items not appearing on the agenda.

None.

## **6) CONSENT CALENDAR**

- a. Approve Minutes from September 8, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Approve Financial Report for September 2022

Director Kuebler moved approval of the consent calendar items. Director Kaiser seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:                    B. Kuebler – Y   E.Ayala – Y   A.Anselm - Y

   J.Tribo – Y   P.Kaiser – Y   Mike Etchart - Y

Directors Absent: Vivon Crawford

Public Comments: none

## **7) DIRECTORS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Directors may provide oral report on items not appearing on the agenda.

Director Crawford arrived during the item.

Director Kuebler:                He attended a portion of the Localizing California Waters conference.

Director Tribo:                    She attended a portion of the Localizing California Waters conference.

Director Ayala:                    No report.

Director Crawford:                She attended the Localizing California Waters conference and was a presenter on behalf of Ojai Valley Land Conservancy.

Director Kaiser:                    No report.

Director Anselm                    No report

Director Etchart                    No report.

## **8) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Bondy reviewed the written staff report concerning Agency matters since the last Board meeting.

Executive Director Bondy noted a typo in the staff report concerning the “New Director Training.” The training is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 1 p.m. He said Directors Crawford and Etchart have confirmed and asked if any others would like to attend. No other directors expressed an interest in attending the training session.

Executive Director Bondy said the Stakeholders Director terms expire in February. He added that Director Ayala has indicated to server for another term. Director Crawford said she is also willing to serve another term.

Executive Director Bondy said the well registration packets were mailed out in mid-September and the registration forms are due soon. He thanked Director Ayala for reviewing the materials and for serving as a test case.

Director Kuebler stated he was contacted AWA with a request to provide a presentation from UVRGA. Executive Director Bondy said he is not available. Director Kuebler volunteered to provide the update. No concerns were expressed.

Public comments: none

## **9) ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS – No Administrative Items this meeting**

### **10) GSP IMPLEMENTATION ITEMS**

#### **a. GDE Monitoring Plan Implementation Update**

Executive Director Bondy provided an update on implementation of the Board-approved Aquatic Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) monitoring plans.

Executive Director Bondy explained that access within the river channel is provided under existing public access laws. He referred the Board to the brochure “Public Access and Use of California’s Navigable Waters” attached to the staff report. He said field staff will carry the brochure with them and if they encounter a concerned landowner they will give them a copy of the brochure.

Executive Director Bondy explained that access for ingress/egress to/from the river channel is needed from the City of Ventura, County of Ventura, and Ojai Valley Land Conservancy (OVLC). The City of Ventura has executed an access agreement and the County of Ventura has provided temporary access pending an encroachment permit. Executive Director Bondy is awaiting a response from OVLC concerning the request for access.

Director Ayala asked if we need to notify private properties/landowners are located near the river channel in the study areas. Executive Director Bondy displayed a map showing the properties and said there are only a few. Director Crawford and Tom from OVLC are currently reviewing the access agreement from UVRGA. Director Crawford stated she will respond when she can.

Executive Director Bondy said he followed up on Director Crawford's comments and data sharing and monitoring procedures. His September 1 email requested information about which protocols need discussion and information about data the being generated by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. He is awaiting a response.

**b. Intera Work Order No. 6 for Water Year 2021/2022 GSP Annual Report Preparation and Numerical Model Update**

Executive Director Bondy explained that it is time to start working on the next annual report. He briefly reviewed the proposed work order for Intera, Inc. to prepare the annual report and explained the associated fiscal impact.

Director Anselm moved approval of Intera, Inc. Work Order No. 6 for an amount not-to-exceed \$45,136 and an additional \$4,000 in contingency at the Executive Director's discretion. Director Ayala seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: B. Kuebler – Y E.Ayala – Y V.Crawford - Y

J.Tribo – Y A.Anselm - Y P. Kaiser – Y M.Etchart - Y

Directors Absent: None

**c. GSP Summary Presentation – Part 1 of 2**

Executive Director Bondy provided Part 1 of the GSP summary presentation to the Board. The presentation slides are attached to these minutes.

**11) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Ad Hoc Stakeholder Engagement Committee**

Directors Ayala said the committee is working the annual review of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and hopes to bring proposed revisions for Board consideration at the next meeting.

Public comments: None

## **12) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Executive Director Bondy asked if the Board would like to have him present the second part of the of the GSP summary. Director Etchart said yes.

Director Tribo stated that Ventura is wrapping up the fish passage project in the Foster Park area. She wanted to know if the Board would like a summary on the project when it is done. Director Etchart said yes. The summary will likely be in November or December.

## **13) ADJOURNMENT**

The next Regular Board meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.


The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_








**B.Kuebler\_ J.Tribo \_\_ A.Anslem \_\_ E.Ayala\_\_ V.Crawford\_\_ P.Kaiser \_\_M.Etchart\_\_**

# UPPER VENTURA RIVER GROUNDWATER AGENCY GSP SUMMARY PRESENTATION PART 1 OF 2



**Upper Ventura River  
GROUNDWATER AGENCY**  
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

**SEPTEMBER 8, 2022  
ITEM 10(a)**

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## PRESENTATION CAVEAT

- *To help control costs, some slides are recycled from 2021 draft GSP workshops. Therefore, minor differences between slide content and the adopted GSP may exist.*

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## TOPICS

- **Part 1 (*Today*)**
  - SGMA Background
  - What's in a GSP
  - Summary of Basin Setting
- **Part 2 (*Future Board Meeting*)**
  - Sustainable Management Criteria
  - Projects and Management Actions
  - GSP Implementation

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## WHAT IS SGMA?

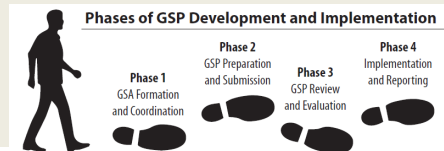
- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
  - Three bill package signed into CA law in late 2014
  - Provides a statewide framework for long-term sustainable groundwater management in CA
  - Requires basins high and medium priority basins to be managed sustainably 20 years after adopting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by a local Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
    - UVRB is medium priority
  - Intervention by SWRCB if a GSA does not comply with SGMA requirements

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# SGMA REQUIREMENTS

1. Form a Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA)
  - UVRGA formed in Dec. 2016 and designated a in GSA July 2017
2. Adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
  - GSP Adopted January 6, 2022
3. Achieve Sustainable Groundwater Management
  - 20 years following GSP adoption



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## CHIEF GOAL OF SMGA IS TO AVOID “UNDESIRABLE RESULTS”

- Overarching goal of SGMA is to avoid undesirable results for each of the six SGMA sustainability in



- Undesirable results and actions to prevent them are defined at the local level by the GSA in the GSP

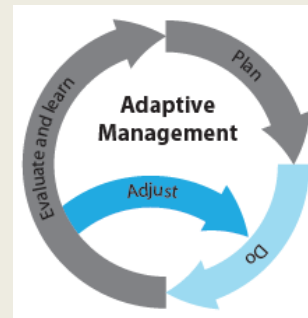
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## WHAT IS A GSP?

- The GSP is a flexible road map for how a groundwater basin will achieve long term sustainability by avoiding undesirable results through data-driven adaptive management



- GSP is not the final answer nor is it static – part of adaptive management is evaluating the plan every five years and updating, if necessary

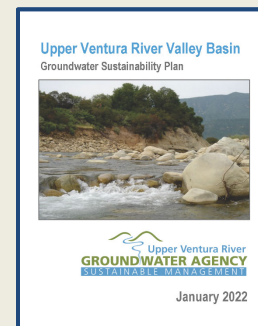
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## GSP CONTENTS

GSP Contents are per GSP Emergency Regulations:

- Executive Summary
- 1. Introduction to Plan Contents
- 2. Administrative Information
- 3. Basin Setting
- 4. Sustainable Management Criteria
- 5. Monitoring Networks
- 6. Projects and Management Actions
- 7. GSP Implementation



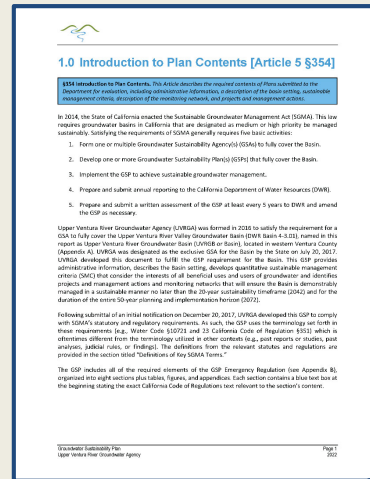
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# GSP LAYOUT

**“Regulation Box”**  
Describes the GSP  
Emergency Regulation  
that is addressed by  
the GSP section.

GSP content that  
addresses the  
GSP Emergency  
Regulation.



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## SECTION 1 INTRO TO PLAN CONTENTS

- SGMA Background
- Overview of GSP Contents



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## SECTION 2 ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

- Information about the GSA
- Description of the Plan area
  - Jurisdictional areas
  - Water resources programs that impact groundwater management
  - Land use plans
- Public Notice and Communication



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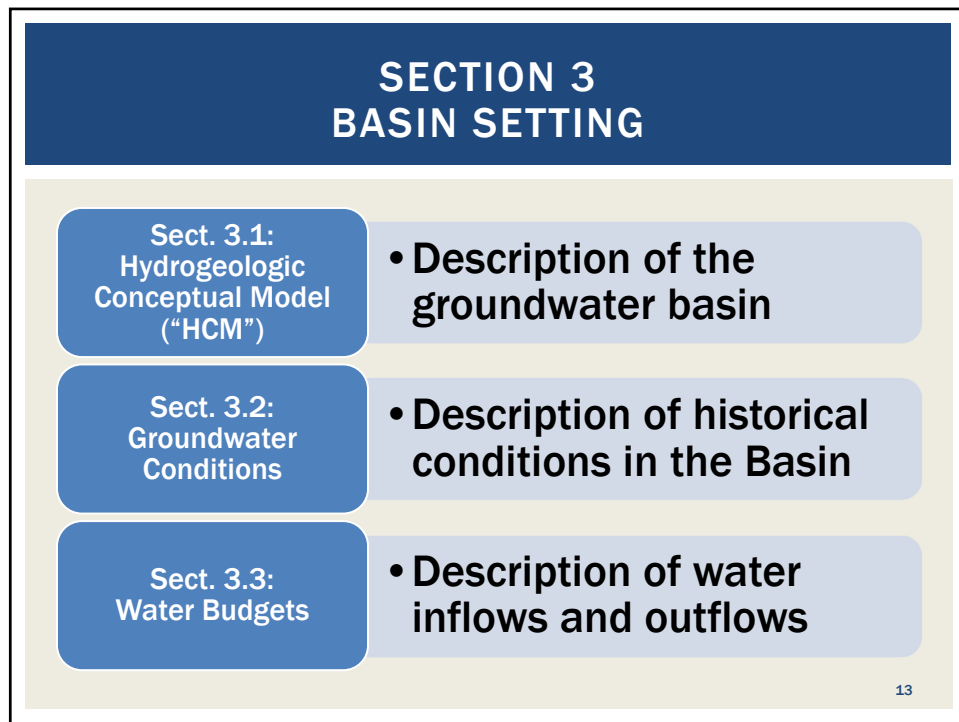
## SECTION 2 ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

UVRB is located in the central portion of the Ventura River Watershed along the Ventura River.

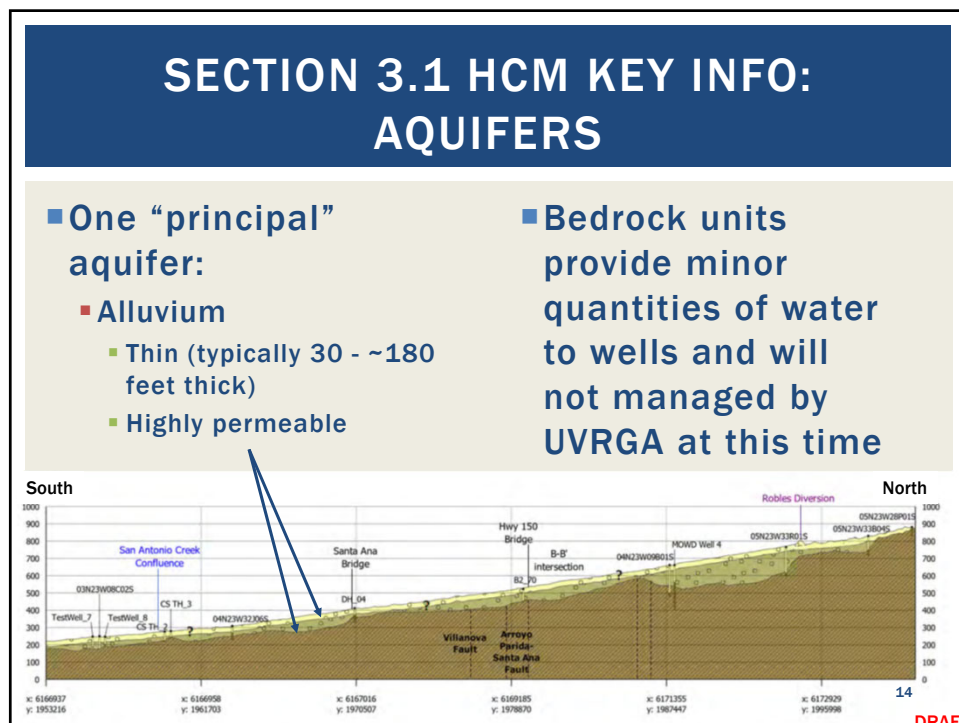
UVRGA consists of five public agencies (CMWD, VRWD, MOWD, City of Ventura and County of Ventura) plus agricultural and environmental representatives.



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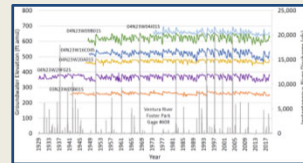


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## SECTION 3.2 GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS

- Groundwater Levels
- Change in Groundwater Storage\*
- Seawater Intrusion\*\*
- Groundwater Quality Impacts
- Land Subsidence\*\*
- Interconnected Surface Water Systems
- Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems

\* Addressed in water budget discussion  
 \*\* Not applicable to UVRB

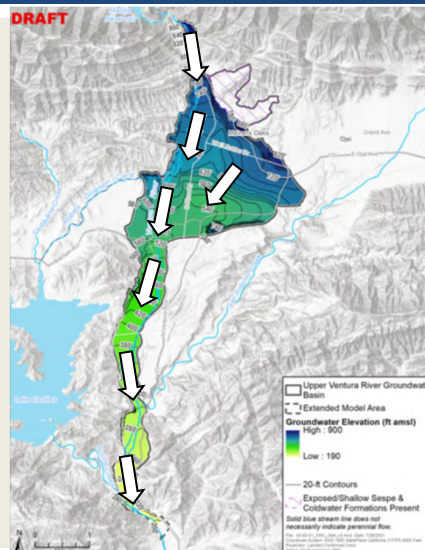


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## SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: GROUNDWATER LEVELS

- *The Basin functions like a giant drain.*
- *Groundwater flows down the valley, generally parallel to the Ventura River.*
- *Groundwater flows many times faster than in most groundwater basins.*



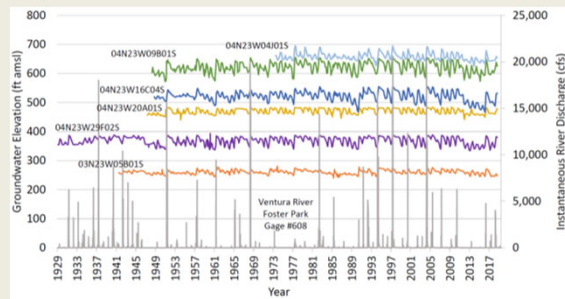
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## SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: GROUNDWATER LEVELS

- Groundwater levels rise and fall in response to Ventura River flows. Basin drains between storm events.
- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels & long-term reduction of groundwater storage have not been observed.



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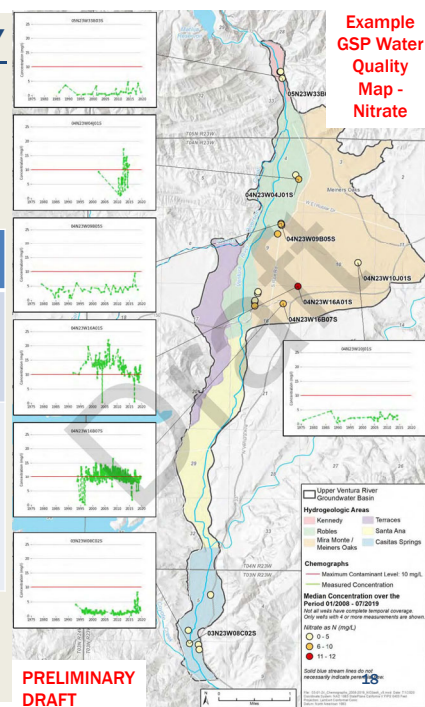
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## GROUNDWATER QUALITY

- No contamination plumes
- Water Quality Indicators:

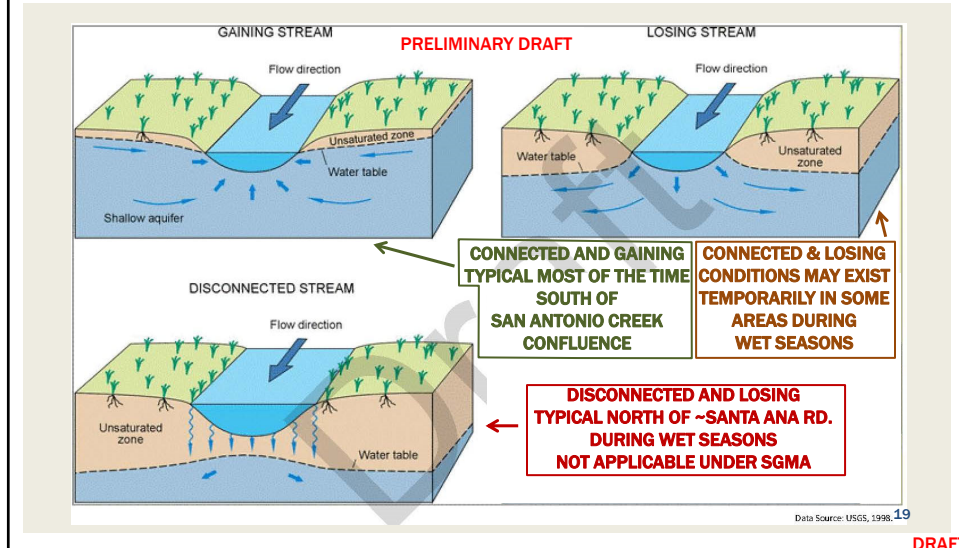
Constituent	WQO (mg/l)	Status
Nitrate-N	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly below objective</li> <li>Highest in east of VR in Mira Monte and Meiners Oaks</li> </ul>
TDS	800	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Generally below objectives</li> </ul>
Sulfate	300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some exceptions</li> </ul>
Chloride	100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fluctuations related to surface water flow, not pumping.</li> </ul>
Boron	0.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GSP will not actively manage these constituents</li> </ul>



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## SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: GROUNDWATER - SURFACE WATER INTERACTION



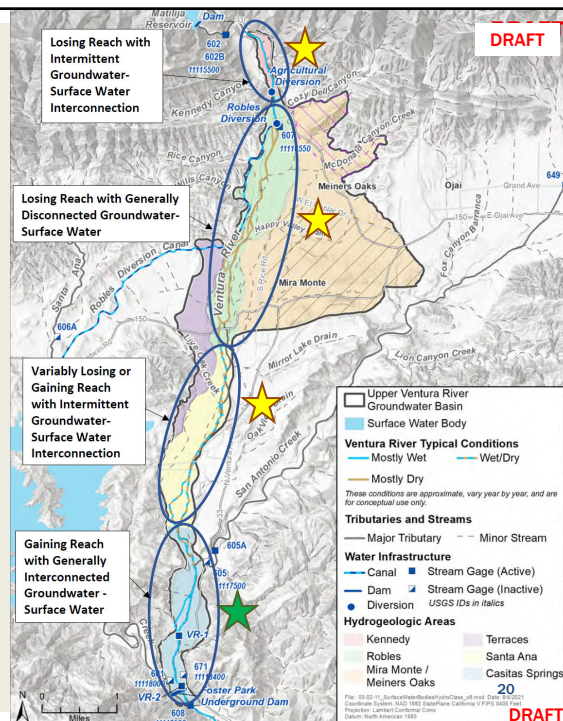
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## GROUNDWATER SURFACE WATER INTERACTION

- 4 areas along Ventura River with different types of GW-SW interaction

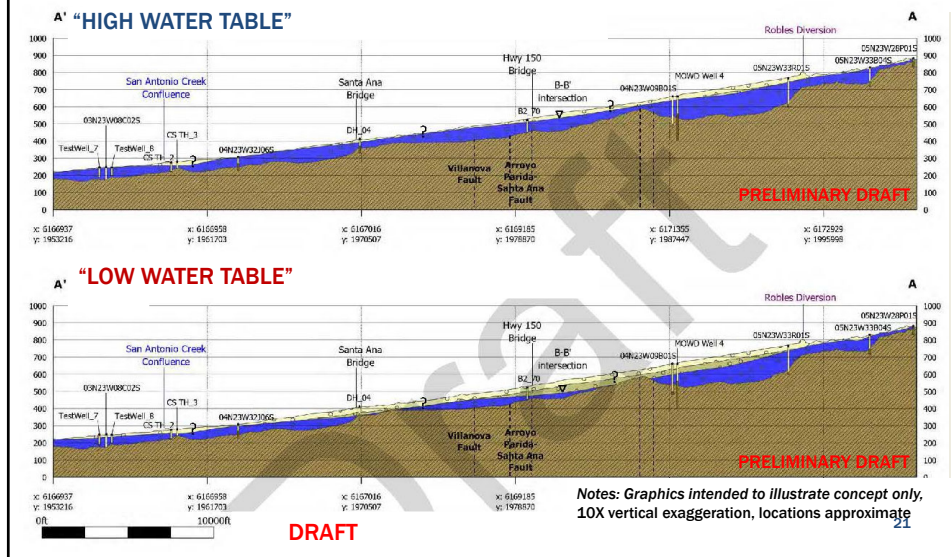
★ Consistently interconnected

★ Interconnection is transient and spatially variable



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## SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: GROUNDWATER - SURFACE WATER INTERACTION



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# ANIMATION ILLUSTRATING GROUNDWATER SURFACE WATER INTERACTION



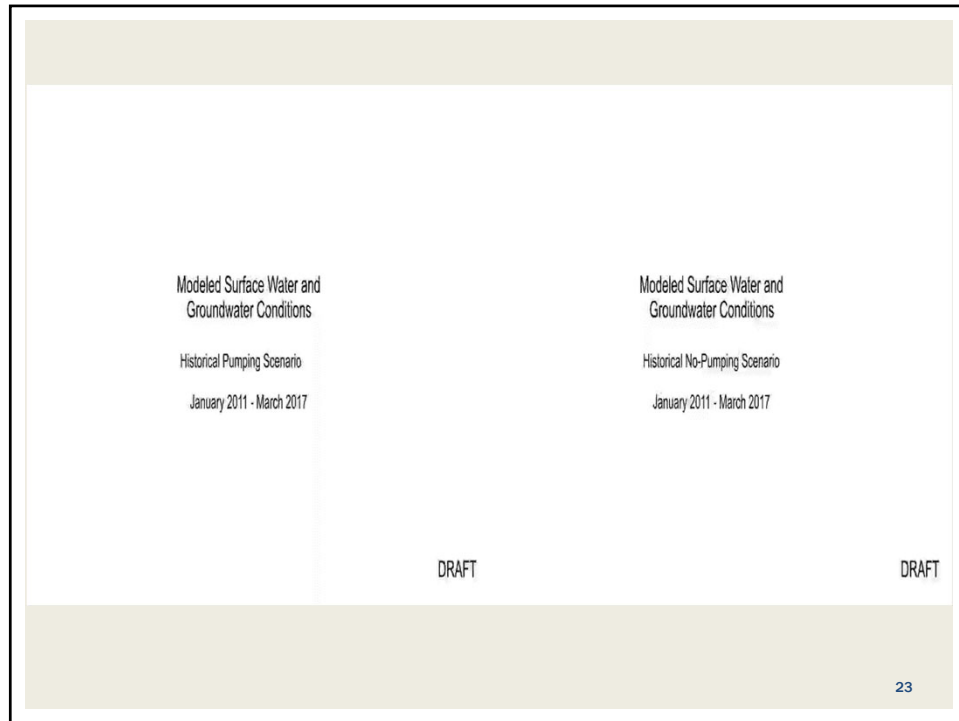







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## SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: HISTORICAL SURFACE WATER DEPLETION

- SGMA requires quantification of historical depletion of interconnected surface water “ISW”.
- Under SMGA “depletion” means the direct or indirect reduction of stream flow resulting from groundwater extraction.
  - Other processes that reduce surface water flow are not considered under SGMA



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# SURFACE WATER DEPLETION MECHANISMS

1. Direct Depletion: Wells very close to the river capture flow directly from the river
2. Indirect Depletion: Wells further removed from the river:
  - a. Capture groundwater flow that would otherwise have discharged to the surface water system in the future.
  - b. Lower the water table causing more streamflow to percolate during storm events

*GSP must address both types of depletion*

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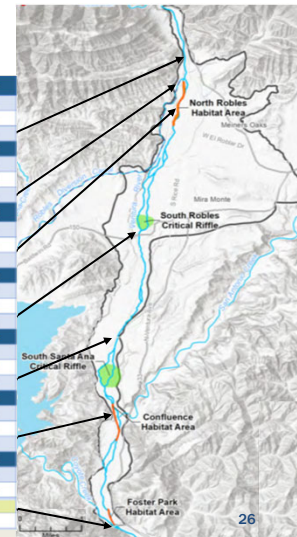
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## SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: HISTORICAL SURFACE WATER DEPLETION

*Numerical modeling was performed to estimate historical rates of surface water depletion.*

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>South Kennedy (Boundary of Kennedy &amp; Robles Area)</b>												
Median Flow (Historical)	32.1	39.6	42.4	18.6	10.8	4.1	1.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.9	5.8
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	33.0	39.9	43.0	19.0	11.3	4.6	2.4	0.8	0.3	0.5	1.7	6.3
Median Depletion	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.7	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.4
<b>Robles Diversion (Gage 607)</b>												
Median Flow (Historical)	23.2	34.3	30.0	14.6	7.8	1.7	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	3.2
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	23.4	34.8	30.4	14.7	8.3	2.3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	3.6
Median Depletion	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.3
<b>North Robles (North of 22nd Valley Drain)</b>												
Median Flow (Historical)	3.9	15.4	17.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	3.9	15.8	18.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3
Median Depletion	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>South Robles (150 Bridge)</b>												
Median Flow (Historical)	4.7	14.1	14.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	5.3	14.3	14.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Median Depletion	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Santa Ana Bridge</b>												
Median Flow (Historical)	7.3	17.6	16.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	7.4	17.7	16.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Median Depletion	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>San Antonio Confluence</b>												
Median Flow (Historical)	7.1	28.7	27.3	10.5	6.1	3.1	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.8
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	10.7	31.2	29.3	13.6	9.2	6.7	4.7	2.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	1.2
Median Depletion	1.5	2.2	1.8	1.1	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.4
<b>Foster Park (Gage 608)</b>												
Median Flow (Historical)	10.7	29.2	25.8	10.9	6.9	4.7	4.5	4.1	2.7	3.5	4.2	4.3
Median Flow (Historical No Pumping)	15.8	36.1	33.1	17.5	14.3	12.6	11.3	10.2	9.8	9.8	9.7	8.9
Median Depletion	5.1	5.1	6.7	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.4	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.2	4.6

All values are cubic feet per second (cfs).



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## SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS (GDES)

- **SGMA Definition:** *“Ecological communities or species that depend on groundwater emerging from aquifers or on groundwater occurring near the ground surface.”*
  - **Riparian** plant communities and species that rely on plant communities
    - *Applicable Sustainability Indicator: GW Levels/Storage*
  - **Aquatic** communities where surface water is interconnected with groundwater
    - *Applicable Sustainability Indicator: Depletion of ISW*

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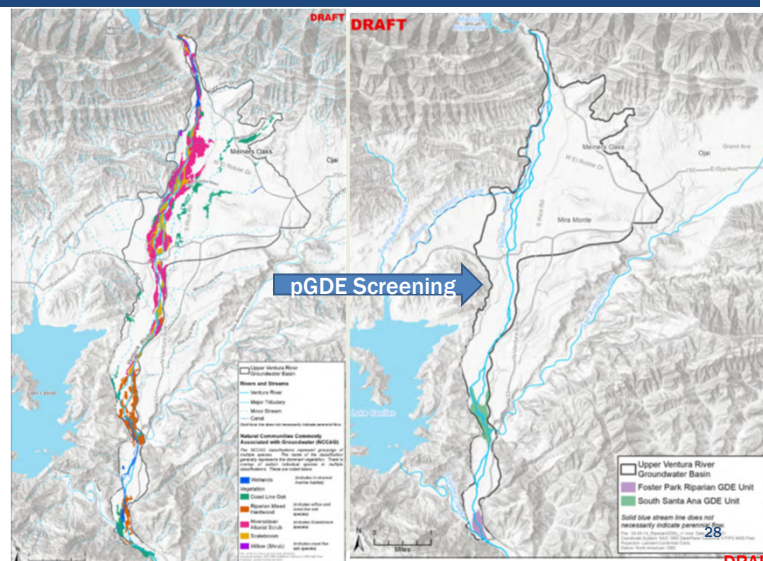
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## SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS

Potential riparian GDEs were identified and reviewed

Plants not dependent on groundwater were screened out following TNC recommended procedures.

Two riparian GDE areas identified for consideration in the GSP



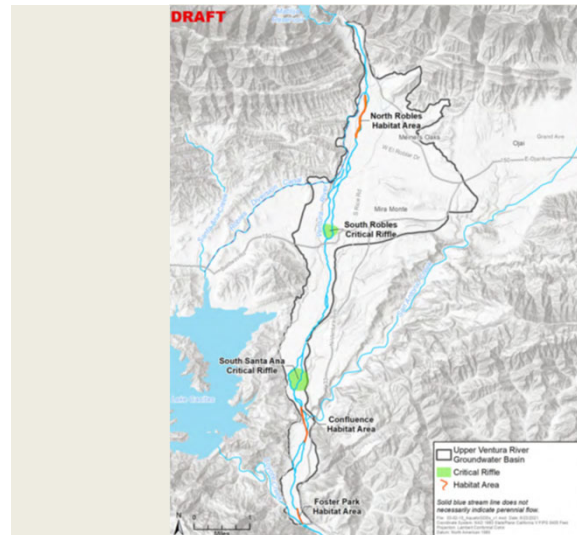
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## SECTION 3.2 GW CONDITIONS KEY INFO: GROUNDWATER DEPENDENT ECOSYSTEMS

*Potential  
aquatic habitat  
areas were  
identified and  
reviewed*

*Five aquatic  
habitat areas  
identified for  
consideration in  
the GSP*



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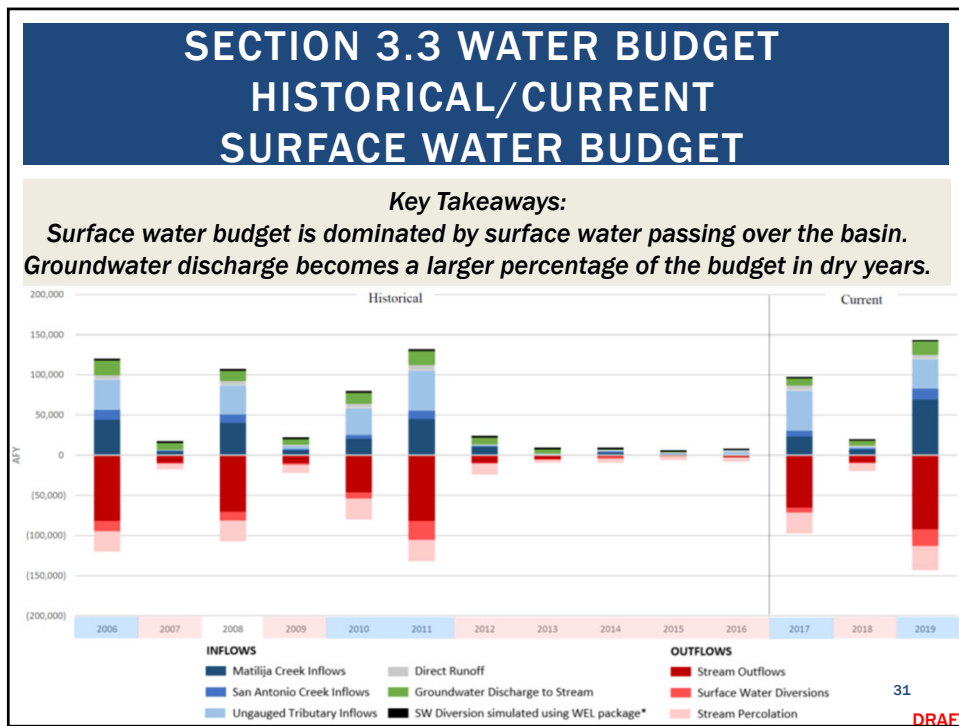
## SECTION 3.3 WATER BUDGET OVERVIEW:

- Water budget is an accounting of water inflows and outflows to/from the Basin
- GSP requirements
  - Historical/Current Water Budget
  - Future Water Budgets
- Water budget developed in concert with calibration of a numerical flow model of the groundwater basin

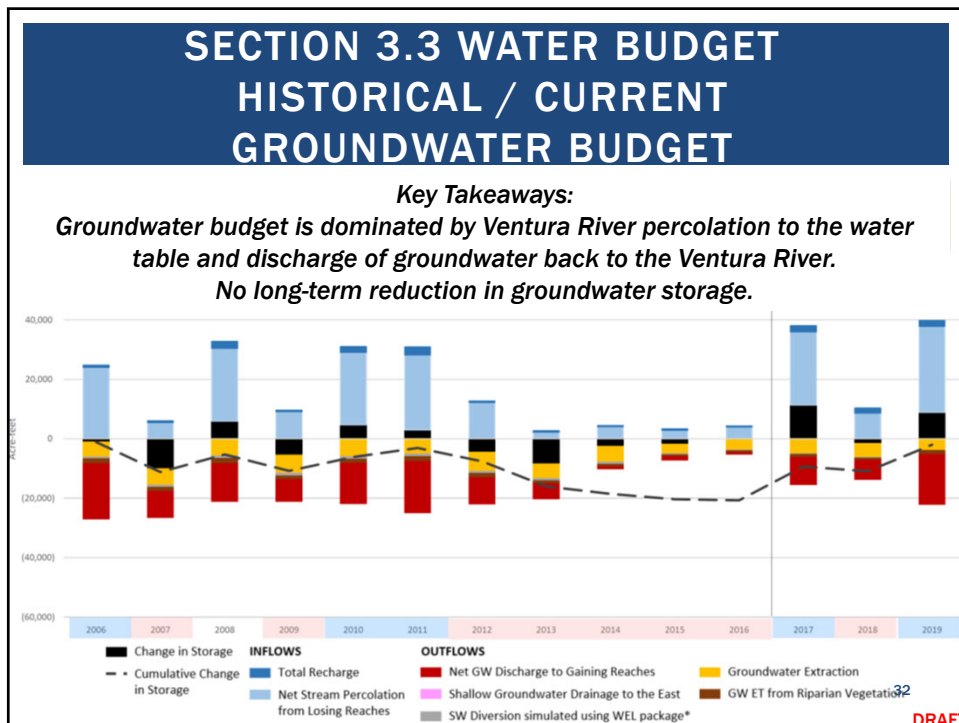
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## FUTURE WATER BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

- SGMA requires minimum 50-yr future projections of groundwater conditions, including water budget for the basin
- Must use  $\geq$  50 yrs. of *historical* hydrology
- Must use most recent conditions for baseline estimate of future water demands
- Must evaluate potential effects on water demand due to:
  - Land Use Change
  - Population Change
  - Climate Change

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## FUTURE CONDITIONS KEY ASSUMPTIONS

- Hydrology: 1970 – 2019 is proxy for future conditions
  - Several wet-dry cycles
  - Precipitation average similar to long-term average
  - Includes 1985 Wheeler and 2017 Thomas Fires
- Groundwater Extraction:
  - Municipal based on planning documents & agency input
    - Land use and population expected to be small – no increase in extractions expected
  - Agriculture based on historical estimated use
    - Note: this is not a pumping allocation or cap of any kind, it is just a planning estimate, can and will be updated
  - Domestic assumed 2 acre-feet per year per parcel

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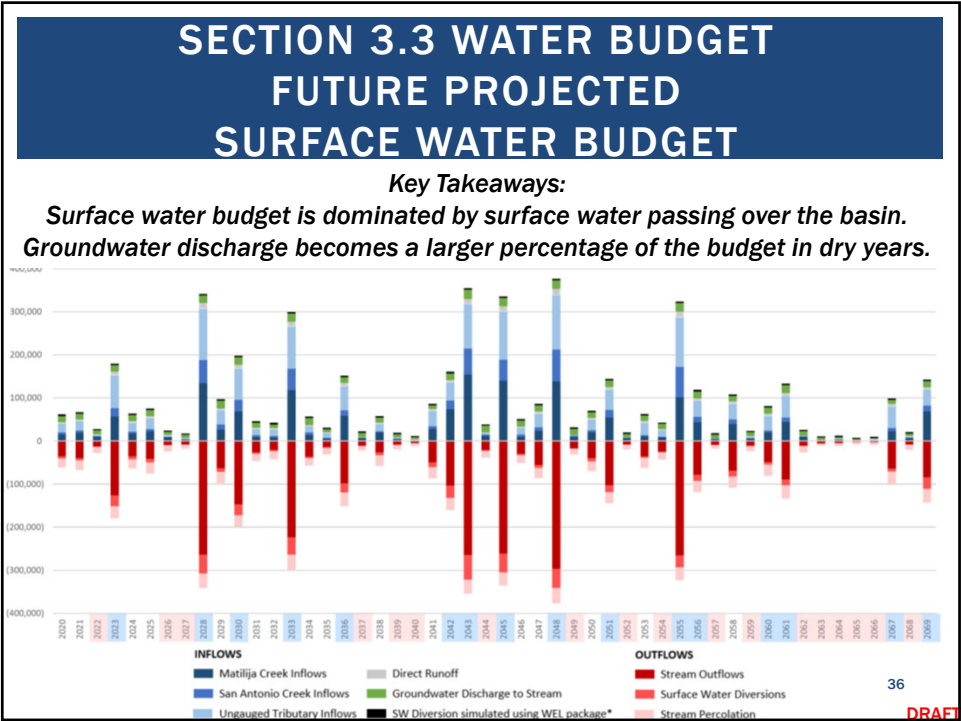
## FUTURE CONDITIONS KEY ASSUMPTIONS

- Surface Water Diversions
  - Robles Diversion – biological opinion operating rules implemented
  - Private Diversion – based on historical reported diversions
- Climate Change:
  - Used change factors provided by DWR for 2030 and 2070 central tendency estimates
  - Climate change effects are small and not anticipated to materially impact GSP implementation

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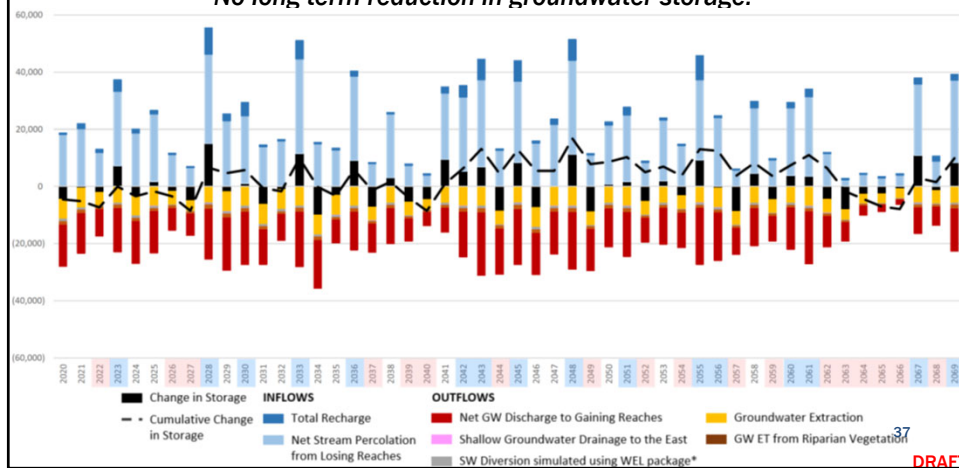


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## SECTION 3.3 WATER BUDGET FUTURE PROJECTED GROUNDWATER BUDGET

### Key Takeaways:

*Groundwater budget is dominated by Ventura River percolation to the water table  
No long-term reduction in groundwater storage.*



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## SECTION 3.3 WATER BUDGET CONCLUSIONS

- The basin is in balance with no chronic lowering of groundwater levels or storage reduction.
- No pumping allocations, caps, or reductions are proposed in the GSP because the basin is in balance. However, actions may be needed to address depletions surface water. These actions will be developed during plan implementation (more detail in Presentation No. 2).

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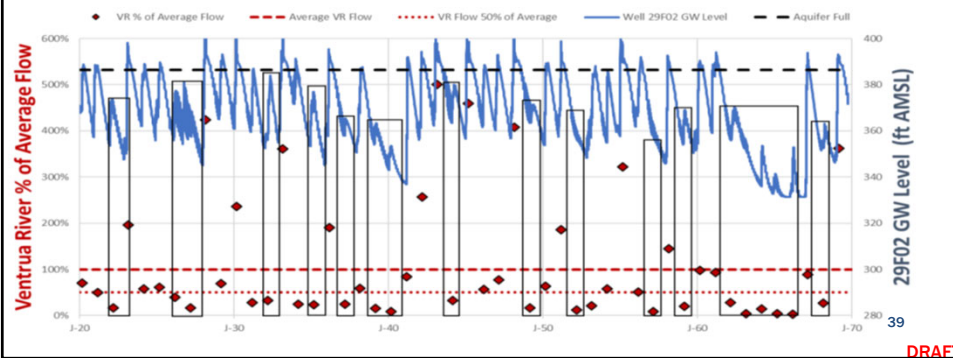
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# SIMULATED FUTURE GROUNDWATER LEVELS

## Key Takeaways:

1. No chronic decline in groundwater levels is predicted.
2. Basin is predicted to “drain” and “refill” as it has historically.
3. Basin is predicted to “refill” when Ventura River flows  $\geq 50\%$  of ave. flow.



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## KEY BASIN SETTING FINDINGS

### ■ Sustainability Criteria

- Seawater intrusion – no risk
- Land Subsidence – very limited risk
- Chronic Groundwater Level Decline – not observed
- Groundwater Storage Reduction – not observed
- Groundwater Quality Degradation – pumping not anticipated to impact groundwater quality
- Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water – measures needed to avoid potential undesirable results in Foster Park and possibly in Confluence Area

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Upper Ventura River  
**GROUNDWATER AGENCY**  
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

# QUESTIONS?

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