



Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Spring (Q1) 2023 Update

This summary is the first of regular quarterly updates on the Sierra Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). If you have information that you would like to include in future updates, please contact talbot.judie@gmail.com.

GSP Updates

GSP Status

The Sierra Valley Groundwater Agencies (GSAs) are awaiting comments from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) on the Groundwater Sustainability Plan that was submitted a year ago in January 2022. DWR is currently reviewing the GSPs submitted in 2022; the reviews must be completed by January 2024. Several medium-priority basins have received approvals of their GSPs. The approvals include recommended corrections that need to be addressed when the respective GSPs are updated in 2027.

Implementation Activities

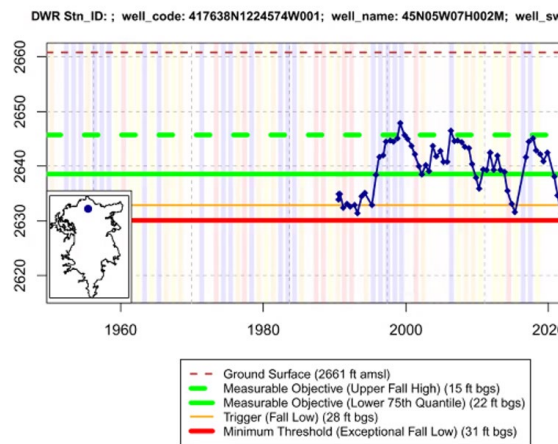
The Sierra Valley GSP included several reports and pilot projects, including the following reports that can be accessed at <https://www.sierravalleygmd.org/gsp-documents>.

- [Sierra Valley Irrigation Review & LEPA Irrigation Efficiency Demonstration](#)
- [Review of Potential Water Supply Augmentation Projects and Management Actions](#)
- [Monitoring Network Operations and Management \(O & M\) Manual](#)

Ongoing GSP Activities

Annual Report (the Annual Report for Water Year 2022 is available [here](#))

Initial data to be included in the Annual report was presented at the Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District Board meeting on February 20, 2023. The resulting draft Annual Report went before the District Board on March 20, 2023 for approval and has since been submitted to DWR. The Report includes graphics showing the Fall 2022 groundwater elevations at the monitoring locations across the Valley and how they compare to desired groundwater levels (minimum thresholds). The hydrographs will look something like the sample below:



Model Updates

Groundwater measurements from the District are also used to update and refine the understanding of groundwater and aquifer characteristics in the Valley.



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GSP Implementation: Projects and Management Actions

The GSP contained recommendations on potential Projects and Management Actions (PMAs). Possible activities include:

- Data collection and technical updates
- Increasing supply: groundwater recharge
- Increasing supply: upland management and watershed restoration
- Increasing supply: surface water considerations
- Water conservation: ag irrigation efficiency
- Water conservation: voluntary efforts
- Water conservation and data collection: well inventory

Funding Opportunities for Implementing GSP Projects

Different agencies and organizations provide grant funding to support sustainable groundwater management in California. Depending on the source of the grant, money can be spent on planning and/or on-the-ground projects. Current funding opportunities for GSP-related activities include the following:

DWR Round 2: GSP Implementation

Funding from DWR supported the development of the Sierra Valley GSP; that grant was closed out on December 31, 2022. DWR accepted, and is now reviewing, applications for Round 2 grants that focus on GSP implementation activities. Initial award notices are expected in May with final awards expected to be announced in October 2023.

The Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District submitted a Round 2 grant application to support the following activities:

- Data collection: to enhance and refine the monitoring network and better characterize groundwater and aquifer conditions
- Increasing supply: to expand information and pilot projects related to ag irrigation efficiency and practices
- Increasing supply: to conduct a feasibility analysis, collect data, and conduct a pilot project on groundwater recharge
- Data collection: to conduct a well inventory and update the groundwater model
- Routine activities: to prepare Annual Reports and the five-year Update

Plumas Watershed Funding Forum

As part of the Monterey Settlement Agreement and Amendment, the Plumas Watershed Forum received funding that is now available for watershed projects. A Request for Proposal for Water Forum Concept Proposals was posted online, at <https://www.plumascounty.us/bids.aspx?bidID=308>, with initial concept proposals due on March 24th. The Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District submitted a concept application to expand groundwater irrigation efficiency projects and to advance potential groundwater recharge projects.

California Department of Fish & Game

CDFW is issuing grants for Drought, Climate, and Nature-based Solutions. The funding supports restoration and protection of critical habitat and watershed across California. More information is available at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Watersheds/Restoration-Grants/Concept-Application>. The Sierra Valley Groundwater Management District is submitting a concept application to CDFW for groundwater recharge pilot projects.