

## 8 GLOSSARY

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**Act:** The Groundwater Sustainability Management Act of 2014.

**Agency:** A groundwater sustainability agency as defined in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

**Alternative:** An alternative to a Plan described in Water Code Section 10733.6.

**Annual Report:** The report required by Water Code Section 10728.

**Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR):** Method to store excess surface water underground for a variety of purposes (e.g., to increase groundwater levels, prevent seawater intrusion or subsidence, increase groundwater in storage) and to recover available water in the future as a water supply source.

**Baseline or Baseline Conditions:** Historic information used to project future conditions for hydrology, water demand, and availability of surface water and to evaluate potential sustainable management practices of a basin.

**Basin:** A groundwater basin or subbasin identified and defined in Bulletin 118 or as modified pursuant to Water Code 10722 et seq.

**Basin Setting:** The information about the physical setting, characteristics, and current conditions of the basin as described by the Agency in the hydrogeologic conceptual model, the groundwater conditions, and the water budget, pursuant to Subarticle 2 of Article 5.

**Best Available Science:** The use of sufficient and credible information and data, specific to the decision being made and the time frame available for making that decision, that is consistent with scientific and engineering professional standards of practice.

**Best Management Practice:** A practice, or combination of practices, that are designed to achieve sustainable groundwater management and have been determined to be technologically and economically effective, practicable, and based on best available science.

**Board:** Refers to the State Water Resources Control Board.

**CASGEM:** The California Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Program developed by the Department pursuant to Water Code Section 10920 et seq., or as amended.

**Continuous Global Positioning System (CGPS):** Stations used to monitor subsidence in California. A CGPS station continuously measures the three-dimensional (3D) position of a point on, or more specifically, near the earth's surface. There are more than 1,000 Continuous Global Positioning System Stations operating in Western North America, and hundreds of them in California alone; many of them are managed by the Plate Boundary Observatory/UNAVCO and

by Scripps Orbit and Permanent Array Center (SOPAC), but other groups such as Caltrans, also operate some of them as part of their Central Valley Spatial Reference Network.

**Data Gap:** A lack of information that significantly affects the understanding of the basin setting or evaluation of the efficacy of Plan implementation, and could limit the ability to assess whether a basin is being sustainably managed.

**De Minimis Extractor** - a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less (of groundwater) per year.

**Department:** California Department of Water Resources (see acronym DWR).

**Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem:** Ecological communities or species that depend on groundwater emerging from aquifers or on groundwater occurring near the ground surface.

**Groundwater Flow:** The volume and direction of groundwater movement into, out of, or throughout a basin.

**Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP):** In groundwater basins designated by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) as critically-overdrafted high and medium priority, local public agencies and GSAs are required to develop and implement GSPs by January 31, 2020. All other groundwater basins designated as high or medium priority basins are to be managed under a GSP by January 31, 2022.

**Interconnected Surface Water:** Surface water that is hydraulically connected at any point by a continuous saturated zone to the underlying aquifer and the overlying surface water is not completely depleted.

**Interested Parties:** Persons and entities on the list of interested persons established by the Agency pursuant to Water Code Section 10723.4.

**Interim Milestones:** a target value representing measurable groundwater conditions defined in the Plan at five-year increments at each monitoring site using the same metrics as the measurable objectives and minimum thresholds. Interim milestones will be used by the MGA and the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to track progress toward meeting the Basin's Sustainability Goal. Interim milestones are coordinated with projects and management actions proposed by the MGA to achieve the sustainability goal.

**Management Area:** An area within a basin for which the Plan may identify different minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, monitoring, or projects and management actions based on differences in water use sector, water source type, geology, aquifer characteristics, or other factors.

**Measurable Objectives:** Specific, quantifiable goals for the maintenance or improvement of specified groundwater conditions that have been included in an adopted Plan to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin. Measurable objectives reflect the MGA's desired groundwater

conditions in the Basin and will guide the MGA to achieve its sustainability goal within 20 years. Measurable objectives are set for each sustainability indicator at the same representative monitoring points and using the same metrics as minimum thresholds.

Measurable Objectives are set so there is a reasonable margin of operational flexibility between the minimum threshold and measurable objective that will accommodate droughts, climate change, conjunctive use operations, or other groundwater management activities.

For some sustainability indicators, projects and management actions are needed to achieve measurable objectives. Although measurable objectives are not enforceable during implementation of the GSP, the GSP needs to demonstrate that there is a planned path toward achieving measurable objectives.

**Minimum Threshold:** quantitative values that represent groundwater conditions at representative monitoring points. These numeric values are defined for each sustainability indicator and used to define undesirable results.

**Non-de Minimis Extractor** – a person or entity that extracts more than two acre-feet (of groundwater) per year for domestic or non-domestic uses.

**Plain Language:** Language that the intended audience can readily understand and use because that language is concise, well-organized, uses simple vocabulary, avoids excessive acronyms and technical language, and follows other best practices of plain language writing.

**Plan:** A groundwater sustainability plan as defined in the Act.

**Plan Implementation:** An Agency's exercise of the powers and authorities described in the Act, which commences after an Agency adopts and submits a Plan or Alternative to the Department and begins exercising such powers and authorities.

**Plan Manager:** An employee or authorized representative of an Agency, or Agencies, appointed through a coordination agreement or other agreement, who has been delegated management authority for submitting the Plan and serving as the point of contact between the Agency and the Department.

**Principal Aquifers:** aquifers or aquifer systems that store, transmit, and yield significant or economic quantities of groundwater to wells, springs, or surface water systems.

**Reference Point:** A permanent, stationary and readily identifiable mark or point on a well, such as a mark on the top of casing, from which groundwater level measurements are taken, or other monitoring site. For most production wells, the RP is the top of the well's concrete pedestal.

**Representative Monitoring:** A monitoring site within a broader network of sites that typifies one or more conditions within the basin or an area of the basin.

**Seasonal High:** The highest annual static groundwater elevation that is typically measured in the Spring and associated with stable aquifer conditions following a period of lowest annual groundwater demand.

**Seasonal Low:** The lowest annual static groundwater elevation that is typically measured in the Summer or Fall, and associated with a period of stable aquifer conditions following a period of highest annual groundwater demand.

**Seawater Intrusion:** The advancement of seawater into a groundwater supply that results in degradation of water quality in the basin, and includes seawater from any source.

**Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA):** A control system architecture that uses computers, networked data communications, and graphical user interfaces for high-level process supervisory management, but uses other peripheral devices to interface with the process plant or machinery.

**Statutory Deadline:** The date by which an Agency must be managing a basin pursuant to an adopted Plan, as described in Water Code Sections 10720.7 or 10722.4.

**Sustainability Indicator:** Any of the effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin that, when significant and unreasonable, cause undesirable results, as described in Water Code Section 10721(x). Undesirable results are one or more of the following effects: (1) Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply if continued over the planning and implementation horizon. Overdraft during a period of drought is not sufficient to establish a chronic lowering of groundwater levels if extractions and groundwater recharge are managed as necessary to ensure that reductions in groundwater levels or storage during a period of drought are offset by increases in groundwater levels or storage during other periods; (2) Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage; (3) Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion; (4) Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality, including the migration of contaminant plumes that impair water supplies; (5) Significant and unreasonable land subsidence that substantially interferes with surface land uses; (6) Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water.

**Uncertainty:** A lack of understanding of the basin setting that significantly affects an Agency's ability to develop sustainable management criteria and appropriate projects and management actions in a Plan, or to evaluate the efficacy of Plan implementation, and therefore may limit the ability to assess whether a basin is being sustainably managed.

**Undesirable Results:** Undesirable results occur when significant and unreasonable effects for any of the sustainability indicators defined by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) are caused by groundwater conditions occurring in the Basin. Undesirable results are included as SMC as a quantitative description of the combination of minimum threshold exceedances that cause significant and unreasonable effects in the basin. Undesirable results

may be defined by minimum threshold exceedances at a single monitoring site, multiple monitoring sites, a portion of a basin, a management area, or an entire basin.

**Urban Water Management Plan:** A plan adopted pursuant to the Urban Water Management Planning Act as described in Part 2.6 of Division 6 of the Water Code, commencing with Section 10610 et seq.

**Water Source Type:** The source from which water is derived to meet the applied beneficial uses, including groundwater, recycled water, reused water, and surface water sources identified as Central Valley Project, the State Water Project, the Colorado River Project, local supplies, and local imported supplies.

**Water Use Sector:** Categories of water demand based on the general land uses to which the water is applied, including urban, industrial, agricultural, managed wetlands, managed recharge, and native vegetation.

**Water Year:** The period from October 1 through the following September 30, inclusive, as defined in the Act.

**Water Year Type:** The classification provided by the Department to assess the amount of annual precipitation in a basin.