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Agenda

Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

Advisory Committee Meeting #3

Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office, Conference Room, 5200 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz

Meeting Objectives:

1. Begin discussing initial draft GSP problem statement.
2. Identify additional information needs.
3. Receive orientation to initial policy questions.
4. Understand the interrelationships between technical GSP sections and sustainability indicators.
5. Begin discussing overarching goals of groundwater sustainability in the basin.

Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter & Materials
5:45 p.m.	<i>Arrivals/Committee members collect food for dinner</i>	
6:00 p.m.	Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Objectives, and Agenda Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review project timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Ricker, County of Santa Cruz• Eric Poncelet, Facilitator <i>Materials: Agenda</i>
6:20 p.m.	Confirm October 25 th and November 13 th Advisory Committee Meeting Summaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All• Eric Poncelet, Facilitator <i>Materials: Meeting Summaries 10/25 and 11/13 with final Charter</i>
6:25 p.m.	Identify ongoing information needs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initial Discussion of Problem Statement• Feedback on Orientation Sessions Discuss: What further information would be helpful?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Darcy Pruitt, RWMF• Eric Poncelet, Facilitator <i>Materials:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Initial Draft Problem Statement</i>○ <i>Highlights from Orientation Sessions</i>

Continued next page

Time	Topic	Presenter & Materials
6:55 p.m.	Orientation to GSP Policy Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosemary Menard, City of Santa Cruz • Eric Poncelet, Facilitator <p><i>Materials:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Staff Report</i> ○ <i>Working Draft of Policy Question to be Addressed as Part of Developing the Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Plan</i>
7:15 p.m.	Orientation to the Interrelationships Between Technical GSP Sections and Sustainability Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgina King, HydroMetrics <p><i>Materials:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Staff Report</i> ○ <i>Matrix/Graphic re Interrelationships between Technical GSP sections and Sustainability Indicators</i>
7:35 p.m.	<i>Break</i>	
7:50 p.m.	Overarching Goals of Groundwater Sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What should the basin be in 20 years? • What would be undesirable results? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All • Eric Poncelet, Facilitator
8:30 p.m.	Public Comment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eric Poncelet, Facilitator • Public
8:40 p.m.	Introduction to MGA Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sierra Ryan, County of Santa Cruz • Darcy Pruitt, RWMF
8:55 p.m.	Recap and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitator
9:00 p.m.	<i>Adjourn</i>	



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Draft Meeting Summary

Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Planning (GSP) Advisory Committee Meeting October 25, 2017, 4:00-6:15 pm

This meeting was the first convening of the Groundwater Sustainability Planning (GSP) Advisory Committee. It took place on October 25, 2017 at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County.¹ The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Receive an overview of the GSP project and anticipated process.
- Conduct introductions and initial interest sharing among Advisory Committee members.
- Review and discuss draft GSP Advisory Committee Charter.
Discuss scheduling of future GSP Advisory Committee meetings.

Committee members in attendance included:

1. Kate Anderton, Environmental Representative
2. John Bargetto, Agricultural Representative
3. David Baskin, City of Santa Cruz
4. Chris Coburn, Institutional Representative
5. Bruce Jaffe, Soquel Creek Water District
6. Dana Katofsky McCarthy, Water Utility Rate Payer
7. Jon Kennedy, Private Well Representative
8. Jonathan Lear, At-Large Representative
9. Douglas P. Ley, Business Representative
10. Marco Romanini, Central Water District
11. Charlie Rous, At-Large Representative
12. Ned Spencer, At-Large Representative
13. Allyson Violante, County of Santa Cruz (replacing John Leopold)

Rich Casale (Small Water System representative) was unable to attend.

This document summarizes presentations to the Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee interest sharing, and discussion of the draft Advisory Committee Charter. It also captures clarifying questions from Advisory Committee members and Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) staff

¹ The Advisory Committee future meeting schedule is still to be determined.



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responses, as well as an overview of public comment. It is not intended to serve as a detailed transcript of the meeting.

This document is organized into the following main sections, based on the meeting agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Project Overview
3. Introductions and Initial Interest Sharing
4. Review, Discuss and Revise Draft Advisory Committee Charter
5. Public Comment
6. Discuss Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule (2018-2019)
7. Closing and Next Steps

1. Introduction

Rosemary Menard, City of Santa Cruz, opened the meeting and welcomed participants. Ms. Menard introduced members of the MGA Executive Team and staff, the MGA consultant support team, and addressed members of the public in attendance.

Eric Poncelet, Facilitator, reviewed the agenda, meeting objectives, GSP process, and proposed meeting guidelines.

2. Project Overview

John Ricker, County of Santa Cruz, provided the Advisory Committee members with a Groundwater Sustainability Planning (GSP) process overview, discussing the context for the GSP, the Committee's charge, and next steps in the process.

A Committee member asked Mr. Ricker whether the GSP requires California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance. Mr. Ricker explained that the Plan itself is exempt from CEQA, so it will not require such compliance.

3. Introductions and Initial Interest Sharing

Each Committee member had the opportunity to introduce him or herself to the group and briefly share the following:

- Interests and perspectives represented in Advisory Committee meetings (e.g., private well-owner, public, ratepayer, water purveyor, general public, etc.)
- Key areas of technical knowledge and experience each member brings to the GSP process.

A written version of each Committee member's sharing will be posted on the MGA website. Below is a summary of what each Committee member shared at the meeting (in speaking order):



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Charlie Rous, representing the public at-large shared that he has a background in hydrology, geology and civil engineering. He indicated that his studies and work as a scientist and engineer made him aware of the “appalling” level of contamination in the public water system and led him to prioritize working to protect it as a resource. Mr. Rous believes that “water is a more valuable resource than oil.” Additionally, Mr. Rous shared that he served two years on a grand jury, which gives him experience in collaborative solutions.

Marco Romanini, representing the Central Water District shared that he brings the experience of an engineer and the perspective of a community organizer to the Advisory Committee, and as such he has no technical knowledge about the issue of groundwater.

Jonathan Lear, representing the public at-large and the Santa Cruz municipal ratepayer shared that he graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1995 and built his career as a hydrologist in sea water intrusion. Mr. Lear indicated that he worked for nine years at the Monterey water resources group and is a member of the Monterey geological society.

Ned Spencer, representing the public at-large shared that he studied Physics at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Mr. Spencer shared that he was involved in the Higgs Boson grounding and shielding design discovery. Largely, Mr. Spencer explained that he is passionate about preserving the basin for wildlife.

Jon Kennedy, representing private well owners shared that he has a background in psychotherapy and statistical analysis, and has worked with regulatory agencies to manage water systems for a long time. Mr. Kennedy has lived in the Soquel hills since 1981 and has seen how water has become increasingly important to the Basin.

John Bargetto, representing agriculture shared that he also sees himself representing private well owners and ratepayers in Seascope. From his studies at the University of California, Davis, he’s developed an understanding of the public process. Mr. Bargetto has run for elected office and is hoping to work on possible solutions to the Basin’s water issues.



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David Baskin, representing the Santa Cruz water district shared that he serves on the Water Advisory of Santa Cruz (WASC). Mr. Baskin has a background in climate change and habitat conservation and is a member of the Water Commission of Santa Cruz.

Bruce Jaffe, representing the Soquel Creek Water District (in his capacity as Director) shared that he's lived in Mid-County for 35 years and is passionate about water as a resource. Mr. Jaffe's background is as a research scientist in the fields of oceanography and geology. Mr. Jaffe is excited to be a part of a community working collaboratively on preserving water as a resource with sustainability as a priority.

Dana McCarthy, representing the ratepayer shared that she's lived in Santa Cruz County for over 25 years. She studied at the University of California, Santa Cruz and has worked in environmental consulting. Ms. McCarthy is looking forward to using her expertise as an Advisory Committee member.

Allyson Violante, representing the County of Santa Cruz shared that she has background in water policy and is also currently a County alternate on the MGA.

Douglas Ley, representing business shared that he sees himself representing the interests of the general public or ratepayer, but not the private well owner. Although Mr. Ley does not have technical knowledge in water issues, he does have experience analyzing complex policy issues.

Chris Coburn, representing the institutional users shared that he is the executive director of the Resource Conservation District, working with land owners and agriculture to restore resources for the County. Mr. Coburn has a background in environmental science, water management and hydrology.

Kate Anderton, representing the environmentalists shared that she is retired attorney with Save the Redwoods and brings to the Committee a lawyers perspective in protecting resources. Ms. Anderton has additional background in land conservation, having worked on the Watsonville Slough land trust. Further, she has worked on researching the impacts of the University's water usage on the community. Ms. Anderton is interested in moving forward with this GSP effort based on facts and not assumptions.



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Rich Caselle, who was not present was introduced by John Ricker. Mr. Caselle represents the small water system in the Valencia area. He currently works with the Natural Conservation Service, providing assistance to private property owners.

4. Review, Discuss and Revise Draft Advisory Committee Charter

Eric Poncelet, facilitator, led the Committee members and staff in a section-by-section review and discussion of the draft Advisory Committee Charter. Comments and edits on the draft Charter from the Committee members, were captured live on screen during the meeting. Key comments are highlighted below:

- **Additional Objectives and Responsibilities.** Committee members requested that staff expound on the definitions of “interests” and “positions” under the Interest-based discussions section. The Committee members also discussed the level of engagement with their constituents and expressed the view that different members may take different approaches in coordinating with their constituents. Committee members and staff discussed how staff can support in the constituent engagement effort.
- **Committee Member Additions and Withdrawal.** Committee members requested additional clarifying language in the Charter regarding the process to address a member who consistently deviates from operating protocols and ground rules. Staff indicated that they will provided more clarity in this area.
- **Advisory Committee Meetings.** Committee members inquired to what extent they can be involved in the agenda setting process. Staff responded that it would be appropriate for the Advisory Committee to periodically assess its work and progress and share agenda setting advice. Staff will insert text to this effect.
- **Ad Hoc Working Groups.** Committee members spoke to the benefits of keeping working groups small and having a clear process for bringing in outside expertise into the working group process. Staff suggested that a reference be added to this section that Committee members will keep staff and the facilitator apprised of details of working group formation.
- **Decision Making Process.** Committee members asked for clarity on whether Advisory Committee meetings will operate under any formal rules of order (e.g., Robert’s Rules of Order). They also recommended that a clearer threshold be established for what constitutes a “recommendation” to the MGA Board on behalf of the Advisory Committee.
- **Involvement of Public.** Committee members requested that this section be more specific in describing protocols during public comment, including protocols for responding to public comments.
- **Technical Team – HydroMetrics.** Committee members expressed that they would expect technical staff to provide technical advice but not to advocate for any particular solution. Staff will work on language to clarify conflicts of interest protocols for technical staff.



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- Meeting Summaries. The Committee discussed meeting summaries and minutes compliance with the Brown Act. Staff and the facilitator will include language in the Charter to explain meeting summaries compliance in further detail.

5. Public Comment

Members of the public who attended the Advisory Committee meeting and Committee members provided comments on the following topics:

- It is important for Committee members to communicate and coordinate with the constituents they represent throughout the GSP process.
- How can interest groups express concerns to the Advisory Committee member? Do they need to coordinate such communications through staff?
- The Charter should clarify whether Committee members should conduct constituent engagement through social media. This may be at odds with the Brown Act.

Staff members noted that they would be available to support coordination between Advisory Committee members and constituent groups.

6. Advisory Committee Meeting Schedule (2018-2019)

Darcy Pruitt, Regional Water Management Foundation, led the discussion with Committee members on preferable days and times to schedule future Advisory Committee meetings for 2018 through July 2019. Committee members expressed broad support for either the third and fourth Wednesday of each month, after 4 p.m. Staff will consider this input to develop the schedule, also taking into consideration travel time/distance/convenience in choosing a venue. Ms. Pruitt will report back on the schedule's progress at the November 13 Advisory Committee meeting.

7. Closing and Next Steps

In closing, Mr. Poncelet reviewed the GSP process and the upcoming schedule of orientation sessions in 2017 (this information was distributed to participants in form of a handout). Ms. Menard closed the meeting by thanking the attendees for their participation.



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Draft Meeting Summary

Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Planning (GSP) Advisory Committee Meeting November 13, 2017, 4:00-6:15 pm

This meeting was the second convening of the Groundwater Sustainability Planning (GSP) Advisory Committee. It took place on November 13, 2017 at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County.

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Increase Advisory Committee understanding of the Brown Act and its implications for the GSP Advisory Committee Process
- Review and discuss edits to Advisory Committee Charter, and approve the Charter

Committee members in attendance included:

1. Kate Anderton, Environmental Representative
2. John Bargetto, Agricultural Representative
3. David Baskin, City of Santa Cruz
4. Rich Casale, Small water System Representative
5. Bruce Jaffe, Soquel Creek Water District
6. Dana Katofsky McCarthy, Water Utility Rate Payer
7. Jon Kennedy, Private Well Representative
8. Jonathan Lear, At-Large Representative
9. Douglas P. Ley, Business Representative
10. Marco Romanini, Central Water District
11. Charlie Rous, At-Large Representative
12. Ned Spencer, At-Large Representative
13. Allyson Violante, County of Santa Cruz

Chris Coburn, Institutional Representative was absent and had withdrawn as a member of the Advisory Committee.

This document summarizes presentations to the Advisory Committee, and discussion of the revised Advisory Committee Charter and the final vote to approve it. It also captures clarifying questions from Advisory Committee members and Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) staff responses, as well as an overview of public comment. It is not intended to serve as a detailed transcript of the meeting.



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This document is organized into the following main sections, based on the meeting agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Brown Act 101
3. Review and Discussion of the Updated GSP Advisory Committee Charter
4. Public Comment on the Updated GSP Advisory Committee Charter
5. Approval the Updated GSP Advisory Committee Charter
6. Public Comment on General Items
7. Discussion of the GSP Process Timeline
8. Next Steps

1. Introduction

John Ricker, County of Santa Cruz, opened the meeting and welcomed participants. Mr. Ricker introduced members of the MGA Executive Team and staff, the MGA consultant support team, and he addressed members of the public in attendance.

Eric Poncelet, Facilitator, reviewed the agenda, meeting objectives, GSP process, and proposed meeting guidelines.

2. Brown Act 101

Ron Duncan, Soquel Creek Water District, provided the Advisory Committee members with an overview of the Brown Act. He discussed its history, purpose, and compliance, and provided other highlights that may be valuable to the Advisory Committee and members of the public. He noted that he would not be able to fully cover all the requirements in this summary and advised Committee members to review a more detailed guide to the Brown Act from by the California League of Cities (available at www.cacities.org/Resources-Documents/Resources-Section/Open-Government/Open-Public-2016.aspx)

Specifically, Mr. Duncan explained that the Brown Act is contained within the California Government Code to ensure that meetings of local governing bodies be conducted in a transparent manner. A violation of the Brown Act is considered a misdemeanor. He indicated that standing committees, such as the GSP Advisory Committee are subject to the Brown Act, whereas ad hoc committees that meet for six months or less are not.

Mr. Duncan discussed a few other key and cautionary points as follows:

- A majority of committee members cannot meet outside of a Brown Act-compliant meeting to discuss committee business.
 - Responding to a single email message regarding committee business and “replying to all” is considered a violation of the Brown Act.
- Committee members cannot conduct serial meetings (e.g., daisy chain or hub-and-spoke).



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- Committee members are required to respond to public records requests promptly.

Following Mr. Duncan's overview, the Advisory Committee had the following questions related to the Brown Act:

- Question (Q): Can one Committee member can discuss Committee business with another member?
 - Response (R): Mr. Duncan responded that as long as the members discussing Committee business do not comprise a majority, there is no violation of the Brown Act.
- Q: Are Committee members who participate in an MGA meeting are covered under the Brown Act?
 - R: Mr. Duncan explained that since the MGA meeting is open to the public, there is no Brown Act violation.

3. Review and Discussion of the Updated GSP Advisory Committee Charter

Eric Poncelet, facilitator, led the Committee members and staff in a review and discussion of the key revisions to the Advisory Committee Charter. Committee members offered additional comments and edits to the Charter, which the facilitation team captured live on screen during the meeting. Key comments are proposed refinements are highlighted below:

- Section B: Charge and Responsibilities. Committee members and staff had a focused discussion on their charge to *"analyze options and recommend supplemental water supply alternatives to meet projected demand"* and on how detailed the language regarding this issue should be in the Charter. The group acknowledged that it is not necessary to address this issue in greater detail in the Charter and that this will be explored further as part of a future agenda. Committee members suggested that a working group could be convened to focus on the issue of water supply and demand.

The group also discussed the distinction between the Committee's role as "advising" and staff's role as "drafting" the GSP. The Committee recognized that it will not review and discuss the GSP in its entirety, but will focus on providing advice around key policy questions.

- Section C: Membership and Participants. Staff informed the Advisory Committee that Chris Coburn had withdrawn from the Committee for health reasons. The Committee noted that the MGA Bylaws specify 13 members as serving on the Committee, and that the withdrawal of Chris Coburn reduces the current number from 14 members back to 13. As a next step in the



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withdrawal process, an Executive Team member (Ms. Menard) will present this update to the MGA and ask them whether they would like to replace Mr. Coburn.

- Section D: Meeting Formats and Sub Groups. Darcy Pruitt, support staff, reported that the Committee supported having future meetings on the third or fourth Wednesday of each month but had equal preferences for holding future meetings in the early evening and after 6 p.m. Ms. Pruitt indicated that staff prefers the fourth Wednesday to avoid clustering the meetings with the regular MGA meetings, which are held every third Thursday of the month. The Committee members agreed on scheduling their future meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month and that the Charter should state that Advisory Committee meetings will be held “once a month.”
- Section E: Determining Levels of Support and Committee Recommendations. The Committee members discussed what level of support would constitute a recommendation to the MGA. Some advocated for a supermajority, while others preferred a simple majority. After extended discussion, they agreed to keep the language broadly “a majority” rather than to specify a quantified threshold. They recognized that the intent of the Committee is to strive for recommendations that have broad-based, cross-interest support from Committee members, and that all recommendations to the MGA will contain information about level of support from the individual Committee members and reasons behind divergent views..

4. Public Comment on Updated GSP Advisory Committee Charter

Members of the public who attended the Advisory Committee meeting provided comments on the following topics related to the Charter:

- Q: How do Advisory Committee members plan on engaging with their represented constituents?
 - R: Darcy Pruitt responded that staff has offered assistance to Committee members on engaging with constituents.
- C: The attention that the Committee has given to the issue of level of support is important. Monica McGuire, a mediator in the community, has shared information with support staff (Sierra Ryan) regarding well-established mediation processes regarding this issue.
- Q: To what extent does public input play in the Committee’s decision-making process, and how does the public communicate with members in between meetings?



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5. Approval of the Updated GSP Advisory Committee Charter

Eric Poncelet, facilitator, asked Committee members to share their levels of support for the Charter. Recorded below is each Committee member's level of support (in the order they were provided) for adopting the Charter:

1. **Dana McCarthy:** *I can live with it*, and I'd like the Committee to consider public comments regarding the public's input to the Committee because I represent ratepayer.
2. **Rich Casale:** *I can with live it*, and I also urge the Committee to consider the public comment shared. Overall, the Charter is a good guiding document.
3. **Bruce Jaffe:** *I like it.*
4. **Jonathan Lear:** *I like it.*
5. **Marco Romanini:** *I like it.*
6. **Ned Spencer:** *I like it.*
7. **Allyson Violante:** *I like it.*
8. **Doug Ley:** *I like it.*
9. **Kate Anderton:** *I like it.*
10. **David Baskin:** *I like it.* I'm not sure whether the public comments are related to guidelines or rules and would like staff to research this.
11. **John Bargetto:** *I like it.* Is the question of public outreach an active or passive question?
12. **Jon Kennedy:** *I like it*, and I would like to discuss the issue of recommendations further.
13. **Charlie Rous:** *I like it* and would like to clarify that the Charter is a living document that can be changed by the Committee.

Mr. Poncelet confirmed that all of the Committee members had expressed "support" for the Charter, and, as such, the charter was approved. He confirmed that the Charter was a living document and that Committee members could choose to further modify it in the future as needed.

6. Public Comment on General Items

Members of the public who attended the Advisory Committee meeting provided comments on the following general topics:

- Comment (C): Staff should review the pool of Committee member applications to find a replacement representative for Chris Coburn, the institutional representative, and consider alternate members.
- C: The Committee should consider groundwater alternatives that will not be toxic to the water, wildlife, and people in the Basin.



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7. Discuss GSP Process Timeline

Rosemary Menard, City of Santa Cruz, provided a high level overview of the anticipated GSP process timeline. She discussed the various phases involved and how the process will be iterative as the Committee explores and then refines ideas and proposals. Ms. Menard explained that the schedule is fast-paced and parallels development of the entire GSP.

Ms. Menard asserted that staff will be looking into more opportunities to engage with and solicit input from the public throughout the GSP process (e.g., scenario planning, brainstorming sessions).

Ms. Menard addressed the following questions from the Committee:

- Q: Where in the schedule will the Committee address the water budget issues?
 - R: Ms. Menard explained that the Committee can dive into topics related to the water budget once HydroMetrics is prepared to address those.
- Q: Will the Committee be reviewing details of previous groundwater plans in the Basin for a historical perspective?
 - R: Ms. Menard indicated that some of those details were discussed in the State of the Basin orientation session.
- Q: How soon will the Committee be able to receive information on groundwater model results?
 - R: Ms. Menard responded that the Committee will be provided groundwater modeling data in a variety of forums. The data will be structured conceptually as well as quantitatively.
- Q: Which subcommittees will be formed over the course of the project?
 - R: Ms. Menard reported that there will likely be a working group on surface and groundwater interaction (involving agencies). John Ricker added that there will likely be a working group on the issue of land use.

8. Next Steps

In closing, Mr. Poncelet reviewed the GSP process and the upcoming schedule of orientation sessions in 2017 (this information was distributed to participants in form of a handout), reminding the Committee and the public that the next orientation session will take place on December 7, 2017 (7:00-9:00 p.m.) and the next Advisory Committee meeting will be on January 24, 2018. Mr. Carson added that public drop-in hours before the December MGA meeting are available to those who require information before the next Committee meeting. Mr. Ricker closed the meeting by thanking the attendees for their participation.



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Charter

Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee

Approved by the Advisory Committee: November 13, 2017

This Charter outlines the charge and operating protocols for the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee). The purpose of this Charter is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee during the GSP process. In this GSP process, the Charter is being used to create common expectations about how the Committee will work together to foster and reinforce constructive interaction throughout their deliberations. Its intent is to emphasize clear communication, trust building, respect for divergent views, creative thinking, the pursuit of mutual gains, and use of best available information. The Advisory Committee can reconsider and revise this Charter if it appears not to serve the Advisory Committee process.

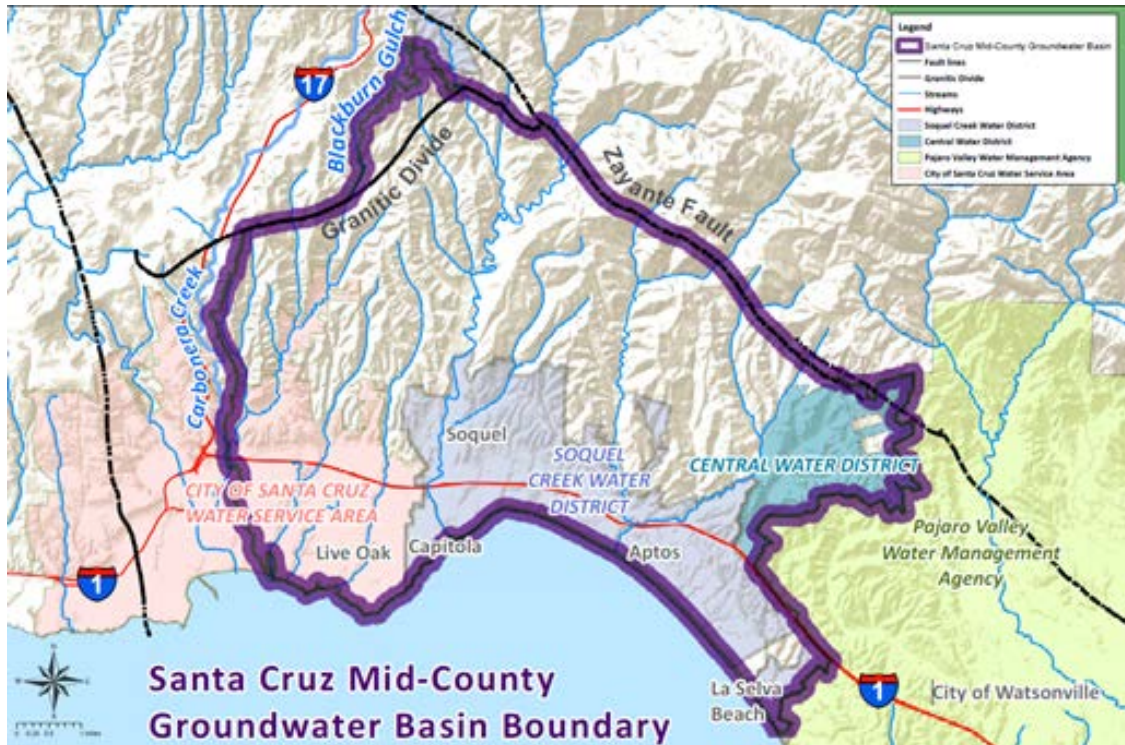
Outline

- A. Introduction
- B. Charge and Responsibilities
- C. Membership and Participants
- D. Meeting Formats and Sub Groups
- E. Decision Making Process
- F. Protocols and Ground Rules
- G. Role of Support Staff
- H. Schedule and Work Plan

A. Introduction

- 1. Problem Statement – from the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency** (adopted text in italics)

Our primary source of drinking water in the Mid-County Basin (see map below) is groundwater. Our Basin has been in overdraft for over 30 years. Lowered groundwater levels have allowed seawater intrusion and pose the threat of more widespread saltwater contamination if left unabated. Local streams are losing water flow, which adversely impacts aquatic ecosystems. We need to ensure safe, reliable, and sufficient water resources to support our community and the natural environment.



2. Background

California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) became law on January 1, 2015. SGMA required the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to designate groundwater basins into High, Medium, Low and Very Low priority classifications. DWR's Basin classifications are based on a variety of criteria, including the local population's dependence on groundwater and local groundwater levels. All basins classified as medium and high priority must prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) by 2022. High priority basins that are also classified in critical overdraft must complete their GSPs by January 31, 2020. GSPs will replace groundwater management plans that were required under AB3030. Groundwater Management Plans had some of the features of a GSP, but did not include State mandated sustainability indicators or mandatory deadlines to reach sustainable groundwater management goals. In contrast, SGMA requires medium and high priority basins to make measurable progress toward sustainability, to report that progress annually, and to achieve ongoing sustainability. Basins in critical overdraft must achieve sustainability by 2040. The Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin is a high priority basin in critical overdraft.

During the work of the Soquel-Aptos Groundwater Management Committee's Groundwater Sustainability Agency Formation Subcommittee (GSA Formation Subcommittee), the Subcommittee considered several possible approaches to meeting the SGMA's requirement for broad stakeholder engagement in the development and implementation of GSPs.

The agencies that formed the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) Board purposefully included three positions on the Board as a first step to meeting the SGMA's requirements for stakeholder involvement. However, the GSA Formation Subcommittee recognized that even with those Board slots, it would be desirable to expand the engagement of stakeholders in the GSP development process.

Under a grant provided by the State Water Resources Control Board, resources from the California State University and Sacramento's Center for Collaborative Policy were made available to the SAGMC to create a Community Engagement Plan. As part of the GSA Formation Subcommittee's process, it considered a range of options of broadening engagement of stakeholders in the development of the GSP. The recommendation included in the Community Engagement Plan was to create an advisory committee with expanded representation of key interests as well as MGA Board members. This committee would be tasked with working with staff and consultants to develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) and provide the Board with recommendations on how to address key policy issues that will need to be covered by the plan.

After considering the range of relevant stakeholders and interests that it would be desirable to include in a committee to advise the Board on the GSP, the MGA Working Group recommended that the Board create a committee representing the following interests: MGA Member Agencies, MGA Board Member Private Well Owners Representative, Institutional Users, Agricultural Users, Business Interests, Environmental Interests, Small Water System Management, Water Utility Rate Payers, and Representatives of the Community At Large. These particular interests were chosen for inclusion in the GSP Advisory Committee by the MGA Working Group because they cover the key user groups and interests. Tribal and state or federal fish and wildlife agencies were not included because the MGA Working Group provided for their involvement on an as needed basis through the use of short term working groups that would operate during the planning process.

As a committee that is advisory to the MGA Board, the GSP Advisory Committee is subject to the (State of California) Brown Act (see additional details below).

3. Groundwater Sustainability Plans

Groundwater sustainability plans contain, among other things, the following information: a description of the plan area, a description of current and historical groundwater conditions in the basin, a descriptive hydrogeologic conceptual model of the basin, a water budget for the basin, a description of management areas, an articulation of sustainable management criteria and a sustainability goal, identification of undesirable results, a description of minimum thresholds, identification of measurable objectives to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin within 20 years of plan implementation, and description of a monitoring network.

B. Charge and Responsibilities

1. Charge to the Advisory Committee from the MGA (adopted text in italics)

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee will provide guidance to staff and the Santa Cruz MGA Board for the creation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The Committee will analyze and provide recommendations to the MGA Board on key policy issues that will form the Plan. The Committee's final presentation to the MGA Board will take place no later than the MGA's July 2019 Board Meeting.

Committee members will represent diverse interest groups within the Basin. They will deliberate based on scientific data to understand current and projected basin conditions. The Committee will work collaboratively in an open and public process to ensure community concerns are addressed within the Plan.

The Committee will recommend strategies to the MGA Board to achieve a sustainable groundwater basin by 2040. Responsibilities include:

- *Evaluate scientific information and recommendations from staff on the impacts to the Basin, and assess various management approaches to reach sustainability,*
- *Consider the effect of changing climate and sea level on groundwater conditions,*
- *Establish objectives and thresholds for State mandated sustainability indicators,*
- *Analyze options and recommend supplemental water supply alternatives to meet projected demand,*
- *Promote public education about Plan decisions and the Basin's sustainability, and*
- *Recommend approaches to funding projects and allocation of project costs.*

The Advisory Committee will be tasked to work with staff and consultants to support development of the Plan. They will provide the MGA Board with recommendations on how to address key policy issues required by the State's legal mandate. The Committee will make periodic reports to the MGA Board for input and feedback. They will report on key milestones in the development of the Plan, including: groundwater pumping impacts, key alternatives to reach groundwater sustainability, thresholds and measurable objectives for each sustainability indicator, possible program funding strategies, and recommendations for Plan implementation.

2. Additional Objectives and Responsibilities

The ultimate objective of the Advisory Committee is to contribute to the development of a GSP that satisfies the requirements of SGMA, that can be broadly supported by diverse stakeholder communities in the Mid-County Basin, and that can be successfully implemented.

Additional Advisory Committee responsibilities include:

- **Policy questions:** As part of their deliberations, Advisory Committee members will address policy questions associated with GSP development. Support staff will help in identifying these questions for Advisory Committee consideration and deliberation.
- **Interest-based discussions.** Advisory Committee members will be willing to express fundamental interests (rather than fixed positions)¹ and to clearly convey the interests of one or more constituent groups.
- **Collaborative Approach.** Advisory Committee members will be willing to work collaboratively with each other, seeking to integrate the interests of a broad range of constituencies.
- **Checking back with constituencies.** Advisory Committee members have been recruited based upon their ability to ably represent diverse interests within the Basin. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to coordinate with interested constituents as appropriate throughout the GSP process to bring their views into Advisory Committee discussions. Staff are available to support these coordination efforts as needed.
- **Report back to MGA.** Advisory Committee members may be asked to participate in MGA meetings through, for example, reports to the MGA at its board meetings, periodic joint-study sessions, and issue specific sub-committee meetings. Advisory Committee members

¹ A "position" is a particular stance taken by a party—a preferred solution to an issue. "Interests" are the intangible motivations (fundamental needs, desires, concerns) underlying the preferred solution.

will make every effort to participate in these meetings when requested. Individual presenters to the MGA will be identified by the Advisory Committee as a whole when presentations are warranted.

- **Commitment to the Process.** Advisory Committee members will be committed to achieving all elements of their charge as described above.

C. Membership and Participants

1. Committee Composition

The Advisory Committee was appointed by the MGA to represent a diversity of interests and expertise. The Committee consists of the following members (*=MGA Board representatives):

- Kate Anderton – Environmental Representative
- John Bargetto – Agricultural Representative
- *David Green Baskin – City of Santa Cruz
- Rich Casale - Small Water System Management
- *Bruce Jaffe – Soquel Creek Water District
- Dana Katofsky McCarthy - Water Utility Rate Payer
- *Jon Kennedy - Private Well Representative
- Jonathan Lear - At-Large Representative
- *Allyson Violante – County of Santa Cruz
- Douglas P. Ley – Business Representative
- *Marco Romanini – Central Water District
- Charlie Rous - At-Large Representative
- Ned Spencer - At-Large Representative

Committee members are expected to attend all meetings (to the extent feasible). There are no alternate members.

2. Committee Member Additions and Withdrawal

It is not anticipated that new members will be added to the Advisory Committee unless to replace another Committee member.

Advisory Committee members have made the commitment to participate for the duration of the groundwater sustainability planning process. In the event where a member must withdraw from the Advisory Committee, he or she may do so by providing a letter of resignation to the MGA Board Chair, with copies to the facilitators to be distributed to the other members. At that point, the MGA may elect to replace the Committee member to ensure balanced interest representation on the Committee.

If an Advisory Committee member consistently deviates from the operating protocols and ground rules established in this Charter and agreed to by all, that member will meet with the facilitation team and the Executive Team to discuss the transgressions and steps necessary to rectify them. If the behavior does not improve, the matter will be brought to the MGA Board.

D. Meeting Formats and Sub Groups

1. Advisory Committee meetings

The full Advisory Committee will meet twice during the fall of 2017 and then monthly between January 2018 and July 2019. During 2018-2019, Advisory Committee meetings will take place once a month, on a regular basis. The meeting times and locations will be posted on the MGA calendar of events and the Advisory Committee page on the MGA website. All Advisory Committee meetings will be open to the public.

A majority of Committee members must be present to hold a meeting. Committee members who are not able to attend a meeting will inform project staff and facilitators in advance.

Membership on the Committee was designed to provide broad representation of the various interests that need to be considered in the planning process. In order to maximize the potential for all members to participate actively, fully, and equally in the process, Advisory Committee meetings will be organized and run by the Facilitation Team rather than a Committee chair/vice chair. This approach optimizes the opportunity for full participation by all Committee members in the group's deliberations.

As part of their ongoing work, the Advisory Committee will periodically take stock of the Committee's progress and discuss how best to achieve its charge and to stay on schedule. These discussions will take place either in regularly scheduled Advisory Committee meetings or in targeted working group meetings (see below) as appropriate.

2. Issue Area Working Groups

As needed, the Advisory Committee can create ad hoc working groups to address particular issue areas to help drive their work forward. Working groups will have specific, bounded charges and work products; they may make recommendations to the Advisory Committee. They will explore and research scientific, technical and policy issues, and will bring their work products back to the full Advisory Committee for action.

Working groups will not contain a majority of Advisory Committee members and are therefore not subject to the Brown Act. Within reason, the Advisory Committee can invite non Advisory Committee members to participate in these working group meetings. When deciding to convene a specific working group, Advisory Committee members will discuss and recommend invited participants to the full Advisory Committee for approval. When needed, the Advisory Committee may seek assistance from MGA board and staff to identify the people most knowledgeable to participate in specific issue area working groups. Working groups will not speak on behalf of the full Advisory Committee. Ad hoc working groups may be facilitated as needed.

3. Brown Act Requirements

As an advisory committee to the MGA, the GSP Advisory Committee process is subject to the Brown Act. As such, the following procedures (among others) will apply. For a more detailed guide to the Brown Act produced by the California League of Cities, see the [link](http://www.cacities.org/Resources-Documents/Resources-Section/Open-Government/Open-Public-2016.aspx) below.²

² www.cacities.org/Resources-Documents/Resources-Section/Open-Government/Open-Public-2016.aspx

- All meetings of the Advisory Committee will be open and public.
- Advisory Committee meetings will be preceded by a posted agenda that advises the public of the meeting and the matters to be transacted or discussed. The agenda will be posted at least 72 hours before the regular meeting on the MGA website and in a location freely accessible to members of the public. The agenda must state the meeting time and place and must contain a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, including items to be discussed in closed session.
- All meeting materials distributed prior to or during the meetings will be made publicly available.
- Serial meetings, which could be constituted by Advisory Committee members forwarding or replying all to an email string or referring to the project through social media, are prohibited.

4. MGA Bylaws Requirements

As a subcommittee to the MGA Board, the GSP Advisory Committee is also governed by the applicable sections of the MGA bylaws.³ The bylaws require capturing of meeting minutes or summaries.

- Minutes of committee meetings shall be recorded by the facilitation team and shared with the Advisory Committee along with the meeting packet in advance of the next meeting. At the beginning of the next Advisory Committee meeting, the facilitator will ask if Advisory Committee members have any additions or refinements to add to the meeting minutes, at which point they will be considered approved and forwarded to the MGA Board. They will also be posted on the MGA website.
- For the GSP Advisory Committee, the minutes will be in the form of key outcomes-focused meeting summaries intended to capture the main results of the Advisory Committee meetings. These meeting summaries will summarize who participated, key decisions made, issues discussed, and the next steps identified for moving the project forward; these summaries are not intended serve as meeting transcripts.

E. Determining Levels of Support and Committee Recommendations

The GSP Advisory Committee will follow the general protocols established in this Charter; it is not required to follow specific rules of procedure.

The Advisory Committee will operate as a body seeking broad agreement in its preparation of advice for the MGA Board. Advisory Committee members will strive to achieve a high level of agreement in developing advice for the MGA Board. The intent is to strive for recommendations that can earn broad-based, cross-interest support from Advisory Committee members.

Formal proposed recommendations to the MGA Board will be presented verbally and/or in writing for consideration by the full Advisory Committee. Members will be allowed sufficient time to consider them before voting. Advisory Committee members will be invited to indicate whether they support, or not, an item under discussion. Support, here, is defined as “can live with”.

³ See [sections 4.6.3](#) and [5.3.4](#).

- **Level of support.** Advisory Committee members will be invited to indicate their “level of support” for any proposed recommendation. Different levels of support include: general support (“I like it”), qualified support (“I have some issues with it, but I can live with it”), and fundamental disagreement (“I don’t like it and cannot live with it”).
- **Voting and recording levels of support.** The level of support for decision items will be recorded for each Advisory Committee member, along with a summary of areas of agreement and disagreement. If fundamental disagreement exists over a particular decision item, the group will be asked to continue working to reach agreement or until it becomes clear that a resolution is either not necessary or not attainable. At that time, project staff will note the nature of the disagreement, and in consultation with the group, decide how best to frame the issues to present to the MGA Board for consideration.
- **Recommendations.** A “recommendation” from the GSP Advisory Committee will be achieved if a majority of Committee members present expresses support for a particular decision item. Every recommendation that is brought to the MGA Board will contain context in terms of which Advisory Committee members voted for or against a particular item. The Advisory Committee will strive to ensure that particular interests or perspectives are not disenfranchised by being consistently left out of recommendations.
- **Use of “straw polls”.** Advisory Committee members recognize the need to make simple process agreements to move their work forward. A straw poll is a method used for surveying a group on a particular issue and typically involves asking each group member to indicate a preference on a particular issue.
 - Project facilitators may use “straw polls” to develop a sense of the group’s views, track progress, and help the group arrive at short-term decisions to propel the process forward in an efficient fashion. Straw polls should be considered interim results.
 - Project facilitators, support staff, or an Advisory Committee member can request a straw poll.
 - Project facilitators will check in with the group to confirm the appropriateness of conducting the straw poll. Straw polls will be preceded by adequate Advisory Committee deliberation.
 - Project facilitators will record the intent and outcomes of each straw poll taken.

F. Operating Protocols and Ground Rules

1. Participation and Collaboration

- **Active, full participation.** Every Advisory Committee member is responsible for communicating his/her perspectives and interests on the issues under consideration. Voicing and actively listening to these perspectives is essential to achieving meaningful dialogue. Everyone will participate; no one will dominate.
- **Focused participation.** Advisory Committee members will come to the meetings prepared and will focus their discussions on the topics at hand. Everyone will help keep the meetings on track.
- **Respectful interaction.** Advisory Committee members will respect each other’s personal integrity, divergent viewpoints, values and legitimacy of interests. Advisory Committee

members will listen courteously while others are speaking. Only one person will speak at a time. Advisory Committee members will refrain from using deliberate misinformation, personal attacks, or stereotyping.

- **Integration and creative thinking.** Advisory Committee members will seek to balance advocacy and inquiry. In developing, reviewing and revising work products, Advisory Committee members will strive to be open-minded and to integrate each other's ideas, perspectives, and interests. Disagreements will be regarded as problems to be solved rather than battles to be won. Advisory Committee members will attempt to reframe contentious issues and offer creative solutions to enable constructive dialogue. Where Advisory Committee members do not support a specific solution or proposal, they are encouraged to offer alternative solutions.
- **Satisfy mutual Interests.** Advisory Committee members will work to satisfy not only their own interests but also those of other Advisory Committee members. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to be clear about their own interests and to recognize the important distinction between underlying interests and fixed positions.
- **Cell phone/PDA courtesy.** While participating in meetings, Advisory Committee members will refrain from cell phone use, emailing, and text messaging. Except during breaks, cell phones and other electronic communications devices will be turned off or set to "silent" mode.

2. Commitment to the Process

- **Good faith effort.** Advisory Committee members will make a good faith effort to achieve the goals of the project within the identified schedule.
- **Meeting attendance.** All Advisory Committee members will make every effort to attend all Committee meetings. Consistent attendance is critical to ensure the creation of shared knowledge and a common language. Meetings will start on time. Advisory Committee members who know that they will be absent, late, or have to leave early will inform project staff and facilitators in advance and coordinate with other Advisory Committee members to ensure that their ideas are brought to the table and that they are informed regarding Advisory Committee deliberations and decisions made. After a missed meeting, Advisory Committee members will work to get up to speed to keep the project from "backsliding."
- **Come prepared.** Advisory Committee members will review meeting materials in advance of the meetings and come prepared to address the meeting objectives. If specific "homework" is assigned, Advisory Committee members are expected to have the homework completed by the start of the meeting.
- **Commitment to ground rules.** Once they are ratified, Advisory Committee members commit to adhere to these ground rules as a set of mutual obligations. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to uphold these ground rules. Advisory Committee members commit to bring concerns about adherence to the ground rules or other process matters to the facilitation team rather than expressing such concerns in a manner that undermines the respect of any individuals or the process.

3. Advisory Committee Communication

- **Consistency with Brown Act.** Advisory Committee members will avoid oral or email communications with other Advisory Committee members outside of Committee meetings (e.g., serial meetings) that would be inconsistent with the Brown Act.
- **Representation.** Unless they have been appointed a spokesperson for a specific task, Advisory Committee members will always make it clear when they speak or write in public that they speak for themselves, and not as a spokesperson for the Committee or for other Committee members.

4. Involvement of Public

- **Public comment at Advisory Committee meetings.** Advisory Committee meetings will include opportunity for public comment on items within the purview of the Advisory Committee. Public comment will be keyed to specific Advisory Committee work product discussions and agenda items. Additionally, there will be an opportunity during the meeting for the public to raise items not on the agenda but within the purview of the Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to consider public input in their deliberations.
- **Key purpose of verbal public comment.** Oral public comment provides an important opportunity for the broader public to inform Advisory Committee deliberations on the GSP development process. As such, to the extent possible, public comments should be directed toward the work effort, products, or process of the Advisory Committee. Comments on subjects external to the GSP development process should be directed to other forums.
- **Other opportunities.** Members of the public are encouraged to convey their comments to relevant colleagues who serve as Advisory Committee members. Members of the public are also encouraged to submit comments in writing (via email to: dpruitt@cfsc.org). Written public comments will be distributed to Advisory Committee members on a regular basis as part of their meeting packets.
- **Facilitation of public comment periods.** Public comment will be facilitated by the meeting facilitator. The meeting facilitator will ask for a show of hands (or use speaker cards) to assess the number of attendees wishing to comment at any public comment period. The time allocated to each speaker will be based on the total available time and the number of individuals wishing to speak (with a maximum of three minutes and a minimum of one minute per speaker). In the case where a large number of public participants wish to comment, the facilitator may decide to extend the public comment period. When possible, the meeting minutes will identify the topic discussed and the speaker who introduced the topic.
- **Adherence to ground rules.** It is expected that members of the public will adhere to the same ground rules of focused interaction and respectful engagement as the Advisory Committee. Members of the public will be respectful of the Advisory Committee's time.

- **Advisory Committee response.** Advisory Committee members and support staff will typically not respond in detail to the public during public comment periods. Committee members are encouraged to consider public input into their deliberations after the public comment period is over.

5. Information Sharing and Joint Fact-Finding

- **Information gathering and sharing.** The GSP development process will include multiple opportunities for data sharing and joint fact-finding among the Advisory Committee. Joint fact-finding refers to a process where: stakeholders are able to provide their knowledge and identify information sources, needs, and questions for analysis; deliberations of scientific advisors are transparent; data are pooled to support better informed recommendations; and a serious effort is made to identify and narrow sources of scientific disagreement. Advisory Committee members are encouraged to be as specific as possible in identifying types of information they believe will support the development of work products. This information may include a mix of peer-reviewed studies, other scientific studies, field notes from researchers, and first-hand knowledge from resource users. Accordingly, Advisory Committee members are encouraged to contribute their own first-hand knowledge to support the work of the Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee members seeking to share written information or data should transmit this directly to Darcy Pruitt as a staff point person (rather than sharing data directly with each other).
- **Best readily available information.** Advisory Committee members recognize that the Mid-County GSP development process relies on using the best readily available information. Tentative information will be treated as such. Development of the GSP will not be delayed in order to fill any perceived data gaps.

6. Media Contact

- **Meeting recordings.** Advisory Committee meetings are public and will be audio recorded. Audio archives of meetings will be available on the MGA website within approximately one week of each meeting.
- **GSP media contacts.** Media contacts regarding the GSP process from a “big picture” perspective will be handled by the Executive Team. First contacts should go to John Ricker, Santa Cruz County.
- **Advisory Committee media contact.** On occasion, reporters may contact individual Advisory Committee members for comment about a particular issue. Advisory Committee members who are contacted by the media will speak only on behalf of themselves or their group or constituency. After commenting, the Advisory Committee member will provide the media entity with contact information for communications point persons Darcy Pruitt and Sierra Ryan and request that the media entity contact those individuals for further information.
- **Representation to media.** Advisory Committee members recognize the need to maintain a balance between providing timely information to constituents and making statements to the media that could undermine the success of the GSP process. Advisory Committee members agree to avoid: a) making statements to the media that may prejudice the project’s outcome, b) representing another group’s point of view or characterizing others’

motives, or c) stating positions on preliminary proposals while they are still being developed or refined by work groups or the Advisory Committee.

- **Use of meeting summaries.** In briefing constituents, Advisory Committee members are encouraged to rely primarily on the summaries to be produced for the GSP Advisory Committee meetings.

G. Role of Support Staff

1. Executive Team

- The Executive Team is composed of:
 - Ralph Bracamonte, Central Water District
 - Tim Carson, Regional Water Management Foundation
 - Ron Duncan, Soquel Creek Water District
 - Rosemary Menard, City of Santa Cruz
 - John Ricker, Santa Cruz County
- The Executive Team is responsible for providing process guidance to the GSP process and will assist in relaying Advisory Committee or public requests or inquiries to and from the MGA. Executive Team members will help determine when ideas brought up by the Advisory Committee or member of the public are outside of the scope of the Committee's charge; uncertain cases will be brought before the MGA. The Executive Team will provide periodic written reports to the MGA Board, pulling from Advisory Committee meeting summaries.

2. Other Key Support staff

- Darcy Pruitt, Regional Water Management Foundation: Darcy is responsible for compiling information and advice developed by Advisory Committee members and the technical team into a draft GSP. Darcy will also be the point person for receiving and coordinating GSP related inquiries from Advisory Committee members and the public. Darcy will draft press releases, provide text for the website, and support other outreach tasks.
- Sierra Ryan, Santa Cruz County: Sierra will provide support for public communication and outreach, website maintenance, and meeting planning.
- Julia Townsend, Regional Water Management Foundation: Julia is responsible for meeting logistics and transmitting meeting materials and information to the Advisory Committee and general public.

3. Technical Team – HydroMetrics

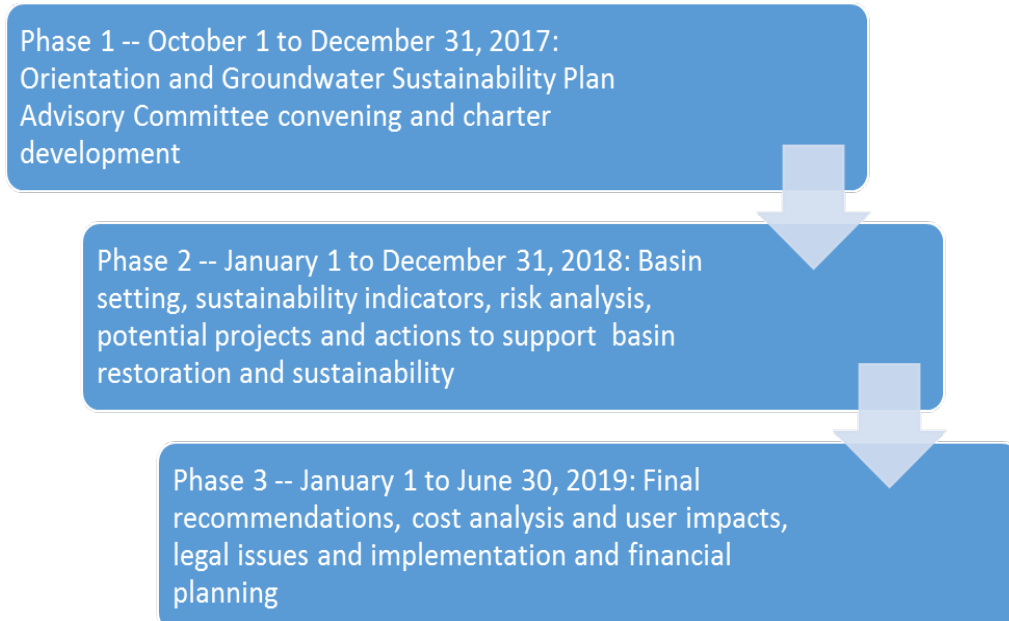
- HydroMetrics will be responsible for providing all technical analysis and support to the Advisory Committee. This includes presenting at orientation workshops, conducting groundwater modeling, and presenting and synthesizing other technical work that the Committee will need in its deliberations.

4. Facilitation Team – Kearns & West

- **Neutral facilitators.** The Kearns & West facilitation team is non-partisan; the facilitators have no stake in any content of the GSP and will not act as advocates for particular outcomes. The facilitators will strive to ensure that the Advisory Committee completes its charge in a well-informed, respectful, and timely fashion.
- **Foster alternatives with mutual benefit.** The facilitation team will seek to foster approaches to meeting management and to the identification and consideration of advice on the GSP process that maximize joint gains and mutual benefit.
- **Efficient use of time.** The facilitators will strive to structure and manage meetings and discussion so as to make efficient use of Advisory Committee members' time. This includes providing materials in advance of meetings, keeping the discussion focused, and monitoring discussions so that no individual or idea dominates.
- **Facilitators' discretion.** The facilitation team will use its discretion in guiding meetings and may propose agenda adjustments. The facilitation team may also use straw voting to track a range of preferences on emerging issues and gauge the level of support for alternative options.
- **Meeting Summaries.** The facilitation team will prepare key outcomes-focused meeting summaries to capture the main results of the Advisory Committee meetings in accordance with MGA bylaws listed in section D.4 above.

H. Schedule and Work Plan

- The work of the Advisory Committee will proceed in three main phases according to the conceptual framework shown below.



- Project staff will work with the Advisory Committee to develop a more detailed work plan and approximate timing for key deliverables, and to update the process as appropriate. This will include early agreement about the form of work products. The Advisory Committee recognizes that its work developing advice on key policy issues will be an iterative process.
- The Advisory Committee will track its progress against this initial work plan and will discuss process adjustments as needed.
- The Advisory Committee will formally present its final recommendations to the MGA Board no later than at the July 2019 MGA Board meeting. At this meeting, the Advisory Committee will identify specific members to present to the MGA Board.
- It is anticipated that the process will move quickly and will need to make adaptations along the way.



MGA DRAFT Sustainability Problem Statements:

- 💧 Our primary source of drinking water in the Mid-County Basin is groundwater.**
- 💧 Our Basin has been in overdraft for over 30 years.**
- 💧 Lowered groundwater levels have allowed seawater intrusion and pose the threat of more widespread saltwater contamination if left unabated.**
- 💧 Local streams are losing water flow, which adversely impacts aquatic ecosystems.**
- 💧 We need to ensure safe, reliable, and sufficient water resources to support our community and the natural environment.**



Groundwater is a vital resource, together let's protect it.

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Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency

2017 Public Orientation Session Highlights

In fall 2017, at the outset of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) planning effort, the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Agency (MGA) offered four public workshops to orient the Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee and stakeholders to groundwater planning and management under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The session topics and objectives included the following:

Orientation Session 1: Groundwater and SGMA 101 (October 5, 2017)

1. Understanding fundamental hydrogeologic terms and concepts needed for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and groundwater modeling
2. Understanding the background, purpose, and basics of developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) under SGMA

Orientation Session 2: State of Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin (October 25, 2017)

1. What the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Basin looks like
2. Understanding of historic and current Basin conditions
3. How the Basin has been managed

Orientation Session 3: A Primer on Sustainability under SGMA (November 13, 2017)

1. Understand the parts of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan
2. Understand how sustainability is defined in SGMA
3. Understand the process for developing our sustainability definition

Orientation Session 4: Groundwater Modeling – A Primer for the Community (December 7, 2017)

1. Provide introduction to groundwater models
2. Describe how groundwater model will be used for GSP
3. Describe model of the Mid-County Basin
4. Outline plans for simulating future groundwater management in the Mid-County Basin

Orientation session materials and recordings are available online at:

www.midcountygroundwater.org/gsp-advisory-committee/groundwater-workshops

January 16, 2018

**MEMO TO THE SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Title: Working Draft of Policy Questions that Need to be Addressed in the
Development of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater
Sustainability Plan

Attachments

- A. Working Draft of Policy Questions that Need to be Addressed in the
Development of the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater
Sustainability Plan

BACKGROUND: As has been discussed during both the recruitment process as well during several of the public orientations sessions held for the Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee members (Advisory Committee or Committee), a key focus of the Advisory Committee's work will be to develop policy recommendations related to the Mid-County Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). Their recommendations will be advisory to the Mid-County Groundwater Agency Board of Directors (Board or MGA Board).

To help make the nature of this task more real, staff has pulled together an initial list of draft policy questions and organized them under four main topic headings that will help both Committee members and staff think about the questions in an efficient manner. The initial set of questions is included in Attachment A.

DISCUSSION: One thought staff has had regarding these questions is that ultimately the results of the Committee's work on each of the questions could be combined into a set of findings that would be used to inform the GSP. This idea, if pursued, could result in a written product that would, at a high level, summarize the Committee's work. From staff's perspective, this approach has a certain appeal and would also keep the policy questions clearly in focus during the 18 month GSP development process.

The four main topic headings are as follows:

A. Policy questions related to the history and cause of current basin conditions.

- Questions in this group are intended to give the Committee a chance to make some statements about "where we are" and "how we got here."

B. Policy questions related to setting the sustainability goal for the basin.

- Questions in this group are about things to consider or “how to think about” the what goes in to the sustainability goal.

C. Policy questions related to individual sustainability indicators or small groups of indicators.

- Questions in this group have basically the same purpose as those related to the sustainability goal

D. Policy questions related to achieving the sustainability goal.

- Questions in this group focus on “how we’re going to make the plan work.” Because this is a big broad category, it has been subdivided it into topics such as:
 - Conditions for success
 - Actions to achieve basin sustainability
 - Allocating costs; and
 - Plan implementation.

The questions in Attachment A have been watermarked as “Working Draft” to indicate that the list of questions is subject to revisions through additions, deletions, or revisions by the Committee over time. Discussion planned during the Committee’s January 24th meeting will provide an opportunity to begin this conversation, but it is anticipated that this conversation will be ongoing, especially during the first 12 months of the Committee’s work.

Attachment A

Working Draft of Policy Question to be Addressed as Part of Developing the Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Plan

A. Policy Questions Related to the History and Causes of the Current Basin Condition

1. What is the correlation between historic groundwater use and water quality and quantity issues in the basin?
2. What qualitative and quantitative impacts occur to groundwater dependent ecosystems when groundwater resources are depleted?
3. What qualitative and quantitative impacts to groundwater dependent ecosystems have occurred in the past?
4. Have or how have local land use plans or practices such as development that impacts recharge areas or water consumption affected groundwater quality or quantity?
5. Has pumping different areas of the basin impacted groundwater quality or quantity?

B. Policy Questions Related to Setting the Sustainability Goal (umbrella over all the sustainability indicators)

1. What risk factors need to be taken into account in determining how to set the basin recovery level/sustainable yield?
2. Overall, what are the undesirable results that we should be planning to avoid if we are going to achieve basin sustainability? What conditions or actions are most likely to produce those undesirable results?
3. How must local land use plans or practices be taken into account when considering how to set the sustainability goal for the basin.
4. What steps could the MGA or land use planning agencies take to reduce potential risks to groundwater quality or quantity local land use plans or practices?

C. Policy Questions Related to Individual Sustainability Indicators or Small Groups of Sustainability Indicators

1. What does success look like in terms of the basin's performance for each of the six sustainability indicators?
2. For each sustainability indicator, what are the undesirable results we should be planning to avoid?
3. For each sustainability indicator, what outcomes need to be achieved so that performance related to that indicator contributes to moving toward the overall sustainability goal?
4. For each sustainability indicator, what other factors beyond groundwater management, affect the status of that indicator? (e.g., The effect of surface diversions on streamflow)
5. For each sustainability indicator, what interim measurable objectives can be achieved at the 5, 10, and 15 year marks?

6. What qualitative and quantitative impacts occur to groundwater dependent ecosystems when groundwater resources are depleted? How will the GSP address these issues to avoid these effects?
7. Which sustainability indicators, if any, are more critical to avoiding undesirable results? Does or should the criticality of the sustainability indicators affect how minimum thresholds are set?
8. Does the data support establishing different management areas where specialized, site specific management would be appropriate in minimizing risks to groundwater quantity or quality or maximizing benefits toward achieving the basin's sustainability goal?

D. Policy Questions Related Achieving the Sustainability Goal (umbrella over all the sustainability indicators)

1. Conditions for Success

- a) What conditions for success must be in place for us to maximize our ability to achieve basin sustainability?

2. Actions to Achieve Basin Sustainability

- a) What criteria should be used in identifying the suite of actions/projects that will be recommended for implementation?
- b) What level of certainty about the performance of various possible projects or actions needed to support implementation of the GSP is needed to maximize the potential to reach the basin's sustainability goal?
- c) How are the costs of various projects or actions going to be compared?

3. Allocating Cost

- a) What is the estimated cost of achieving basin sustainability?
- b) How should these costs be allocated among basin users?
- c) What sources of revenues need to be identified or considered to cover these costs?

4. Plan Implementation

- a) What conditions need to be in place to maximize the potential for the plan to be successfully implemented?
- b) How are various implementation actions going to be taken and by whom?
- c) How is performance going to be measured over time?
- d) How might actions taken to implement the GSP change water demands or affect the sustainability of the basin? Would or how would the GSP need to take action to address any impacts that might occur?
- e) How might actions taken to implement the GSP change water demands or affect the sustainability of the basin? Would or how would the GSP need to take action to address any impacts that might occur?

January 19, 2018

**MEMO TO THE SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER
SUSTAINABILITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Subject: Interrelationships between Technical Groundwater Sustainability Plan
Sections and Sustainability Indicators

Attachments

- A. Table: Technical GSP Sections that Inform Assessment of
Sustainability Indicators
- B. Graphic: Iterative Process for Developing Sustainable Management
Criteria

BACKGROUND: A key focus of the Advisory Committee's work will be to develop policy recommendations related to the Mid-County Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The Orientation Sessions have provided background information on historic and current groundwater conditions in the Basin. An initial step in developing Sustainable Management Criteria is to identify applicable Sustainability Indicators and to start thinking about what conditions, for each of the six Sustainability Indicators, would be considered significant and unreasonable.

DISCUSSION:

- 1. Table: Technical GSP Content that Informs Assessment of Sustainability Indicators (Attachment A)

This table shows what technical components of the GSP are used to inform assessment of sustainability indicators. Where technical content is used to assess a sustainability indicator, a one directional arrow (\Rightarrow) is placed in the corresponding block.

A double arrow (\Leftrightarrow) is used to show that some technical content is informed after development of Sustainable Management Criteria in addition to preliminary technical content informing assessment of sustainability indicators. In other words, quantification of overdraft, estimate of sustainable yield, and projected water budget are dependent on quantification of Sustainable Management Criteria.

Some technical content, such as groundwater elevations, are used, often in combination with other technical information, to assess multiple sustainability indicators.

What are Sustainability Indicators?

Sustainability indicators are the effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin that, when significant and unreasonable, become undesirable results. Undesirable results are one or more of the following effects:

- 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.
- Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage
- Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion
- Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality, including the migration of contaminant plumes that impair water supplies
- Significant and unreasonable land subsidence that substantially interferes with surface land uses
- Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water

The significant and unreasonable occurrence of any of the six sustainability indicators constitutes an undesirable result.

Determining what is significant and unreasonable for each sustainability indicator will be the task at hand for the Advisory Committee in upcoming meetings.

2. Graphic showing Iterative Process for Developing Sustainable Management Criteria (Attachment B)

The process to develop Sustainable Management Criteria is not a straight forward linear process. As some of the criteria are interrelated, an iterative process is illustrated in Attachment B, where Sustainable Management Criteria are developed based on several iterations successively building up to the final criteria.

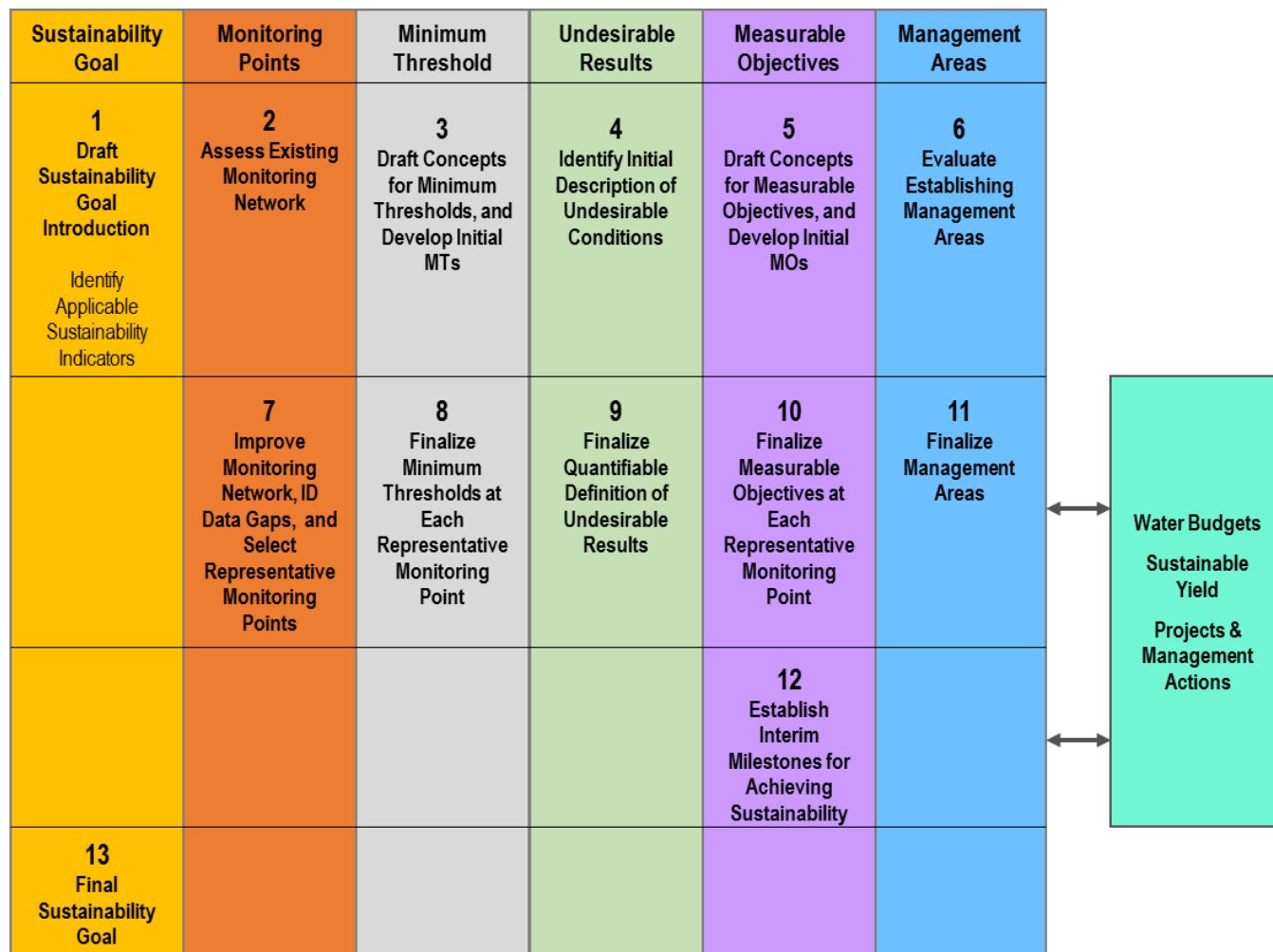
Georgina King, of HydroMetrics WRI, will present these graphics at the meeting and answer any questions.

Attachment A
Technical GSP Content that Informs Assessment of Sustainability Indicators

	Sustainability Indicators					
Technical GSP Content	Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels	Reduction of Groundwater Storage	Seawater Intrusion	Degraded Groundwater Quality	Land Subsidence	Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water
Groundwater elevations	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒
Estimate of groundwater storage	⇒	⇒			⇒	
Seawater intrusion conditions	⇒		⇒	⇒		
Groundwater quality issues	⇒		⇒	⇒		
Land subsidence conditions	⇒				⇒	
Identification of interconnected surface water systems						⇒
Identification of groundwater-dependent ecosystems						⇒
<i>Quantification of overdraft</i>	⇔	⇔	⇔			
<i>Estimate of sustainable yield</i>	⇔	⇔	⇔			⇔
Quantification of current, historical, and <i>projected water budget</i>	⇒	⇒	⇒			⇒
Establish management areas	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒
Representative monitoring	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒
Monitoring network	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒

⇒ technical GSP content that inform assessment of Sustainability Indicators
 ⇔ GSP technical content depends on Sustainability Management Criteria in addition to informing assessment of Sustainability Indicators (also italicized)

Attachment B
Iterative Process for Developing Sustainable Management Criteria



Technical GSP Content that Informs Assessment of Sustainability Indicators

	Sustainability Indicators					
Technical GSP Content	Chronic Lowering of GW Levels	Reduction of GW Storage	Seawater Intrusion	Degraded GW Quality	Land Subsidence	Depletions of Interconnected Surface Water
Groundwater elevations	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒
Estimate of groundwater storage	⇒	⇒			⇒	
Seawater intrusion conditions	⇒		⇒	⇒		
Groundwater quality issues	⇒		⇒	⇒		
Land subsidence conditions	⇒				⇒	
Identification of interconnected surface water systems						⇒
Identification of groundwater-dependent ecosystems						⇒
Quantification of overdraft	⇔	⇔	⇔			
Estimate of sustainable yield	⇔	⇔	⇔			⇔
Quantification of current, historical, and projected water budget	⇒	⇒	⇒			⇒
Establish management areas	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒
Representative monitoring	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒
Monitoring network	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒	⇒

⇒ technical GSP content that inform assessment of Sustainability Indicators

⇔ GSP technical content depends on Sustainability Management Criteria in addition to informing assessment of Sustainability Indicators (also italicized)

