

MADERA SUBBASIN

GLOSSARY

AF – Acre Feet

Baseline or Baseline Conditions. The historical 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 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.

BMP – Best Management Practices. The 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. §351

DWR – Department of Water Resources. Primary agency overseeing SGMA implementation.

ET – Evapotranspiration

Groundwater – Water beneath the surface of the earth within the zone below the water table in which the soil is completely saturated with water, but does not include water that flows in known and definite channels.

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem. The ecological communities or species that depend on groundwater emerging from aquifers or on groundwater occurring near the ground surface.

Groundwater Overdraft. The condition of a groundwater basin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years during which water supply conditions approximate average conditions.

Groundwater in Storage. The quantity of water in the zone of saturation.

Groundwater Storage Capacity. The volume of void space that can be occupied by water in a given volume of a formation, aquifer, or groundwater basin.

GSA – Groundwater Sustainability Agency. One or more local agencies that implement the provisions of this part. For purposes of imposing fees pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 10730) or taking action to enforce a groundwater sustainability plan, "groundwater sustainability agency" also means each local agency comprising the groundwater sustainability agency if the plan authorizes separate agency action. There are seven in the Madera Subbasin.

GSP - Groundwater Sustainability Plan. A plan of a groundwater sustainability agency proposed or adopted pursuant to SGMA.

Hydrogeologic Conceptual Model. The description of the geologic and hydrologic framework governing the occurrence of groundwater and its flow through and across the boundaries of a basin and the general groundwater conditions in a basin or subbasin.

Interconnected Surface Water. The 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.

Management Area. The 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.

(MO) or Measurable Objectives. The 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.

(Mts) or Minimum Threshold. The numeric value for each sustainability indicator used to define undesirable results.

Recharge Area. The area that supplies water to an aquifer in a groundwater basin.

Safe Yield. The maximum quantity of water that can be continuously withdrawn from a groundwater basin without adverse effect

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Saturated Zone. The zone in which all interconnected openings are filled with water, usually underlying the unsaturated zone.

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.

SGMA – Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

Sustainability Goal. The existence and implementation of one or more groundwater sustainability plans that achieve sustainable groundwater management by identifying and causing the implementation of measures targeted to ensure that the applicable basin is operated within its sustainable yield.

Sustainable Yield. The maximum quantity of water, calculated over a base period representative of long-term conditions in the basin and including any temporary surplus, that can be withdrawn annually from a groundwater supply without causing an undesirable result.

SWS- Surface Water System

SWRCB - State Water Resources Control Board .Primary agency overseeing SGMA compliance.

Uncertainty. The 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 Result. One or more of the following effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin: (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.

Water Budget. The accounting of the total groundwater and surface water entering and leaving a basin including the changes in the amount of water stored.

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. The 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.