

PUBLIC DRAFT

Sutter Subbasin GSP Amendment

Chapter 1: Introduction

Prepared for:



Sutter Subbasin GSAs

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Appendix 1-A: DWR GSP Elements Guide

Acronyms

AB	Assembly Bill
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
SB	Senate Bill
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

1. INTRODUCTION

This section introduces the purpose and organization of this Groundwater Sustainability Plan and includes the sustainability goal and a description of the Sutter Subbasin.

1.1 Purpose of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

In 2014, the State of California enacted the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which is comprised of regulatory requirements set forth in a three-bill legislative package consisting of Assembly Bill (AB) 1739 (Dickinson), Senate Bill (SB) 1168 (Pavley), and SB 1319 (Pavley). The Sutter Groundwater Subbasin (Sutter Subbasin or Subbasin) has been identified by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as a medium-priority basin; therefore, Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Subbasin were tasked with developing and submitting a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP or Plan) to DWR by no later than January 31, 2022. The first Sutter Subbasin GSP was submitted to DWR on January 28, 2022.

SGMA defines sustainable groundwater management as “management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon without causing undesirable results” (California Water Code §10721(v)). “Undesirable results” are defined by SGMA as any of the following effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin (California Water Code §10721(x)):

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels indicating a significant and unreasonable depletion of supply
- Significant and unreasonable reduction of groundwater storage
- Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion
- Significant and unreasonable degraded water quality
- Significant and unreasonable land subsidence
- Depletions of interconnected surface water that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses of the surface water

The 2022 GSP was developed by the Sutter Subbasin GSAs and addressed SGMA regulatory requirements while reflecting local needs and preserving local control over water resources. The Sutter Subbasin GSP Amendment provides a path to achieve and document sustainable groundwater management by 2042, promoting the long-term sustainability of locally managed groundwater resources. As defined by SGMA, this GSP’s planning and implementation horizon is a “50-year time period over which a groundwater sustainability agency determines that plans and measures will be implemented in a basin to ensure that the basin is operated within its sustainable yield.”

1.2 Sutter Subbasin Sustainability Goal

A sustainability goal is the culmination of conditions resulting in the absence of undesirable results within 20 years of initial GSP implementation (by 2042 for the Sutter Subbasin). The sustainability goal reflects this requirement and succinctly states the GSP's objectives and desired conditions of the Subbasin.

The sustainability goal for the Sutter Subbasin is as follows:

The Sutter Subbasin will maintain locally-managed groundwater resources for existing and future beneficial uses and users that are economically viable and sustainable by managing groundwater use within the sustainable yield, resulting in the avoidance of undesirable results. This goal will be achieved through implementation of proposed projects and management actions and monitoring activities aiding in reaching or maintaining established interim milestones and measurable objectives culminating in the absence of undesirable results by 2042. Water managers in the Sutter Subbasin will work together and collaboratively with stakeholders and neighboring subbasins through GSP implementation and beyond to achieve this goal.

Additional discussion of the sustainability goal can be found in **Chapter 6 Sustainable Management Criteria**.

1.3 Description of the Sutter Subbasin

The Plan Area covered by this GSP includes the entirety of the Sutter Groundwater Subbasin, identified by DWR in Bulletin 118 as Subbasin No. 5-021.62 (DWR, 2018). The Sutter Subbasin covers approximately 445 square miles of the Sacramento Valley floor and the area surrounding the foothills of the Sutter Buttes, and is part of the larger Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin located within the Sacramento River Hydrologic Region. More detail on the Sutter Subbasin is provided in **Section 2.1**.

1.4 Groundwater Sustainability Plan Organization

This GSP has been organized to comply with the GSP Emergency Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 2, Chapter 1.5., Subchapter 2) and generally follow the DWR Preparation Checklist for GSP Submittal (DWR, 2016).

Appendix 1-A includes DWR's GSP elements guide for this GSP, indicating the page numbers as well as section, figure, and table numbers of all required GSP elements.

1.5 References

California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 2018. 5-021.62 Sacramento Valley – Sutter Basin Boundaries Description.

<https://cadwr.app.box.com/s/rhqaf1j4t5d063he9o314ojzz394idec/file/764121944134>. Accessed: July 28, 2021.

California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 2016. Guidance Document for the Sustainable Management of Groundwater: Preparation Checklist for GSP Submittal. December. <https://water.ca.gov/-/media/DWR-Website/Web-Pages/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Sustainable-Groundwater-Management/Best-Management-Practices-and-Guidance-Documents/Files/Preparation-Checklist-for-GSP-Submittal.pdf>. Accessed: July 28, 2021.

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Appendix 1-A

DWR GSP Elements Guide

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DWR GSP Elements Guide will be prepared as part of the final GSP document.

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