

Regulations for the Allocation and Use of Groundwater within Westside Subbasin

Advisory and Technical Advisory Committee Meetings

August 27, 2020



Westlands
Water District

CONCEPT

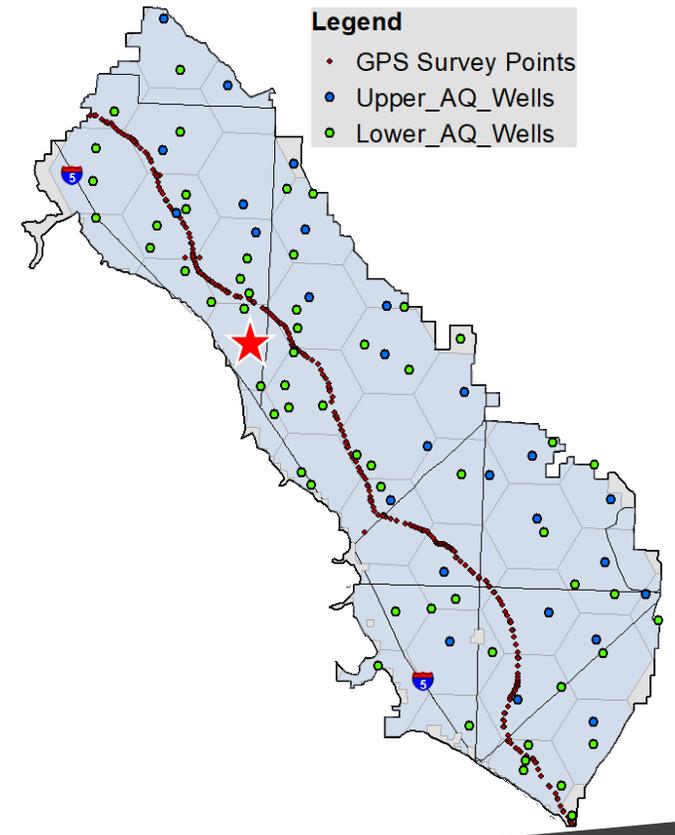
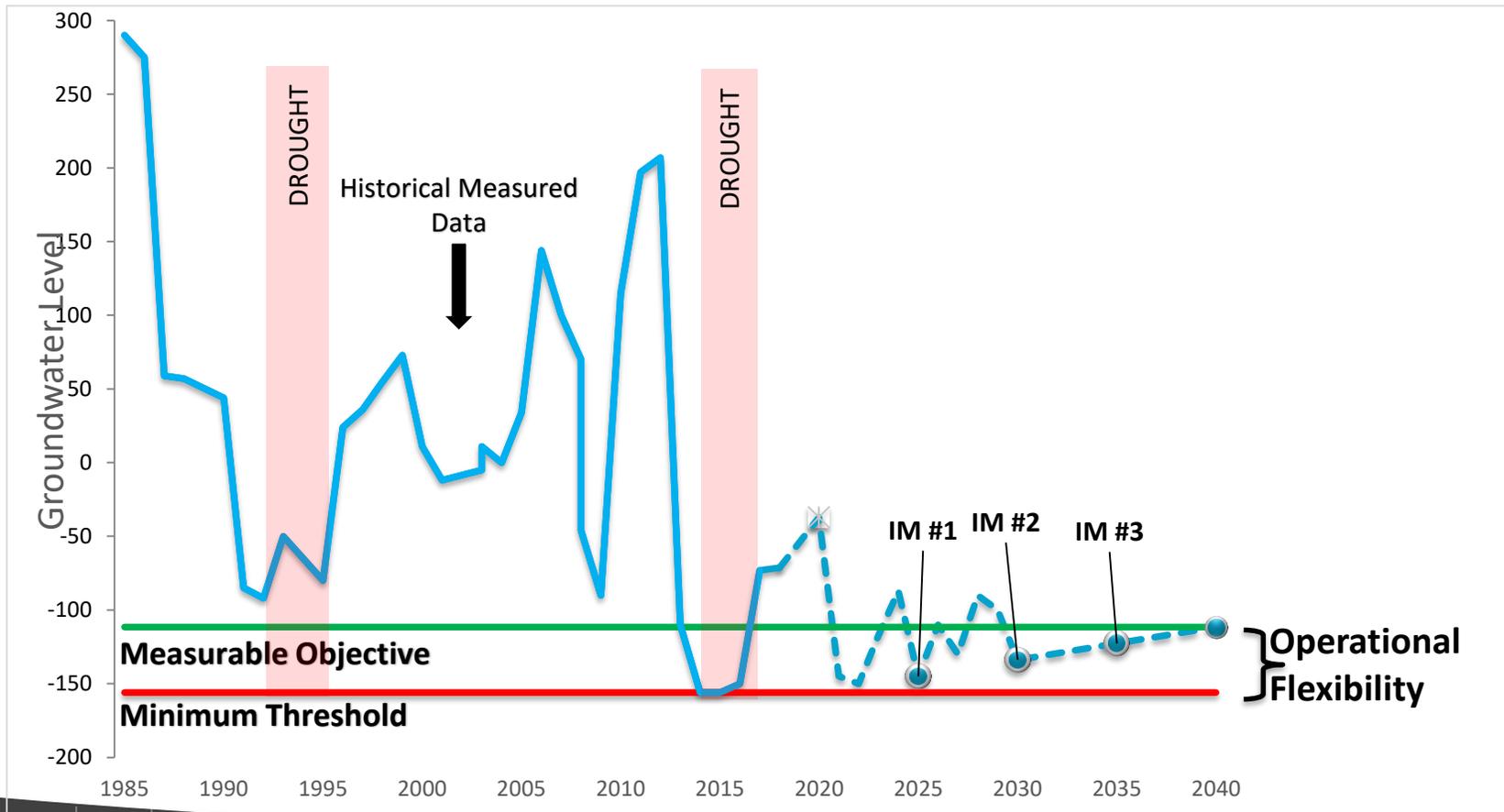
Purpose

- Provide input on Project and Management Actions from Chapter 4 of the Westside Subbasin GSP
- Implementation of:
 - Groundwater (GW) Allocation Program
 - GW Transfers
 - GW Carryover
 - Recharge Projects

GW Allocation Program and Transition Period

- Sustainable yield of 305,000 AF/year
- ~525,000 acres eligible receive allocation
- Starting 2022, 8-year “Transition Period”
1.3 AF/acre taper to 0.6 AF/acre allocation

Water Year	Allocation Cap
2022	1.3 AF per acre
2023	1.3 AF per acre
2024	1.2 AF per acre
2025	1.1 AF per acre
2026	1.0 AF per acre
2027	0.9 AF per acre
2028	0.8 AF per acre
2029	0.7 AF per acre
2030	0.6 AF per acre



Measurable Objectives & Minimum Thresholds*

- **Measurable Objectives (MO)**- "...specific, quantifiable goals for the maintenance or improvement of specific groundwater condition to achieve sustainability..."
- **Minimum Thresholds (MT)**- "...a numeric value used to define undesirable results."

CONCEPT

*Definitions from DWR's GSP Regulations

Extraction Limits

Green –Water levels greater than $MT + (MO-MT)50\%$

The GSA will limit pumping to 225% yearly allocation

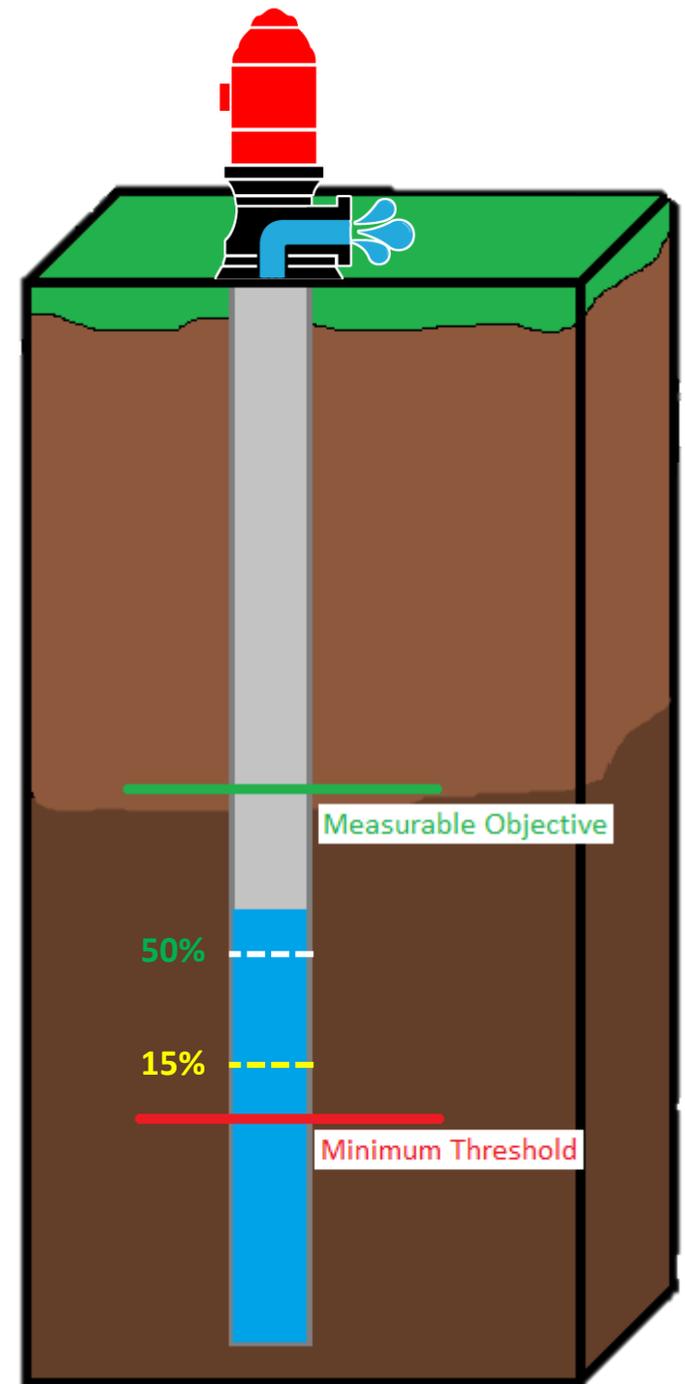
Yellow –Water levels between 15%-50% above MT

- Pumping limited to current year allocation plus any carry-over or GW credits

Red –Water levels below 15% above MT

- Pumping limited to current year's allocation
- Accounts with negative balances may not pump until their balance is positive
- If undesirable results are projected, additional measures may be implemented

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Recharge Projects

- Currently proposed recharge projects are as described below:
 - Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)
 - Recharge Basins*
 - Dry Well Injection
 - Sub-Lateral and Over Irrigation Recharge*
 - Growers are responsible for all costs associated with recharge projects (permitting, planning, construction, implementation, etc.)

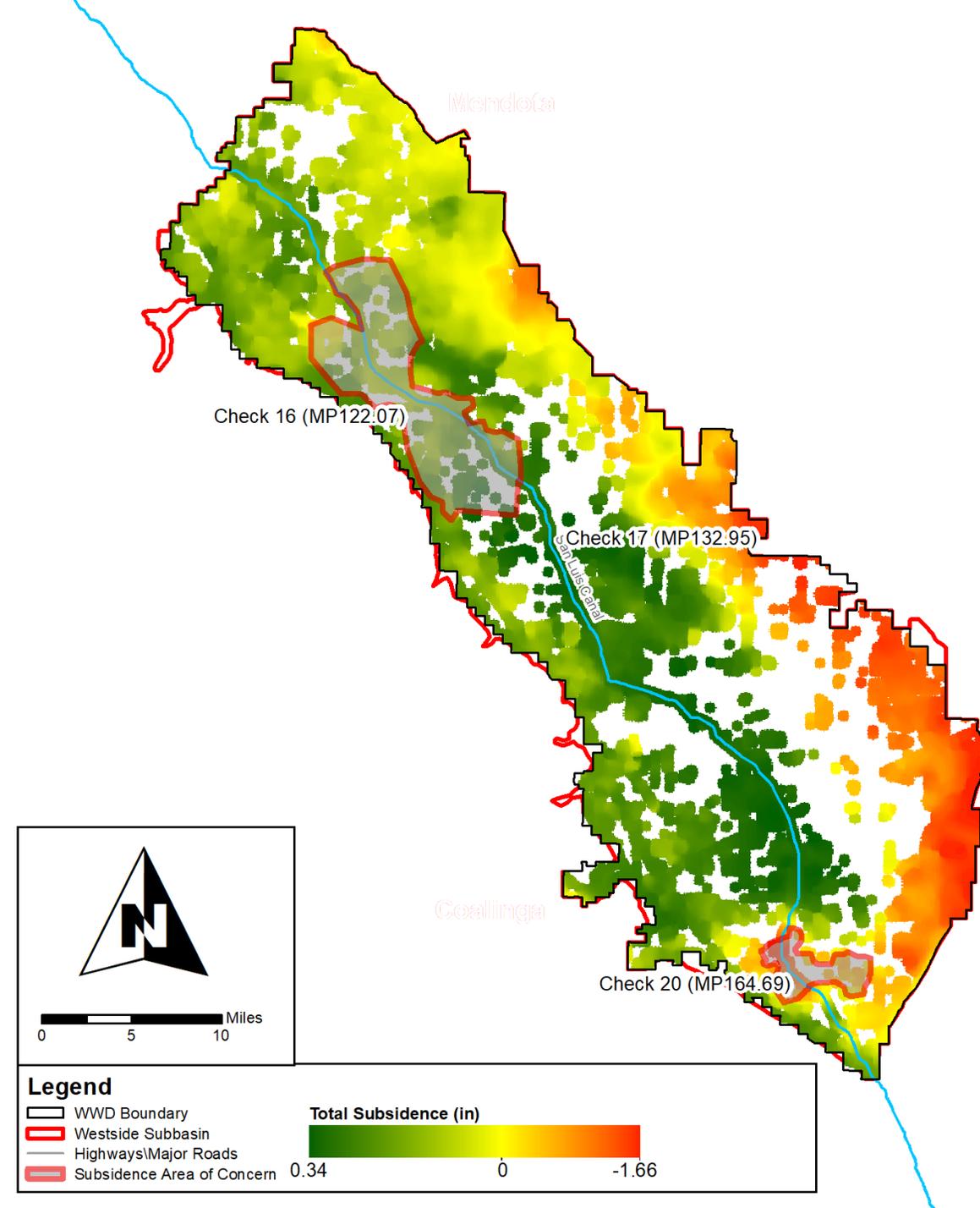
*infiltration through vadose zone subject to 10% leave behind loss

What other recharge projects should be considered?

Subsidence Prone Areas

- Parcels in subsidence areas of concern are incentivized to pump less from the Lower Aquifer
- Participants are eligible for alternative surface water when available
- Participants may elect to pump all their allocation from the Upper Aquifer

CONCEPT



Carryover

- Unused GW allocation less than 0.6 AF/acre (applies to years 2022-2030) are credited as carryover for the user.
- $\text{GW Allocation} - \text{GW Extracted} = \text{Carryover Credit}$
- Example:

	0.60 AF/Acre Allocated
	– 0.45 AF/Acre Extracted
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	0.15 AF/Acre Carryover
- Credits may be subject to additional terms dependent on the District's ability to achieve sustainability

Should credits held more than 5 years be subject to 10% leave-behind?

Groundwater Transfers and Payment

- Transfers
 - No transfers without District approval
 - No transfers out of the Subbasin
- Payments
 - No GW will be allocated to any water user who is delinquent on any District charge.

Meters and M&I

- The District will furnish and install a GW flow meter on all Ag wells by Jan 31, 2022
- The well owner is responsible for operation and maintenance costs of the meter
 - Groundwater well owners will be directly invoiced
- Domestic users are classified as *de minimis* extractors and may not be required to meter GW usage
- Municipal and Industrial (M&I) may be classified as *de minimis* users if the usage is <2AF/year

Variance

- A water user may seek relief from compliance for any portion Project and Management Action or Element there of by requesting a variance from the District, to be considered by the TAC
 - Request must include:
 - Specific measure seeking relief
 - Reason whether the approval is required to avoid physical and economic harm
- Appeals may be made to the TAC