Regulations for the Allocation and Use of Groundwater within Westside Subbasin

Advisory Committee Meeting
February 23, 2021
Purpose

• Provide a Draft Outline for Rules and Regulations for the Groundwater Allocation Program and Use of Groundwater within the Westside Subbasin; and

• Provide input on Project and Management Actions from Chapter 4 of the Westside Subbasin GSP.
# Draft Regulations for the Groundwater Allocation Program and Use of Groundwater Water Within Westside Subbasin Outline

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AC Topic Focus

1.7 GROUNDWATER ALLOCATION
1.8 GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION LIMITATIONS
1.9 USE AND TRANSFER OF GROUNDWATER*
1.10 GROUNDWATER RECHARGE PROJECTS*
1.11 SUBSIDENCE PRONE AREAS*
1.12 CARRYOVER, OTHER ALLOCATION RULES AND PROCEDURES
1.13 DOMESTIC USERS
1.14 MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL USERS

* Both AC and TAC topics
1.7 Groundwater Allocation 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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Water Year</th>
<th>Allocation Cap</th>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>1.3 AF per acre</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>1.3 AF per acre</td>
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<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>1.2 AF per acre</td>
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<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>1.1 AF per acre</td>
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<tr>
<td>2026</td>
<td>1.0 AF per acre</td>
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<tr>
<td>2027</td>
<td>0.9 AF per acre</td>
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<tr>
<td>2028</td>
<td>0.8 AF per acre</td>
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<tr>
<td>2029</td>
<td>0.7 AF per acre</td>
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<tr>
<td>2030</td>
<td>0.6 AF per acre</td>
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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 installation, 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
Monitoring Network

Review existing well locations

- Lower Aquifer
- Upper Aquifer
- Composite Well

Legend
- GPS Survey Points
- Monitoring Network
- Active Extensometers
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.”

*Definitions from DWR’s GSP Regulations*
1.8 Groundwater 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
1.9 Use and Transfer Of Groundwater

• Transfers
  • No transfers without District approval
  • No transfers out of the Subbasin

What limitations should be proposed?
1.10 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?

What percentage leave behind loss is reasonable?
1.11 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
1.12 Carryover

- Unused GW allocation less than 0.6 AF/acre (applies to years 2022-2030) are credited as carryover for the user.
- GW Allocation – GW Extracted = Carryover Credit
- Example: 0.60 AF/Acre Allocated
  - 0.45 AF/Acre Extracted
  \[ \text{0.15 AF/Acre Carryover} \]
- 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?**

**Other flexibility considerations?**
Questions