

# Merced Groundwater Sustainability

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## Overview

The Merced Groundwater Subbasin is one of 21 basins in the State of California identified by the California Department of Water Resources as critically overdrafted and one of 48 basins considered high priority. Consistent with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), water management and land management agencies in Merced Subbasin have formed three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs): the Merced Irrigation-Urban Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the Merced Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and the Turner Island Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency. The three GSAs are collaborating on developing one Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the entire Merced Groundwater Subbasin by January 2020. To develop the Plan, the GSAs will review groundwater conditions and identify means to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Merced Groundwater Subbasin.

## Public Outreach and Engagement

As part of developing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies will inform and involve interested and affected individuals and organizations (stakeholders) and the general public.

- **Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)** - Overall direction, funding, and approval for the groundwater sustainability planning process and work products is provided by the governing boards of the three Groundwater Sustainability Agencies. The final Groundwater Sustainability Plan will be adopted by the elected governing bodies of each these organizations. The GSAs have formed a Coordinating Committee of senior staff and board members to coordinate day-to-day project activities and public outreach.
- **Stakeholder Committee** - The GSAs are seeking community representatives to participate in a Stakeholder Committee to review groundwater conditions, management issues and needs, and projects and management actions to improve sustainability of the groundwater basin. The Stakeholder Committee will advise the GSAs and the governing bodies on these topics. Meetings of the Stakeholder Committee will be noticed and open to the public.



- **Members of the Public** - Public outreach and engagement will consist primarily of open Stakeholder Committee meetings, information and updates to the project website, and public workshops held at important stages of the groundwater sustainability planning process. The GSAs will also provide information briefings to elected officials (City Councils, County Board of Supervisors, and Merced Irrigation District Board of Directors), community organizations, neighborhoods, and others as needed to keep them informed and participating.

## Appointing the Stakeholder Committee

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The GSAs will appoint individuals representing the broad interests and perspectives in the region to participate on the Stakeholder Committee. Candidates who can work together to help the GSAs and staff develop the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) will be identified through an application process, which will be publicly announced at meetings of the GSA boards and the member agencies. Stakeholder Committee participants are expected to represent the broad interests and geography of the region. The GSP Coordinating Committee will select the members and alternates for the Stakeholder Committee. The intended makeup of the Stakeholder Committee is 10 to 15 members who represent one or more of the following interests:

- Groundwater Users
  - Community / Neighborhood Interests
  - Flood Management Interests
  - Agricultural Interests
  - Other Business Interests (non-agriculture)
  - Environmental Interests
  - Other Institutional Interests (e.g. UC Merced, Board of Education)
  - Disadvantaged Community and Environmental Justice Interests
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The GSAs are seeking individuals who have a demonstrated commitment to community service and civic leadership, prior experience participating constructively on similar task forces and advisory committees, and an understanding of water issues.

Participation in the Stakeholder Committee will require a significant commitment of time and attention. The Stakeholder Committee is expected to meet approximately monthly beginning in April 2018 and complete its work in 2019.

The Stakeholder Committee application is attached.

**Merced Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)**  
**Stakeholder Committee**  
Application for Volunteers

The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies for the Merced Groundwater Subbasin are seeking volunteers to participate on the Stakeholder Committee. Ideal candidates will have a demonstrated commitment to community service and civic leadership, prior experience participating constructively on similar task forces or advisory committees, and an understanding of water issues. Volunteers are expected to make a firm commitment to participate in monthly meetings and review groundwater planning documents and other information during groundwater sustainability planning through 2019. The Stakeholder Committee will be appointed from the pool of applications received. Applications are due by **February 12, 2018** and should be submitted via email to the Merced Subbasin GSAs c/o Samantha Salvia, Woodard & Curran, [ssalvia@woodardcurran.com](mailto:ssalvia@woodardcurran.com), 415-321-3423.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Phone: (Mobile/Work/Home) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Disciplines/Perspectives: (check all that apply)

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater Users                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Business Interests (non-agricultural)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community / Neighborhood Interests | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Interests                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Management Interests         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Institutional Interests                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Interests             | <input type="checkbox"/> Disadvantaged Community and Environmental Justice Interests |

Relevant Prior Experience (Task Forces, Advisory Committees, water issues):

Additional Comments: