GSP Coordinating Committee

Coordinating Committee Meeting – May 29, 2018

Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Merced Subbasin GSA
Turner Island Water District GSA-1

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

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Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes for April 23, 2018
3. Stakeholder Committee Update
   a) Update from 5/29 stakeholder meeting
   b) Action – Add City of Livingston representative
4. Presentation by Woodard & Curran on GSP Development
   a) Update of Stakeholder Outreach Plan
   b) Overview of basin modeling efforts to date and historical water budget
   c) Discussion of Undesirable Results and Minimum Thresholds

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

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Agenda Continued

4. Update on DWR's SGMA Technical Support Services
5. Discuss Leadership Counsel Request for Letter of Support
   a) Action – authorize letter of support
6. Public comment
7. Next steps and adjourn

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Stakeholder Committee Update

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

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Basin Modeling and Water Budget – Work to Date

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

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See Separate GSP Modeling Presentation

Undesirable Results and Minimum Thresholds

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

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Undesirable Results

- “Significant and Unreasonable” negative impacts that can occur for each Sustainability Indicator
- Conditions that we do not want to occur
- Used to guide and justify GSP components
  - Monitoring Network
  - Minimum Threshold
  - Projects and Management Actions

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Minimum Thresholds

- Point at which Undesirable Results may begin to occur
  - Example: Lowest GW elevations can go at a monitoring point without something significant and unreasonable happening to groundwater
  - If issues are already occurring, we only need to “go back” to Jan 1, 2015 conditions; if no issues are occurring, can set threshold where they would be anticipated to occur
- Quantitative thresholds

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Minimum Thresholds – Going Back to 2015

- If issues are occurring now, need to set minimum thresholds at Jan 1, 2015 levels (or better)
- If issues are NOT occurring now, need to set minimum thresholds where issues are anticipated to occur (or better)
  - If issues are NOT occurring now, when might they have occurred in the past?
  - Look back to 1987-1992 drought conditions to determine whether issues occurred there
  - Supposition: if issues did not occur in 1992, that may be a reasonable threshold
- Assignment: review conditions in 1992, 2015, and present to understand when there were issues, and what those were

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

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CC Feedback on Undesirable Results

- At the April 23, 2018 meeting CC members were asked to provide input on their knowledge of existing or previous undesirable results in the basin.
- Six SGMA Undesirable Results
  - 1. Chronic Lowering of Groundwater
  - 2. Reduction in Groundwater Storage
  - 3. Seawater Intrusion (N/A)
  - 4. Degraded Water Quality
  - 5. Land Subsidence
  - 6. Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water
- Received input from CC members from all 3 GSAs and consolidated

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

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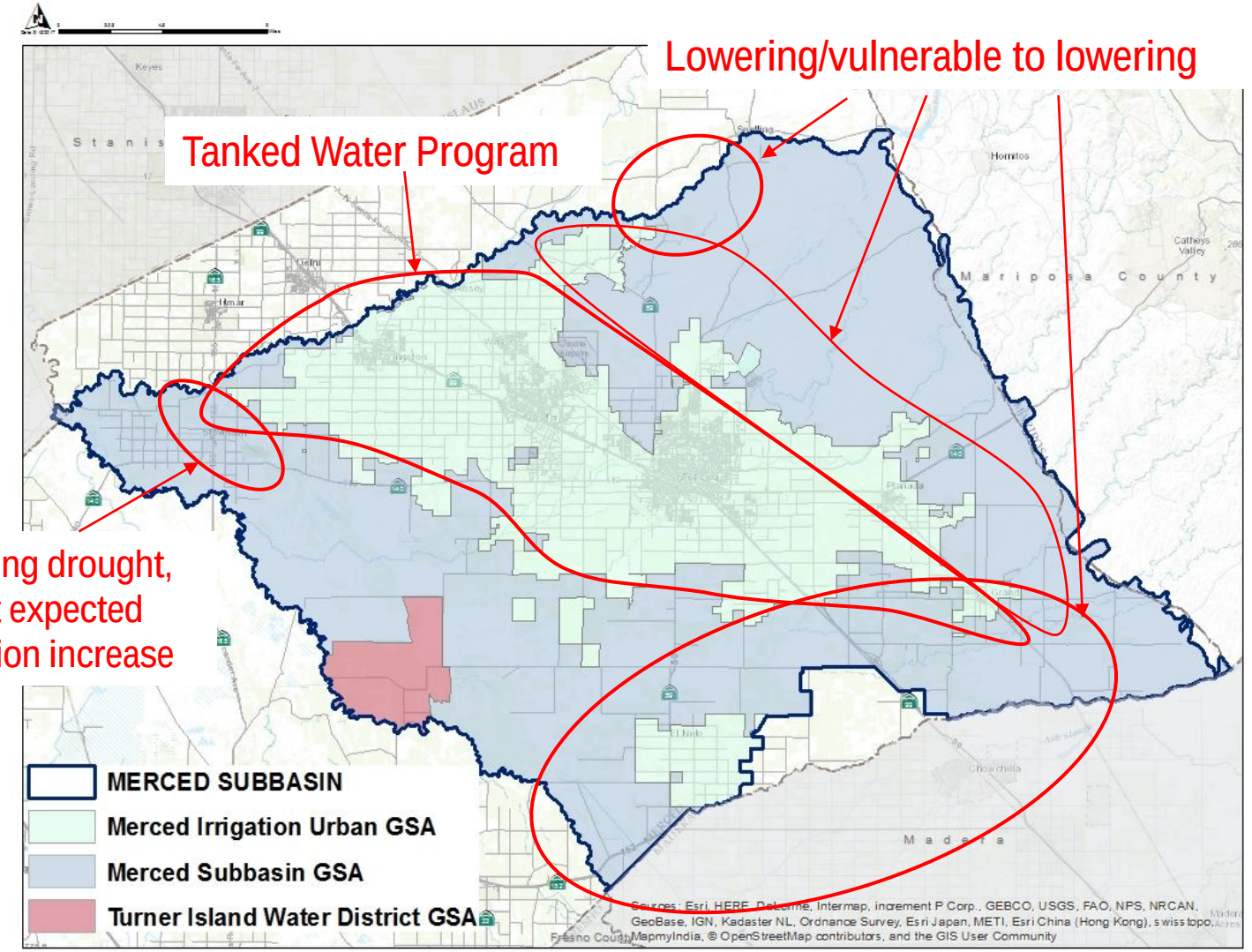
1. CC Reported Groundwater Level Concerns



1. CC Reported Groundwater Level Concerns

- Lowering frequently observed near the North Eastern, South Eastern, South Central and along the Eastern Edge of the corcoran clay, and near Planada and Le Grand.
- Shallow wells have gone dry in central part of Subbasin in 2015 (including Livingston, Winton, Atwater, Merced, Planada, and Le Grand). Areas of continued concern: northern, south/western, and central parts of Subbasin.
- Some areas in Stevinson Water District experienced lowering (away from East Side Canal). Recovered post-drought. Recharge planned for areas expecting significant future groundwater extraction. Lowering most extreme in north/eastern areas from cropping dependence on groundwater.
- George Park has seen recent lowering issues in 2015 and 2018.
- Turner Island Water District: not an issue in 2015 and 2018.
- Historical issues: Drought Emergency Tanked Water Program in 2015

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

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2. CC Reported Groundwater Storage Concerns

- Some uncertainty in degree to which this is a concern for the basin
- Reported in some areas as not a concern

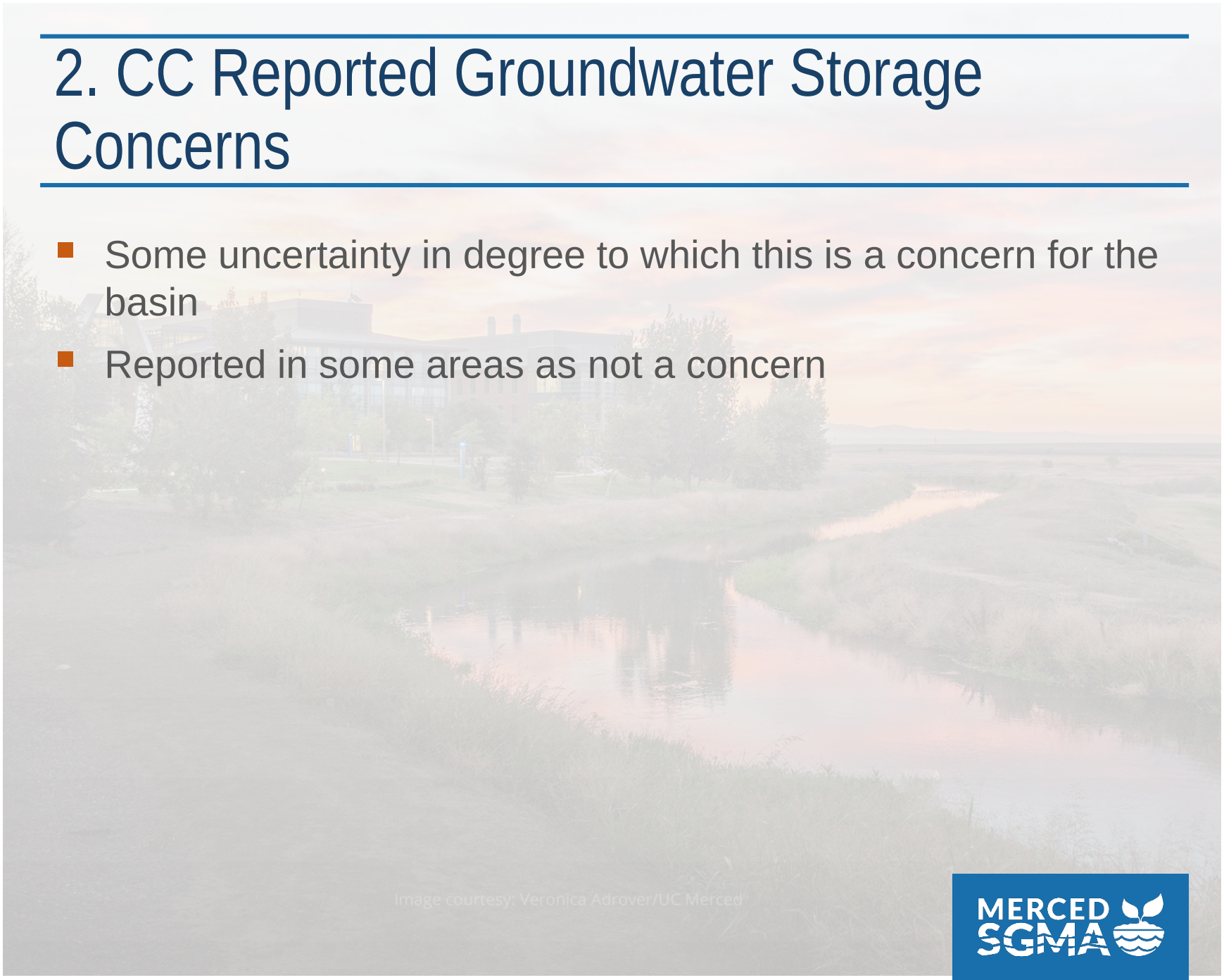


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

3. CC Reported Seawater Intrusion Concerns

- Not applicable to this subbasin.

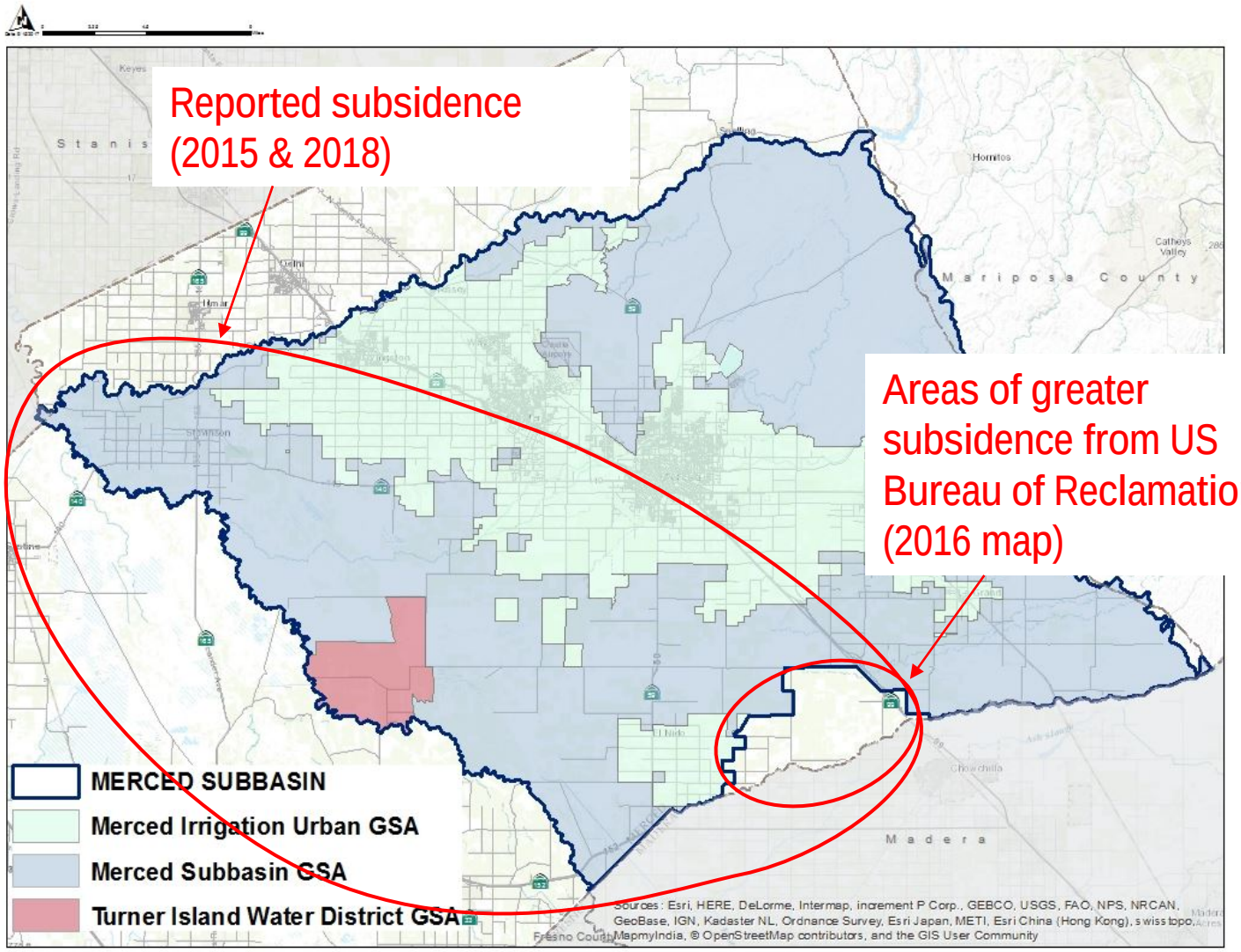
Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

4. CC Reported Water Quality Concerns

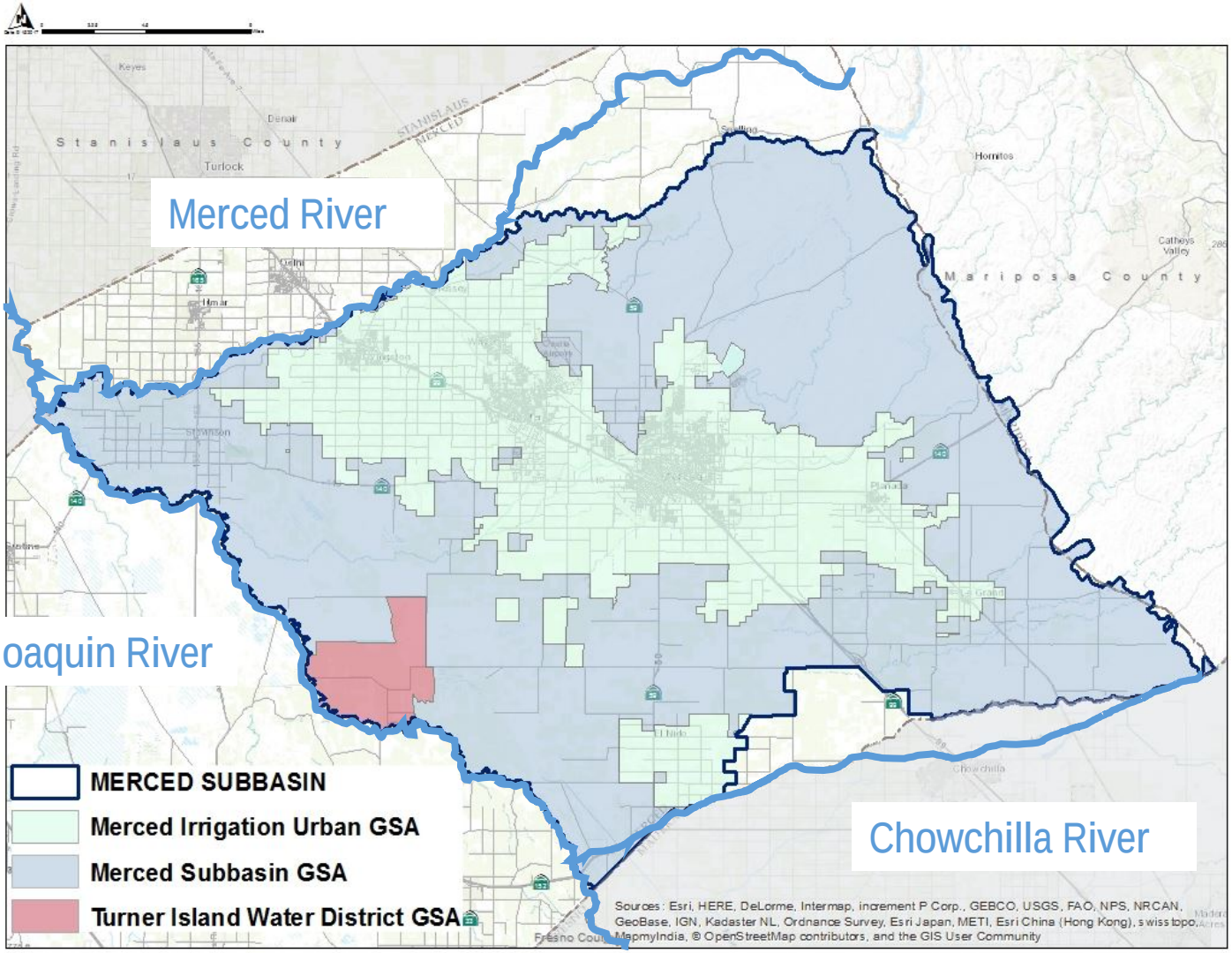
- Drinking water quality concerns in many communities in Merced County (list provided by County).
- Some saline intrusion from land adjacent to the San Joaquin River affecting southern and western Subbasin areas.
- In the northwest corner of the Subbasin, salinity reported as historically and currently an issue; mainly associated with fertilizer use.
- More monitoring needed to better understand groundwater quality in basin.

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

5. CC Reported Land Subsidence Concerns



6. CC Reported Interconnected Surface Water Concerns



6. CC Reported Interconnected Surface Water Concerns

- Some uncertainty in degree to which this is a concern for the basin
- Some SW/GW connectivity near river systems
- Further information needed to determine whether this is a significant issue

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Undesirable Results

- “Significant and Unreasonable” negative impacts that can occur for each Sustainability Indicator
- Conditions that we do not want to occur
- Used to guide and justify GSP components
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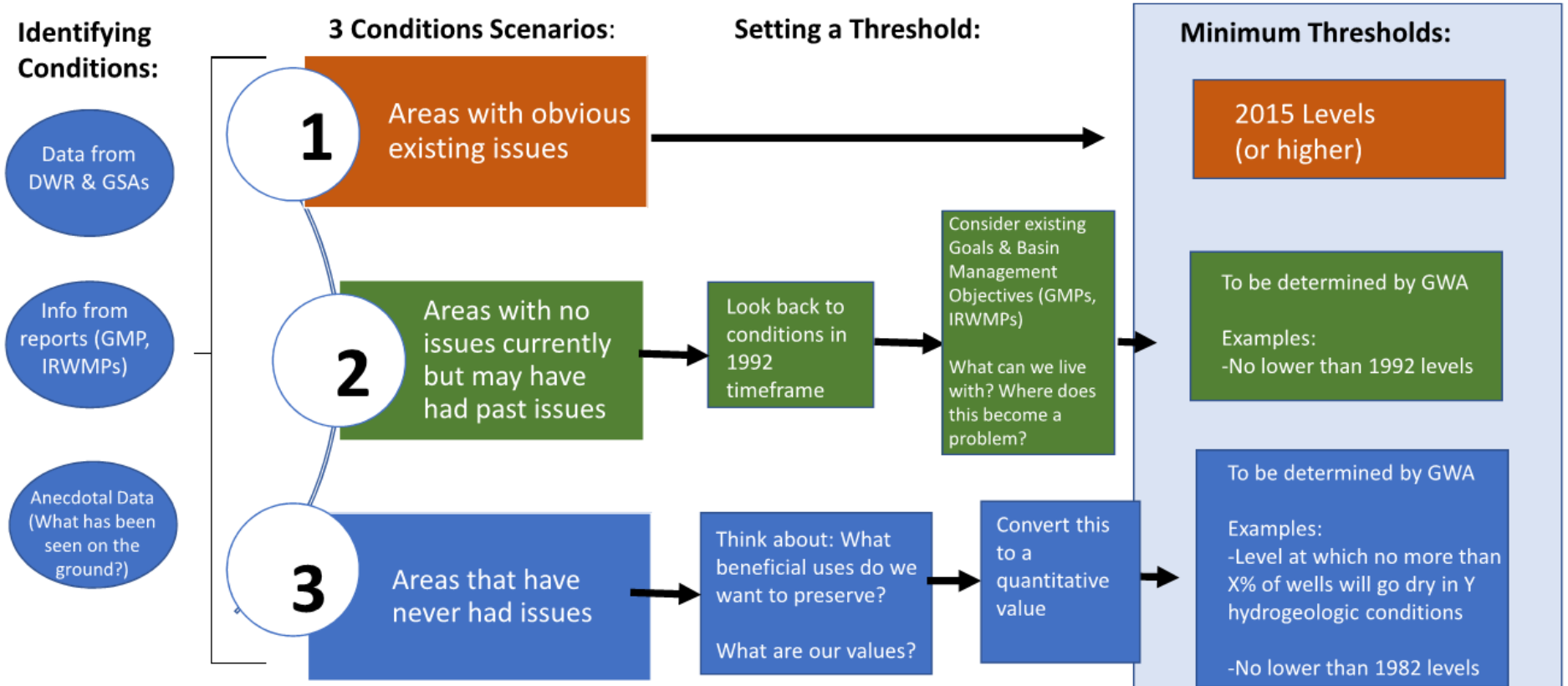
Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Setting Minimum Thresholds: What do we want to strive for as a basin?



*Minimum Thresholds will be set for each Sustainability Indicator, as appropriate.

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

DWR Technical Support Services Update

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Leadership Counsel Request for Letter of Support

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Questions/Comments from Public

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Next Steps

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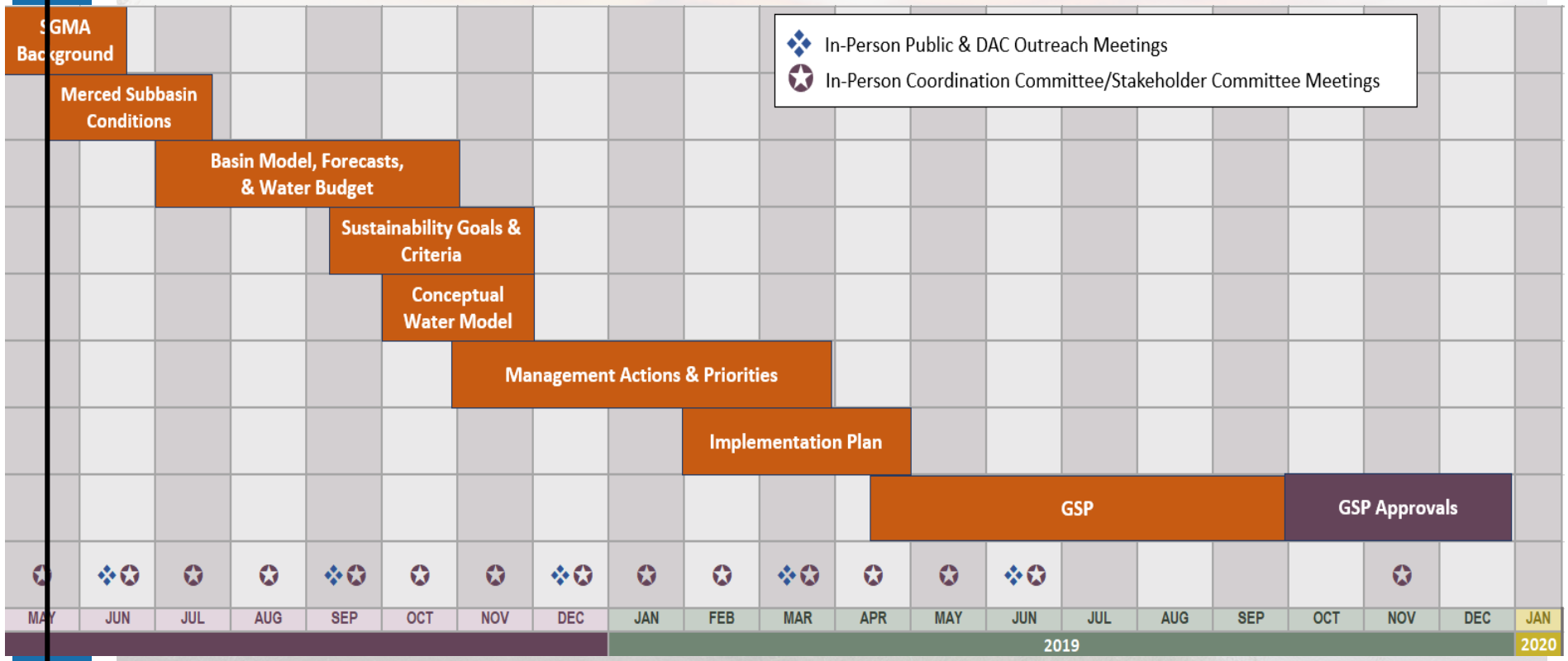
GSP Process and Timeline: the "Roadmap"



We Are Here

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

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Next Steps

- Upcoming review of Plan Area and Basin Conditions in June
- Adjourn to next meeting (Monday, June 25, 2018 @ 1:30 PM, location TBD)
- Focus for June meeting : projected water budget and measurable objectives

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

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