

# Merced GSP Coordination Committee

**Coordination Committee Meeting – February 7, 2022**

Meeting will begin at 10 am – thank you for joining us!

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

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



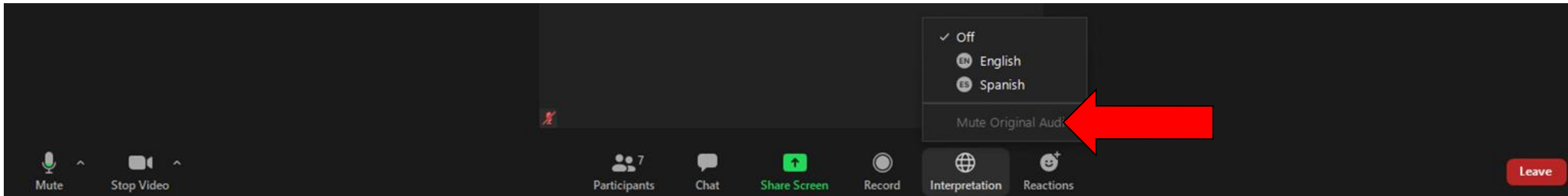
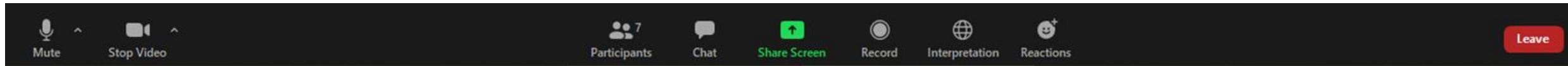


# Welcome, Instructions for Zoom

## Bienvenidos, Instrucciones para Zoom

We have two language audio channels available. English only speakers, please select English.

Si solamente habla español, debe seleccionar un canal de idioma



The meeting will have simultaneous interpreting, so you are welcome to comment in your native language.  
La junta será interpretada simultáneamente, así que le invitamos a que haga comentarios en su lenguaje nativo.

# Agenda

1. Call to Order and Welcome
2. Roll Call
3. State of Emergency Teleconference Findings
4. Approval of December 22, 2021 Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comment
6. Reports
  - a) GSA Reports
  - b) Current Basin Conditions
7. Comments on Groundwater Sustainability Plan by the Department of Water Resources
8. Potential Future Funding Opportunity
9. Round 1 SGM Implementation Planning and Projects Grant
10. Next Steps and Adjourn

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

# Roll Call

Representative	GSA
Hicham ElTal	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Stephanie Dietz	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Justin Vinson	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Daniel Chavez	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Ken Elwin ( <i>alternate</i> )	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Mike Gallo / Kole Upton	Merced Subbasin GSA
Nic Marchini	Merced Subbasin GSA
Eric Swenson	Merced Subbasin GSA
George Park ( <i>alternate</i> )	Merced Subbasin GSA
Kel Mitchel	Turner Island Water District GSA #1
Tim Allan ( <i>alternate</i> )	Turner Island Water District GSA #1

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





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# State of Emergency Teleconference Findings

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Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# State of Emergency Teleconference Findings

- All meetings of the Committee's legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the Committee's legislative bodies conduct their business
- The Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions
- Those conditions exist, specifically, by the Governor's Order N-12-21, the Governor has extended the order declaring a State of Emergency due to the impacts of COVID-19
- The Coordination Committee will consider the circumstances of the State of Emergency and determine whether to make the following findings that any of the circumstances exist per AB 361:
  - The State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or
  - State or Local Officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





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# Approval of Meeting Minutes

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Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



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# Approval of Meeting Minutes

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- December 22, 2021

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





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## Questions/Comments from Public:

If you would like to make a comment, please type the comment in the chat or raise your hand to request to be taken off mute

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Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





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# Reports

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Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





# GSA Reports

- Updates from each GSA on activities they are undertaking in their own jurisdiction:
  - Merced Subbasin GSA
  - Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
  - Turner Island Water District GSA #1

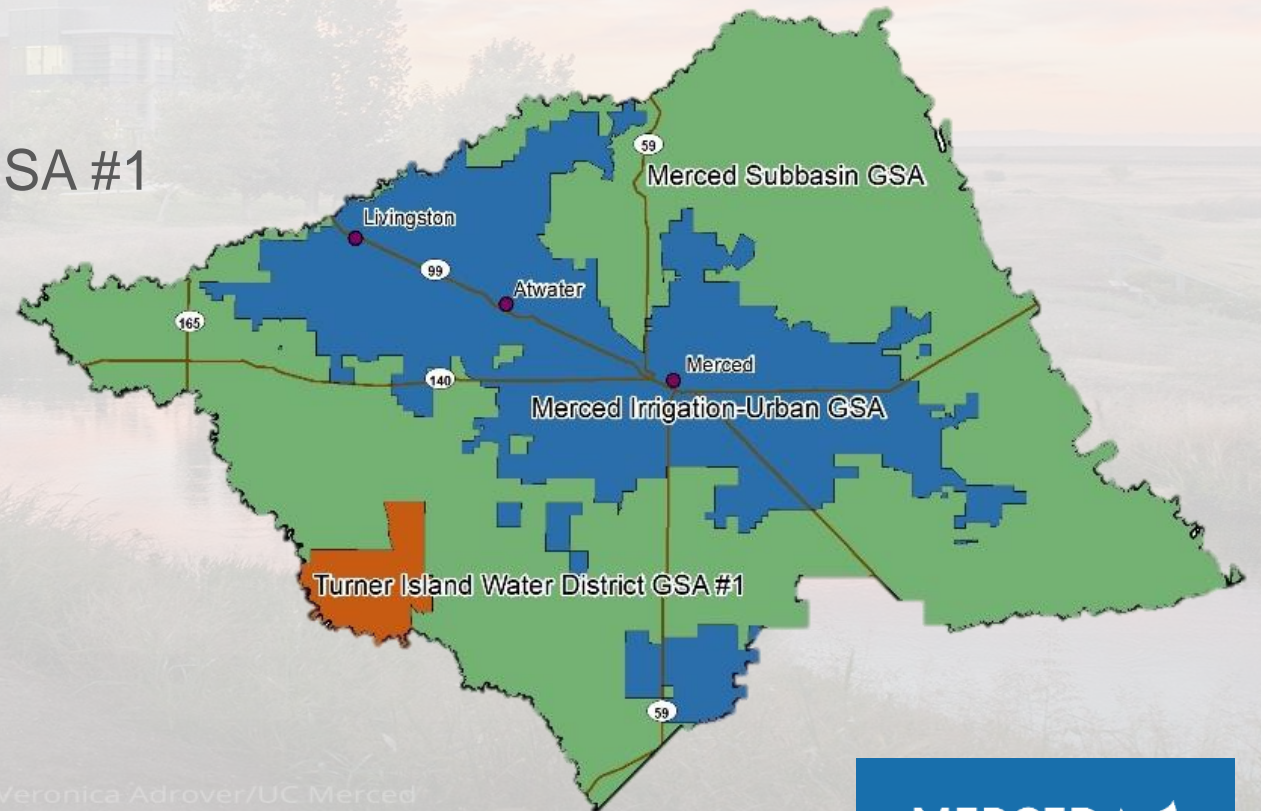


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Current Basin Conditions – Above CC

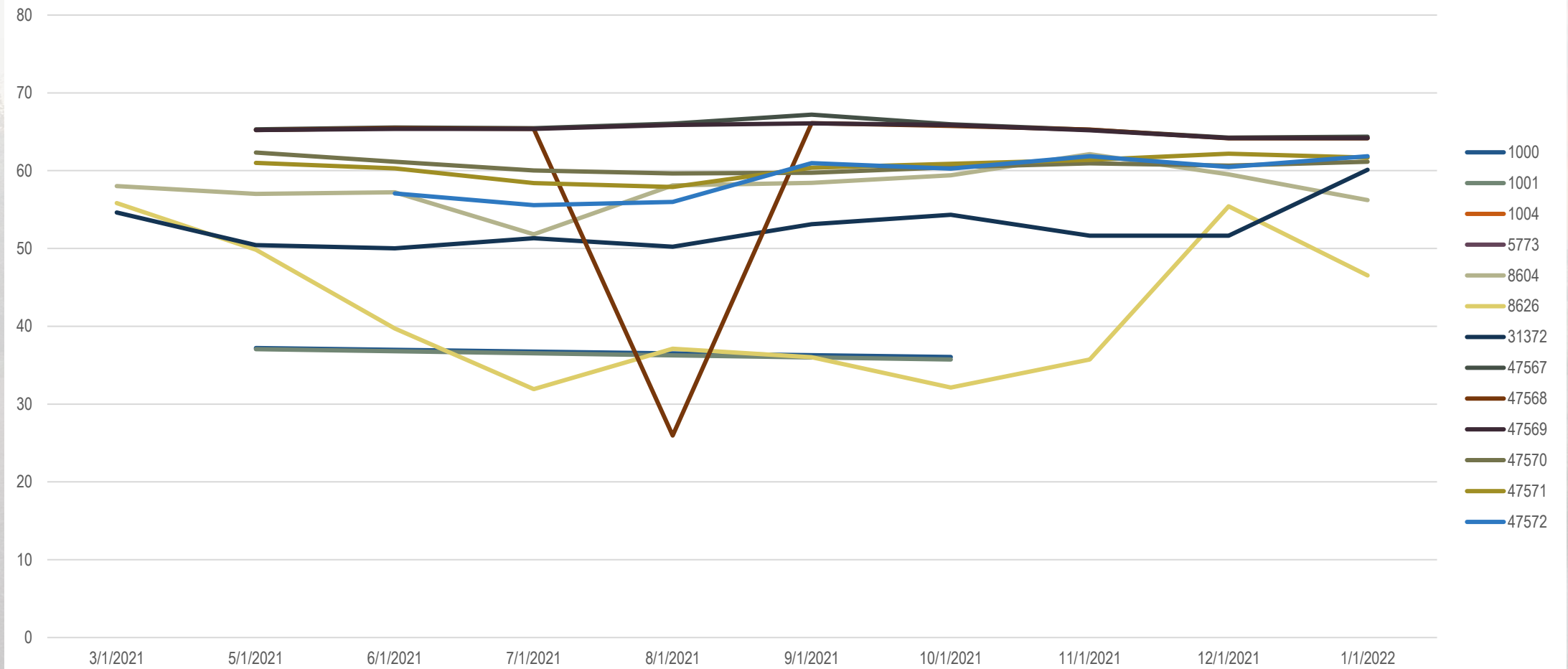


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Current Basin Conditions – Below CC

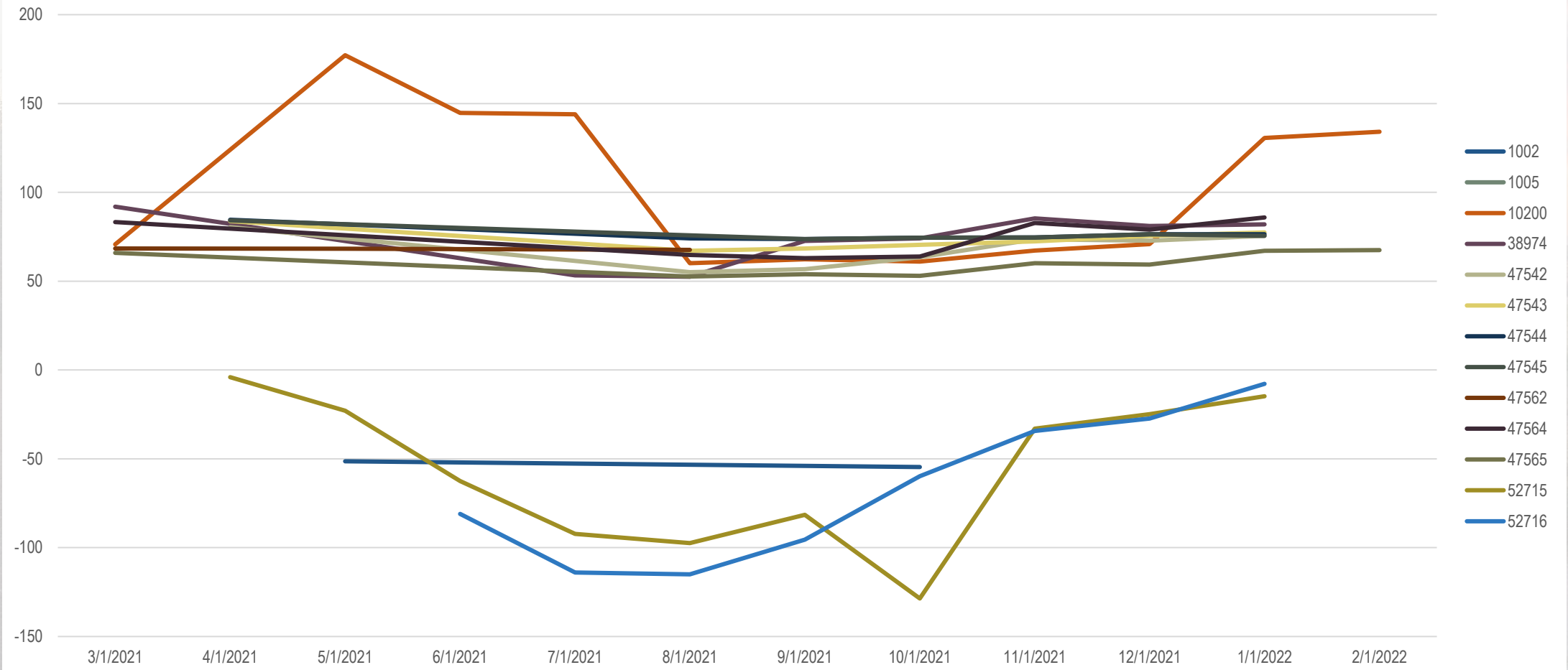


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Current Basin Conditions – Outside CC

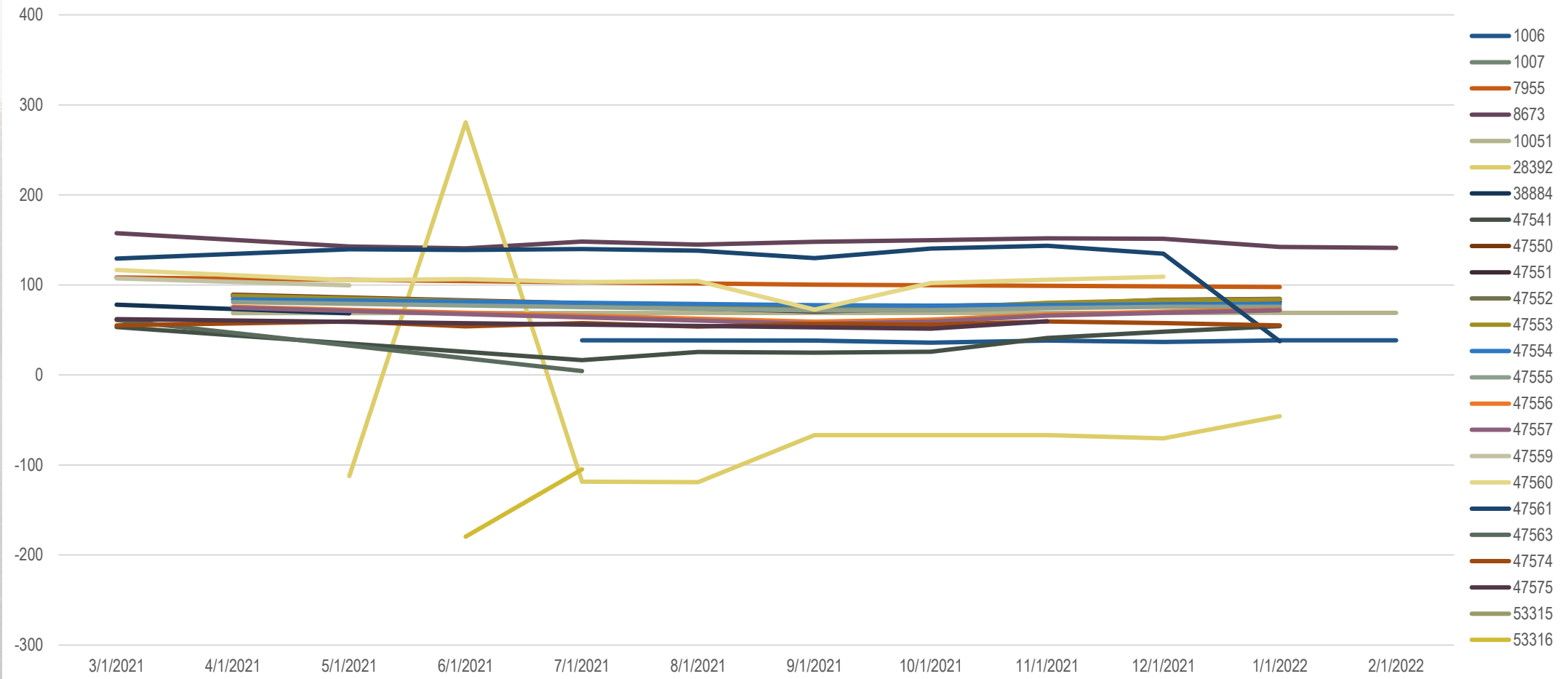


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





STN_ID	Aquifer	Minimum Threshold Elevation	Fall 2021 Groundwater Elevation	Fall 2021 - MT
8604	Above	-112	59.42	171.42
8626	Above	4.9	NA	
31372	Above	-27.2	54.33	81.53
47569	Above	-43	65.88	108.88
47571	Above	-39.8	60.89	100.69
5773	Above	-102.5	45.49	147.99
10200	Below	-52.8	61.06	113.86
38974	Below	-55.6	74.1	129.7
47542	Below	-31.1	63.44	94.54
47562	Below	-107.2	64.22	171.42
47564	Below	-50.3	NA	
47565	Below	-15.1	52.96	68.06
10051	Outside	-27.5	57.64	85.14
<b>28392</b>	<b>Outside</b>	<b>-88.5</b>	<b>-66.8</b>	<b>21.7</b>
38884	Outside	-35.7	63.31	99.01
<b>47541</b>	<b>Outside</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>25.82</b>	<b>11.12</b>
47553	Outside	-21.1	74.44	95.54
47557	Outside	-23.2	59.07	82.27
47563	Outside	-126.5	55.48	181.98
47574	Outside	-75	55.8	130.8
47575	Outside	-89	51.3	140.3

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Current Basin Conditions

Annual Groundwater Change at Representative Monitoring Wells  
Fall 2020-Fall 2021

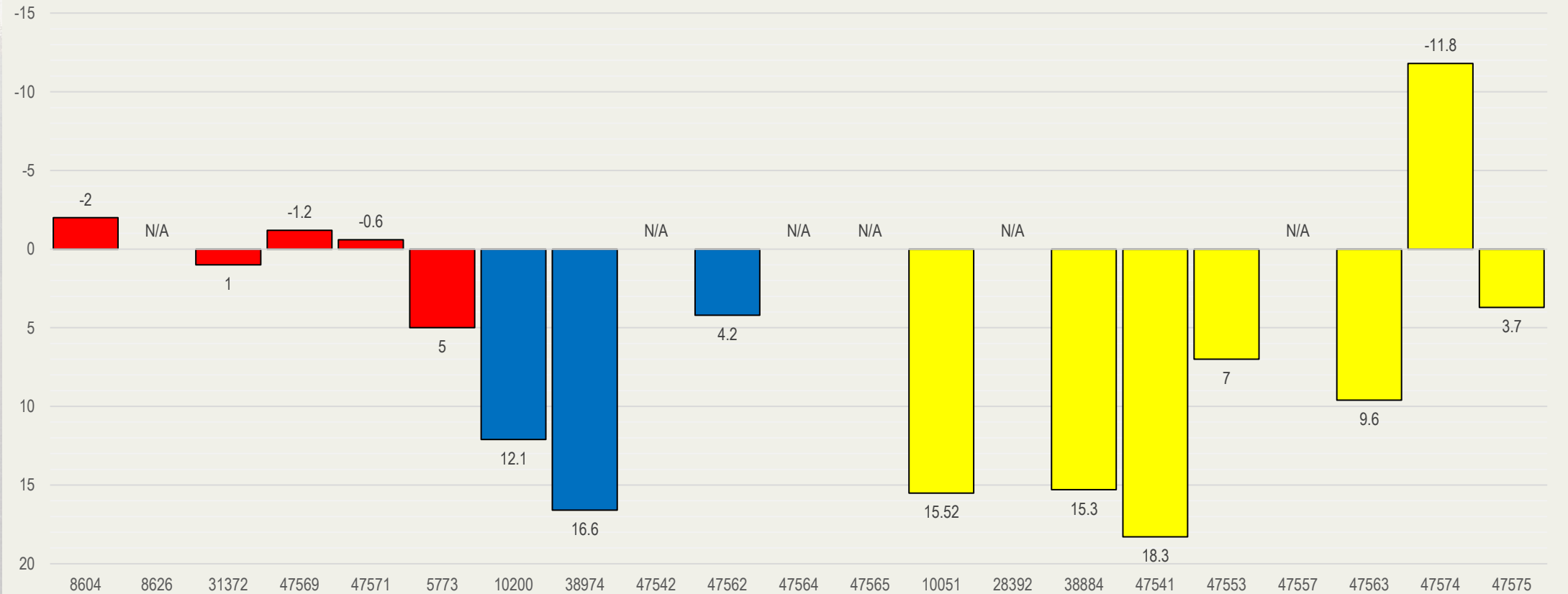


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





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# Comments on Groundwater Sustainability Plan by the Department of Water Resources

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Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Merced Groundwater Subbasin GSP

- Developed in a collaborative stakeholder environment
- Completed November 2019
- Adopted January 2020
- DWR provided 2 years to review the GSP
- GSP being implemented during review

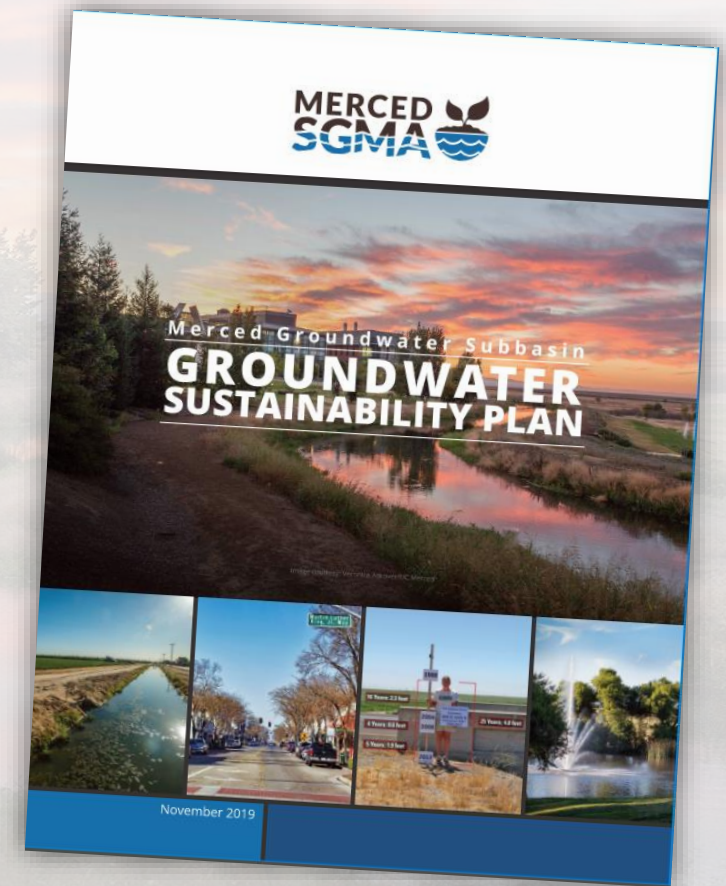


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# DWR GSP Comments

- DWR issued a consultation letter on 11/18/21
  - <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/portal/service/gspdocument/download/4646>
- Includes results of initial review of the GSP
- Identified three potential deficiencies, with potential corrective actions (discussed on next 3 slides)
- Final determination released 1/28/22, 180 days to respond (7/27/22 due date)

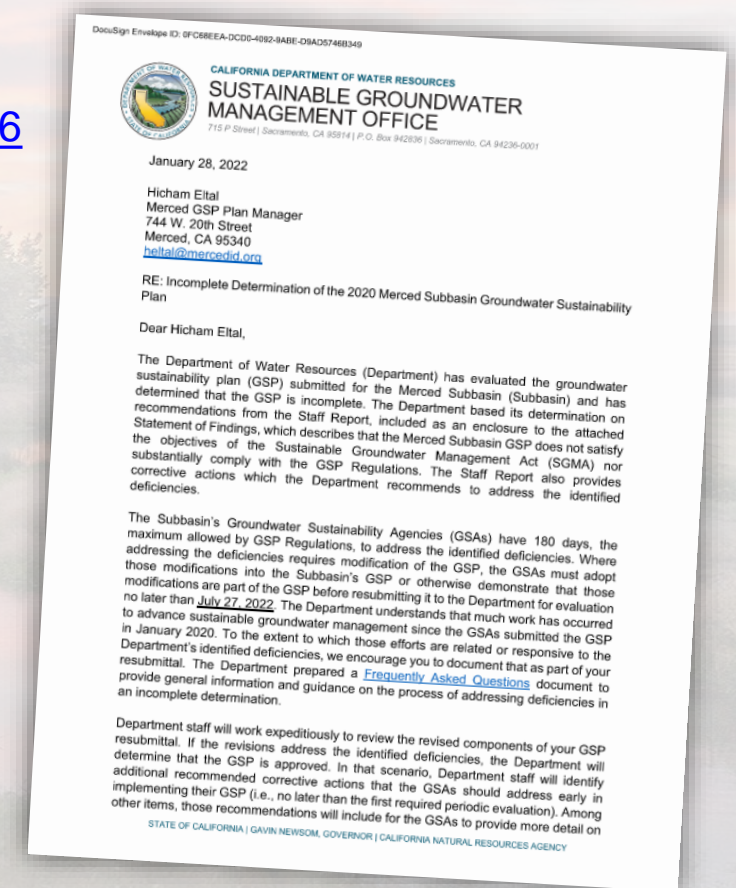


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Non-consecutive dry years

- The GSP lacks sufficient justification for identifying that undesirable results for chronic lowering of groundwater levels, subsidence, and depletion of interconnected surface waters can only occur in consecutive non-dry water year types.
  - Undesirable results defined as “...when November groundwater levels at greater than 25% of representative monitoring wells (at least 7 of 25) fall below their minimum thresholds for two consecutive years where both years are categorized hydrologically as **below normal, above normal, or wet.**”
  - SGMA allows for overdraft in storage and levels during drought, with increases in other periods, but not for other indicators
  - GSP uses groundwater levels as a proxy for depletions
  - DWR asserted that allowance for drought-period declines does not apply to subsidence and depletions
- GSAs intend to revisit this language

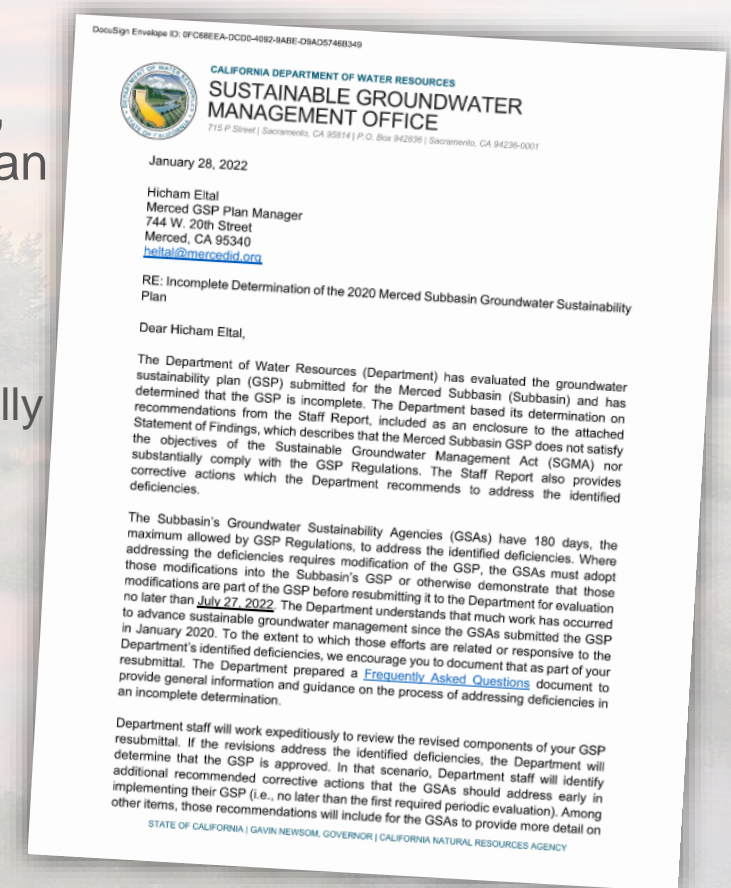


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Groundwater level Sustainable Management Criteria

- The GSP does not provide sufficient information to support the selection of chronic lowering of groundwater levels sustainable management criteria
  - Notes discrepancy between use of shallowest domestic well depth and studies by other entities showing potential for domestic well dewatering
- GSAs intend to revisit the SMCs

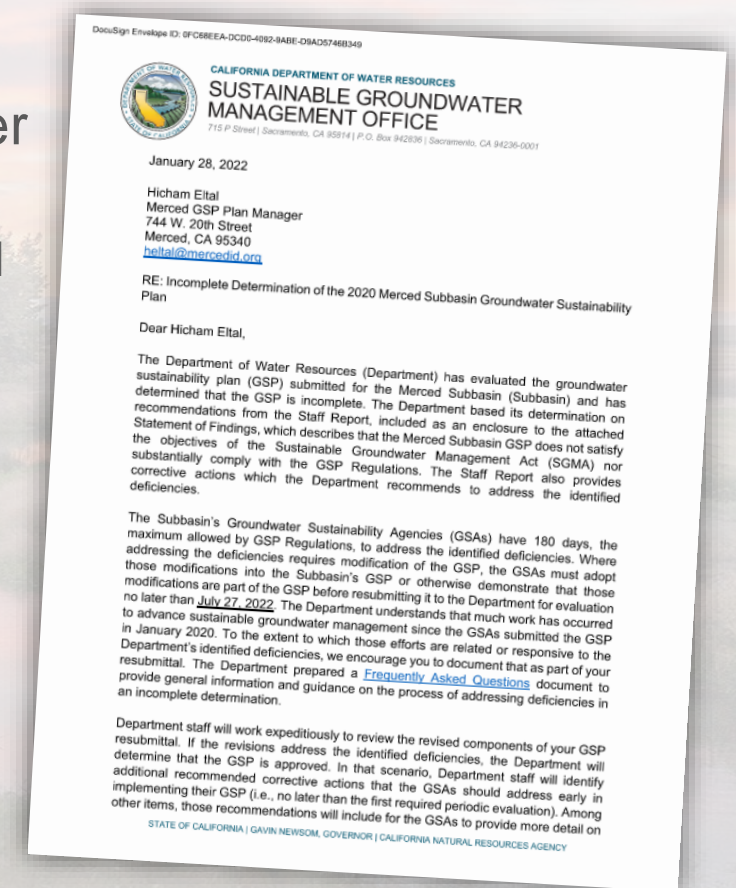


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Subsidence

- The GSP does not provide sufficient information to support the selection of land subsidence sustainable management criteria
  - DWR notes that additional work is needed to identify significant and unreasonable levels of subsidence
  - DWR notes the intent of legislature was to avoid or minimize subsidence
    - GSP includes minimum thresholds that allow continued subsidence
- GSAs intend to revisit the Sustainable Management Criteria

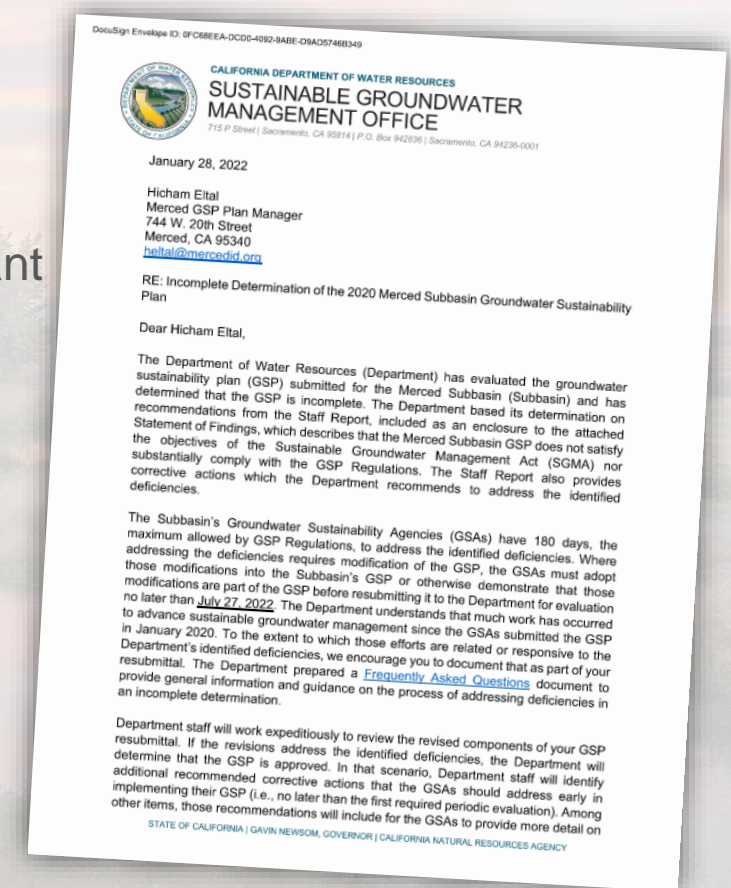


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Progress on DWR GSP Comments

- Held a meeting with DWR staff on January 10, 2022 to discuss potential deficiencies and pathways to approval
- Technical team is evaluating new data and new approaches to respond to the comments, focused on:
  - Groundwater level thresholds
  - Subsidence
- Drafting approaches to be developed and shared with CC and SAC
- Likely endpoint:
  - Updated version, with redline, for all or certain portions of the GSP
  - Adopted by GSAs by late July 2022

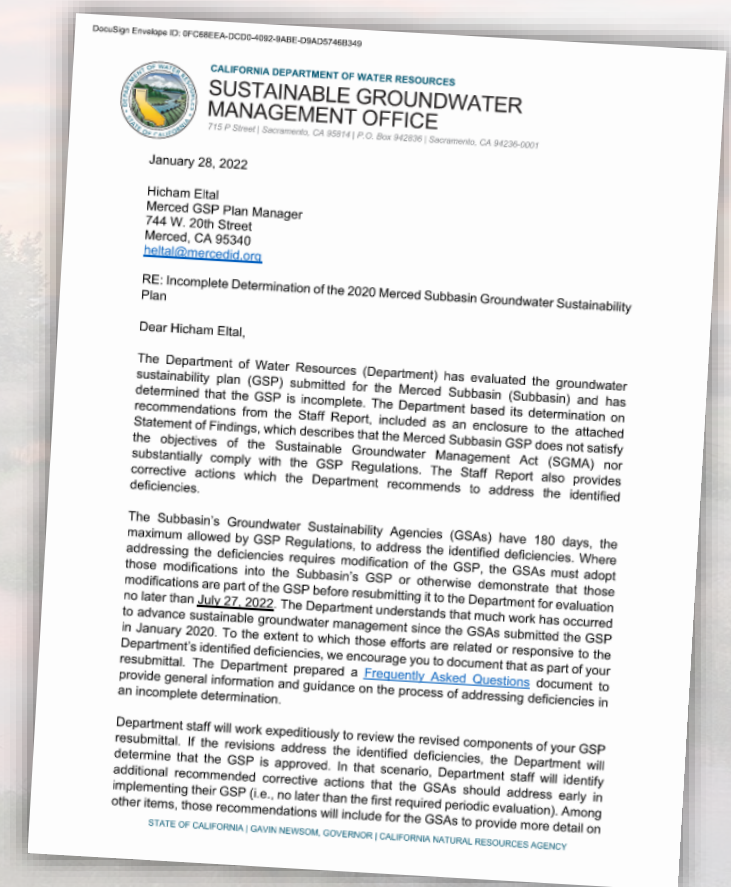


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



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# Comments on GSP by the DWR

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**Action:** Recommend GSA Boards approve a contract amendment with Woodard & Curran to develop modifications to the GSP in response to comments from DWR, as described in scope provided by Woodard & Curran.

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





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# Potential Future Funding Opportunity

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Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





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# Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Implementation Grants

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Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





# SGM Implementation – Planning and Projects Grant (Round 1) Overview and Updates

- Up to **\$7.6 million** available per critically overdrafted basins.
- A Spending Plan and self-evaluation of projects for at least \$10 million are due **February 28<sup>th</sup>** (10-day extension)
- Today's objective: **finalize project selection** and funding distribution

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# SGM Implementation – Planning and Projects Grant (Round 1) Selection and Application Process

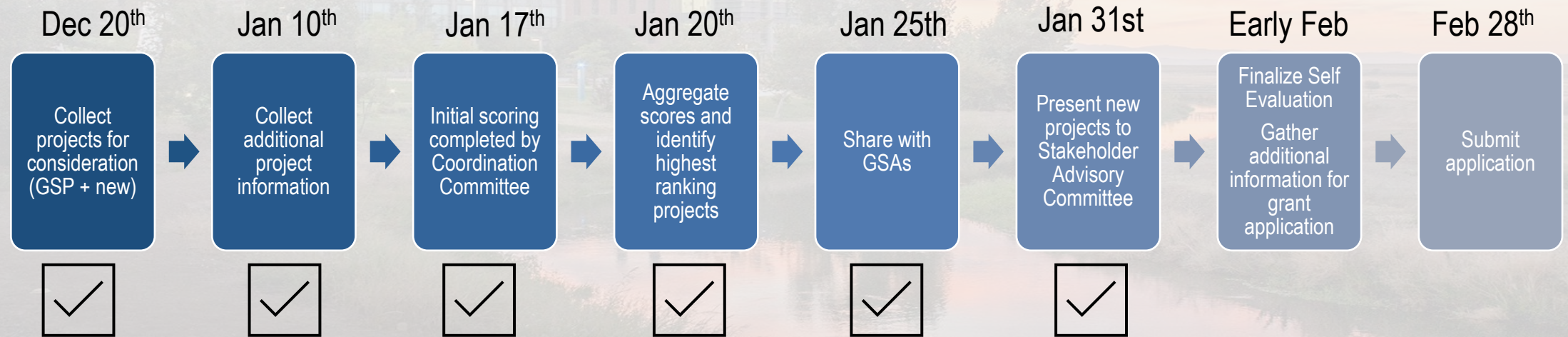


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Project Selection Process

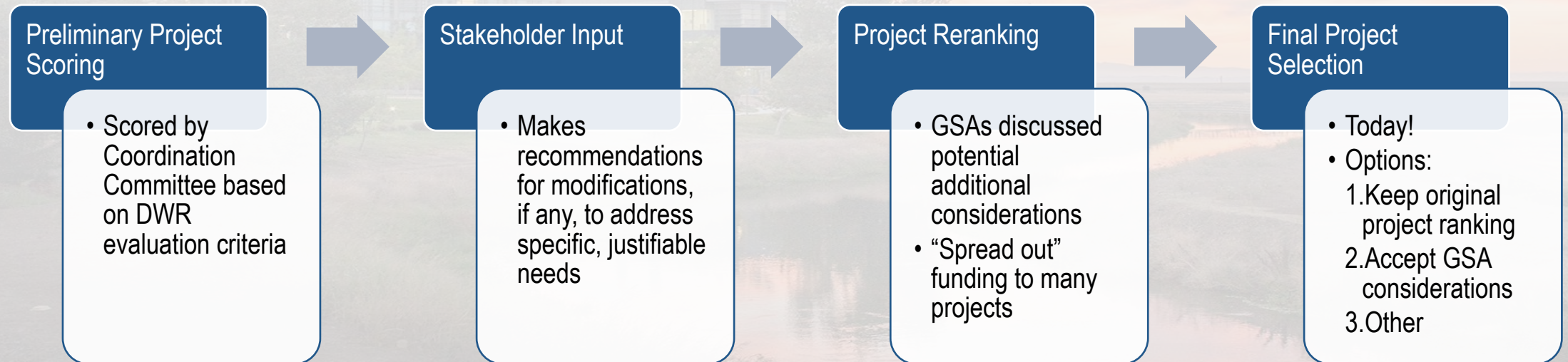


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



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# DWR Application Evaluation Criteria (updated by DWR 12/17)

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1. **Description** and clear justification (4 points)
2. Description of quantifiable **benefits** (implementation) **OR** description of subbasin-wide **coordination** (planning) (4 points)
3. Outline of community **outreach and engagement** plan (3 points)
4. Project **maps** (2 points)
5. Does the project benefit **Underrepresented Communities**? Maps provided? (3 points)
6. Does the project positively impact **small water systems**/private domestic wells? (3 points)
7. Does the project address **Human Right to Water**? (4 points)
8. Description of **tasks/subtasks**? (3 points)
9. Is a reasonable **budget** table provided? (3 points)
10. Is a **schedule** provided and consistent with the budget/tasks? (1 point)

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Potential modifications to rankings

- Modifications will be presented transparently, “documenting and justifying why a lower scoring project was included within the Spending Plan versus a higher scoring project.” (Proposal Solicitation Package)
- Several factors may drive modifications
  - Feasibility
    - Water Rights
    - Realistic recharge potential
    - Project proponent ability to provide materials and meet grant requirements
  - Location
    - Subsidence
    - Areas with declining groundwater
    - Areas surrounded by domestic wells
    - Priority areas according to the sustainability indicators
    - GSAs / geographic distribution
  - PSP “San Joaquin Valley Type Projects”
  - Others
    - Geophysical investigation(s) of groundwater basins to identify recharge potential (e.g., Aerial Electromagnetic Surveys);
    - Early implementation of existing regional flood management plans that incorporate groundwater recharge (e.g., basin recharge using floodwater); or
    - Projects that would complement efforts of a local GSP, that provide for floodplain expansion to benefit groundwater recharge or habitat (e.g., basin recharge using peak flows from a river, creek, or stream).

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC



# Stakeholder Considerations and Priorities

- Realistic project implementation timeline and feasibility
- Efficient recharge of the aquifer
  - Projects located in areas that would mitigate groundwater decline
  - Groundwater recharge near Underrepresented Communities
- Duration of drought, as to not overly depend on wet year-only projects
- Health of wetlands

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Preliminary Project Selection (1 of 3)

Original Rank	Updated Rank	Project Name	Submitting Agency	Project Cost	Score	Initial Grant Request	Updated Grant Request	Cumulative Grant Request
1	1	LeGrand-Athlone Water District Intertie Canal - Phase 2	LeGrand-Athlone WD	\$11,100,000	25.6	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
2	2	Merced Subbasin Integrated Managed Aquifer Recharge Evaluation Tool (MercedMAR)	Basinwide Project	\$925,000	24.8	\$925,000	\$725,000	\$1,725,000
4	3	Vander Dussen Subsidence Priority Area Flood-MAR Project	Sandy Mush MWC	\$798,735	24.2	\$798,735	\$798,735	\$2,523,735
3	4	Vander Woude Storage Reservoir	Sandy Mush MWC	\$980,000	24.4	\$980,000	\$300,000	\$2,823,735
5	5	Filling Data Gaps Identified in Data Gaps Plan	Basinwide Project	\$40,000 - shallow well \$80,000 - deep well (Can be scaled)	22.2	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$3,223,735
6	6	Amsterdam Water District Surface Water Conveyance and Recharge Project	Amsterdam WD	\$1,981,175	22	\$1,981,175	\$100,000	\$3,323,735
7	7	GSP Project 31: Crocker Dam Modification	MID	\$30,600,000	21.75	\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$4,823,735



# Preliminary Project Selection (1 of 3)

Ranked higher because of better benefits/cost

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7	7	GSP Project 31: Crocker Dam Modification	MID	\$30,600,000	21.75	\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$4,823,735



# Preliminary Project Selection (2 of 3)

Original Rank	Updated Rank	Project Name	Submitting Agency	Project Cost	Score	Initial Grant Request	Updated Grant Request	Cumulative Grant Request
13	8	G Ranch Groundwater Recharge, Habitat Enhancement & Floodplain Expansion Project - Planning	La Paloma MWC	\$250,000	17.8	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$5,073,735
9	9	Merquin County Water District (MCWD) Sustainable Yield Management Plan and Plan Implementation	Merquin County WD	\$66,000	20.6	\$66,000	\$66,000	\$5,139,735
10	10	Purdy Project (E. Purdy, W. Purdy, and Kevin Recharge Basins) (Project No. 38)	Stevinson WD; Merquin County WD	\$110,400	20.4	\$110,400	\$110,400	\$5,250,135
11	11	Purdy Project (East Pike Recharge Basin) (Project No. 37)	Stevinson WD; Merquin County WD	\$73,750	20.2	\$73,750	\$73,750	\$5,323,885
12	12	Buchanan Hollow Mutual Water Company Floodwater Recharge Project	Buchanan Hollow MWC	\$26,000	19.4	\$26,000	\$26,000	\$5,349,885
8	13	G Ranch Groundwater Recharge, Habitat Enhancement & Floodplain Expansion Project - Implementation	La Paloma MWC	\$5,336,650	20.6	\$5,336,650	\$750,000	\$6,099,885
16	14	Turner Island Water District (TIWD) Water Conservation	TIWD	\$2,000,000	12.2	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$7,099,885



# Preliminary Project Selection (2 of 3)

Ranked G Ranch planning project higher than implementation project

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16	14	Turner Island Water District (TIWD) Water Conservation	TIWD	\$2,000,000	12.2	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$7,099,885



# Preliminary Project Selection (2 of 3)

Increased rank of TIWD projects for fair distribution, feasibility, and subsidence-area importance

Original Rank	Updated Rank	Project Name	Submitting Agency	Project Cost	Score	Initial Grant Request	Updated Grant Request	Cumulative Grant Request
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16	14	Turner Island Water District (TIWD) Water Conservation	TIWD	\$2,000,000	12.2	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$7,099,885



# Preliminary Project Selection (3 of 3)

Original Rank	Updated Rank	Project Name	Submitting Agency	Project Cost	Score	Initial Grant Request	Updated Grant Request	Cumulative Grant Request
17	15	TIWD Shallow Well Drilling	TIWD	\$500,000/well	11	\$2,500,000	\$500,000	\$7,599,885
14	16	MIUGSA Groundwater Extraction Measurement Program	MIUGSA	\$4,000,000	16	\$2,000,000	\$1,500,000	\$9,099,885
15	17	Deadman Creek Canal Off Stream Storage and Recharge	Lone Tree MWC	\$3,410,000	15	\$3,410,000	\$1,000,000	\$10,099,885
18	18	Tri City's Water Recharge/Underground Storage Feasibility	MSGSA, MIUGSA	\$3,500,000	8.6	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$13,599,885

\$7.6M

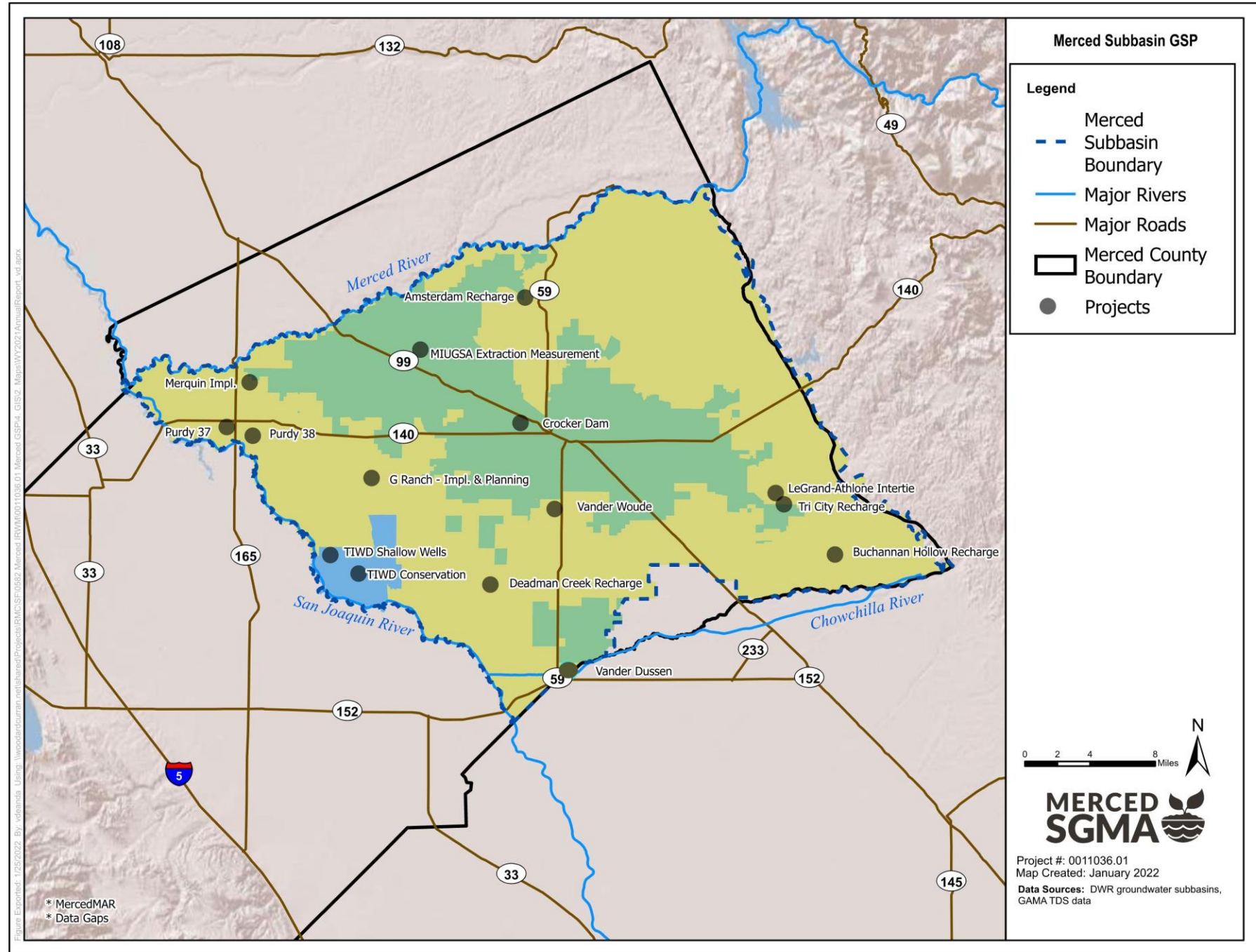
\$10M

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





# Map





# Outstanding Application Requests

## Provided by Project Proponent/CC

- Project information from project proponent (as needed)
  - Description of tasks/subtasks
  - Budget summary table
  - Schedule table
  - Shapefile of benefitting areas
  - Refined project information (*optional*)
  - Quantifiable benefits backup documentation
  - Three comment letters from Underrepresented Communities
- Resolutions
  - Three (3) signed resolutions – MIUGSA is administering grant

## Led by Woodard & Curran

- Project information developed by W&C
  - Project map(s) depicting:
    - Site location
    - Current conditions
    - Benefitting areas
  - Map(s) of benefitting Underrepresented Communities/SDACs
- Spending plan
  - Justification for reordering (based on stakeholder, Coordination Committee, and GSA input)

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Self Certification Eligibility Requirements

Districts with at least 10,000 irrigated acres

- Submitted most recent Agricultural Water Management Plan (AWMP)

Surface water diverters

- Submitted surface water diversion reports to SWRCB (*requirements in Part 5.1*)

Mutual water companies

- Proof of a clear and definite public purpose and benefit customers of the water agency

Stormwater/surface water/  
dry weather capture project

- Must be listed in the Stormwater Resource Plan (SWRP) (*projects can be added to live Opti*)

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Grant Application Cost Share

- Cost of grant application to be split proportionally to projects funded by the grant
  - Basin-wide projects → Split according to the MOU:
    - MIUGSA: 40%
    - MSGSA: 58%
    - TIWD GSA: 2%

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

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# SGM Grant Application

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- **Action:** Recommend GSA Boards direct staff to submit grant application for the projects, and share costs for preparation of grant application, as described in the presentation.

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





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## Next Steps

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Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



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# What's coming up next?

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- Collect additional project information for SGM Grant application (**February**)
- Submit SGM Grant application (**substantially ahead of February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**)
- Adjourn to next meeting: TBD in March 2022

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



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# Merced GSP Coordination Committee

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**Coordination Committee Meeting – February 7, 2022**

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

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

