

# Merced GSP Coordination Committee

**Coordination Committee Meeting – June 1, 2022**

Meeting will begin at 1 pm or a few minutes after – thank you for joining us!

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

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



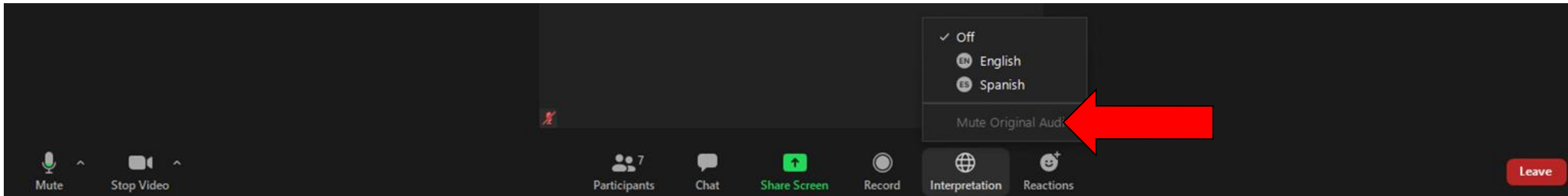
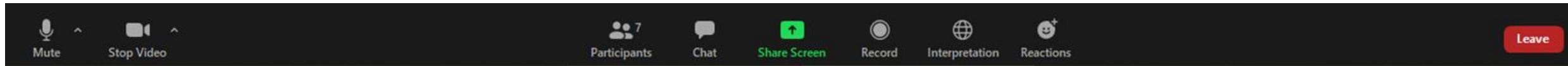


# Welcome, Instructions for Zoom

## 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 April 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comment
6. Reports
  - a) GSA Reports
  - b) Current Basin Conditions
7. Potential Revisions to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan
  - a) Groundwater levels
  - b) Subsidence
  - c) Domestic well mitigation
  - d) Adoption / public input process
8. 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	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 per the continuing 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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- April 25, 2022

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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# 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

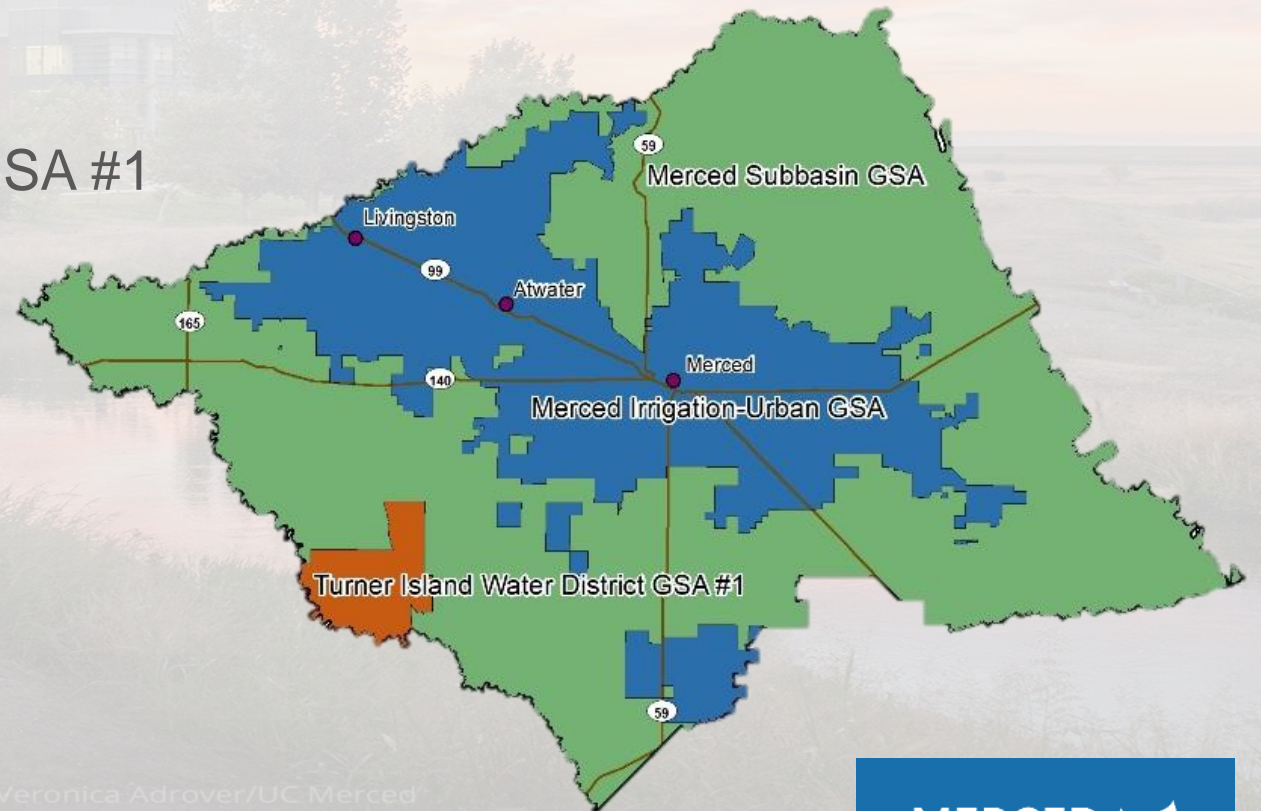


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





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# Potential Revisions to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

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Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# DWR GSP Comments Overview

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels / domestic well impacts
- Land subsidence

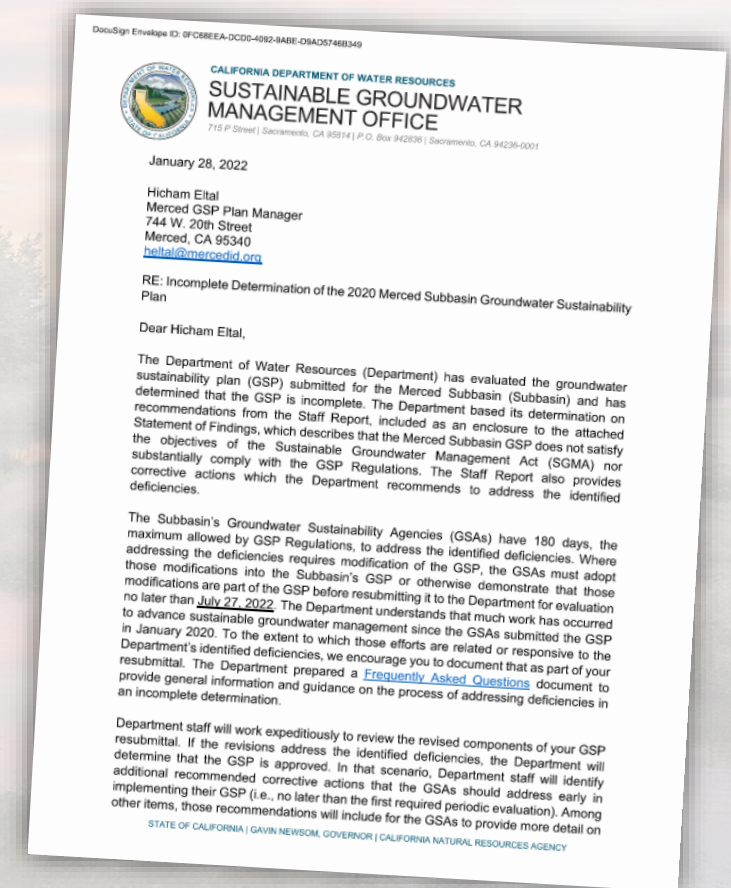


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Groundwater Level Sustainable Management Criteria

## Three Discussions Today:

- Minimum thresholds – direction from the GSAs
  - Groundwater levels
  - Subsidence
- Modifications for consistency with minimum thresholds:
  - Measurable objectives
  - Interim milestones
- New Management Actions
  - Subsidence
  - Domestic well mitigation

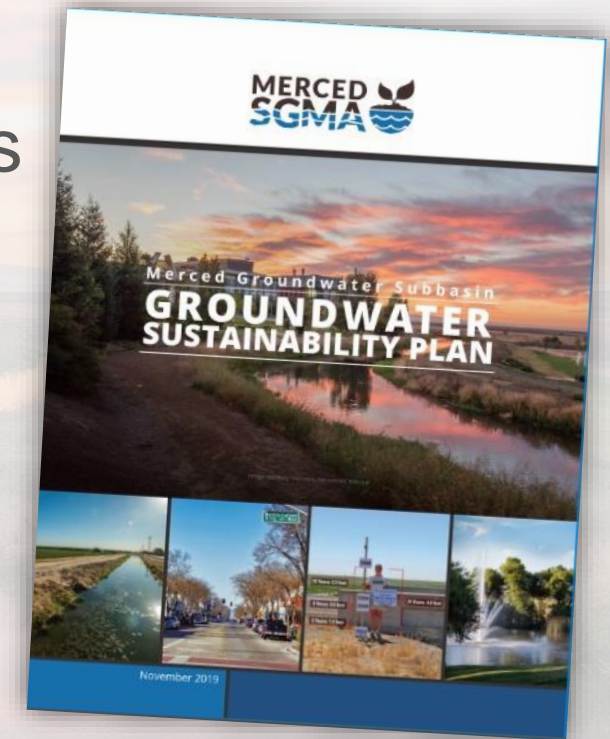


Photo: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



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# Groundwater Level Minimum Threshold – GSA Direction

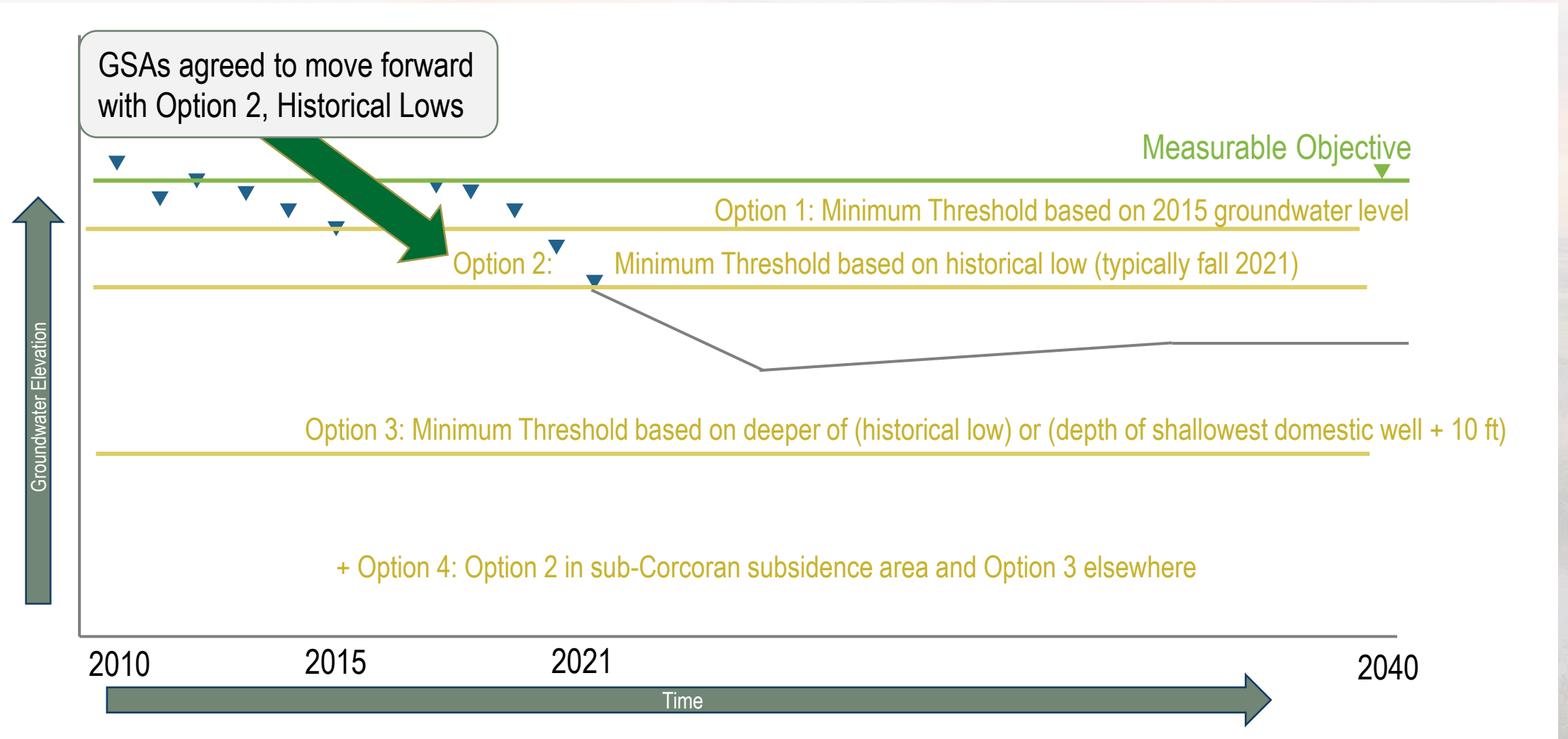
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- Considered input from the committees along with other information
- Decided to pursue the historical lows as the minimum threshold approach
  - Incorporating a domestic well mitigation program, with primary financial responsibility with MSGSA
  - Incorporating a management action to explore different levels above Corcoran in the subsidence area for more flexibility in responding to subsidence issues

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Potential Minimum Threshold Options Evaluated





# Potential Minimum Threshold Options Evaluated

(Copy of table from 4/25 meeting)

	Basis	Average Pumping Reduction	Complies with Groundwater Level Minimum Thresholds?	Long-Term Change in Storage, Below Corcoran Subsidence Area (over 50 years)	Minimum Annual Change in Storage, Below Corcoran Subsidence Area	Long-Term Change in Storage, Whole Basin (over 50 years)
0	Baseline (no pumping reductions)	0 AFY (0.0%)	No	-47,000 AF	-100,000 AF	-1,000,000 AF
GSP	Sustainable Yield Scenario published in GSP (goal of no long-term basinwide storage change)	66,000 AFY 10.7%	No	+30,000 AF	-36,000 AF	~0 AF
A	<b>2015 groundwater levels</b>	175,000 AFY 28.3%	Yes	+110,000 AF	+16,000 AF	+1,800,000 AF
B	<b>Historical low groundwater levels</b>	115,000 AFY 18.6%	Yes	+70,000 AF	+1,000 AF	+900,000 AF
C	Historical lows in subsidence area Domestic well depths + 10 feet elsewhere <b>0 long-term storage change in subsidence area</b>	70,000 AFY 11.4%	Yes	+30,000 AF	-40,000 AF	+200,000 AF
D*	Historical lows in subsidence area Domestic well depths + 10 feet elsewhere <b>Avoiding negative storage at any time after 2040 in subsidence area</b>	115,000 AFY 18.6%	Yes	+70,000 AF	+1,000 AF	+900,000 AF

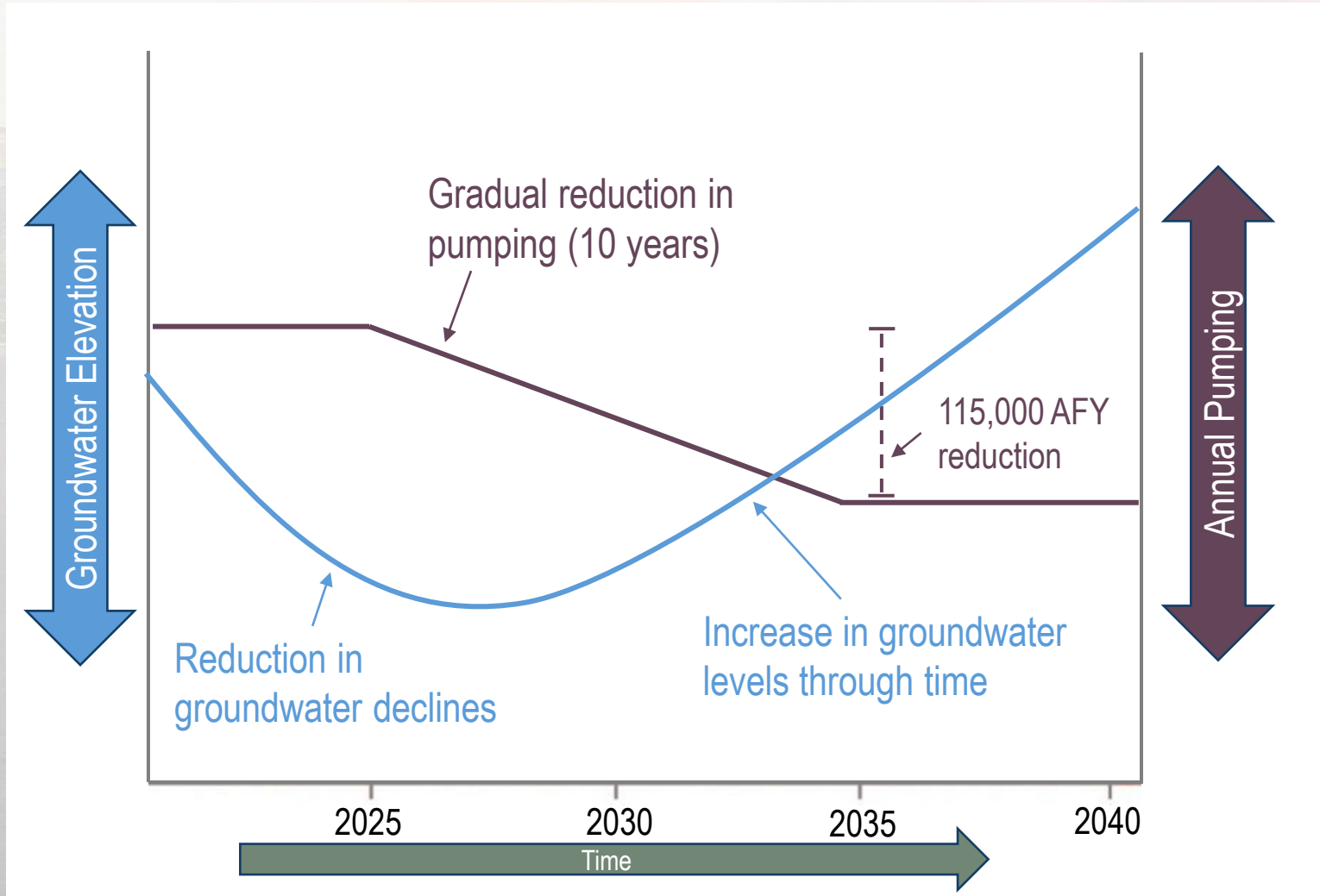
GSAs agreed to move forward with Historical Lows

\*Same model run as B

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



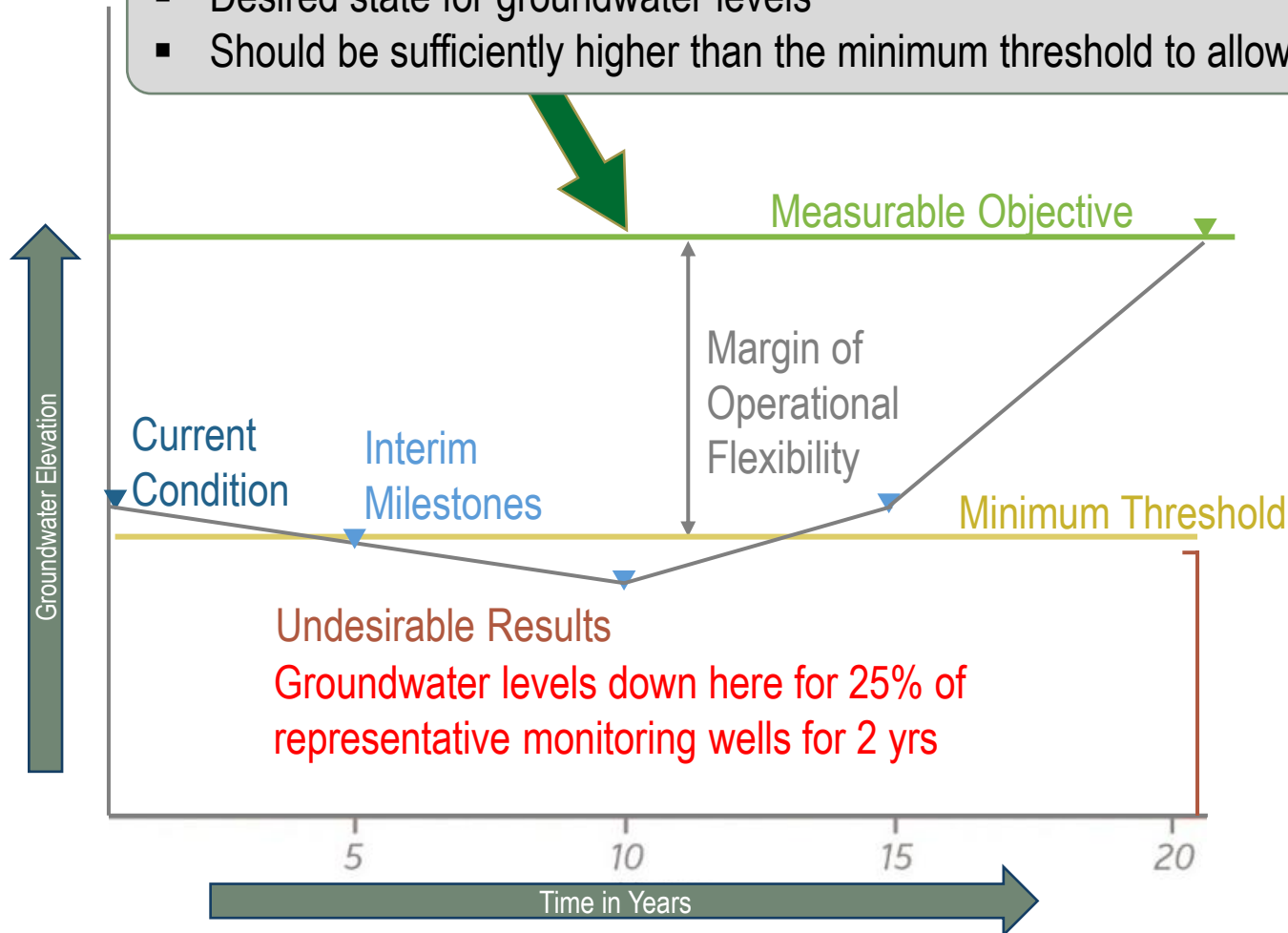
# Conceptual Scenario - Pumping vs Groundwater Levels Diagram





# Groundwater Level Measurable Objective

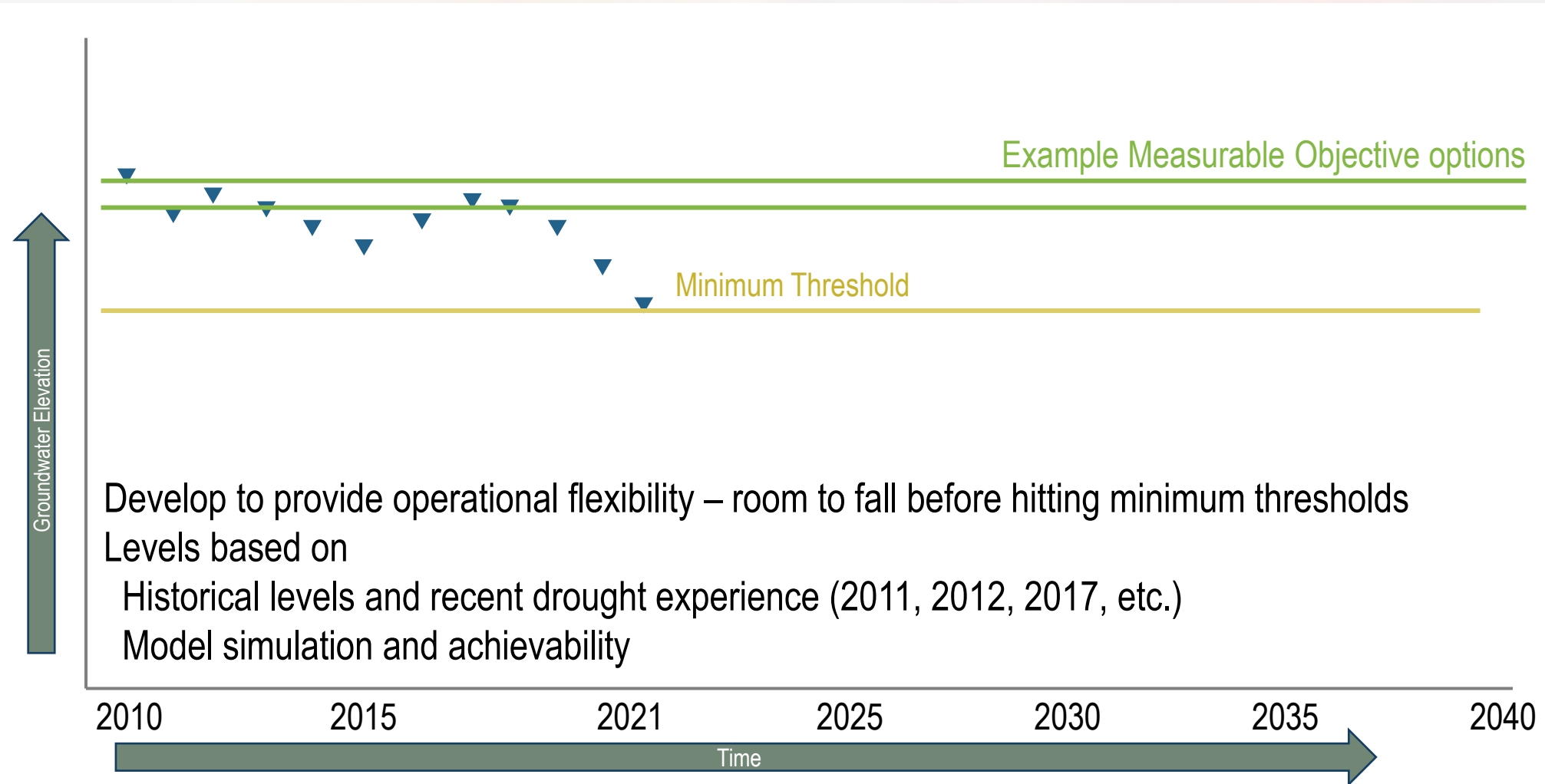
- Desired state for groundwater levels
- Should be sufficiently higher than the minimum threshold to allow for impacts of droughts



- Previously based on average simulated conditions under sustainable conditions
- New definition of minimum threshold requires reconsideration of measurable objectives

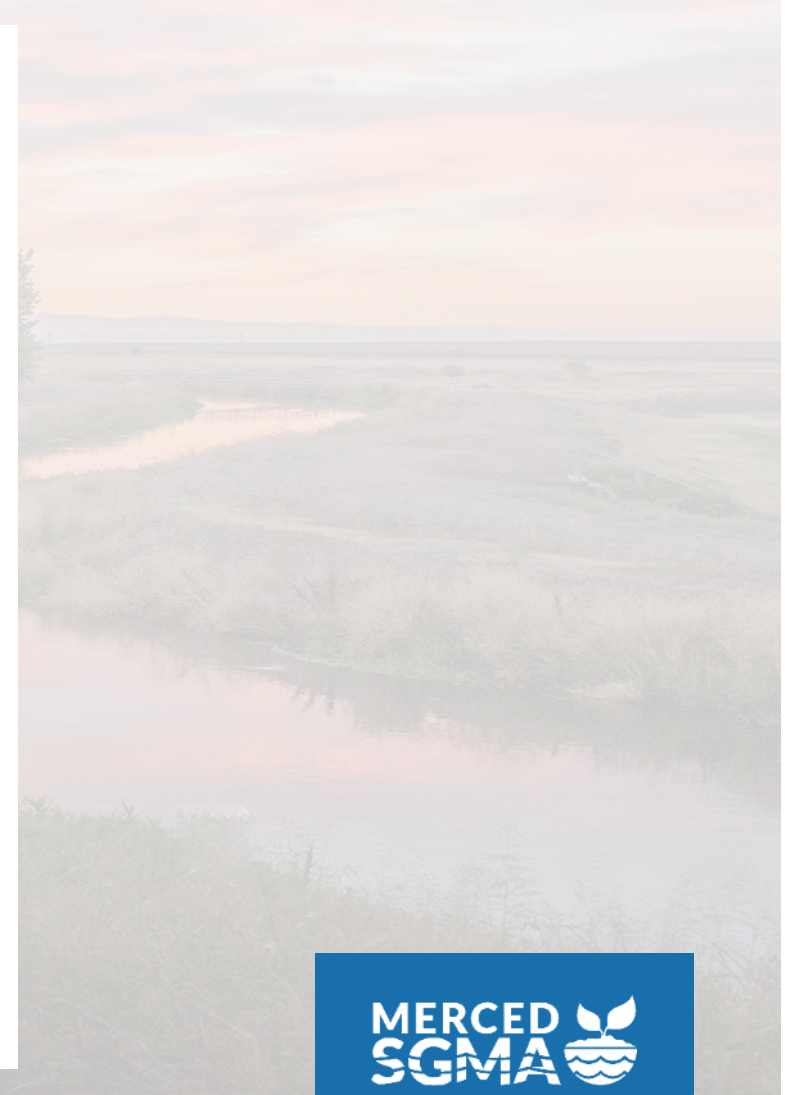
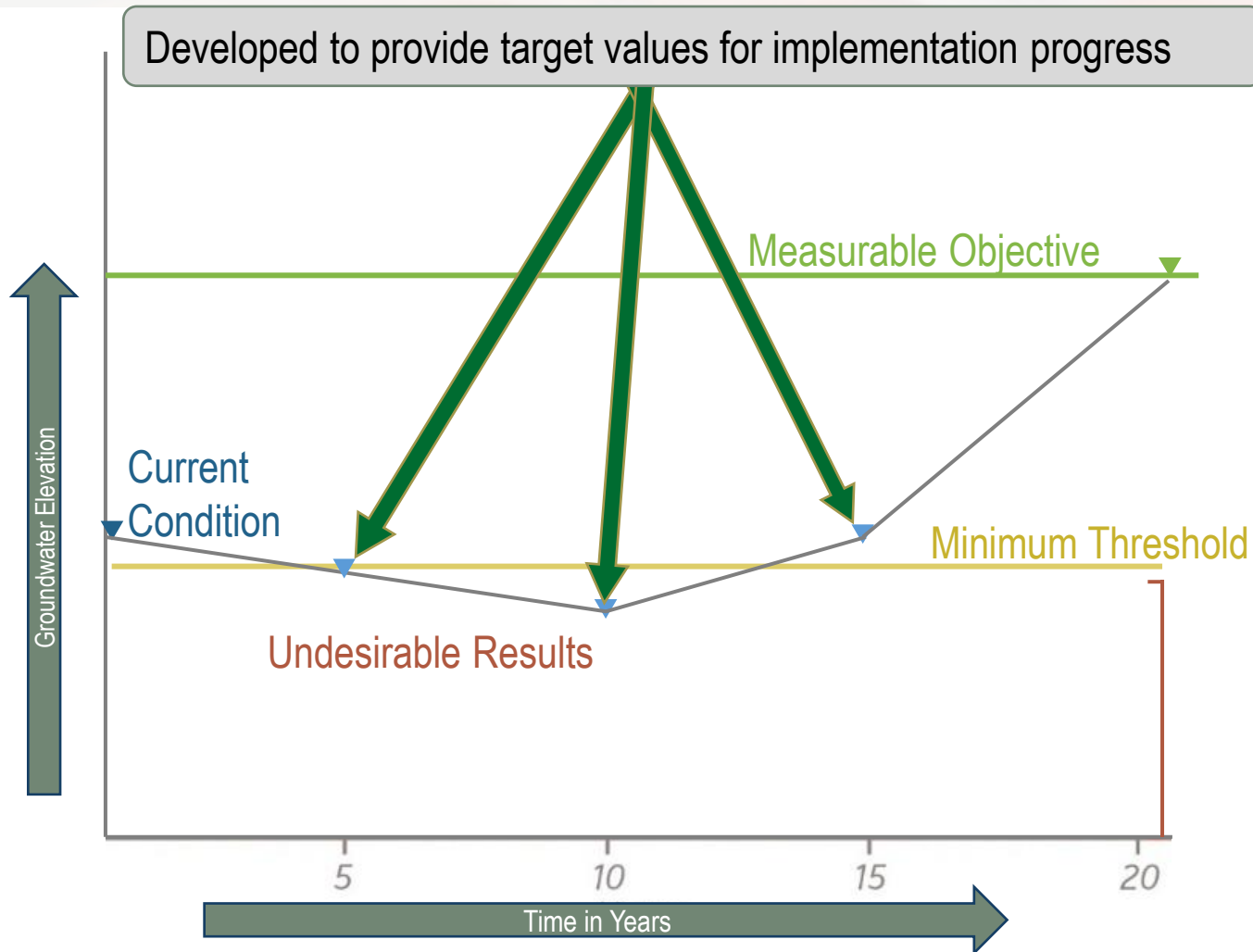


# Measurable Objective Approach



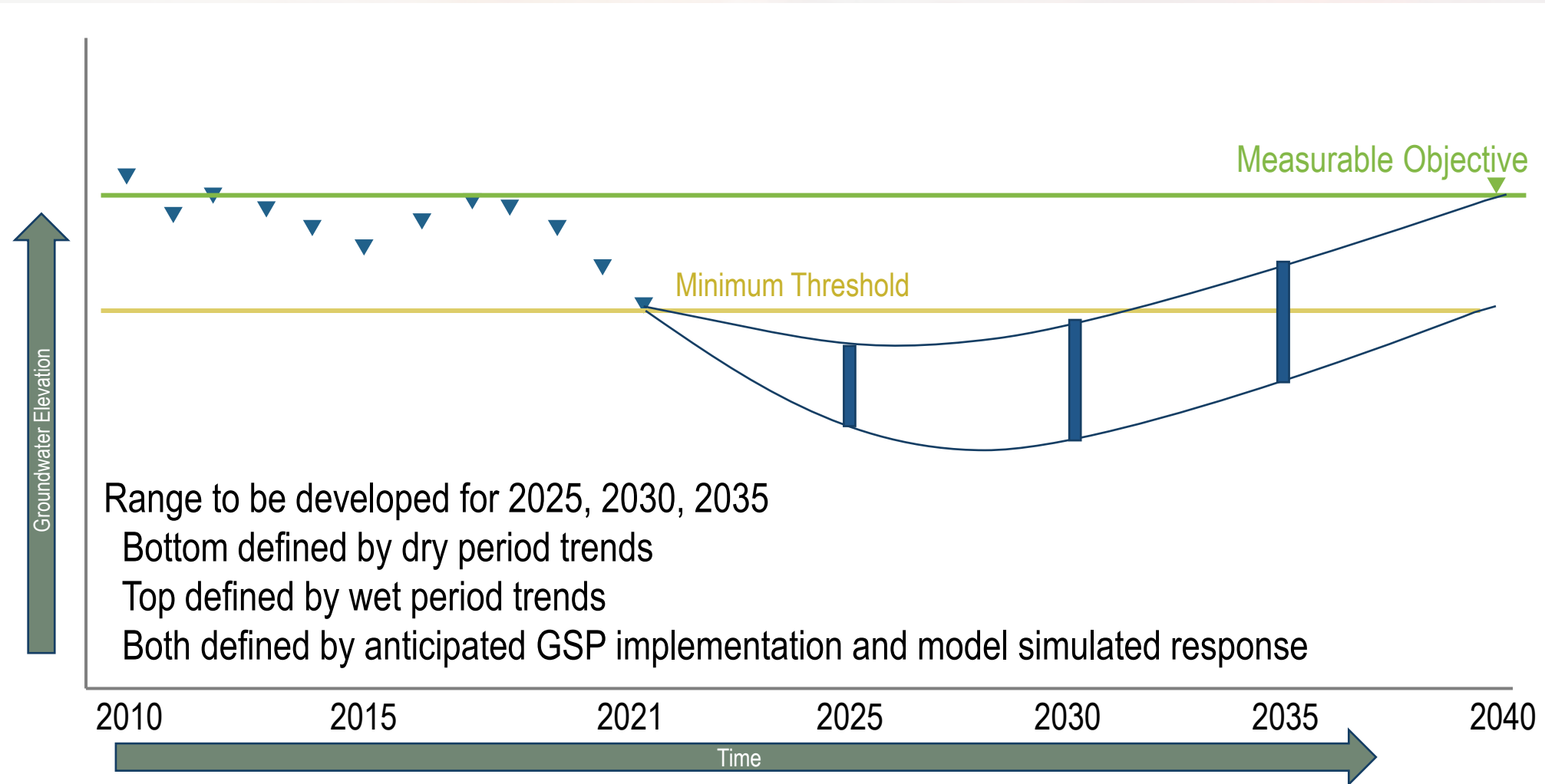


# Groundwater Level Interim Milestones





# Interim Milestone Approach





# Subsidence Sustainability Management Criteria

- Minimum threshold option: 0 ft/yr – with consideration of uncertainty
- Other options:
  - Total subsidence instead of rate
  - Addition of a 5-year rolling average or similar
- Measurement error
  - GPS observations from the USBR network have a +/- 2.5 cm (~1 inch) vertical accuracy
  - Measurement error issue to be discussed with DWR
- Other option (groundwater levels as proxy) would involve more rework of the section which is currently based on subsidence rate

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



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# Subsidence Sustainability Management Criteria

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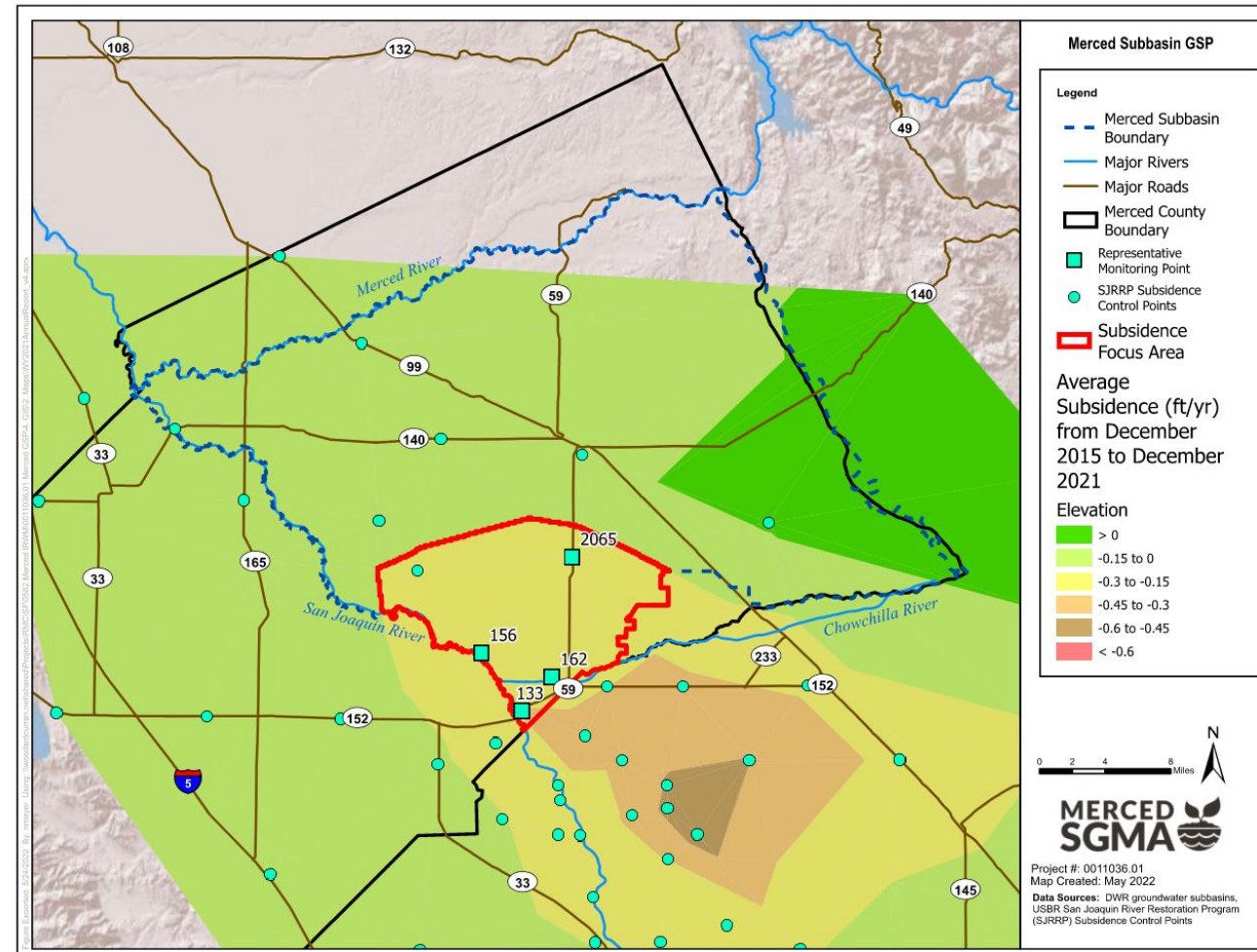
- Measurable objective option: 0 ft/yr
- Interim Milestones will assume some level of subsidence through 2040 – residual and new

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Management Action for Subsidence Area

- Goal: Target pumping reduction (or recharge activities) within Subsidence Focus Area to achieve positive annual storage change (defined by region with 2015-2021 average  $< -0.15$  ft/yr)
- Exact details to be developed as part of the management action determined after GSP is updated





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# Management Action for Domestic Well Mitigation Program

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- Management action to develop a Domestic Well Mitigation Program
- Identify need for the program during GSP implementation
- Envisions a board or committee reviewing claims
- Claims would need to be tied to regional groundwater conditions
- Primary financial responsibility with MSGSA, through negotiations
- Details to be developed

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



# Adoption Process and Opportunities for Input

Week Starting	5/15	5/22	5/29	6/5	6/12	6/19	6/26	7/3	7/10	7/17	7/24
GWL SMC updates											
Subsidence SMC updates											
Prepare updated GSP redline	█	█	█								
GSA staff & CC review				█	█						
Comments incorporation						█	█				
Board review and adoption								█	█	█	
CC/SAC Meetings			★				★				
DWR Meetings				█							
Submit updated GSP to DWR											█
Project Management	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█

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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- Revised GSP for adoption by GSAs in July
- Adjourn to next meeting: tentatively 1pm June 27, 2022

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



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# Merced GSP Coordination Committee

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