

Merced GSP Joint Coordination & Stakeholder Advisory Committees Meeting

October 16, 2024

Meeting will begin at 10:00 am 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

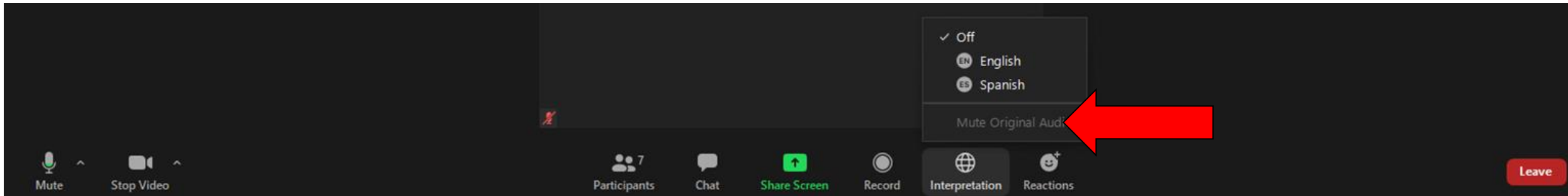
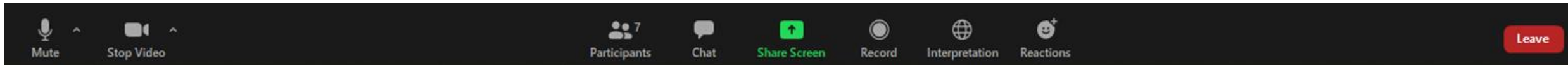


Welcome, Instructions for Zoom

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. Approval of Coordination Committee Meeting Minutes
4. Public Comment
5. Reports
6. Merced Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP) and Upcoming Project Solicitation
7. Public Draft 2025 GSP and Periodic Evaluation Document Walkthrough
8. Coordination Committee Adoption of GSP Projects in Merced IRWM Opti Project Tracker
9. Coordination Committee Recommendation for Approving Woodard & Curran Contract Amendment 9
10. Next Steps and adjourn

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Coordination Committee Roll Call

Representative	GSA
Hicham ElTal	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Scott McBride	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Justin Vinson	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Frank Verduzco	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Ken Elwin (<i>alternate</i>)	Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Mike Gallo	Merced Subbasin GSA
Nic Marchini	Merced Subbasin GSA
Dave Nervino	Merced Subbasin GSA
Gino Pedretti (<i>alternate</i>)	Merced Subbasin GSA
George Park (<i>alternate</i>)	Merced Subbasin GSA
Kel Mitchel	Turner Island Water District GSA #1

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Members

Committee Member	Interest/Affiliation	Alternate	Interest/Affiliation
Alvaro Arias	UC Merced	Phillip Woods	UC Merced
Arlan Thomas	MIDAC member	Ben Migliazzo	Live Oak Farms
Bill Eisenstein	River Partners		
Bob Kelley	Stevinson Representative	Blake Nervino	Stevinson/Merquin
Breanne Vandenberg	MCFB		
Caitie Diemel	ESJWQC		
Craig Arnold	Arnold Farms		
Daniel Melendrez	City of Merced		
Danielle Serrano	Serrano Farms - Le Grand		
David Belt	Foster Farms		
Eddie Rojas	E&J Gallo Winery		
Emma Reyes	Martin Reyes Farm/Land Leveling		
Jean Okuye	E Merced RCD		
Joe Sansoni	Sansoni Farms/MCFB		
Joe Scoto	Scoto Brothers/McSwain School Dist.		
Lisa Baker	Clayton Water District	Scott Menefee	Clayton Water District
Lisa Kayser-Grant	Sierra Club		
Maxwell Norton	Unincorporated area		
Nav Athwal	TriNut Farms		
Simon Vander Woude	Sandy Mush MWC		
Susan Walsh	City of Merced	Bill Spriggs	Resident City of Merced
Thomas Dinwoodie	Master Gardener/McSwain		
Trevor Hutton	Valley Land Alliance		
Wes Myers	Merced Grassland Coalition	Lou Myers	Benjamin Land LP
Zachary Hamman	Cal Am Water		



Approval of Coordination Committee Meeting Minutes

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Approval of Meeting Minutes

- January 24, 2024
- March 20, 2024
- May 22, 2024
- July 17, 2024

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Questions/Comments from Public:

For remote attendees, 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



Reports

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



GSA Reports

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

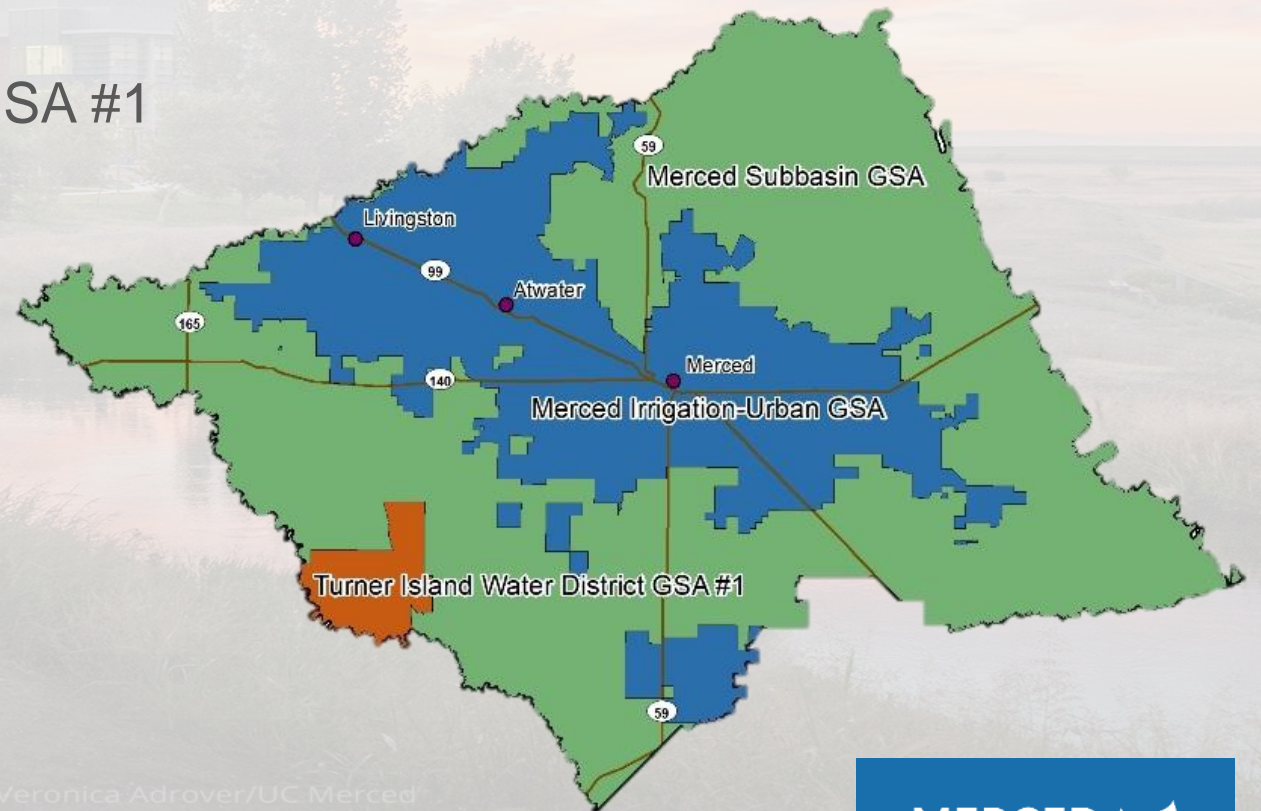


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Other Reports

- Current Conditions (see separate PDF)

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Merced Multibenefit Land Repurposing Program (MLRP) and Upcoming Project Solicitation

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



MERCED MULTIBENEFIT LAND REPURPOSING PROGRAM

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

For Growers, Community, and Other Stakeholders

Talleres públicos para agricultores, comunidades, y otras partes interesadas



IN-PERSON MEETING

WED, OCT 16

4:30 - 6:00PM

LOCATION:

Merced UC Cooperative Extension
2145 Wardrobe Ave, Merced, CA 95341

REGISTER:

mercedmlrp.org



MERCEDMLRP.ORG

VIRTUAL MEETING

THUR, OCT 17

11:00AM - 12:30PM

LOCATION:

Virtual meeting on Zoom
Link provided with registration

REGISTER:

mercedmlrp.org



FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

In November 2024, the Merced Subbasin MLRP will release a Request for Projects (RFP). For more information on the solicitation, eligible projects types, or to request technical assistance with the application, **attend a workshop**, visit our website or send us an email.



INFO@MERCEDMLRP.ORG

¡Regístrese ahora para los próximos talleres públicos del Merced MLRP! Visite mercedmlrp.org para obtener más información y registrarse.



Public Draft 2025 GSP & Periodic Evaluation Walkthrough

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Summary of Two Documents

2025 Groundwater Sustainability Plan

- Incorporates edits as a result of the Recommended Corrective Actions from DWR
- Updates to the MercedWRM (model) and water budgets
- Adds new representative monitoring wells for groundwater levels
- Adds details on management actions
- New depletions of interconnected surface water analysis
- ...and more

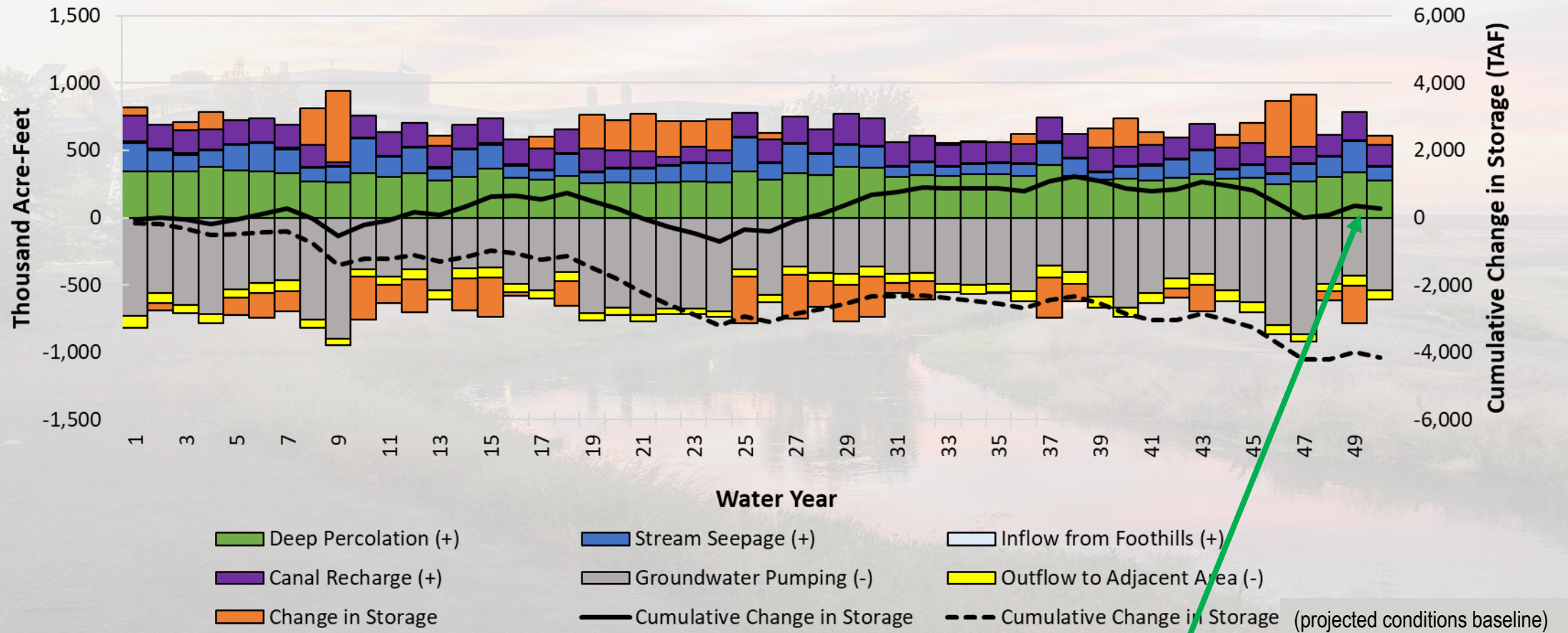
2025 Periodic Evaluation

- Update on progress since 2020; a multi-year “annual report”:
 - Highlights new information
 - Summarizes changes to the monitoring network
 - Describes progress on projects and management actions
- Specifically responds to the Recommended Corrective Actions from DWR

There is a fair bit of overlap between the documents.

Groundwater Budget with Projects & Management Actions (PMAs)

From 7/17/24 meeting!



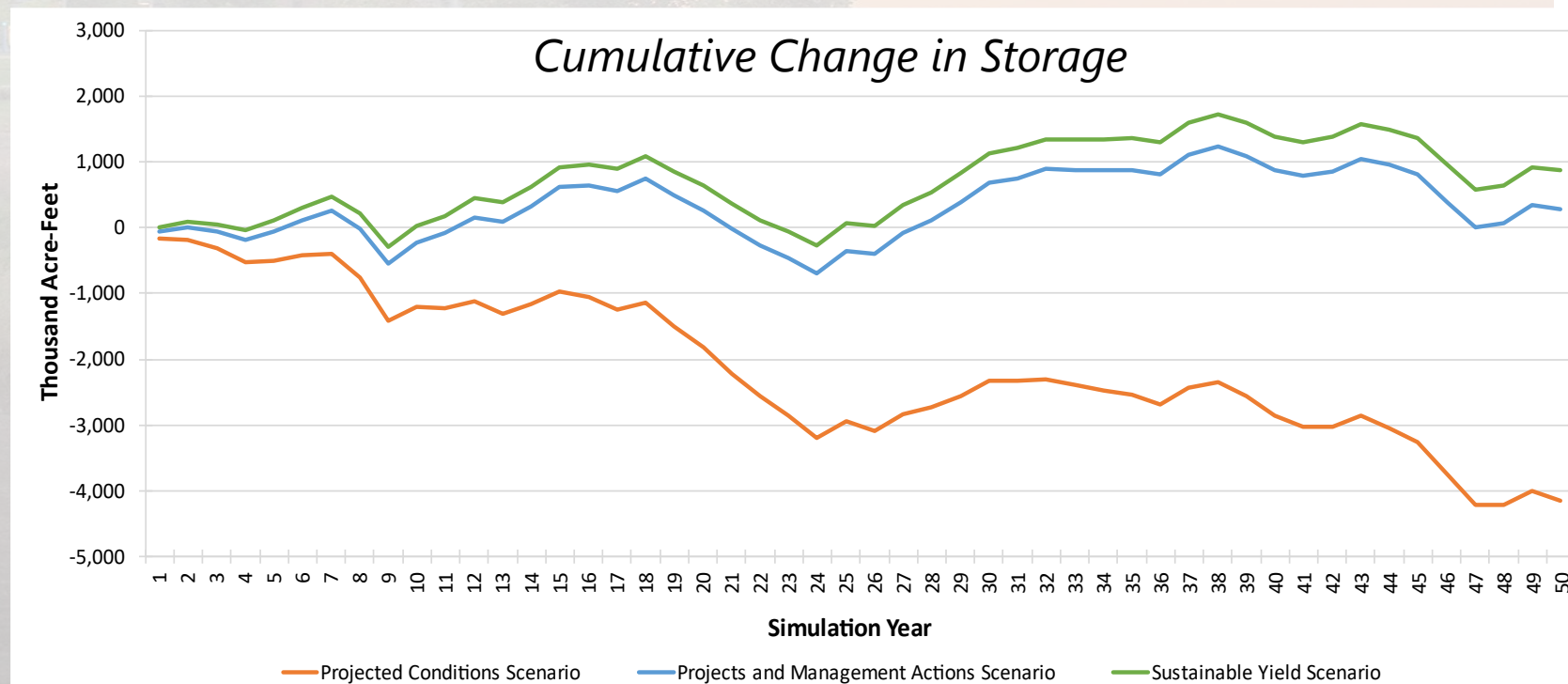
Close to no long-term change in storage



Sustainable Yield Analysis

- PMAs scenario has net positive long-term change in storage
- Sustainability is based on avoidance of undesirable results, not just storage volumes
- Additional “Sustainable Yield” scenario developed to avoid undesirable results

- Avoided exceedance of minimum thresholds at 25% of representative monitoring wells over 2 consecutive years
- Reduced groundwater pumping by 5-10%

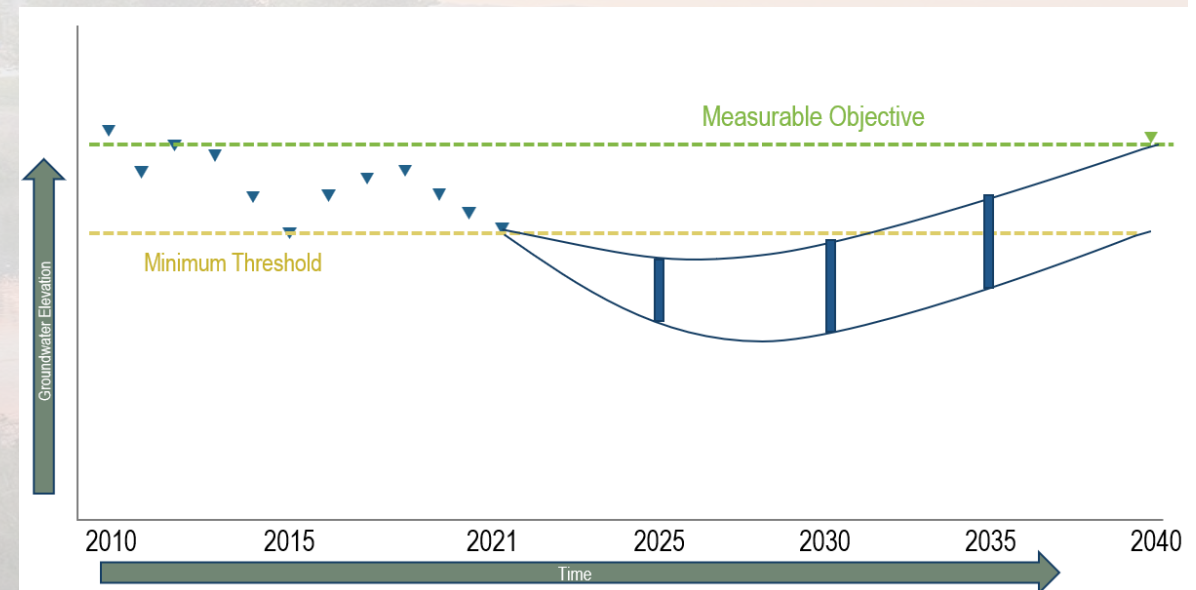


Sustainable Yield Estimate Unchanged

- Analysis suggests a slight reduction in Sustainable Yield compared to previous analysis
- PMAs will have substantial benefits – maintaining progress is critical
- Analysis has uncertainty, including management of neighboring subbasins, hydrologic variability, and model configuration.
- The difference in Sustainable Yield estimates is considered within the range of uncertainty.
- No changes are made to avoid disrupting progress in implementing PMAs
- Sustainable Yield will be reassessed during GSP implementation

Sustainable Management Criteria Updates (1 of 2)

- Change in storage
 - Added per DWR's Recommended Corrective Action, using groundwater levels as a proxy.
- Groundwater levels
 - No changes to SMC
 - Devised new methodology (presented previously) to develop Sustainable Management Criteria for new representative wells installed after 2015
 - Analyzed domestic and public water supply (PWS) wells that could potentially be dewatered during implementation when groundwater levels temporarily decline below minimum thresholds (e.g., via interim milestones).
 - Totals about 20 domestic/PWS wells in the vicinity of 6 of the 29 representative monitoring wells > addressed via well mitigation program under development by the GSAs



Sustainable Management Criteria Updates (2 of 2)

- Subsidence
 - No changes to SMC
 - Added clarification on uncertainty and commitment to additionally consider uncertainty in measurements across a 5-year period in addition to 1-year period.
- Groundwater quality
 - No changes to SMC
 - Added additional explanation behind the selection of TDS and an analysis of trends between groundwater levels and changes in groundwater quality.
- Depletions of interconnected surface waters
 - No changes to SMC (groundwater levels as a proxy)
 - Added analysis to further quantify the timing and location of depletions.

Monitoring Network Updates

Sustainability Indicator	Description
Groundwater Levels	19 wells added with more planned; 3 were removed
Groundwater Quality	Network updated based on wells actively reporting over the last 5 years; several new wells incorporated after being added to ESJWQC monitoring program
Subsidence	No changes
Storage	NEW: Uses groundwater levels as a proxy
Depletions of Interconnected Surface Waters	No changes, groundwater levels as a proxy

Other New Information Incorporated

Significant New Information	Description
Airborne Electromagnetic (AEM) Data Collection	AEM data collected in the Subbasin by DWR in April 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incorporated into the groundwater model• Used to modify the hydrogeologic conceptual model.
Water Quality Monitoring Data and Analyses	Concentrations of arsenic, nitrate, and other constituents were compared to groundwater levels to determine if there is a correlation between groundwater level decline and concentrations.
Below Bottom of Basin Well Investigation	Analysis was conducted on wells that extend below the bottom of the Subbasin's vertical extent. Monitoring and enforcement of extraction confirmed to be no different than other wells in the Subbasin.

Management Action Update

Integrated Groundwater Allocation Framework

Renamed from “Initial” framework to reflect progress at the GSA level

Merced Subbasin GSA Groundwater Demand Reduction Management Action

Revised with program details previously presented

Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA Groundwater Allocation Management Action

Added as a program that encompasses MIUGSA’s rules & regulations being implemented

Domestic Well Mitigation Program

Some additional details fleshed out; GSAs have committed to developing and adopting a program by September 2025.

Above Corcoran Sustainable Management Criteria Adjustment Consideration

Continues to acknowledge potential need for adjusting sustainable management criteria as pumping shifts from Below to Above the Corcoran Clay in certain regions.

Outlines of each document

GSP

1. Introduction and Plan Area
2. Basin Setting
 1. Hydrogeological Conceptual Model
 2. Current and Historical Groundwater Conditions
 3. Water Budget Information
 4. Climate Change Analysis
3. Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC)
4. Monitoring Networks
5. Data Management Systems
6. Projects & Management Actions (PMAs)
7. Plan Implementation

Periodic Evaluation

1. Introduction
2. New Information Collected
3. Groundwater Conditions Relative to SMC
4. Status of PMAs
5. Basin Setting Based on New Information or Changes in Water Use
6. Monitoring Networks
7. GSA Authorities & Enforcement Actions
8. Outreach, Engagement, & Coordination with Other Agencies
9. Other Information
10. Summary of Proposed or Completed Revisions to Plan Elements

How to Review & Comment; Next Steps

- Draft materials will be available by early next week on www.MercedSGMA.org
- Send comments to contact@mercedsgma.org by November 22, 2024

Next steps:

- Mid-Nov through Dec: Comments reviewed and incorporated
- Jan: GSAs adopt separately at public hearings
- Jan/Feb: next quarterly CC/SAC meetings

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Coordination Committee Adoption of GSP Projects in Merced IRWM Opti Project Tracker

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Shift in how projects are published

- Full project details: Merced Integrated Regional Water Management (MercedIRWM) Opti project tracker opti.woodardcurran.com/irwm/merced
- Considered a “living” document
- “When revised, the project list will be approved by the Merced Subbasin Coordination Committee or other body, as appropriate, following updating, and will be made available via the MercedIRWM Opti system.”

Image courtesy: Veron

Project Title	Project Organization	Primary Benefit	IRWMP Approved	SWRP Project?	Merced GSP Approved	Status
Buchanan Hollow Mutual Water Company Floodwater Recharge Project	Buchanan Hollow Mutual Water Company	Flood Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
LeGrand-Athlone Water District Intertie Canal - Phase 2	LeGrand-Athlone Water District	Flood Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
LeGrand-Athlone Water District Intertie and Recharge Project	Le Grand-Athlone Water District	Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Merced Subbasin GSP Development Project for Addressing Critical Data	Merced Subbasin GSAs	Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Bear Creek Ranch Ground Water Recharge & Land Repurposing Project	La Paloma Mutual Water Company	Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
MID to Lone Tree Mutual Water Company	Lone Tree Mutual Water Company	Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Crocker Dam Modification	Merced Irrigation District	Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
G Ranch Groundwater Recharge, Habitat Enhancement & Floodplain Expansion Project - Implementation	La Paloma Mutual Water Company	Flood Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
G Ranch Groundwater Recharge, Habitat Enhancement & Floodplain Expansion Project - Planning	La Paloma Mutual Water Company	Flood Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
El Nido Conveyance System Improvements Project	Merced Irrigation District	Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Streamlining Permitting for Replacing Sub-Corcoran Wells	Merced County	Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Study for Potential Water System Intertie Facilities from Merced I.D. to LeGrand-Athlone W.D. and Chowchilla W.D.	Chowchilla Water District	Water Supply	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Merced Groundwater Subbasin LIDAR	Merced Irrigation District	Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Meadowbrook Water System Intertie Feasibility Study	Merced Irrigation District	Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Planada Groundwater Recharge Basin Pilot Project	Merced Irrigation District	Water Supply	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

New Projects Since Original 2020 GSP; Coordination Committee Vote

- Do you approve of adding the projects shown to the Merced GSP project list?
- Merced Subbasin GSP Development Project for Addressing Critical Data Gaps
- El Nido Conveyance System Improvements Project
- LeGrand-Athlone Water District Intertie and Recharge Project (Phase 1)
- LeGrand-Athlone Water District Intertie Canal (Phase 2)
- Merced Subbasin Integrated Managed Aquifer Recharge Evaluation Tool (MercedMAR)
- Vander Dussen Subsidence Priority Area Flood-MAR Project
- Vander Woude Storage Reservoir
- Filling Data Gaps Identified in Data Gaps Plan
- Amsterdam Water District Surface Water Conveyance and Recharge Project
- Crocker Control Structure Rehabilitation (Formerly "GSP Project 31: Crocker Dam Modification")
- G Ranch Groundwater Recharge, Habitat Enhancement & Floodplain Expansion Project
- Buchanan Hollow Mutual Water Company Floodwater Recharge Project
- Turner Island Water District (TIWD) Water Conservation
- TIWD Shallow Well Drilling
- Bear Creek Ranch Ground Water Recharge & Land Repurposing Project



Coordination Committee Recommendation for Approving Woodard & Curran Contract Amendment 9

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Summary of proposed amendment

- On-Call Technical Support – \$99.5K) e.g., technical analyses to support allocation framework planning, interbasin coordination, miscellaneous data requests, etc.
- Water Year 2024 Annual Report – (\$72.2K) similar work to previous year efforts to submit required report to DWR by 4/1/2025
- GSA Meeting Support 2025 – (\$66.6K) assumes four quarterly meetings of the CC/SAC across 2025, includes facilitation and translation services
- Total: \$238,322

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Next Steps

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



What's coming up next?

- Through 11/22/24: Public Comment period
 - Draft materials will be available on www.MercedSGMA.org by early next week
 - Send comments to contact@mercedsgma.org
- Mid-Nov through Dec: Comments reviewed and incorporated
- January: GSAs adopt separately at public hearings
- By 1/28/25: Submit adopted GSP and Periodic Evaluation to DWR
- January/February 2025: next quarterly CC/SAC meetings
- January-April 2025: Water Year 2024 Annual Report preparation

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

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October 16, 2024

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

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





Backup

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

