

Merced GSP Joint Coordination & Stakeholder Advisory Committees Meeting

October 21, 2026

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

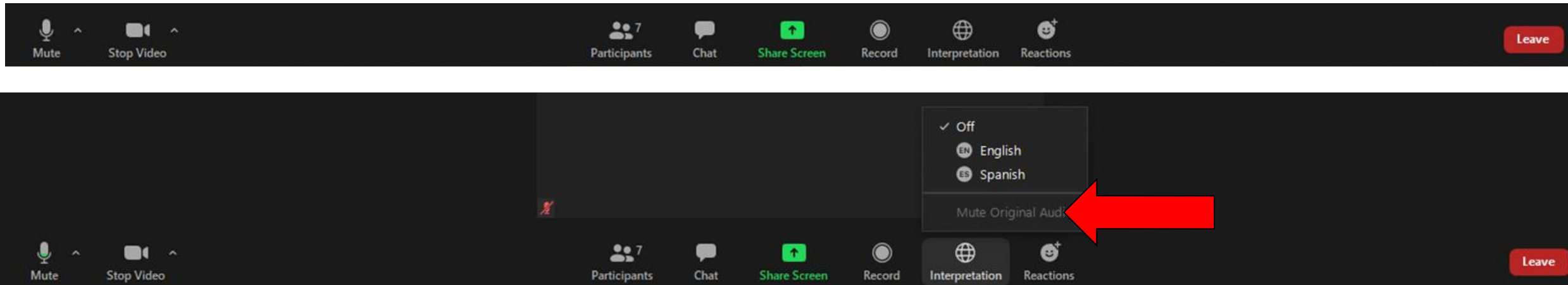


Welcome, Instructions for Zoom

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. Domestic Well Mitigation Program Implementation Update
7. Update on Subsidence Management
8. Grant Programs Updates
9. Next Steps and adjourn

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Coordination Committee Roll Call

Bold indicates recent changes

Representative	GSA
Bryan Kelly	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
Bob Kelley	Merced Subbasin GSA
Gino Pedretti (<i>alternate</i>)	Merced Subbasin GSA
George Park (<i>alternate</i>)	Merced Subbasin GSA
Chase Hurley	Turner Island Water District GSA #1
Justin Darnell (<i>alternate</i>)	Turner Island Water District GSA #1

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		
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.		
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

- August 18, 2025
- November 3, 2025
- March 9, 2026

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

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



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

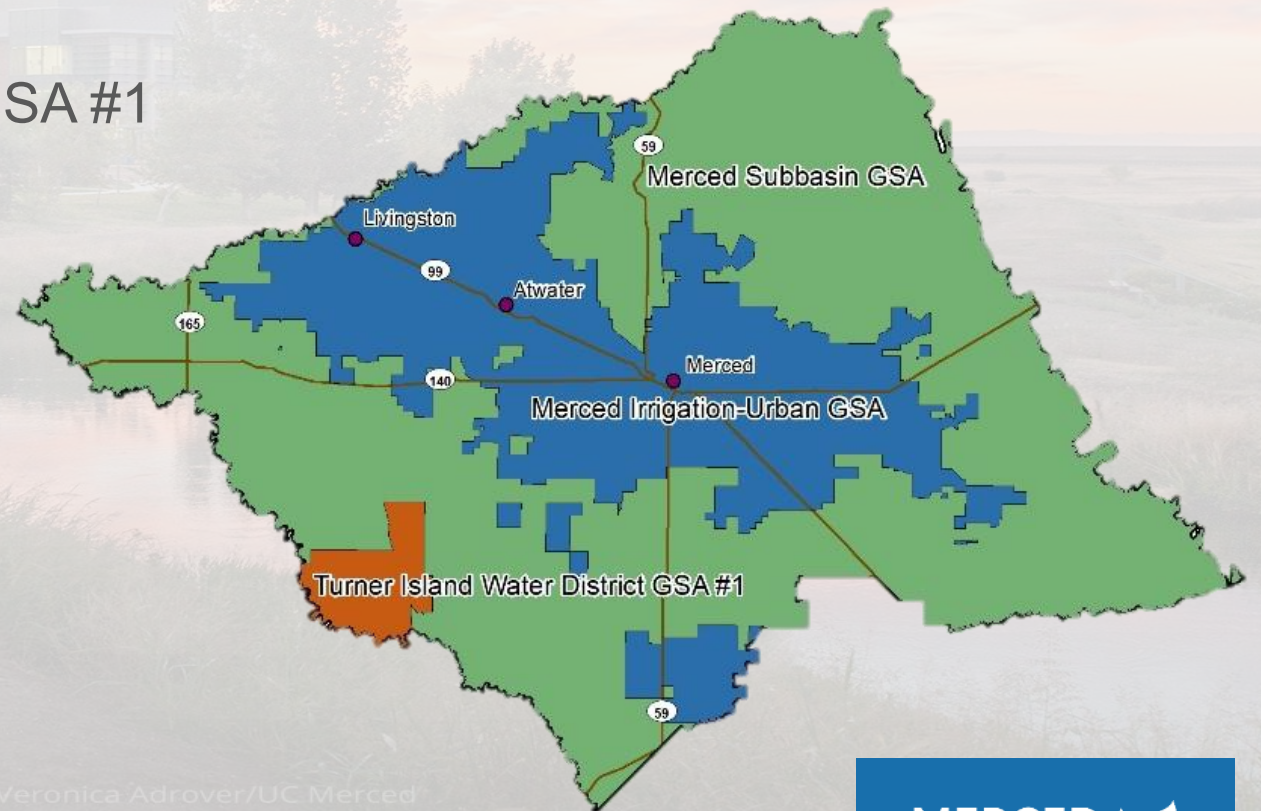


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Current Basin Conditions

- *See separate slide deck with maps and hydrographs*

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Domestic Well Mitigation Program Implementation Update

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Domestic Well Mitigation Program Development Update

- All 3 GSAs adopted the Domestic Well Mitigation Program in early 2026.
 - Action by GSAs adopted policy, but did not include program documents such as application, agreements, etc.
- GSAs finalizing application forms and other program documents;
- Anticipate a Memorandum of Understanding or similar to define cost-share, administration, and other roles and responsibilities.
- Currently aware of 3 potential requests for reimbursement.

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Update on Subsidence Management

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

GSAs met with DWR in May 2026

Key highlights heard from DWR:

Timing

Action cannot wait until near 2040

Infrastructure

Consultation to identify what facilities can withstand

Critical head

Levels above critical head minimize subsidence, including residual
Nothing in the BMP hardwires an expectation that the minimum threshold must be set at critical head

Residual subsidence

Define rates and communicate them to infrastructure owners

Adjacent basins

Merced subsidence should not add to neighboring cumulative totals

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

2025 GSP Deemed Incomplete (10/8/2026)

1. Identify the total cumulative subsidence & consider whether that would substantially interfere with land surface uses and users in the Subbasin so as to constitute an undesirable result.
 1. Supported by info on effects of subsidence on land surface and groundwater beneficial uses and users.
 2. Analyze and discuss management options that could minimize future subsidence.
2. Thorough analysis demonstrating to a reasonable degree of accuracy that the water level SMC are consistent with the subsidence SMC.
 1. If not, revise the SMC for groundwater levels or reassess the timing of project and management actions to account for subsidence impacts.



Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

SMC = Sustainable Management Criteria

2025 GSP SMCs for Subsidence + Groundwater

Sustainability Indicator	Minimum Threshold (MT)	Interim Milestone (IM)	Measurable Objective (MO)	Undesirable Result
Land Subsidence	0 ft/year, subject to uncertainty of +/-0.16 ft/year	2025: -0.75 ft/year 2030: -0.5 ft/year 2035: -0.25 ft/year	0 ft/year	Exceedance of MT at 3 or more representative sites for 2 consecutive years
Groundwater Levels	Fall 2015 groundwater elevation	Based on range of projected values that account for hydrologic uncertainty	November or October 2011 groundwater elevation (measured, or estimation if historical record not available)	Greater than 25% of representative wells below MT in 2 consecutive years

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

SMC = Sustainable Management Criteria

Critical Head – from DWR's Land Subsidence BMP

- What is Critical Head?
 - **Critical Head** - Groundwater level threshold below which permanent compaction of fine-grained sediments may occur.
- How is Critical Head Estimated?
 - Subsidence data are used to identify **rebound periods**, during which the land surface rebounds (aquifer system expands).
 - The **lowest groundwater level** associated with these rebound periods is used to estimate critical head.
- What Can It Be Used For?
 - Provides a groundwater level target that can help inform subsidence management.

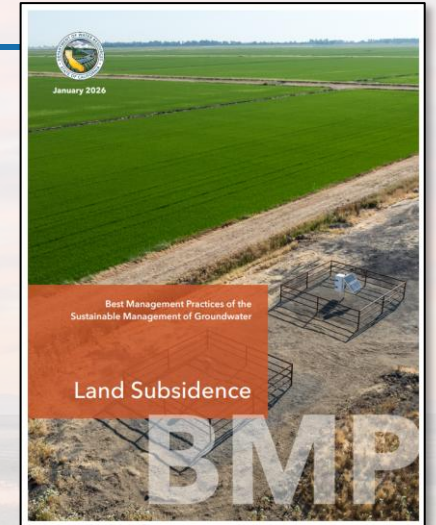
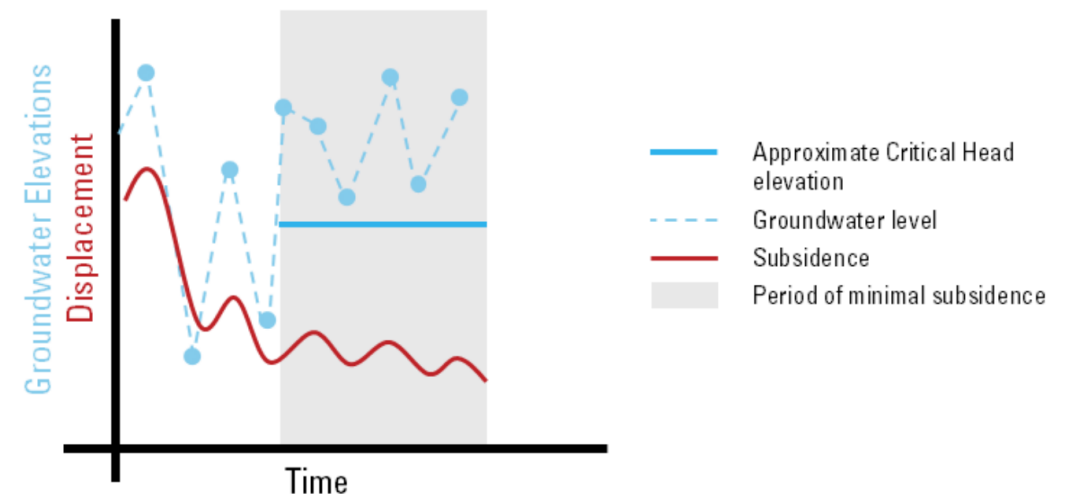
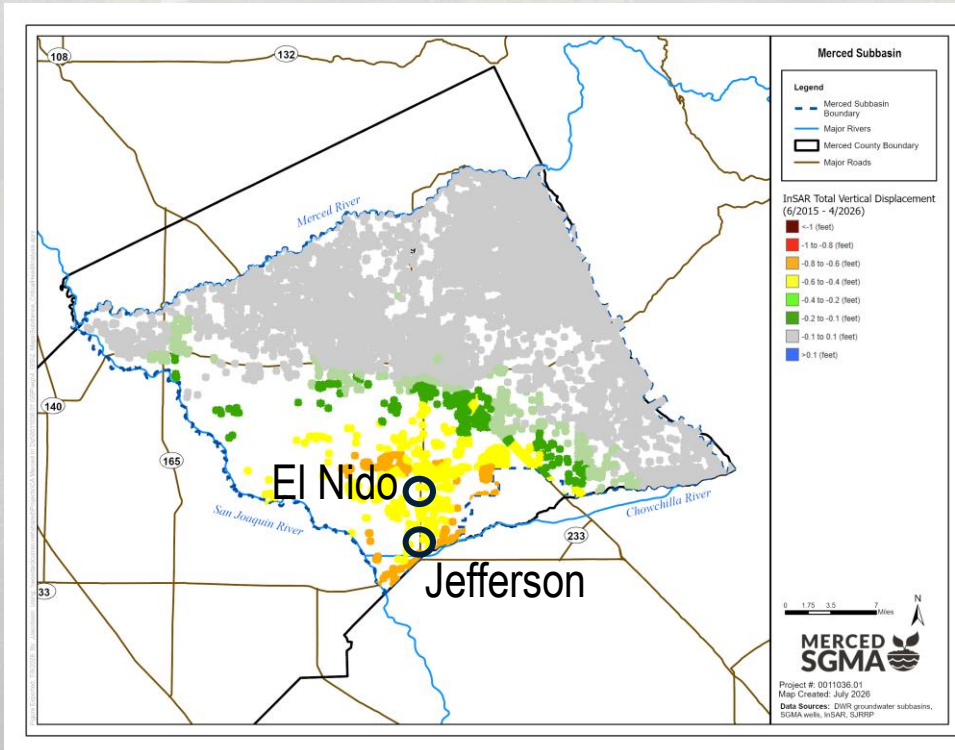


Figure 5-6. Hypothetical Example of the Trend-based Analysis Between Groundwater Levels and Subsidence

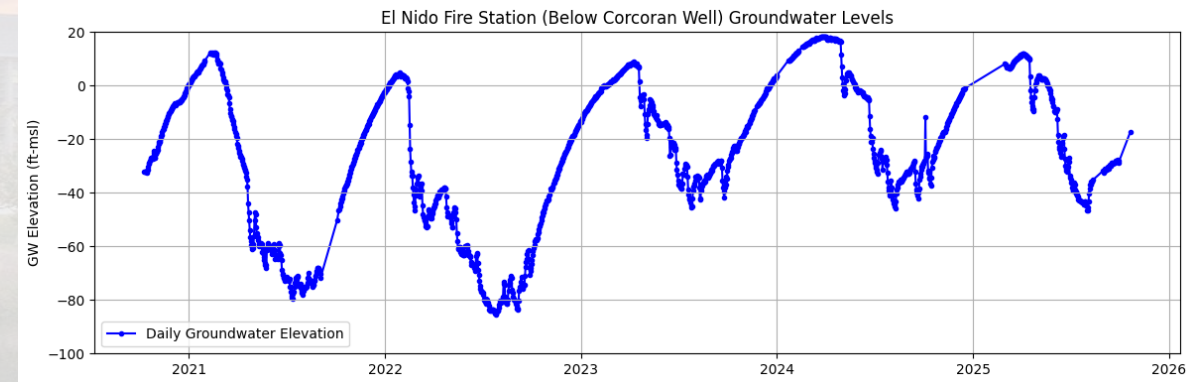


Data Used – Two Wells

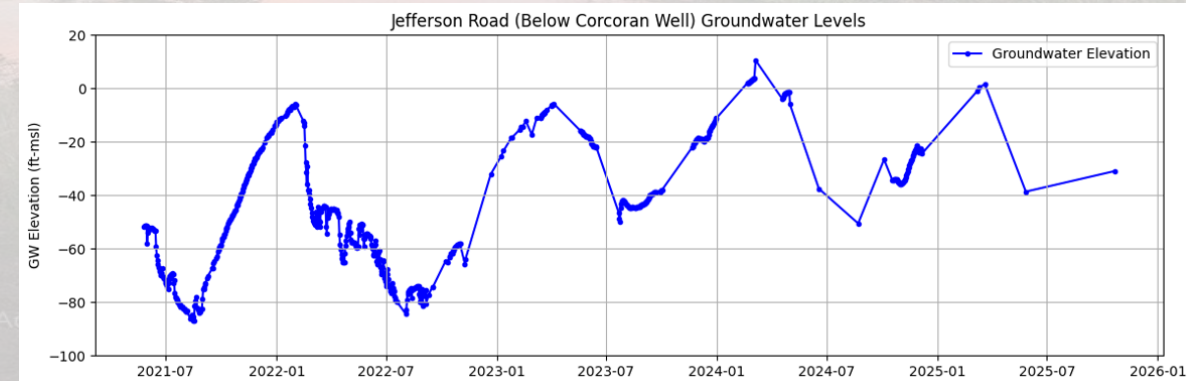
- Subsidence Data:
 - InSAR
 - Monthly frequency: 2015 – present
 - 2003-2015 also available



- Groundwater Level Data (2021-2025):
 - El Nido (Below Corcoran) Well



- Jefferson Rd (Below Corcoran) Well



Critical Head at El Nido Fire Station

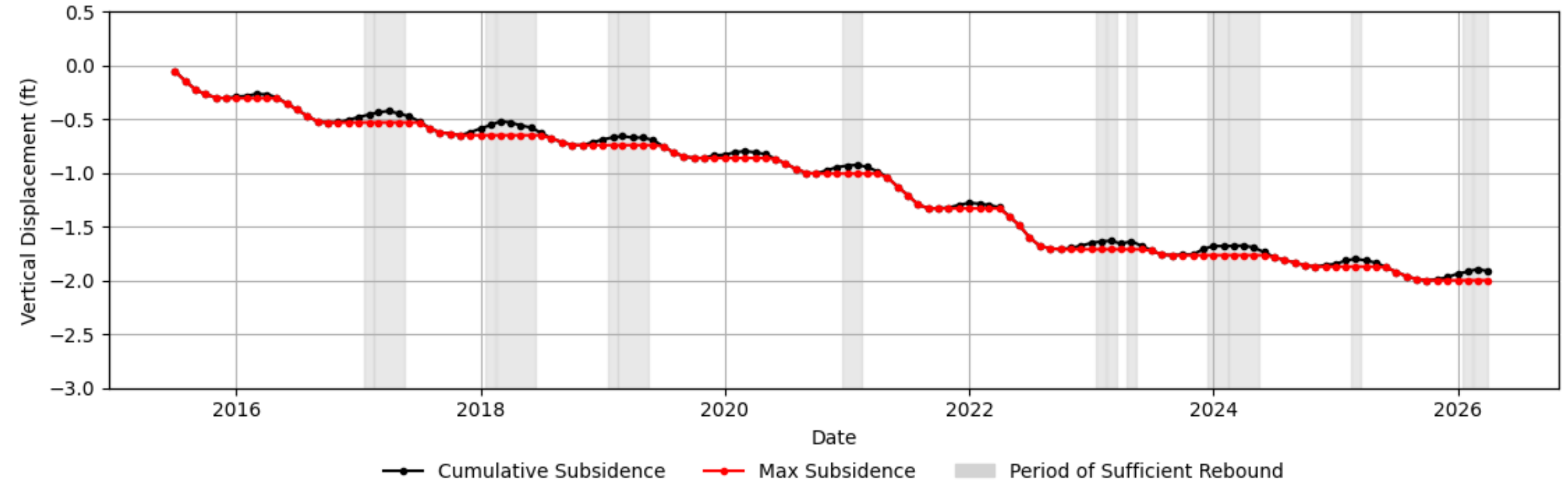


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Critical Head at El Nido Fire Station

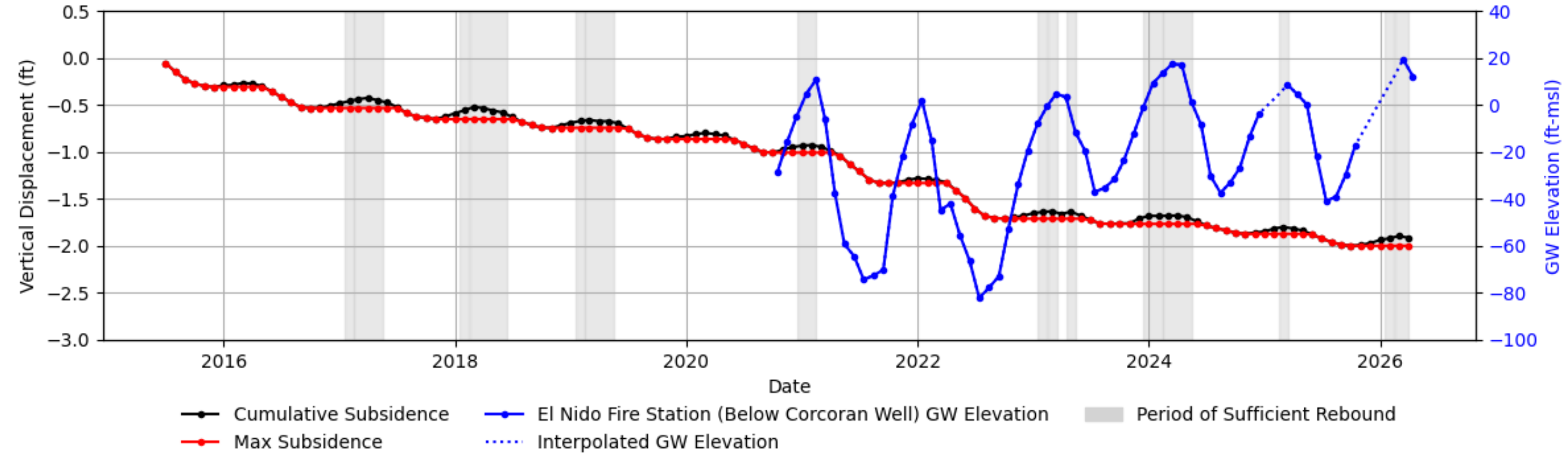


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Critical Head at El Nido Fire Station

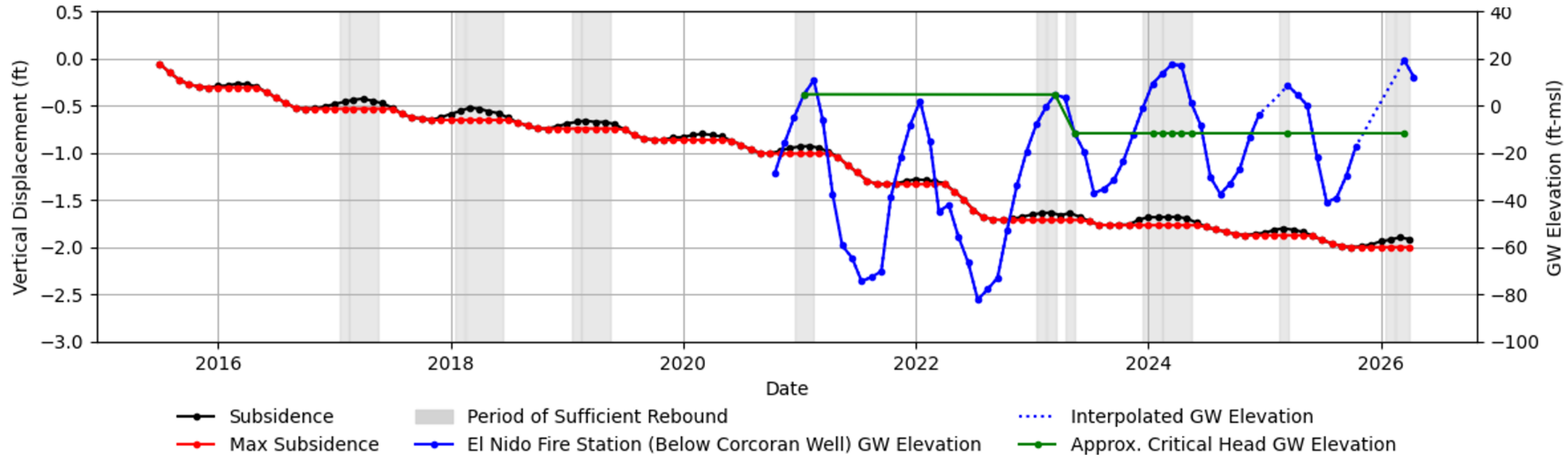


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Current Limitations and Notes

- **Monitoring Frequency:**
 - A minimum frequency of monthly groundwater level and subsidence data are needed
 - Lower frequency datasets may miss rebound periods or not fully capture groundwater conditions during rebound
- **Limited Period of Record:**
 - Short groundwater level records only overlap one or two rebound periods, reducing confidence in the estimated critical head
 - Longer monitoring periods may provide a more robust estimate
- **Critical Head will Change over Time**
 - Critical head will lower over time as clays completely compact
 - Rate is dependent on the thickness and properties of the clays and is difficult to quantify

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Regional consistency

Chowchilla

- 2 ft cumulative by 2040, then zero, measured from December 2023
- Infrastructure considered, including wells, Mendota Dam, and Sack Dam
- Facilities generally more tolerant of subsidence than Delta-Mendota's 2-foot threshold

Returned to DWR, June 2025

Delta-Mendota

- 0.2 ft/yr with 2 ft cumulative by 2040, measured from 2020
- 2 ft cumulative from USBR design allowance
- Value adopted from the facility owner's design work

Returned to DWR, April 2026

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

USBR Channel Capacity Report – Eastside Bypass

- 2015 study on subsidence evaluated impacts of ongoing subsidence through 2031
- HEC-RAS simulation of flows at 2,500 cfs (fisheries-based requirement) identified reaches where subsidence resulted in water surface elevation above US Army Corps criteria:
 - Reach F, 5.4 feet of subsidence, WSE above criteria by 0.1 feet
 - Reach L, 3.4 feet of subsidence, WSE above criteria by 0.1 feet
 - Reach O, 5.0 feet of subsidence, WSE above criteria by 2.9 feet
- Reach O did not meet criteria in 2016, scheduled for improvements by 2020

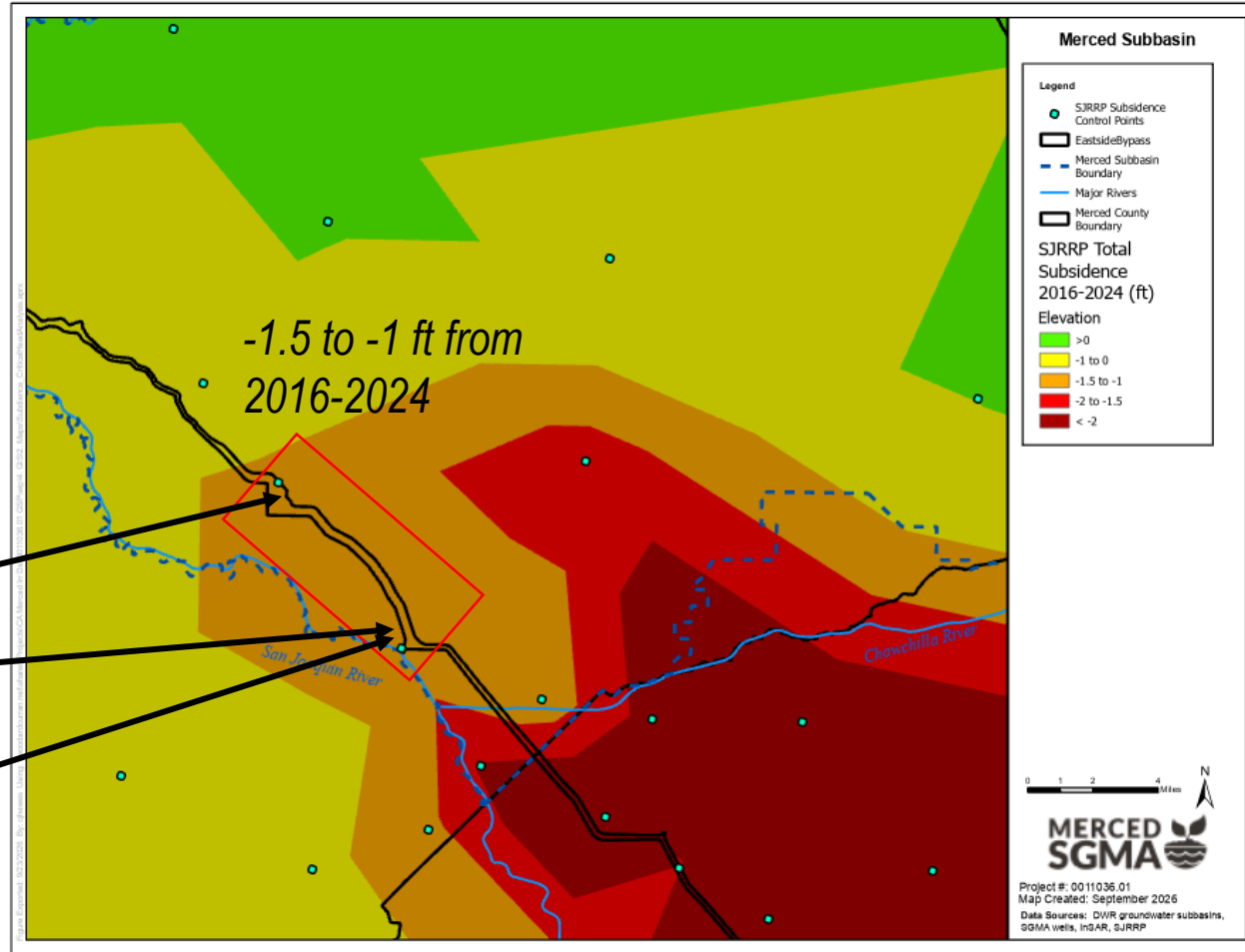


Image courtesy of

WSE = water surface elevation

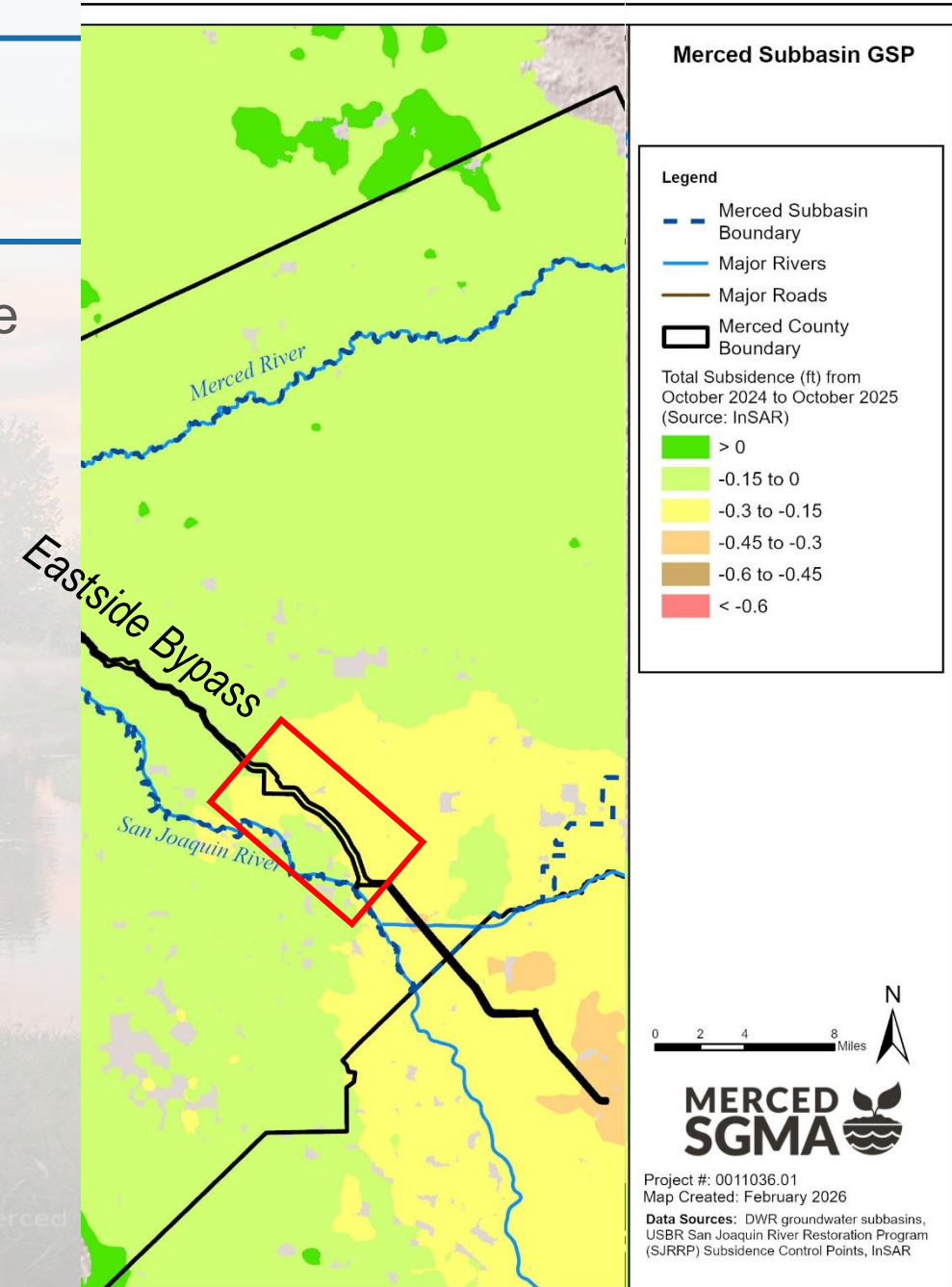
SJRRP = San Joaquin River Restoration Program



Cumulative Subsidence

- To be protective of infrastructure, the GSAs are considering adopting a 2 feet cumulative total subsidence minimum threshold
 - Measured at sensitive reach of Eastside Bypass
 - Baseline of December 2023
 - Consistent with channel capacity criteria and surrounding subbasins.
 - Subject to further infrastructure investigation
- GSAs will also switch to InSAR for monitoring now that the San Joaquin River Restoration Program monitoring has been sunset
- Consideration to be given for remainder of the Subbasin

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Subsidence during Plan Implementation

- Groundwater levels are often below estimated critical head
- Subsidence will continue until groundwater levels are above critical head
- Preliminary estimation of critical head has been finished, but subject to uncertainty
- Projecting future subsidence during implementation is challenging and subject to uncertainty
- An adaptive management approach to demand reduction is likely the best method to address subsidence given uncertainty. This can be combined with improvements in tools to better estimate future subsidence under different management scenarios
- Will likely require an increase or acceleration of demand reduction, together with other knobs to reduce sub-Corcoran pumping – driven by subsidence data
- Must come to agreement on approach to subsidence management to avoid potential state intervention.

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Next Steps

- Meet with DWR to discuss the analyses and Plan revisions needed to address the corrective action.
- Research and document critical infrastructure sensitive to subsidence
- Analyze relationship between existing projected groundwater levels against critical head elevations and subsidence
- Consider changes to projects & management actions
- Meetings between GSAs and with this group
- Develop and adopt revised GSP by the 180 day deadline, April 6, 2027

High-level schedule:

Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Meeting with DWR about potential GSP edits	Next CC/SAC Meeting	GSP Edits	Additional CC/SAC Meeting and/or Public Workshop	Adoption by the GSA Boards	Revised GSP due 4/6/2027



Proposition 4 Grant Opportunities Update

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Water Funding in Proposition 4

Safe Drinking Water, Drought, Flood, and Water Resilience is organized into three sub-chapters plus two standalone programs (§91040 Stream Flow, \$150M; §91045 Education, \$20M).

§91010

Water Supply &
Water Quality

\$1.885B 50% of §91000

- Drinking water & water quality
- Recycling & reuse
- Groundwater banking & recharge
- Storage, desal, conveyance
- Ag & urban conservation

§91020

Flood Risk &
Stormwater

\$1.140B 30% of §91000

- Flood management projects
- Dam safety & resilience
- Multi-benefit urban stormwater

§91030+

Watershed,
Rivers & Streams

\$775M 20% of §91000

- Integrated regional water mgmt
- River & watershed restoration
- Salton Sea management
- Stream flow enhancement

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Relevant for today's presentation

Bond Requirements for Sustainable Groundwater

- Minimum of \$25 million for Tribes
- Minimum of 40% of bond funds must go to projects directly benefitting disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations
- \$386.25 million* available, split into two components:

\$193.125 Million

Projects that support SGMA implementation

\$193.125 Million

Projects that support conjunctive use and groundwater recharge

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

*Bond section totals include state operation and bond costs and do not reflect local assistance totals.

Eligible Projects

- Eligible projects are those that increase groundwater storage, improve the management and operation of groundwater storage, or are for groundwater banking, and support implementation of SGMA.
- Eligible project types must include one or more of the activities listed below. All projects must be consistent with the groups GSP or alternative to a GSP.
 - Recharge/Conjunctive Use Projects
 - Subsidence BMP Implementation Actions
 - Addressing DWR Recommended Corrective Actions
 - Ag Land Adaptation Projects
 - Conveyance Projects
 - Other Implementation Projects

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

SGM Draft Solicitation Documents

ELIGIBILITY

One Application
per Basin

1 *application per basin*

TIMING

Time to Complete
or Replace

5 years *from award date*

- Includes project administration and closeout

STRUCTURE

Multiple Projects,
One Proposal

\$15M *maximum request*

- One proposal can bundle multiple projects and sponsors
- Each project needs its own work plan, budget, and schedule
- No more than \$1.5M for GSP updates

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

How Proposals Are Scored

Readiness 17

Benefits 7

Policy 9

3

17 pts

Project Readiness

Complete application (2) · work plan (5) · realistic schedule (3) · land/easements (1) · studies and permits (3) · supported budget (3)

7 pts

Benefit Documentation

Estimated annual recharge/storage in acre-feet (3) · clear, verifiable calculations (4)

9 pts

Policy Priorities

Climate protection for vulnerable communities (4) · Tribal benefit (2) · Conservation Corps use (2) · at least 5% non-state funds (1)

3 pts

Project Breadth

Multiple eligible activities (2) · addresses all three conjunctive-use benefits (1)

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Next Steps – Potential Prop 4 Grant Proposal

(application likely not due until mid-2027)

- Recharge
 - Implement recharge projects
 - Identify additional areas that can receive surface water from existing rivers or canals
 - EM survey of areas for recharge suitability and improved model characterization of clays for 1D modeling
 - Identification of recharge opportunities – FloodMAR, basins, etc. – based on subsurface characteristics and water availability/rights
- Monitoring well installation for improved subsurface data (1D modeling) and groundwater level data (critical heads)
- Modeling
 - Develop 1D models, where possible, and tie to an updated MercedMAR
 - Develop MercedMAR/1D model scenarios of management actions to direct activities
- Add subsidence metric to DMS
- Amend GSP and develop companion periodic evaluation

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Discussion:
Do you have a project idea?

Coordination Committee:
direction to consider preparing a
grant application?

Watershed Resilience

- Watershed Resilience Program launched as part of *2023 California Water Plan* to:
 - Study climate risks
 - Create strategies to adapt to challenges
- Viewed as evolution of previous Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Program
- 5 pilots recently completed (\$2M each); summary report released later this year from DWR

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Pilot watersheds include:



Application details are still in the early phase

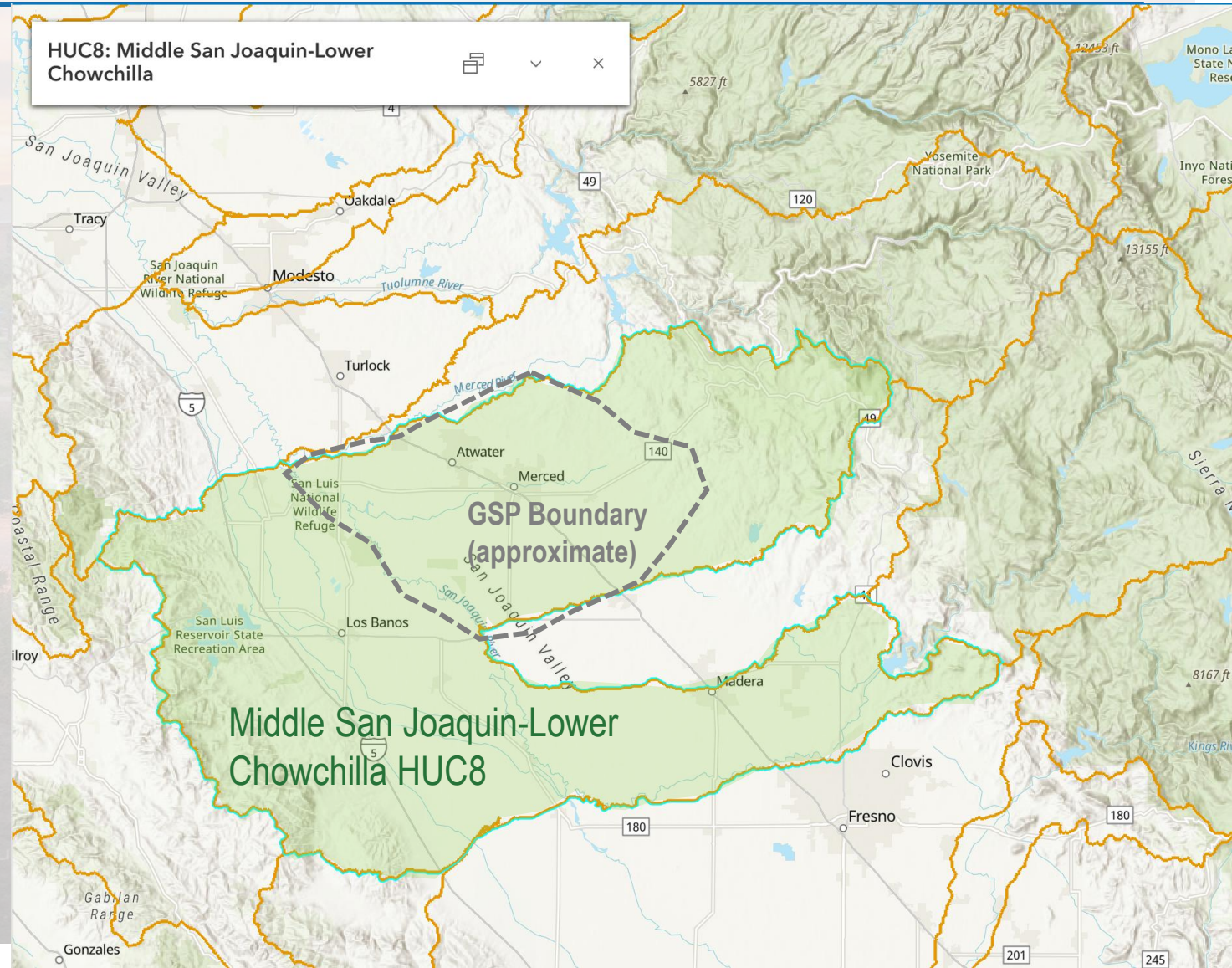
- Application must be made on behalf an established, multi-party group that exists independently of any single project and has collectively agreed on a priority project(s) to pursue.
- \$92.M available for projects, averaging \$8M each (\$3M for Watershed Resilience Plan development + \$5M for immediate implementation of the highest priority project identified in Plan)
- Tentative Schedule
 - Guidelines: Spring 2027
 - Concept application due late 2027
 - Awards Summer 2028

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Geographic Boundaries

- We're hearing that DWR is considering Hydrologic Unit Classification level 8 (HUC8) boundaries, but there may be opportunities to adjust

Coordination Committee:
direction to consider preparing a
grant application?





Next Steps

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

What's coming up next?

- December 2026 meeting: discuss outcome of meeting with DWR and potential edits to GSP
- February 2027 meeting: discuss edits made to GSP

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Merced GSP Joint Coordination & Stakeholder Advisory Committees Meeting

October 21, 2026

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