

Chowchilla Subbasin GSP Advisory Committee

Revisions to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Agenda

- Background
- Stated deficiencies
- Activities to date
- Proposed activities within 180-day consultation period
- Conclusions
- Discussion

Background

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
- Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development
- GSP submission
- Annual reports
- Department of Water Resources (DWR) consultation initiation letter

CHOWCHILLA SUBBASIN

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

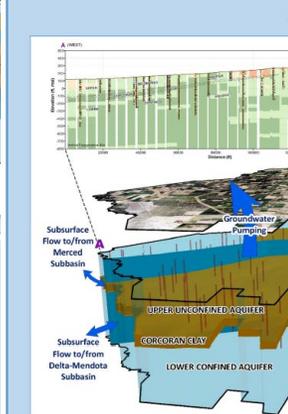
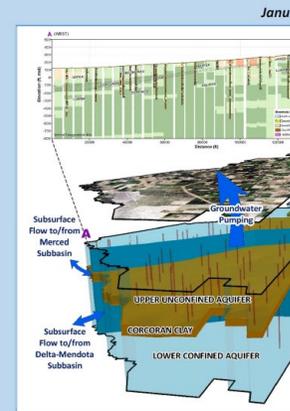
Groundwater Sustainability Plan



CHOWCHILLA SUBBASIN

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)

Annual Report



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT OFFICE
 901 P Street, Room 313-B | Sacramento, CA 95814 | P.O. Box 942836 | Sacramento, CA 94236-0001

November 18, 2021

Doug Welch
 Chowchilla Subbasin Plan Manager
 327 S. Chowchilla Blvd., Chowchilla, CA 93610
 dwelch@cwdwater.com

RE: Chowchilla Subbasin - 2020 Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Dear Doug Welch,

The Chowchilla Water District, Madera County, County of Merced Chowchilla, and Triangle T Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) submitted the Chowchilla Subbasin (Subbasin) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to the Department of Water Resources (Department) for evaluation and assessment as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).¹

Department staff have substantially completed an initial review of the GSP and have identified potential deficiencies (see the enclosed document) that may preclude the Department's approval.² Department staff have also developed potential corrective actions³ for each potential deficiency. The potential deficiencies do not necessarily represent all deficiencies or discrepancies that the Department may identify in the GSP but focus on those deficiencies that staff believe, if not addressed, could lead to a determination that the GSP is incomplete or inadequate. This letter initiates consultation between the Department and the GSAs regarding the time needed to address the potential deficiencies and corrective actions. The Department will issue a final determination as described under the GSP Regulations⁴ no later than January 29, 2022.

If the Department determines the GSP to be incomplete, the deficiencies precluding approval would need to be addressed within a period not to exceed 180 days from the determination. A determination of incomplete would allow the GSAs to formally address identified deficiencies and submit a revised GSP to the Department for further review and evaluation. Department staff will contact you before making the final determination to discuss the potential deficiencies and the amount of time needed by the GSAs to address the potential corrective actions detailed in the enclosed document.

Materials submitted to the Department to address deficiencies must be part of the GSP. The GSAs must justify that any materials submitted are part of the revised GSP; this justification is also part of the submittal. To facilitate the Department's review of the

¹ Water Code § 10720 et seq.

² 23 CCR § 355.2(e)(2).

³ 23 CCR § 355.2(e)(2)(B).

⁴ 23 CCR Division 2, Chapter 1.5, Subchapter 2.

Deficiencies

- On November 18, 2021, DWR completed an initial review of the Chowchilla Subbasin GSP and submitted a letter to the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) identifying three potential deficiencies that may preclude DWR's approval of the GSP:
 - (1) insufficient information to support the selection of chronic lowering of **groundwater levels** sustainable management criteria,
 - (2) insufficient information to support the selection of **land subsidence** sustainable management criteria, and
 - (3) insufficient information to support the determination that **interconnected surface water** or undesirable results related to depletions of interconnected surface water are not present and are not likely to occur in the Chowchilla Subbasin.

Activities To Date

- GSA meetings
 - November 23, 2021
 - December 13, 2021
- DWR meetings
 - December 3, 2021
 - January 11, 2022
- Developed DRAFT Davids Engineering, Inc. (DE) and Lohdorff and Scalmanini Consulting Engineers (LSCE) Proposal for revisions during the 180-day consultation period

Activities Within 180-day Consultation Period

- DRAFT DE and LSCE Proposal
 - 6 tasks (2 Optional tasks)
 - Task 1: Participate in Project Technical Meetings
 - Task 2: Perform Project Management
 - Task 3: Complete GSP Text Revisions
 - Task 4: Complete Additional Non-modeling Analyses
 - **Task 5: Perform Additional Modeling (Optional)**
 - **Task 6: Support Development of Domestic Well Mitigation Program (Optional)**

Activities Within 180-day Consultation Period (Cont.....)

- Task 1: Participate in Project Technical Meetings
 - Monthly meetings with GSAs
 - Monthly meetings with DWR
 - GSP Advisory Committee meetings
- Task 2: Perform Project Management
 - Day-to-day project management of the DE Team
 - Coordination with GSA staff, DWR, and others as may be required
 - General project management tasks – track task progress, schedule, and budget

Activities Within 180-day Consultation Period (Cont.....)

- Task 3: Complete GSP Text Revisions
 - Groundwater levels
 - Subsidence
 - Interconnected surface water
- Task 4: Complete Additional Non-modeling Analyses
 - Groundwater levels
 - Subsidence
 - Interconnected surface water

Activities Within 180-day Consultation Period (Cont.....)

- **Task 5: Perform Additional Modeling (Optional)**
 - Update hydrology for water years 2016 through 2021
 - Evaluate the Integrated Water Flow Model (IWFM) subsidence module capabilities to simulate residual subsidence, and implement and calibrate subsidence module
 - Summarize results and model output
- **Task 6: Support Development of Domestic Well Mitigation Program (Optional)**
 - Define mitigation measures (e.g., deepening wells, replacing wells, expansion of municipal water service to domestic well owners, etc.), costs, distribution of costs, implementation review process, how to integrate in with other existing assistance programs, and identify funding options.

Activities Within 180-day Consultation Period (Cont.....)

Task Number	Task Name	Estimated Total Cost
1	Participate in Project Technical Meetings	\$60,470
2	Perform Project Management	\$16,452
3	Complete GSP Text Revisions	\$62,552
4	Complete Additional Non-modeling Analyses	\$99,562
5	Perform Additional Modeling (Optional)	\$68,800
6	Support Development of Domestic Well Mitigation Program (Optional)	\$28,470
Tasks 1-4		\$239,036
Tasks 1-6		\$336,306

Conclusions

- Tasks 1-4 = \$239,036
- Optional Tasks 5 and 6 = \$97,270
- Uncertainty
- Continued coordination with GSAs regarding scope/budget
- Time and materials
- Prop 68

Discussion