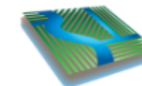




Chowchilla Subbasin
*Groundwater Demand Management
(GDM) and Subsidence Mitigation*
Madera County GSA Meeting

April 14, 2026



DAVIDS
ENGINEERING, INC



Luhdorff & Scalmanini
Consulting Engineers

Agenda

- Background
- Groundwater Demand Management (GDM)
- Take-aways
- Next Steps
- Questions

Background

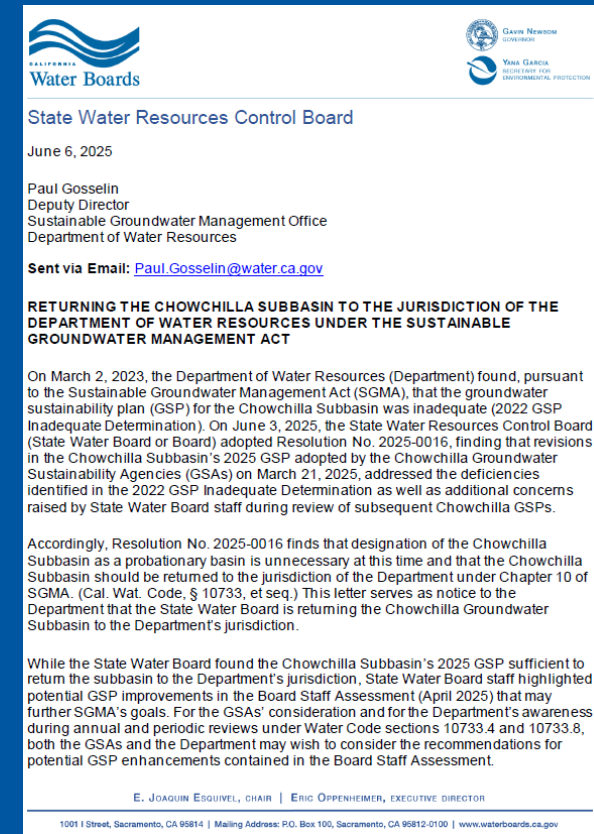
- Initial Chowchilla Subbasin (Subbasin) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) submitted to the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) in January 2020.
- Revised on three occasions:
 - First revision: July 2022 (Addressing DWR incomplete determination)
 - Second revision: May 2023 (Addressing DWR inadequate determination)
 - Third revision: January 2025 (Addressing SWRCB comments upon return to DWR)
- Significant coordination with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

Background (Cont.....)

- What we heard from the SWRCB:
 - The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Subbasin must provide a “backstop” (with specific triggers) to halt overdraft and subsidence.
 - The GSAs must consider financial mitigation for subsidence impacts, as necessary.
- GSAs’ Response:
 - Develop a GDM and Subsidence Mitigation Measures Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
 - Develop GDM and Subsidence Mitigation Measures – ready for implementation no later than January 1, 2026.

Background (Cont.....)

- Commitments in MOU (2025 Revised GSP Appendix 3N)
 - Components to develop include:
 - Specific measures (voluntary, mandatory; existing GSA programs vs. new programs)
 - Specific triggers
 - Proportionate responsibility
 - Funding/financing
 - Budget cycle and review
 - Program implementation and management
 - Public outreach, engagement
 - Coordination with existing programs in Chowchilla Subbasin and surrounding region
- Allowed for Subbasin to be sent back to DWR on June 3, 2025.



Groundwater Demand Management

- Potential (Additional) Mandatory Measures:

Table 2-3. Potential Mandatory Measures for GDM and Subsidence Mitigation.

GSA	Existing Mandatory Measure Name	Potential Mandatory Measure (Potential Refinements Within Focused Areas if Triggers Conditions Occur)
CWD GSA	Groundwater Extraction Fee Program	Potentially adjust fee tiers, increase fee rates, modify extraction thresholds, and/or link fee tiers and rates to the severity or spatial extent of trigger occurrences. Potentially implement together with a Surface Water Incentive Program
Madera County GSA	Demand Management Program (with associated allocation, penalties, and recharge policies)	Potentially adjust transitional water to reduce groundwater extraction within focused areas, and/or set lower aquifer groundwater extraction limits within focused areas where subsidence risks are elevated. Potentially require measurement of wells used for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).
Merced County GSA	Demand Management Program (consistent with Madera County GSA)	Program implementation and refinements consistent with Madera County GSA
Triangle T Water District GSA	Subsidence Control Measures Agreement (with associated lower aquifer groundwater extraction limits) and forthcoming operating agreement	Potentially adjust lower aquifer groundwater extraction limits within focused areas where subsidence risks are elevated, refine the geographic extent of lower aquifer pumping restrictions, and/or strengthen monitoring requirements to ensure continued compliance

Subsidence Mitigation – Triggers and Trigger Action

- Triggers

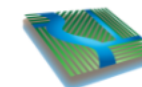
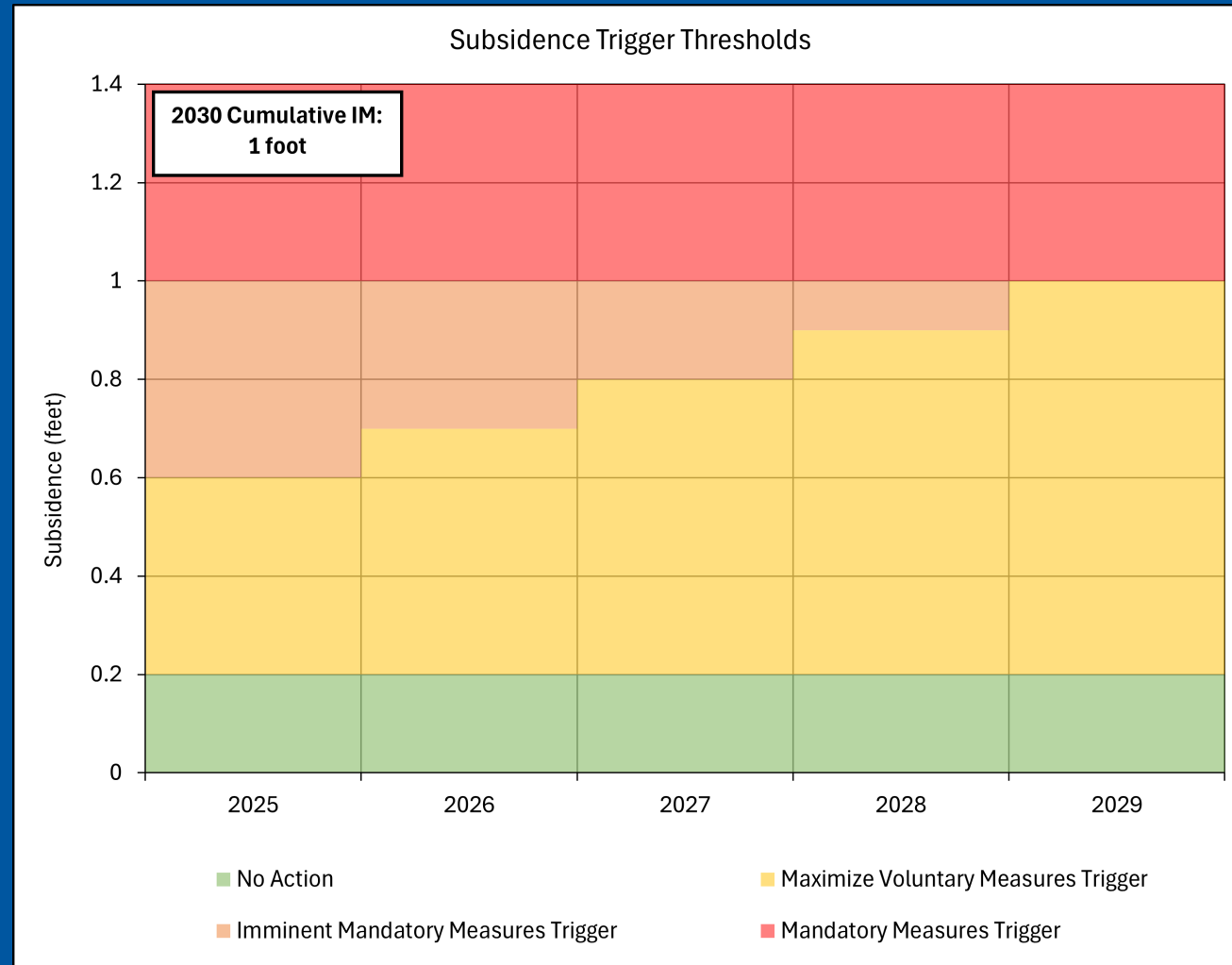
- Red Light/Mandatory Measures Trigger
- Orange Light/Imminent Mandatory Measures Trigger
- Yellow Light/Maximize Use of Voluntary Measures Trigger
- Green Light/No Action

- Requirement to Trigger Action

- Subsidence trigger thresholds at two RMS have been exceeded in the same year.

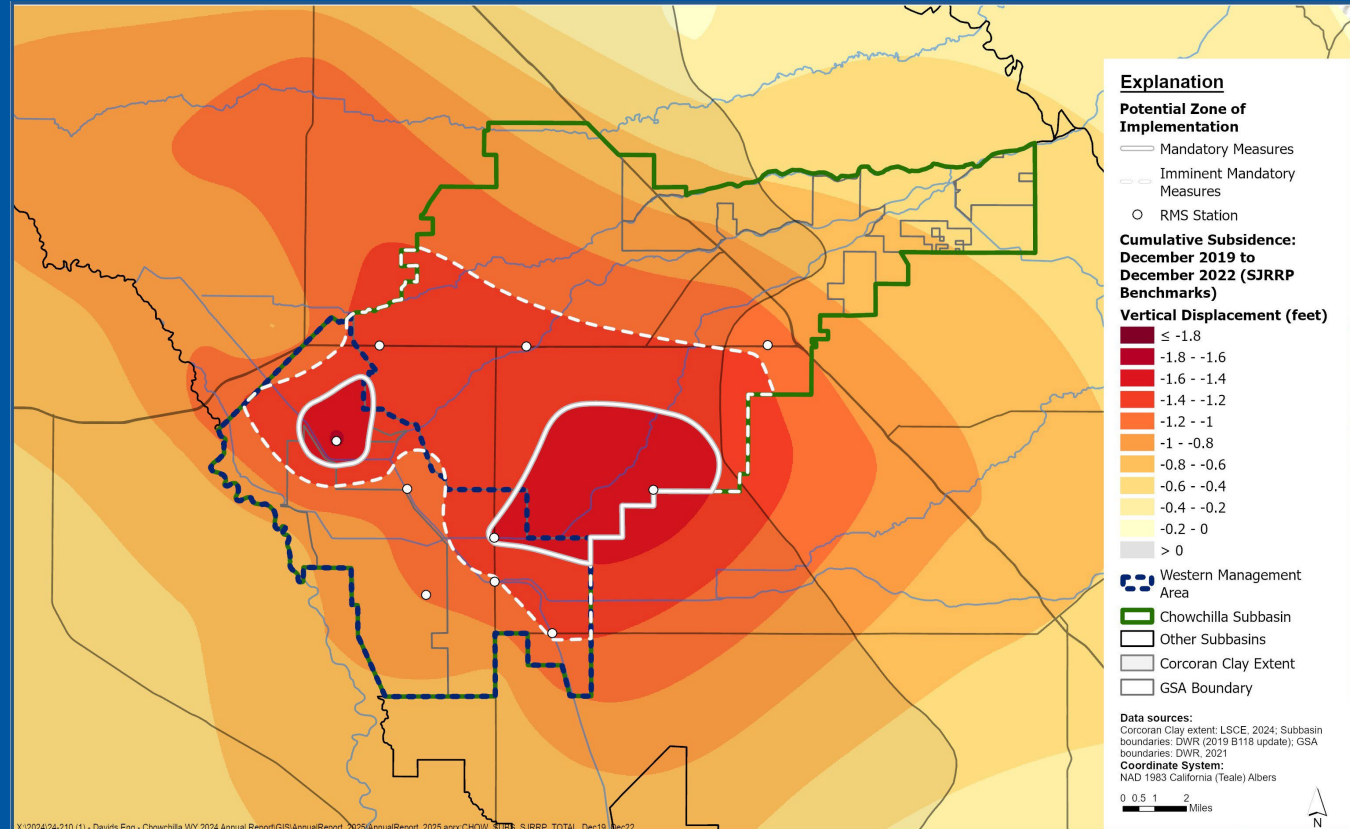
- Requirement to End Action

- Two consecutive years below the threshold



Spatial Extent of Triggered Action

- Mandatory Measures boundary line to be drawn around mandatory measures trigger threshold
 - ex. For 2025-2030 period, around 1-foot of subsidence contour line
- Imminent Mandatory Measures boundary line to be drawn around secondary threshold
 - This area will be notified that an exceedance has occurred nearby and mandatory measures may be necessary within 1-year
- Include any parcels with 50% or more of area within the boundary line



Takeaways

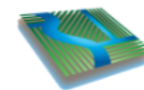
- GDM and subsidence mitigation measures required by the SWRCB, primary mechanism to avoid probationary status.
- Implementation ONLY if conditions warrant.
 - Not a one size fits all.
 - Geographically focused.
 - Different approaches in each GSA.
- Have “runway” for continued program refinement and additional public collaboration.

Next Steps

- GSA governing body review and consideration.
- Included the GDM Report in Water Year 2025 Annual Report.
- Continue to monitor conditions within the Subbasin.
- Additional mandatory measure refinement, as necessary (adaptive management).
- Stakeholder outreach.
- Implementation ONLY if conditions warrant.



Questions?



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