



Butte Valley Groundwater Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday August 30, 2023

Call to Order, Introductions

Don Bowen (Vice Chair), Residential

Steve Burton, CDFW Butte Valley Wildlife Refuge

Don Crawford, Private Pumper

Greg Herman, Private Pumper

Randy Jertberg, Private Pumper

Steve Lutz, Butte Valley Irrigation District

Richard Nelson (Chair), Private Pumper

VACANT, City of Dorris

VACANT, Environmental/Conservation

VACANT, Tribal Representative

Agenda

- 3:05 Approval of Past Meeting Summary
- 3:10 Public Comment Period – Non-Agenda Items, including Updates from Committee Members and Other Agencies
- 3:25 DWR Updates
- 3:30 District Staff Updates
- 3:40 Committee Discussion on Updated Draft Well Permitting Process
- 4:15 Break
- 4:25 Presentation on Basin Conditions and the DWR SGM Round 2 Grant Award
- 5:00 Updates on Groundwater Related Projects
- 5:30 Open Committee Member Discussion
- 5:55 Closing, Action Items, and Future Agenda Items
- 6:00 Adjourn, Form Ad Hoc Groups

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items and Updates from Other Agencies

This time is to receive public comments on items not on the consent agenda. If your comment concerns an agenda item, please address the Committee after that item is covered.

This time is also reserved for staff from other agencies to provide updates to the Committee on activities related to groundwater, which may include the State or Regional Water Board, CDFW, and others.

DWR Updates

District Staff Updates

Siskiyou County Groundwater Well Application Process Guidelines

GSA Butte, Scott and Shasta Valley Groundwater Advisory Committee
meetings

August 29-31st, 2023

Why we're here – Executive Order

N-3-23 - Paragraph 9 of Executive Order N-7-22 is withdrawn and replaced with the following text:

- To protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not:
 - a) Approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium- or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan; or
 - b) Issue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is **(1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.**
- This Paragraph shall not apply to permits for wells (i) that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, (ii) that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code, or (iii) that are replacing existing, currently permitted wells with new wells that will produce an equivalent quantity of water as the well being replaced when the existing well is being replaced because it has been acquired by eminent domain or acquired while under threat of condemnation.

Why we're here – Public Trust/CEQA

- Public Trust Doctrine
- CEQA
- *Eventual State Legislation?*

Staff updates

- Language referencing SWRCB Emergency Regulations will be updated as situation changes
- Provide more detail description and clarification for “de minimis” domestic and/or stockwater wells
- Update definitions and also text to clarify replacement, emergency, deepening terms that constitute approval or not
- Evaluation Matrix’s
 - Table for evaluating impacts to “nearby” wells that correlates GPM to Distance from nearby well
 - Scott/Shasta Public Trust – Mapping to show transmittal times

Staff updates

- Scott Valley - new adjudicated wells not subject to GSA review
- Discussion of potential recommendation for production all well applications Countywide seek professional to begin evaluation process under 9(b)
- Indemnifications under discussion to include or not
- Ministerial (exempt) wells
 - Domestic or stockwater for use under 2 acre-ft per year
 - Municipal/Public (per water code)
 - Monitoring
 - Injection
- In the future, the County will be exploring a streamlined programmatic approach

Timeline

- First Draft presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 7, 2023
- Discussion item at Tulelake GSA Core Team meeting on March 24, 2023
- Discussion item at Butte, Scott and Shasta Valley groundwater advisory committee meetings on April 25-27
- County staff with assistance from Stantec summarized feedback to the Board of Supervisors on June 20.
 - BOS directed staff to update the document
- 2nd Discussion at August AC meetings, and with Tulelake GSA
- Intentions to bring final document to BOS in October
 - Public will have opportunity to review and comment

Feedback

Break

We'll reconvene in 10 minutes, at approximately 4:15

AUGUST ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Butte Valley Groundwater Advisory Committee Meeting



LARRY WALKER
ASSOCIATES
science | policy | solutions



Topics

- Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Grant Program's SGMA Implementation Round 2 Funding- Grant Awards
- Implementation project recap
- Small work group formation
- Monitoring update
- Model Updates
 - Development of new tool for AG water use
 - Model update to current days
 - USGS- model coordination

Implementation Grant Funded Projects (from Draft Awards)

SGMA Compliance and GSP Updates

Fee Study and Economic Analysis

Well Inventory

Monitoring Network

Recharge Feasibility Studies

Implementation Approach



Work group formation



Work groups will oversee project design, progress, and evaluation of results



Updates for each project will be provided to the larger group at quarterly advisory committee meetings

Timeline

2023 Q3

- Formation of work groups in August AC Meetings
- Work groups approve draft project scope and schedule
- Final grant awards expected in September

2023 Q4

- October AC Meetings- review of final funding awards
- Detailed scope and schedule for funded projects provided to Advisory Committee

2024 Q1

- February AC Meetings- updates from project work groups, updates depend on individual project schedules

SGMA Compliance and GSP Updates

GOAL: Ensure that the Butte Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan continues to meet requirements of SGMA and continues to build on monitoring, hydrologic modelling, and outreach efforts.

1. GSA administration
2. Data management
3. GSP updates- comments from DWR with determination
4. Reporting
5. Model updates and scenario evaluation
6. Data gap analysis and monitoring network expansion
7. Outreach & engagement

Fee Study and Economic Analysis

GOAL: Establish a fee program to fund GSP implementation and conduct a comprehensive economic analysis to evaluate baseline conditions and impact of project and management actions.

1. Evaluation of Fee/Rate Options
2. Update and Future Development of Parcel Specific Database of Groundwater Use and Supply
3. Analyze baseline economic conditions
4. Analyze economic conditions for project and management actions
5. Analyze water market

Well Inventory

GOAL: Develop well inventory and a well risk assessment and mitigation program.

1. Well Inventory
 1. Well Records Survey
 2. Well Verification
2. Well Risk Assessment
3. Database Development
4. Monitoring well construction and/or instrumentation

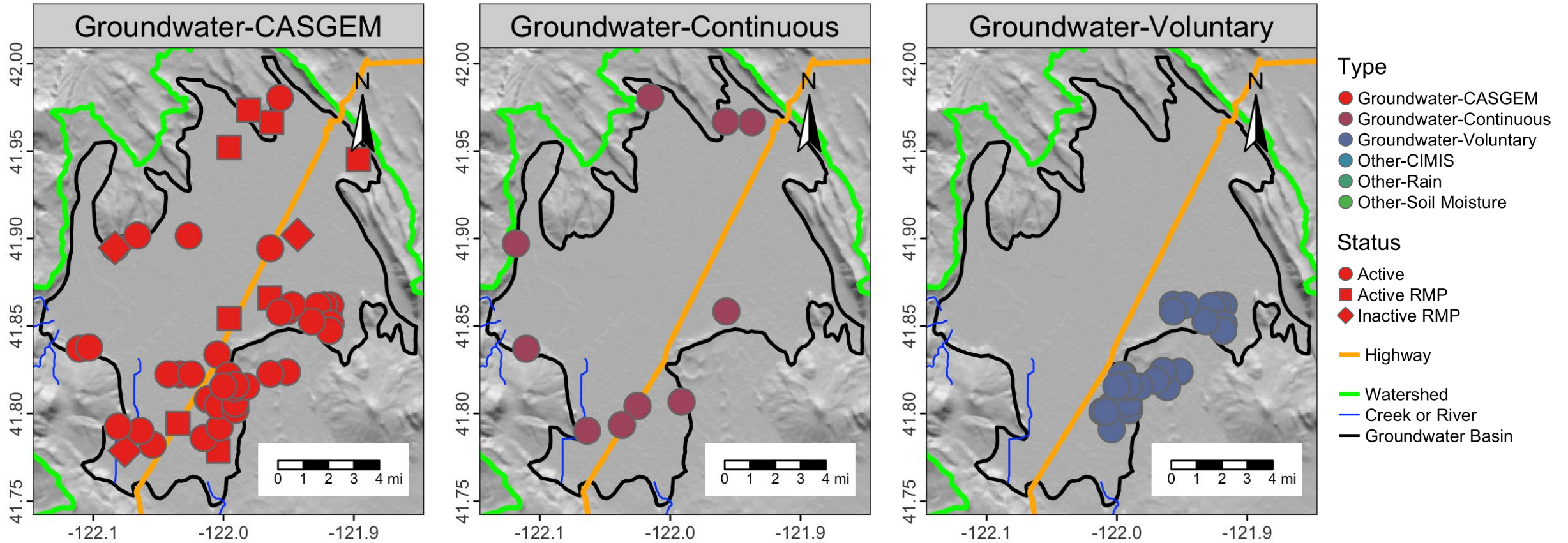
Monitoring Network and Recharge Feasibility

- Monitoring Network
 - Modify and expand monitoring network to fill data gaps identified in the GSP
 - Increased monitoring of: snow, water quality, stream flow, metering, GDEs
- Recharge Feasibility
 - Groundwater recharge studies for improvement of groundwater levels, protecting groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs)
 - Potential recharge from Western juniper removal and improved forest management

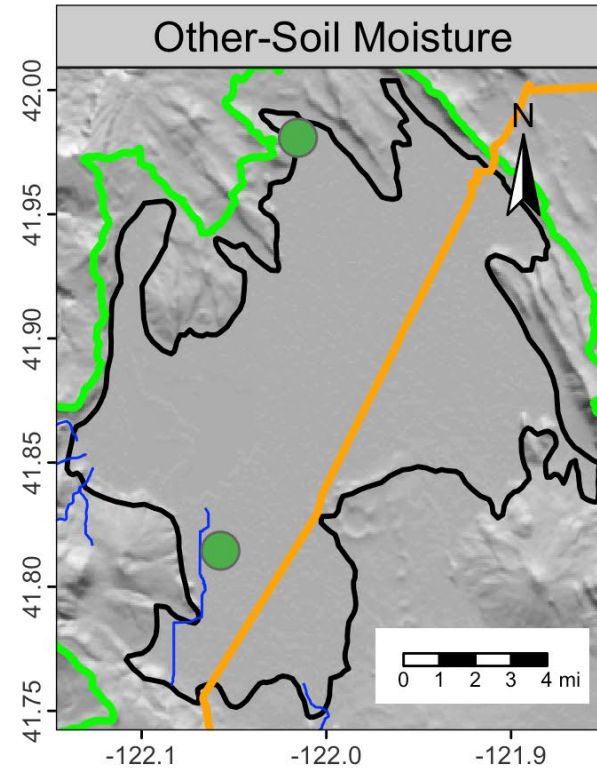
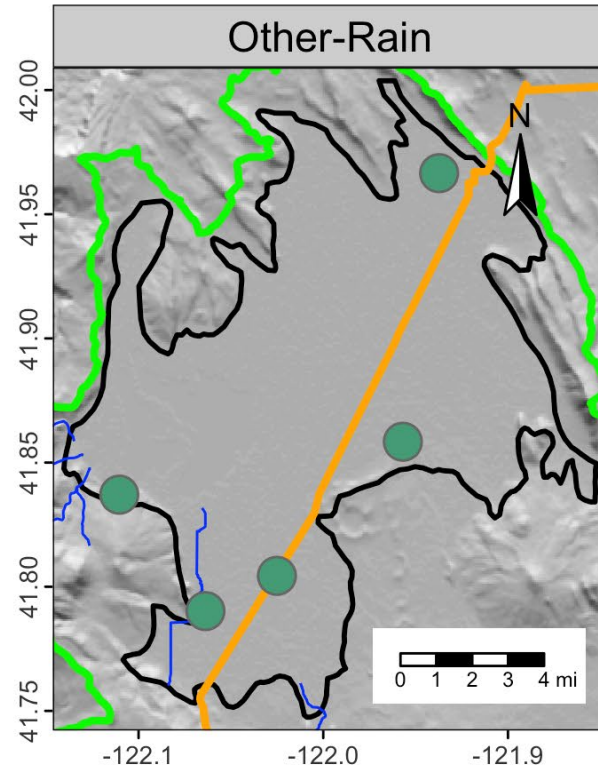
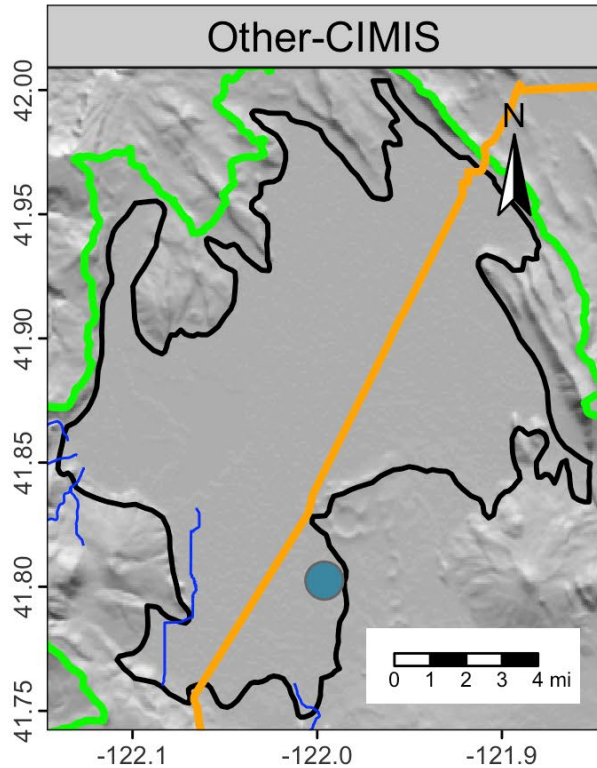
Work Group Formation- Discussion

- Work Groups proposed for
 - **Monitoring Network group**
 - **Well inventory**
 - County-wide, representatives from each basin
 - **Groundwater recharge opportunities**
 - **Others?**

Butte Groundwater Level Monitoring



Additional Monitoring



Type

- Groundwater-CASGEM
- Groundwater-Continuous
- Groundwater-Voluntary
- Other-CIMIS
- Other-Rain
- Other-Soil Moisture

Status

- Active
- Active RMP
- ◆ Inactive RMP

— Highway

— Watershed

— Creek or River

— Groundwater Basin

Looking for a Monitoring Well!

- Must be:
 - In the Mt. Hebron area
 - Around 100 ft deep

If interested, contact Bill Rice at billr@lwa.com

Well Survey Results

- 20 survey responses
- 5 site visits have been completed for wells that need rehabilitation or replacement
- Next steps-complete site visits, obtains quotes for drilling services
- If interested in participating in this project, fill out survey
 - Surveys are available [where to find survey]

Butte Model Update

- New module to estimate agriculture water use
- Updated water budget and updated watershed model (PRMS, originally developed by USGS)
- Model updates to current days
- Coordination with USGS/USBR
- Goal to have updated results by end of October to be presented at the AC meeting



Thank You

Updates on Groundwater Related Projects

Open Committee Member Discussion

Chair to facilitate discussion among Committee Members to remark on the updates provided during today's meeting and provide any recommendations on next steps or actions to GSA staff or Board as appropriate.

Closing, Next Steps, Future Agenda Items

The next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for October 25.

Anticipated topics include:

- Update on Strategy Document and new facilitation support activities
- Fee study
- Update on geology
- Updated information on water use for 2023

Adjournment & Forming Ad Hoc Groups

Thanks for your participation! We'll see you in October.