

5 PROJECTS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY GOAL (REG. § 354.44)

Projects and management actions (PMAs) are intended to address sustainability goals, measurable objectives, and undesirable results identified in the Subbasin. The GSP Regulations require that a summary of the PMAs include the following:

- a. Each Plan shall include a description of the projects and management actions the GSA has determined will achieve the sustainability goal for the basin, including projects and management actions to respond to changing conditions in the basin.
- b. Each Plan shall include a description of the projects and management actions that include the following:
 1. A list of projects and management actions proposed in the Plan with a description of the measurable objective that is expected to benefit from the project or management action. The list shall include projects and management actions that may be utilized to meet interim milestones, the exceedance of minimum thresholds, or where undesirable results have occurred or are imminent. The Plan shall include the following:
 - A. A description of the circumstances under which projects or management actions shall be implemented, the criteria that would trigger implementation and termination of projects or management actions, and the process by which the Agency shall determine that conditions requiring the implementation of particular projects or management actions have occurred.
 - B. The process by which the Agency shall provide notice to the public and other agencies that the implementation of projects or management actions is being considered or has been implemented, including a description of the actions to be taken.
 2. If overdraft conditions are identified through the analysis required by California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 354.18 [Water Budget], the Plan shall describe projects or management actions, including a quantification of demand reduction or other methods, for the mitigation of overdraft.
 3. A summary of the permitting and regulatory process required for each project and management action.
 4. The status of each project and management action, including a timetable for expected initiation and completion, and the accrual of expected benefits.
 5. An explanation of the benefits that are expected to be realized from the project or management action, and how those benefits will be evaluated.
 6. An explanation of how the project or management action will be accomplished. If the projects or management actions rely on water from outside the jurisdiction of the Agency, an explanation of the source and reliability of that water shall be included.
 7. A description of the legal authority required for each project and management action, and the basis for that authority within the Agency.

8. A description of the estimated cost for each project and management action and a description of how the Agency plans to meet those costs.
 9. A description of the management of groundwater extractions and recharge to ensure that chronic lowering of groundwater levels or depletion of supply during periods of drought is offset by increases in groundwater levels or storage during other periods.
- c. Projects and management actions shall be supported by best available information and best available science.
 - d. An Agency shall take into account the level of uncertainty associated with the basin setting when developing projects or management actions” (GSP Regulations §354.44).

At present, the FWD GSA is projected to be sustainable during the planning and implementation period for all the sustainability indicators that are applicable for FWD. As a result, no PMAs, other than continued coordination with neighboring GSAs and Subbasins, have been formally developed for FWD where public notices have been made, benefits have been analyzed, or costs associated with the projects have been estimated. The following is a description of the types of PMAs FWD is likely to implement in the event of undesirable results. If undesirable results occur or are projected to occur over the GSP implementation period, subsequent GSP updates will consist of formally developed PMAs. For reference to other PMAs in the other GSAs located in the Subbasin, please refer to the other coordinated GSPs prepared for the Subbasin.

5.1 Targeted Pumping Reductions

Based on current and projected groundwater conditions, a targeted pumping reduction plan has not been formally developed. Under the continuation of existing management of groundwater use, groundwater conditions are sustainable. In the event of extremely dry conditions and groundwater extractions that exceed sustainable levels, FWD will work to develop targeted pumping reductions to reduce undesirable results. The implementation of targeted pumping reductions will only apply due to undesirable results for groundwater levels, groundwater storage, groundwater quality, and subsidence.

5.1.1 Measurable objective that is expected to benefit from the project or management action

Targeted pumping reductions will likely benefit all sustainability indicators. Reductions in pumping will allow groundwater levels, groundwater storage, and subsidence to recover to sustainable levels. Targeted reductions will also be useful for preventing the migration of contaminated groundwater.

5.1.2 Circumstances for implementation

Targeted pumping reductions may occur when undesirable results occur for groundwater elevation, groundwater storage, subsidence, or groundwater quality. Undesirable results for interconnected surface waters will not trigger implementation.

5.1.3 Public noticing

No public notices have been made regarding targeted pumping reductions.

5.1.4 Permitting and regulatory process

Targeted pumping reductions will not require permits from any county, state, or federal agency.

5.1.5 Timetable for initiation and completion, and the accrual of expected benefits

In the event of undesirable results, FWD will work with local stakeholders to identify potential locations of pumping reductions.

5.1.6 Expected benefits and how they will be evaluated

The purpose of targeted pumping reductions is to prevent future MT exceedances for each of the applicable sustainability indicators.

The expected benefits of targeted pumping reductions will be evaluated by continued monitoring of the representative monitoring network.

5.1.7 How the project or management action will be accomplished. If the projects or management actions rely on water from outside the jurisdiction of the Agency, an explanation of the source and reliability of that water shall be included.

Targeted pumping reductions will be accomplished by outreach and coordination with local stakeholders and landowners. This will not require a source of water from outside the jurisdiction of the GSA.

5.1.8 Legal authority required

The authority to implement mandatory pumping reductions in sensitive areas is provided to FWD under Section 10726.4(a)(2) of the California Water Code which grants the GSA the authority to “control groundwater extractions by regulating, limiting, or suspending extractions from individual groundwater wells or extractions from groundwater wells in the aggregate...”

The authority to provide surface water in lieu of groundwater extractions is provided in Section 10726.2 (d) of SB-1168 which states that a GSA may:

“Perform any acts necessary or proper to enable the agency to purchase, transfer, deliver, or exchange water or water rights of any type with any person that may be necessary or proper to carry out any of the purposes of this part, including, but not limited to, providing surface water in exchange for a groundwater extractor’s agreement to reduce or cease groundwater extractions.”