

Terms and Definitions

Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs)

Ecological communities of species that depend on groundwater emerging from aquifers or on groundwater occurring near the ground surface.

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs)

Local public agencies tasked with developing and implementing Groundwater Sustainability Plans under SGMA.

Groundwater Sustainability Commission (GSC)

An advisory board to the City and County GSAs, comprised of significant potential users of groundwater in the SLO Basin.

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)

A 20-year plan to ensure that groundwater is managed sustainably within a groundwater basin.

Interim Milestones (IMs)

Target values representing measurable conditions, set in increments of five years, designed to help the basin achieve sustainability by 2042.

Measurable Objectives (MOs)

Specific, quantifiable goals for the maintenance or improvement of specified groundwater conditions to achieve the sustainability goal for the basin. Measurable Objectives are goals that the GSP is designed to achieve.

Minimum Thresholds (MTs)

The quantitative values that define what is deemed significant and unreasonable at each Representative Monitoring Site.

Monitoring Network

A collection of monitoring points that promote the collection of data of sufficient quality, frequency, and distribution to characterize groundwater and related surface water conditions in the basin and evaluate changing conditions that occur through implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

Representative Monitoring Sites (RMSs)

Representative Monitoring Sites are individual locations within a Monitoring Network at which sustainability indicators are monitored, and for which quantitative values for Minimum Thresholds, Measurable Objectives, and Interim Milestones are defined.

Sustainability Goal

A comprehensive statement that describes the goals for sustainability within the basin and important factors to be considered during the SGMA planning horizon (2022-2042).

Sustainable Groundwater Management

The management and use of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained during the planning and implementation horizon (2022-2042) without causing Undesirable Results.

Sustainability Indicators

The effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the basin that, when significant and unreasonable, cause Undesirable Results such as chronic lowering of groundwater levels, significant and unreasonable reductions in groundwater storage, significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion, significant and unreasonable degradation of water quality, significant and unreasonable land subsidence, and surface water depletions that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses.

Sustainable Yield

The maximum volume of water, calculated over a period of time that is representative of long-term conditions in the basin, that can be withdrawn each year from a groundwater supply without causing undesirable results.

Undesirable Results

1. Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
2. Significant and unreasonable reductions in groundwater storage
3. Significant and unreasonable seawater intrusion (does not apply to the SLO Basin)
4. Significant and unreasonable degradation of water quality
5. Significant and unreasonable land subsidence; and
6. Surface water depletions that have significant and unreasonable adverse impacts on beneficial uses.