



## SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“Agency” or “SABGSA”) Board of Directors (“Board”) will hold its regular **Board Meeting** at **6:00 P.M.** on **Tuesday, March 19, 2024** at the **Los Alamos Community Services District** located at **82 St. Joseph Street, Los Alamos, CA 93440**. Virtual options are available for public participation.<sup>1</sup>

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83127401605?pwd=WHplQmZTR2hoY2NWa3J2MDc3bnhtUT09>

Meeting ID: 831 2740 1605 Passcode: 203727

Dial: (669) 900 6833

### **SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (SABGSA)**

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

**1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL**

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA**

The Board will receive public comments on items not appearing on the agenda and within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Agency. The Board will not enter into a detailed discussion, answer questions, or take any action on any items presented during public comments. At the Board’s discretion, any issue raised during Public Comment may be referred to the Executive Director or other staff for administrative action or scheduled on a subsequent agenda for discussion. Persons wishing to speak on specific agenda items should do so at the time specified for those items. The presiding Chair shall limit public comments to no more than three minutes.

**4. CONSENT ITEMS**

**a. Approve Minutes from February 20, 2024, Regular Meeting**

**b. Agency Finances, Budget, and Training**

- i. The Board will receive a report from the accountant regarding finances and expenses for February 2024.
- ii. The Board will receive a report regarding training.

**5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**a. Executive Director Update**

- Update on activities performed by the Executive Director

**b. San Antonio Basin Water District Update**

- Update on San Antonio Basin Water District activities

**c. Advisory Committee Updates**

- Update on Advisory Committee

**d. Board Member Updates**

- Board members will provide any updates relevant to the SABGSA

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<sup>1</sup> SABGSA will make reasonable efforts to make the meeting accessible virtually; however, if one of the virtual options are unavailable due to technological issues, you are invited to take advantage of the other options, including in-person attendance.

## 6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

**a. Q1 2024 Quarterly Water Level Monitoring Report for the San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin**

The SABGSA has received the [Q1 2024 Quarterly Water Level Monitoring Report](#). The Board of Directors will review and discuss the recommendations listed in the report and may take action and/or provide specific direction to SABGSA staff and/or GSI Water Solutions, Inc. related to this item.

**b. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report for Water Year 2023**

The Board will review the final draft of the [Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report for Water Year 2023](#) for the San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin. The Board may take action and/or provide specific direction to SABGSA staff and/or GSI Water Solutions related to this item.

**c. GSP Staff Report Review Meeting with the Department of Water Resources**

The San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin's GSP was approved on January 18, 2024. The Department of Water Resources staff has agreed to a follow up meeting with the SABGSA on April 9, 2024 to review the recommendations and potential corrective actions related to the GSP outlined in the Staff Report. The Board of Directors will review the draft agenda. The Board may take action and/or provide specific direction to SABGSA staff and/or GSI Water Solution related to this item.

**d. SABGSA Metering Program Conceptual Framework**

The Board of Directors will receive an update on the draft conceptual framework for the Metering Program developed by the Ad Hoc Committee and will review the first draft of the proposed Frequently Asked Questions document. The Board may take action and/or provide specific direction to the Ad Hoc Committee, staff and/or SABGSA's legal counsel related to this item.

## 7. ADJOURN

**NEXT MEETING: April 16, 2024, at 6pm**



**SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY (SABGSA)**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL** – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Randy Sharer at 6:00pm at the Los Alamos Community Services District, located at 82 St. Joseph Street, Los Alamos, CA. Members of the public had the option to participate virtually or in-person.

**Board of Directors Present:** Dan Chabot, Juan Gomez, Kevin Merrill, Patrice Mosby, Kenny Pata, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather. Director Wrather participated remotely under the provisions of AB 2449 and made the necessary disclosures during roll call.

**Alternates present, but not acting on behalf of a Director:** Jim Stollberg

**Directors Absent:** Tom Durant

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA**

No public comment.

4. **CONSENT ITEMS**

- a. **Approve Minutes from January 16, 2024, SABGSA Board Meeting**

**Motion by Director Chabot, second by Director Mosby to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024 Board meeting, as presented.**

**Ayes:** Dan Chabot, Juan Gomez, Kevin Merrill, Patrice Mosby, Kenny Pata, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather

**Nos:** None; **Absent:** Tom Durant; **Abstain:** None

- b. **Agency Finances, Budgeting, and Training**

**Motion by Director Pata, second by Director Mosby to approve the financial reports dated January 31, 2024, as presented.**

**Ayes:** Dan Chabot, Juan Gomez, Kevin Merrill, Patrice Mosby, Kenny Pata, Randy Sharer, Chris Wrather

**Nos:** None; **Absent:** Tom Durant; **Abstain:** None

5. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- a. **Executive Director Updates:**

- The Q1 2024 Groundwater Level Monitoring Event will take place on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The Righetti Well Verification Request for a New Well under the Hardship Exemption has been withdrawn. SABGSA will return the deposit fee in full in the amount of \$987.50.
- Scarlett Tovar is SABGSA's new Point of Contact at the Department of Water Resources. An introductory meeting was held on February 14, 2024.
- The SABGSA requested a fund transfer from the SABWD in the amount of \$41,594.85 to cover invoices received in February 2024.

- b. **San Antonio Basin Water District Update**

Executive Director Donna Glass reported that the San Antonio Basin Water District (SABWD) Board

of Directors met on February 20, 2024.

- Invoices for the 2023-24 Assessments were sent out on August 8, 2023. As of February 14, 2024, 88% has been collected totaling \$507,057.06.
- The SABWD Board approved a fund transfer to the SABGSA in the amount of \$41,594.85 to cover invoices received in February 2024.
- The SABWD Board approved a contract amendment for the Wallace Group for a not to exceed amount of \$15,000 for on-call support, as needed, to prepare the Tax Roll for FY 24-25 and invoice and distribute to property owners, mail out Property Change Request letters, update and maintain database, address delinquent assessments, etc.

**c. Advisory Committee Updates**

- The Advisory Committee did not meet in February 2024.

**d. Board Member Updates**

- None.

**6. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

**a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Approval**

The San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin's GSP was approved by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) on January 18, 2024. The Board reviewed and discussed the recommendations and potential corrective actions outlined in the [DWR Staff Report](#). The recommended corrective actions focus on the following:

- Further assessing the potential impact of established minimum thresholds for chronic lowering of groundwater levels on supply wells, including domestic wells.
- Continuing to fill data gaps, collecting additional monitoring data, coordinating with resources agencies and interested parties to understand beneficial uses and users that may be impacted by depletions of interconnected surface water caused by groundwater pumping, and potentially refine sustainable management criteria.
- Adding information related to the data and reporting standards.
- Expanding the land subsidence monitoring network to provide sufficient coverage of the Subbasin.

The next step is to schedule a follow up meeting with the DWR GSP Review Team. The SABGSA is targeting the Week of April 8<sup>th</sup> for the informational meeting. The SABGSA Board Chair, SABGSA Executive Director, and representatives from GSI Water Solutions will attend the meeting. The SABGSA Executive Director will work with GSI Water Solutions to prepare the draft agenda for distribution to DWR the Week of March 25<sup>th</sup>. The Board did not take action on this item.

**b. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report for Water Year 2023**

GSI Water Solutions, Inc. presented the draft Annual Report highlighting water year type, groundwater elevations, groundwater pumping, change in groundwater in storage, Tier 1 Management Actions, and progress toward sustainability. The [draft Annual Report](#) is posted on SABGSA's website for review and public comment. The final draft will be placed on the March 19, 2024 agenda to be considered for approval. The Board did not take action on this item.

**7. NEXT MEETING: March 19, 2024 at 6pm at the Los Alamos Community Services District.**

**8. ADJOURN – 7:14pm**

Please contact Stephanie Bertoux at [admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org](mailto:admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org) with any questions.

**San Antonio Basin GSA**  
**Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual**  
July 2023 through February 2024

67% of the year has elapsed	<u>Jul '23 - Feb 24</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
4-Interest Income	12.21			
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>12.21</u>			
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Administration and Operation</b>				
01 Admininstrative Exp/Office Ex	34,745.34	76,000.00	-41,254.66	45.72%
02-Accountant	4,900.00	7,500.00	-2,600.00	65.33%
04-Monitoring	27,712.36	90,000.00	-62,287.64	30.79%
05-Legal Counsel	12,196.50	75,000.00	-62,803.50	16.26%
06-Insurance	1,733.00	3,000.00	-1,267.00	57.77%
07-Audit Fees	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00	0.0%
09-GSP Related Costs-Annual Rep	32,049.85	100,000.00	-67,950.15	32.05%
10-GSP Implementation / PMAs	10,822.50	142,500.00	-131,677.50	7.6%
11- Exec Order WellVerification	-197.50			
<b>Total Administration and Operation</b>	<u>123,962.05</u>	<u>498,000.00</u>	<u>-374,037.95</u>	<u>24.89%</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>123,962.05</u>	<u>498,000.00</u>	<u>-374,037.95</u>	<u>24.89%</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>-123,949.84</u>	<u>-498,000.00</u>	<u>374,050.16</u>	<u>24.89%</u>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Other Income</b>				
11 Operating Transfers	93,738.85	498,000.00	-404,261.15	18.82%
12 Carryover Funds	0.00	50,000.00	-50,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<u>93,738.85</u>	<u>548,000.00</u>	<u>-454,261.15</u>	<u>17.11%</u>
<b>Other Expense</b>				
Contingency (10%)	0.00	50,000.00	-50,000.00	0.0%
<b>Total Other Expense</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>50,000.00</u>	<u>-50,000.00</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<u>93,738.85</u>	<u>498,000.00</u>	<u>-404,261.15</u>	<u>18.82%</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-30,210.99</u></u>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>	<u><u>-30,210.99</u></u>	<u><u>100.0%</u></u>

# San Antonio Basin GSA

## Balance Sheet

As of February 29, 2024

Feb 29, 24

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

##### Checking/Savings

Community Bank of SM -ACCT 9006 25,000.00

Total Checking/Savings 25,000.00

Total Current Assets 25,000.00

**TOTAL ASSETS 25,000.00**

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Equity

Retained Earnings 55,210.99

Net Income -30,210.99

Total Equity 25,000.00

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 25,000.00**

**San Antonio Basin GSA  
Expenses by Vendor Detail  
February 2024**

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Amount
<b>BERTOUX &amp; COMPANY</b>					
Check	02/12/2024	3095	INVOICE # 24-001	01Administrative Exp/Office Ex	5,000.00
Total BERTOUX & COMPANY					5,000.00
<b>Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck</b>					
Check	02/05/2024	3091	INVOICE # 972255	05-Legal Counsel	5,032.50
Total Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck					5,032.50
<b>Carrie Troup, C.P.A.</b>					
Check	02/05/2024	3090	INV # 0124GSA	02-Accountant	700.00
Total Carrie Troup, C.P.A.					700.00
<b>GSI WATER SOLUTIONS, INC.</b>					
Check	02/08/2024	3092	INV# 0748.015-6	10-GSP Implementation / PMAs	1,516.25
Check	02/08/2024	3093	INV# 0748.017-2	04-Monitoring	1,726.25
Check	02/08/2024	3094	INV# 0748.016-2	09-GSP Related Costs-Annual Rep	27,419.85
Total GSI WATER SOLUTIONS, INC.					30,662.35
<b>Los Alamos CSD</b>					
Check	02/13/2024	3096	INV # 2023-11	01Administrative Exp/Office Ex	200.00
Total Los Alamos CSD					200.00
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>41,594.85</b>



## TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

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### San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin Quarterly Groundwater Level Monitoring – First Quarter 2024

**To:** Ms. Stephanie Bertoux, Executive Director, San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

**From:** Michael McAlpin, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.  
Sydney Robertson, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.  
David O'Rourke, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

**Attachments:** Tables:  
Table 1. First Quarter 2024 Groundwater Level Measurements – Depth to Water  
Table 2. First Quarter 2024 Groundwater Level Measurements – Groundwater Elevation  
  
Figure:  
Figure 1. Wells Included in the San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin Groundwater Monitoring Network

**Date:** March 14, 2024

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### Introduction

On behalf of the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SABGSA), GSI Water Solutions, Inc. (GSI) completed the first quarter 2024 (1Q2024) San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) groundwater level monitoring event (monitoring event) on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Prior to each quarterly monitoring event, GSI contacts well owners/property managers to coordinate access to the wells and request that wells be shut off for at least 8 hours before the monitoring event so that a static measurement can be obtained. Well owners/property managers were notified on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

GSI was able to successfully measure depth to water in all but three of the wells that have secured access agreements during the monitoring event. Tables 1 and 2 provide the status of current well access agreements, and Figure 1 displays the well locations. The following text and tables summarize the results of the 1Q2024 monitoring event.

### 1Q2024 Water Level Monitoring Event Summary

The attached tables summarize the results of the Basin 1Q2024 monitoring event for the wells in the Basin Groundwater Level Monitoring Network (Monitoring Network). The tables include the status of current well access agreements, depth to water measurements, and calculated groundwater elevations for all wells that were able to be accessed during the monitoring event. Wells identified as Representative Monitoring Sites (RMSs) in the Basin's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) are identified in Table 2 and denoted with the respective RMS's sustainable management criteria (i.e., minimum threshold and measurable objective). The following is a summary of observations from the 1Q2024 monitoring event:



- The only wells with an active well access agreement that did not have a groundwater level measurement collected during the 1Q2024 monitoring event were 2M1, White Hawk 4, and 34P1.
  - No water level measurement was collected from well 2M1 due to the risk of the sounder becoming stuck in the well. Groundwater level monitoring at well 2M1 is planned to resume pending the installation of a sounding tube.
  - The SABGSA received a Well Verification Request for a proposed replacement water well in July 2023. The SABGSA verified the proposed well was consistent with the SABGSA's Well Verification Policy. The well to be replaced was determined to be White Hawk 4. During the 4Q2023 monitoring event, White Hawk 4 was observed being destroyed as required by the Well Verification Policy. Therefore, no water level measurement was able to be collected.
  - No water level measurement was collected from well 34P1 due to an obstruction or collapse encountered at approximately 72 feet below the reference point elevation (RPE) during the water level measurement attempt.
- At 2N1, which is outfitted with a turbine pump with an oil-lubricated shaft, a layer of suspected lubrication oil was discovered residing on the top of the water in the well. Deep well turbines with oil-lubricated shafts commonly leak oil, which subsequently accumulates on the water surface. Consequently, use of a typical water level sounding device is problematic because the oil tends to coat the devices sensor when passing through the oil. This situation can preclude obtaining a reliable water level measurement.
- The continuous data recording pressure transducer (transducer) that is located in well 16C4 was discovered to have a malfunctioning data cable during the 4Q2023 event. The data cable was replaced during the 1Q2024 event and all water level data to date has been downloaded and analyzed.
- The water level reading device, that could not be retrieved from well 2R1 after the recording of a water level measurement during the 4Q2023 event, was recovered and a water level measurement was recorded during the 1Q2024 monitoring event.
- 13Q1 was added to the SABGSA monitoring network and was included in the 1Q2024 monitoring event after securing an access agreement.

## Recommendations

- Consider the installation of a sounding tube in well 2M1.
- Investigate the obstruction encountered in well 34P1.
- Perform well maintenance on wells 2N1 and Mesa Vineyard to clear observed rusty material and oil. The water level reading device becomes coated in either rust or oil when lowered into the well, occasionally blocking the sensor and preventing an accurate water level measurement.
- Consider the purchase and installation of additional transducers.
- Perform an RPE Survey for the wells included in the Basin Monitoring Network in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) well elevation accuracy requirements.
- Perform well video surveys of wells included in the Basin Monitoring Network with outstanding well construction information (total depth and screened intervals).
- Pursue access agreement for the White Hawk 4 replacement well.
- Continue public outreach to Basin stakeholders to discuss participation in the Basin's Monitoring Network.
- Collaborate with Central Coast Water Quality Preservation, Inc. to share existing Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program well information.
- Review SABGSA Well Registration Program data to identify existing candidate wells to incorporate into the Basin Monitoring Network.

Table 1. First Quarter 2024 Groundwater Level Measurements – Depth to Water

State Well Number	Site Name	Well Type	Water Level Measurement Frequency/Type	Area	Total Depth (feet bgs)	Aquifer of Completion	DTW on 6/22/2021 and 6/23/2021	DTW on 9/14/2021 and 9/15/2021	DTW on 12/8/2021 and 12/9/2021	DTW on 3/10/2022 and 3/11/2022	DTW on 6/21/2022 and 6/22/2022	DTW on 9/15/2022 and 9/16/2022	DTW on 12/14/2022 and 12/15/2022	DTW on 3/15/23 and 3/16/23	DTW on 6/20/2023 and 6/28/2023	DTW on 9/12/23 and 9/13/23	DTW on 12/12/23 and 12/13/23	DTW on 2/27/24 and 2/28/24	Notes on 2/27/24 and 2/28/24
009N034W34N002S	SAHC	Monitoring	Continuous/Transducer	West San Antonio Basin	90	Careaga Sand	73.40	73.55	73.68	73.79	73.93	74.07	74.20	74.43	74.34	74.06	73.86	73.52	
008N034W21A002S	SASA	Monitoring	Continuous/Transducer	West San Antonio Basin	65	Careaga Sand	44.75	45.37	45.69	45.85	46.19	46.98	47.33	46.37	44.82	45.39	46.25	45.59	
008N034W14L002S	SAGR	Monitoring	Continuous/Transducer	West San Antonio Basin	90	Paso Robles Formation	62.06	63.68	63.25	62.89	64.50	66.88	65.72	64.18	62.18	62.31	61.81	60.62	
008N034W23H001S	SAHG	Monitoring	Continuous/Transducer	West San Antonio Basin	75	Paso Robles Formation	43.41	42.85	42.72	43.12	41.42	41.71	40.80	27.74	27.99	30.60	33.22	30.09	
008N033W22G001S	SALS	Monitoring	Continuous/Transducer	Central San Antonio Basin	70	Paso Robles Formation	39.04	38.73	39.73	39.50	39.44	39.34	39.69	31.15	29.29	28.64	29.83	26.88	
008N032W29L004S	SALA	Monitoring	Continuous/Transducer	Central San Antonio Basin	90	Paso Robles Formation	47.54	48.13	48.79	48.95	49.25	49.85	50.46	27.96	26.79	32.32	36.12	25.85	
008N033W19K002S	SACR 1	Monitoring	Continuous/Transducer	West San Antonio Basin	690	Careaga Sand	47.81	49.61	46.27	46.25	51.05	54.90	47.50	--	47.90	53.74	48.68	48.68	
008N033W19K003S	SACR 2	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	540	Paso Robles Formation	81.41	76.58	75.51	78.76	81.30	83.33	72.58	--	77.38	79.39	73.10	72.08	
008N033W19K004S	SACR 3	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	350	Paso Robles Formation	119.19	113.90	99.00	102.25	119.95	122.83	99.33	--	110.41	117.35	99.95	95.83	
008N033W19K005S	SACR 4	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	220	Paso Robles Formation	96.07	95.93	94.72	94.07	95.70	97.73	96.15	--	90.53	91.87	92.38	91.58	
008N033W19K006S	SACR 5	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	110	Paso Robles Formation	99.75	100.49	100.30	99.68	99.98	100.47	100.87	95.86	91.91	94.34	95.62	96.16	
008N032W19M001S	SACC 1	Monitoring	Continuous/Transducer	Central San Antonio Basin	980	Paso Robles Formation	227.45	237.35	229.72	235.35	236.20	241.70	220.97	214.99	224.04	232.96	222.72	214.81	
008N032W19M002S	SACC 2	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	720	Paso Robles Formation	217.18	219.00	215.05	217.05	217.45	222.83	215.17	210.04	212.87	219.52	214.50	208.10	
008N032W19M003S	SACC 3	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	530	Paso Robles Formation	220.53	224.73	220.42	219.40	220.10	223.35	213.49	208.65	213.21	219.74	213.49	206.69	
008N032W19M004S	SACC 4	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	325	Paso Robles Formation	171.01	173.62	172.79	173.70	175.70	177.90	175.98	172.58	174.52	177.45	176.87	173.61	
008N032W19M005S	SACC 5	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	120	Paso Robles Formation	107.25	107.20	107.13	107.10	107.05	107.30	107.20	107.01	106.94	106.50	105.82	105.66	
008N034W02M001S	2M1	Irrigation	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	750	Paso Robles Formation	152.50	154.13	152.60	154.55	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Temporarily discontinued due to risk of stuck sounder
--	White Hawk 1	Irrigation	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	560	Careaga Sand	123.12	124.03	124.03	112.73	125.50	126.50	125.10	123.96	123.96	124.58	123.29	122.81	
008N32W17N001S	White Hawk 4	Irrigation	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	820	Careaga Sand	98.80	99.24	98.85	97.90	100.55	101.20	98.50	98.00	98.77	98.97	--	--	Proposed Original Well in July 2023 Well Verification Request. Well observed being destroyed during 4Q2023 as required by the SABGSA Well Verification Policy.
--	Mesa Vineyard	Irrigation	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	--	Careaga Sand	216.50	217.10	218.08	218.80	219.50	220.50	216.10	215.85	--	219.17	216.91	214.89	Rusty material in well
008N033W02N001S	2N1	Irrigation	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	980	Careaga Sand	226.50	--	224.65	227.10	226.20	228.00	225.50	--	224.23	228.06	224.33	222.20	Rusty material and oil in well
008N033W02R001S	2R1	Domestic	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	370	Careaga Sand	192.82	185.22	119.42	118.75	173.55	120.50	120.45	120.30	120.61	120.94	121.02	121.48	
--	Well 4	Irrigation	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	1,000	Careaga Sand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	122.50	122.29	
008N033W10	4-Deer Field	Irrigation	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	490	Careaga Sand	25.15	27.82	27.67	27.09	65.90	68.00	28.61	25.59	27.53	30.39	29.48	26.75	
008N033W03L001S	4-Deer Highway	Irrigation	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	349	Careaga Sand	97.71	94.80	95.05	96.10	96.59	98.10	96.11	94.82	98.01	98.79	97.63	95.02	
--	Schaff Well	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	669	Careaga Sand	215.82	216.28	216.65	216.76	217.24	217.90	218.05	218.24	218.29	218.97	219.15	219.12	
008N034W14L001S	14L1	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	593	Careaga Sand	70.93	70.82	68.99	68.12	71.18	73.70	69.95	68.24	70.85	74.84	72.16	69.04	
009N034W34P001S	34P1	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	223	Careaga Sand	68.86	68.60	68.55	72.66	71.85	70.80	70.15	66.50	--	67.65	66.19	--	Obstruction or collapse encountered at 72 feet below RPE. Water level not recorded.
008N034W17Q001S	17Q1	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	48	Careaga Sand	13.85	--	14.78	14.80	15.40	--	--	13.31	13.72	14.80	15.21	12.96	
008N034W21A001S	21A1	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	271	Careaga Sand	35.64	36.22	36.79	36.93	37.80	38.75	38.83	37.70	37.40	38.62	38.88	37.77	
008N034W17K002S	17K2	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	60	Careaga Sand	--	--	6.98	6.98	7.13	7.30	7.40	7.38	7.30	7.31	7.31	7.33	
008N034W17E001S	17E1	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	89	Careaga Sand	21.40	21.76	22.03	22.20	22.28	22.35	22.38	19.72	19.44	20.26	20.67	19.42	
008N034W16C002S	16C2	Monitoring	Continuous/Transducer	West San Antonio Basin	169	Careaga Sand	75.36	76.15	86.75	87.76	74.72	94.03	87.72	92.73	82.20	91.43	84.44	81.70	
008N034W16C004S	16C4	Monitoring	Continuous/Transducer	West San Antonio Basin	560	Careaga Sand	67.24	67.80	73.94	74.66	87.21	79.63	75.30	78.30	74.79	78.03	73.70	71.79	
008N034W17H001S	17H1	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	61	Careaga Sand	15.68	16.54	17.20	16.97	17.81	18.81	18.90	13.24	13.94	15.65	16.43	13.19	
008N034W16F001S	16F1	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	58	Careaga Sand	30.33	30.92	38.50	40.34	43.83	46.30	45.47	45.09	38.45	43.17	41.39	38.03	
008N034W16G003S	16G3	Monitoring	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	56	Careaga Sand	48.84	49.00	49.31	49.86	50.52	51.17	51.85	52.36	52.47	52.40	52.65	52.70	
008N033W13C001S	13C1	Irrigation	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	1,070	Careaga Sand	195.00	--	188.10	188.90	190.20	188.00	187.30	--	188.40	186.08	185.94	185.39	
008N033W07	Stephen's Well	Irrigation	Quarterly/Discrete	West San Antonio Basin	590	Careaga Sand	--	332.95	338.73	341.04	339.88	343.35	339.88	--	342.19	381.46	379.15	343.34	Measured with airline
008N033W22K003S	22K3	Irrigation	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	250	Paso Robles Formation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	79.65	82.59	79.45	78.91	
008N033W13Q001S	13Q1	Irrigation	Quarterly/Discrete	Central San Antonio Basin	295	Paso Robles Formation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	116.71	
008N032W30D001S	30D1	Monitoring	--	Central San Antonio Basin	895	Paso Robles Formation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
008N032W25D001S	25D1	Irrigation	--	East San Antonio Basin	700	Careaga Sand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
008N031W22J001S	22J1	Unknown	--	East San Antonio Basin	--	Careaga Sand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
008N031W22N001S	22N1	Unknown	--	East San Antonio Basin	175	Paso Robles Formation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
008N031W22M001S	22M1	Unknown	--	East San Antonio Basin	--	Careaga Sand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
008N034W24E001S	24E1	Monitoring	--	West San Antonio Basin	--	Careaga Sand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
008N033W20Q002S	20Q2	Irrigation	--	West San Antonio Basin	--	Paso Robles Formation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
--	VERNAS 1	Unknown	--	Central San Antonio Basin	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
--	VERNAS 2	Unknown	--	Central San Antonio Basin	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
--	HWY 101 CATTLE	Unknown	--	East San Antonio Basin	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
008N032W27P003S	GUZMAN 2	Unknown	--	East San Antonio Basin	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
008N032W30E005S	30E5	Unknown	--	Central San Antonio Basin	1,001	Paso Robles Formation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
008N033W25B005S	25B5	Unknown	--	Central San Antonio Basin	100	Paso Robles Formation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
008N032W28P004S	28P4	Unknown	--	East San Antonio Basin	524	Paso Robles Formation	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
008N034W36R	Careaga Lease	Unknown	--	West San Antonio Basin	284	Careaga Sand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
009N034W27L001S	27L1	Unknown	--	West San Antonio Basin	405	Careaga Sand	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	Well Destroyed March 2021

Notes:


Green highlighted cells indicate well access agreement has been acquired  
 Yellow highlighted cells indicate well access agreement is pending  
 Red highlighted cells indicate well access denied  
 Gray highlighted cells indicate well access not applicable  
 bgs = below ground surface  
 DTW = Depth to Water (feet below reference point elevation)  
 -- = unknown or not applicable



**FIGURE 1**  
**Wells Included in the**  
**San Antonio Creek Valley**  
**Groundwater Basin**  
**Groundwater Level Monitoring**  
**Network**

San Antonio Creek Valley  
 Groundwater Basin Quarterly  
 Groundwater Level Monitoring

First Quarter 2024

**LEGEND**

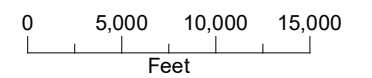
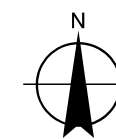
- Representative Well
- Wells (by screened aquifer)**
- Paso Robles Formation
- Careaga Sand
- All Other Features**
- ~ San Antonio Creek or Tributary
- Major Road
- San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin
- Barka Slough
- City Boundary



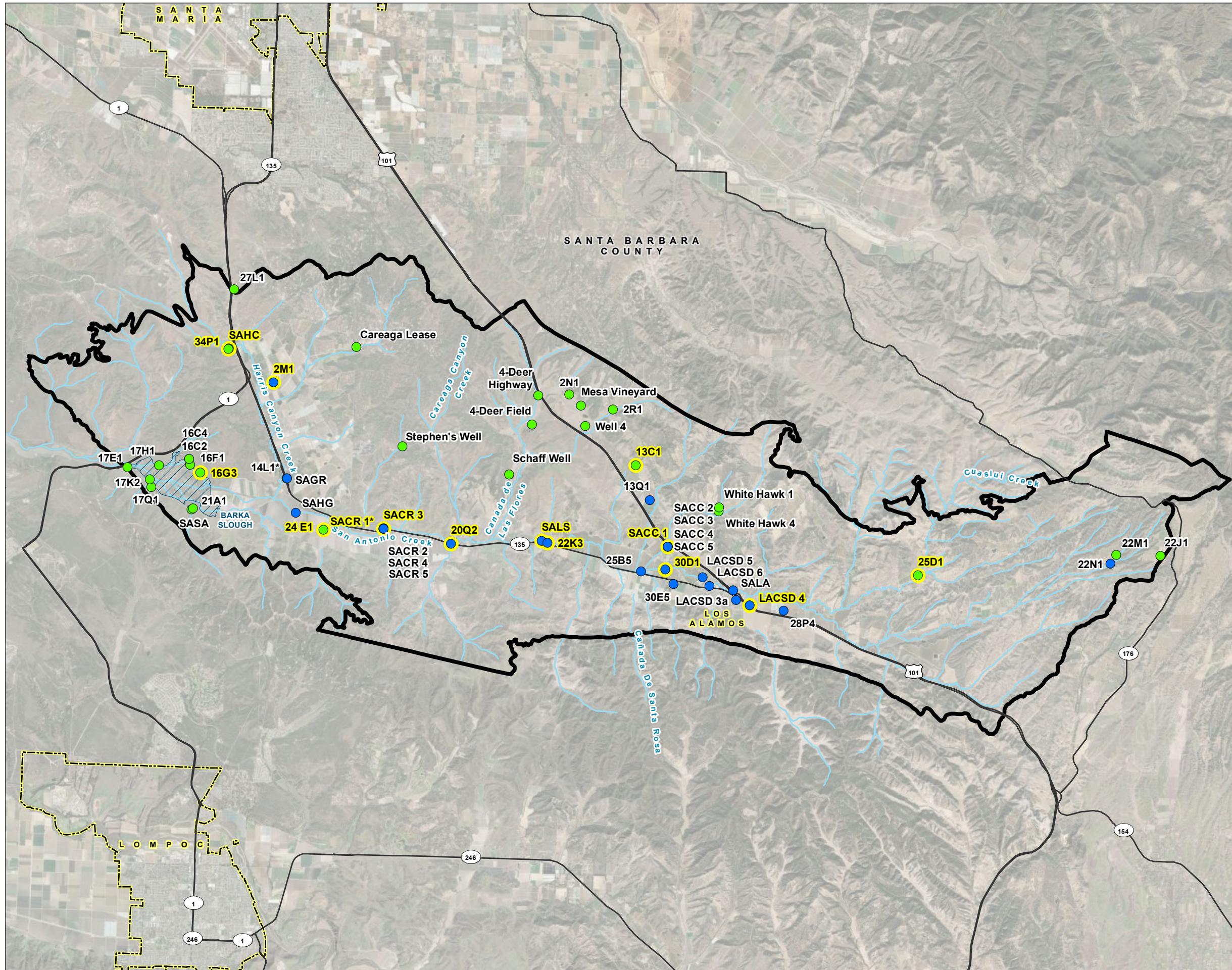
**NOTES**

\*SACR 1 and 14L1 are screened in the Careaga Sand.

San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin Boundary as defined in the California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118.



Date: March 11, 2024  
 Data Sources: USGS (2020a), ESRI, DWR (2018), Maxar imagery (2020)





## DRAFT MEETING AGENDA

### San Antonio Basin GSP Consultation

**Date:** April 9, 2024

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. to 10:50 a.m.

**Location/Online:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Attendees:** Stephanie Bertoux and Randy Sharer, San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency  
Shane Edmunds, Timothy Gere, Mark Riedel-Bash, Jack Tung, and Brian Moniz, California Department of Water Resources  
Michael McAlpin and Dave O'Rourke, GSI Water Solutions, Inc.

### Objectives

A meeting between California Department of Water Resource (DWR) groundwater sustainability plan (GSP) review staff, representatives from the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SABGSA), and GSI Water Solutions, Inc. (GSI) to discuss the DWR GSP Assessment Staff Report, dated January 18, 2024, for the San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) GSP.

### Schedule

A proposed meeting agenda is included below.

Time	Speaker	Topic
10:00	--	Introductions
10:10	--	Action Items
10:40	--	Outstanding discussion and meeting wrap-up

### Action Items

1. What is the expectation for the progress on recommended corrective actions by the first periodic review of the Basin GSP?
2. Can the Periodic Evaluation and the Annual Report for the reporting water year be combined into a single document?
3. *Corrective Action #2: Re-evaluate the quantitative definition of undesirable results related to degradation of water quality.*

*The quantitative definition of an undesirable result should incorporate a combination of minimum threshold (MT) exceedances and clearly explain how that quantitative criteria represent significant and unreasonable conditions occurring throughout the Basin.*

The SABGSA understands the proposed MTs are quantitative criteria (defined by Federal, State, and Waterboard regulations) that define undesirable results. The SABGSA has elected to adopt water quality criteria established by the RWQCB. The water quality criteria established by the RWQCB is assumed to be based on unreasonable conditions determined by the RWQCB. The SABGSA does not have the authority nor requirement to modify these criteria. Is this more specific to the MT explanation of “20 percent of wells monitored?”

4. *Land Subsidence sustainable management criteria (SMC). DWR states the GSP does not include a quantitative definition of minimum thresholds that would constitute an undesirable result.*

Reference land subsidence SMC and request DWR confirms explanation.

5. *Section 4.2.3 Water Budget – SABGSA to work to understand the reliability of surface water supply to the Basin in order to develop a projected water surface water budget and revise the estimate of the sustainable yield of the Basin as more data becomes available.*

Surface water supply is currently not used as a source and has been determined not to be a reliable supply in the Basin. The Basin is a closed basin and the headwaters are within the Basin. All the streams in the Basin are classified as intermittent and suspected to be losing streams, except for stream channels located immediately upstream and within the Barka Slough, which are classified as perennial and suspected to be gaining streams. There is no reservoir or imported supply. Is this recommendation specific to periods of flow?

# DRAFT

## Conceptual Framework

# Groundwater Extraction Metering Program

*For Discussion*



## San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Ad Hoc Committee Updates to GSA Board

March 19, 2024

# PROCESS OVERVIEW

## 1<sup>st</sup> Step Toward Demand Management

### Purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee:

Address the initial exploration and establish a framework for the well registration and metering program. Identify a stepped, linear process for the Board's consideration. Step one, the Well Registration Program, was completed March 31, 2023.

### AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

SABGSA: Kevin Merrill  
Chris Wrather

Adv. Comm: Matt Scrudato

Staff: Donna Glass, SABWD  
Stephanie Bertoux, SABGSA

### OTHER METERING PROGRAMS STUDIED

Borrego Valley GSA  
Cuyama GSA  
Fox Canyon GSA  
McMullin Area GSA  
Mid Kings River GSA  
North Folk Kings GSA  
Upper Ventura River GSA

### RESOURCES CONSULTED

GSI Water Solutions  
Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Schreck



# METERING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **Program Objective:** Facilitate consistent and reliable reporting of groundwater extraction volumes excluding de minimis wells (under 2AFY).
- **Program Purpose:** Provide accurate and reliable data of groundwater extraction volumes as specified as a Tier 1 Management Action of the GSP.
- **Overarching Goal:** Sustainably manage, protect and maintain the groundwater resources within the Basin consistent with SGMA for the benefit of all water users.

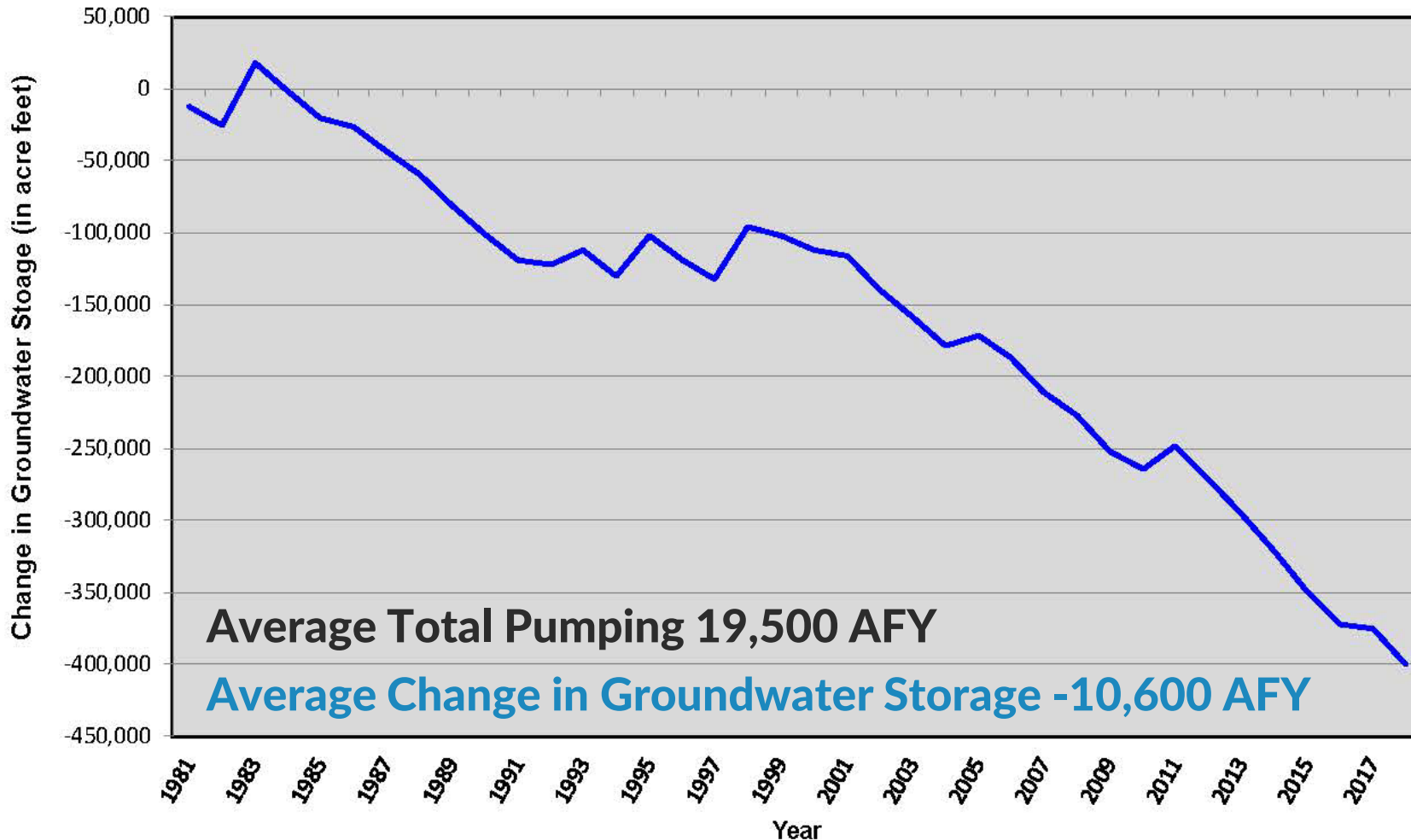
## Presentation Goal

**Provide an update and circulate recommendations for the SABGSA Groundwater Extraction Metering Program from Ad Hoc Committee for Discussion**

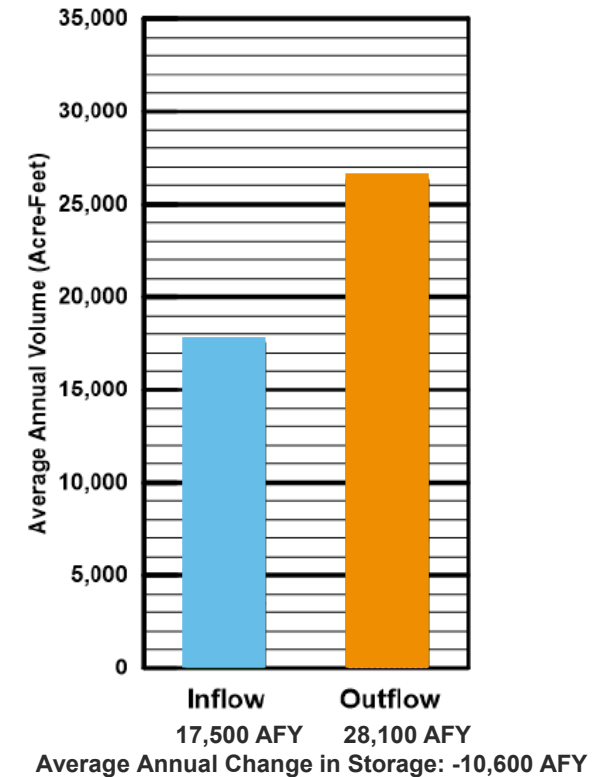
# BASIN STATUS

Extracting More than the Basin's Estimated Sustainable Yield

Historical Base Period (1981-2018) Source: GSP, Figure 3-62

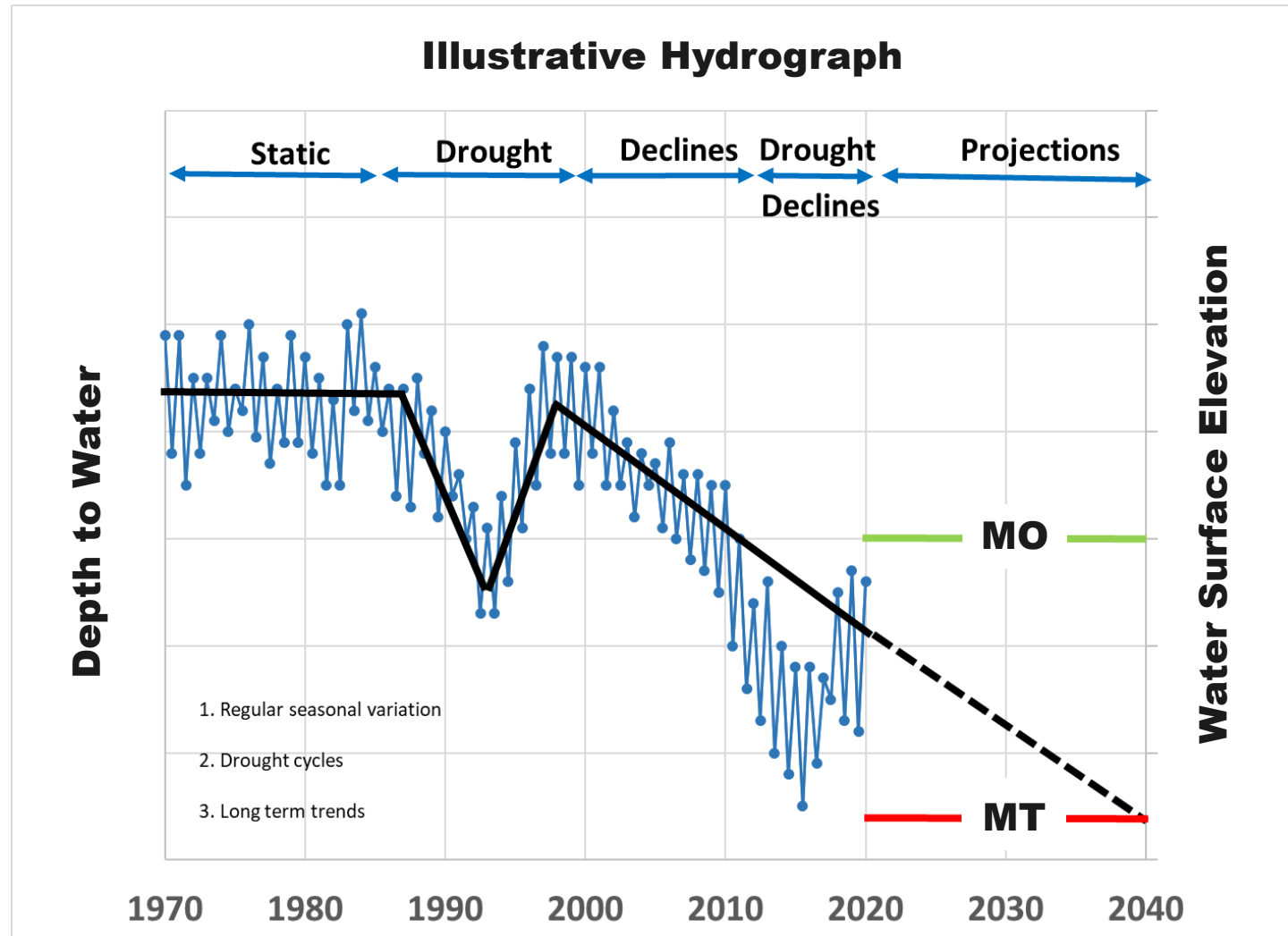


## Historical Base Period



# BASIN STATUS

## Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels



Based on Historical  
Water Budget...

On average, basin-wide  
groundwater levels are  
declining about 1.5 ft  
per year

Without intervention, 50%  
of the RMS wells could  
reach their respective MTs  
in about 20 years

# BASIN STATUS

## Annual Changes in Groundwater in Storage (WY 2019-2023)

Source: GSP Annual Report, WY 2023

**Table 9. Annual Changes in Groundwater in Storage**

Water Year	Paso Robles Formation (AF)	Careaga Sand (AF)	Total Annual Change in Groundwater in Storage <sup>1</sup> (AF)
2015	—	—	-26,400
2016	—	—	-23,600
2017	—	—	-2,900
2018	—	—	-23,700
2019	-15,400	-370	-15,800
2020	-18,800	-410	-19,200
2021	-20,500	-540	-21,000
2022	-14,900	-200	-15,100
2023	19,600	10	19,600
Cumulative Change in Groundwater in Storage <sup>1</sup>	-50,000	-1,500	-128,100

**Notes**

<sup>1</sup> As a result of rounding, totals do not correspond to the sum of all figures shown.

Gray shading indicates a water year included in the historical water budget. A total annual change in groundwater in storage was calculated for the Basin during development of the Basin GSP per SGMA regulations.

— = not calculated

AF = acre-feet

Basin = San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin

GSP = Groundwater Sustainability Plan

SGMA = Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

For WY 2019-2022, groundwater elevations decreased or remained the same in all representative monitoring sites (RMSs), resulting in an overall decrease in total groundwater in storage

Total groundwater pumping for water year 2023 remained above the Basin's estimated sustainable yield.

# BASIN MANAGEMENT

## Understanding Groundwater Extraction in the Basin

To support effective basin management, two key pieces of information are needed.



# BASIN MANAGEMENT

## How Will the Metering Data be Used by SABGSA?

### **This information will serve as a baseline that will....**

- Accurately measure and record the volume of pumped groundwater by well across the Basin, as well as seasonal variation in water demand
- Enable proactive and adaptive management of groundwater resources
- Inform future SABGSA demand management actions and policies
- Provide additional information to be used by the SABGSA for analyzing projected Basin conditions and updating the water budget and hydrogeological conceptual model (HCM)
- Identify wells and landowners that could be included in the Basin's groundwater level monitoring network
- Be utilized to complete annual reports and 5-year GSP assessment reports required by DWR.

**Ultimately, this information will allow SABGSA to sustainably manage, protect, and maintain the groundwater resources within the Basin consistent with SGMA for the benefit of all water users.**

# METERING PROGRAM COMPONENTS

## Who

- All wells in the GSA (excluding de minimis wells)
  - GSA is legally authorized to require flow meters. Landowner is responsible for all associated costs. (Water Code 10725.8)

## Flow Meter Specifications

- Flow meter with totalizer calibrated w/accuracy of +/- 5% by volume.

## Installation

- Must be installed to manufacturer specifications.

## Routine Calibration Schedule

- Per manufacturers specifications
- If not dictated in manufacturers specifications, default is every 5 years
- SABGSA reserves the right to request verification/proof of accuracy if an issue arises.

## Accuracy Level Required by other GSAs

- + / - 5%
  - Cuyama
  - Mid Kings River
  - Upper Ventura River
  - Fox Canyon
  - Borrego Springs
- + / - 2%
  - McMullin

# PROGRAM COMPLIANCE & VERIFICATION

## Reporting Forms for Compliance

- Ad Hoc Committee has developed reporting form templates for:
  - Groundwater Extraction/Flow Meter Reporting Form
  - Installation/Calibration Compliance Form

## Enforcement for Non-Compliance

- SABGSA should consider future enforcement mechanisms (policies and penalties) for non-compliance.
- Legal counsel will develop recommendations for:
  - Well Registration Non-Compliance
  - Flow Meter Installation and Calibration Non-Compliance
  - Flow Meter Reporting Non-Compliance

## SABGSA Well Registration Program Stats

- **Registered Wells: 268**
  - **Accounts for 12,370.83 irrigated acres – roughly 95.7% of total irrigated acres within the Basin**
  - **Outstanding Well Registrations account for 555.07 irrigated acres - roughly 4.3% of total irrigated acres within the Basin**
- **Metered Wells: 94 of 268 – 35%**
  - **Electromagnetic: 17**
  - **Propeller: 73**
  - **Ultrasonic: 2**
  - **Unknown: 2**
- **Unmetered Wells: 174 of 268 – 65%**





**SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
FLOW METER INSTALLATION AND CALIBRATION COMPLIANCE FORM**

**Due to SABGSA by XXXXXX**

This form should be completed for EACH flow meter installed in the San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin, unless your annual groundwater production is less than 2 AFY. A fillable pdf version of this form can be downloaded at: <https://sanantoniobasingsa.org/metering-program/>

Please return your form(s) to the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("SABGSA") by mail to P.O. Box 196, Solvang, CA 93464 or via email to [admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org](mailto:admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org).

**1. Landowner and Well Information**

Property Owner Information

Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Well Operator Information (if different than above)

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Well and Meter Location**

Assessor's Parcel No. (APN): \_\_\_\_\_

Geographical Coordinates for Well (decimal degree): [Instructions to find coordinates](#).

Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Meter Information**

Flow Meter Make and Model: \_\_\_\_\_

Flow Meter Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Flow Meter Size (inches): \_\_\_\_\_ Discharge Pipe Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Well Use:  Agricultural  Domestic  Municipal  Industrial  Livestock Watering

Meter Units of Measure:  Acre-feet  Cubic-feet  Gal  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Schedule for Routine Calibration (per Manufacturer's Specifications):

Annually  Every 3 Years  Every 5 Years  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Installation Information**

Installation Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Last Calibration: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Attestation and Signature of Property Owner or Property Owner's Legal Designee**

I attest to and certify that each of the following statements are true and correct.

- The flow meter with totalizer is installed per the manufacturer's specifications.
- The flow meter is calibrated within an accuracy range of +/- 5%.
- Supporting documentation will be provided to SABGSA upon request.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# DRAFT FLOW METER INSTALLATION AND COMPLIANCE FORM

## Ad Hoc Comm. Discussion Items

- One form to be used for:
  - New flow meters (2/3 of wells in Basin)
  - Existing flow meters (1/3 of wells in Basin)
- Calibration schedule and date of last calibration
- Attestation form certifying compliance:
  - Flow meter with totalizer installed per manufacturer's specifications
  - Flow meter calibrated within +/- 5%
- No Additional Documentation Required – SABGSA reserves the right to request photographs, calibration certificate, map of flow meter locations on a parcel (if multiple) etc.
- Consider electronic submissions/online form

# FLOW METER REPORTING PROCESS

Semi-Annually by Landowners on May 1 and November 1

## Reporting Requirements / Process

- Monthly Readings: Within the first 5 days of each month.
- Monthly flow meter readings must be reported twice a year in Spring and Fall (SABGSA schedule based on WY)
  - 60 Days to Submit Report to SABGSA
    1. April 1 – September 1 readings – due Nov. 1
    2. October 1 – March 1 readings – due May 1
- Reporting must be completed using the process identified by the GSA.
  - Submit SABGSA Reporting Form
  - Submittal Options for SABGSA Reporting Form:
    1. Electronic (fillable pdf) via Email
    2. Hardcopy via US Mail
    3. Online form, portal or app. SABGSA is exploring cost effective options that will simplify compliance for landowners and reduce staff/consultant time.

## Ad Hoc Comm. Discussion Items

- **Current DMS can be built out to accommodate electronic reporting/online form.**
- **Need to identify logistics and costs to build**
  - **Unique log-in by owner**
  - **Information that auto-populates**
  - **Is it an app or desktop log-in, etc.**
  - **Fields for multiple wells**
- **Need to identify internal process for entering data and associated costs**
  - **Hydrogeologist?**
  - **Intern?**
  - **Other?**



SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY  
GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION / FLOW METER REPORTING FORM

**Due to SABGSA by November 1, 2025**  
**(Reporting Period: Monthly readings for April 1, 2025 – September 1, 2025)**

This form should be completed for EACH flow meter installed in the San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin on all non-de minimis production (> 2AFY) wells. Monthly readings are required to occur within the first 5 days of each month. Complete and accurate responses are critical for an equitable and data driven approach to groundwater management in the Basin. A fillable pdf version of this form can be downloaded at: <https://sanantoniobasingsa.org/metering-program/>

Please return your form(s) to the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“SABGSA”) by mail to P.O. Box 196, Solvang, CA 93464 or via email to [admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org](mailto:admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org).

**1. Landowner Contact Information**

Property Owner Information

Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Well Operator Information (if different than above):

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Well and Flow Meter Information**

Assessor’s Parcel No. (APN): \_\_\_\_\_

Geographical Coordinates for Well (decimal degree): [Instructions to find coordinates.](#)

Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

Flow Meter Make and Model: \_\_\_\_\_ Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Flow Meter Measurement Data**

Month	Measurement Date	Totalizing Flow Meter Reading (listed on face)	Flow Measurement Unit (acre-feet, cubic feet, etc.)	Total Extracted (by Month)
April 2025				
May 2025				
June 2025				
July 2025				
August 2025				
September 2025				

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Supporting Documentation:**

The SABGSA reserves the right to request supporting documentation from the landowner including, but not limited to, proof of flow meter accuracy, photographs, etc.

# DRAFT FLOW METER REPORTING FORM

## Ad Hoc Comm. Discussion Items

- Should SABGSA ask landowners to calculate total volume of extraction for the reporting period or simply provide the reading and flow measurement unit?
- No Additional Documentation Required – SABGSA reserves the right to request photographs, proof of flow meter accuracy, etc.
- Consider developing excel spreadsheet for landowners with multiple flow meters
- Consider electronic submissions / online form through website or portal

# PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

Based on Direction from SABGSA Board....



## AD HOC COMM. DELIVERABLES

March 19<sup>th</sup> GSA Board Meeting

- 1<sup>st</sup> DRAFT FAQ
- Updated reporting and compliance forms, if necessary.

## LEGAL COUNSEL DELIVERABLES

April 16<sup>th</sup> GSA Board Meeting

- Legal counsel presents first draft of Ordinance for discussion including enforcement mechanisms (policies and penalties) for non-compliance.

## AD HOC COMMITTEE DELIVERABLES

May 21<sup>st</sup> GSA Board Meeting

- Present initial research and options for data entry/management – may consider RFP

# DISCUSSION

- **Frequently Asked Questions Document**
  - **Comments/Items for Clarification**
  - **Other Topics for Consideration**
- **Additional Items for Ad Hoc Comm. Exploration**
  - **Mechanism for Electronic Reporting**
- **Direction from SABGSA Board**
  - **Legal Counsel**
  - **Ad Hoc Committee**
- **Timeline for Stakeholder Workshops**

# LEGAL AUTHORITY

## Water Code 10725.8 - SGMA

(a) **WATER MEASURING DEVICE:** A groundwater sustainability agency may require through its GSP that the use of **every groundwater extraction facility** within the management area of the GSA be **measured by a water-measuring device** satisfactory to the GSA.

(b) **COSTS, INSTALL, CALIBRATION:** **All costs associated** with the purchase and installation of the water-measuring device shall be **borne by the owner** or operator of each groundwater extraction facility. The water-measuring devices shall be **installed by** the GSA or, at the groundwater sustainability agency's option, by **the owner or operator** of the groundwater extraction facility. Water-measuring devices shall be **calibrated on a reasonable schedule as may be determined by the GSA.**

(c) **REPORTING:** **A GSA may require,** through its GSP, that the owner or operator of a groundwater extraction facility within the GSA file **an annual statement** with the GSA **setting forth the total extraction in acre-feet** of groundwater from the facility during the previous water year.

(d) In addition to the measurement of groundwater extractions pursuant to subdivision (a), a GSA may use any other reasonable method to determine groundwater extraction.

(e) **DE MINIMIS EXTRACTORS EXEMPT:** This section does not apply to de minimis extractors.



## SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

### Well Metering & Extraction Reporting Program

#### DRAFT Frequently Asked Questions

March 14, 2024

**Please Note:** The proposed policies, actions, and compliance forms described below are in draft form and are subject to change. The SABGSA will continue to update this document as the framework for the metering program is developed. The intent of this document is to provide landowners with advance notice of policies being considered by the SABGSA.

#### Key Acronyms

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
- Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
- San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SABGSA)
- San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin)
- Department of Water Resources (DWR)
- Acre Feet per Year (AFY)
- Acre Feet (AF)

#### Documents and Presentations for Reference

- Approved GSP and GSP Annual Reports: <https://sanantoniobasingsa.org/approved-gsp/>
- Quarterly Groundwater Level Monitoring and Reports: <https://sanantoniobasingsa.org/groundwater-planning-and-reports/>
- Framework for Metering Program: <https://sanantoniobasingsa.org/metering-program/>

#### GENERAL QUESTIONS

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##### **What is the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)?**

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was enacted in 2014 and became effective January 1, 2015. The objective of this state law is to ensure the long-term sustainable management of groundwater resources in California. SGMA requires designated medium-and high-priority groundwater basins to form locally controlled Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) to develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP).

##### **What is a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)?**

A Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) contains an assessment of groundwater conditions in the basin, describes plans for monitoring conditions, and explains how the Groundwater Sustainability Agency will implement and measure the results of specific actions to achieve or maintain sustainability within 20 years. SABGSA's GSP was approved by the Department of Water Resources on January 18, 2024.



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### What's the current state of the Basin?

#### Extracting More than the Basin's Estimated Sustainable Yield

Current Basin conditions, comparison of current and historical groundwater elevation contour maps, and the Basin's historical water budget presented in the GSP, indicate chronic groundwater pumping in excess of the Basin's estimated sustainable yield (8,900 acre-feet per year [AFY])<sup>1</sup>, creating challenging conditions for sustainable management. The average annual change in groundwater in storage during the Basin's historical water budget period [1981–2018] was a decrease of 10,600 AFY<sup>2</sup>.

#### Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels

The 2023 GSP Annual Report indicates that groundwater trends are consistent with historical conditions reported in the GSP. The first Annual Report (water years 2019 through 2021) and second Annual Report (water year 2022) indicated groundwater elevations decreased or remained the same in all representative monitoring sites (RMSs), resulting in an overall decrease in total groundwater in storage. Water year 2023 data, however, indicate groundwater elevations generally increased across the Basin as a result of the wet water year type observed during water year 2023, and, consequently, a reduction in groundwater pumping. Total groundwater pumping for water year 2023 (15,300 AF) remained above the Basin's estimated sustainable yield.

### WELL REGISTRATION & METERING PROGRAM OVERVIEW

#### What is the purpose of the Well Registration and Metering Program?

The San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SABGSA) is working to position you, neighboring landowners, and all groundwater users to achieve groundwater sustainability together as mandated by California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. With the completion and approval of the San Antonio Creek Valley Basin GSP, the SABGSA is now turning to implementation strategies. The Well Registration and Metering Program, identified as a Tier 1 Management Action in the GSP, fills critical data gaps and is an essential precursor to the implementation of other projects and management actions vital to achieving sustainability.

To support effective Basin management, two key pieces of information are needed.

1. Where are extractions occurring?
2. How much is being extracted?

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<sup>1</sup> SGMA defines sustainable yield as "the maximum quantity of water, calculated over a period representative of long-term conditions in the basin and including any temporary surplus that can be withdrawn annually from a groundwater supply *without causing an undesirable result*". The historical basin yield was estimated by summing the estimated average groundwater storage decrease of 10,600 AFY with the estimated total average amount of groundwater pumping, of 19,500 AFY, for the historical period. This results in a historical basin yield for the Basin of about 8,900 AFY. It is anticipated that this value may fluctuate in the future as conditions change or as more data is obtained. Please refer to Section 3.3 of the GSP. Based on the Basin's sustainable management criteria described in Section 4 of the GSP, the basin yield is equal to the sustainable yield for the Basin calculated for the historical period.

<sup>2</sup> Please refer to Figure 3-62. Average Groundwater Budget Volumes, Historical Period in the GSP





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The data collected from well registration established the location and type of each well located within the Basin and helped us gain an accurate count and a better understanding of the wells in active use. Well metering and extraction reporting is intended to facilitate consistent and reliable reporting of groundwater extraction volumes, excluding de minimis wells (extraction of less than 2 AFY).<sup>3</sup>

### **Why metering and how will the data from the Metering Program be used by SABGSA?**

Accurately estimating private groundwater usage and the change of groundwater in storage is a challenge, hampered by a lack of systematic and quantitative monitoring. The absence of such information makes it difficult for SABGSA to develop and implement sustainable management policies. The most equitable method for landowners and for SABGSA to measure groundwater extraction is through the implementation of flow measurement devices on all non de minimis wells. Simply put, estimates cannot provide the same accuracy that a permanently installed totalizing flow meter can.

Flow measurement and reporting allows SABGSA and landowners to accurately measure and record the volume of pumped groundwater by well across the Basin, as well as seasonal variation in water demand. This information will serve as a baseline that will enable proactive and adaptive management of groundwater resources, inform future SABGSA demand management actions and policies, provide additional information to be used by the SABGSA for analyzing projected Basin conditions, update the water budget and hydrogeological conceptual model (HCM), identify wells and landowners that could be included in the Basin's groundwater level monitoring network, and complete annual reports and 5-year GSP assessment reports required by DWR. Ultimately, this information will allow SABGSA to sustainably manage, protect, and maintain the groundwater resources within the Basin consistent with SGMA for the benefit of all water users.

### **Is participation mandatory?**

Yes, participation is proposed to be mandatory. All wells located within the Basin (excluding de minimis wells – defined as extraction of less than 2 AFY for domestic supply) would be required to be metered. Following a series of public workshops and hearings, the SABGSA will consider an Ordinance in Fall 2024 requiring meters to be installed on all non-de minimis wells and monthly groundwater extraction data to be reported twice per year. Water Code § 10725.8 authorizes a GSA to require through their GSP that the use of every groundwater extraction facility (except those operated by de minimis extractors) be measured. Wells operated by the Los Alamos Community Services District and Vandenberg Space Force Base are already metered and extraction is reported to SABGSA.

### **Is a flow meter required for a domestic well?**

No, unless use is over two-acre feet per year. SGMA does not authorize GSAs to require metering of de minimis, domestic use wells. Domestic (i.e., residential) well users generally fall within the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act's (SGMA) definition of a de minimis extractor. SGMA defines a de

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<sup>3</sup> SGMA defines a de minimis extractor as "a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less (of groundwater) per year." (Cal. Water Code § 10721(e).)



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minimis extractor as “a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less (of groundwater) per year.” (Cal. Water Code § 10721(e).)

### **What’s the ratio of metered to un-metered wells in the Basin?**

The SABGSA’s well registration data indicates that 1/3 of private groundwater wells in the Basin currently have meters in place while 2/3 of wells did not report the presence of meters. Wells operated by the Los Alamos Community Services District and Vandenberg Space Force Base are already metered and extraction is reported to SABGSA.

### **Is there a penalty for non-compliance?**

The SABGSA is asking for your assistance and cooperation as we work together toward achieving sustainability within the Basin. In accordance with California Water Code Section 10732, the SABGSA’s Board of Directors reserves the right to impose administrative or civil penalties for failure to comply.

## **FLOW METER SELECTION, INSTALLATION, AND CALIBRATION**

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### **What type of meter is required?**

The SABGSA will require a flow meter with a totalizer. The SABGSA will not dictate the type of flow meter and is providing landowners with the flexibility to select the best flow measurement device for their wells based on production capacity, size of the discharge pipe diameter, budget, etc.

Regardless of the type of totalizing flow meter selected (propeller, electromagnetic, ultrasonic, to name a few) to be used for reporting to the SABGSA, the meter must meet the following requirements to support accurate measurement of flows:

- Equipped with a direct reading rate-of-flow indicator showing instantaneous flow in gallons per minute or a sweep hand indicator for which rate-of-flow can be determined by timing.
- Equipped with a visual, volume-recording totalizer recorded in gallons, cubic feet, acre-inches, or acre-feet.
- Calibrated prior to installation with an accuracy level of +/- 5% by volume.
- Installed, operated, and maintained to the manufacturer’s specifications, instructions, and recommendations.

### **What if I already have a meter on my well?**

SABGSA’s well registration data indicates that 1/3 of wells in the Basin currently have meters in place. The existing meter must be a flow meter with a totalizer and meet the requirements outlined above. Utilizing SABGSA’s [Flow Meter Installation and Calibration Compliance Form](#), landowners will provide meter and installation information including the most recent date of calibration. The draft form is provided for reference and is subject to change.



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### **How much is a flow meter and who pays for it?**

The cost to purchase a flow meter can range anywhere from \$1,000 to over \$10,000, depending on the size of the system and the type of flow meter. Per Water Code Section 10725.8(b), all costs associated with the purchase and installation of the water-measuring device shall be borne by the well owner or operator.

The SABGSA will make every effort to identify potential state and federal programs and grants, such as the Bureau of Reclamation, to help landowners offset the cost of implementing flow meters. In addition, the Santa Barbara County Water Agency has implemented a Well Metering Assistance Program (WMAP) designed to provide funding to offset up to \$500 of the equipment cost of qualifying water meters. Eligibility is limited to 1 meter per applicant. More information can be found at:

<https://www.countyofsb.org/2568/Well-Metering-Assistance-Program-WMAP>.

### **Who can install the flow meter?**

The SABGSA does not have a preferred list of vendors, and it would be at the discretion of the landowner to select a qualified individual to install the flow meter. SABGSA's only requirement is that installation is done per the manufacturer's specifications. Assistance from a qualified professional in flowmeter selection and installation is recommended to ensure proper installation and accuracy of future flow measurements.

### **What is the deadline for well meter installation and documentation required by SABGSA?**

The SABGSA intends to give landowners one year from the date the Well Metering & Extraction Reporting Ordinance is adopted to install a flow meter with a totalizer on all non-de minimis wells. It is anticipated that the SABGSA Board will consider a Well Metering & Extraction Reporting Ordinance in Fall 2024 with installation required by Fall 2025. To demonstrate compliance, landowners will need to return SABGSA's [Flow Meter Installation and Calibration Compliance](#) form by the 2025 deadline that will be specified at the time the Ordinance is adopted. The draft form is provided for reference and is subject to change.

### **What is the timeline for routine flow meter calibration?**

Flow meters should be routinely calibrated per the schedule outlined in the manufacturer's specifications. If no such schedule exists, the SABGSA will require routine calibration to be performed once every five years. If the verification error exceeds 5%, then the flow meter must be recalibrated or replaced with a certifiable meter.

## **FLOW METER REPORTING**

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### **How often will meters need to be read and recorded?**

The SABGSA will require meters to be read and recorded monthly between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month. Monthly reporting of meter totalizer readings will enable a more accurate representation of spatial and seasonal variations (and variation during different water year types) of water demand as well



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as allow for more consistent analysis with other Basin monitoring networks and analyses. For example, monthly reporting of meter totalizer readings could be used to correlate the response in groundwater levels to known volumes of pumping throughout the Basin to inform annual reports, etc. Likewise, the metered data can be used to further validate the satellite-based method of calculating Basin agricultural groundwater extractions and vice versa.

### **When are the monthly readings due to SABGSA and how to report them?**

Monthly flow meter readings must be reported twice per year in Spring and Fall using [SABGSA's Groundwater Extraction / Flow Meter Reporting Form](#). The draft form is provided for reference and is subject to change. SABGSA's reporting schedule is based on the water year (October 1 – September 30) in order to capture usage during seasonal highs and lows. The SABGSA will give landowners 60 days to compile and submit the report for each period. The SABGSA anticipates the initial flow meter reporting period to begin in Fall 2025 with the first report due May 1, 2026.

- Reporting period #1: Monthly readings for April through September are due by November 1
- Reporting period #2: Monthly readings for October through March are due by May 1

### **How do I return the form(s)?**

Please return your form(s) to the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("SABGSA") via email to [admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org](mailto:admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org) or by mail to P.O. Box 196, Solvang, CA 93464. Email is the preferred method. It is anticipated that the SABGSA will eventually require all flow meter reporting to be done electronically utilizing an online form, portal, or cell phone app. The SABGSA is currently exploring cost effective options that will simplify compliance for landowners and reduce staff/consultant time for SABGSA.

### **WHAT'S NEXT?**

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#### **In the future, will there be limitations imposed on how much groundwater a landowner can pump?**

The GSP indicates a chronic lowering of groundwater levels and that a chronic reduction of groundwater in storage has been occurring in the Basin (an average decrease in groundwater in storage of 10,600 AFY was calculated for the Basin from 1981 through 2018). Although the SABGSA is working to implement projects and management actions (described in the GSP), including projects that enhance groundwater recharge and importing water, the additional volume of groundwater recharge or water supplies from an alternate source(s) (e.g., surface water or imported water) is not anticipated to be enough to offset the current Basin groundwater demand and chronic reduction of groundwater in storage. At some point in the future, it is likely that some reduction in water demand will be required in the Basin, meaning there may be a need to limit the amount of groundwater that can be pumped, aimed at both keeping groundwater levels stable and avoiding undesirable results (as defined in the GSP).

#### **What future demand management actions are being considered by SABGSA?**

Section 6 of the GSP outlines a portfolio of potential projects and management actions that the SABGSA could employ based on Basin conditions and progress toward sustainability. As part of the GSP



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implementation process, the SABGSA will explore various financing options to cover its operational costs, monitoring of the Basin, implementation of management actions, and potential future projects. The SABGSA may consider, for example, adopting a groundwater pumping fee program or developing a sustainable yield allocation with a water marketplace program. In any case, accurate measurement of groundwater extraction through metering is a critical first step and would help ensure that any action taken is equitable for all Basin users and is based on proven, reliable data. Future demand management actions will continue to undergo study and discussion, including taking into account the financial impacts on landowners and existing [San Antonio Basin Water District assessments](#).

The SABGSA will continue to monitor the effectiveness of these Tier 1 management actions on an annual basis to determine if they will be sufficient to achieve the Basin sustainability goals defined in the GSP. The overall effectiveness of individual management actions will also be evaluated annually to determine if continued investment in those actions is warranted or if other actions should be considered.

The policies and actions discussed above will be all be reviewed and discussed in open sessions during Board meetings with an opportunity for public comment. Stay tuned!

### **How do I stay informed?**

We encourage active participation and input from landowners, Basin stakeholders, and interested parties. To stay informed on the latest news, updates, policies, and board meeting notices, please join our e-mail communication list by contacting [admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org](mailto:admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org) or register as an interested party through our communication portal at <https://portal.sanantoniobasingsa.org/>. The SABGSA has also created a [Metering Program page on our website](#) to house the latest information and presentations on the draft framework. Board meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6pm. Agendas and supporting documents can be found at: [sanantoniobasingsa.org/meeting-agendas/](https://sanantoniobasingsa.org/meeting-agendas/).