

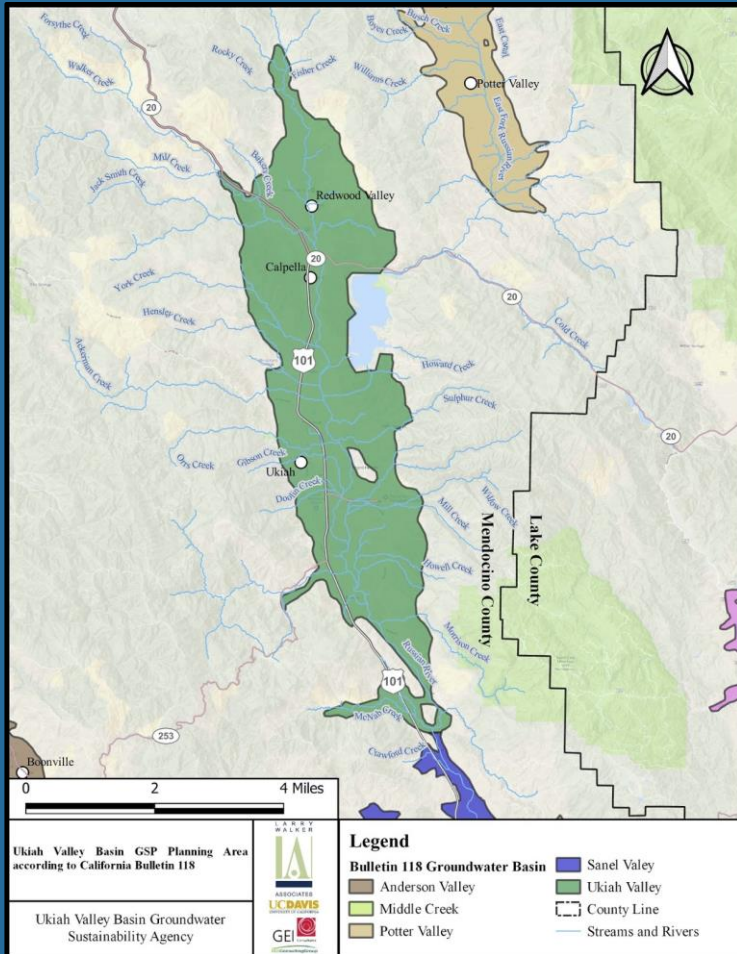
Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Winter 2022/2023 Updates



As you may know...

- The Ukiah Valley Basin is considered “medium-priority”
- The Basin is managed by the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and the Board is comprised of representatives from:
 - County of Mendocino
 - City of Ukiah
 - Russian River Flood Control
 - Upper Russian River Water Agency
 - Tribal Seat
 - Agricultural Seat
- The GSA holds quarterly Board and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings through June 2023



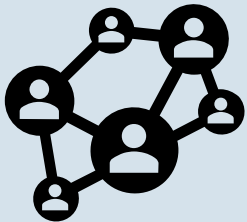
Achievements in 2022

Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Submittal and California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Review



- GSP submitted on January 28th, 2022
- DWR will now review and provide their determination and feedback by the end of 2023
- Possible determinations: adequate, incomplete, inadequate

Expanding Staff



- West Yost Associates were hired for GSA Administration Services and Erik Cadaret was designated as the GSA Plan Manager
- Kronick Moskowitz Teidemann & Girard law firm were selected to provide Legal Counsel Services

Status of the Basin












The Ukiah Valley Basin's Sustainability Goal, as outlined in the GSP, is to maintain groundwater resources to best support the continued and long-term health of the people, the environment, and the economy in Ukiah Valley, for generations to come. The GSA tracks progress toward this goal using **Sustainable Management Criteria**.

What are Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC)?

SMC are indicators or "effects" that help the GSA to assess groundwater conditions.

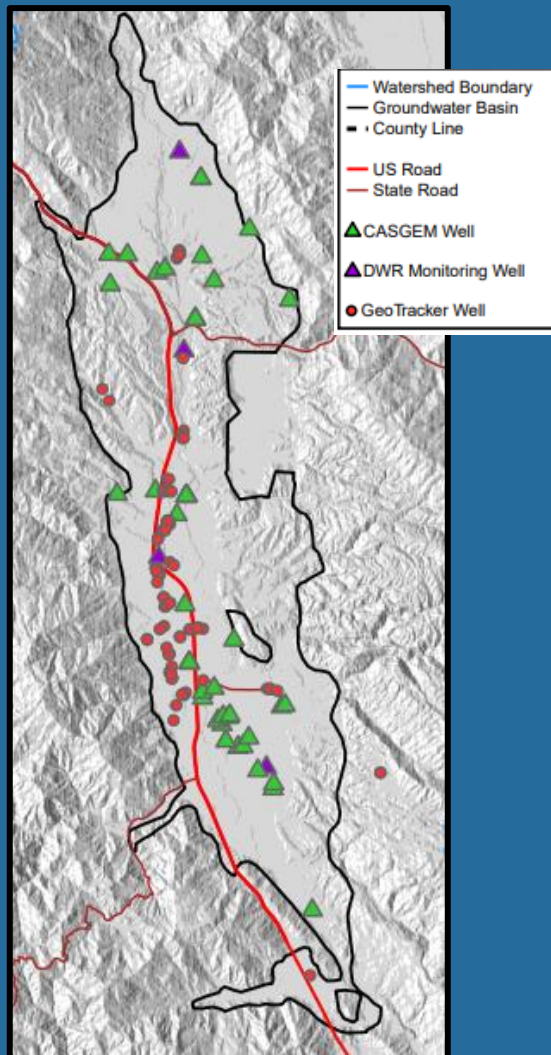
SMC are monitored to evaluate progress towards the sustainability goal and assess potential areas of concern.



		
Lowering GW Levels	Reduction of Storage	Seawater Intrusion
		NA
		
Degraded Quality	Land Subsidence	Surface Water Depletion
		

Green indicates that conditions are in line with goals laid out in the GSP. Yellow indicates that conditions may require actions to be taken if conditions do not improve.

Status of the Basin



Groundwater Monitoring

- There are over 40 wells in the monitoring network
- These wells are monitored for water quality and groundwater elevation
- Monitoring occurs on either a monthly or annual basis
- Land subsidence data is obtained from DWR

What is the data used for?

- Data is collected and used to continually improve and refine the groundwater model for the basin

What can the Groundwater Model tell us?

- The model is a tool which simulates surface water and groundwater conditions in the Basin
- Model results help the GSA evaluate progress in avoiding undesirable results
- The model uses data collected from monitoring efforts (quantify surface water flows, groundwater levels, and water quality)
- The model will continue to be updated to improve its accuracy and utility as an effective management tool

Upcoming Focus Areas

The GSA is using the **Communication and Engagement Plan Update** (September 2022, available online) to identify and conduct engagement during GSP implementation.



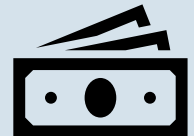
Well Permitting

Executive Order N-7-22 requires new well permitting provisions, and the GSA is coordinating with County Environmental Health on upcoming workshops



Pursuing DWR SGMA Implementation Grant Funding

- The GSA is pursuing a grant solicited by DWR which, if funded, would allow the GSA to implement several projects
- Notification from DWR about funding is expected by June 2023



If awarded, what will the Implementation Grant fund?

GSP 5-Year Update – to focus on updating SMCs and GW model

Water Supply Reliability Study – to better understand the basin's supply reliability

Recharge Master Plan and Pilot Project Implementation – to develop a strategy for groundwater recharge within the basin and implement up to three pilot projects

Rate and Fee Study – to provide the foundation for the GSA to become a self-sufficiency agency

Interconnected Surface Water-Groundwater Study – to fill critical data gaps where the interconnected relationship is not well understood

Groundwater Well Inventory Study – to fill data gaps in areas where lithology and hydraulic properties are not well understood

Award notification from DWR anticipated in June 2023.

More about the Rate and Fee Study

Implementing the GSP is expected to cost at least \$405,000 per year, some of which costs will be funded through grants.

Unless the GSA can implement rates and fees and actively pursue available grant funds, it will be vulnerable to state intervention.

The Rate and Fee Study is anticipated to start in July 2023 and conclude by July 2025, at which point the GSA will then focus on implementing the rates and fees determined in the study.

Opportunities to Engage

A **Well Permitting Workshop** was held on November 15.

It covered:

- Historical well permitting conditions
- New requirements for the County and the GSA
- Input on the well application and review process

A follow-up Workshop is slated for early 2023.

The **GSA website** will be updated soon.

The new site will improve navigability and provide more resources for those seeking information on GSP implementation activities.

The GSA is preparing **Quarterly Newsletters**.

The Newsletter for Fall 2022 is available online and the Winter Newsletter is anticipated for release in February.



Opportunities to Engage

Well Permitting Workshop Part 2

February 2, 5-6:30

Barra of Mendocino Winery

Late Winter/Early Spring

GSA TAC Meeting

Date, Time, and Location to be
posted online

Late Winter/Early Spring

GSA Board Meeting

Date, Time, and Location
to be posted online

Questions? Contact:



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