

# MINUTES

## Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

### Board Members:

SIERRA HIGHLANDS	John Camphouse	COUNTY OF MONO	Fred Stump
EASTERN SIERRA CSD	Ron Stone	CITY OF BISHOP	Chris Costello
INDIAN CREEK-WESTRIDGE CSD	Luis Elias	COUNTY OF INYO	Dan Tothoroh
WHEELER CREST CSD	Charlie Tucker	BIG PINE CSD	BryAnna Vaughan
TRI VALLEY GWMD	Dave Doonan		

January 9, 2020

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. at the Bishop City Council Chambers, Bishop, CA.

#### 1. Pledge of allegiance

The Chairman led the pledge of allegiance.

#### 2. Public Comment

The Chairperson opened the public comment period and there was no one wishing to address the Board.

#### 3. Introductions

The Board introduced themselves with one absence, Tri Valley GWMD.

#### 4. Approval of minutes from the December 12, 2019 OVGA Board meeting

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2019 meeting. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by John Camphouse, seconded by Luis Elias. Motion passed 7 yes (30.36), 1 abstention (3.82 votes), 1 absent (3.82 votes).

#### 5. Board Member Reports

Bryanna Vaughan reported that the Big Pine CSD was awarded their project DAC grant, with the IRWMP to tie-in with the Big Pine Paiute Tribes water system. She thanked the OVGA for the letter of support.

#### 6. OVGA staff reports

- Financial Report
- Report on Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority activities

Laura Piper, Inyo County Water Department, provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$240,481.82. She stated transactions since the previous meeting were copy charges of \$144.34, and Mono County's staff billing of \$8,959.00 for the period of April 2019 through September 2019. John Vallejo stated IWVGA will be conducting a public hearing on the draft GSP recommended for adoption next Thursday in Ridgecrest; the draft plan includes two import options; one obtaining water via the aqueduct through an agreement with LADWP; Inyo County Board of Supervisors will hear a presentation regarding the IWVGA proposed GSP; and Inyo County is opposed to a GSP that includes an LADWP project. The Chairman requested that a copy of the presentation for that agenda item be forwarded to Mono County clerk to be included as correspondence. He stated Mono County will be interested in Inyo County's discussion and their direction. Rick Kettleman asked what time the Inyo Board's presentation will be; John stated it will be scheduled as a timed item on the agenda. Sally Manning asked if Mono County is going to take a position on this; the Chairman stated he doesn't know the answer to that question. He stated this is new information for them; it has not been discussed; and his impression of his colleagues views would be that they would be opposed to any plan that would import

water into the IWV from points north.

#### **7. Consideration of letter to Glenn Inouye recognizing his service to the OVGA**

Mr. Tucker stated Glenn Inouye's service to the district has been invaluable and it is a great loss to the district that he's moving on. The Chairman stated after the Round Fire when power was lost to the district, Glenn worked tirelessly to get that system back up and running so that fire hydrants could work in that community. The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the letter to Glenn Inouye. Motion to approve the letter as submitted by Ron Stone, seconded by Dan Tothoroh, motion passed 8 yes (34.18) 1 absent (3.82 votes)

#### **8. Termination of Members & Funding Agreements**

- a. Consideration of requests from Members to terminate OVGA membership;
- b. Consideration of requests from Members requesting membership termination to cancel their respective funding agreements with the OVGA
- c. Set future GSPDB Funding Meeting (Article IV 1.1), if needed

Dr. Steinwand stated in December the basin was prioritized low, at that time, all members were requested to provide letters requesting termination if they so desired; one request was received from Wheeler Crest. He stated not all member agencies were able to meet during the holidays and may come forward at a future meeting; and this requires a majority vote of the Board. The Board and staff discussed item 8 a-c in detail. John Vallejo stated the JPA is clear that no member will be required to contribute additional funding but will have the opportunity to make up any shortfall on an equal basis. Motion to terminate the OVGA membership of Wheeler Crest CSD by John Camphouse, seconded by Luis Elias. Motion passed 7 yes (34.18 votes) 1 absent (3.82 votes).

#### **9. Approval of amendment to the Executive Manager contract to provide hydrologic services**

Dr. Steinwand provided a brief overview of the hydrologic services that would be necessary which would increase the contract by approximately \$9,000; the Inyo County Board discussed these services by staff at their Board meeting on January 7, 2020; and there would be no overlap of services provided by Dr. Harrington or Keith Rainville. Motion to approve the amendment to the Executive Manager contract for the additional services by BryAnna Vaughan, seconded by John Camphouse, Motion passed 7 yes (30.36) 1 absent (3.82).

#### **10. Update on the Communications and Engagement Plan**

Dr. Steinwand stated there is an update from the consultant facilitating the communications and engagement plan and the Ad Hoc committee in the agenda package. He stated due to the holidays, the ad hoc committee has not met yet, but will meet next week to begin considering recommendations to the Board for guiding principles on its communications and engagement plan.

The Chairperson called a break at 2:43 pm and reconvened the meeting at 2:54 pm.

#### **11. Presentation from Daniel B. Stephens and Associates on elements of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

Tony Morgan of DBS&A provided a brief overview of the upcoming presentation with regard to the progress of the GSP; a calendar of upcoming topics of discussion; hydrogeologic conceptual models; water budgets; data gaps; and how to fill those gaps over time. Gus Tolley provided a detailed presentation of the above mentioned topics. He stated the presentation is a crash course for the Board in hydrology so they may have a basic level of understanding of the topics being discussed. The Board, consultants, and staff discussed these items in detail. Sally Manning asked if those wells listed are holes in the ground or pumping wells; Gus stated pumping, monitoring, domestic, and t-wells. Rick Kettleman inquired if the OVGA jurisdictional boundary given by DWR was GPS'd and any idea what the spatial uncertainty is with respect to hydrogeology. Gus Tolley stated the boundary is a combination of tribal and LADWP lands, and the LADWP adjudicated areas came directly from the state. He stated given the number of boundaries DWR had to draw, there is no possibility someone walked around every basin with a GPS. He stated it is most likely a combination of geologic mapping and GIS methods.

#### **12. Consideration of a Mission Statement for the OVGA**

Dr. Steinwand stated at the previous meeting a draft mission statement was provided; changes were made according to the Boards requests; and the final version is presented for the Boards consideration. Sally Manning stated item #6 is written "federally recognized tribes" and stated the SGMA with regard to AB52 states "tribes" and not restrictive to federally recognized. The Board and staff agreed to revise the Mission Statement to say "Federal and State" recognized tribes. John Camphouse made a motion to adopt the Mission Statement as amended, seconded by Ron Stone, Motion passed 7 yes (30.36) 1 absent (3.82).

**13. Discussion regarding future agenda items**

The Board requested the following agenda items; reconsideration of Board members that would like to terminate membership with the OVGA Board; financial consequences; and refunds.

**14. Set next meeting**

The next OVGA meeting was scheduled for February 13, 2020 in the Bishop City Council Chambers.

**15. Adjourn**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:12 pm.

DRAFT

lg BUDGET UNIT	Primary Ref	Transaction Description	SS Ref Date Job No	Debit	Credit	NET
GL 621601-1000	YEAREND	3. Balance Forward 2018/2019	JE 07/01/19 02595280	136,576.20	0.00	136,576.20
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD18628A Job:2483097	OH 07/16/19 02483097	0.00	450.00	136,126.20
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19715A Job:2484520	OH 07/19/19 02484520	0.00	4,450.97	131,675.23
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:OW19723C Job:2487316	OH 07/24/19 02487316	0.00	23,467.45	108,207.78
GL 621601-1000	INTRCBL	AutoID:JA19802E Job: 2496015	JE 08/02/19 02496015	1,196.59	0.00	109,404.37
GL 621601-1000	JE35066	AutoID:JH19C07J Job: 2540790	JE 10/07/19 02540790	0.00	13,714.77	95,689.60
GL 621601-1000	JE35095	AutoID:JH19C11C Job: 2544343	JE 10/11/19 02544343	0.00	4,500.00	91,189.60
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:OW19C14B Job:2545637	OH 10/15/19 02545637	0.00	844.50	90,345.10
GL 621601-1000	INTERESTA	AutoID:JA19B26B Job: 2555858	JE 10/31/19 0255858	0.00	9,767.85	80,577.25
GL 621601-1000	JE35239	AutoID:OW19N04A Job:2559123	OH 11/04/19 02559123	1,853.04	0.00	82,430.29
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:JA19B08A Job: 2562429	JE 11/08/19 02562429	0.00	29,180.45	53,249.84
GL 621601-1000	JE35319	AutoID:OS19N22A Job: 2571198	CR 11/22/19 02571198	52,859.66	0.00	106,109.50
GL 621601-1000	TTLCR	AutoID:JH19N25B Job: 2571702	JE 11/25/19 02571702	22,654.00	0.00	128,763.50
GL 621601-1000	TTLCR	AutoID:CR19D02A Job: 2574746	CR 12/02/19 02574746	98,167.66	0.00	151,417.50
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19D02A Job:2580033	OH 12/10/19 02580033	0.00	8,959.00	249,585.16
GL 621601-1000	IS1019	AutoID:IS1019 Job: 2580196	JE 12/10/19 02580196	0.00	144.34	240,426.16
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:IB20102B Job:2596569	OH 01/07/20 02596569	0.00	48,631.61	240,481.82
GL 621601-1000	JE35780	AutoID:JH20107A Job: 2597217	JE 01/07/20 02597217	0.00	4,500.00	191,850.21
*****Total *OBJT 1000		CLAIM ON CASH	DR	335,961.15	148,610.94	187,350.21
GL 621601-1160	YEAREND	3. Balance Forward 2018/2019	JE 07/01/19 02595280	1,196.59	0.00	1,196.59
GL 621601-1160	INTRCBL	4th QTR INTEREST RVRS	JE 08/02/19 02496015	0.00	1,196.59	0.00
*****Total *OBJT 1160		INTEREST RECEIVABLE	DR	1,196.59		0.00
GL 621601-1200	YEAREND	3. Balance Forward 2018/2019	JE 07/01/19 02595280	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
GL 621601-1200	JE34537	UA366949:GOLDEN STATE RISK MAN	JE 07/09/19 02475759	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
*****Total *OBJT 1200		PREPAID EXPENSES	DR	2,500.00		0.00
GL 621601-2000	YEAREND	4. Balance forward 2018/2019	JE 07/01/19 02595280	0.00	27,918.42	27,918.42
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD18628A Job:2481900	OH 07/16/19 02481900	0.00	450.00	28,368.42
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD18628A Job:2483097	OH 07/18/19 02483097	450.00	0.00	27,918.42
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19715A Job:2484520	OH 07/19/19 02484520	4,450.97	0.00	23,467.45
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:OW19723C Job:2487316	OH 07/24/19 02487316	23,467.45	0.00	0.00
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:OW19C14B Job:2544634	OH 10/14/19 02544634	0.00	844.50	844.50
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:OW19C14B Job:2545637	OH 10/15/19 02545637	844.50	0.00	0.00
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:OW19N04A Job:2558022	OH 11/04/19 02558022	0.00	29,180.45	29,180.45
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:OW19N04A Job:2559123	OH 11/05/19 02559123	0.00	0.00	0.00
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19D02A Job:2579315	OH 12/09/19 02579315	0.00	8,959.00	8,959.00
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19D02A Job:2580033	OH 12/10/19 02580033	0.00	0.00	0.00
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:IB20102B Job:2593644	OH 01/02/20 02593644	0.00	48,631.61	48,631.61
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:IB20102B Job:2596569	OH 01/07/20 02596569	48,631.61	0.00	0.00
*****Total *OBJT 2000		ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	CR	115,983.98		0.00
GL 621601-2200	YEAREND	4. Balance forward 2018/2019	JE 07/01/19 02595280	0.00	52,859.66	52,859.66
GL 621601-2200	JE34553	CR113320:CITY OF BISHOP	JE 07/09/19 02475759	52,859.66	0.00	0.00
*****Total *OBJT 2200		DEFERRED REVENUE	CR	52,859.66		0.00
GL 621601-3000	YEAREND	1. Balance Forward 2018/2019	JE 07/01/19 02595280	0.00	235,193.56	235,193.56
GL 621601-3000	YEAREND	2. Balance Forward 2018/2019	JE 07/01/19 02595280	175,698.85	0.00	59,494.71
*****Total *OBJT 3000		FUND BALANCE AVAILABLE	CR	175,698.85	235,193.56	59,494.71

LG BUDGET UNIT	Primary Ref	Transaction Description	SS Ref	Date	Job No	Debit	Credit	NET
GL 621601-4301	INTERESTA	1ST QRT 19/20 INTEREST	JE	11/04/19	02571260	0.00	1,853.04	1,853.04
*****Total *OBJT 4301		INTEREST FROM TREASURY	CR			0.00	1,853.04	1,853.04
GL 621601-4599	JE34553	CR113320: CITY OF BISHOP	JE	07/09/19	02475759	0.00	52,859.66	52,859.66
GL 621601-4599	JE35319	19-20 INVO OVGA CONTRIBUTION	JE	11/08/19	02562429	0.00	52,859.66	105,719.32
GL 621601-4599	CR115470	11/13/19 I#2 OVGA-COB	CR	11/22/19	02571198	0.00	22,654.00	128,373.32
GL 621601-4599	JE35428	I#2 OVGA GSP DEVELOPEMENT	JE	11/25/19	02571702	0.00	22,654.00	151,027.32
GL 621601-4599	CR115556	I#2 WHEELER CREST	CR	12/02/19	02574746	0.00	22,654.00	173,681.32
GL 621601-4599	CR115555	I#2 TRI-VALLEY GWD	CR	12/02/19	02574746	0.00	22,654.00	196,335.32
GL 621601-4599	CR115557	I#2 COUNTY OF MONO	CR	12/02/19	02574746	0.00	52,859.66	249,194.98
*****Total *OBJT 4599		OTHER AGENCIES	CR			0.00	249,194.98	249,194.98
GL 621601-5129	IS1019	IS CANON BILLING Q1	JE	12/10/19	02580196	144.34	0.00	144.34
*****Total *OBJT 5129		INTERNAL COPY CHARGES (NON-IS)	DR			144.34	0.00	144.34
GL 621601-5155	JE34537	UA386949: GOLDEN STATE RISK MAN	JE	07/09/19	02475759	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
*****Total *OBJT 5155		PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE	DR			2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
GL 621601-5265	JE35066	UA390613: DANIEL B. STEPHENS	JE	10/07/19	02540790	13,714.77	0.00	13,714.77
GL 621601-5265	237187	DANIEL B STEPHE PROJECT#DE18.1	OH	10/14/19	02544634	844.50	0.00	14,559.27
GL 621601-5265	238057	DANIEL B STEPHE PROJECT#DE18.1	OH	11/04/19	02556022	29,180.45	0.00	43,739.72
GL 621601-5265	239100	DANIEL B STEPHE INVO CO PN#DB1	OH	01/02/20	02593644	48,631.61	0.00	92,371.33
*****Total *OBJT 5265		PROFESSIONAL & SPECIAL SERVICE	DR			92,371.33	0.00	92,371.33
GL 621601-5291	10117	WHISKEY CREEK R 7/11/19 OVGA M	OH	07/16/19	02481900	450.00	0.00	450.00
*****Total *OBJT 5291		OFFICE, SPACE & SITE RENTAL	DR			450.00	0.00	450.00
GL 621601-5539	JE35095	JUL-SEPT19 COUNTY COUNSEL	JE	10/11/19	02544343	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00
GL 621601-5539	JE35239	JUL-SEPT19 OVGA STAFF SERVICES	JE	10/31/19	02556858	9,767.85	0.00	14,267.85
GL 621601-5539	2018190420192	MONO COUNTY 4/19-9/19 OVGA STA	OH	12/09/19	02579315	8,959.00	0.00	23,226.85
GL 621601-5539	JE35780	OCT-DEC19 OVGA LEGAL	JE	01/07/20	02597217	4,500.00	0.00	27,726.85
*****Total *OBJT 5539		OTHER AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS	DR			27,726.85	0.00	27,726.85
*****Total *BUDG 621601		OVGA-OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER	DR-CR			807,392.75	807,392.75	0.00

\*\* G R A N D T O T A L \*\* 807,392.75 807,392.75 0.00

**COUNTY OF INYO**  
**UNDESIGNATED FUND BALANCES**

AS OF 06/30/2020

		Claim on	Accounts	Loans	Prepaid	Accounts	Loans	Deferred	Computed	Fund	
		Cash	Receivable	Receivable	Expenses	Payable	Payable	Revenue	Fund	Balance	Undesignated
		1000	1100,1105,1160	1140	1200	2000	2140	2200	Balance		
WDIR	- WATER										
6272	OVGA-OWENS VALLEY	136,640							136,640	18,415	118,225
WDIR	Totals	136,640							136,640	18,415	118,225
Grand Totals		136,640							136,640	18,415	118,225

**COUNTY OF INYO**  
**Budget to Actuals with Encumbrances by Key/Obj**  
**As Of 1/31/2020**

Ledger: GL

Object	Description	Budget	Actual	Encumbrance	Balance	
<b>Key: 621601 - OVGA-OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER</b>						
<b>Revenue</b>						
4301	INTEREST FROM TREASURY	4,000.00	1,853.04	0.00	2,146.96	46.32
4498	STATE GRANTS	261,551.00	0.00	0.00	261,551.00	0.00
4599	OTHER AGENCIES	249,195.00	249,194.98	0.00	0.02	100.00
<b>Revenue Total:</b>		514,746.00	251,048.02	0.00	263,697.98	
<b>Expenditure</b>						
5129	INTERNAL COPY CHARGES	1,500.00	144.34	0.00	1,355.66	9.62
5155	PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
5263	ADVERTISING	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00
5265	PROFESSIONAL & SPECIAL	309,771.00	92,371.33	18,414.77	198,984.90	29.81
5291	OFFICE, SPACE & SITE RENTAL	1,500.00	450.00	0.00	1,050.00	30.00
5311	GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSE	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
5539	OTHER AGENCY	97,500.00	27,726.85	0.00	69,773.15	28.43
5901	CONTINGENCIES	13,290.00	0.00	0.00	13,290.00	0.00
<b>Expenditure Total:</b>		428,561.00	123,192.52	18,414.77	286,953.71	
621601	<b>Key Total:</b>	86,185.00	127,855.50	(18,414.77)	(23,255.73)	

# MONO COUNTY TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

P.O. Box 936  
Benton, CA 93512  
[www.tvgmd.org](http://www.tvgmd.org)

Carol Ann Mitchell, Chairperson  
Phil West, Vice-Chairperson  
Marion Dunn, Secretary  
Geri Bassett  
Dr. Dave Doonan  
Richard Moss  
Frank Ormiston  
Fred Stump, Mono County District 2 Supervisor

January 31, 2020

**VIA US MAIL AND EMAIL**

Aaron Steinwand, Executive Manager  
Owens Valley Groundwater Authority  
135 South Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 337  
Independence, CA 93526  
[asteinwand@inyocounty.us](mailto:asteinwand@inyocounty.us)

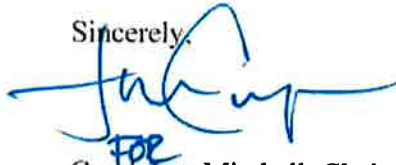
**RE: Request to Withdraw from the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority**

Dear Mr. Steinwand,

At its regular meeting held on January 29, 2020, the Board of Directors of the Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District (District) unanimously voted to request withdrawal from the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (Authority). Accordingly, on behalf of the District, I write to respectfully request the District be withdrawn from the Authority and its membership be terminated from the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority Joint Powers Agreement.

The District appreciates the opportunities to serve as a member of the Authority and to participate in the development of sustainable groundwater management practices for the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the District's request, please contact me at (760) 873-8648 or email me at [rick.and.carol.ann@gmail.com](mailto:rick.and.carol.ann@gmail.com).

Sincerely,



Carol Ann Mitchell, Chairperson  
Mono County Tri-Valley Groundwater  
Management District Board of Directors

cc: Fred Stump, Chairperson, Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (email only)  
Mono County Board of Supervisors (email only)



**RECEIVED**

Sierra Highlands Community Services District  
P.O. Box 782  
Bishop, California 93515

FEB 03 2020

Inyo County Water Dept.

January 28, 2020

Mr. Fred Stump, Chair  
Owens Valley Ground Water Authority  
P.O. Box 337  
Independence, California 93526

Dear Fred,

At a regular meeting of the Sierra Highlands Community Services District held on January 20, 2020, which was duly noticed and at which a quorum was present, the Board considered continuing to be part of the OVGA or requesting withdrawal. In view of the reclassification of the Basin as a low priority basin, the SHCSD Board voted to request approval from the OVGA for our withdrawal from membership in the Authority. The matter was appropriately moved and seconded and was unanimously approved.

The SHCSD will continue to offer cooperation in the collection of data for the Authority and we are interested in the development and finalization of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Basin.

I have learned a great deal from my participation on the OVGA Board and appreciate the work of its members as well as from many folks in the valley who care deeply about our water resources and their preservation.

Sincerely,



John G. Camphouse  
Board Member

cc: Dr. Aaron Steinwand [asteinwand@inyocounty.us](mailto:asteinwand@inyocounty.us)  
Fred Finkbeiner, General Manager SHCSD

# OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Big Pine CSD — City of Bishop — County of Inyo — County of Mono — Eastern Sierra CSD — Indian Creek-Westridge CSD — Keeler CSD —  
Sierra Highlands CSD — Starlite CSD — Tri Valley Groundwater Management District — Wheeler Crest CSD

P.O. Box 337  
135 Jackson Street  
Independence, CA 93526

Phone: (760) 878-0001  
Fax: (760) 878-2552  
[www.inyowater.org](http://www.inyowater.org)

## Staff Report

Date: February 13, 2020

Subject: Termination of Funding Agreements with Wheeler Crest & Tri-Valley

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### Recommended Action:

Authorize the OVGA Chair to enter into the Termination of the Funding Agreements between the OVGA and: (1) Wheeler Crest CSD; and (2) Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District.

### Discussion:

This item is before your board due to the Wheeler Crest CSD (Wheeler) and the Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District (Tri-Valley) respective requests to withdraw from their respective memberships in the OVGA. Your Board granted Wheeler's request at the last meeting. As your Board is aware, both agencies are partially Funding Members contributing funds toward the GSP Development Budget via a funding agreement. The funding agreement requires both agencies to contribute funding at the beginning of each fiscal year to fund the GSP Development activities. Both agencies agreed to contribute three annual installments of \$22,654 each toward the GSP Development Budget. To date, and in accordance with the funding agreement, Wheeler and Tri-Valley each contributed a total of \$45,308 toward the GSP Development Budget. The attached agreement is a simple reimbursement based purely on the passage of time. Since each has contributed twenty four months' worth of contributions, but only nineteen months have passed (assuming a February 1 effective date), then Wheeler and Tri-Valley would receive a reimbursement for the remaining five months' worth of contribution: \$9,439.16.

### Alternatives:

- (1) Your Board could direct staff to provide a more quantitative reimbursement based on the amount of Wheeler Crest's contribution that overlaps with the Prop 1 Grant Funding, and the amount of the OVGA budget not offset by -Prop 1 Grant funding that has not been spent or otherwise obligated to date. Or
- (2) Your Board could choose not to agree to terminate the funding agreements.

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY  
AND THE TRI-VALLEY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT TO  
TERMINATE AGREEMENT FOR CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDING TOWARD THE  
GSP DEVELOPMENT BUDGET**

**Whereas**, the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (“OVGA”) is a joint powers authority duly formed under the laws of the State of California for the purpose of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Part 2.74 (commencing with Section 10720) of Division 6 of the California Water Code, in the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin; and

**Whereas**, Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District, (“Tri-Valley”), is a forming Member of the OVGA and party to the OVGA Joint Powers Agreement (OVGA-JPA); and

**Whereas**, Tri-Valley desires to withdraw from its membership in the OVGA; and

**Whereas**, Tri-Valley and the OVGA entered into a funding agreement on or about March 1, 2018 (the “Funding Agreement”) to fund the OVGA’s GSP Development Budget; and

**Whereas**, Tri-Valley contributed \$45,308 toward the OVGA GSP Development Budget to date; and

**Whereas**, in conjunction with Tri-Valley’s withdrawal from the OVGA-JPA the parties wish to terminate the Funding Agreement and provide a pro rata reimbursement pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth below.

**Now, therefore, the OVGA and the Wheeler Crest CSD agree as follows:**

1. The recitals set forth above are hereby incorporated into the terms of this Agreement.
2. Effective upon entry into this Agreement, the Funding Agreement is terminated as of February 1, 2020. Therefore, the Tri-Valley shall no longer be obligated to fund the GSP Development Budget beginning on February 1, 2020.
3. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Funding Agreement, Tri-Valley shall be entitled to receive \$9,439.16, within 45 days after this Agreement is fully executed.

[REST OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK]

4. This Agreement is the joint product of the OVGA and the Member Agency and each provision hereof has been subject to the mutual consultation, negotiation, and agreement of the Parties and shall not be construed for or against any Party.

**This Agreement is entered into this 13th day of February 2020 by:**

**Owens Valley Groundwater Authority**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Stump, Chairman

**Tri-Valley Groundwater Management District**

\_\_\_\_\_  
[name]

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY  
AND THE WHEELER CREST COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT TO TERMINATE  
AGREEMENT FOR CONTRIBUTION OF FUNDING TOWARD THE GSP  
DEVELOPMENT BUDGET**

**Whereas**, the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (“OVGA”) is a joint powers authority duly formed under the laws of the State of California for the purpose of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, Part 2.74 (commencing with Section 10720) of Division 6 of the California Water Code, in the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin; and

**Whereas**, Wheeler Crest Community Services District, a Community Services District in the State of California (“Wheeler Crest CSD”), is a forming Member of the OVGA and party to the OVGA Joint Powers Agreement (OVGA-JPA); and

**Whereas**, Wheeler Crest CSD desires to withdraw from its membership in the OVGA;  
and

**Whereas**, Wheeler Crest CSD and the OVGA entered into a funding agreement on or about March 1, 2018 (the “Funding Agreement”) to fund the OVGA’s GSP Development Budget; and

**Whereas**, Wheeler Crest CSD contributed \$45,308 toward the OVGA GSP Development Budget to date; and

**Whereas**, in conjunction with Wheeler Crest CSD’s withdrawal from the OVGA-JPA the parties wish to terminate the Funding Agreement and provide a pro rata reimbursement pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth below.

**Now, therefore, the OVGA and the Wheeler Crest CSD agree as follows:**

1. The recitals set forth above are hereby incorporated into the terms of this Agreement.
2. Effective upon entry into this Agreement, the Funding Agreement is terminated as of February 1, 2020. Therefore, the Wheeler Crest CSD shall no longer be obligated to fund the GSP Development Budget beginning on February 1, 2020.
3. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Funding Agreement, the Wheeler Crest CSD shall be entitled to receive \$9,439.16, within 45 days after this Agreement is fully executed.

[REST OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK]

4. This Agreement is the joint product of the OVGA and the Member Agency and each provision hereof has been subject to the mutual consultation, negotiation, and agreement of the Parties and shall not be construed for or against any Party.

**This Agreement is entered into this 13th day of February 2020 by:**

**Owens Valley Groundwater Authority**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fred Stump, Chairman

**Wheeler Crest Community Services District**

\_\_\_\_\_  
[name]

# OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Big Pine CSD — City of Bishop — County of Inyo — County of Mono — Eastern Sierra CSD — Indian Creek-Westridge CSD — Sierra  
Highlands CSD — Tri Valley Groundwater Management District

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P.O. Box 337  
135 Jackson Street  
Independence, CA 93526

Phone: (760) 878-0001  
Fax: (760) 878-2552  
[www.inyowater.org](http://www.inyowater.org)

## Staff Report

Date: February 13, 2020

Subject: Item 9: Update on the CEP and draft Guiding Principles

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An ad hoc committee of three OVGA Board members, staff, and consultants was formed to develop a set of draft Guiding Principles and a draft Communications and Engagement Plan (CEP) to be considered by the entire Board. These documents will guide the OVGA through the stakeholder process required by SGMA during the preparation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The committee reviewed similar documents from other basins provided by the consultant and over the course of three meetings developed the draft Guiding Principles attached to this staff report and has begun work on developing the CEP. Following discussion with the full Board a final set of Principles will be prepared and placed on a future agenda for adoption.

# **Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA)**

## **Guiding Principles - Version 3 02.05.2020**

*The OVGA Ad Hoc Communications and Engagement Committee (Committee) members commenced review of Version 1 of the OVGA Guiding Principles at the Committee's initial meeting on January 15, 2020. Principles under the following categories were discussed: General Principles of Understanding, Governance, Communication and Education, and Funding. The Committee met again on February 5 and 6, 2020 to continue discussions on the Guiding Principles document. Version 3 reflects the discussions and agreements made by the Committee. The Committee is putting forth this version to the full OVGA for review and discussion at their upcoming February 13, 2020 Board Meeting.*

---

The following describes commitments and common interests that combined leadership from the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA) have agreed on as a way to influence current and future compliance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The OVGA Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JPA) is the legal foundational document for the groundwater sustainability agency (GSA). These Guiding Principles are intended to be consistent with and in furtherance of the JPA. In the event of a conflict between the JPA and these principles, the JPA takes precedence. The OVGA will comply with all applicable State and Federal regulations and statutes in its efforts to implement SGMA.

Furthermore, the OVGA will act in support of the following Mission Statement and Strategies, as adopted by the Board of Directors on January 9, 2020:

### **Mission Statement**

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority safeguards the sustainability of the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin through locally tailored management of groundwater resources to protect and sustain the environment, local residents and communities, agriculture, and the economy.

### **OVGA Strategies**

1. Prepare and implement a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) as described in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).
2. Establish standards and criteria for sustainable groundwater conditions and management within the Basin.
3. Implement groundwater management policies, regulations, and projects of the GSP consistent with the authorities granted under SGMA.



4. Monitor groundwater resources as prescribed in the GSP, assess changes in the groundwater basin using best available models and data, and adjust or modify management practices when needed to achieve or maintain sustainability.
5. Report annually and as needed to the OVGA Board and public on groundwater uses and conditions in the Basin.
6. Ensure local resident and stakeholder voices including Federal and State recognized tribes are heard through effective public engagement that invites deliberation, collaboration, and action on groundwater management issues of common importance.

## **GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF UNDERSTANDING**

- Gen1. SGMA requires that OVGA consider the interests of all Beneficial Uses and Users of groundwater. More specifically, SGMA requires that OVGA encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within a groundwater basin. The OVGA is committed to an inclusive approach through all aspects of GSP development and SGMA implementation.
- Gen2. The OVGA supports a collaborative approach among various local agencies and organizations to support SGMA implementation specifically including all parties interested in sustainable groundwater management. This approach is in the best interest of the Basin's Beneficial Users because it will maximize effectiveness, keep costs at a minimum, and capitalize on the skills and strengths of various partners. This approach will reflect mutual respect for each participant's role and mission, governmental authorities, expertise, knowledge of groundwater conditions, rights, needs, and concerns.
- Gen3. Implementation of SGMA for the OVGA incurs costs, which may be expensive, and all Beneficial Users will need to contribute in some way.
- Gen4. Local control of groundwater should be preserved to the maximum extent practicable, and State intervention to implement SGMA should be avoided.
- Gen5. Sustainable groundwater conditions in the Basin are critical to support, preserve, and enhance the economic viability, social well-being, environmental health, and culture of all Beneficial Users and Uses including tribal, domestic, municipal, agricultural, environmental, and industrial users.
- Gen6. The OVGA is committed to conduct sustainable groundwater practices that fairly consider the needs of and protect the groundwater resources for all Beneficial Users in the Basin.
- Gen7. The OVGA will have an open and transparent process for GSP development and SGMA implementation. Extensive outreach is a priority of the OVGA to inform Beneficial Users about implementation and potential effects of SGMA, and to ensure

the OVGA is informed of all Beneficial User input as a means to support OVGA decision-making.

- Gen8. SGMA implementation is new with many unknowns and fears. Willingness by all OVGA members and Beneficial Users to adapt, adjust and collaborate in good faith during GSP development (based on science and facts) and SGMA implementation is crucial to the Basin's success.

## **GOVERNANCE**

- Gov1. The OVGA operates as a governing public agency, granted with regulatory authorities provided in SGMA.
- Gov2. The OVGA's purpose is to implement SGMA in the Basin. The OVGA is committed to develop local SGMA compliance and sustainability solutions, and thereby maintain local control and avoid State intervention and management of local groundwater resources. It is also committed to solutions that will avoid costly litigation between stakeholders.
- Gov3. The OVGA Board of Directors and staff have unique responsibilities to serve their respective organizations and interests. While serving the OVGA, these individuals also have a responsibility to serve the interests and regulatory authorities of the OVGA in its required role to identify, achieve, and maintain sustainable groundwater conditions in the Basin. OVGA Directors and staff are committed to fulfill this SGMA-specific responsibility.
- Gov4. The OVGA represents and seeks to preserve the groundwater interests of all Beneficial Users and Uses in the Basin fairly and transparently.
- Gov5. Discussions among the OVGA Board of Directors, staff, and Beneficial Users may be challenging at times. The OVGA will conduct these discussions in a civil manner with a commitment to respectful discourse among all participants.

## **COMMUNICATION AND EDUCATION**

- Com1. In addition to its statutory responsibilities and authorities, the OVGA is committed to provide consistent, transparent educational opportunities for all Beneficial Users about water resources, land uses, and water management in the Basin.
- Com2. The OVGA is committed to proactive, transparent, and inclusive outreach and engagement with stakeholders, agencies, and Basin community members in accordance with OVGA's Communications and Engagement Plan.

Com3. The OVGA recognizes the value of open communication with neighboring basin groundwater resource managers and GSAs.

## **FUNDING**

- Fund1. The OVGA recognizes its duty to Basin residents, and future generations to ensure that financial resources are used effectively and responsibly to promote sustainable groundwater conditions. The OVGA is committed to carefully and prudently use funds to fully comply with SGMA and to avoid expanding beyond the scope of SGMA in a manner that might create undue costs to Beneficial Users.
- Fund2. The budgeting process and ongoing management of the OVGA will be fully transparent to all stakeholders. Budgets may be changed by unexpected circumstances, but the OVGA Board and staff are committed to follow budget projections as closely as possible. The OVGA recognizes its duty to Basin residents and future generations to ensure that its financial resources are used effectively and responsibly to promote sustainable groundwater conditions.
- Fund3. The OVGA is committed to pursuing financial and infrastructure solutions and beneficial partnerships to provide sustainable water supplies within the Basin.
- Fund4. The GSP should encourage flexibility to adapt to changes in OVGA membership, funding, and planning oversight as the parties build relationships and mutual trust.
- Fund5. Data collection and groundwater studies are essential to increase knowledge and to support fact-based groundwater management decisions. Funding and implementation is a priority and shared responsibility among all OVGA members and Beneficial Users.
- Fund6. The OVGA will seek alternative sources of funding beyond Basin residents and is committed to prioritize funding choices outside of the local member agencies whenever feasible and appropriate.

## **SGMA IMPLEMENTATION AND SUSTAINABILITY**

- Sus1. Future sustainable groundwater conditions will depend on land uses and water demand targets being in balance with available water resources. The OVGA is committed to work with land use agencies in the Basin to promote land use practices and water demand targets that achieve sustainable water resources.
- Sus2. The OVGA is committed to reducing groundwater vulnerability and protecting the Basin from undesirable results as defined by the six SGMA indicators of basin health and sustainability and outcomes of climate change.

- Sus3. OVGA members and Beneficial Users may have different requirements under different water resource conditions to ensure that minimum thresholds are achieved or exceeded. These potential different requirements will be defined in the GSP and implemented by the OVGA.
- Sus4. Groundwater conditions throughout the Basin are not uniform and vary by location, surface water, and runoff. While all Beneficial Uses and Users will share the obligation to achieve sustainability, solutions will need to reflect these geographic and hydrogeographic differences.
- Sus5. The OVGA recognizes that groundwater recharge occurs through many different means. Natural runoff, applied surface water, precipitation, and creek, canal and ditch losses utilized by Beneficial Users contribute to the Basin recharge. Studies will quantify the availability of such recharge and provisions will be included in the GSP to ensure that future groundwater extractions are consistent with quantified recharge and the sustainable yields of the Basin.
- Sus6. Integrated water management is a set of methods to extract, transport, store, use, and share groundwater and surface water throughout a groundwater basin to reduce water supply vulnerability for all water users. To support SGMA objectives and Basin-wide water needs, the OVGA will pursue an integrated water management approach for the Basin. An integrated water management approach will honor the social, cultural, natural, and economic diversity of the Basin. It will seek to ensure that all Beneficial Users have necessary water resources. An integrated water management approach may rely on but need not be limited to:
- a. Science-based decision-making.
  - b. Projects and methods to preserve, protect, recover, and restore the Basin aquifers.
  - c. Collective and individual groundwater use requirements to ensure that groundwater elevations are not depleted below minimum thresholds.

Groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDE's) such as riparian areas adjacent to surface water conveyances, creeks, and the Owens River, wetlands supported by springs and seeps, and terrestrial phreatophytic plant communities are habitat for a multitude of species, including those with State and Federal threatened and endangered status. Unsustainable groundwater management can reduce groundwater discharge and endanger the ecological value and beneficial uses of these GDE's.

- Sus7. The OVGA is committed to designing sustainability indicators that avoid significant and unreasonable impacts to GDE's. The OVGA acknowledges the interconnectedness of groundwater and surface water resources in the Basin and that groundwater is critical to sustain extensive areas of GDE's.
- Sus8. SGMA requires and the OVGA is committed to robust analysis of current and future climate-based conditions to ensure that the Basin accounts for climate

change-related impacts. The OVGA is also willing to partner with other natural resource agencies and water providers potentially affected by climate change.

- Sus9. Groundwater recharge, surface water quantities, and the base flows of the Basin's tributaries will be impacted by climate change and associated water conditions. The OVGA will utilize best available science to inform management decisions in light of varying climate.

Under SGMA, groundwater users that extract two acre-feet of groundwater or less per year for domestic purposes are defined as "de minimis." This classification limits the statutory financial and measurement responsibilities of these groundwater extractors and is a means through which some SGMA-related burdens are minimized for this select set of groundwater extractors. In this context:

- Sus10. The OVGA is committed to the definition of de minimis and will explore opportunities to minimize SGMA-related impacts to de minimis users, in particular those in disadvantaged communities who rely solely on groundwater.
- Sus11. The de minimis classification does not excuse a Beneficial User from their legal responsibility to comply with SGMA.
- Sus12. The OVGA will evaluate and account for the incremental impacts that de minimis water users have on the Basin' water budgets.
- Sus13. The OVGA is committed to provide appropriate compliance benefits that are afforded to de minimis users but to also ensure that potential groundwater use impacts are not imposed on other Beneficial Users that do not meet the de minimis definition.
- Sus14. The OVGA opposes groundwater export from the Eastern Sierra that would result in negative consequences to groundwater sustainability, the environment, local economy, and residents.

# Owens Valley GSP Update

February 13th, 2020

Daniel R. Stephens & Associates, Inc.

## Questions from January Meeting?

- Topics covered:
  - Hydrogeologic conceptual models
  - Current data gaps

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## Board Discussion Topics / Schedule

	Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3
Feb-2020	Water budget (historical data)	Water budget (model files)	DPWM Tri-Valley Overview
Mar-2020	GW model(s) review [DPWM Tri-Valley Results]	Intro to Sustainable Management Criteria	Intro to Projects & Management Actions
Apr-2020	Intro to Projects & Management Actions	Sustainable Management Criteria (cont'd)	Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs)



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## March 2020 Reference / Background Materials

- BMP - Sustainable Management Criteria  
[https://water.ca.gov/legacy/Files/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/BMP\\_Sustainable\\_Management\\_Criteria\\_2017-11-06.pdf](https://water.ca.gov/legacy/Files/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/BMP_Sustainable_Management_Criteria_2017-11-06.pdf)

### SUBARTICLE 3. Sustainable Management Criteria

- CCR 354.22. Introduction to Sustainable Management Criteria
- CCR 354.24. Sustainability Goal
- CCR 354.26. Undesirable Results
- CCR 354.28. Minimum Thresholds
- CCR 354.30. Measurable Objectives




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Water budgets are a key part of the GSP.

**2.2.3Water Budget Information (Reg. § 354.18)**

- Description of inflows, outflows, and change in storage
- Quantification of overdraft (as applicable)
- Estimate of sustainable yield
- Quantification of current, historical, and projected water budget
- Description of surface water supply used or available for use for groundwater recharge or in-lieu use

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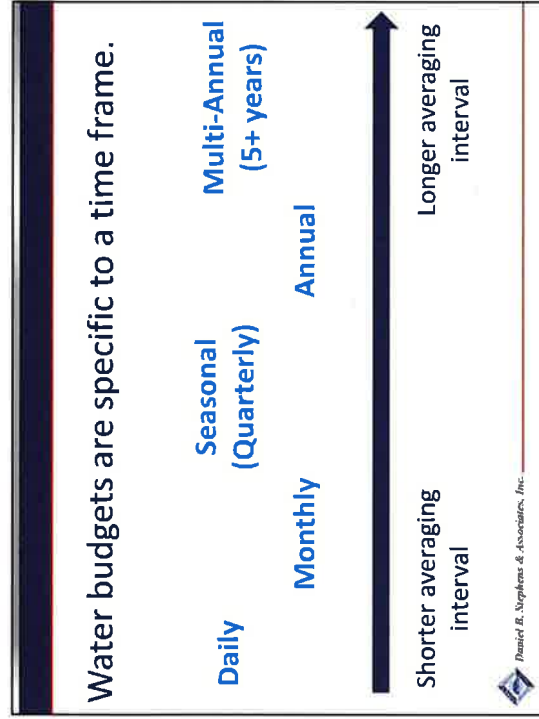
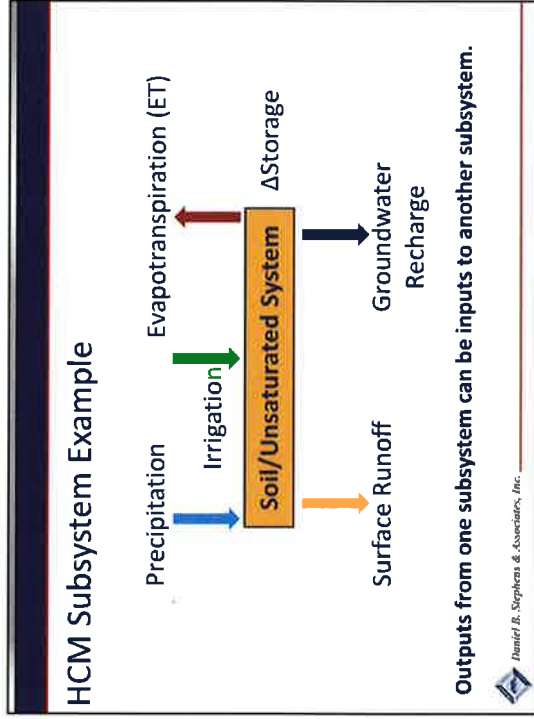
Water budgets track water entering and leaving a system.

*In* – *Out* =  $\Delta$ *Storage*


Precipitation	Natural Recharge	Evapotranspiration (ET)	Discharge to Streams
Recharge from Irrigation	Mountain Front Recharge	Runoff	Lateral Groundwater Flow
Stream Leakage	Lateral Groundwater Flow	Groundwater Pumping	

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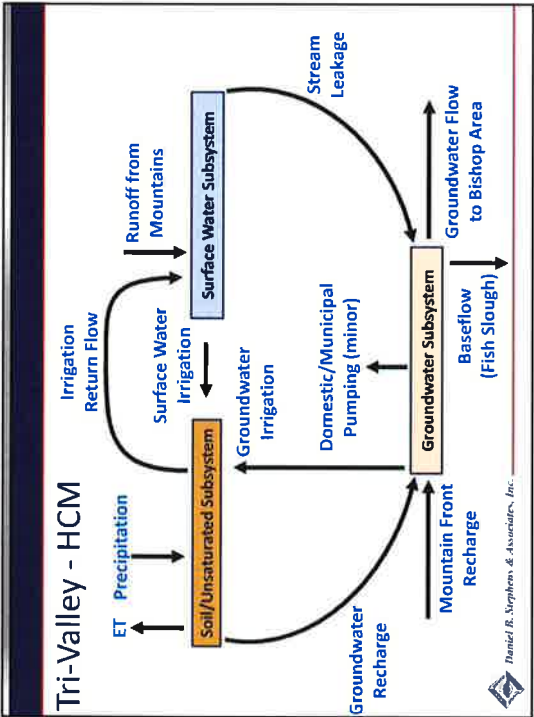


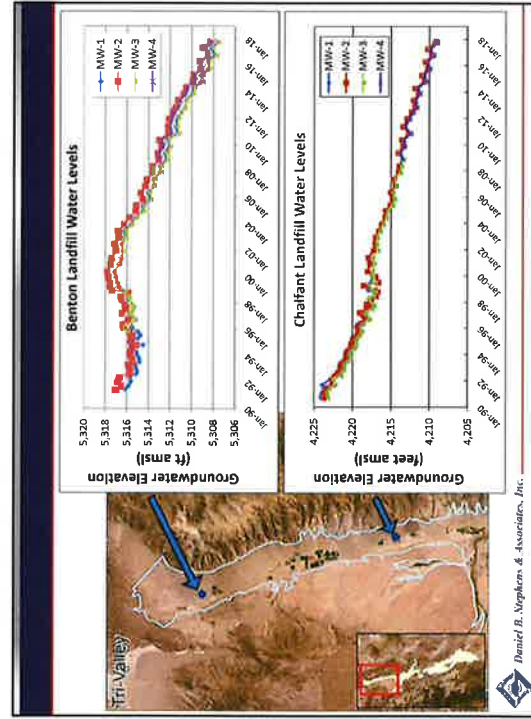
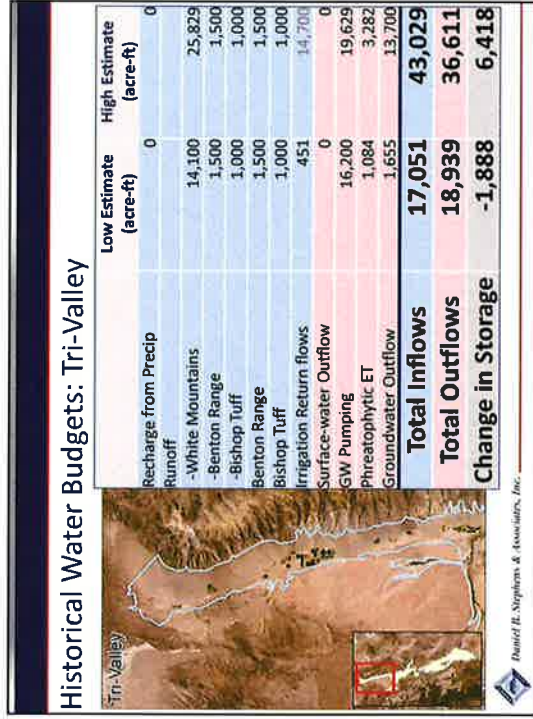
### Historical Water Budgets: Tri-Valley

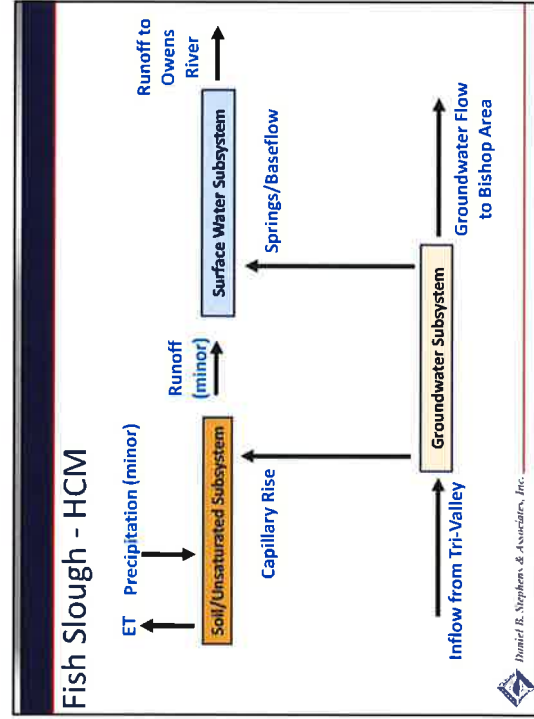
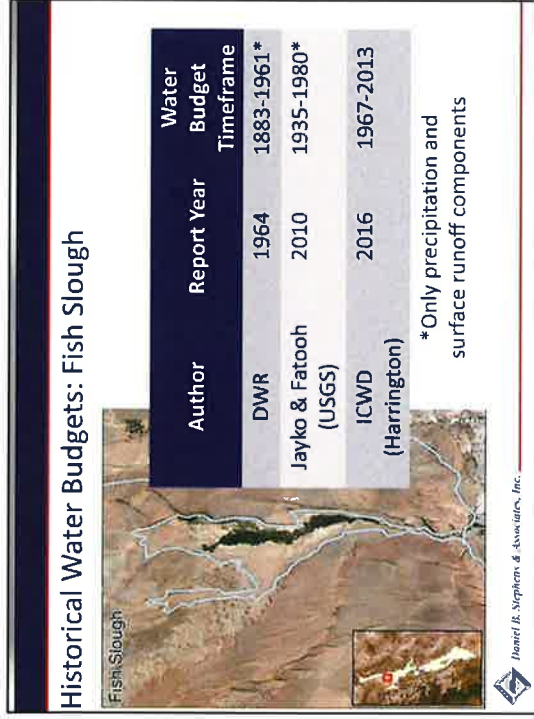


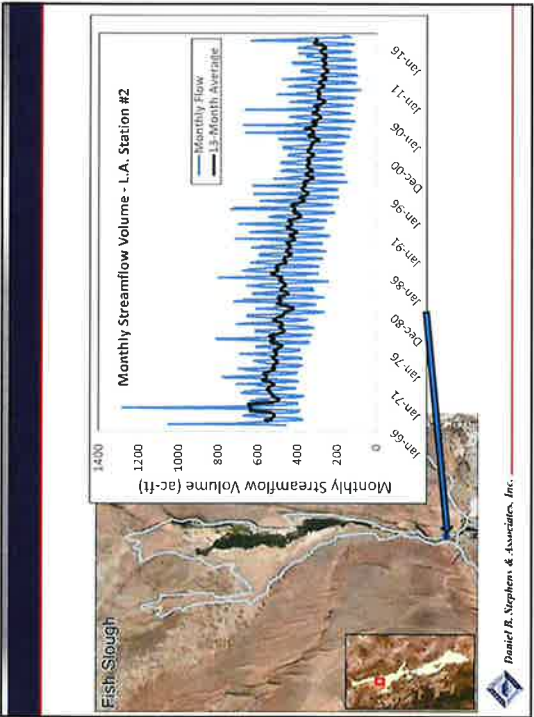
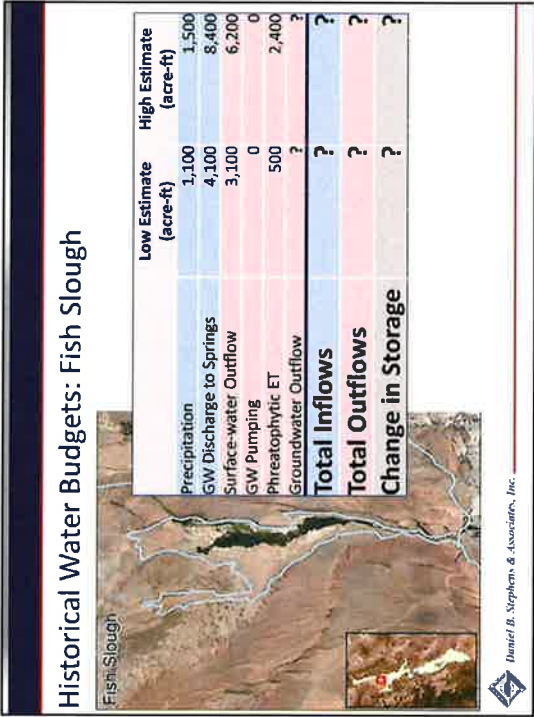
Author	Report Year	Water Budget Timeframe
ICWD (Harrington)	2016	General
MHA	2001	General
PWA	1983	1979, 1982
PWA	1980	pre-1980

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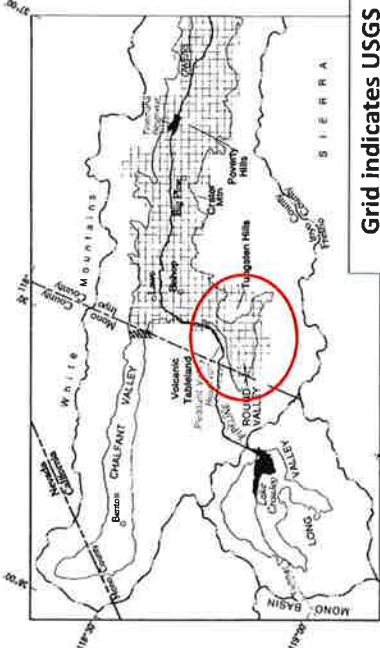
### Historical Water Budgets: Round Valley




Author	Report Year	Water Budget Timeframe
USGS (Danskin)	1988	1935-1970



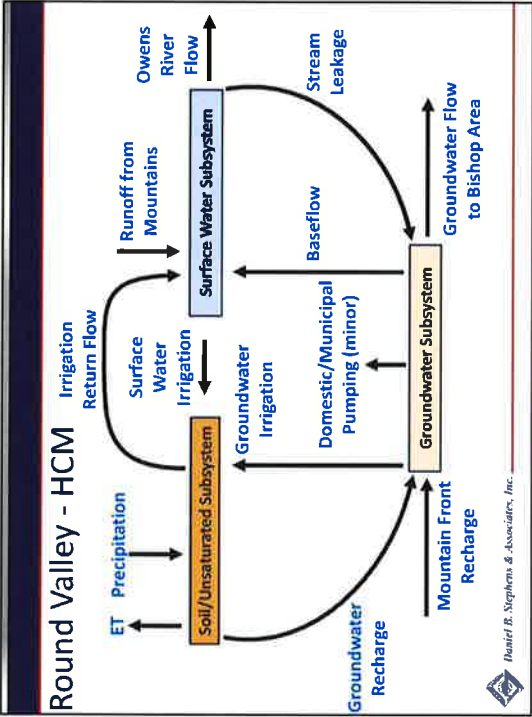
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Grid indicates USGS model (1988) area



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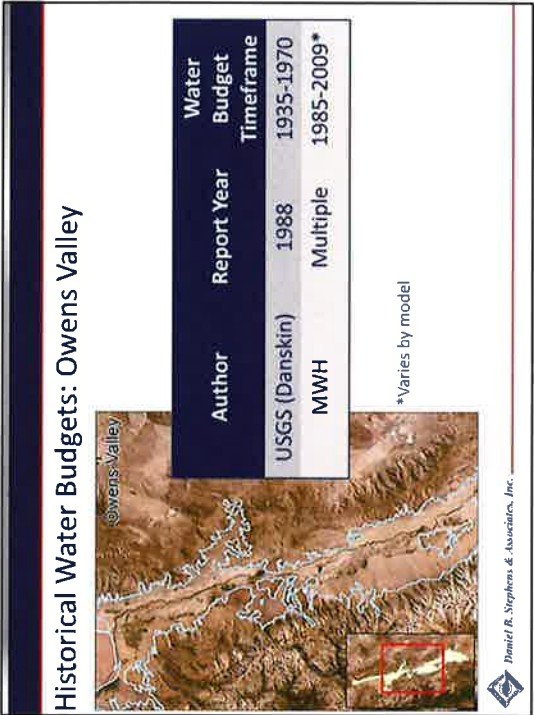
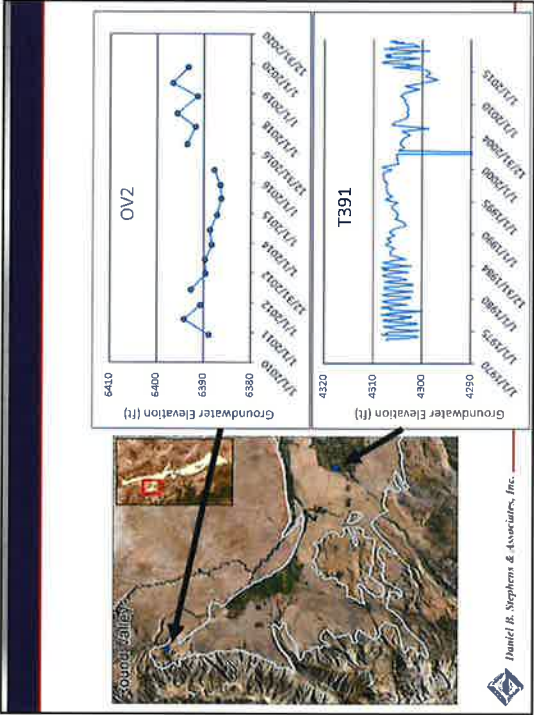


### Historical Water Budgets: Round Valley

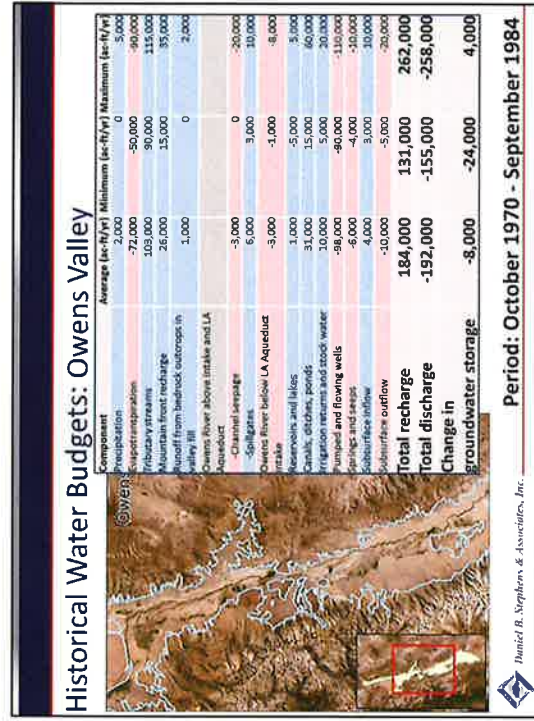
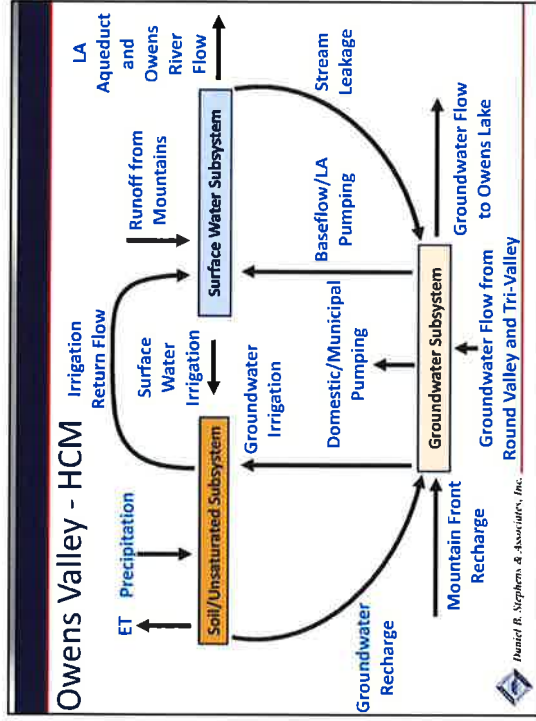
Looking into extracting water budget from USGS (Danskin) 1988 model.

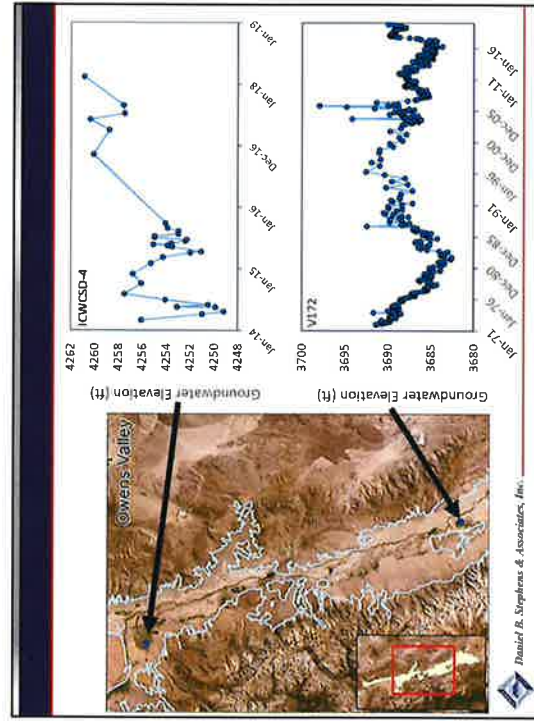
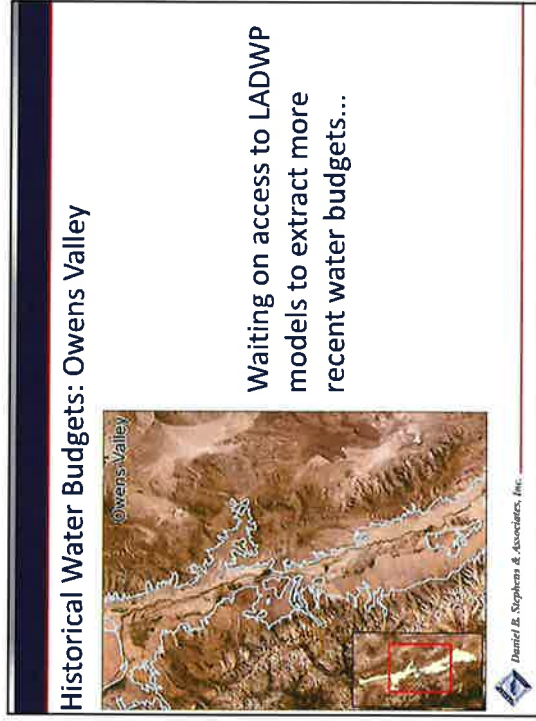
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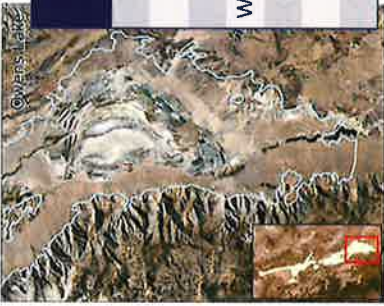






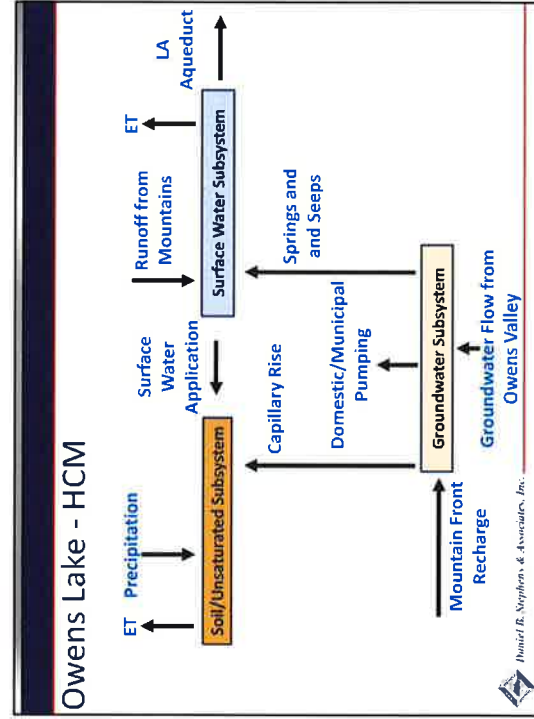


### Historical Water Budgets: Owens Lake

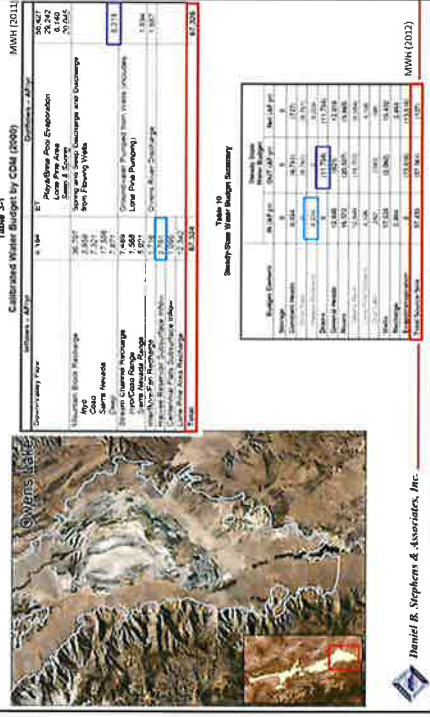


Author	Report Year	Water Budget Timeframe
Lee	1915	1906-1914
Williams	1969	1937-1960
Lopes	1988	Pre-1988
Wirganowicz	1997	Pre-1997
Schumer	1997	Pre-1997
CDM	2000	Pre-2000
MWH	2013	1971-2012(?)

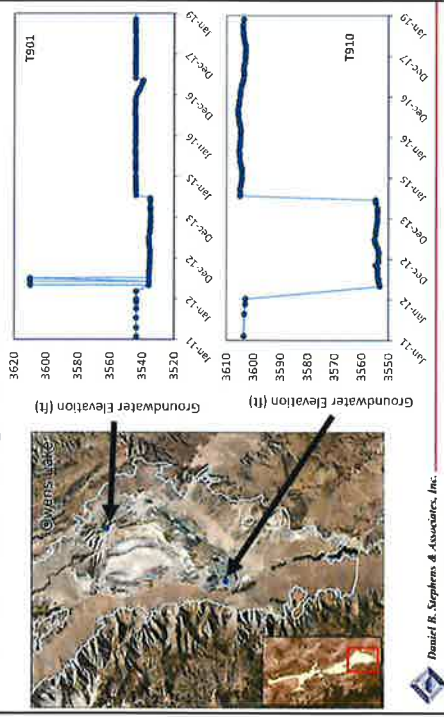
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## Historical Water Budgets: Owens Lake



## Historical Water Budgets: Owens Lake



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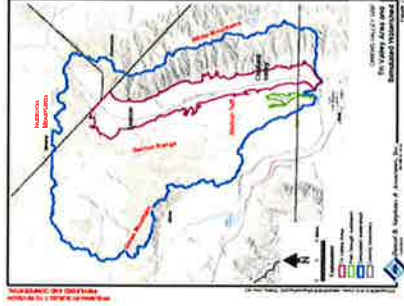
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## Distributed Parameter Watershed Model (DPWM)

- **What is it?**

Soil-water balance model that estimates the daily water balance components of:

- ✓ precipitation
- ✓ transpiration
- ✓ evaporation
- ✓ net infiltration (e.g., recharge)
- ✓ snow accumulation
- ✓ snow melt
- ✓ snow sublimation
- ✓ run-on
- ✓ runoff



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## Distributed Parameter Watershed Model (DPWM)

- **How is it used in the GSP?**

- ✓ Evaluate the magnitude of various components of the hydrologic cycle as it is applied to the soil
- ✓ Provide basic hydrologic information to assist groundwater model development
- ✓ Simulate water within a certain depth of soil and recognize topography, the hydraulic properties of soil and bedrock, and meteorological data to distribute precipitation among snow sublimation, evapotranspiration, runoff, soil moisture storage, and deep percolation
- ✓ *Estimate infiltration from precipitation, irrigation, overland water flow*



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### Distributed Parameter Watershed Model (DPWM)

- **Where was it applied?**  
DPWM is being used to develop basic water balance parameters for Tri-Valley and Fish Slough areas
- **Where does the information for DPWM come from?**  
Pre-existing data sets are used by DPWM. Examples of these data sets include:
  - ✓ USDA Soil Survey Geographic Database (SSURGO) (soils and their hydraulic properties)
  - ✓ US Digital Elevation Models (topography, slope, and azimuth)
  - ✓ Published geologic maps
  - ✓ CIMIS (CA Irrigation Management Information System) and RAWS (Remote Automatic Weather Stations) data (precipitation, air temperature, wind speed)
  - ✓ GAP/LANDFIRE National Terrestrial Ecosystems 2011 (USGS) (rooting depths, plant heights)



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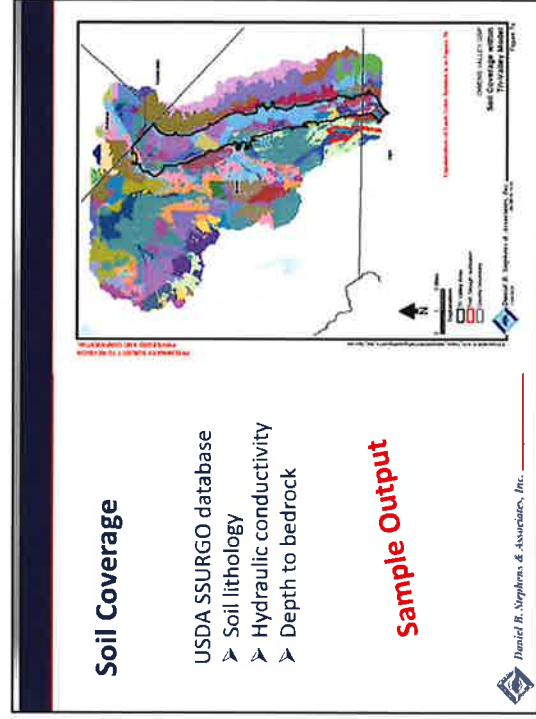
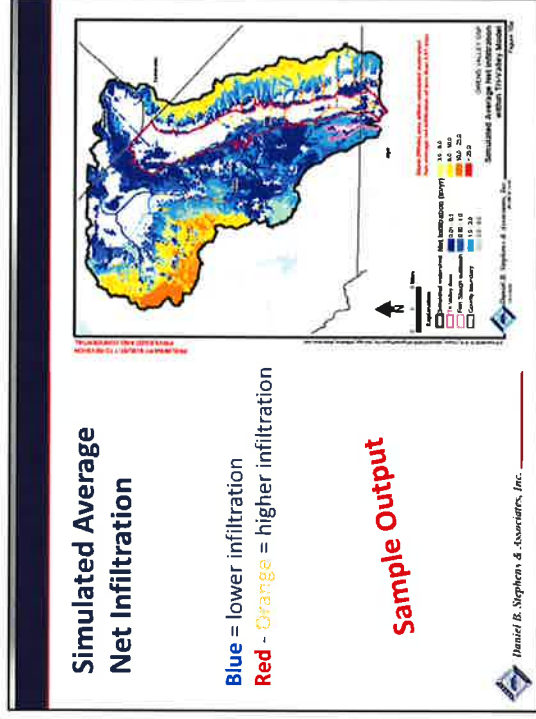
### Distributed Parameter Watershed Model (DPWM)

- **What DPWM does NOT do...**
  - ✓ It is NOT a groundwater flow model. It cannot predict or track groundwater movement
  - ✓ It does NOT predict groundwater elevations

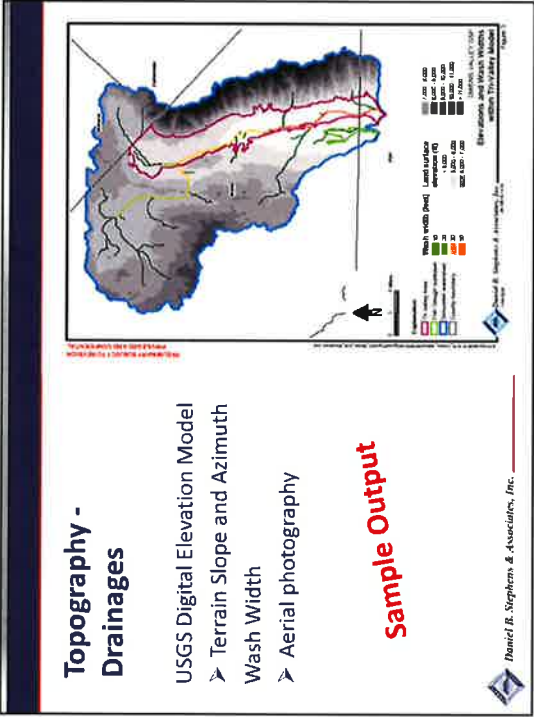


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Water Balance		Sample Output		
Water Balance Component	Average Simulated Volume (ac-ft/yr) Entire Watershed	Average Simulated Volume (ac-ft/yr) Tri-Valley area	Average Simulated Volume (ac-ft/yr) Fish Slough subbasin	
Precipitation	XXX,XXX	XX,XXX	XX,XXX	
Surface water runoff from upstream cells	XXX	XX,XXX	XX	
Actual Evapotranspiration	XXX,XXX	XX,XXX	XX,XXX	
Snow Sublimation	XX,XXX	XX,XXX	XX	
Surface water runoff leaving the area	XX,XXX	XX,XXX	XX	
Change in storage of the soil	XX,XXX	XX,XXX	XX	
Net infiltration (Recharge)	XX,XXX	XX,XXX	XX	

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