

# MINUTES

# Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

## Board Members:

INDIAN CREEK-WESTRIDGE CSD  
COUNTY OF MONO  
CITY OF BISHOP  
COUNTY OF INYO

Luis Elias  
Fred Stump  
Chris Costello  
Dan Tothoroh

BIG PINE CSD  
LONE PINE PAIUTE TRIBE  
OWENS VALLEY COMMITTEE

BryAnna Vaughan  
Mel Joseph  
Mary Roper

July 9, 2020

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority meeting was called to order at 2:28 p.m. via videoconference.

### **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 alternate in attendance, Nancy Masters, Owens Valley Committee.

### **4. Election of OVGA Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson**

The Board discussed various time options for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. It was decided to continue with the current Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson through the end of the year. Motion by Dan Tothoroh to extend the current Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson's terms through December 2020, seconded by Luis Elias. The Board requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Tothoroh – Y, Chris Costello – Y, Fred Stump – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Nancy Masters – Y. Motion passed, 7 yes.

### **5. Approval of minutes from the May 14, 2020 OVGA Board meeting**

The Chairperson requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2020 meeting. Mel Joseph requested a correction to item 10. Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Dan Tothoroh, seconded by Luis Elias. The Board requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Tothoroh – Y, Chris Costello – Y, Fred Stump – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Nancy Masters – Y. Motion passed 6 Yes, 1 abstention.

### **6. Board Member Reports**

The Chairperson opened the Board member reports and there were none at this time.

### **7. OVGA staff reports**

- a. Report on Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority activities
- b. Financial Report
- c. Request for Proposals for OVGA website

John Vallejo stated IWVGMD is in discussion with the Department of Defense and members of Congress that have budget influence; some Board members are pushing for the LADWP option; Inyo County is in discussion with the IWV Board and the Navy regarding the legal, political, and economical hurdles to choose the LADWP option; Inyo states the better policy option would be obtaining water from the south. Dr. Steinwand, Inyo County Water Department, provided the financial report and stated the OVGA cash balance is \$265,439.39; transactions are consultant costs of \$25,143.60 and Mono County staff services of \$4,160. Dr. Steinwand stated the annual invoices will be sent to the funding members this month; an RFP for the OVGA website was posted to

the Mono County website last month; proposals are due July 17; a consultant will be selected; and an update will be provided to the Board at the September meeting.

#### **8. Consideration of request from Eastern Sierra Community District to terminate OVGA membership**

The Chairman stated a letter requesting withdrawal from the OVGA Board has been received from ESCSD; John Vallejo stated that could be accomplished with a majority vote from the Board; Dr. Steinwand stated they are a non-funding member. Motion to terminate ESCSD's participation in the OVGA by Chris Costello, seconded by Luis Elias. The Chairman requested that staff draft a thank you letter to ESCSD for their contribution to the OVGA. The Board requested a roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Tothoroth – Y, Chris Costello – Y, Fred Stump – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Nancy Masters – Y. Motion passed 7 Yes.

#### **9. Consideration and possible approval of Associate status for Meadowcreek Mutual Water Co.**

Dr. Steinwand stated at the May meeting it was decided that the Meadowcreek Mutual Water Co. provide \$11,327 as a condition for their membership as an Associate member on the OVGA Board; the agreement was provided to Meadowcreek in May; a reminder was sent in June that this item would be on July's meeting agenda; and there has been no response. The recommendation by staff was to table the item until such time a response is received from Meadowcreek Mutual Water Co; the Board concurred.

#### **10. Approval of Communications and Engagement Plan Guiding Principles**

Dr. Steinwand stated the Communications and Engagement Plan Guiding Principles was presented and discussed with the Board at the February meeting and is before the Board today for approval. Motion by Dan Tothoroh, seconded by Luis Elias to approve the Communications and Engagement Plan Guiding Principles as presented. Roll call vote; Luis Elias – Y, BryAnna Vaughan – Y, Dan Tothoroth – Y, Chris Costello – N, Fred Stump – Y, Mel Joseph – Y, Nancy Masters – Y. Motion passed 7 Yes.

#### **11. Consideration and possible approval of draft Communications and Engagement Plan**

Meagan Wylie stated the communications plan was presented last month and there were no substantial changes requested; the document is for guidance and not prescriptive. The Chairman asked Ms. Wylie if she could update the Board on various methods of engagement. The Board and Ms. Wylie discussed this in detail to include areas without internet access; those without a computer or internet capabilities; and management areas. The Chairperson requested the document come back to the next meeting to allow more time for review.

The Chairperson called a break at 3:30 pm and reconvened the meeting at 3:40 pm.

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

The Board and staff discussed the database management system; if the GSP would include and address the impacts from groundwater test pumping on the lake with the recent earthquakes; is State Lands involved in looking into this; and what agencies are the providers of data. Dr. Steinwand stated there will be an ability to update the database in the future when completed and transferred to the Water Department. Tony Morgan provided a brief PowerPoint presentation; he stated they have not received LADWP's model files and are currently working on a work around; have a request in with LADWP for the data; and the database may go live soon. Tony introduced Dr. Shey Rajagopal, who has now joined DBS&A and is assisting with the GSP. Philip Anaya stated he inquired about surface flows in west Bishop with regard to the Chandler Decree, regarding adjudicated /non adjudicated lands and wants to be sure the consultant is looking into this; LADWP could draw surface water across boundaries and there is nothing in the GSP to cover this? Tony Morgan stated the GSP will deal with nonadjudicated land which is its area of jurisdiction and the GSP will look at larger management areas and not small parcels. He stated GSA's have no authority over surface water, just groundwater. Sally Manning stated the data base compilation is great but still doesn't know how we will deal with the boundary issue and LADWP and doesn't know how that can be managed. Dr. Steinwand stated wells in the Owens Valley covered under the Water Agreement are exempt from SGMA. Owens Lake is not LADWP-owned land and it is unclear how it will be managed at this time. The portion of the GSP that covers Owens Lake will have to be coordinated with the State Lands Commission for implementation. Lynn Bolton asked if staff is collecting all non-adjudicated and adjudicated data from LADWP. Tony Morgan stated they are collecting all the information that is provided to Inyo County. Philip Anaya stated in 2013-14 there was an event that happened across those boundaries (adjudicated-nonadjudicated), with both a combination of drought and pumping, and he would like the GSP to address that and expects the consultant to come up with solutions in the management section to manage the non-adjudicated waters. The Chairman stated our consultant is on board to come up with a plan to manage the nonadjudicated areas, not the adjudicated. Dr. Steinwand stated the plan will not regulate LADWP pumping. Lynn Bolton stated if LADWP lowers the water in the adjudicated areas that should be reported to DWR. Philip Anaya stated a GSP should be completed as well for the adjudicated areas, making the entire basin sustainable not just the nonadjudicated area. The Board and staff discussed this in detail.

#### **13. Discussion regarding future agenda items**

The Board and staff stated the upcoming agenda items to include; update on website RFP's; reconsideration of Meadowcreek Mutual

Water Company if necessary; approval of Communication and Engagement Plan; consultant updates, and consideration of OVGA logo's.

**14. Set next meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for September 10, 2020 via videoconference.

**15. Adjourn**

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:55 pm.

THU, SEP 03, 2020, 8:59 AM --req: HW0254---leg: GL ----loc: AUD-----job:2761321 J740-----prog: GL440 &lt;1.61&gt;---report id: GLFITR02

SORT ORDER: OBJECT within BUDUNIT

SELECT BUDGET UNIT: 621601

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	02639692			136,576.20	0.00	136,576.20
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD18628A Job:2483097	OH	07/18/19	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	INTRCL	AutoID:JAI9802E Job: 2496015	JE	08/02/19	02496015			1,196.59	0.00	109,404.37
GL 621601-1000	JE35066	AutoID:JHI9C07J Job: 2540790	JE	10/07/19	02540790			0.00	13,714.77	95,689.60
GL 621601-1000	JE35095	AutoID:JHI9C07J Job: 2540790	JE	10/11/19	02544343			0.00	4,500.00	91,189.60
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:JHI9C14B Job:2545637	OH	10/15/19	02545637			0.00	844.50	90,345.10
GL 621601-1000	JE35239	AutoID:JHI9C31G Job: 2556858	JE	10/31/19	02556858			0.00	9,767.85	80,577.25
GL 621601-1000	INTERSTA	AutoID:JAI9B26B Job: 2571260	JE	11/04/19	02571260			1,853.04	0.00	82,430.29
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:OW19N04A Job:2559123	OH	11/05/19	02559123			0.00	29,180.45	53,249.84
GL 621601-1000	JE35319	AutoID:JAI9B08A Job: 2562429	JE	11/08/19	02562429			52,859.66	0.00	106,109.50
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:OBL9N22A Job: 2571198	CR	11/22/19	02571198			22,654.00	0.00	128,763.50
GL 621601-1000	JE35428	AutoID:JTI9N25B Job: 2571702	JE	11/25/19	02571702			22,654.00	0.00	151,417.50
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:CR19D02A Job: 2574746	CR	12/02/19	02574746			98,167.66	0.00	249,585.16
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19D02A Job:2580033	OH	12/10/19	02580033			0.00	8,959.00	240,626.16
GL 621601-1000	IS1019	AutoID:IS1019 Job: 2580196	JE	12/10/19	02580196			144.34	0.00	240,481.82
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:IB20102B Job:2596569	OH	01/07/20	02596569			0.00	48,631.61	191,850.21
GL 621601-1000	JE35780	AutoID:JTI20107A Job: 2597217	JE	01/07/20	02597217			0.00	4,500.00	187,350.21
GL 621601-1000	JE35990	AutoID:IS20205A Job: 2617276	JE	02/05/20	02617276			0.00	11,624.67	175,725.54
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:JB20206A Job:2618612	OH	02/07/20	02618612			0.00	39,085.86	136,639.68
GL 621601-1000	JE36226	AutoID:IB20227 Job:2630373	OH	02/27/20	02630373			0.00	24,660.93	111,978.75
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:JAI90309 Job: 2638502	JE	03/09/20	02638502			101,241.19	0.00	213,219.94
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19309B Job:2643603	OH	03/19/20	02643603			0.00	1,542.50	211,677.44
GL 621601-1000	JE36431	AutoID:IB20327B Job:2650656	OH	04/01/20	02650656			0.00	30,305.78	181,371.66
GL 621601-1000	JE36503	AutoID:JTI20408A Job: 2655780	JE	04/09/20	02655780			0.00	4,500.00	176,871.66
GL 621601-1000	IS0320	AutoID:JTI20414B Job: 2660173	JE	04/15/20	02660173			0.00	12,828.34	164,043.32
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:PC200401 Job: 2661129	JE	04/16/20	02661129			0.00	181.49	163,861.83
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:JTI20422A Job:2666334	OH	04/24/20	02666334			0.00	75,800.67	88,061.16
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19417A Job:2667036	OH	04/27/20	02667036			0.00	9,439.16	78,622.00
GL 621601-1000	INTEREST	AutoID:JAI9428B Job: 2668196	JE	04/27/20	02668196			2,698.62	0.00	81,320.62
GL 621601-1000	INTEREST	AutoID:JAI9428E Job: 2668297	JE	04/27/20	02668297			1,974.40	0.00	83,295.02
GL 621601-1000	JE36603	AutoID:JTI20429A Job: 2669333	JE	04/30/20	02669333			9,439.16	0.00	92,734.18
GL 621601-1000	JE36625A	AutoID:JTI20504B Job: 2671484	JE	05/04/20	02671484			0.00	13,290.00	79,444.18
GL 621601-1000	JE36625B	AutoID:JTI20504B Job: 2671484	JE	05/04/20	02671484			0.00	0.00	79,444.18
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19513A Job:2680507	OH	05/19/20	02680507			215,288.81	0.00	294,732.99
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:OB20610G Job:2697500	OH	06/11/20	02697500			0.00	4,160.00	290,572.99
GL 621601-1000	JAI9031	AutoID:JHI20708A Job: 2715953	JE	06/28/20	02715953			0.00	25,143.60	265,429.39
GL 621601-1000	PQTR31920	AutoID:PC200519 Job: 2722316	JE	06/28/20	02722316			0.00	1,500.00	263,929.39
GL 621601-1000	JAI9083	AutoID:JTI20723B Job: 2728917	JE	06/28/20	02728917			0.00	422.76	263,506.63
GL 621601-1000	JE37035	AutoID:JTI20722C Job: 2728031	JE	07/22/20	02728031			0.00	5,778.05	257,728.58
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:JTI20722A Job: 2728577	CR	07/22/20	02728577			75,513.66	0.00	333,242.24
GL 621601-1000	JE37069	AutoID:JTI20729D Job: 2733834	JE	07/29/20	02733834			52,859.66	0.00	386,101.90
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19721A Job:2734188	OH	07/29/20	02734188			22,654.00	0.00	408,755.90
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19721B Job:2734188	OH	07/29/20	02734188			0.00	165.40	408,590.50
GL 621601-1000	INTRCL	AutoID:JAI20806A Job: 2740435	JE	08/04/20	02740435			0.00	66.24	408,524.26
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:CR20805A Job: 2739981	CR	08/05/20	02739981			1,371.90	0.00	409,896.16
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19805A Job:2747387	OH	08/17/20	02747387			22,654.00	0.00	432,550.16
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:CI20818A Job: 2749131	CR	08/18/20	02749131			0.00	2,174.85	430,375.31
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19811A Job:2749832	OH	08/19/20	02749832			75,513.66	0.00	505,888.97
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:OW20827C Job:2758428	OH	08/31/20	02758428			0.00	1,438.50	504,450.47
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH							0.00	33,944.66	470,505.81

Lg BUDGET UNIT	Primary Ref	Transaction Description	SS Ref Date	Job No	Debit	Credit	NET
GL 621601-1000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19825A Job:2760763	OH 09/02/20	02760763	0.00	2,494.90	468,010.91
*****Total *OBJT 1000		CLAIM ON CASH		DR	917,170.21	449,159.30	468,010.91
GL 621601-1160	YEAREND	3. Balance Forward 2018/2019	JE 07/01/19	02639692	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
GL 621601-1160	INTRCBL	4th QTR INTEREST	JE 06/30/20	02740417	1,371.90	0.00	1,371.90
GL 621601-1160	INTRCBL	4th QTR INTEREST RVRS	JE 08/04/20	02740435	0.00	1,371.90	0.00
*****Total *OBJT 1160		INTEREST RECEIVABLE		DR	2,568.49	2,568.49	0.00
GL 621601-1200	YEAREND	3. Balance Forward 2018/2019	JE 07/01/19	02639692	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
GL 621601-1200	JE34537	UA386949: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	2,500.00	0.00
GL 621601-2000	YEAREND	4. Balance forward 2018/2019	JE 07/01/19	02639692	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	29,180.45	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	8,959.00	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
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:IB20206A Job:2617676	OH 02/06/20	02617676	0.00	39,085.86	39,085.86
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:IB20206A Job:2618612	OH 02/07/20	02618612	39,085.86	0.00	0.00
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:IB20227 Job:2630048	OH 02/27/20	02630048	0.00	24,660.93	24,660.93
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19309B Job:2642397	OH 03/18/20	02642397	0.00	1,542.50	1,542.50
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19309B Job:2643603	OH 03/19/20	02643603	1,542.50	0.00	0.00
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:IB20327B Job:2650656	OH 03/31/20	02649421	0.00	30,305.78	30,305.78
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19417A Job:2665374	OH 04/01/20	02650656	30,305.78	0.00	0.00
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:IB20422A Job:2666081	OH 04/23/20	02666081	0.00	9,439.16	9,439.16
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:IB20422A Job:2666334	OH 04/24/20	02666334	75,800.67	0.00	85,239.83
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19417A Job:2667036	OH 04/27/20	02667036	9,439.16	0.00	9,439.16
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19513A Job:2678165	OH 05/14/20	02678165	0.00	4,160.00	4,160.00
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19513A Job:2680507	OH 05/19/20	02680507	4,160.00	0.00	0.00
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:OB20610G Job:2696586	OH 06/10/20	02696586	0.00	25,143.60	25,143.60
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:OB20610G Job:2697500	OH 06/11/20	02697500	25,143.60	0.00	0.00
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19721B Job:2732480	OH 06/28/20	02732480	0.00	66.24	66.24
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19805A Job:2746550	OH 06/28/20	02746550	0.00	2,174.85	2,241.09
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19811A Job:2749096	OH 06/28/20	02749096	0.00	1,438.50	3,679.59
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:OW20827C Job:2757324	OH 06/28/20	02757324	0.00	33,944.66	37,624.25
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19721A Job:2733181	OH 07/28/20	02733181	0.00	165.40	37,789.65
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19721A Job:2734188	OH 07/29/20	02734188	165.40	0.00	37,624.25
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19721B Job:2734188	OH 07/29/20	02734188	66.24	0.00	37,558.01
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19805A Job:2747387	OH 08/17/20	02747387	2,174.85	0.00	35,383.16
GL 621601-2000	TTLOH	AutoID:WD19811A Job:2749832	OH 08/19/20	02749832	1,438.50	0.00	33,944.66



SORT ORDER: OBJECT within BUDUNIT

SELECT BUDGET UNIT: 621601

Ig BUDGET UNIT	Primary Ref	Transaction Description	SS Ref Date	Job No	Debit	Credit	NET
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#DB18.1	OH 10/14/19	02544634	844.50	0.00	14,559.27
GL 621601-5265	238057	DANIEL B STEPHE PROJECT#DB18.1	OH 11/04/19	02558022	29,180.45	0.00	43,739.72
GL 621601-5265	239100	DANIEL B STEPHE INYO CO PN#DB1	OH 01/02/20	02593644	48,631.61	0.00	92,371.33
GL 621601-5265	239619	DANIEL B STEPHE INYO CO OVGA P	OH 02/06/20	02617676	39,085.86	0.00	131,457.19
GL 621601-5265	239953	DANIEL B STEPHE PROJ#DB18.1418	OH 02/27/20	02630048	24,660.93	0.00	156,118.12
GL 621601-5265	240640	DANIEL B STEPHE INYO CO PROJ#D	OH 03/31/20	02649421	30,305.78	0.00	186,423.90
GL 621601-5265	241173	DANIEL B STEPHE INYO CO OVGA P	OH 04/23/20	02666081	75,800.67	0.00	262,224.57
GL 621601-5265	241897	DANIEL B STEPHE P#DB18.1418.00	OH 06/10/20	02696586	25,143.60	0.00	287,368.17
GL 621601-5265	242454R2	DANIEL B STEPHE PROJECT#DB18.1	OH 06/28/20	02757324	33,944.66	0.00	321,312.83
*****Total *OBJT 5265		PROFESSIONAL & SPECIAL SERVICE	DR		321,312.83	0.00	321,312.83
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
GL 621601-5539	JE35990	OCT-DEC19 OVGA STAFF	JE 02/05/20	02617276	11,624.67	0.00	39,351.52
GL 621601-5539	201902	MONO COUNTY OCT-DEC19 STAFF SE	OH 03/18/20	02642397	1,542.50	0.00	40,894.02
GL 621601-5539	JE36431	JAN-MAR20 OVGA LEGAL SVC	JE 04/09/20	02655780	4,500.00	0.00	45,394.02
GL 621601-5539	JE36503	JAN20-MAR20 OVGA STAFF	JE 04/15/20	02660173	12,828.34	0.00	58,222.36
GL 621601-5539	041720	MONO COUNTY WC & Tri Valley Te	OH 04/23/20	02665374	9,439.16	0.00	67,661.52
GL 621601-5539	202001	MONO COUNTY Staff Services-Jan	OH 05/14/20	02678165	4,160.00	0.00	71,821.52
GL 621601-5539	JAL9031	MAY20 OVGA STAFF SERVICES	JE 06/28/20	02715953	1,500.00	0.00	73,321.52
GL 621601-5539	JAL9083	APR-JUN20 OVGA STAFF	JE 06/28/20	02728917	5,778.05	0.00	79,099.57
GL 621601-5539	063020	BISHOP, CITY OF NOV 19-JUN 20	OH 06/28/20	02746550	2,174.85	0.00	81,274.42
GL 621601-5539	202004	MONO COUNTY APRIL-JUNE 2020 OV	OH 06/28/20	02749096	1,438.50	0.00	82,712.92
*****Total *OBJT 5539		OTHER AGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS	DR		82,712.92	0.00	82,712.92
GL 621601-5801	JE36625A	CONTINGENCY TO RESERVE	JE 05/04/20	02671484	13,290.00	0.00	13,290.00
*****Total *OBJT 5801		OPERATING TRANSFERS OUT	DR		13,290.00	0.00	13,290.00
*****Total *BUDG 621601		OVGA-OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER	DR-CR		1,940,945.12	1,940,945.12	0.00
** G R A N D T O T A L **					1,940,945.12	1,940,945.12	0.00

## COUNTY OF INYO

## Budget to Actuals with Encumbrances by Key/Obj

Ledger: GL

As Of 9/3/2020

Object	Description	Budget	Actual	Encumbrance	Balance	
<b>Key: 621601 - OVGA-OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER</b>						
<b>Revenue</b>						
4301	INTEREST FROM TREASURY	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00
4498	STATE GRANTS	311,284.00	0.00	0.00	311,284.00	0.00
4599	OTHER AGENCIES	249,195.00	249,194.98	0.00	0.02	100.00
<b>Revenue Total:</b>		564,479.00	249,194.98	0.00	315,284.02	
<b>Expenditure</b>						
5129	INTERNAL COPY CHARGES	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
5155	PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE	2,500.00	2,494.90	0.00	5.10	99.79
5263	ADVERTISING	2,000.00	165.40	0.00	1,834.60	8.27
5265	PROFESSIONAL & SPECIAL	314,834.00	0.00	4,700.00	310,134.00	0.00
5291	OFFICE, SPACE & SITE RENTAL	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
5311	GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSE	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00
5539	OTHER AGENCY	107,470.00	0.00	0.00	107,470.00	0.00
5901	CONTINGENCIES	13,290.00	0.00	0.00	13,290.00	0.00
<b>Expenditure Total:</b>		443,594.00	2,660.30	4,700.00	436,233.70	
621601	<b>Key Total:</b>	120,885.00	246,534.68	(4,700.00)	(120,949.68)	



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

AS OF 06/30/2021

		Claim on	Accounts	Loans	Prepaid	Accounts	Loans	Deferred	Computed		
		Cash	Receivable	Receivable	Expenses	Payable	Payable	Revenue	Fund	Encumbrances	Fund
		1000	1100,1105,1160	1140	1200	2000	2140	2200	Balance		Balance
WDIR	- WATER										Undesignated
6272	OVGA-OWENS VALLEY	210,282	(1,372)			(37,624)			246,534	4,700	241,834
WDIR	Totals	210,282	(1,372)			(37,624)			246,534	4,700	241,834
<b>Grand Totals</b>		<b>210,282</b>	<b>(1,372)</b>			<b>(37,624)</b>			<b>246,534</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>241,834</b>

# Owens Valley Groundwater Authority, Logo Submissions

#1



Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

#2



Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

#3



Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

#4



#5

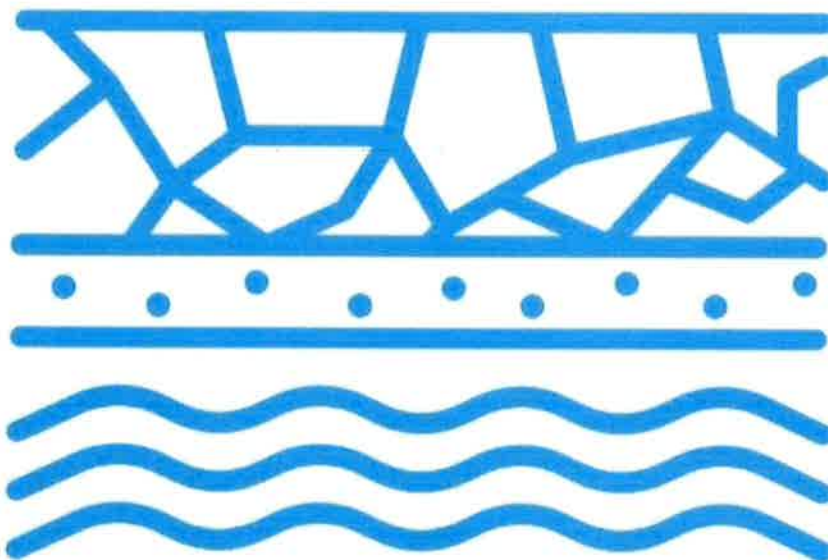


#6



**OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**

#7



**OWENS  
VALLEY  
GROUNDWATER  
AUTHORITY**

#8



**OWENS  
VALLEY  
GROUNDWATER  
AUTHORITY**



#9



#10



#11



## Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

Members: Big Pine CSD — City of Bishop — County of Inyo — County of Mono — Indian Creek-Westridge CSD  
Interested Parties: Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe — Owens Valley Committee

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### Staff Report

Date: **September 10, 2020**

Subject: **Website Design Services for the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority**

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### FISCAL IMPACT

The budget for the website design service will be \$11,700. Optional annual maintenance of the site by the contractor will be \$300/yr.

### BACKGROUND

Throughout May 2020 OVGA staff and the GSP consultant collaboratively developed a Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain website design services to enhance and create new OVGA online information capabilities, make relevant OVGA documents publicly accessible, fulfill State Groundwater Management Act obligations for public transparency and engagement, and create a user friendly and simple-to-maintain website (see Exhibit A).

The RFP was posted publicly on the Mono County Bid Management System website for 25 days beginning at 8:00 am, Monday, June 22 through 5:00 pm Friday, July 17, 2020. The RFP was also advertised in Inyo County media. All proposals were submitted to Mono County staff.

### DISCUSSION

Seven proposals were received prior to the closing period. OVGA staff responsible for reviewing and ranking the proposals included Wendy Sugimura, Deston Dishion, and Michael Draper. Each proposal was scored on six criteria for a possible cumulative score of 100 points. The criteria and points included:

- Professional appearance (15 points)
- Ease of user experience (15 points)
- Ability to update data and navigate (15 points)
- Demonstrated ability to design (25 points)
- Cost (15 points)
- Completeness of proposal (15 points).

On August 5, 2020, the reviewing staff met to compare rankings and two proposals clearly ranked highest. The average cumulative score of these proposals was 89.3 points and 86.0 points; the next highest-ranking proposal received an average cumulative score of 80.7. Due to the significant gap between the second-ranked and third-ranked proposals, reviewing staff agreed to interview only the top two firms: Mountain Studio and Municode.

## Owens Valley Groundwater Authority

Members: Big Pine CSD — City of Bishop — County of Inyo — County of Mono — Indian Creek-Westridge CSD  
Interested Parties: Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe — Owens Valley Committee

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Interviews with the two top scoring firms were conducted the afternoon of August 13 via Zoom remote meetings and the following questions were asked:

1. Tell us about a project you have worked on and the approach you took from start to launch. Explain your process for developing and implementing the website, and how you worked with staff.
2. Explain a time when you have worked with a multi-agency group?
3. Tell us your philosophy for organizing information to make a page navigable to users.
4. What are the biggest trends you see in the future of web sites?
5. How would you respond to an issue or question that arises after the website launch?
6. Can the website be constructed hosted on the Inyo Co server?
7. How will your design set itself apart from other sites, particularly in terms of user friendliness and ability to find information/navigate the site?
8. Was anything missed in the RFP?
9. How do you incorporate public outreach and communication?

Following the final interview, staff discussed observations of each firm and a reference check was performed prior to the reviewing staff unanimously recommending the project be awarded to Mountain Studio. Major factors contributing to this recommendation include the ability for Inyo County to host the website; annual maintenance and support costs; demonstrated ability and history of working with local agencies; and the ability to design a website specific to the scope and scale of the OVGA's goals and needs.

If there are any questions please contact Michael Draper, [Mdraper@mono.ca.gov](mailto:Mdraper@mono.ca.gov), (760) 924-1805.

### RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

A contract with Mountain Studio developed and signed with the goal of launching the website by November 2020.

This staff report has been reviewed by the OVGA Executive Director.

### Attachments:

- Exhibit A - Request for Proposals for Website Design Services
- Proposal received from Mountain Studio



**Owens Valley Groundwater Authority**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**For**

**Website Design Services**

Deadline for Submission:

**July 17, 2020**

**Inyo County Water Department  
P. O. Box 337, 135 S. Jackson  
Independence, California 93526**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- I. Purpose**
- II. Current Website**
- III. Preliminary Scope of Work**
- IV. Data Rights**
- V. Proposal Requirements**
- VI. Website Requirements**
- VII. Selection Process**
- VIII. Rating Criteria**
- IX. Proposal Submission**

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA) seeks to obtain the services of an individual, organization, or firm with demonstrated experience in web design to design a website and associated social media accounts for the Authority.

### **I. Purpose**

The OVGA is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain website design services to enhance and create new OVGA on-line information capabilities, make OVGA documents publicly accessible, fulfill Sustainable Groundwater Management Act obligations for public transparency and engagement, and create a user friendly and simple-to-maintain website.

### **II. Current Site**

<https://www.inyowater.org/projects/sgma/>

### **III. Preliminary Scope of Work**

- 1) Design a unique, visually attractive and user-friendly website and social media accounts in English and Spanish (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).
- 2) Design a self-supporting, user-friendly navigation framework with a consistent theme that will allow OVGA to update data, post meeting agendas and materials, and update photos and reports using Adobe Contribute CS5 or other, similar user-intuitive interface.
- 3) Website will be housed on Inyo County server and must be accessible from and compatible with the Inyo County website.
- 4) Design a unique home page that will allow users to easily access information.
- 5) Design a template for all pages within the site. All pages must be consistent, look professional, and present information grouped in a logical manner.
- 6) Provide an easily accessible and editable calendar and list of upcoming activities, meetings, and other opportunities for public involvement.
- 7) Provide capability for stakeholders to subscribe to an interested parties or other list(s) and receive email newsletters or other information updates regularly.
- 8) Provide the ability to contact the OVGA or request information through the website.
- 9) Provide links to external SGMA information, OVGA member websites, and relevant social media accounts.
- 10) Provide an editable Frequently Asked Questions section.
- 11) Include a search engine that allows the user to search the whole site or subsections within the site.
- 12) Contractor will transition information to the new OVGA website from the page maintained on the ICWD website as well as create pages for Groundwater Sustainability Plan components as the Plan is developed.
- 13) Contractor should maintain timely and regular communication with the OVGA during the design process.
- 14) Contractor will produce a guidebook or instructions on changing/updating the website and provide comprehensive training to staff.
- 15) Any additional features the respondent feels would improve the OVGA website. Work closely with the OVGA to design the website in a manner that best suits the needs of the OVGA.

#### **IV. Data Rights**

The OVGA must maintain ownership of all data, formatting scripts, design templates, and domain where they are not already an open source product. Contractor will provide a list of all source materials used along with accurate links to those authors and to locations within the website where that source material is utilized.

#### **V. Proposal Requirements**

##### **The Proposal Must Include the Following:**

- Respondent must demonstrate past success with website development by providing links to active websites designed by the respondent.
- Respondent must provide references for at least three (3) organizations for whom the respondent has previously developed a website.
- Provide a detailed project schedule/implementation plan and demonstrate ability to meet timelines.
- Comply with Inyo County's IT architecture and standards.
- Provide a detailed list of recommended hardware specifications if necessary, and include the purchasing cost in the bid.
- Provide software applications, interfaces required, and purchase costs.
- A not-to-exceed budget and schedule of fees presenting consultant's hourly rates and indirect charges proposed for the project(s).
- Provide a statement as to the respondent's ability to enter into a standard Contract attached hereto which will govern the selected respondent's work.
- Identify all staff and proposed sub-contractors, their capabilities, qualifications, and experience, and the hourly rate at which each will be billed, along with the resumes of key personnel who will be assigned to oversee each portion of the work, and their availability for the project to include a task list and budget that would coincide with the Water Departments preliminary scope of work.
- A disclosure of any financial, business or other relationship that the prospective consultant has with the OVGA or any OVGA employee that may have an impact upon the outcome of the selection process of this project. Alternatively, the consultant shall provide a signed statement that no disclosure is being made because no such relationship exists.

#### **VI. Website Requirements**

- Site shall be in accordance to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines provided by the W3C and shall also be easily accessible to the novice as well as the experienced internet user; however, the usability of the site and ability for staff to easily update the site and content contained within the website should be considered
- Search capability within the site.
- The site must be unique, look professional, and design should be consistent throughout.
- Site must be housed on the web server housing Inyo County's main web site and Inyo County's IT department will require full and unlimited access to the website, source code and files.

## **VII. Selection Process**

It is the intent of the OVGA to evaluate all proposals received in response to this RFP. All proposals received will be reviewed to evaluate each respondent's proposal relative to capability and qualifications, completeness, proposed scope of work, ability to contract, and cost.

All RFP materials, any amendments, and questions/answers will be posted online at <http://bids.monocounty.ca.gov/>. Questions about this RFP are due by 5 pm on July 8, 2020, and may be sent to [mdraper@mono.ca.gov](mailto:mdraper@mono.ca.gov) or posted online at <http://bids.monocounty.ca.gov/>. Responses will be posted online only by 5 pm on July 10, 2020.

The deadline to respond to the RFP is July 17, 2020, at 5 pm. Please see "Proposal Submission" below.

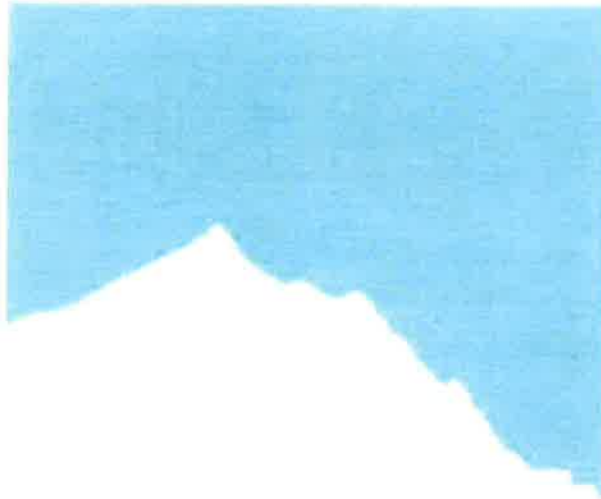
## **VIII. Rating Criteria**

Proposals will be rated on the following criteria:

- Professional appearance (15%)
- Ease of user experience (15%)
- Ability to update data, navigate (15%)
- Demonstrated ability to design (25%)
- Cost (15%)
- Completeness of Proposal (15%)

## **IX. Proposal Submission**

To be considered, three (3) copies of the Proposal must be received prior to the close of business on **July 17, 2020**, at the Mono County Community Development Department, 1290 Tavern Road, PO Box 347, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546. [Note: The U.S. Post Office will only deliver postal mail addressed to the PO Box, not the street address.] Postmarks are not acceptable. Consultants are advised that, due to its remote location, overnight delivery to Mammoth Lakes by USPS, UPS, FedEx, and other carriers should be scheduled as a two-day delivery.



**MOUNTAIN**  
**s t u d i o**

RECEIVED  
JUL 17 2020  
Mono County CDD

**OVGA**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**PROJECT: OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY**  
**7/17/2020**



# W E A R E P I O N E E R S

In the age of ever-changing technology, it's important to be forward-thinking. As web designers, developers and builders, we need tools that are reliable, faster, better and sustainable. We desire standards and crave innovation. We don't sit as technology passes us by – we predict what lies ahead and make it! Developing a unique, visually attractive website consists of developing a site architecture, creating a design, organizing and/or writing content, programming, production, and quality assurance. The look and feel of the website will match

your branding as well as bring in an Eastern Sierra flavor, with a unique feel. The website will be developed using best web development practices. All content will be searchable. All content will be EASILY update-able by the client through Wordpress, a free online content management system. Your site shall be built in accordance to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, provided by the W3C and shall also be easily accessible to the novice, as well as the experienced internet user. We are more than happy to work with you on specific updates and features going forward as well.

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# Y O U O W N I T

We use WordPress because it's secure, reliable and adaptable. It can fit anyone's needs large or small, from high-traffic VIP clients to local farms. Wordpress isn't just for personal blogs – It's the backbone of large business, tight-knit communities, web apps and everything in between. Most importantly, WordPress is free and open source, and you own everything. Thanks to its license, the GPL, WordPress will remain forever free.

Not many platforms can do what WordPress does. Not many have the flexibility to scale and adapt. Mountain Studio has a knack for not only thinking about the outcome, but also ongoing usage. Julie Faber, the owner/developer/designer shows great attention to detail and insight into the user experience. Pioneering the future requires more than a make it and leave it mentality. It takes thoughtful crafting, an eye for design and practical knowledge.

# S O C I A L M E D I A

## FACEBOOK

## INSTAGRAM

## TWITTER

Julie Faber manages the social media dream team for @VisitBishop. In this digital world, increasing brand awareness and exposure are the catalysts to communication. Mountain Studio will create a cohesive look across all social platforms. This will give your team the opportunity to reach your audience with full transparency and engagement.

# G O A L S

To provide the OVGA with an informative, intuitive and accessible website to enhance the engagement and fulfill SGMA obligations with navigation set up for a user friendly experience - using CSS /Wordpress technology while ensuring a consistent look and feel throughout the site. This includes a unique homepage design and template for all pages throughout the website.

Client is responsible for domain/secure hosting on Inyo County server.

Mountain Studio will transition all content from existing ICWD website to the new OVGA website.

Mountain Studio will train staff and produce an instructional guide.

Technology and options are limitless. You will have easy functional WYSIWYG (What you see is what you get) options to add calendar events, photos, video, alert messages, new text, pdf files and other self-supporting features. Links to external information, and relevant social media accounts will be built into the structure. The entire site will be searchable and your assigned staff will be able to update/edit any page on the site including FAQ section. Private pages with password access is also a function of this technology, if you see fit.

Mountain Studio will take time to suggest a path and include the best features looking forward, including an email list and MailMunch subscribe feature.



# SCOPE OF WORK

## **Website**

### **PROJECT MANAGEMENT/STRUCTURE DESIGN**

Project research, content coordination, strategy and communication, architecture and site-map creation.

**\$1200**

### **WEBSITE DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING**

Includes a polished design concept customized – based on a template process and two revisions. Design must be approved before production begins. Create Stylesheet with CSS technology.

**\$1900**

### **SITE BUILD-OUT**

Implementing copy, imagery, and styling for each page. Site will be previewed on a development site. Build out includes content, layout and installation.

**\$3900**

### **QUALITY ASSURANCE - TESTING/PROOFING**

Proof each page for navigation accuracy. Add google and yahoo verification/analytics. Add social media links and external resources. Add email subscribe function.

**\$800**

## **Responsive Features**

Make sure your customers can view your website on a phone. In other words, we focus on Brand Strategy and Responsive Web Design adaptable to all devices and ADA features.

## **Social Media**

**\$1000**

Create cover images, branded logos sized per platform. Use each channel to its best target audience. As an integrated marketing agency, we can help you connect with people in an authentic way, wherever they are.

## **Training**

2-3 hours of in person or online zoom training - sharing screen

**Includes Google Analytics tracking and basic sitewide SEO. Estimate is based on a \$100/hr fee. Does NOT include Annual Billing for Wordpress Maintenance (\$300)**

**\$300**

**TOTAL \$10,000**



## Mountain Studio & Contractors

### JULIE FABER - OWNER/DEVELOPER

I have a business degree from the University of Colorado, 20 years' experience building over 300 successful websites. I've been creating websites since 1999. In building my previous business (Telluride Websmith), I've been through a lot, and I know what works and what doesn't. Bishop, CA has been my hometown for the past 18 years and I get to explore our big backyard with my family through fishing, climbing, hiking, and skiing.

### CECILY BRYSON - DESIGNER

I am a Colorado-born designer with 14 years of experience in print media, art direction, logo design and web design. I create with enthusiasm and heart and develop a strong working-relationship with my clients. I create eye-catching pages that have a visual impact as well as provide functional navigation for the viewer. I work hand in hand with a programmer to make sure your website is working smoothly and effectively.

## References

### TAWNI THOMSON

ph: 760 873 8405  
execdir@bishopvisitor.com  
www.bishopvisitor.com

### KATHLEEN NEW

ph: 760 924 1060  
kathleen.new@gmail.com  
www.lonepinechamber.org

### LAURA PIPER

ph: 760 878 0001  
lpiper@inyocounty.us  
www.inyowater.org

### \*FULL DISCLOSURE

My husband, Keith Rainville is a hydrologist for Inyo County Water Department. I have also be contracted to do PR and web design for Coso Operating Company as well as web design for Inyo County Water Department. I understand and comply with all NDA's. In this small community I've learned to wear multiple hats and wear them well.

## **Schedule**

### **KICK OFF MEETING - JULY**

An in-person or zoom meeting with the team. This is a vital portion of the marketing process where we work very hard to get every element and team members input on the front end so that the entire process is smooth and final product is complete. Confirm strategy; site structure; image collection.

### **CREATIVE CONCEPTING - JULY/AUG**

Julie and Cecily proceed with approved direction and begin **two-three week** long creative concepting process.

### **CONCEPT PRESENTATION - AUG**

Julie will present 2+ creative concepts via zoom in the format of a sample home page. Client will be able to see vision for branding, color palettes, style, navigation bar look, layout & position for two separate ideas.

### **CONCEPT APPROVAL - AUG**

**One to two week** estimate process for Mountain Studio to gather client feedback and make any necessary updates/changes to deliver a final approved creative concept.

### **LAYOUT TEXT - SEPT/OCT**

Site will be previewed on a development site. Primary build out includes existing content will be done by the Developer. New content to be created "in-house" or separate from this contract.

### **Site & Social Media Launch - SEPT/OCT**

We keep the web format site on a staging folder that is cut off to search engines. We will have a meeting before the site goes live giving your group 1-2 weeks to work out any final changes.

### **Training - SEPT/OCT**

2-3 hours of staff training, plus an instructional guide to follow.

## WEBSITE CONTRACT WITH MOUNTAIN STUDIO

Client: OVGA

Date: July 17, 2020

### MAINTANENCE

Our intent is to make frequently changing aspects of the website updatable by you to avoid unnecessary maintenance costs. **Our maintenance rate is \$100 per hour.**

### ONLINE MARKETING PLAN & IMPLEMENTATION

Programming your site with search engines in mind is vital to your success. This is included in any design and programming work by Mountain Studio.

### ACCEPTANCE

All design conceptualization and layout to be provided by Mountain Studio (Developer). Content from Client is preferred in digital format. Content provided by Client will be organized in a comprehensive and legible manner to Developer. Developer will also conceive visual aspects of design according to Clients specifications.

It is anticipated that the Developer will create, capture or receive from the Client all the graphic elements necessary to complete the Client's web site. This includes the company logo, ancillary images, graphics and banner advertisements. This also includes photography or scanning services as listed below.

The Client represents to the Developer and unconditionally guarantees that any elements of text, graphics, photos, designs, trademarks, or other artwork furnished to the Developer for inclusion in the Client's web site are owned by the Client, or that the Client has permission from the rightful owner to use each of these elements, and will hold harmless, protect, and defend the Developer and its subcontractors from any claim or suit arising from the use of such elements furnished by the Client.

Developer prides itself in providing excellent customer service. That is the spirit of our agreement and the spirit of the Developer's business. To that end, we encourage input from the Client during the design process.

The Developer understands, however, that Client may request significant design changes to pages that have already built to the Client's specification. Please note that our agreement does not include a provision for "significant page modification" or creation of additional pages in excess of proposed amount. If significant page modification is requested after a page has been built to the Client's specification, we must count it as an additional page.

Some examples of significant page modification at the request of the Client include:

- Developing a new table or layer structure to accommodate a substantial redesign at the Client's request.
- Replacing more than 75% of the text to any given page at the Client's request.
- Creating a new navigation structure or changing the link graphics at the Client's request.

Moderate changes, however, will always be covered during our development of the site.

Again, we strive to accommodate the needs of each Client and we maintain a liberal redesign policy. We cannot, however, provide major redevelopment services without additional charge.

### Indemnification.

Client agrees that it shall defend, indemnify, save and hold the Developer harmless from any and all demands, liabilities, losses, costs and claims, including reasonable attorney's fees associated with the Developer's development of the Client's web site. This includes Liabilities asserted against the Developer, its subcontractors, its agents, its clients, servants, officers and employees, that may arise or result from any service provided or performed or agreed to be performed or any product sold by the Client, its agents, employee or assigns.

Client also agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Developer against Liabilities arising out of any injury to person or property caused by any products or services sold or otherwise distributed over the Client's web site. This includes infringing on the proprietary rights of a third party, copyright infringement, and delivering any defective product or misinformation that is detrimental to another person, organization, or business.

**Ownership to Web Pages and Graphics.**

Copyright to the finished assembled work of web pages produced by the Developer and graphics shall be vested with the Client upon final payment for the project. This ownership is to include, design, photos, graphics, source code, work-up files, text, and any program(s) specifically designed or purchased on behalf of the Client for completion of this project.

**Nondisclosure.**

The Developer its employees and subcontractors agree that, except as directed by the Client, it will not at any time during or after the term of this Agreement disclose any confidential information, including pricing and custom (proprietary) programming to any person whatsoever. Likewise, the Client agrees that it will not convey any confidential information obtained about the Developer to another party.

**Completion Date**

The Developer and the Client must work together to complete the web site in a timely manner for both parties to remain profitable. We agree to work expeditiously to complete this project no later than 6 months from contract signing and receipt of content.

**Additional Notes/Disclaimers:**

Once an established architecture and feature set are agreed upon all additional feature requests will be considered scope changes and the proposal will need to be amended or each feature billed separately. All invoices are due within 30 days of the site launch date. Invoices not paid within 30 days will be subject to a 10% per month penalty. All proposed costs are estimates and subject to a 10% scope variance. If scope changes are deemed beyond acceptable variance a revised proposal will be created and need to be agreed upon by both parties. Logo development and website development are inherently variable projects and all timelines are estimates only. Every attempt will be made to ensure a timely delivery for each phase of the project. However, the client needs to be aware that there can be many unforeseeable issues that may extend the project beyond the estimated deadlines.

The total agreed price of the above mentioned contract is **\$10,000**  
**(50% retainer is due in order to proceed \$5000\*)**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Estimate subject to a 10% scope variance, and will be reevaluated upon further discussion.*

*TERMS: Invoices are net due per invoice date. The invoice and its authorized agents are responsible for all costs incurred, including attorney's fees and collection costs, in the event of a default or if collection is referred to litigation.*

Feel free to call or email me with any questions.

Julie Faber, Owner  
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# MOUNTAIN studio



## INSPIRED BY DESIGN.

Here are some links to some Responsive websites built by Mountain Studio to inspire you!

[www.bishopvisitor.com](http://www.bishopvisitor.com)

[www.esaudubon.org](http://www.esaudubon.org)

[www.sierraforever.org](http://www.sierraforever.org)

[www.muledays.org](http://www.muledays.org)

[www.eslt.org](http://www.eslt.org)

[www.inyowater.org](http://www.inyowater.org)

[www.mammothlakeshousing.com](http://www.mammothlakeshousing.com)

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# Owens Valley Subbasin

## DRAFT Communication and Engagement Plan

Updated: July 9, 2020

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*NOTE: In order to ensure an adaptive, responsive approach to stakeholder outreach and engagement, it is intended that the components of this plan be developed in collaboration with the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin stakeholders, beginning with the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority board members, staff and consultants. This process has already begun, and this version incorporates the results of that collaboration to date. The plan will be updated as the collaborative process continues.*

*At the date of this publication, the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin was categorized as a low priority basin by the California Department of Water Resources.*

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Prepared by  
California State University Sacramento

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# Owens Valley Groundwater Basin Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan

## Purpose

The purpose of this Communication and Engagement Plan is to assist the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA) in its efforts to develop general and strategic communications to engage stakeholders in groundwater management activities.

## Background

California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014 requires broad and diverse stakeholder involvement in Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) activities and the development and implementation of Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP) for 127 groundwater basins around the state that are listed at high or medium priority. While the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin has recently been characterized by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as a low priority basin (as of December 2019)<sup>1</sup>, it has elected to move forward with development of a GSP. The OVGA was created to comply with the SGMA requirement that local agencies sustainably manage groundwater in the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin (OVGB).

The intent of SGMA is to ensure successful, sustainable management of groundwater resources at the local level. Success will require cooperation by all stakeholders, and cooperation is far more likely if stakeholders have consistent messaging of valid information and are provided with opportunities to help shape the path forward.

To that end, the intention of the Communications and Engagement Plan (Plan) is to make transparent to stakeholders their opportunities to contribute to the development of a GSP that can effectively address groundwater management within the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin. At the same time, the intention of the Plan is to provide community leaders and the OVGA with a roadmap to follow to ensure stakeholders have meaningful input into OVGA decision-making, including GSP development, through a process widely seen as fair and respectful to interested parties.

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<sup>1</sup> At the date of this publication, the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin was categorized as a low priority basin by the California Department of Water Resources.

## Basin Overview

The OVGB is a large basin – 1,030 square miles - with a number of jurisdictional, legal, and water management considerations specific to the basin. The Basin includes the Owens, Round, Chalfant, Hammil, and Benton Valleys as well as Fish Slough. Owens Valley is currently identified as a low priority Basin by DWR, and not in a critically overdrafted condition. However, in 2014 the Basin was considered a medium priority basin, but an approved basin boundary modification in 2016 triggered a reassessment of basin priority. In 2018 DWR proposed the basin be classified as high priority due largely to out-of-basin groundwater exports. The OVGA objected to that draft DWR designation and in May 2019, the DWR released phase II of its prioritization proposing to designate the basin low priority. That designation was finalized in December 2019.

## Basin Governance and Decision-Making

The GSA for the Basin was formally established as the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority in May 2018. The OVGA is a joint exercise of powers agency composed of Inyo County, Mono County, City of Bishop, Indian Creek-Westridge Community Service District (CSD), Big Pine CSD, and Eastern Sierra CSD. Each of these members has water supply, water management, or land use responsibilities, and is thus eligible to individually form a GSA. The document forming the Owens Valley Groundwater Authority allows for tribes, federal agencies, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, PUC regulated private water companies, and other interested parties to have a voting role in GSA decision making. Currently, the OVGA has tentatively offered Interested Party seats for one Tribe and one environmental group. A decision regarding mutual water companies that have requested board seat(s) is pending.

The OVGA is administered by a governing board consisting of one primary appointment and one alternate from each member agency. The OVGA Board of Directors meets the second Thursday of each month. All meetings are public, noticed, held and conducted in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act open and public meeting law. The Board may occasionally establish ad hoc committees for the purpose of making recommendations to the Board on the various activities of the Authority.

OVGA decisions will be informed through staff direction, development of recommendations from ad hoc committees, and input from technical consultants. Furthermore, the OVGA and their staff representatives will engage with Basin stakeholders through the strategies outlined in this plan to help inform the OVGA's decisions.

## Communication and Engagement Plan Goals

The intention of the Communication and Engagement Plan is as follows:

- To provide the OVGA, community leaders, and other beneficial users a roadmap to follow to ensure consistent messaging of SGMA requirements and related Basin information and data.

- To provide a roadmap to the OVGA and community leaders to follow to ensure stakeholders have meaningful input into OVGA decision-making, including GSP development.
- To ensure the roadmap demonstrates a process that is widely seen by stakeholders as fair and respectful to the range of interested parties.
- To make transparent to stakeholders their opportunities to contribute to the development of a GSP that can effectively address groundwater management within the Basin.

**The Plan seeks to accomplish the following goals:**

1. Educate stakeholders about:
  - a. SGMA and its requirements.
  - b. Potential changes to current groundwater management under SGMA.
  - c. OVGA member agencies within the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin.
  - d. How stakeholders are represented in the OVGA.
2. Communicate important deadlines and dates pertinent to GSP development.
3. Articulate strategies and channels for gaining ongoing stakeholder input and feedback to inform GSP design and development.
4. Coordinate outreach and engagement activities between OVGA member agencies, and between Basin management areas, to ensure efficiencies and to support stakeholders in GSP development.
5. Encourage stakeholder engagement by advertising dedicated SGMA outreach channels, including meeting and workshop dates and content, as opportunities for stakeholders to provide input in the OVGA decision-making process and GSP planning process.
6. Gain early and continuing feedback to inform GSP design and development.

### Opportunities for Engagement

Opportunities for stakeholder input will be provided throughout the GSP development process, by way of public participation at OVGA Board of Directors meetings, hosted public workshops, direct outreach to constituent groups, and other mechanisms as outlined in this document. Timely notification of opportunities for interested parties to participate in the development and implementation of the GSP should be given via the channels and strategies described within.

## Major Audiences

A Basin stakeholder is a “beneficial user” as described by SGMA. Under the requirements of SGMA, all beneficial uses and users of groundwater must be considered in the development of GSPs, and GSAs must encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population. Beneficial users, therefore, are any stakeholder who has an interest in groundwater use and management in the Basin community. Their interest may be GSA activities, GSP development and implementation, and/or water access and management in general.

To assist in determining who the specific SGMA stakeholders and beneficial users are, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has issued a Stakeholder Engagement Chart (Table 1) for GSP Development in their 2017 *GSP Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Guidance Document*. This table was modified to fit the circumstances and stakeholders of the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin, and will continue to be updated during the planning process. Furthermore, Management Area Outreach Leads may maintain more exhaustive lists respective to their management area, for targeted stakeholder outreach efforts.

**Table 1: Stakeholder Engagement Chart for GSP Development.** This table will continue to be updated during the GSP planning process. Note: The groups and communities referenced are those identified during initial assessment. OVGA shall maintain current and more exhaustive lists of stakeholders fitting into these groups.

Category of Interest	Examples of Stakeholder Groups	Engagement Purpose
<b>Land Use or Water Management Authority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Municipalities (City, County planning departments)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- City of Bishop</li><li>- Mono County</li><li>- Inyo County</li><li>- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</li></ul></li><li>• Water Management Authorities<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Tri Valley Groundwater Management District</li></ul></li><li>• Regional Agencies<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- California Fish &amp; Wildlife Service</li><li>- Great Basin Air Pollution Control District</li><li>- State Lands Commission</li><li>- United States Forest Service</li></ul></li><li>• Community Service Districts<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Big Pine</li><li>- Keeler</li><li>- Lone Pine</li><li>- Sierra Highlands</li><li>- Sierra North</li><li>- Starlite</li></ul></li></ul>	Consult and/or involve to ensure land use policies are supporting the GSP

	- Wheeler Crest	
<b>Private Users</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Interests &amp; Private Pumpers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cattlemen's Association</li> <li>- Crystal Geysers Roxane LLC</li> <li>- Rio Tinto Minerals</li> <li>- Southern California Edison</li> <li>- Zack Ranch</li> </ul> </li> <li>• School Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bernasconi Education Center</li> <li>- Bishop Unified School District</li> <li>- Eastern Sierra College Center</li> <li>- Eastern Sierra Unified School District</li> <li>- Lone Pine Unified School District</li> <li>- Round Valley School District</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Domestic Users</li> </ul>	Inform and/or involve to avoid negative impact to these users
<b>Urban/ Agriculture Users</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Water Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aberdeen Water System</li> <li>- Benton Community Center</li> <li>- Benton Station</li> <li>- Bird Industrial Complex LLC</li> <li>- Bishop Country Club</li> <li>- Boulder Creek Trailer Park</li> <li>- CDCR Owens Valley Conservation Camp</li> <li>- Chalfant Community Center</li> <li>- Comfort Inn</li> <li>- Eastern Sierra Regional Airport</li> <li>- Glenwood Mobile Home Park</li> <li>- Highland Mobile Home Park</li> <li>- Horseshoe Meadow Campground</li> <li>- Inyo County Parks and Recreation</li> <li>- Keoughs Hot Springs</li> <li>- Meadowlake Apartments</li> <li>- Mountain View Trailer Court</li> <li>- Park West</li> <li>- Pine Creek Village</li> <li>- Rolling Green</li> <li>- SCE Bishop Creek Plant 4</li> <li>- Sunland Village Mobile Home Park</li> <li>- Van Loon Water Association</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mutual Water Companies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Brookside Estates</li> <li>- Cartago</li> <li>- Chalfant Valley West</li> <li>- Meadowcreek</li> <li>- Mountain View Estates</li> <li>- North Lone Pine</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Collaborate to ensure sustainable management of groundwater

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Owens Valley</li> <li>- Park West</li> <li>- Ranch Road Estates</li> <li>- Rawson Creek</li> <li>- Rocking K Ranch Estates</li> <li>- R and V</li> <li>- Sierra Grande Estates</li> <li>- Valley Vista</li> <li>- Van Loon</li> <li>- White Mountain</li> <li>- Wilson Circle</li> <li>• Resource Conservation Districts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inyo Mono RCD</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Farm Bureau <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inyo-Mono County</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Environmental and Ecosystem</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal and State Agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bureau of Land Management</li> <li>- California Department of Fish and Wildlife</li> <li>- California Department of Water Resources</li> <li>- California State Lands Commission</li> <li>- Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District</li> <li>- Inyo County Agricultural Commissioner's Office</li> <li>- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power</li> <li>- Mono County Agricultural Commissioner's Office</li> <li>- National Park Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NPS Manzanar National Historical Site</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Owens Valley Radio Observatory</li> <li>- United States Forest Service</li> <li>- White Mountain Research Center</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Environmental Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- California Native Plant Society, Bristlecone Chapter</li> <li>- Eastern Sierra Audubon</li> <li>- Eastern Sierra Land Trust</li> <li>- Friends of the Inyo</li> <li>- Owens Valley Committee</li> <li>- RCRC</li> <li>- Sierra Club</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Land Trusts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eastern Sierra Land Trust</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Special Interest Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cattleman's Association</li> <li>- Sierra Nevada Alliance</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Inform, involve and/or collaborate to sustain a vital ecosystem and ensure basin sustainability.
<b>Tribes &amp; Tribal Organizations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tribes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Benton Paiute Tribe</li> <li>- Big Pine Tribe</li> <li>- Bishop Paiute Tribe</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Inform, involve, and/or consult with tribal government

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fort Independence Paiute Tribe</li> <li>- Kutzadika'a Tribe</li> <li>- Lone Pine Tribe</li> <li>- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe</li> <li>- Cabazon Band of the Mission Indians</li> <li>• Tribal Organizations</li> <li>• Owens Valley Indian Water Commission</li> </ul>	
<b>Industrial Users</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial and Industrial Self-supplier</li> <li>• Local Trade Association or Group</li> </ul>	Inform and/or involve to avoid negative impact to these users
<b>Economic Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chambers of Commerce</li> <li>• Business Groups/Associations</li> <li>• Elected Officials (Board of Supervisors, City Council)</li> <li>• State Assembly Members</li> <li>• State Senators</li> <li>• Civic Clubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Altrusa of the Eastern Sierra</li> <li>- Big Pine Civic Club</li> <li>- Bishop Lions Club</li> <li>- Ind. Civic Club</li> <li>- Rotary Club of Bishop</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Inform and/or involve to support a stable economy
<b>Integrated Water Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional water management groups (IRWM regions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inyo Mono IRWMP</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Recycled Water Coalition</li> </ul>	Inform, involve, and collaborate to improve regional sustainability
<b>General Public</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens Groups</li> <li>• Community Leaders</li> <li>• Recreational Users</li> </ul>	Inform to improve public awareness of sustainable groundwater management
<b>Human Right to Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disadvantaged Communities</li> <li>• Environmental Justice Groups</li> <li>• Latino Communities*</li> <li>• Remote private pumpers</li> <li>• Small Community Water Systems*</li> </ul> <p><i>*stakeholders referenced in other categories above</i></p>	Inform and/or involve to provide a safe and secure groundwater supplies to all communities reliant on groundwater

## Key Messages

As the OVGA is reaching out to stakeholders to inform and engage them in groundwater management issues and items, it is critical to share clear and consistent key messages to avoid confusion and misunderstanding. Key messages are as follows:

1. The OVGA is committed to proactively and sustainably managing groundwater in the Basin through locally tailored management of groundwater resources to protect and sustain the environment, local residents and communities, agriculture, and the economy.
2. The OVGA is committed to proactive and transparent outreach and engagement with stakeholders and Basin community members throughout GSP planning and SGMA implementation.
3. Local control of groundwater should be preserved to the maximum extent practicable, and State intervention to implement SGMA should be avoided.
4. 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.
5. The OVGA is committed to conducting sustainable groundwater practices that fairly consider the needs of and protect the groundwater resources for all Beneficial Users in the Basin.
6. 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.
7. While the Basin is currently categorized as low priority, Basin water managers recognize the value in being proactive about groundwater management. Issues resulting from groundwater extraction may become apparent in the future, potentially resulting in another recategorization of the Basin by DWR. Foresight and planning can prevent high costs and major water cut backs in the future.
8. 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.
9. The OVGA is committed to designing sustainability indicators that avoid significant and unreasonable impacts to groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs).
10. The OVGA is committed to responsible water management, but it cannot regulate LADWP activities or surface water rights.



## Recommended Communication Strategies and Mechanisms

OVGA representatives and staff will engage with Basin stakeholders, and will be responsible to track the needs of their local communities. The OVGA will consider stakeholder input gathered from outreach efforts as they move through GSP development and SGMA implementation processes. Four sets of strategies are important to consider when planning outreach and engagement activities, included in the following categories:

- **SGMA-required** strategies that GSAs must legally undertake during different phases of GSA formation, GSP development and implementation. [See Appendix VI for complete description.]
- **Essential strategies** centrally communicated at the Basin and OVGA management area level that are proven to successfully engage stakeholders.
- **Localized strategies** coordinated among member agencies working in OVGA management areas through existing, trusted channels.
- **Secondary strategies** that will enhance engagement efforts locally, at the beneficial user level, and on an as-needed basis.

## Essential Communication Strategies

The following strategies are meant to ensure successful engagement of Basin stakeholders during the GSP development and implementation process. The OVGA shall incorporate these strategies to ensure that “interested parties” (as defined under SGMA) and other Owens Valley Groundwater Basin stakeholder interests are considered in the development of the GSP and implementation of SGMA.

### 1. Integrate and Expand on Existing SGMA Communication and Outreach Efforts:

- a. The OVGA Board Meetings and are open to the public. Other outreach activities already conducted to date include a stakeholder assessment in the summer of 2016, meetings held in 2017 with potential GSA members (facilitated by DWR), public informational meetings and a mandatory public process for the proposed basin boundary adjustment in 2018-19, and regularly scheduled public meetings of the OVGA Board since the Board’s formal establishment in May 2018.

### 2. Develop and Maintain a List of Interested Parties:

- a. A list of stakeholders and beneficial users is to be developed and updated throughout the GSP planning, implementation and enforcement processes (see Table 1 above).
- b. This list should be reviewed for updates every three to six months.

### 3. Maintain a Centralized Website and Social Media Accounts:

While individual OVGA member agencies may seek to maintain separate websites, a centralized location for activities that are basin-wide or related to GSP development will demonstrate coordination and provide consistency in messaging.

- a. Allocate staff and resources to maintain a stand-alone website with information about SGMA and GSP planning efforts and other relevant information.
  - i. As of April 2020, an RFP for a web developer is awaiting approval by the OVGA Board.
- b. Provide easily accessible list of upcoming planning activities, meetings and opportunities for public involvement.
- c. Provide a place where stakeholders can add their name to the interested parties list.
- d. Include Resources and materials:
  - i. Links to external sites (DWR and State Water Resources Control Board)
  - ii. Links to individual OVGA member agency websites, relevant blogs, etc.
  - iii. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) and/or white papers
  - iv. OVGA documents (MOUs, bylaws, etc.)
  - v. GSP documents (draft GSP documents, notices and meeting calendars for GSP workshops)
- e. Establish corresponding social media accounts, such as FaceBook, Twitter, and Instagram profiles.
  - i. Social media accounts should be used for information dissemination purposes primarily, and limit or exclude the ability for general public to engage in “sideline conversations” about SGMA, etc.

**4. Provide Regular Public Notices and Updates. Ensure Brown Act Compliance:**

- a. Provide consistent messaging and outreach regarding SGMA information and GSP updates as they relate to Owens Valley Groundwater Basin. Topics to be noticed include and are not limited to:
  - i. GSP development and planning updates
    - 1. GSP workshops
    - 2. GSP work plan and timeline
  - ii. GSP implementation and enforcement updates (if/when applicable)
  - iii. General OVGA updates, including without limitation:
    - 1. OVGA Board meetings
    - 2. Public workshops and/or stakeholder roundtables
    - 3. OVGA annual reports (if applicable)
    - 4. Other SGMA-related updates
  - iv. As the work evolves, new items could be added to the list of update topics that stakeholders are provided, to help highlight their importance (for example, an event like an annual forum, or an ongoing activity like groundwater monitoring).
- b. Schedule notices to be sent on a regular schedule, for example, bi-monthly, monthly or as needed.

- c. Meetings subject to the Brown Act, such as OVGA Board meetings, must provide public notice and post an agenda 72 hours in advance of each regularly scheduled meeting (emergency meetings require 24-hour advance notice).
- d. Develop content appropriate to the audience and their interests, ensuring information is articulated in a way that is easily understood.
- e. Notices to community members with less SGMA or technical experience should be easily understood, with streamlined, relatable and repetitive information.
- f. Updates and messages should be condensed to one page when possible, providing a succinct summary of the issues discussed, and including links for further or additional information.
- g. As applicable, specific items should have an estimated timeline and a designated point of contact, including the person's position, email and telephone.
- h. Updates and information are needed in both English and Spanish.
- i. Designate responsible staff and appropriate resources for ongoing interagency coordination regarding joint messaging, consistent outreach and communication with stakeholders.
- j. Determine appropriate dissemination channels.
  - i. Utilize Constant Contact or similar email marketing platform for management of interested party stakeholder lists.
  - ii. Utilize member agency listservs delivered via standard email and/or U.S. Mail.

**5. Provide Notices and Updates in Print Publications:**

- a. Notices can take the form of public notices, op-ed articles, letters to the editor, advertisements or paid or earned media.
  - i. Send information and/or media releases to regional and local media outlets and contacts.
    - 1. Trusted radio stations in the region, including stations broadcasting in languages other than English.
    - 2. Organization and community newsletters and periodicals.
    - 3. Identify trusted bi-lingual and/or Spanish speaking media outlets.
  - ii. Provide follow-up or wrap-up articles written by staff when appropriate.
  - iii. Notices and information may also be provided via:
    - 1. Mailers:
      - a. Send to PO boxes in Mono County
      - b. As bill inserts via utility districts
      - c. As an insert in the Saturday Inyo Register
    - 2. Print publications, including but not limited to:
      - a. Inyo County Register
      - b. The Reader
      - c. The Sheet
      - d. Sunday Paper
      - e. CSD Consumer Confidence Report
    - 3. Posted flyers at:

- a. Libraries
  - b. Feed supply stores
  - c. Grocery stores
- iv. Include notices for:
  - 1. Public workshops
  - 2. Specific stakeholder meetings (targeted or special topic meetings)
  - 3. OVGA Board meetings
  - 4. Other standing meetings of particular interest related to SGMA
  - 5. GSP development and planning updates
  - 6. GSP implementation and enforcement updates (if/when applicable)
  - 7. General OVGA and SGMA-related updates
- v. Schedule
  - 1. Advertisements (if applicable): allow 21 to 30 days advance (with content approved)
    - a. Identify advertisement space
    - b. Develop content
  - 2. Letters to Editor: allow up to two weeks for preparation of letter and posting. Letters to the Editor can be published easily without advertisement space.
  - 3. Posting: minimum of one week in advance of meetings for placement of final advertisement.
- vi. Dissemination

**6. Institute Regular Stakeholder Outreach and Engagement Opportunities:**

- a. Stakeholder engagement opportunities include but are not limited to:
  - i. OVGA Board meetings
  - ii. Mono County Regional Planning Advisory Committee
  - iii. County Board of Supervisors meetings
  - iv. GSP Technical Workshops
  - v. Public Workshops and Roundtables
  - vi. Owens Lake Groundwater Working Group
- b. Public workshop or roundtable content includes but is not limited to:
  - i. Updates on OVGA activities
  - ii. Updates on GSP development and planning activities
  - iii. Opportunities for interested parties to participate in the development and implementation of the GSP (i.e., technical workshops on specific GSP components)
  - iv. Notice of OVGA intent to adopt or amend a GSP
  - v. Updates on groundwater management activities in the Basin
  - vi. Notice to impose fees
- c. Logistics Considerations
  - i. Schedule in evenings and/or near community areas as feasible.
  - ii. Provide translation and facilitation services in English and Spanish

**7. Strategically Engage Local, Special SGMA Identified Groups**

- a. Identify Management Area Outreach Leads for each management area defined in the GSP to coordinate and direct localized public outreach and engagement efforts for their areas.
- b. Develop a targeted communication strategy to engage difficult to reach communities and community members that may be impacted by SGMA. This may include activities such as:
  - i. Door-to-door engagement
  - ii. Speaking at pre-existing community meetings
  - iii. Coordination with existing advisory groups or non-profit organizations as part of roundtable discussions.
- c. Groups include:
  - i. Disadvantaged Communities (DACs)
  - ii. Underrepresented communities
  - iii. Latino communities
  - iv. Remote private pumpers
- d. Recommendation: GSP Management Area Outreach Leads to manage targeted audience outreach activities, and coordinate activities among outreach team.

**8. Develop and Update Basin Outreach and Engagement Resources Table**

- a. Assess and define coordinating OVGA member agencies' outreach tools and resources available for Basin-wide outreach and engagement activities.

**9. Develop Consistent, Coordinated Messages and Talking Points**

- a. Define the key messages needed to effectively convey SGMA-related information to various audiences and ensure consistency in a coordinated outreach effort to all stakeholders.
  - i. For each GSP topic being discussed, develop a set of talking points that can be used by OVGA members when speaking to specific stakeholder groups or audiences. Talking points and messaging may be customized to specific stakeholder groups as appropriate.
  - ii. Develop tools, such as a Q&A document and a SGMA 101 document, that contain easy to understand information as well as likely questions and responses you anticipate from stakeholder groups.
  - iii. Identify and communicate opportunities for public engagement and/or public comment during meetings on GSP development.
  - iv. Provide clear messaging that the OVGA retains legal responsibility for final OVGA and GSP related decisions.

## Localized Outreach and Engagement Strategies

While consistent messaging is to be coherently coordinated at the Basin level, localized outreach should be coordinated among member agencies working in management areas through existing, trusted channels.

1. **Utilize Local Agencies with Standing Meetings:** The most effective way to inform and engage many stakeholders and beneficial users regarding SGMA requirements and soliciting feedback is through trusted local agencies and community organizations with standing meetings and communication channels.
  - a. Support local agencies and community organizations in disseminating information and engaging stakeholders in the following ways:
    - i. During standing board and/or community meetings
    - ii. Through monthly information pieces in newsletters or included in bills
    - iii. Disseminating information in both English and Spanish
  - b. Local trusted agencies and community organizations include but are not limited to [refer to Table 1 for specific groups]:
    - i. Civic Groups
    - ii. Mutual water companies
    - iii. DAC community meetings and leaders
    - iv. Growers associations and industry organizations
    - v. Resource conservation groups
    - vi. Local and regional environmental justice groups
    - vii. Inyo-Mono County Farm Bureaus
  - c. Leverage local, trusted resources for community meetings, such as schools, churches, and community centers.
    - i. Organize public meetings around explicit topics to specific stakeholders, including:
      1. As needed or requested, SGMA 101 meeting to inform stakeholders of important changes in groundwater management and how it may impact them.
      2. Meetings that explain components of the GSP, so that stakeholders can later provide meaningful input in the GSP development process.
      3. Meetings that detail when and how opportunities to provide input to the OVGA decision making and GSP development processes will occur.
      4. Public meetings regarding fee structures to help people understand how to interpret the impacts on them (if/when applicable).
  - d. Logistics Considerations:
    - i. Make information and meetings accessible to various stakeholder groups.
    - ii. Provide information in easy to understand and streamlined terms.
    - iii. Provide information and facilitation in both English and Spanish.

- iv. Hold meetings during hours that do not impede with regular work schedules (i.e., nights and weekends).

## **2. Utilize Existing Local Agency Resources**

- a. Effectively inform and engage diverse beneficial users in SGMA through trusted local agencies and community organizations with existing communication channels such as newsletters, websites and social media.
- b. Disseminate consistent, coordinated messages and talking points through existing local newsletters, websites and social media.
- c. Customize messages to audiences, providing easy to understand updates.
- d. Provide information in both English and Spanish (most websites and social media allow users to set preferred translation).

## **3. Build on Strategies to Engage Local, Special SGMA Identified Groups**

- a. To build on the Basin-wide outreach referenced above, it is recommended that each OVGA Management Area Outreach Lead develop additional locally-targeted communication strategies to engage difficult-to-reach communities and community members that will be impacted by SGMA. Groups include Disadvantaged Communities (DACs), underrepresented communities, Latino communities, and remote private pumpers.
- b. Some groups may need to be engaged through channels that do not require internet access, via door-to-door outreach and other opportunities for face-to-face engagement.
- c. OGVA member agencies may offer “office hours” or posted open times where interested members of the public can come in to casually discuss SGMA on their own schedule.

## **Secondary, Conditional Communication Strategies**

The following strategies and activities are options for increased stakeholder engagement, or to address particularly difficult discussions (due to, for example, political factors or limited stakeholder knowledge of content). These are for consideration on an as-needed basis to generate more or specialized stakeholder engagement and participation.

1. Develop and update Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page on website
2. Create an inexpensive informational brochure
3. Develop a strategic media plan
4. Actively cultivate relationships and updates with state and local elected officials
5. Participate in related planning efforts in the local area and region
6. Create an annual electronic newsletter (annual report)
7. Engage stakeholders through personal outreach of members of the OVGA
8. Participate in local events with an informational booth, such as:
  - ChooChoo Swamp Meet (Bishop)
  - The Lone Pine Film Festival
  - The City Park

- Earth Day Events

### Recommended Milestones for Engaging Stakeholders

To employ the Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan effectively, the GSA will need to develop a schedule for outreach and engagement activities. The below table (Table 2) identifies milestones required by SGMA, as well as centralized and localized engagement strategies. This schedule shall be updated into a task-oriented work plan and timeline as communication and engagement tasks are allocated.



Table 2: Summary of Engagement Opportunities and Milestones

Timeframe	Milestone or Stage	Required Community Engagement Under SGMA	Essential & Localized Con
Between Notice of GSP Planning and June 30, 2021	During GSP Development	Public Workshops and other opportunities providing stakeholder avenues to participate in GSP development	<p><i>Essential</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public workshops on GSP dev</li> <li>sustainable management criti</li> <li>Develop and maintain central accounts</li> <li>Email notices of public meetin</li> <li>Newspaper notices of public</li> </ul> <p><i>Localized</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make time in standing meetin on GSP development</li> <li>Develop newsletter updates</li> <li>Disseminate updates via web</li> </ul>
Between Notice of GSP Planning and December, 2021	During GSP development	Active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the Basin	<p><i>Essential</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide regular email notices</li> <li>Update website regularly</li> <li>Convene bimonthly meetings consultants</li> <li>Identify and communicate op and/or public comment durin</li> <li>Develop consistent, coordina effectively convey SGMA-rela audiences</li> <li>Develop content appropriate interests, ensuring informati</li> <li>Update area legislative bodie other groups upon request)</li> </ul> <p><i>Localized</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize local channels and me communicate opportunities f</li> </ul>

Timeframe	Milestone or Stage	Required Community Engagement Under SGMA	Essential & Localized Communication
			<p>public comment during meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leverage and support local agencies and organizations in disseminating information to stakeholders, including through newsletters, websites, and social media</li> <li>• Organize public meetings around key milestones and stakeholders</li> <li>• Develop additional, locally-tailored communication strategies to engage difficult-to-reach community members</li> </ul>
<b>GSP adoption no later than December, 2021</b>	Prior to GSP adoption or amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide notice to cities and counties within area encompassed by the proposed plan or amendment</li> <li>• Consider comments provided by the cities and counties</li> <li>• Accommodate requests for consultation received from the cities and counties within 30 days</li> </ul>	SEE ABOVE
<b>GSP adoption no later than December, 2021</b>	Prior to GSP adoption or amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No sooner than 90 days following public notice, hold public hearing/ Public Workshop</li> </ul>	SEE ABOVE
<b>Prior to GSA imposing fee or increasing fee</b>	If GSA intends to impose or increase a fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide public with access to the data serving as the basis for the proposed fee, the time and place of explanatory public meeting, and general explanation of topic to be discussed.</li> <li>• Post on project website and mail to any interested party who submits written request for mailed notice of</li> </ul>	SEE ABOVE

Timeframe	Milestone or Stage	Required Community Engagement Under SGMA	Essential & Localized Con
		meetings on new or increased fees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No sooner than 10 days following public notice, hold a public meeting.</li> </ul>	

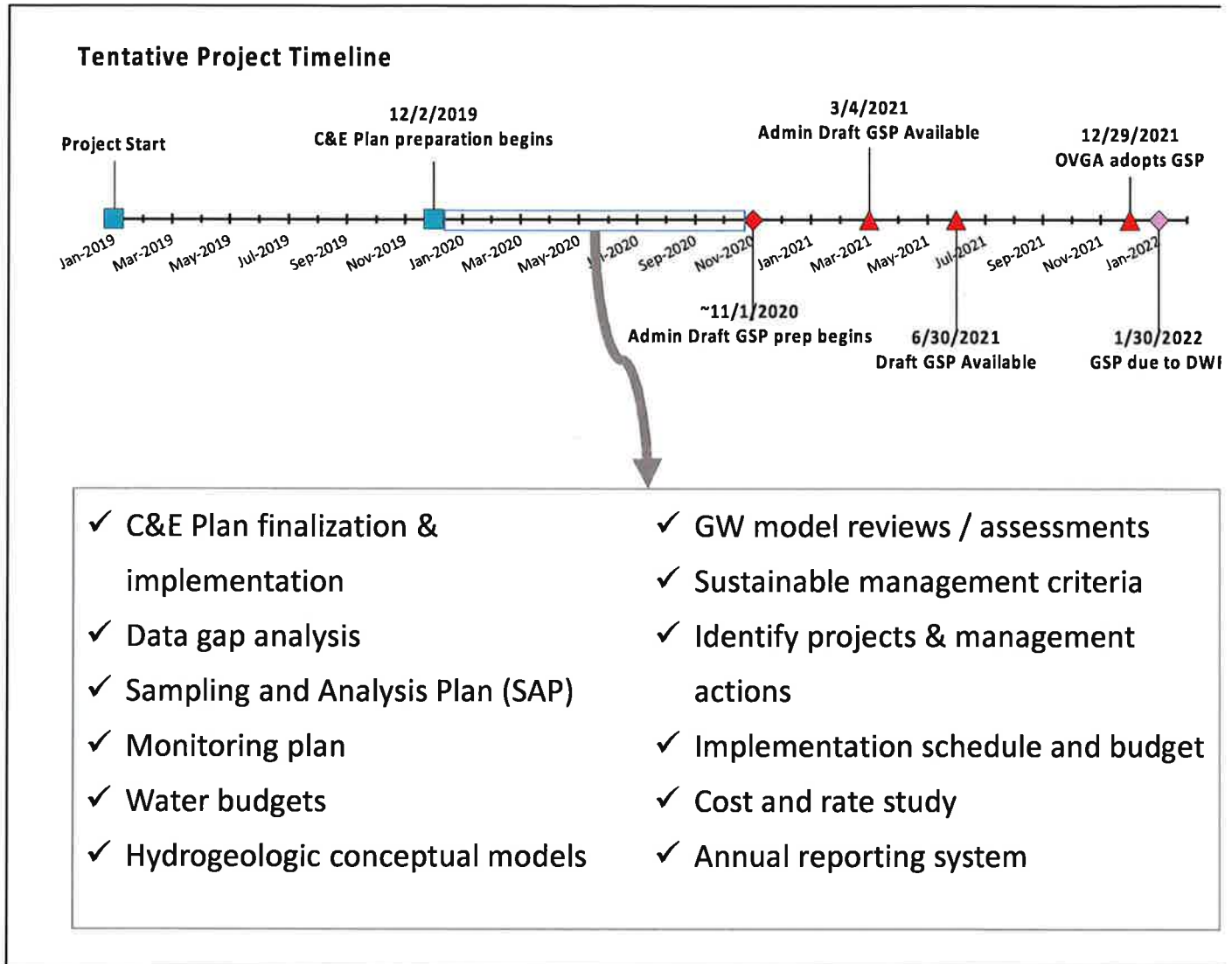
## Evaluation and Assessment

Any communication strategy should include opportunities to check in at various points during implementation meeting the communication and engagement goals and complying with SGMA law. These check-ins can include:

- ✓ What worked well?
- ✓ What didn't work as planned?
- ✓ Meeting recaps with next steps
- ✓ Listing lessons learned ... and developing mid-course corrections
- ✓ (As relevant) communications budget analysis

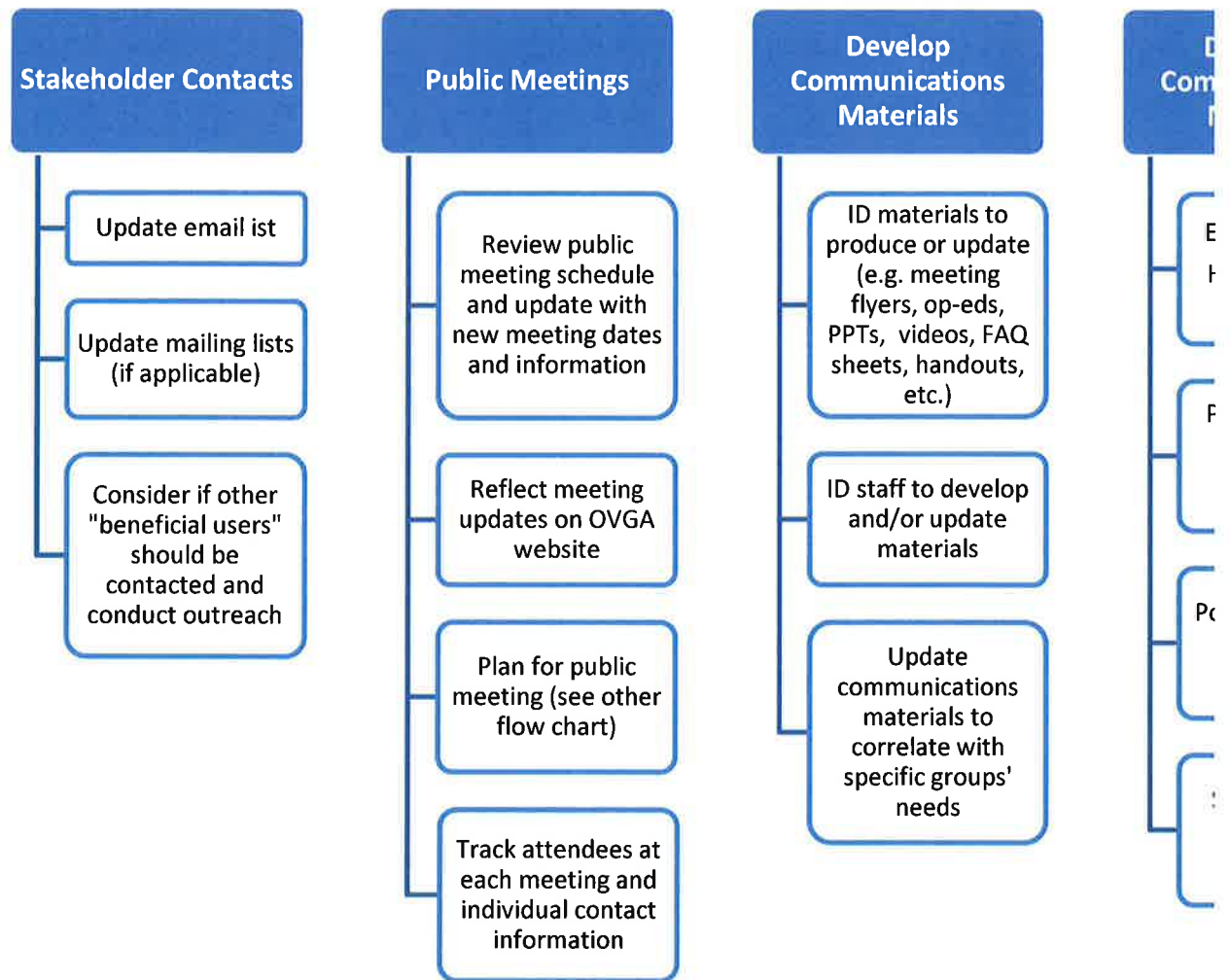
## Appendix I: Project Timeline for GSP Development

**Figure 1.** Approximate project timeline for GSP development.

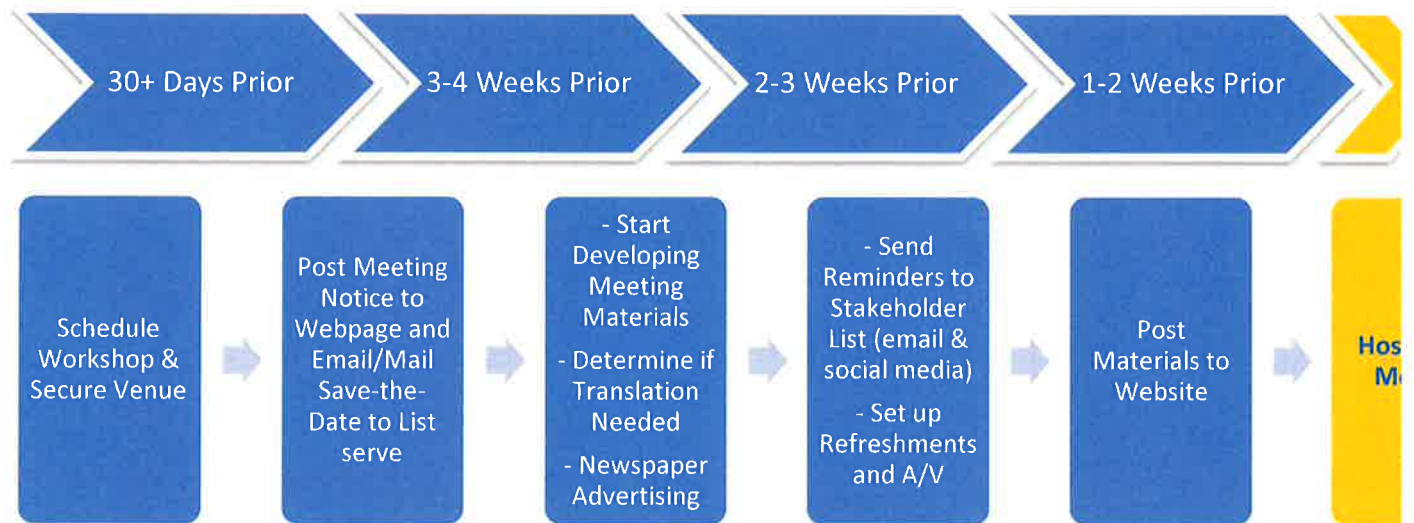


## Appendix II: GSP Outreach and Engagement Process Overview and Example Public Planning Process

**Figure 2.** GSP Outreach and Engagement Process Overview



**Figure 3. Example Public Workshop Planning Process**



## Appendix III: Recommendations for Public Workshop Planning

### Workshop Logistics Planning Example

- A. **Schedule Workshop:** with 21-30 days advanced notice; all parties agree on a suitable date and time for workshop(s). Consider timing of workshops based on target audiences. Alternatively consider hosting identical workshops one in the morning and one in the evening to target multiple audiences.
- B. **Venue:** select the venue with at least 30 days in advance, giving time to complete contracts (if not free). Utilize Member agency locations throughout Subbasin. Some location resources include: *Table to be completed.*

Mgmt. Area	Venue	Location	Capacity	Point of Contact

- C. **Refreshments** (optional): 7-14 days prior to the meeting, determine what food will be necessary. Depending on the length of the meeting and timing (i.e. a six-hour workshop from 10am-4pm would require lunch, evening meetings should include snacks or dinner) determine if simple refreshments, lunch, or dinner are required. Consider arranging for delivery or pick-up prior to the meeting.
- D. **Materials:** develop materials 7-14 days prior to the meeting. Determine if translation services are required.
- E. **Translators:** may include Spanish speakers. Translation may include translation of materials and/or in-person translation. If the meeting will require in-person translators, identify these persons 30 days in advance.

### Workshop Outreach Strategies Example

- A. **Newspaper advertising:** with 14-21 days advance notice and clear messaging approved by GSA.
- B. **Stakeholder Interested Parties list dissemination:** GSA and member agencies send information to customers via standard outreach protocols (posting in buildings, Board meetings, websites, newsletters, customer flyers, etc.)
- C. **E-mail notice** to existing interested parties list.
  - 1. Also promote to specific stakeholder groups. See list of Beneficial Users / Interested Parties (Table 1)
- D. **Social media:** Utilize existing or created Facebook or Twitter accounts.
- E. **GSA website:** Post materials and update homepage with call to action.

## Workshop Follow-up Example

- A. **Meeting Summary:** within 7-10 business days, develop a meeting summary highlighting action items, presentation content, stakeholder questions, and any discussion held. Include list of attendees for documentation.
- B. **Agency Follow-up:** within 7 business days, contact agency staff to debrief on workshop. Identify pros and cons of the meeting, lessons learned, and any improvements to make. Discuss roles, responsibilities, and deadlines for action items. Identify and obtain GSA approval on key messages for stakeholder follow-up.
- C. **Stakeholder Follow-up:** at the meeting or within 7 days, distribute a workshop evaluation for feedback on communication practices, content, and improvements to make. Create a summary of the evaluation responses.

Example of Public/Community Workshop Planning Table This doesn't work for us much because of large geography. Workshops geographically each preceded by topics in Workshop #1 as intro, Need the DBMS done as tool to organize presentaton, Assume virtual format (maybe centralized location for local display and attendance if no access to internet (e.g. Stadham hall, Chalfant community center)

	GSP components				
LP/Owens LK	Management Area designation and SGMA applies to lake or not		Monitoring lccns	Monitoring Gaps	Sustain Criteria
BP					
Bishop/Round Valley	Basin Descript				



Workshop	Timeframe	Possible Topics + Notes
Community Workshop #1	<i>Summer 2020</i> August or September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Virtual</b> Meeting</li> <li>▪ Topics to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why this matters <b>NO, brief intro</b></li> <li>- How to stay involved and provide input <b>end of each workshop</b></li> <li>- Review GSP Components, Milestones, Action Plan</li> <li>- Basin Setting, Models, Water Budget <b>NO</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Community Workshop #2	<i>Winter 2020</i> November or December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Virtual</b> or Hybrid Meeting</li> <li>▪ GSP components compiled. Before or near start of development of Administrative Draft</li> <li>▪ Topics to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SMC, Undesirable Results, Baseline and projected water budgets</li> <li>- review of other technical topics as needed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Community Workshop #3	<i>Spring 2021</i> March or April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Virtual or Hybrid Meeting</li> <li>▪ Topics to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects and Management Actions</li> <li>- Review of other technical topics as needed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Community Workshop #4	<i>Summer 2021</i> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Virtual or Hybrid Meeting</li> <li>▪ Coincide with release of Draft GSP</li> <li>▪ Topics to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overview of GSP by chapter</li> <li>- Process to review + comment on GSP</li> <li>- Review of technical topics as needed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Community Workshop #5	<i>Winter 2021</i> December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Virtual or Hybrid Meeting</li> <li>▪ Coincide with completion of review period</li> <li>▪ Topics to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Revisions made to GSP in response to review period</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## Appendix IV: Tribal Engagement

The OVGA recognizes the value and importance of directly engaging with tribes in GSP planning and SGMA implementation. Every tribal nation will have its own preferred level and method of engagement. The OVGA shall communicate directly with each tribe to collaboratively develop a communication and engagement plan that suits their needs. The OVGA will operate following these **key outreach principles**:

- Engage early and often
- Consider tribal beneficial uses in decision-making; identify and seek to protect tribal cultural resources
- Share relevant documentation with tribal officials
- Conduct meetings at times convenient for tribal participation with ample notifications
- Request relevant process input/data/information from tribes
- Designate a tribal liaison(s) where appropriate
- Share resources for tribal involvement as is feasible

Tribes and tribal organizations within the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin are:

- Benton Paiute Tribe
- Big Pine Tribe
- Bishop Paiute Tribe
- Fort Independence Paiute Tribe
- Kutzadika'a Tribe
- Lone Pine Tribe
- Timbisha Shoshone Tribe
- Owens Valley Indian Water Commission

## Relevant DWR Information

- **SGMA Section 10720.3.** ...any federally recognized Indian Tribe, appreciating the shared interest in assuring the sustainability of groundwater resources, may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a groundwater sustainability plan or groundwater management plan under this part through a joint powers authority or other agreement with local agencies in the basin. A participating Tribe shall be eligible to participate fully in planning, financing, and management under this part, including eligibility for grants and technical assistance, if any exercise of regulatory authority, enforcement, or imposition and collection of fees is pursuant to the Tribe's independent authority and not pursuant to authority granted to a groundwater sustainability agency under this part.
- **Draft Discussion Paper Tribal Participation with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies**  
[http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/SGMA\\_Tribal\\_GSAs.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/SGMA_Tribal_GSAs.pdf)

- **Must a local agency exclude federal and tribal lands from its service area when forming a GSA?** No, federal lands and tribal lands need not be excluded from a local agency's GSA area if a local agency has jurisdiction in those areas; however, those areas are not subject to SGMA. But, a local agency in its GSA formation notice shall explain how it will consider the interests of the federal government and California Native American tribes when forming a GSA and developing a GSP. DWR strongly recommends that local agencies communicate with federal and tribal representatives prior to deciding to become a GSA. As stated in Water Code §10720.3, the federal government or any federally recognized Indian tribe, appreciating the shared interest in assuring the sustainability of groundwater resources, may voluntarily agree to participate in the preparation or administration of a GSP or groundwater management plan through a JPA or other agreement with local agencies in the basin. Water Code References: §10720.3, §10723.2, §10723.8

### Tribal Outreach Resources

The follow are links to agency tribal outreach resources and considerations, each of which captures important principles and resources for tribal outreach. A short summary of key outreach principles can be found below.

- [Draft Discussion Paper Tribal Participation with Groundwater Sustainability Agencies](#)
- [CalEPA Tribal Consultation Policy Memo \(August 2015\)](#)
- [DWR Tribal Engagement Policy \(May 2016\)](#)
- [CA Natural Resources Agency Tribal Consultation Policy \(November 2012\)](#)
- [SWRCB Proposed Tribal Beneficial Uses](#)
- [Butte County Associate of Governments: Policy For Government-To-Government Consultation With Federally Recognized Native American Tribal Governments \(a model from the transportation sector\)](#)
- [CA Court Tribal Outreach and Engagement Strategies](#)
- [Traditional Ecological Knowledge resources](#)
- [Water Education Foundation Tribal Water Issues](#)

## Appendix V: Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Engagement

The OVGA plans to implement outreach strategies and translatable lessons learned from DAC involvement in the 2008-2011 Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program. Pertinent excerpts from the published report, *Disadvantaged Communities and the Inyo-Mono IRWM Program: A study of the engagement of disadvantaged communities in Integrated Regional Water Management*, are below for quick reference. The complete report is available online at: [https://inyo-monowater.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/IM\\_DAC\\_whitePaper\\_20140930\\_FINALcopy4Submittal.pdf](https://inyo-monowater.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/IM_DAC_whitePaper_20140930_FINALcopy4Submittal.pdf)

### Lessons Learned from 2008-2011 IRWM DAC Outreach

- Understand who the target audience is (e.g., with whom you will be meeting) to understand where and when to meet (such as during the day vs. evening meetings)
- Target outreach materials and approach appropriately (e.g., is a Powerpoint presentation appropriate for the audience, or perhaps paper copies of simple handouts and maps along with a verbal description of the Program and time for questions?)
- DAC (and other) audiences are often interested in what other stakeholders are involved in the IRWM Program, what funding opportunities are available, technical trainings, and engineering assistance
- One-on-one meetings with individual communities and stakeholders may be more appropriate than trying to meet with several entities in one location
- It is important to be able to travel to the target community as there may not be time or funds for them to travel to outreach meetings
- Though there may be commonalities across regions, each community/DAC/tribe/water system/stakeholder has unique and individualized water-related concerns
- Several meetings may be required to engage new communities and involve them in the IRWM process. IRWM is a complex concept to explain to new stakeholders, and it is important to follow up from meetings to answer questions and provide additional information.
- It is important to recognize that outreach to and engagement of Native American tribes should not be “lumped in” with outreach to DACs. IRWM groups need to use outreach and communication techniques appropriate for tribes. These might include in-person communications, reaching out to tribal council members, and regular follow-up communications.
- Disadvantage can mean more than low income. There are other socioeconomic and cultural factors to consider when characterizing DACs and working to make resources available. The current simple definition affects what communities are engaged as DACs and to whom resources and funding are targeted.

This report also discusses outreach tools, stating that the **project webpage** was the most effective tool for information sharing. A **mobile-device version** of the website was also developed as many DAC members do not have home computers but can access the internet through cellular data.

With regard to printed materials, they found a **one-page, tri-fold brochure** offering IRWMP-specific information in a very brief format, directing reader to the website for more information, to be most useful to stakeholders.

## Appendix VI: SGMA-Required Outreach and Engagement Strategies

SGMA strongly encourages broad stakeholder engagement in development and implementation of GSPs. According to SGMA:

- “The groundwater sustainability agency shall encourage the active involvement of diverse social, cultural, and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin prior to and during the development and implementation of the groundwater sustainability plan.” [CA Water Code Sec. 10727.8(a)]
- “The groundwater sustainability agency shall consider the interests of all beneficial uses and users of groundwater.” [CA Water Code Sec. 10723.2]

GSAAs are given broad discretion in the methods and processes utilized to meet engagement requirements. SGMA explicitly authorizes GSAs to form Public Advisory Committees if they choose, but does not require them to do so. The decision to form an advisory committee is left to the individual GSA based on need and effectiveness of these processes within their communities. However, SGMA does have several GSA-specific requirements regarding public notice, public hearings, and public meetings. Requirements include:

1. **Local agencies seeking to become a GSA<sup>2</sup>** must issue public notice and hold a public hearing before doing so. The public notice must be consistent with Section 6066 of the Government Code. The hearing must take place in a county overlying the groundwater basin of interest. [CA Water Code Section 10723 (b)]

Within 30 days of electing to be (or forming) a GSA, the GSA must inform the State of this development and its intent to manage groundwater sustainably. In doing so, the GSA must:

- a. Include a list of parties who wish to receive “plan preparation, meeting announcements, and availability of draft plans, maps, and other relevant documents”; and
- b. Explain how the interested parties’ perspectives will be considered, both during the development and operation of the GSA and during development and implementation of the GSP. This information must also be sent to the legislative bodies of any city and county in the area covered by the plan.

Illuminating the term “interested parties,” SGMA requires that GSAs consider the interests of “all beneficial uses and users of groundwater,” along with entities expected to share responsibilities for implementing GSPs. As a starting point, SGMA specifies a number of types of “interested parties.” The GSA must maintain its list of interested parties on an ongoing basis. Anyone who wishes to be put on this list can

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<sup>2</sup> This item (1) has already been complied with for the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin.

do so upon making this request in writing. [CA Water Code Section 10730. (b) (2); 10723.2; 10723.4; and 10723.8. (a)]

2. **GSAs planning to develop a GSP<sup>3</sup>** must provide notice of their intent to do so to the public and the state before proceeding. The notice must describe opportunities for interested parties to participate in the development and implementation of the GSP. This written notice must be provided to the legislative bodies of any city or county located within the basin to be managed by the GSP. [CA Water Code Section 10727.8. (a)]
3. **A GSA seeking to adopt or amend a GSP** must provide notice to cities and counties within the area encompassed by the proposed plan or amendment, and consider comments provided by the cities and counties. Cities and counties receiving the notice may request consultation with the GSA, in which case the GSA must accommodate that request within 30 days. The GSA also must hold a public hearing prior to adopting or amending a GSP. There must be at least 90 days between the notice issued to cities and counties and the public hearing. [CA Water Code Section 10728.4]
4. **If a GSA intends to impose or increase a fee**, it must first hold at least one public meeting, at which attendees may make oral or written comments. This public notice must include:
  - a. Information about the time and place of the meeting and a general explanation of the topic to be discussed.
  - b. Public notice must be posted on the GSA's website and mailed to any interested party who submits a written request for mailed notice of meetings on new or increased fees. (The GSA must establish and maintain a list of interested parties, and the list is subject to renewal by April 1 of each year.)
  - c. The public notice must also be consistent with Section 6066 of the Government Code.
  - d. In addition, the GSA must share with the public the data upon which the proposed fee is based, and this must be done at least ten days before the public meeting takes place. [CA Water Code Section 10730.(b)(1),(2), and (3)]

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<sup>3</sup> This item (2) has already been complied with for the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin.



## Appendix VII: Published Educational Materials

DWR has developed various educational materials about SGMA and GSA/GSP development. In addition to DWR materials, academic institutions and foundations have published useful reports about SGMA implementation. While not comprehensive, Table 3 lists some essential SGMA educational and reference materials.

*Table 3. Educational and Reference Documents for SGMA Implementation*

Educational/Reference Document Titles	Publishing Entity	Date
<b>Groundwater Sustainability Agency Frequently Asked Questions</b> <a href="http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/DWR_GSA_FAQ_2016-01-07.pdf">http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/DWR_GSA_FAQ_2016-01-07.pdf</a>	DWR	January 2016
<b>Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Emergency Regulations Guide</b> <a href="http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GSP_Final_Regs_Guidebook.pdf">http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GSP_Final_Regs_Guidebook.pdf</a>	DWR	July 2016
<b>Collaborating for Success: Stakeholder Engagement for Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Implementation</b> <a href="http://waterfoundation.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/SGMA_Stakeholder_Engagement_White_Paper.pdf">http://waterfoundation.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/SGMA_Stakeholder_Engagement_White_Paper.pdf</a>	Community Water Center Clean Water Fund Union of Concerned Scientists	July 2015
<b>The 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act: A Handbook to Understanding and Implementing the Law</b> <a href="http://www.watereducation.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/groundwatermgthandbook_oct2015.pdf">http://www.watereducation.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/groundwatermgthandbook_oct2015.pdf</a>	Water Education Foundation	October 2015
<b>SGMA Engagement With Tribal Governments</b> <a href="https://www.water.ca.gov/LegacyFiles/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GD_Tribal_Final_2017-06-28.pdf">https://www.water.ca.gov/LegacyFiles/groundwater/sgm/pdfs/GD_Tribal_Final_2017-06-28.pdf</a>	DWR	June 2017



## Appendix VIII: Virtual Engagement Opportunities

Due to ongoing COVID-19 considerations and the need to modify and/or adapt stakeholder outreach and engagement efforts to COVID-19 realities and uncertainties, the OVGA may choose to implement Virtual Community Meetings over the next six to 18 months. A hybrid approach of virtual + in-person meetings may also be preferable.

This document describes some options and considerations for virtual stakeholder engagement.

### OVERVIEW

- Emphasis on virtual engagement for Summer and Fall, 2020
- Shorter meetings, hosted more frequently (60-120 min webinars)
- Offered at different times of the day to allow for maximum participation
- In-person or hybrid virtual + in person meetings possible for winter 2020/21

### VIRTUAL PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

- Timing: Summer, Fall and Winter (to correspond with GSP milestones)
- Format: Online Zoom Meetings (or alternative webinar platform)
- Duration: 60 - 120 minute webinars
- Engagement Options:
  - Presentations and information sharing out to participants
  - Stakeholder interaction via call in (computer audio or telephone), chat box, submission of written comments in advance
  - Opportunities for technical/topic-specific “breakout room” discussions (using Zoom’s breakout room feature)
  - Ability to provide real-time Spanish interpretation
  - Ability to record meetings and archive on OVGA website
- Other Considerations:
  - Keep webinars short, 60 to 120 minutes, for maximum attention and retention of information
  - Consider hosting the same webinar twice, at two time slots (morning and evening) to allow for participants to select the time that most works for their schedule
  - Announce meeting 2-4 weeks in advance. Share materials 1-2 weeks in advance
  - Simultaneous live-stream meeting on Facebook Live
  - Real-time engagement with polling feature or surveys
  - Provide for informal “open house” Q&A session before and after official meeting for public to discuss with hydrogeologist, OVGA Board Member, others
  - With consideration of current CoVid safety restrictions, potential to offer in-person participation via satellite office locations.

- Possible Topics to Cover:
  - Basin Setting
  - Water Budget
  - Sustainable Management Criteria
    - Sustainability Indicators
    - Undesirable results
    - Minimum thresholds & measurable objectives
  - Baseline Pumping Allocations
  - Management Actions and Projects
  - Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems
  - Impacts to domestic well users
  - Discussion of topics currently under consideration/debate by the OVGA
  - Review of GSP Chapters and anticipated release dates

# Owens Valley GSP Update

September 10, 2020



## Questions from May Meeting?

- Topics covered:

- ✓ Status of LADWP Models
- ✓ Database Management System

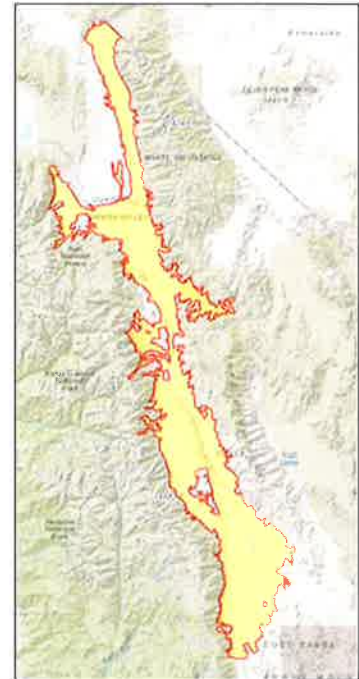


## Board Discussion Topics / Schedule (tentative)

	Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4
Sep-2020	Management Areas	SMC	West Bishop Hydrology Tech Memo	Water Budgets
<del>Oct-2020</del>				
Nov-2020	GDEs	Monitoring Plan & Data Gaps / Sampling & Analysis Plan (SAP)	SMC	Future conditions (modeling?)
<del>Dec-2020</del>				
Jan-2021	GDEs?	Implementation Schedule & Budget	Water Budgets - Management Areas	
Feb-2021	Admin Draft GSP			
Mar-2021	Cost & Rate Study			
Apr-2021	TBD			
May-2021	Public Review Draft GSP			

## Today's Topics...

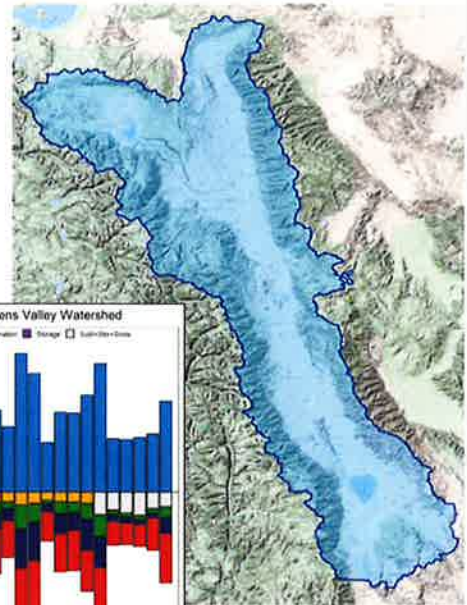
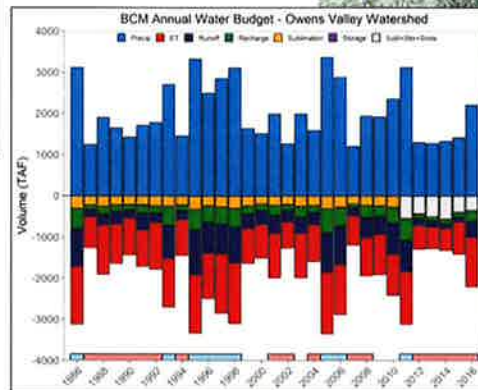
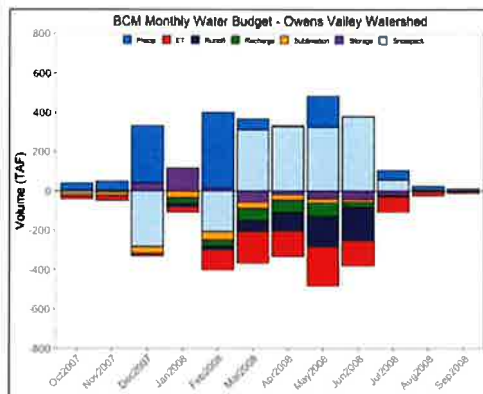
- General GSP Status Update
- West Bishop Groundwater Conditions
- Potential Management Areas
- Preliminary Discussion of Sustainable Management Criteria (SMCs)
  - Water Quality
  - Subsidence



## General GSP Status Update

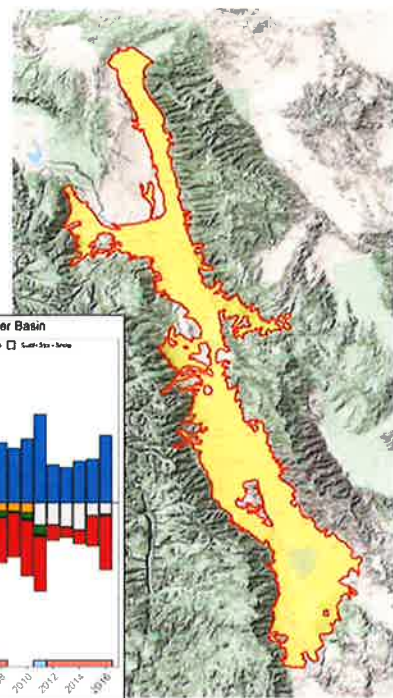
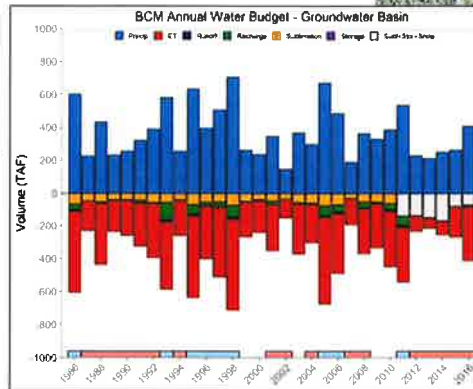
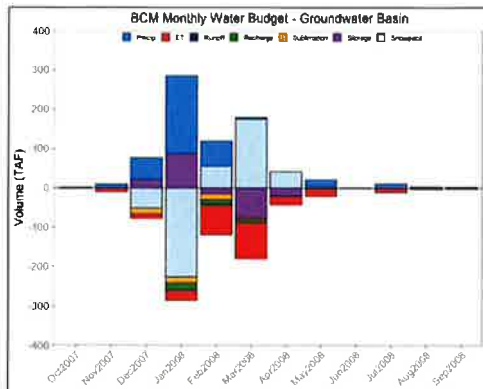
- Online database is now live!
  - <https://Owens.GLAdata.com> (will eventually be moved to OVGA SGMA website address)
- Water budget information extracted from USGS Basin Characterization Model (BCM)
  - 30 years: 1986-2016
  - Precipitation, runoff, recharge, and ET
  - Climate change scenario model runs available as well

## Watershed Budgets

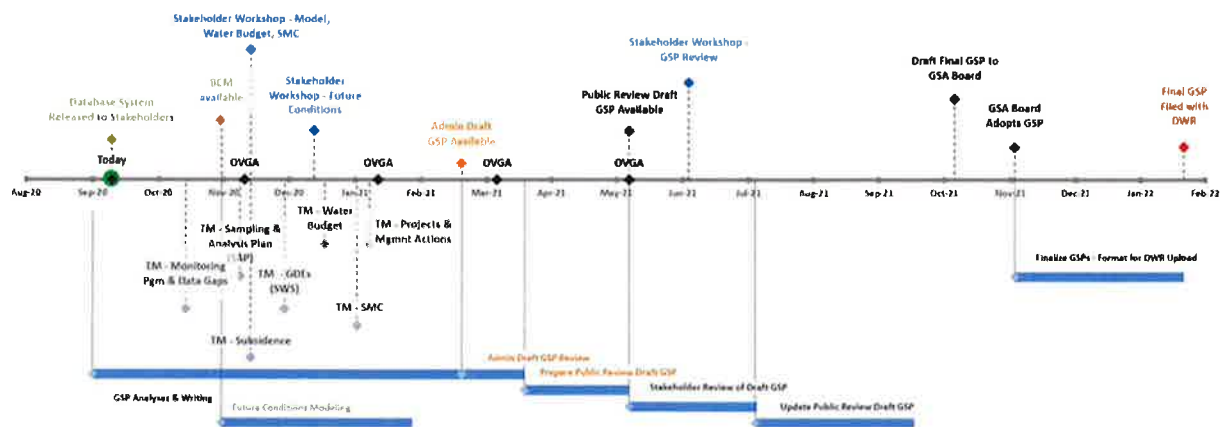




## Groundwater Basin Budgets



## Tentative GSP Schedule - 10Sept20



## General GSP Status Update

- ✓ Board is meeting every other month
- ✓ Consultant team needs input from Board on development of the **Sustainable Management Criteria** (e.g., minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, undesirable results)
- Possible solutions:
  - Form *ad hoc committee* to work with Consultant team
    - ✓ Options: committee composed of (a) Staff OR (b) Directors
  - Special board meetings every week for a few weeks

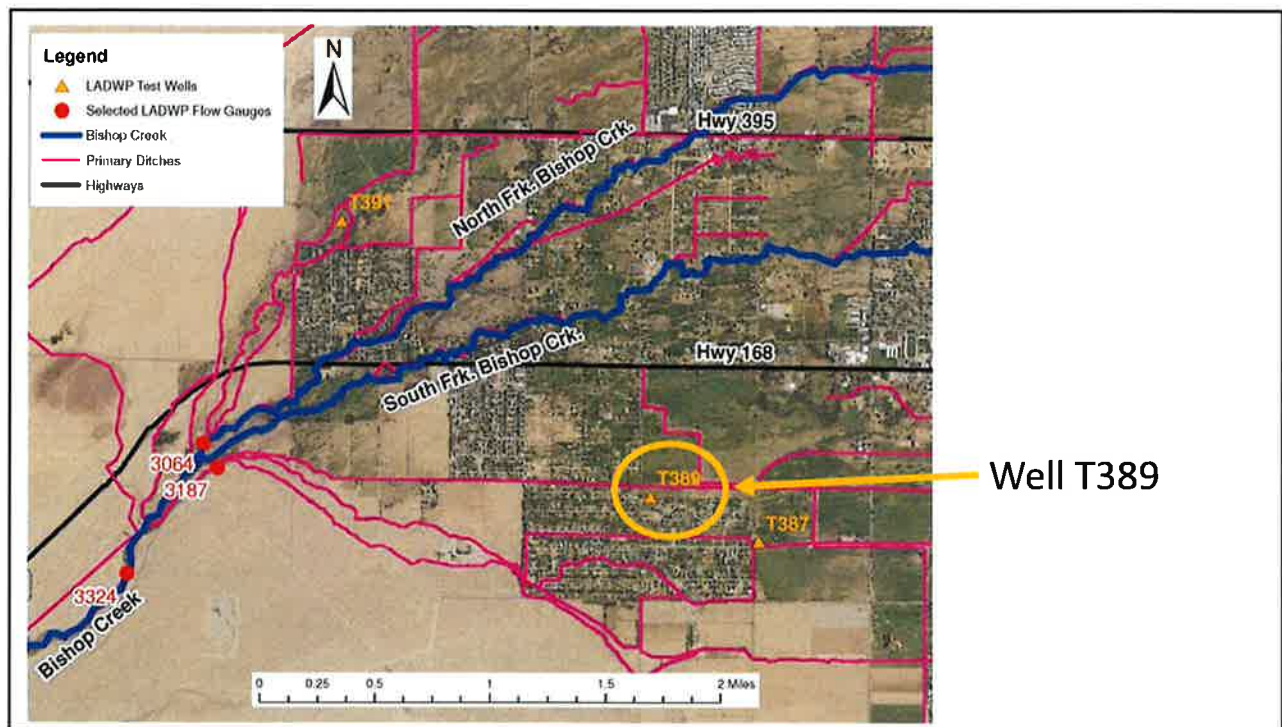
## Sustainable Management Criteria

SMC	Undesirable Results	Metric	MT	MO	Comments
GW Elevation	drilling deeper wells or lowering pumps an undesirable impact?	GW elevation	historic low? 2012-2016 low? max reasonable drawdown?	GW level equivalent to 3-5 yrs of ave. GW extractions?	rationale for MTs? % of wells impacted? length of time well(s) are impacted?
GW Storage Reduction	drilling deeper wells or lowering pumps an undesirable impact?	GW elevation	back calculated from MO?	GW elevations equal to 3-5 yrs of ave. GW extractions above MT	
SW Depletion		GW elevation/Depth to water in shallowest aquifer	Depth to GW >30 ft bgs (vegetation focused)?	ave 2011? GW level in shallowest aquifer	rationale for MT? - TNC generic value; SW metric?
Land Subsidence		GW elevation	historic low		rationale for MTs?
Degraded WQ		WQ values - Drinking Water Standards (MCLs); Agric limits	Basin Management Objective (RWQCB); Drinking Water MCL		trigger at 75% of MCL or BMO?
Seawater Intrusion	NA	NA	NA	NA	

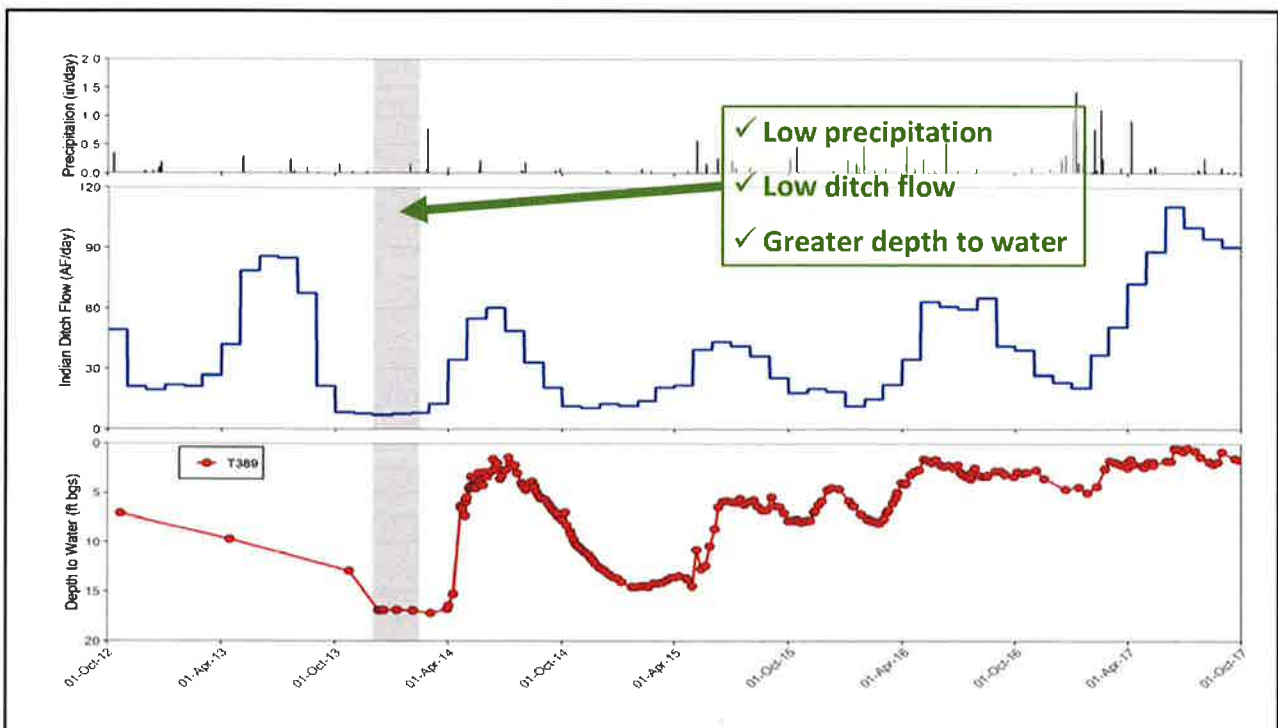
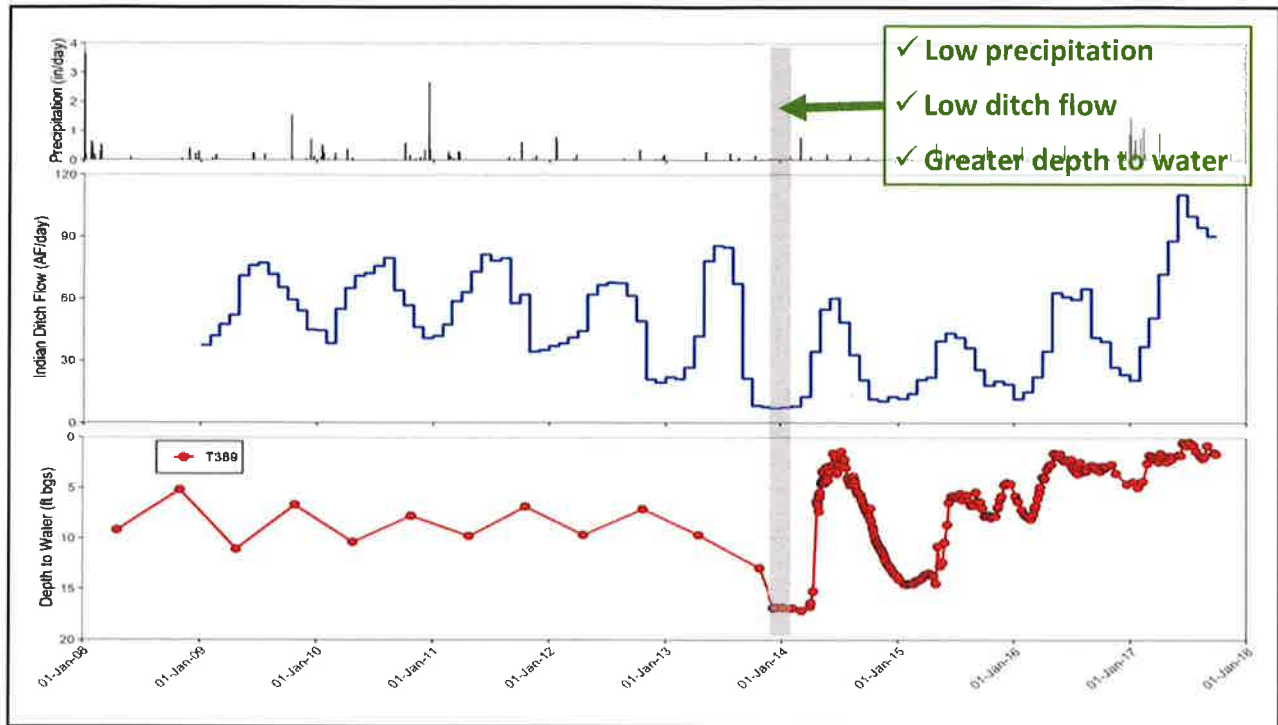
## West Bishop Groundwater Conditions

### The Issue:

- Historically, West Bishop neighborhood used ditch water diverted from Bishop Creek for residential irrigation and filling decorative ponds
- In Spring 2014 began experiencing flooding of roadway, yards, and basements
- Flooding began roughly coincident with resumption of ditch deliveries to the neighborhood following 2013 drought
- CA DWR and ICWD independently evaluated the hydrologic conditions
- Since Summer/Fall 2017, flooding issues have subsided - lowered groundwater levels







## West Bishop Groundwater Conditions

### The Conclusions:

- Flooding generally concluded to be a consequence of a disruption of the pre-2013 drought balanced natural/manmade water system, initiated first by the severity of the drought beginning in the Fall of 2013
- Ditch deliveries were suspended (drought and the Chandler Decree-mandated Bishop Creek flow rates), allowing for maintenance and removal of the low permeability sediments (liner materials) from the ditch and pond system (by the residents)
  - ✓ Significantly increased infiltration rate once ditch deliveries resumed in the Spring 2014
- The drought lowered groundwater levels, shallow wells ran dry and pumping was transferred to the deeper aquifer
  - ✓ Demand on the shallow aquifer was lessened and the infiltration of ditch water increased, groundwater levels rose and caused flooding
- Since Summer/Fall 2017, flooding issues have subsided - lowered groundwater levels

## Management Areas

Management Areas (MAs) allow you to develop unique sustainable management criteria for different portions of the basin.

**Example:** Owens (dry) Lake area

**Application:** Water quality standards

**Justification:** Elevated concentrations of many constituents are naturally occurring due to area being the terminus of a closed basin

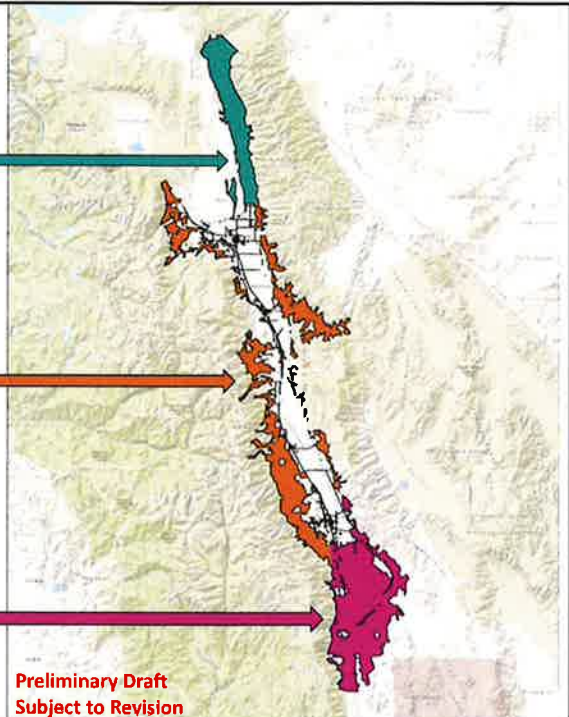


## Potential Management Areas

Tri-Valley/Fish Slough

Owens Valley

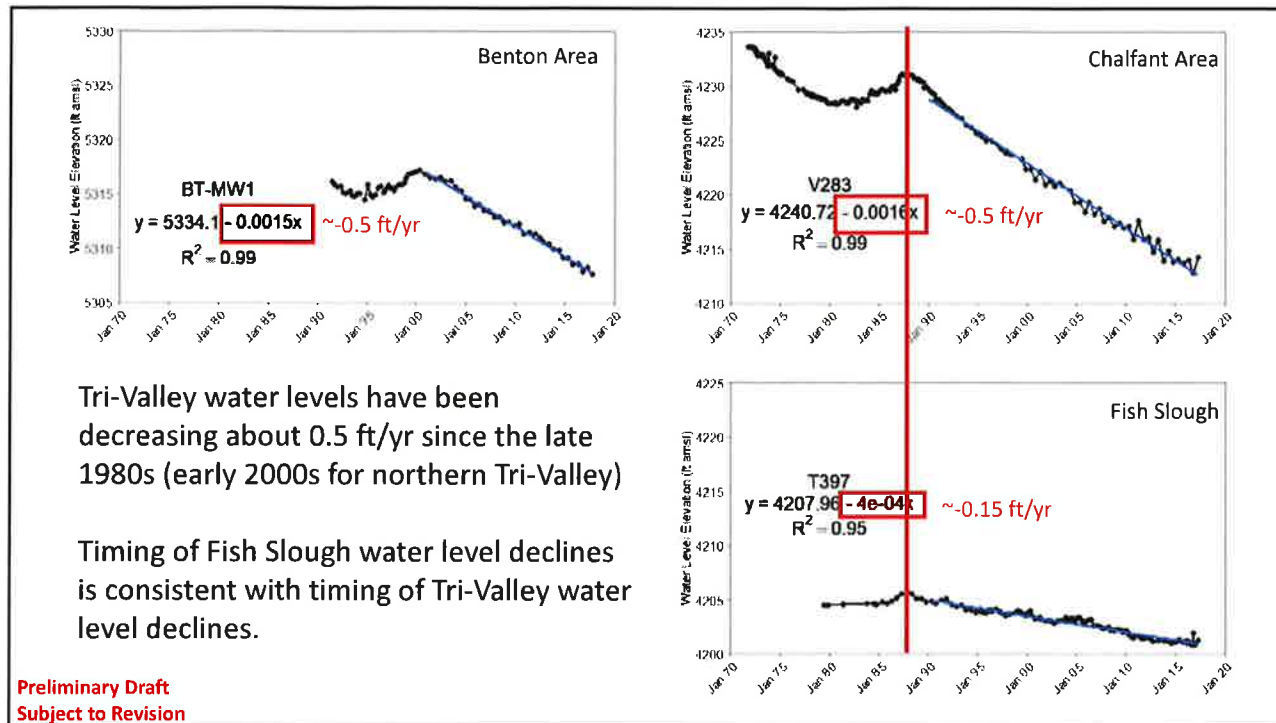
Owens Lake



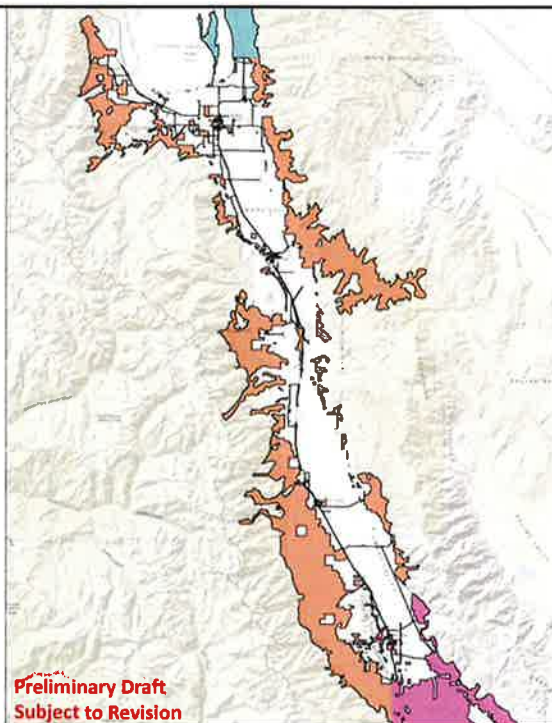
Preliminary Draft  
Subject to Revision

Management Area	Justification	Related SMCs
Tri-Valley/Fish Slough	Largely unconfined aquifer system, not significantly affected by LADWP management, different water level trends compared to other parts of the basin.	Lowering of GW levels, reduction of storage, surface-water depletion
Owens Valley	Upper and lower aquifers near the axis of the valley, significantly affected by LADWP management, largest proportion of SGMA-exempt lands.	Lowering of GW levels, reduction of storage, surface-water depletion
Owens Lake	Differing geology compared to rest of basin, terminus of Owens Valley closed basin	Water quality, subsidence



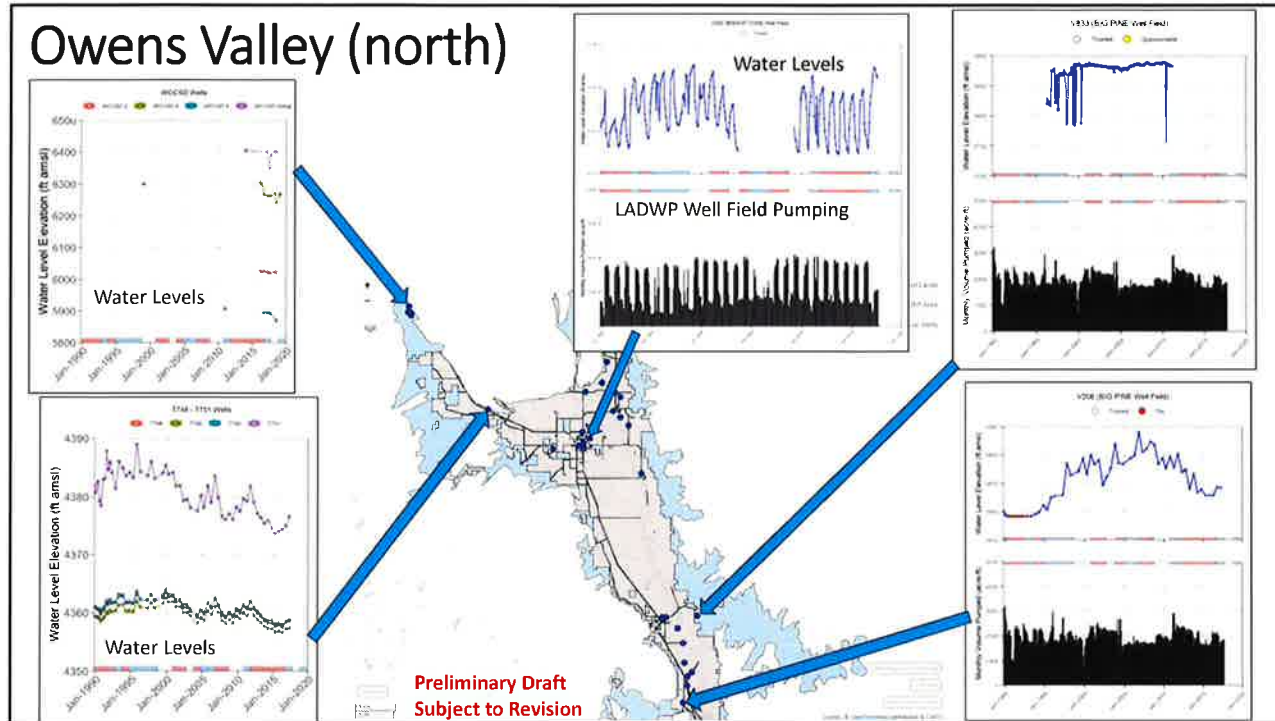


## Owens Valley

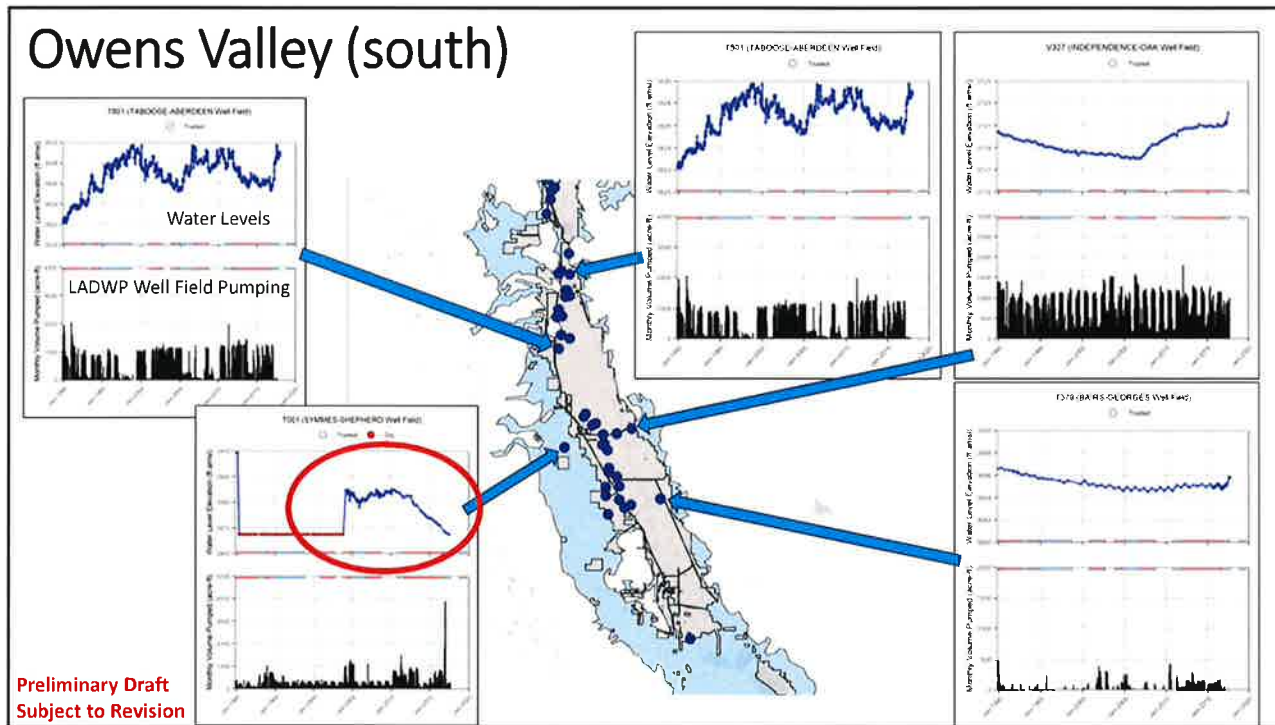




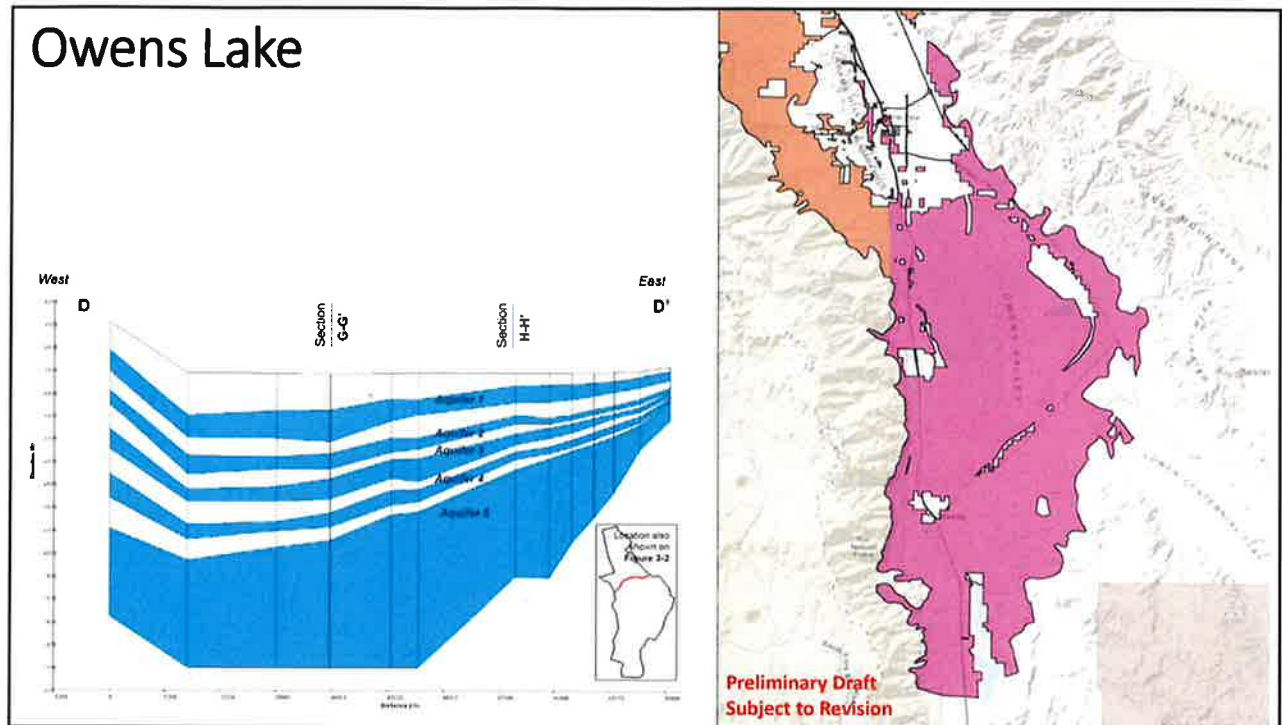
## Owens Valley (north)



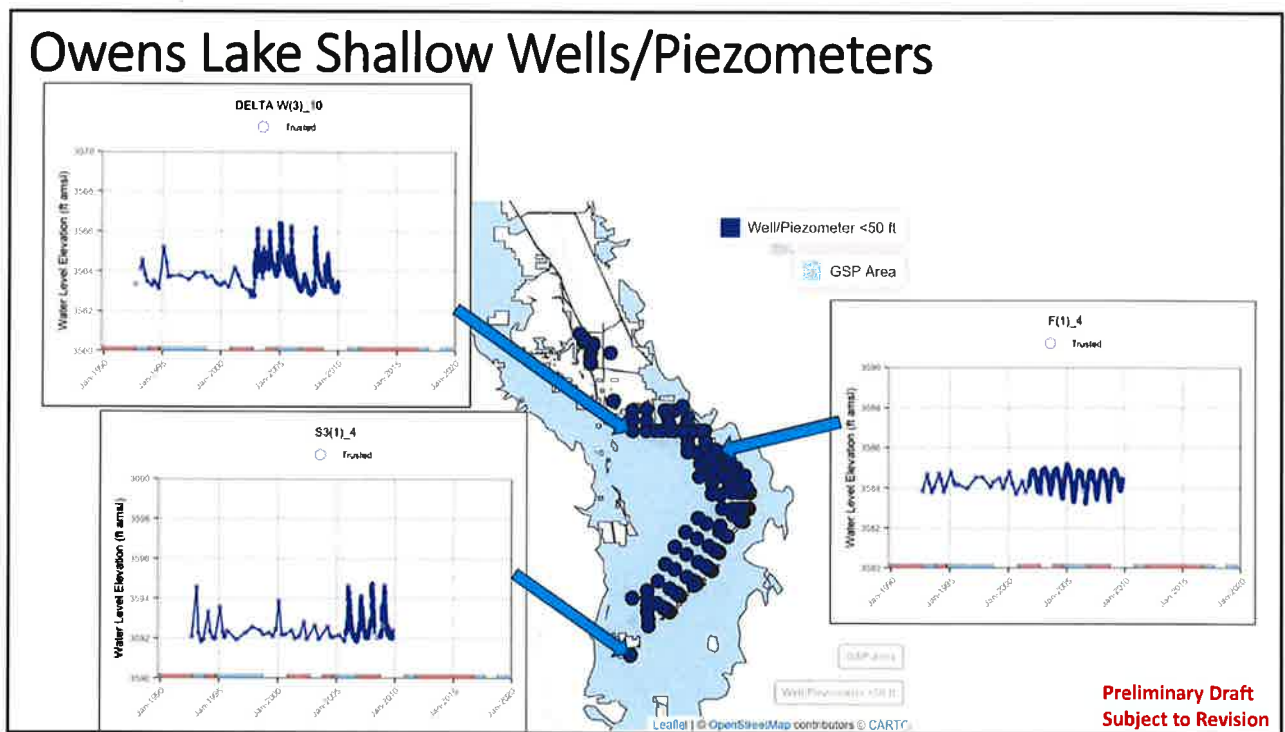
## Owens Valley (south)



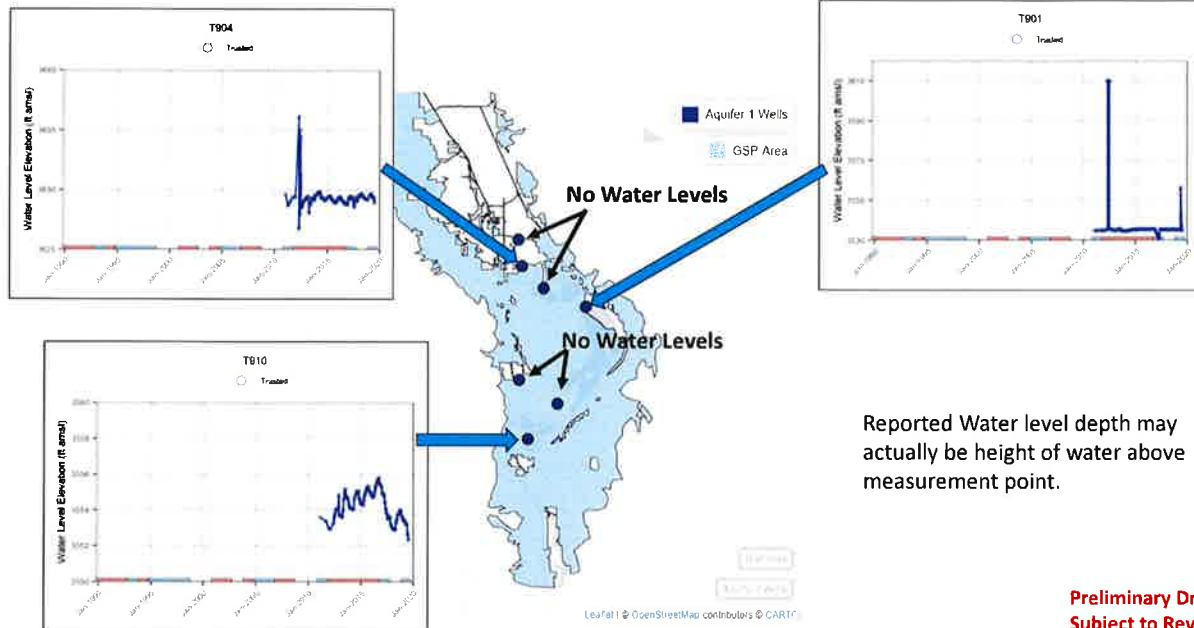
# Owens Lake



## Owens Lake Shallow Wells/Piezometers

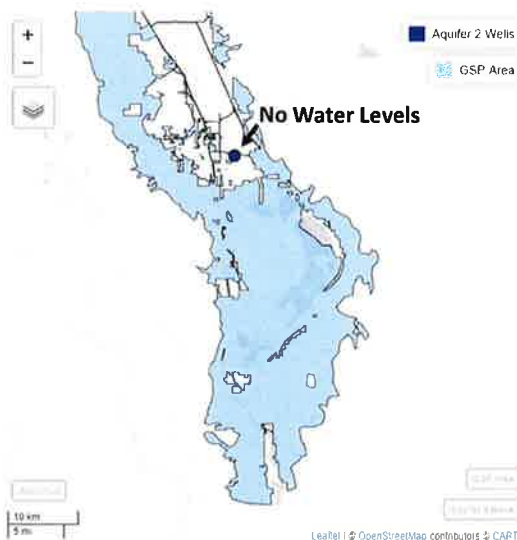


## Owens Lake Aquifer 1 Wells



**Preliminary Draft  
Subject to Revision**

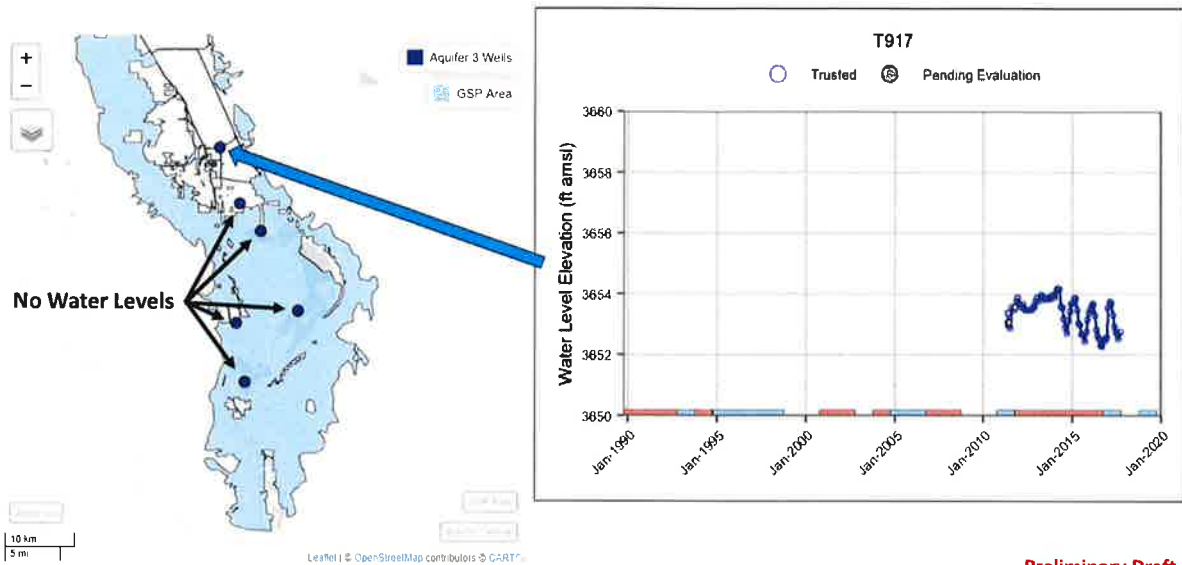
## Owens Lake Aquifer 2 Wells



**Preliminary Draft  
Subject to Revision**

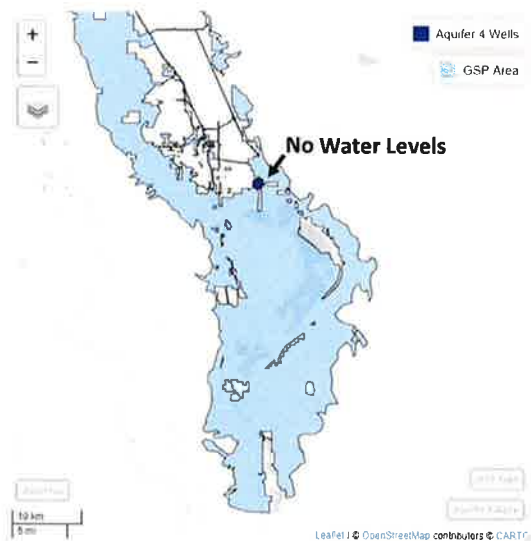


## Owens Lake Aquifer 3 Wells



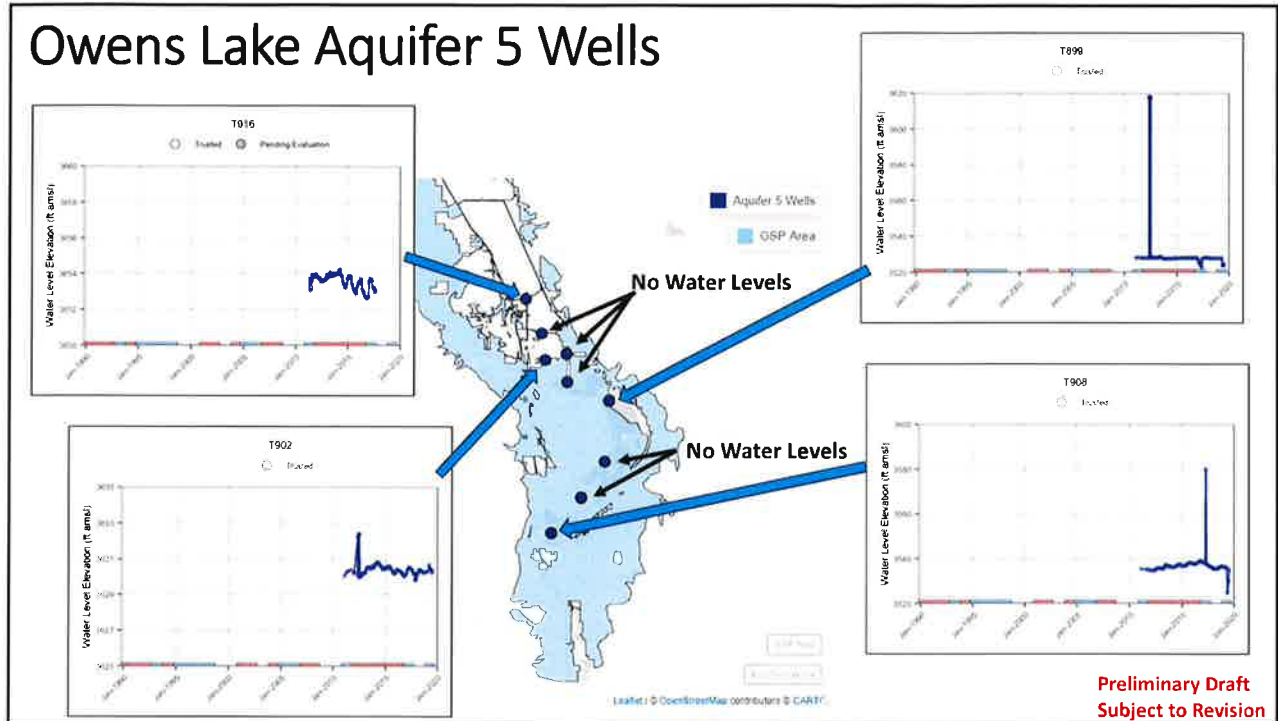
Preliminary Draft  
Subject to Revision

## Owens Lake Aquifer 4 Wells



Preliminary Draft  
Subject to Revision

## Owens Lake Aquifer 5 Wells

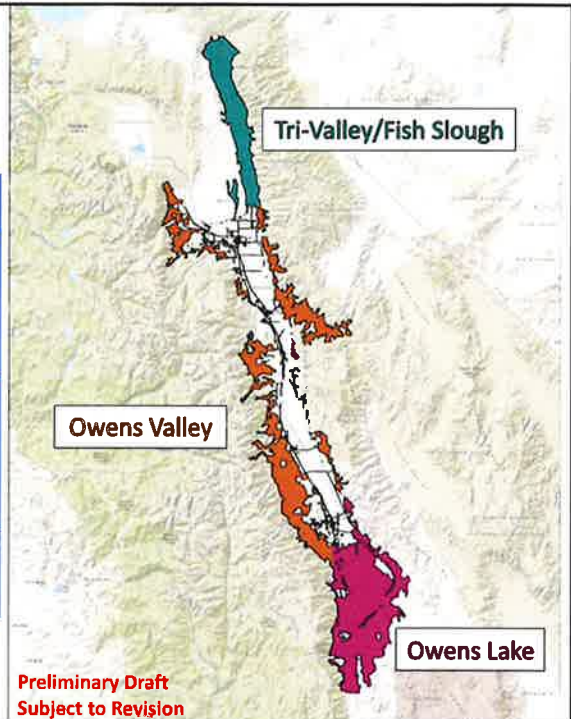


## Owens Lake Summary

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Data Availability</u>	<u>Apparent Condition</u>
Shallow Wells/Piezometers	330 wells and piezometers screened < 50 ft 222 with water level data	Stable (dynamic steady-state)
Aquifer 1	7 wells identified 3 wells with water level data	Stable (dynamic steady-state)
Aquifer 2	1 well identified no water level data	Unknown
Aquifer 3	6 wells identified 1 well with water level data	Stable (dynamic steady-state)?
Aquifer 4	1 well identified no water level data	Unknown
Aquifer 5	12 wells identified 4 wells with water level data	Stable (dynamic steady-state)

## Potential Management Areas

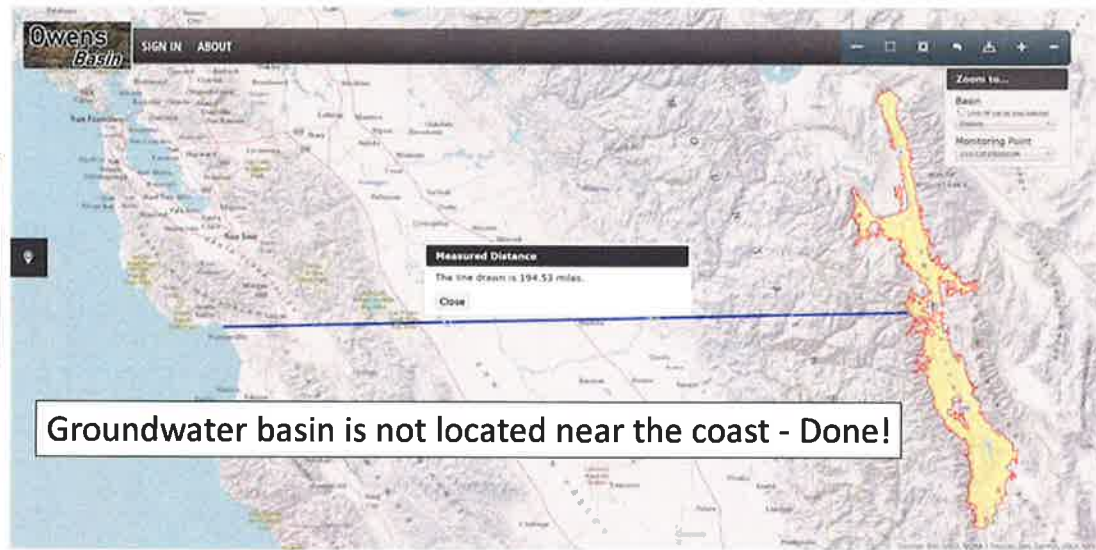
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Owens Lake	Differing geology compared to rest of basin, terminus of Owens Valley closed basin	Water quality, subsidence



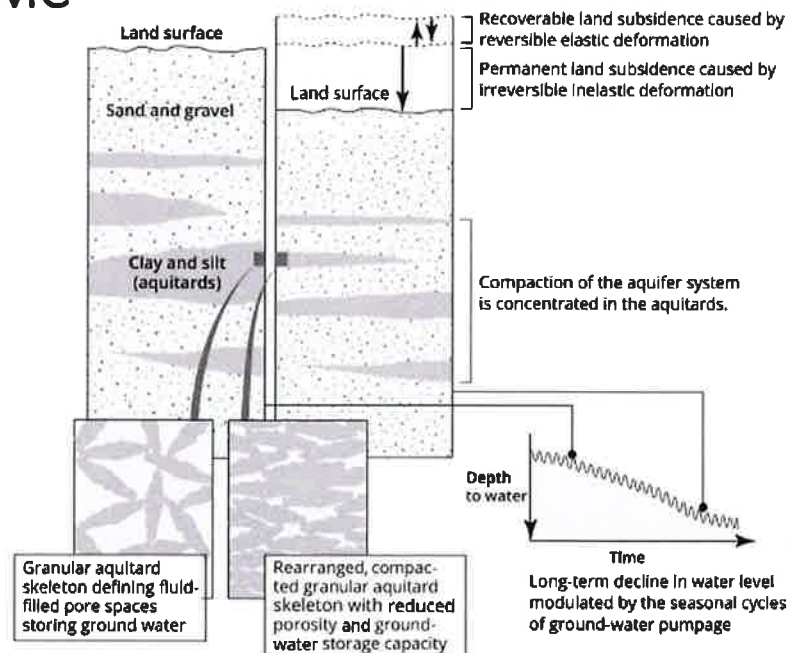
## Sustainable Management Criteria



## Seawater Intrusion SMC



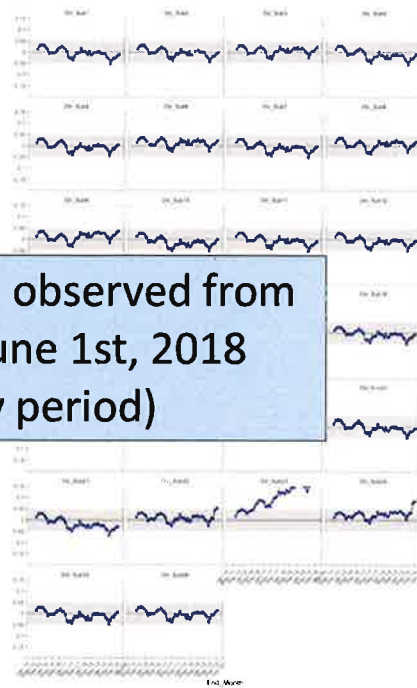
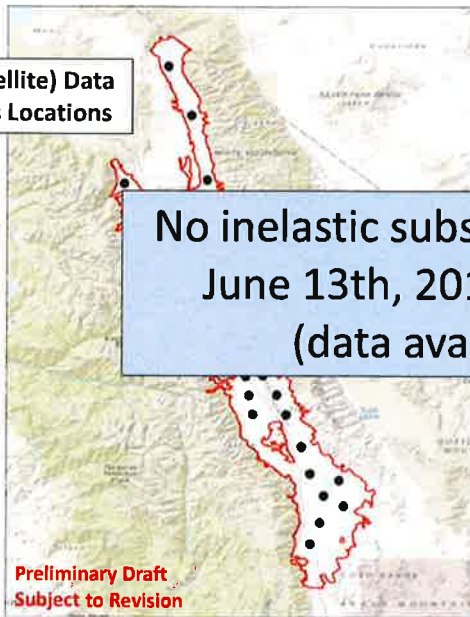
## Land Subsidence SMC



<https://txpub.usgs.gov/>

## Land Subsidence SMC

InSAR (Satellite) Data  
Timeseries Locations



## Land Subsidence SMC

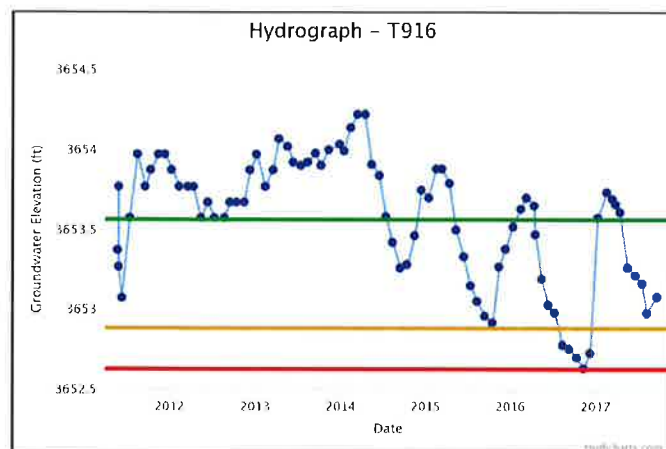
\*Geologic conditions necessary for subsidence mostly present in the Owens Lake management area

### Proposed SMC

**Measureable Objective (MO):**  
Average water level elevation  
from 1990-2020

**Management Trigger:**  
Water level elevation within  
20% of difference between MO  
and MT

**Minimum Threshold (MT):**  
Lowest water level elevation  
recorded





## Degraded Water Quality SMC



- ✓ **DWR has not prepared BMP or Guidance Document**
- ✓ Regulations focused on contaminated sites - do not address naturally occurring compounds (e.g., TDS, arsenic)
- ✓ GSAs generally do not have authority over water quality (RWQCB, DTSC, EPA) or some of the aspects that can impact water quality (e.g., land use)
  - Not responsible for enforcing water quality standards or collecting data to support existing water quality programs
- ✓ GSA not required to “fix” issues existing prior to 01 Jan 2015 (when SGMA became effective)
  - ...but GSP should not make conditions worse

## Degraded Water Quality SMC



- ✓ GSAs have broad powers “...perform any act necessary or proper to carry out the purposes of SGMA...”
- ✓ GSAs not responsible for fixing undesirable results that were present on 01 Jan 2015

### Gray Zone:

- Are GSAs responsible to address WQ problems that were present prior to 01Jan15 and have gotten worse?
- Are GSAs responsible for WQ problems not being addressed by other regulatory agencies?

## Degraded Water Quality SMC - proposed approach

Drinking Water	Contaminated Sites (e.g., LUSTs, Landfills, Industrial Sites)	Naturally Occurring Compounds
MT = MCL	MT = MCL or Health Goal, as appropriate	MT= MCL or other value specific to beneficial use (e.g., agric, vegetation, industrial)
MO = 75% of MCL	MO = 75% of MCL or HG	MO = 75% of MCL or appropriate value
OVGA not purveyor	OVGA not empowered	



*...address degraded  
WQ to avoid being  
deemed incomplete by  
DWR...*

*Specifically acknowledge that OVGA does not have authority for  
water quality compliance but will cooperate with appropriately  
empowered entity*



ANY  
QUESTIONS  
?