Sustainable Groundwater Management Act Newsletter No. 4 June 2021

Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), enacted January 2015, creates a new framework for groundwater management. The management plan (GSP) developed by representatives from local municipalities and agencies will manage and regulate future groundwater use. The GSP will be completed in early 2022.

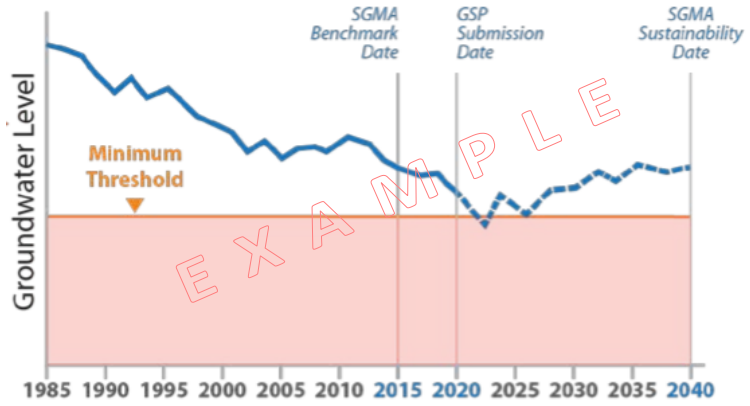
Check SantaYnezWater.org for schedule of Public Meetings and Workshops

Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must consider and document the conditions at which each of the six sustainability indicators become significant and unreasonable in their basin.

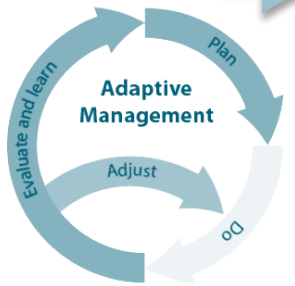
- Lowering GW Levels
- Reduction of Storage
- Seawater Intrusion
- Degraded Quality
- Land Subsidence
- Surface Water Depletion

Setting Minimum Thresholds

Based on the GSA's decision of what is significant and unreasonable, they will choose a representative value that is to be avoided. This value becomes the **Minimum Threshold**.



Avoidance of the defined undesirable results must be achieved within 20 years of Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) implementation. GSPs must clearly define a planned pathway to reach sustainability.



Potential Management Actions and Projects

1. Identify list of management actions and projects
2. Evaluate benefits and costs
3. Select subset of preferred management actions and projects and prioritize them
4. Develop implementation plan and schedule

Relationship between Minimum Thresholds and Management Actions

- Early management actions to be initiated upon submittal of the GSP.
- Regularly monitor and evaluate six sustainability indicators to take actions BEFORE Minimum Threshold is reached.
- Use projects and management actions assessed in the GSP to avoid undesirable results caused by exceeding Minimum Thresholds.

For more information, meeting announcements, and to review and comment on draft documents, please visit

SantaYnezWater.org or call **(805) 693-1156 ext. 403**

Versión en español disponible bajo petición.