

Introduction to Project Brainstorming/Project Direction Survey on Projects & Management Actions

Forebay Subbasin

SVBGSA is seeking feedback on the initial set of projects and management actions presented at the September Subbasin Committee Meeting; and requesting ideas for additional projects and actions to consider in the GSP. Your feedback will help tailor the GSP to both the specific need of the Forebay Subbasin, as well as guide the integration groundwater management program for the whole Salinas Valley Groundwater Basin.

Key points to keep in mind regarding projects (including management actions):

- ***Projects implement the GSP*** and enable the subbasin to reach sustainability by 2040, then maintain sustainability for another 30 years.
- ***Projects show that reaching sustainability is feasible***; however, further work is required to determine which projects to implement and project design.
- ***Projects must address all of the SMCs*** relevant to the subbasin, and help subbasins reach interim milestones and work towards measurable objectives to show actual progress.
- ***GSPs are adaptive*** and will be updated as more information becomes available, including the projects and management actions pursued.

Stakeholders are being asked to consider various projects and project types to provide initial strategic direction for the Forebay Subbasin GSP, knowing this GSP will be adapted and improved over time. Some projects reflect a valley-wide approach, as certain projects provide benefits to multiple subbasins. Individual subbasins may prioritize projects that have more benefit to their own unique situations while still supporting larger, overarching projects. Projects will only advance to implementation after a thorough cost benefit analysis and after stakeholders agree on a funding mechanism.

The development of projects and management actions to include in the GSP is an iterative process of presenting data on potential projects and getting feedback and direction from the Subbasin Committee. In the Forebay Subbasin, the main objectives of projects are to address the susceptibility to droughts. In the previous Subbasin Committee meeting, SVBGSA consultants provided an overview of project types and facilitated a discussion on potential projects. The November meeting packet and presentations will present what data have been gathered to date on those potential projects. However, some project data may not be available until January. The projects that are particularly relevant to the Forebay Subbasin, and that we would like your specific feedback on in the survey include:

- Winter Reservoir Releases with ASR. This project consists of reservoir reoperation. Current summer conservation releases will be switched to winter releases. The project also requires installing ASR wells near CSIP to inject winter flows, and modification of CSIP to primarily rely on injected groundwater in the summer. By releasing water in the winter rather than the summer, more water will be retained in the reservoirs to provide recharge to the Forebay every year.
 - Pros: provides winter releases and Subbasin recharge annually, helps buffer against drought, decreases loss from evaporation while getting water to SRDF, decreases evapotranspiration from invasive species. The winter releases could theoretically be timed to coordinate with prescriptive releases needed for fish migration.
 - Cons: requires CSIP modifications and reservoir reoperation agreements with MCWRA. Relies on incorporation into the Habitat Conservation Plan. Wells along the Salinas River will see greater drawdown in the summer.
- Invasive Species Eradication. This project would support and/or undertake removal of invasive species along the Salinas River, as well as retreatments needed to keep it from coming back.
 - Pros: decreases evapotranspiration from invasive species, supports native plants.
 - Cons: requires retreatment for maintenance.
- Conservation and Agricultural BMPs. This would consist of a program to incentivize and/or assist with conservation and agricultural BMPs to lower groundwater pumping.
 - Pros: low cost, decreases pumping, widely distributed throughout the basin.
 - Cons: relies on participation by a substantial number of landowners.
- Pumping limitations. Pumping limitations can take many forms, as outlined in the survey.
 - Pros: low cost to implement, would address current/future over-pumping.
 - Cons: unlikely to generate widespread support. Could have negative impacts on crop production and landowners.

This survey continues the brainstorming phase of project development by soliciting ideas and an initial round of feedback on presented ideas. The survey will: (1) provide additional projects to be considered, either at this upcoming meeting or a future meeting, (2) give guidance on the data that would be helpful for decision making, and (3) gather input on your values surrounding the approach the GSP takes to reach sustainability.