

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

## Langley Area 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 Langley Area 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 Langley Area 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 Langley Area, the main objectives of projects are to address the challenges associated with the thin aquifer and declining groundwater elevations in the southern part of the Subbasin. 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 Langley Subbasin, and that we would like your specific feedback on in the survey include:

- Decentralized recharge projects with stormwater. This generally entails retrofitting existing homes or properties to capture stormwater and recharge it on-site. Funds would likely be needed to help pay for the retrofits.
  - Pros: low cost, widely distributed recharge throughout the subbasin.
  - Cons: likely limited amounts of recharge could be obtained, relies on participation by a substantial number of landowners.
- Flood and stormwater management projects. This generally entails collecting stormwater from larger properties such as shopping centers, and recharging this stormwater either on-site or at a nearby location.
  - Pros: generally easy to capture runoff from paved surfaces, provides more recharge water than the decentralized recharge projects.
  - Cons: significant cost could be incurred moving the water from the storm water capture site to the recharge site recharge to aquifer depends on suitability of geology within reasonable distance of collection point.
- CSIP expansion. Expanding CSIP into agricultural land in or adjacent to the Langley Subbasin could reduce the amount of groundwater pumped from the Subbasin.
  - Pros: results in a direct reduction of pumping from large, high-capacity wells, likely addresses some of the most overdrafted areas of the Langley Subbasin.
  - Cons: there appear to be limited large capacity agricultural wells in the Langley Subbasin, greatest benefit may come from expanding CSIP to agricultural areas adjacent to the Langley Subbasin. Significant cost, especially if not pursued in 180/400-Foot Aquifer Subbasin.
- Surface water diversion from Gabilan Creek. This entails diverting flood flows from Gabilan Creek and recharging it in or near the Langley Subbasin.
  - Pros: provides direct recharge when flood flows are available.
  - Cons: initial analyses suggest the maximum benefit would be approximately 450 acre-feet/year, with more likely benefits being approximately 300 acre-feet per year, cost is likely to be significant, but that is still to be determined.
- Consolidation of small state and small local water systems. Consolidating water systems or connecting them to larger systems may allow areas of overdraft to be served by portions of the subbasin that are not experiencing overdraft.
  - Pros: to the degree possible, uses existing infrastructure to solve overdraft in certain parts of the Subbasin.

- Cons: most small systems are not built to allow interconnection and therefore may require significant retrofitting, it is not clear there is adequate opportunity for connections between systems in areas of overdraft and areas of no overdraft.
- Drinking water access mitigation program. The GSA could develop a program to assist well owners whose wells go dry.
  - Pros: help provide options to domestic well owners who are affected by low groundwater elevations.
  - Cons: could be costly unless grant funding is available.
- Other options under development:
  - Pumping limitations. Pumping limitations can take many forms, as outlined in the survey.
  - Rancho San Juan/Santa Rita Creek/Bolsa Knolls infiltration project.
  - Hoot systems. Hoot systems provide centralized wastewater treatment at the neighborhood/development scale.

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.