

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

Monterey 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 Monterey 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 Monterey Subbasin GSP, knowing this GSP will be adapted and improved over time, particularly as modeling results hone the project impacts. 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 Monterey Subbasin, the main objectives of projects are to address the challenges associated with declining groundwater elevations in 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 due to timing limitations with the model. The projects that are particularly relevant to the Monterey Subbasin, and that we would like your specific feedback on in the survey include:

- Recycle water to use in lieu of groundwater pumping. This would involve investigating golf course irrigation water supply and potential use of treated wastewater for irrigation.
 - Pros: would keep water within the Subbasin, reduce pumping.
 - Cons: unsure if there are opportunities for it.
- Use water from the Upper Corral/Calera Canyon. This project was included in the GeoSyntec recommendations. The project recharges surface water runoff, could include building impoundments to develop a supplementary water supply, and distributes water from upper portions of the El Toro Planning Area to the lower portions. The most feasible option may be to direct surface water runoff into recharge ponds.
 - Pros: would provide recharge.
 - Cons: may require water and/or action outside of the Subbasin, would only receive significant quantity of water during storm events, likely to be costly when compared to quantity of water recharged, will require land acquisition/re-zoning.
- 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 for the retrofits.
 - Pros: low cost to agency, widely distributed recharge throughout the Subbasin, greater public engagement.
 - Cons: likely limited amounts of recharge could be obtained, relies on participation by a substantial number of landowners.
- Domestic conservation. This would involve incentivizing or helping individual households implement conservation measures, such as xeriscaping.
 - Pros: low cost to agency, widely distributed throughout the Subbasin.
 - Cons: possible that limited water savings could be obtained given previously implemented measures, 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 over-pumping.
 - Cons: might not generate public support, challenge to design equitable program, GSA might not be able to incorporate de-minimis pumpers into pumping limitations. Could have negative impacts on crop production and landowners.

- Drinking water access mitigation program. The GSA could develop a program to assist well owners whose wells go dry. This is not a project to reach sustainability, but rather a mitigation project.
 - 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 actions needed:
 - Estimation of pumping
 - Monitoring
 - Coordination and planning among stakeholders, the public, and MCWRA

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.