

COMMENTS RECEIVED SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 to NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Number	Chapter	Table	Page	Figure	Date	Commenter	Comment	Response	Action
1					10/7/2020	Chris Bunn	Subsidence SMC: Motion to accept Option 1: Any subsidence anywhere in the Subbasin is significant and unreasonable using the metric of InSAR data	Motion was passed by Committee and will be incorporated into GSP.	This will be incorporated into GSP development as a strategic comment. See memo for further discussion.
2					10/7/2020	Brenda Granillo	Groundwater Storage SMC: Motion to accept Option 1: Pumping in excess of the sustainable yield leads to significant and unreasonable impacts.	Motion was passed by Committee and will be incorporated into GSP.	This will be incorporated into GSP development as a strategic comment. See memo for further discussion.
3					10/7/2020	Chris Bunn	Is this only tied to seawater intrusion within this subbasin, so seawater intrusion in the 180/400-Foot Aquifer is a separate issue?	DW: Yes, this is strictly for the Eastside subbasin, because we can't set SMCs for another subbasin. When we get to projects then we could involve other subbasins.	
4					10/7/2020	Caroline Chapin	Seawater Intrusion SMC: Motion to accept Option 1: Any seawater intrusion in the Subbasin is significant and unreasonable using the metric of chloride isocontour at the subbasin boundary.	Motion was passed by Committee and will be incorporated into GSP.	This will be incorporated into GSP development as a strategic comment. See memo for further discussion.
5					10/7/2020	Robin Lee	Re: Water Quality: I attended the Regional Board public discussion and it seems like they want SGMA to start improving water quality, so we should consider improving it. At least that's what I got from the meeting. That's just my two cents.	Comment received	
6					10/7/2020	Chris Bunn	Does the Regional Board have the power to influence SGMA?	Abby Ostover: That's a good question. LES: There will be competing powers between governmental entities. The Regional Board can't intrude...but by the same token they do have independent authority to do certain things. So it would be a relationship management issue between the Regional Board and GSA, especially if the GSA adopts a criteria that another Agency doesn't agree with. Gary: We see value in aligning ourselves as appropriate with programs of the Regional Board, but our focus needs to be on the development of the GSPs. Abby: GSPs are living documents and we will adjust them as needed to changing regulations.	
7					10/7/2020	Brenda Granillo	Another thing to consider is possible funding for improving groundwater quality, we definitely want to keep that in mind.	Comment received	
8					10/7/2020	Heather Lukacs	Water quality in SGMA needs to be considered. We see that groundwater quality is degrading so we need to identify the threats and opportunities where quantity and quality can both benefit from projects and management actions. The way we manage groundwater does influence water quality. I agree we won't solve it all and we need coordination.	Comment received	
9					10/7/2020	Horacio Amezquita	I think it's important that we monitor water quality because then how will we determine if it is being degraded if we don't monitor it. In my system, water quality has been degrading and I'm sure there's other water systems that are being degraded, too.	Comment received	
10					10/7/2020	Ross Clark	It would be nice if the GSP acknowledges the lack of coordination or commits to support some of the small groundwater dependent communities, the state hasn't had ability to address their needs. GSA could help address these needs through a coordination or advocacy role.	Comment received	
11					10/7/2020	Chris Bunn	We have to be careful to not intrude on the domain of MCWRA and County Health. There is a lot of monitoring and oversight and testing going on and we are supplying that data already to those agencies. We have to make sure SGMA doesn't reach beyond what it's supposed to be doing.	Comment received	
12					10/7/2020	Colby Pereira	We have to be careful that processes are streamlined, we don't want too much overlap. We need to recognize that and stay within the course of SGMA.	Comment received	
13					10/7/2020	Caroline Chapin	I'm in agreement with Colby and Mr. Bunn, we all agree that water quality is important but I hesitate saying that we want to go beyond maintaining; improving opens a lot of questions from other agencies. It complicates the main goal of sustainability.	Comment received	

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14					10/7/2020	Robin Lee	We've been hearing that groundwater quality is decreasing so we have to first do better to be able to maintain current conditions because we need to stop water quality conditions that are on a downhill slope. We have to do better and work with agencies like the Health Department.	Comment received	
15					10/7/2020	Caroline Chapin	I think we should use projects to consider the importance of water quality.	Comment received	
16					10/7/2020		Water Quality SMC: Motion to accept Option 1: Degraded groundwater quality resulting from direct GSA actions is significant and unreasonable as measured by the number of supply wells.	Motion was passed by Committee and will be incorporated into GSP.	This will be incorporated into GSP development as a strategic comment. See memo for further discussion.
17					10/7/2020	Robin Lee	The votes for Option 1 and Option 4 seemed very similar, but I think shallow wells should be the driver, because we need more data on years for Option 1. I will not approve 2015 level, that is way too low. Come back with different data elevations. Also, we need mean and median well depths for domestic wells.	Abby Ostovar: Do you have a year in mind? We do have the computed average for domestic well depth in the Eastside.	
18					10/7/2020	Robin Lee	Could I get the depth to water for 2015 WLs?	DW: We can add ground surface elevations to well hydrographs.	
19					10/7/2020	Robin Lee	So we need to know if the year 2015 had an impact on domestic wells? I need more analysis to choose an approach.	Abby Ostovar: Yes, but right now we want the approach before we do the analysis and pick a year. Also, for reference, the Webmap has elevations and depth to water.	
20					10/7/2020	Chris Bunn	Do you have perforation data? We look at depth and perforation very differently.	Abby Ostovar: The data we have depends on the well, so for some we have depth and others perforation. DW: We looked at total depth in the 180/400 because we didn't have perforation information for enough of the domestic wells. If we have the perforation information, we can use that.	
21					10/7/2020	Heather Lukacs	Table 7.1, how many are domestic wells? The draft chapter only shows irrigation and observation wells.	Abby Ostovar: We do have the designation. We have expanded the network, I'm pretty sure Ch. 7 went out after we sent letters to owners but I will check.	
22					10/7/2020	Heather Lukacs	We need a way to compare individual hydrographs to the cumulative one. Make sure axis is there and that the land surface elevation is also there, so we can see how domestic wells have been impacted.	Abby Ostovar: We don't have a lot of domestic hydrographs, the analysis was based on OSWCR database which doesn't have water levels. We have depth and location, but not consistent elevation data.	
23					10/7/2020	Robin Lee	Can we see water quality over time? Is there a graph of nitrate over time? I think it's raising over time and if the water levels are decreasing and nitrate increasing we need to look at water quality in domestic wells as water levels go down. These two things happen together.	Abby Ostovar: We haven't made anything like that, but we do have other data from other studies. DW: There is a map in Chapter 5 that you could look at nitrate over time.	
24					10/7/2020		Groundwater Elevation SMC: Motion for a combination of Options 1 and 4, groundwater elevations in a certain year were significant and unreasonable and impacting shallow, domestic wells is significant and unreasonable. With a request for additional data on minimum elevations.	Motion was passed by Committee. Additional data will be provided at the next meeting for further discussion.	This will be incorporated into GSP development as a strategic comment. See memo for further discussion.
25					10/7/2020	Robin Lee	Since we only have a couple places where groundwater is within 50ft, I want to know why? Is groundwater so depleted that there is only two places where it connects with surface water?	Abby Ostovar: This is only for groundwater in the principal aquifer. DW: Abby is right, and the Eastside subbasin has a large amount of land elevation change. The hydrographs support what we see on this map. These interconnected surface water areas are where the land surface is the lowest.	
26					10/7/2020		Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water SMC: Motion to accept Option 3: The current rate of surface water depletion is not unreasonable (although it may be significant). Using the metric of groundwater levels.	Motion was passed by Committee and will be incorporated into GSP.	This will be incorporated into GSP development as a strategic comment. See memo for further discussion.
27					10/7/2020	Chris Bunn	I would like to hear the pros and cons of both metrics for Interconnected Surface Water.	Comment received	
28					10/7/2020	Robin Lee	Re: Projects presentation: I had talked about scalping plant and I don't see it listed as a project possibility.	DW: Oh yes, that is my fault. We will include it in the list of projects.	
29					10/7/2020	Robin Lee	Rancho San Juan identified recharge around Santa Rita Creek. I don't know how to list that as a possibility.	DW: We're incorporating that suggestion into the Langley subbasin. We will look into what that project would look like.	
30					10/7/2020	Robin Lee	How efficient is it to grow strawberries in the Eastside vs in the 180/400? Does it takes less water because the soil is better?	DW: We could look into water efficiency but the GSA does not have land use authority.	

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31					10/13/2020	Ross Clark	Re: Intro to Projects and Management Actions: Before we get into specifics can we talk about the process? We have a less than optimal but functioning system now, what we want to do is find a way to enhance our current conditions to meet the needs of users. Some of the noted projects might not be beneficial to our subbasin as they are for other subbasins. We want to find projects to get more water into the aquifer or reduce overdraft. Did I get all that right?	DW: Yes. There are two dials. Usually people choose to increase recharge, however, I always keep reduction of pumping in our back pocket because sometimes it is better approach financially.	
32					10/13/2020	Chris Bunn	Two of the big issues you're talking about is that there is interactions between the subbasins and that there might be interactions between the projects in terms of integration but you also talk about that some of the projects are standalone for the subbasin. I don't see how we can have this discussion without always keeping an eye on the other subbasins. For example, the Eastside canal, if we take that water out at the diversion point, that means it's not going to wherever it used to go before.	DW: Great point, Eastside projects have to be closely integrated to other projects because, for example, like the Eastside canal will have a great impact on 180/400. When we talk about recharge from streamflow, this will be integrated, but less integrated, because there will be smaller impacts on the 180/400. At this point we're trying to get an idea of what each subbasin is interested in so that we can see if they will work well together in an integrated fashion. When it comes to cost, this will be slightly different. For example, if we chose to fund through Prop 218 we identify who benefits and divide the costs accordingly. Right now we are just identifying a program.	
33					10/13/2020	Robin Lee	Do you have a graphs increase in irrigated acreage over time in the Subbasin?	DW: Not with me, but I think we have the data.	
34					10/13/2020	Robin Lee	The reason I ask because I want to know how much groundwater decreases as irrigated acreage increases. Is that a big driver? I was looking at the groundwater elevations which are decreasing over time, and then I was looked at the contours and I noticed that some of the cones of depression from the 90s have disappeared. I was wondering why that was?	DW: I have looked at the cones of depression, but I haven't looked at any causalities.	
35					10/13/2020	Horacio Amezquita	Are there any projects in the Gabilan Mountains that could hold the water at the higher elevations so we could use it later on to inject in the Eastside subbasin?	DW: We haven't included any project like an off-stream or on-stream reservoir, the reason we have not included it is because on-stream reservoirs are hard to permit and operate within the time we have to reach sustainability. But if it's the feeling of the committee that that's the way to go we could certainly integrate that into the project ideas.	
36					10/13/2020	Horacio Amezquita	When you talk about getting water to the aquifer, do you think it will be clean when it is infiltrated?	DW: If we're going to inject water through a well, it has to be filtered to a high level. Water has to be filtered and chlorinated before injecting. If you do a basin, we pretty much just need the fines to settle before it goes to infiltration better.	
37					10/13/2020	Horacio Amezquita	On the permit to bring water from the Salinas River, are you talking about Chualar or Soledad? It is expensive?	DW: We'll talk about both of them. We'll talk about the costs at the end of the talk.	
38					10/13/2020	Kelly Archer	I'm most interested in understanding how you all are approaching groundwater contamination like Nitrates and 1,2,3-TCP. Is that approached within each of the subbasins or integrated among subbasins?	DW: The legislation for SGMA treats groundwater quality as a do-no-harm issue and the point of that is because there are many other agencies within the basin that already regulate groundwater quality. The reason SGMA was written this way was because we don't want to take on things that other agencies are doing. The general consensus of this group is that we don't want to take on the responsibility for cleaning up groundwater but if we have the opportunity to do so with a project or management action we will try to do so.	
39					10/13/2020	Brenda Granillo	I wanted to ask about the Chualar and Soledad diversion programs. Have there been any studies about these? Also a project that should be included is wastewater, especially in the city of Salinas and future development. Developers should put in purple pipes to irrigate with recycled water.	DW: We did take Robin's input from last week on recycled water. We met with our engineer to talk about this and the feasibility.	
40					10/13/2020	Robin Lee	It is a scalping plant. They're doing this in Santa Ana. They're small and way more cost efficient than a canal. It completes the hydrologic cycle.	Comment received	
41					10/13/2020	Ross Clark	One of the problems we have in the Salinas Valley is that we have little water in the summer and too much in the winter. How do we enhance our surface water network to keep water in the foothills longer, increasing percolation? How can we expand on these concepts and put them into context with some of the other engineering projects? How do we do this from a more ecosystem-watershed management perspective?	DW: Multi-benefit recharge projects are projects that everyone wants to see. They have a better chance of getting permitting success. If this is one of the ways we want to go with, then we will try to compare projects as best as we can to compare projects apples to apples. It's up to us to bring it up to that level.	

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42					10/13/2020	Chris Bunn	The discussion of pumping reduction and the fallowing and the water charges framework is something that should start in the farming community. Could we get a skeleton of the framework so that we can begin the discussion? If that conversation doesn't start with farmers, this will not go well. Also, have you modeled the effect of pumping and pumping reduction in the 180/400 and Salinas and how that effects the Eastside? Because if we don't have the model we'd be making a lot of assumptions.	DW: You're right, farmers definitely need to be the first to discuss this. As for the modeling, that has not been done directly but there is a question out there for the Eastside as to whether the largest portion of overdraft is in the Salinas area. And if we can solve this problem, could that be an ample fix for overdraft for the whole subbasin? That is a model scenario we will run. It's important to note that when we run these models we look at all projects from all subbasins. We look at the basin holistically.	
43					10/13/2020	Horacio Amezquita	I was wondering if what Ross was describing about holding up the water in the foothills if that water could be injected to the aquifer, if we do that will that hurt the 180/400 aquifer? Most of that water is going to the river and main channel going to the 180/400 because it's still needed for seawater intrusion.	DW: I think the best way to do this is infiltrating stormwater flows through percolation. The best approach might be to slow these flows and spread them. There is so much water I don't think there would be a negative impact on the 180/400. I actually think it would be beneficial because we would be stopping these big floods.	
44					10/13/2020	Horacio Amezquita	Most of the acreage in the winter is listed and then the water runs off. Wouldn't it be a better idea to allow the water to infiltrate into the fields and crops won't have to use so much water because there is water already in the soil?	DW: On-farm recharge is mostly used where there are permanent crops, mostly done with vineyards or orchards in the central valley. It is a possibility but it would take a lot of research to figure out if this could be done with annual crops.	
45					10/13/2020	Ross Clark	I read an article about this specific question, one of the things they noted is that the highly permeable soils are covered in plastic which compromise the recharge potential of the fields in the Eastside. It might be very easy to integrate this with farmers if it doesn't compromise production.	DW: We're still looking at projects at a very high level. So I'm viewing onfarm recharge as an overland flow capture option.	
46					10/13/2020	Robin Lee	How do the rice farmers flood their fields in the winter? Is there a similarity here? Strawberry fields pretty much behave like asphalt.	DW: The reason why they flood the rice fields so well in the Sacramento Valley is because the water doesn't percolate well. A better example of what to compare the Eastside to would be the Pajaro Basin, because they take advantage of the percolation ability of their soils.	
47					10/13/2020	Robin Lee	During the last drought, companies provided a program for homeowners to have incentive to switch from grass to drought tolerant landscaping. Can we see the data showing what happened to the wells when they hit drought conditions? Would the water company share that with us? What happens to the wells when they cut back on water usage?	DW: Let us see what we could do. It would be hard to pinpoint what is causing the change in groundwater elevations. DW: Should we also add xeriscaping to the list of projects?	
48					10/13/2020	Chris Bunn	We have a lot of strawberry acreage and it doesn't behave like asphalt. The Salinas Valley is an innovative community and farmers are all about long-term stewardship but that conversation needs happen among farming community.	Comment received	
49					10/13/2020	Dennis Lebow	I wanted to talk about enhancing recharge in the Eastside. I don't think there will be downstream deprivation. If we're looking at capturing runoff, we could also do things like controlled burns and grazing that manage invasive species and that could hopefully help with fires in our community.	Comment received	
50					10/13/2020	Chris Bunn	Will we have a precise number of irrigated acreage in the Eastside? We will need it.	DW: I think we will have a reasonable number. We will be using the county estimate and we will probably continue to use them. I don't think we can get an airtight number. What we can do is say this is what we have now because this number will likely fluctuate.	