

**North American Subbasin
Partial Draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan-Public Release**

November 9, 2020

Thank you for your interest in the North American Subbasin (NASb) Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) development. This GSP is being prepared to comply with the State of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) of 2014. The SGMA was codified into law as part of the California Water Code and became effective January 1, 2015. The NASb includes five authorized Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) that are working cooperatively to develop a single GSP covering the 548 square-mile subbasin that includes portions of Placer, Sacramento, and Sutter counties. The GSAs include: Reclamation District 1001 (RD 1001) GSA; Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) GSA; South Sutter Water District (SSWD) GSA; Sutter County GSA; and West Placer GSA.

SGMA requires certain information be included in every GSP. This includes, among other things, the subbasin setting (e.g. hydrogeology, groundwater conditions, jurisdictional authorities, etc.), a hydrogeological conceptual model, a comprehensive water budget (an accounting of the inflows, outflows, estimate of sustainable yield, etc.), sustainable management criteria (metrics used to define sustainability), a basin-wide monitoring network, and projects and management actions necessary to ensure the subbasin's sustainability.

The GSP must be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) by January 31, 2022. To meet this deadline, the NASb GSAs will release a full Public Review Draft GSP in the late spring of 2021. To date, the NASb GSAs have been focused on collecting available information and developing new information to define the current setting and conditions of the subbasin. Rather than wait for the full Public Review Draft, the NASb GSAs want to engage with interested parties by releasing a partial draft of the GSP information prepared to date. This information is included in various sections of the GSP that are organized to meet the regulatory criteria released by DWR.

At this time, the five draft sections described below, along with their associated appendices, are being released for review and comment. To receive your comments we have created an electronic comment tool at our website (<https://nasbgroundwater.org/>). These sections consist of largely technical and scientific information that will provide important foundation building block content for the remaining GSP sections that are currently being developed. These sections will be released again for additional comment when the full Public Review Draft is released.

Section 1 – Introduction

This section describes the legal background of the SGMA of 2014, associated GSP regulatory requirements, and the purpose of a GSP. It also includes a brief description of all of the sections that will be included in the GSP upon its completion.

Section 2 – Agency Information

This section provides information about the local governments and water agencies that make up the GSAs in the NASb, including contact information, implementation authority, and the

identification of a NASb GSP plan manager. Part of this section that is not complete is the estimated cost to implement the GSP. This cannot be estimated until nearer the completion of the GSP.

Section 3 – Description of Plan Area

This section provides extensive information about the NASb area – its geography, historic and projected land uses, water uses, types of water users, and water sources in the subbasin. It also discusses the entities that have land use or water supply authority and how water resources are currently managed. Assessment of the potential effects of implementing the GSP on beneficial users of groundwater is not yet completed in this section.

Section 4 – Hydrogeologic Setting

This section provides technical information about the physical geology of the subbasin and explains how groundwater moves in the subbasin. It also describes the overall quality of water in the subbasin and where groundwater recharge and discharge are occurring. Numerous figures display important information on the topography, geology, soil types, well locations, general groundwater quality types and recharge and discharge areas in the subbasin.

Section 5 – Groundwater Conditions

This section provides information about groundwater in the subbasin, such as historic and current groundwater levels, specific water quality distribution and trends, historic subsidence, interconnected surface water, and groundwater dependent ecosystems. A notable part of this section that is not yet complete is the change in aquifer storage. Additionally, the areas identified in this section as having interconnected surface waters and likely groundwater dependent ecosystems will need to continue to be refined over the next several months.

There is still much work to be completed over the next several months where we will seek public input. This work includes:

- Developing a water budget for historical, current and 50-year projections based on future development and climate change to assess whether the subbasin will continue to be sustainable.
- Developing sustainable management criteria, which will include locally defined significant and undesirable results.
- Developing a representative monitoring network where management criteria will be established and measured.
- Identifying projects and management actions to ensure the subbasin remains sustainable.

The NASb GSAs believe that public involvement is critical to our success. The GSAs want to ensure the GSP reflects both your input and results from sound technical information and analysis. You are encouraged to be part of this process as the GSAs continue to develop the NASb GSP.