

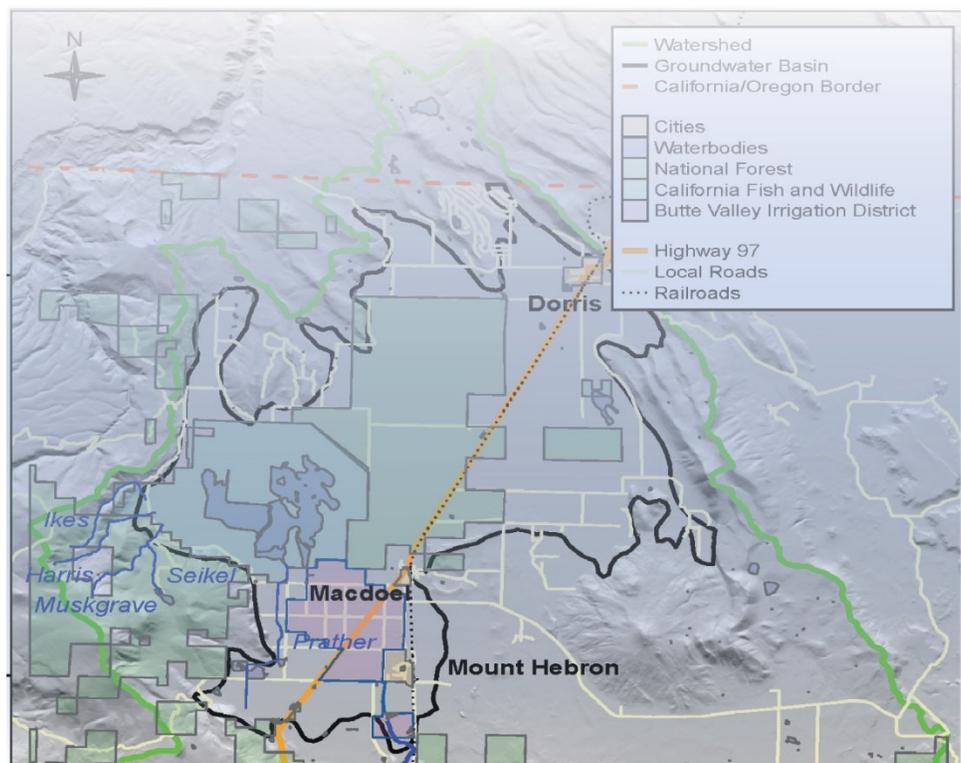
AUGUST 2021

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

SISKIYOU COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Butte Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan

PUBLIC DRAFT REPORT



**SISKIYOU COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
BUTTE VALLEY GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN (Public Draft)**

BOARD

Brandon Criss, County of Siskiyou
Ed Valenzuela, County of Siskiyou
Michael Kobseff, County of Siskiyou
Nancy Ogren, County of Siskiyou
Ray A. Haupt, County of Siskiyou

STAFF

Matt Parker, Natural Resources Specialist, County of Siskiyou

TECHNICAL TEAM

Laura Foglia, Ph.D, LWA
Thomas Harter, Ph.D, UC Davis

Andrew Calderwood, Ph.D, UC Davis
Bill Rice, PG, UC Davis
Katrina Arredondo, Ph.D, LWA
Kelsey McNeil, M.S., LWA

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Richard Nelson, Chair, Private Pumper
Don Bowen, Vice-Chair, Residential
Melissa High, City of Dorris
Don Crawford, Private Pumper
Greg Herman, Private Pumper
Patrick Graham, CDFW Butte Valley Wildlife Area
Steve Albaugh, Private Pumper
Steve Lutz, Butte Valley Irrigation District
Howard Wynant, Tribal Representation
Jeffrey Volberg (CWA), Environmental/Conservation

Suggested Citation: Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency, Butte Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan (Public Draft), August 2021,
<https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/naturalresources/page/sustainable-groundwater-management-act-sigma>

Chapter 1. Introduction

Table of Contents

Chapter 1. Introduction	1
1.1. Background and Purpose	3
1.2. Sustainability Goal	4
1.3. Agency Information and Management Structure	4
1.3.1. Agency Information	4
1.3.2. Organization and Management Structure	4
1.3.3. Legal Authority of the GSA	4
1.3.4. Contact Information for Plan Manager	4
1.3.5. Estimated Cost of Implementing GSP and GSA's Approach to Meet Costs	5
1.4. Notice and Communication	5
1.4.1. Notice	5
1.4.2. Decision- Making Process.....	5
1.4.3. Public Outreach.....	6
1.4.4. Coordination.....	9
1.5. GSP Organization	9

36 **List of Appendices**

37

38 Appendix 1-A Butte Valley Basin Communication and Engagement Plan

39 Appendix 1-B Record of Public Meetings

40 Appendix 1-C Comments on Draft GSP

41 Appendix 1-D DWR Element Guide

42

Note: Appendices 1-B and 1-C will be provided following completion of the public meetings and receipt of comments on the Draft GSP.

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66 **1.1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

67
68 In September 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the Sustainable Groundwater
69 Management Act (SGMA), a three-bill legislative package composed of Assembly Bill
70 (AB) 1739 (Dickinson), Senate Bill (SB) 1168 (Pavley) and SB 1319 (Pavley), which is
71 codified in Section 10720 et seq. of the California Water Code. The legislation provides a
72 framework for long-term sustainable groundwater management across California. The
73 intent of SGMA is to provide local and regional agencies the authority to sustainably
74 manage groundwater resources to help preserve water supplies for existing and potential
75 beneficial uses and to protect communities, farms, and the environment against
76 prolonged dry periods and climate change.

77 The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the State Water Resources
78 Control Board (State Board) provide primary oversight for implementation of SGMA. DWR
79 adopted regulations that specify the components and evaluation criteria for groundwater
80 sustainability plans, alternatives to Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs), and
81 coordination agreements to implement such plans. To satisfy the requirements of SGMA,
82 local agencies must do the following:

83 Locally controlled and governed Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) must
84 be formed for all high- and medium-priority groundwater basins in California.

85 GSAs must develop and implement GSPs or Alternatives to GSPs that define a
86 roadmap for how groundwater basins will reach long-term sustainability.

87 The GSPs must consider six sustainability indicators defined as: groundwater level
88 decline, groundwater storage reduction, seawater intrusion, water quality
89 degradation, land subsidence, and surface-water depletion.

90 GSAs must submit annual reports to DWR each April 1 following adoption of a GSP
91 with the first report due April 2022.

92 Groundwater basins should reach sustainability within 20 years of implementing their
93 GSPs.

94 The Butte Valley Basin (Basin) is a medium priority basin in Siskiyou County in Northern
95 California. A description of the Basin, including a summary of the jurisdictional areas,
96 water resources monitoring and management, land use, and groundwater conditions are
97 presented in Chapter 2.

98 In accordance with SGMA, this GSP was developed and will be implemented by the
99 Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) representing the Basin, the Siskiyou County
100 Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

101 Per SGMA requirements, the GSA is responsible for developing and submitting a
102 Groundwater Sustainability Plan, by January 31st, 2022. The GSA feels the GSP will
103 provide long-term sustainability for all beneficial uses and users of water. The GSA also

104 anticipates these plans will be a tool used for the overarching watershed goal of improving
105 water management in the watershed bringing multiple interests to the table to resolve
106 water conflicts in the basin.

107 **1.2. SUSTAINABILITY GOAL**

108
109 The overall sustainability goal of groundwater management in the Basin is to maintain
110 groundwater resources in ways that best support the continued and long-term health of
111 the people, the environment, and the economy in the Basin, for generations to come.
112 Further description of the sustainability goal, as it relates to the sustainability indicators,
113 is included in Chapter 3.

114 **1.3. AGENCY INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

115 **1.3.1. Agency Information**

116 Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
117 190 Greenhorn Road
118 Yreka, CA 96097

119 **1.3.2. Organization and Management Structure**

120 The Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District is the sole GSA for
121 the Basin. The Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District Act (Cal
122 Uncod. Water Deer, Act 1240 §§ 1-38) was adopted by the State Legislature in 1959.
123 This Act established a special district of the same name, and of limited powers that could
124 provide flood protection, water conservation, recreation and aesthetic enhancement
125 within its boundaries. At the time of its creation, the jurisdictional boundaries of the Flood
126 District were smaller than those of the County. In 1983, following LAFCO action, the
127 balance of the County was annexed into the District making its jurisdictional boundaries
128 coincide with the County. The District is governed by a Board of Directors that is
129 composed of the Board of Supervisors; however, the District is a separate legal entity
130 from the County, with independent rights and limited powers set forth in its originating act.
131 The District's purpose is the conservation and control of storm, flood, and other waters
132 and ensuring beneficial use thereof.

133 **1.3.3. Legal Authority of the GSA**

134 Siskiyou County Resolution FLD17-01, approved by the District Board on April 4th, 2017
135 authorized the District to act as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Butte, Scott
136 and Shasta Valley groundwater basins.
137

138 **1.3.4. Contact Information for Plan Manager**

139 The Siskiyou County Natural Resources Department is designated as the plan manager,
140 and can be reached at:
141 1312 Fairlane Rd
142 Yreka, CA 96097

143 Phone: 530-842-8005
144 SGMA@co.siskiyou.ca.us
145

146 **1.3.5. Estimated Cost of Implementing GSP and GSA’s Approach to Meet**
147 **Costs**

148 The GSA will pursue all available grant funding opportunities to assist in covering the
149 yearly costs. The GSA utilized a consultant to conduct a fee study to have in place
150 should the GSA feel funds need to be raised publicly to pay for yearly management of
151 the plans. It is expected that the GSA will manage implementation and reporting of the
152 GSP, with support from other entities as needed.
153

154 **1.4. NOTICE AND COMMUNICATION**

155 **1.4.1. Notice**

156 GSP information, GSA Board and Advisory Committee meeting schedules, and useful
157 links can be found at the County of Siskiyou Website¹.

158 The GSA holds publicly noticed public Board and Advisory Committee meetings to allow
159 stakeholders to engage and provide input throughout the process as well as meetings
160 with specific working groups in the Basin to address specific technical topics or questions.
161 As the GSP is developed and implemented, the website will be updated accordingly with
162 new information for public comment. Notices of public hearings are communicated
163 through multiple methods including local newspapers and postings on the County of
164 Siskiyou website, and a SGMA email outreach list, informing the public on meeting
165 information, subject, and how to provide comments.

166 **1.4.2. Decision- Making Process**
167

Note: This section is under legal review.

168
169
170 GSP decision-making and input is represented by the roles of the Groundwater Advisory
171 Committee, GSA Boards and Stakeholders.

172 Decision-making during GSP development and for final approval is ideally achieved
173 through consensus. In the absence of a consensus, as a last resort, members of the
174 Groundwater Advisory Committee or GSA Board may be called upon to cast votes.

¹ <https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/naturalresources/page/sustainable-groundwater-management-act-sgma>

175 **1.4.3. Public Outreach**

176 **1.4.3.1. Communication and Engagement Plan**

177 The Siskiyou County Groundwater Sustainability Agency developed a Butte Valley Basin
178 Stakeholder Communication and Engagement Plan (C&E Plan) to educate interested
179 parties about local SGMA implementation, describe the phases of GSP development,
180 encourage public participation in the process, and address noticing and communication
181 requirements in the law (Appendix 1-A).

182 The C&E Plan describes how the local GSA was formed in Siskiyou County, the support
183 role played by technical and facilitation consultants, and the process by which the GSA
184 board of directors (GSA Board)—with support from a stakeholder advisory committee—
185 gathers, considers, and responds to needs and interests of constituents throughout the
186 community. Consensus building is a foundational principle of all committee discussions,
187 and membership is intended to reflect the diversity of beneficial groundwater uses and
188 users in the Basin.

189 The GSA maintains a government-to-government relationship with any Native American
190 Tribe in Siskiyou County or the larger Klamath River watershed which expresses interest
191 in SGMA. Tribal representatives have been appointed to the advisory committees in the
192 Scott Valley, Shasta Valley and Butte Valley groundwater basins. Moreover, Siskiyou
193 County and the Karuk Tribe formalized good faith communication protocols around SGMA
194 through an established memorandum of understanding.

195
196 The Butte Valley C&E Plan includes the following overarching public outreach goals:

- 197 • Provide the GSA, Advisory Committee, community leaders and other beneficial
198 users a roadmap to ensure broad understanding and consistent messaging of
199 SGMA requirements
- 200 • Foster information sharing, communication and collaboration, and opportunities for
201 stakeholders to have meaningful input on the GSA decision-making process
- 202 • Provide reasonable opportunities for interested stakeholders to receive and
203 understand the technical groundwater information developed as part of the GSP
204 process
- 205 • Ensure a collaborative GSP development and implementation process that is
206 widely seen in the community as fair and respectful to the range of interested or
207 affected stakeholders
- 208 • Assist the GSA in meeting all SGMA communication and engagement
209 requirements
- 210

211 Specific objectives which help the GSA achieve these overarching goals include the
212 following:

- 213 • Educate stakeholders on:
 - 214 ○ Important SGMA requirements, events and milestones
 - 215 ○ The role, authorities and responsibilities of the local GSA in Siskiyou County
 - 216 ○ The advisory committee’s role and how the public can stay informed or

- 217 involved
- 218 ○ The benefits of having a technically robust and broadly supported GSP
- 219 ○ Potential changes to groundwater monitoring and management under
- 220 SGMA
- 221 ○ How the interests of beneficial uses and users will be considered under
- 222 SGMA
- 223 • Develop strategies and communication mechanisms for obtaining broad
 - 224 stakeholder input and feedback that informs GSP development
 - 225 • Coordinate outreach and engagement activities that foster information sharing,
 - 226 raise awareness and encourage public engagement in SGMA
 - 227 • Ensure the needs, interests and perspectives of all beneficial uses and users are
 - 228 identified, documented and considered by the GSA Board
 - 229 • Support local beneficial users to identify, preempt or otherwise proactively address
 - 230 and resolve different perspectives or conflicts over groundwater use and
 - 231 management
 - 232 • Track all input received by beneficial users during the GSP development process
 - 233 and document GSA Board responses as input is considered
 - 234 • Develop strategies and communication mechanisms for long-term GSP
 - 235 implementation
 - 236

237 A comprehensive list of identified stakeholder groups in the Basin is included in the C&E

238 Plan. Initially developed by GSA staff, the list was reviewed and expanded by the local

239 SGMA advisory committee. The list may be improved and updated at any time during the

240 GSP development or implementation process. Stakeholder groups included in the list

241 represent a priority target audience for SGMA related communication and engagement.

242 The final section of the C&E Plan describes outreach strategies which the local GSA

243 employs to effectively advance SGMA implementation. Specific tools and forums include

244 the following:

- 245 • Advisory committee meetings
- 246 • Constituent briefings with local organizations
- 247 • Tribal engagement
- 248 • Public meetings and workshops
- 249 • GSA Board meetings
- 250 • Coordination with local resource conservation districts
- 251 • Coordination with state and federal agencies
- 252 • Integration of relevant studies and materials
- 253 • Interested parties list
- 254 • Informational materials
- 255 • County SGMA website
- 256 • Local media and public service announcements
- 257

258 The local GSA will at key times evaluate the effectiveness and efficacy of its C&E Plans

259 for each SGMA groundwater basin in Siskiyou County. Evaluations will likely occur at or

260 near key milestones, such as the completion of a major phase of work or shortly before

261 or after submission of the GSP for evaluation by the Department of Water Resources. As
262 needed, the C&E Plan will be updated to best serve Siskiyou County, its constituents,
263 and all its collaborative partners in the SGMA implementation process.

264

265 **1.4.3.2. Butte Valley Basin Beneficial Uses and Users**

266 Groundwater in the Basin serves the needs of communities, farms, and businesses and
267 provides high quality drinking water to urban and rural residents, in addition to helping to
268 sustain vital ecosystems. Beneficial uses of groundwater include water for irrigation,
269 agriculture, domestic use, municipal use, and water for the protection and enhancement
270 of fish and wildlife. Beneficial uses and users of the Basin have been identified as the
271 following:

- 272 • Agricultural users (farmers, ranchers, dairy professionals)
- 273 • Rural, Agricultural and Domestic well owners
- 274 • Municipal well operators
- 275 • Public water systems
- 276 • Local land use planning agencies
- 277 • Environmental uses and users of groundwater, including but not limited to habitat
278 that supports fish, birds, animals and insects; endangered species protection;
279 protection of beneficial habitat for recreation and other societal benefits
- 280 • Surface water users
- 281 • Tribal Governments
- 282 • Disadvantaged communities

283

284 **1.4.3.3. Public Engagement Opportunities**

285 The GSA is committed to encouraging the active involvement of diverse social, cultural,
286 and economic elements of the population within the groundwater basin. The County of
287 Siskiyou website provides information regarding GSA Board Meeting frequency,
288 background information, documents, status updates, and contact information. GSP
289 updates will be included as noticed per GSA respective meeting agendas that are
290 published in advance. Meetings providing updates on GSP development are scheduled
291 on regularly, typically once a month, to inform the public and Interested Parties and
292 provide opportunities to ask questions and make suggestions. These meetings are posted
293 on the County of Siskiyou website² and announced via email. A full list of public meetings
294 where the GSP was discussed or considered are included in Appendix 1-B.

295 In addition, GSP Staff will be available throughout the GSP development process to
296 communicate and engage with Interested Parties and the public. Interested Parties can
297 be involved in GSP development by providing input throughout the process.

298 Other avenues for public engagement included or will include:

² <https://www.co.siskiyou.ca.us/naturalresources/page/sustainable-groundwater-management-act-sgma>

299 **GSA Board meetings:** During Public comment period of any Siskiyou County Board
300 of Supervisors or Siskiyou County Flood Control & Water Conservation District
301 (GSA) Board meetings

302 **Working Groups:** Working groups may be formed during GSP implementation to
303 provide specific input from Interested Parties or on specific topics.

304 **Comments:** Opportunity for the public or interested parties to comment on draft GSP
305 sections or chapters is provided. Comments received through this process, and
306 the responses provided are included in Appendix 1-C.

307 **1.4.4. Coordination**

308 GSA and Siskiyou County staff, and at times technical team held coordination meetings
309 or phone calls to provide additional input into the GSP with various state agencies, Tribes,
310 NGO's, or members of the public. GSA staff and at times the technical team also attended
311 non-SGMA focused workshops to provide updates or information regarding SGMA and
312 the GSP development. Some highlights of those efforts are below:

313
314

315 • **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**
316 ○ GSA staff has monthly coordination meetings with CDFW staff to discuss
317 numerous topics, which includes SGMA updates and key items and issue's
318 related to groundwater management.

319 • **Shasta Indian Nation**

320 • **Klamath Coalition of the Willing**
321 ○ This is a large group of NGO's, Tribes, and irrigators brought together to
322 develop solutions related to the Klamath Basin conflicts. County staff and
323 the technical team has interacted with the group and developed project
324 ideas that are both being implemented and in initial design phases,
325 including managed aquifer recharge, storage development and improving
326 upland lake management. These projects are further described in Chapter
327 4.

328 • **Butte/Tulelake**

329 ○ GSA staff and the technical team has met with Lower Klamath Wildlife
330 Refuge manager to discuss findings of possible existing connections
331 between the basins. The Lower Klamath is a low priority basin and
332 therefore is not required to develop a GSP

333 ○ GSA and the Butte Valley technical team met with the technical consultant
334 team for Tule Lake to share results and expected GSP outcomes

335
336

337 **1.5. GSP ORGANIZATION**

338 The GSP is organized in accordance with the GSP Emergency Regulations and statutory
339 provisions of SGMA. The format of the GSP is similar to the outline provided by DWR's

340 Sustainable Groundwater Management program. A brief summary of each GSP section
341 is provided below.

342 **Executive Summary.** Provides a summary of what is included in the GSP.

343 **Chapter 1 – Introduction.** The Introduction includes the purpose and administration
344 of the GSP, sustainability goal, agency information, and GSP organization.

345 **Chapter 2 – Plan Area and Basin Setting.** Plan Area describes the geographic
346 setting, existing water resources planning and programs, and additional GSP
347 components. The Basin Setting includes a detailed discussion of the hydrogeologic
348 conceptual model used to prepare the GSP; current and historical groundwater
349 conditions; future groundwater conditions after allowances for growth, land use
350 changes, and climate change; and a discussion of the area’s current and future
351 groundwater budget.

352 **Chapter 3 – Sustainable Management Criteria.** Includes the sustainability goal,
353 addresses the mandated six sustainability indicators that monitor undesirable
354 results; defines the Minimum Thresholds for each undesirable result; and sets
355 Measurable Objectives for the GSP’s complete implementation, including Interim
356 Milestones for intermediate plan years. This Chapter also describes the network
357 of monitoring wells and other information to measure the GSP’s outcomes;
358 assesses the need for improvements to the network to provide fully representative
359 data; and address monitoring protocols and data analysis techniques.

360 **Chapter 4 – Projects and Management Actions to Achieve Sustainability.**
361 Describes potential projects and management actions that may be implemented in
362 pursuit of sustainability. Where available, project details include measurable
363 objectives that are expected to benefit from the project or management action,
364 required permits, anticipated benefits, estimated costs, and how the project or
365 management action will be accomplished.

366 **Chapter 5 – Plan Implementation.** Describes the GSP implementation process,
367 including estimated costs, sources of funding, a preliminary schedule through full
368 implementation, description of the required data management system,
369 methodology for annual reporting, and how progress evaluations will be conducted
370 over time.

371 **Appendices – References and Technical Studies.** Contains the references and
372 sources used to prepare this GSP.

373 **■ DWR GSP Elements Guide–** This GSP was prepared to meet the regulatory
374 requirements established by DWR, as shown in the completed GSP Elements
375 Guide, provided in Appendix 1-D, which is organized according to the California
376 Code of Regulation Sections of the GSP Emergency Regulations.

377

378