

Sustainable Groundwater Management

Scott Valley, Shasta Valley, and Butte Valley Subbasins | Winter 2024 Newsletter

The Siskiyou County Flood Control and Water Conservation District serves as Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for three medium-priority basins in Siskiyou County: the Scott Valley, Shasta Valley, and Butte Valley Subbasins. This newsletter serves to provide an update on GSA activities and implementation of the subbasins' Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP).

Butte Valley GSP Incomplete

On January 18, 2024, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) determined the Butte Valley GSP to be incomplete. The GSA has 180 days (until July 16) to address the deficiencies identified in the letter and resubmit to DWR or risk State Water Board intervention. Scan the QR code at right to review the [full letter](#).



The deficiencies include reasonable assessment of overdraft conditions and reasonable means to mitigate overdraft and detailed explanation and justification for the selection of the sustainable management criteria for groundwater levels (including minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and quantitative effects of those criteria on beneficial uses and users of groundwater).

Grant-Funded Projects Underway

In September 2023, DWR announced the final awards for the Sustainable Groundwater Management (SGM) Implementation Round 2 grant, providing a total of \$10,678,800 across the three basins to carry out certain projects and management actions that were included in the GSPs. The grant will cover these activities through June 2026.

SGMA Compliance and GSP Updates | \$4,754,000 | Butte, Scott, and Shasta Valleys – includes GSP revisions, data reporting and Annual Reports, model updates and scenario evaluation, data gaps and monitoring expansion, database management, and outreach.

Fee Study and Economic Analysis | \$680,000 | Butte, Scott, and Shasta Valleys – includes an evaluation of fee or rate options, inclusive of parcel-specific groundwater use and supply considerations, development of a rate or fee schedule, and economic analysis.

Well Inventory | \$450,000 | Butte, Scott, and Shasta Valleys – includes development of a well inventory and well risk assessment and mitigation program, development of a database, and construction or instrumentation of wells.

Upland Management | \$930,000 | Scott and Shasta Valley – includes partnering with existing upland management projects

Project Highlight: Recharge

Using a permit acquired on November 21, 2023, the Scott Valley Irrigation District has been able to divert high flows from Young's Dam (pictured) to recharge groundwater between January 15, 2024 to present (as of February 2).



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to study their effects on groundwater and/or surface water supplies in the Shasta and Scott Valley Subbasins.

Monitoring Network | \$1,124,000 | Butte Valley – includes modification and expansion of monitoring network to fill data gaps identified in the Butte Valley GSP.

Scott Valley Irrigation District Recharge Project | \$1,100,000 | Scott Valley – this pilot project involves expanding the existing SVID ditch infrastructure and users' properties to spread and store (recharge) diverted water during high river flows and conduct a ditch infiltration study to evaluate the effects of ditch recharge on groundwater supplies.

Groundwater/Surface Water Connectivity Study | \$670,000 | Shasta Valley – includes the identification of groundwater dependent ecosystems and interconnected surface waters and study of how both are impacted by groundwater pumping in Shasta Valley.

Other Ongoing Efforts

Emergency Regulations for Scott and Shasta Rivers – The State Water Resources Control Board has adopted Emergency Regulations to require curtailment of diversions when water is not available as determined by minimum flow requirements in the Scott and Shasta Rivers. The GSA is committed to enhancing coordination with the State Water Board and, where practicable, aligning actions with best available science and the approved GSPs. The GSA submitted comments on the draft regulations and participate in weekly information sharing calls with State Board staff. Updates on the emergency regulations are provided regularly at the [State Water Board's drought webpage for the region](#).

County Well Permitting Process – Pursuant to Executive Orders N-7-22 and N-3-23, the Siskiyou County Department of Environmental Health has engaged the GSA in developing an updated well permit application review process. That process is still in development. The latest information is available in the November 14 Board of Supervisors [meeting packet](#).

Annual Reports – By April 1, 2024, the GSA will submit Annual Reports for each basin to update DWR and stakeholders on GSP implementation activities and report how the regions are achieving sustainability in water year 2023. Groundwater level measurements for Spring 2023 have been uploaded to the [SGMA portal](#) for the representative monitoring points identified in the GSPs. Fall 2023 data will be uploaded when available.

Upcoming Meetings

Groundwater Advisory Committee meetings for Scott and Shasta Valleys and an online webinar for Butte Valley will be held from 2-5 PM in February. The Shasta Valley meeting will include a virtual option for members of the public and the Scott Valley meeting will include a listen-only, call-in option. The Butte Valley meeting will include informational presentations and time for discussion, but members of the Advisory Committee present will not make decisions, per Brown Act meeting requirements.

Butte Valley Public Webinar Tuesday February 27, 2024 https://stantec.zoom.us/j/93491601390	Scott Valley Advisory Committee Wednesday February 28, 2024 Fort Jones Community Hall 11960 E St Fort Jones, CA 96032	Shasta Valley Advisory Committee Thursday February 29, 2024 Montague City Hall 230 S 13 th St Montague, CA 96023
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Stay Connected – If you would like to be added to the Siskiyou County GSA email notification list, contact: sgma@co.siskiyou.ca.us

Scott Valley and Shasta Valley GSPs Approved

On April 27th, 2023, DWR approved the Scott Valley and Shasta Valley GSPs with findings and recommended actions to be incorporated in the 2027 Periodic Evaluation, including: providing a current water budget, filling data gaps for water quality and interconnected surface water, revising the sustainable management criteria definitions for water quality and interconnected surface water, and coordinating and collaborating with other agencies to understand beneficial users. GSP Determination letters are available to view at the DWR SGMA Portal's [GSP Status Summary page](#).