
GSP Stakeholder Committee

Stakeholder Committee Meeting – February 25, 2019

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Agenda

- Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda Review
- Presentation by Woodard & Curran on GSP development
 - Water Allocation Frameworks
 - Projects and Management Actions
 - Next Steps in GSP Development
 - Other Updates
- Public Outreach Update
- Interbasin Coordination Update
- Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda
- Next Steps and Next Meeting

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Stakeholder Committee Meeting Agreements

Guidelines for successful meetings

- Civility is required.
 - Treat one another with courtesy and respect for the personal integrity, values, motivations, and intentions of each member.
 - Be honest, fair, and as candid as possible.
 - Personal attacks and stereotyping are not acceptable.
- Creativity is encouraged.
 - Think outside the box and welcome new ideas.
 - Build on the ideas of others to improve results.
 - Disagreements are problems to be solved rather than battles to be won.
- Efficiency is important.
 - Participate fully, without distractions.
 - Respect time constraints and be succinct.
 - Let one person speak at a time.
- Constructiveness is essential.
 - Take responsibility for the group as a whole and ask for what you need.
 - Enter commitments honestly, and keep them.
 - Delay will not be employed as a tactic to avoid an undesired result.

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

What are we trying to accomplish today?

- Provide input to CC on draft list of projects for the First Iteration 2020 GSP
 - Provide feedback on priorities, information needs, considerations for projects list
 - Identify projects for short list (near term implementation) vs. running list of potential projects
 - Need to move forward to make the 2020 deadline

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Work Together = Avoid State Intervention

- State intervention would be triggered on Feb 1, 2020 if there is no adopted Merced GSP or DWR fails the GSP.
- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) can designate basin as “probationary” and directly manage groundwater extractions.
- All pumpers would be required to file extraction report with SWRCB and pay fees

Link to SWRCB’s Fact Sheet on State Intervention:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/gmp/docs/intervention/intervention_fs.pdf

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Potential Fees under State Intervention

Fee Category*	Annual Fee	Applicable Parties
Base Filing Fee	\$300 per well	All extractors required to report.
Unmanaged Rate	\$25 per acre-foot	Extractors in unmanaged areas. If extractors use a meter to measure extractions the rate is \$10 per acre-foot.
Probationary Rate	\$40 per acre-foot	Extractors in probationary basins.
Interim Plan Rate	\$55 per acre-foot	Extractors in probationary basins where the Board determines an interim plan is required.
De minimis Fee	\$100 per well	A well owner that extracts two acre-feet or less per year for domestic purposes in a probationary basin, if the Board decides these extractions are significant.
Late Fee	25% of total fee per month	Extractors that do not file reports by the due date.

*Fees are subject to change. Additional information available at waterboards.ca.gov/gmp.

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Water Allocation Framework

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Decision-Making Timeline

Focus for CC
Today

January	February	March	April	May
<ul style="list-style-type: none">CC and SC discuss potential allocation frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CC recommends preliminary allocation frameworks to GSA Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GSA Boards approve allocation framework		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">CC and SC consider potential Ps&MAs to meet needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CC and SC consider potential Ps&MAs to meet needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CC identifies recommended Ps&MAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">CC recommends Ps&MAs to GSA Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GSA Boards consider / approve Ps&MAs

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Merced GSP Allocation Framework under Discussion

1. Determine **Sustainable Yield** of the Basin
2. Subtract groundwater originating from **Developed Supply** (seepage of developed/imported surface water) to obtain sustainable yield of native groundwater
3. Allocate Remaining Sustainable Yield to **Overlying Users** and **Appropriative Users** based on their proportional historical use
4. **Establish framework** as basis for basin-wide management. GSAs can use this and can modify the implementation and allocation within their GSA boundary.

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Feedback from GSA Allocation Framework Review Meetings

- Make metering a priority in first 5 years
- General consensus that 10-year time period is appropriate for historical baseline
- Consider frequency of re-evaluation of allocations and seepage estimates (perhaps annual or every 5 years?)
- Factor in population growth and annexation for Cities. Concern that cities will have infill. They have been working hard at conservation and seen water efficiency increase, but expect population growth to continue.
- Factor in GPCD when developing allocations for cities or have GPCD threshold to trigger allocation review.
- The 2020-2030 period should not be a free-for-all to pump. We should establish thresholds during this time.
- Clarification to reiterate: GSAs will need to determine the AF/A allocation within their boundaries
- Need to have a method of verification for seepage estimates
- Consider how to address rangeland, partial allocations, water market rules at basin or GSA-level
- May be practical considerations in spreading out pumping to avoid subsidence

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Projects and Management Actions

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Conceptual GSP Implementation Timeline

Implementation will be phased over 20 years, with 5-yr updates.

2020 2025 2030 2035 2040

Monitoring and Reporting	Preparation for Allocations and Low Capital Outlay Projects	Prepare for Sustainability	Implement Sustainable Operations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish Monitoring Network • Install New Wells • Develop Metering Program • Extensive public outreach • Funded and smaller projects implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSAs conduct 5-year evaluation/update • Planning/ Design/ Construction for small to medium sized projects • Monitoring and reporting continues • Metering program continues • Outreach continues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSAs conduct 5-year evaluation/update • Planning/ Design/ Construction for larger projects begins • Monitoring and reporting continues • Outreach continues • Allocation program begins phase-in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSAs conduct 5-year evaluation/update • Project implementation completed • Allocations fully implemented/enforced

Projects and Management Actions will be Considered to Provide Additional Water

Groundwater Recharge Projects

Increase stored groundwater to allow increased pumping for participating agencies

Surface Water Projects

Increase availability of surface water to meet water demands (e.g., flood/stormwater management)

Demand Reduction Projects

Decrease water use to reduce need for water beyond available supplies (e.g., improved water use efficiency)

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Projects & Management Actions: Number of Projects by GSA

GSA	Number of Projects on List*	Draft Range of Allocation** (depending on historical period & allocation to unirrigated lands)
Merced Subbasin GSA	5	175,000 AFY to 245,000 AFY
Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA	40	150,000 AFY to 210,000 AFY
Turner Island Water District GSA1	2	5,000 AFY to 10,000 AFY

*Note: some projects benefit more than 1 GSA and are shown under the GSA in which they are primarily located.

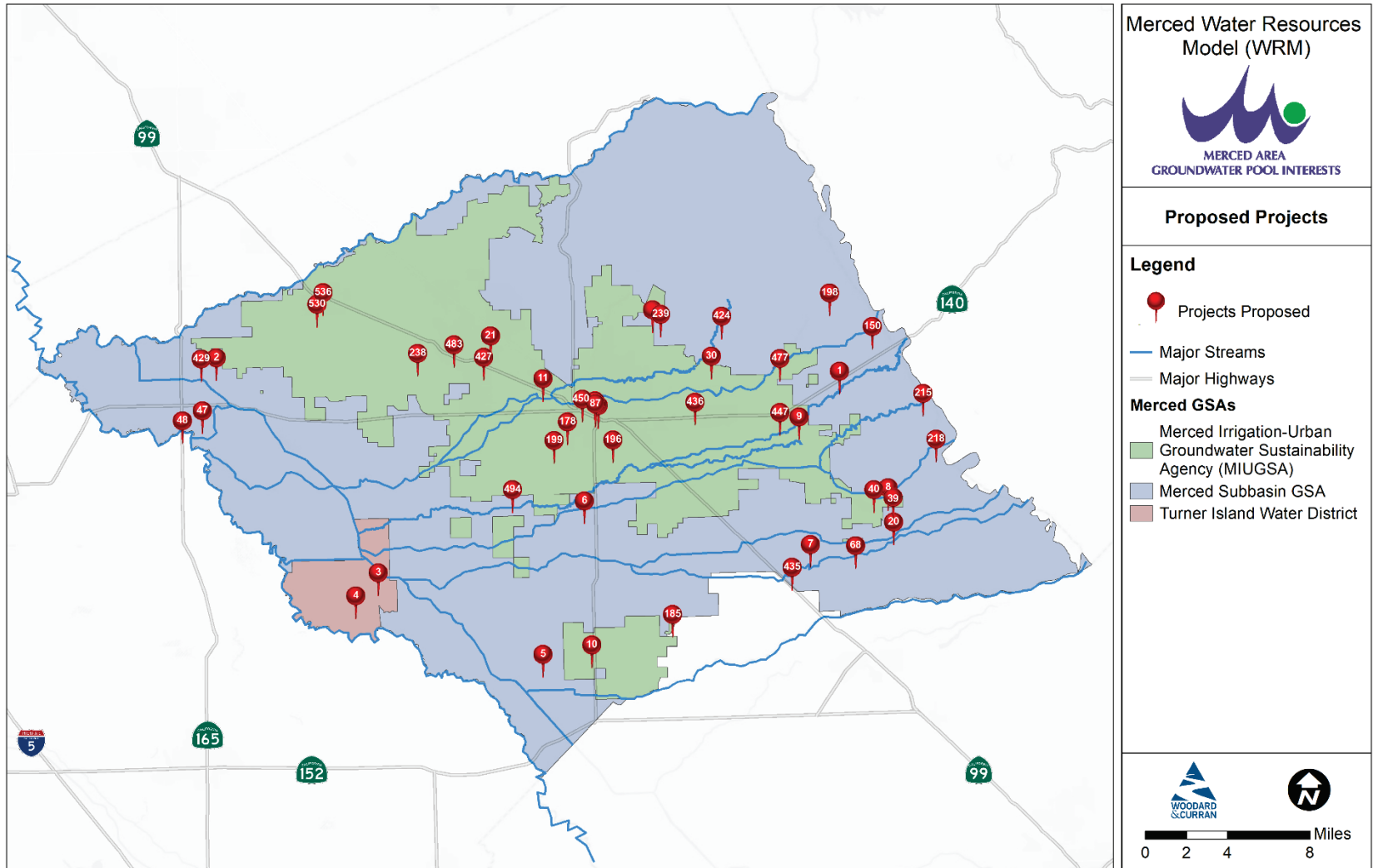
**Total Merced Subbasin historical GW production is on the order of 610,000 AFY.

- 47 projects in draft list: Most are conceptual or early planning stages
- Projects capital cost range: from \$50K smaller scale, less complex to \$150M large scale, complex
- Above numbers are estimates, subject to change

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Projects & Management Actions: Currently 47 Projects on Draft List



Projects & Management Actions: Draft Projects List Handout

- Handout contains current list of projects
- Sources include submittals from GSAs and stakeholders, and 2019 IRWMP update
- Limited information available for many projects
- Need input to assist in prioritization for GSP
- Details provided per project include:
 - Project name
 - Description
 - Location
 - Project category
 - Cost (if available)
 - Water produced or saved (if available)

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Projects & Management Actions: Distribution of Project Categories

Number of Projects that Address Each Category

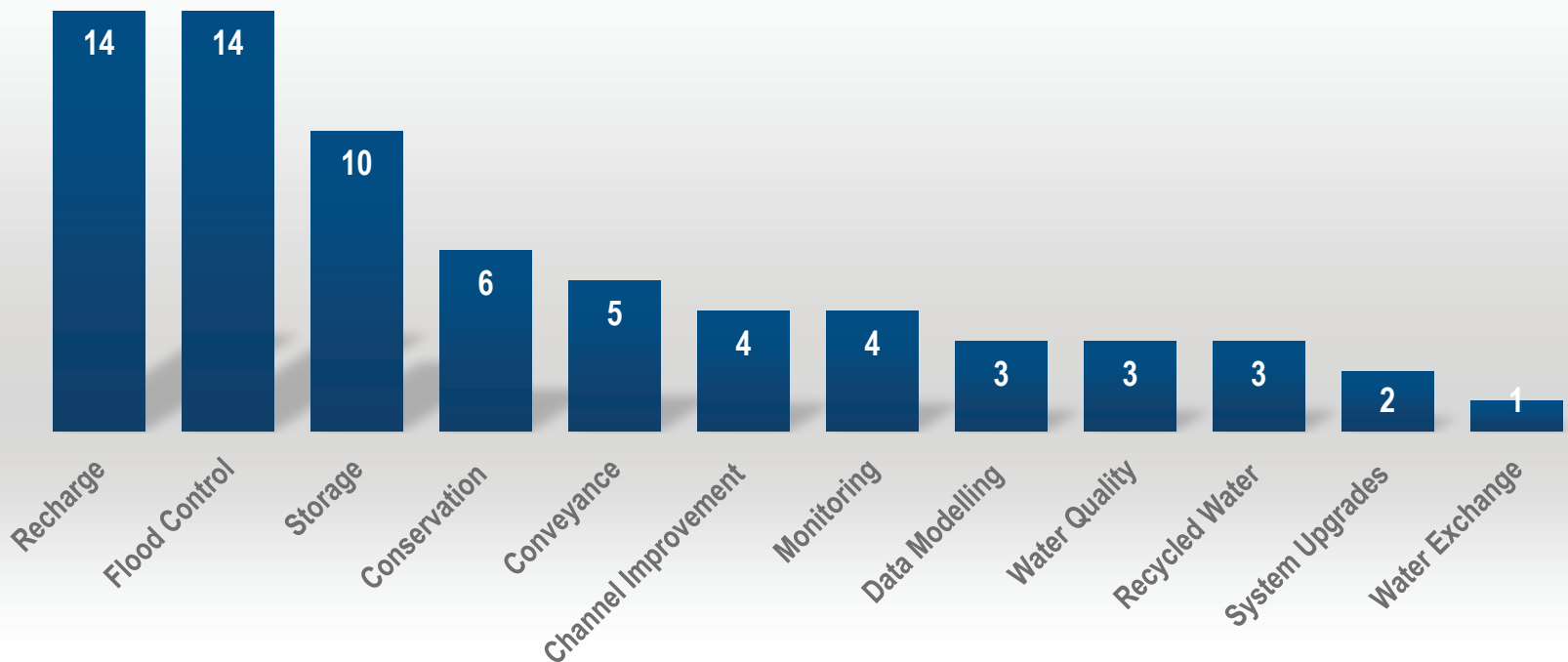


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Projects & Management Actions: Potential to capture flood waters

- How much could be captured? Example from Merced River
(source: *Creating an Opportunity: Groundwater Recharge through Winter Flooding of Agricultural Land in the San Joaquin Valley*, RMC 2015)

Water Source	Recharge Period	Flood Flows AF/Y	Flood Flows that can be Conveyed AF/Y	Remaining Flood Flows beyond Conveyance Capacity AF/Y
Merced River	Winter	80,400	39,200	41,200
	Extended Winter	127,300	65,000	62,300

- Important considerations:
 - It is difficult to estimate flood flows because they are highly variable
 - Need to determine where and how to store it (e.g. groundwater recharge in recharge basins or on ag/refuge land)
 - More water can be captured using year round recharge basins than seasonal cropland courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced
 - Must also consider water rights

Discussion:

Projects List for Merced Subbasin GSP

- What projects, programs, or actions do you see as the highest priority for the basin?
- What further questions or concerns do you have in considering projects?
- Which projects should be in a short list vs. a general running list of potential projects?
- Are there additional projects that can help the GSP address groundwater quality issues?

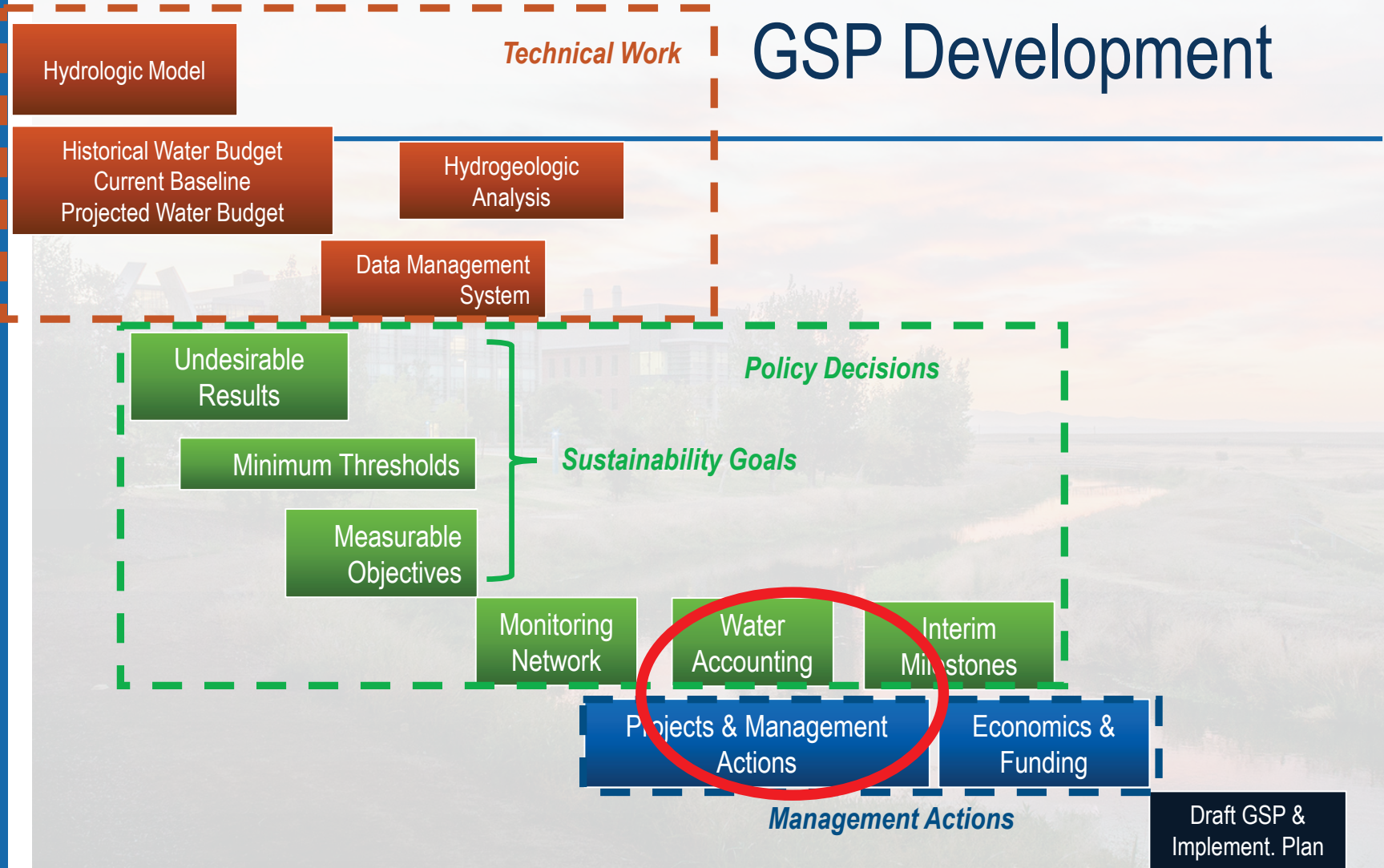
Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Next Steps in GSP Development

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

GSP Development



Jun 2018 Jul 2018 Aug 2018 Sep 2018 Oct 2018 Nov 2018 Dec 2018 Jan 2019 Feb 2019 Mar 2019 Apr 2019 May 2019 Jun 2019 Jul 2019

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Other Updates

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Data Management System

- Reminder: beta test link for Merced Data Management System up and running:
<https://opti.woodardcurran.com/merced/>
- No feedback received so far. Please send comments and questions via the “contact us” link at the bottom of the page
- A guideline is available on the login page

Note: This is a “beta” (test) version of the DMS. Data is being updated on an ongoing basis.

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Public Outreach Update

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

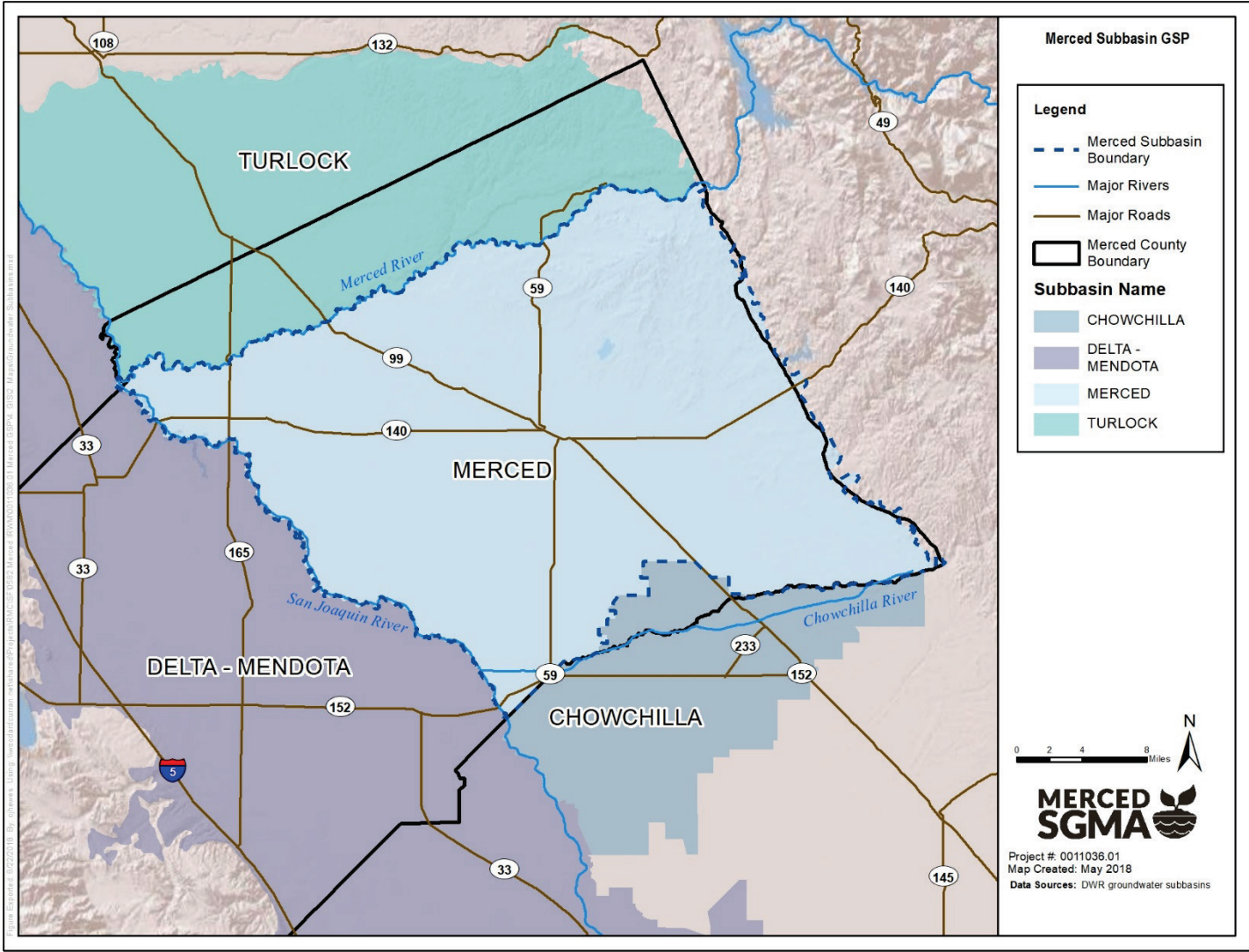




Coordination With Neighboring Basins Update

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Coordination with Neighboring Basins





Questions/Comments from Public

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Next Steps

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

What's coming up next?

- GSP Development Items:
 - Water Allocations Framework to be presented and reviewed for approval at GSA Board level
 - Review and assess projects and management actions
- Focus for March meeting
 - Projects and Management Actions
 - Minimum Thresholds and Measurable Objectives
- Adjourn to next meeting: March 25th ,9:30 AM at Castle Conference Center

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