

Merced GSP Joint Meeting of Coordination Committee & Stakeholder Advisory Committee

June 27, 2022

Meeting will begin at 1 pm or a few minutes after – thank you
for joining us!

**Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
Merced Subbasin GSA
Turner Island Water District GSA-1**

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

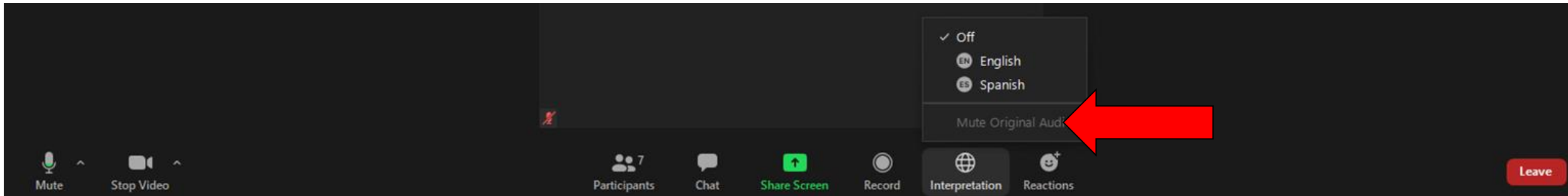
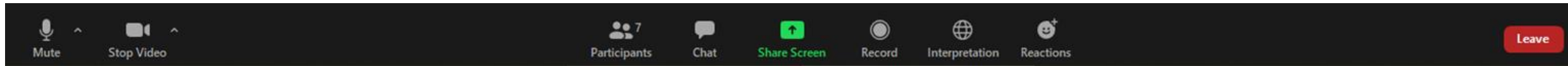


Welcome, Instructions for Zoom

Bienvenidos, Instrucciones para Zoom

We have two language audio channels available. English only speakers, please select English.

Si solamente habla español, debe seleccionar un canal de idioma



The meeting will have simultaneous interpreting, so you are welcome to comment in your native language.
La junta será interpretada simultáneamente, así que le invitamos a que haga comentarios en su lenguaje nativo.

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Welcome
2. Introductions & Roll Call
 - a) Coordination Committee
 - b) Stakeholder Advisory Committee
3. State of Emergency Teleconference Findings
4. Approval of June 1, 2022 Coordination Committee Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comment
6. Review of Redline Edits to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan
7. GSA Reports
8. Next Steps and Adjourn

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Roll Call

| Representative | GSA |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Hicham ElTal | Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA |
| Stephanie Dietz | Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA |
| Justin Vinson | Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA |
| Daniel Chavez | Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA |
| Ken Elwin (<i>alternate</i>) | Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA |
| Mike Gallo | Merced Subbasin GSA |
| Nic Marchini | Merced Subbasin GSA |
| Eric Swenson | Merced Subbasin GSA |
| George Park (<i>alternate</i>) | Merced Subbasin GSA |
| Kel Mitchel | Turner Island Water District GSA #1 |
| Tim Allan (<i>alternate</i>) | Turner Island Water District GSA #1 |

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Members

| Present | Committee Member | Interest/Affiliation | Present | Alternate | Interest/Affiliation |
|---------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Arlan Thomas | MIDAC member | | Ben Migliazzo | Live Oak Farms |
| | Bob Kelley | Stevinson Representative | | Blake Nervino | Stevinson/Merquin |
| | Breanne Ramos | MCFB | | | |
| | Craig Arnold | Arnold Farms | | | |
| | Darren Olguin | Resident of Merced County | | | |
| | Dave Serrano | Serrano Farms - Le Grand | | | |
| | David Belt | Foster Farms | | | |
| | Emma Reyes | Martin Reyes Farm/Land Leveling | | | |
| | Greg Olzack | Atwater Resident | | | |
| | Jean Okuye | E Merced RCD | | | |
| | Joe Sansoni | Sansoni Farms/MCFB | | | |
| | Joe Scoto | Scoto Brothers/McSwain School Dist. | | | |
| | Jose Moran | Livingston City Council | | | |
| | Lacy Carothers | Cal Am Water | | | |
| | Lisa Baker | Clayton Water District | | | |
| | Lisa Kayser-Grant | Sierra Club | | | |
| | Mark Maxwell | UC Merced | | | |
| | Maxwell Norton | Unincorporated area | | | |
| | Nav Athwal | TriNut Farms | | | |
| | Olivia Gomez | Community of Planada | | Nataly Escobedo Garcia | Leadership Counsel |
| | Parry Klassen | ESJWQC | | | |
| | Darcy Brown | River Partners | | | |
| | Rick Drayer | Merced/Mariposa Cattlemen | | | |
| | Robert Weimer | Weimer Farms | | | |
| | Simon Vander Woude | Sandy Mush MWC | | | |
| | Susan Walsh | City of Merced | | Bill Spriggs | Resident City of Merced |
| | Thomas Dinwoodie | Master Gardener/McSwain | | | |
| | Trevor Hutton | Valley Land Alliance | | | |
| | Wes Myers | Merced Grassland Coalition | | Lou Myers | Benjamin Land LP |



State of Emergency Teleconference Findings

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



State of Emergency Teleconference Findings

- All meetings of the Coordination Committee's legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the Coordination Committee's legislative bodies conduct their business
- The Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions
- Those conditions exist per the continuing State of Emergency due to the impacts of COVID-19.
- The Coordination Committee will consider the circumstances of the State of Emergency and determine whether to make the following findings that any of the circumstances exist per AB 361:
 - The State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and/or
 - State or Local Officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Approval of Meeting Minutes

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- June 1, 2022 (Coordination Committee)

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Questions/Comments from Public:

If you would like to make a comment, please type the comment in the chat or raise your hand to request to be taken off mute

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced





Review of Redline Edits to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

DWR GSP Comments Overview

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels / domestic well impacts
- Land subsidence

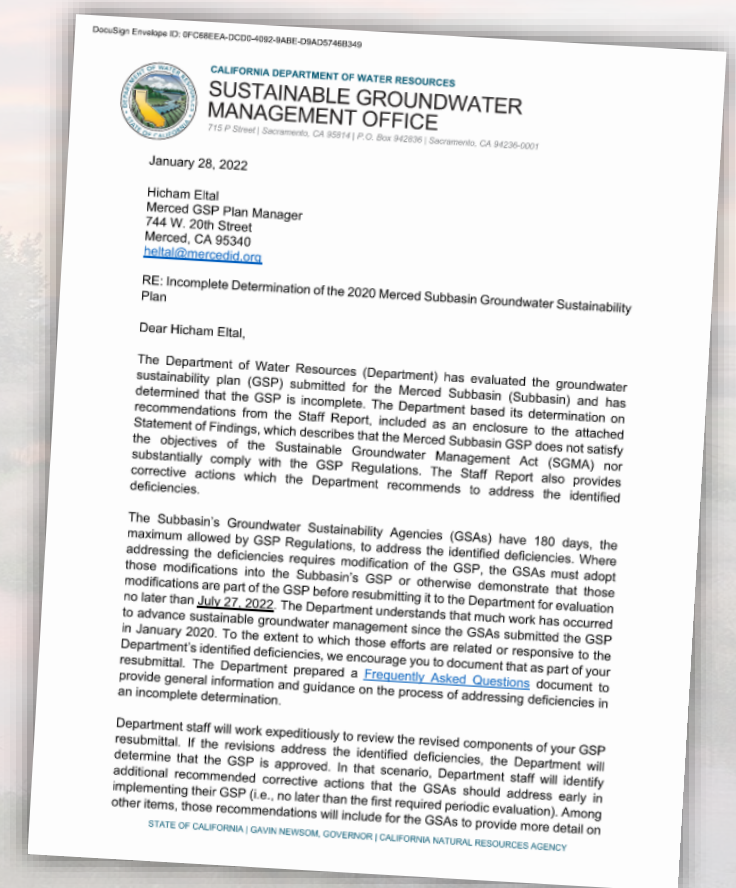


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Groundwater Level Sustainable Management Criteria

Three Discussions Today:

- Minimum thresholds – direction from the GSAs
 - Groundwater levels
 - Subsidence
- Modifications for consistency with minimum thresholds:
 - Measurable objectives
 - Interim milestones
- New Management Actions
 - Subsidence
 - Domestic well mitigation
 - Above Corcoran SMC

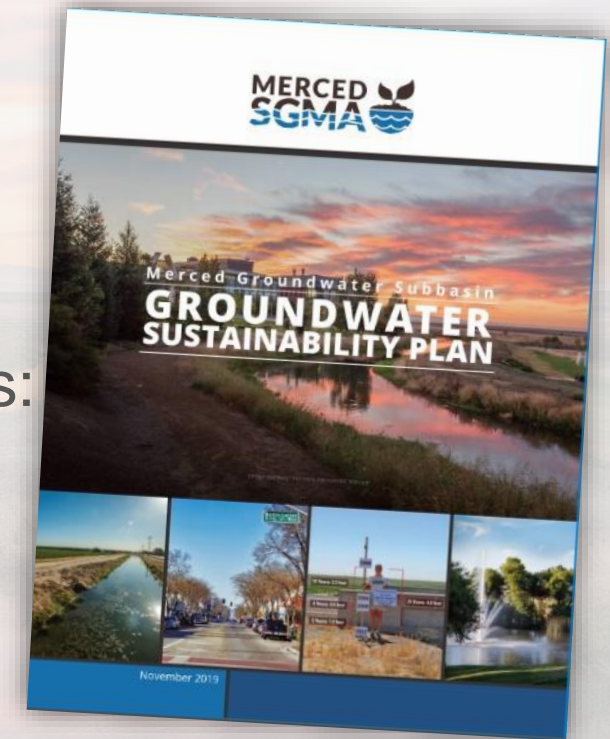


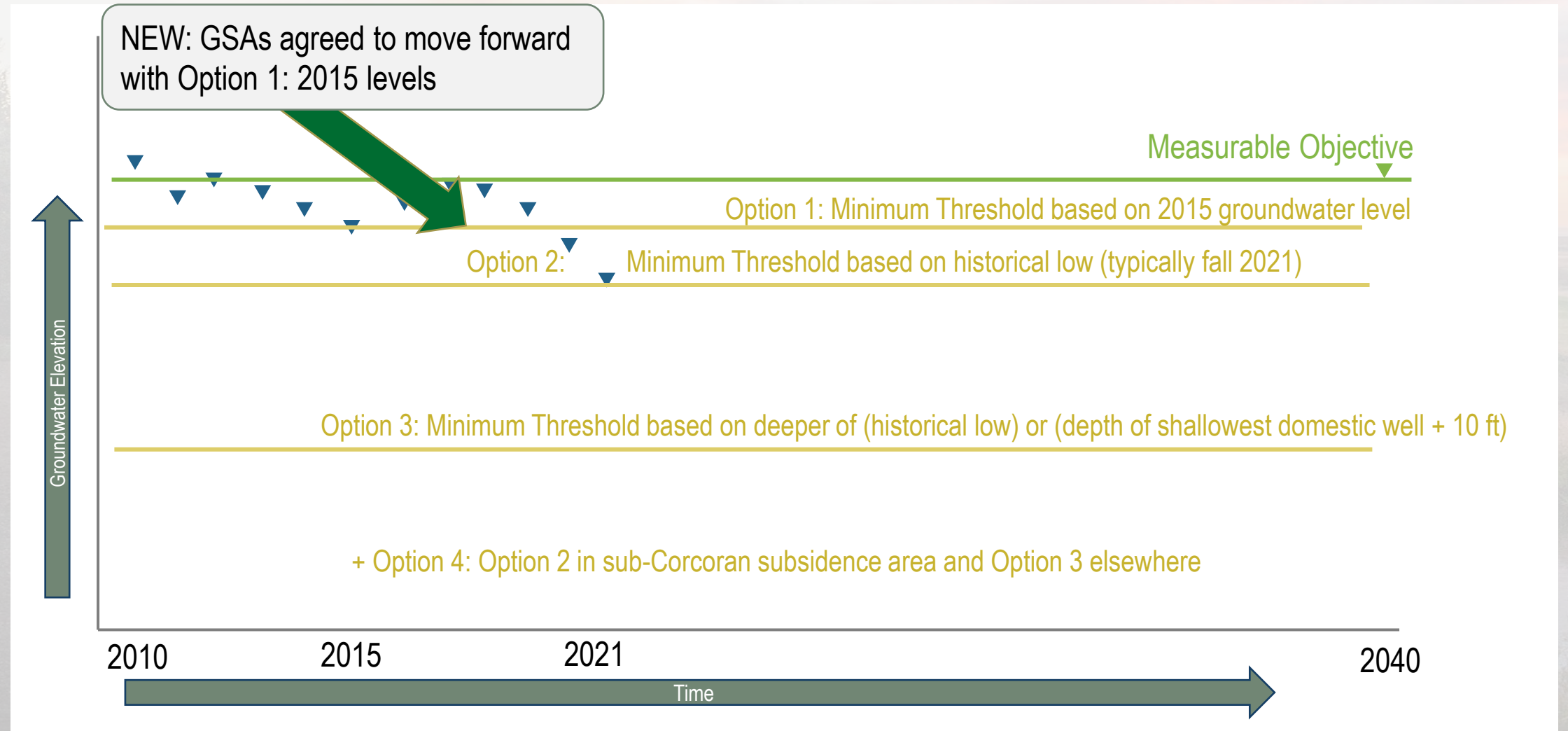
Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Groundwater Level Minimum Threshold – GSA Direction

- After 6/1 meeting and additional discussion, pursuing fall 2015 groundwater levels as the minimum threshold
 - Change from historical low groundwater level as minimum threshold
- Associated management actions now incorporated:
 - Domestic well mitigation program, with details to be developed
 - In the subsidence area, explore different minimum thresholds for above Corcoran
 - More flexibility in responding to subsidence issues

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Potential Minimum Threshold Options Evaluated



Potential Minimum Threshold Options Evaluated

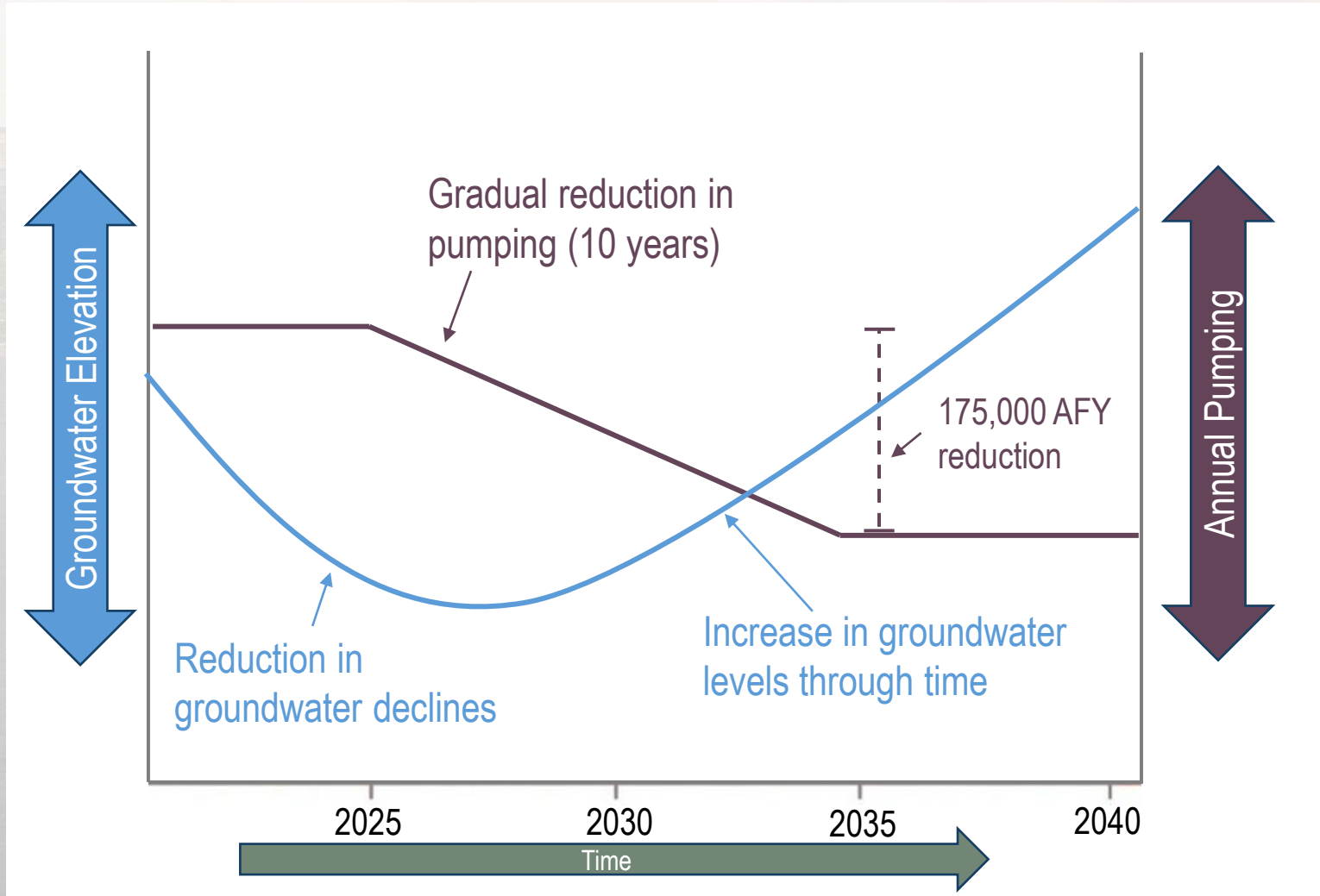
(Copy of table from 4/25 & 6/1 meetings)

| | Basis | Average Pumping Reduction | Complies with Groundwater Level Minimum Thresholds? | Long-Term Change in Storage, Below Corcoran Subsidence Area (over 50 years) | Minimum Annual Change in Storage, Below Corcoran Subsidence Area | Long-Term Change in Storage, Whole Basin (over 50 years) |
|-----|--|---------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| 0 | Baseline (no pumping reductions) | 0 AFY (0.0%) | No | -47,000 AF | -100,000 AF | -1,000,000 AF |
| GSP | Sustainable Yield Scenario published in GSP (goal of no long-term basinwide storage change) | 66,000 AFY 10.7% | No | +30,000 AF | -36,000 AF | ~0 AF |
| A | 2015 groundwater levels Selected approach | 175,000 AFY 28.3% | Yes | +110,000 AF | +16,000 AF | +1,800,000 AF |
| B | Historical low groundwater levels | 115,000 AFY 18.6% | Yes | +70,000 AF | +1,000 AF | +900,000 AF |
| C | Historical lows in subsidence area Domestic well depths + 10 feet elsewhere 0 long-term storage change in subsidence area | 70,000 AFY 11.4% | Yes | +30,000 AF | -40,000 AF | +200,000 AF |
| D* | Historical lows in subsidence area Domestic well depths + 10 feet elsewhere Avoiding negative storage at any time after 2040 in subsidence area | 115,000 AFY 18.6% | Yes | +70,000 AF | +1,000 AF | +900,000 AF |

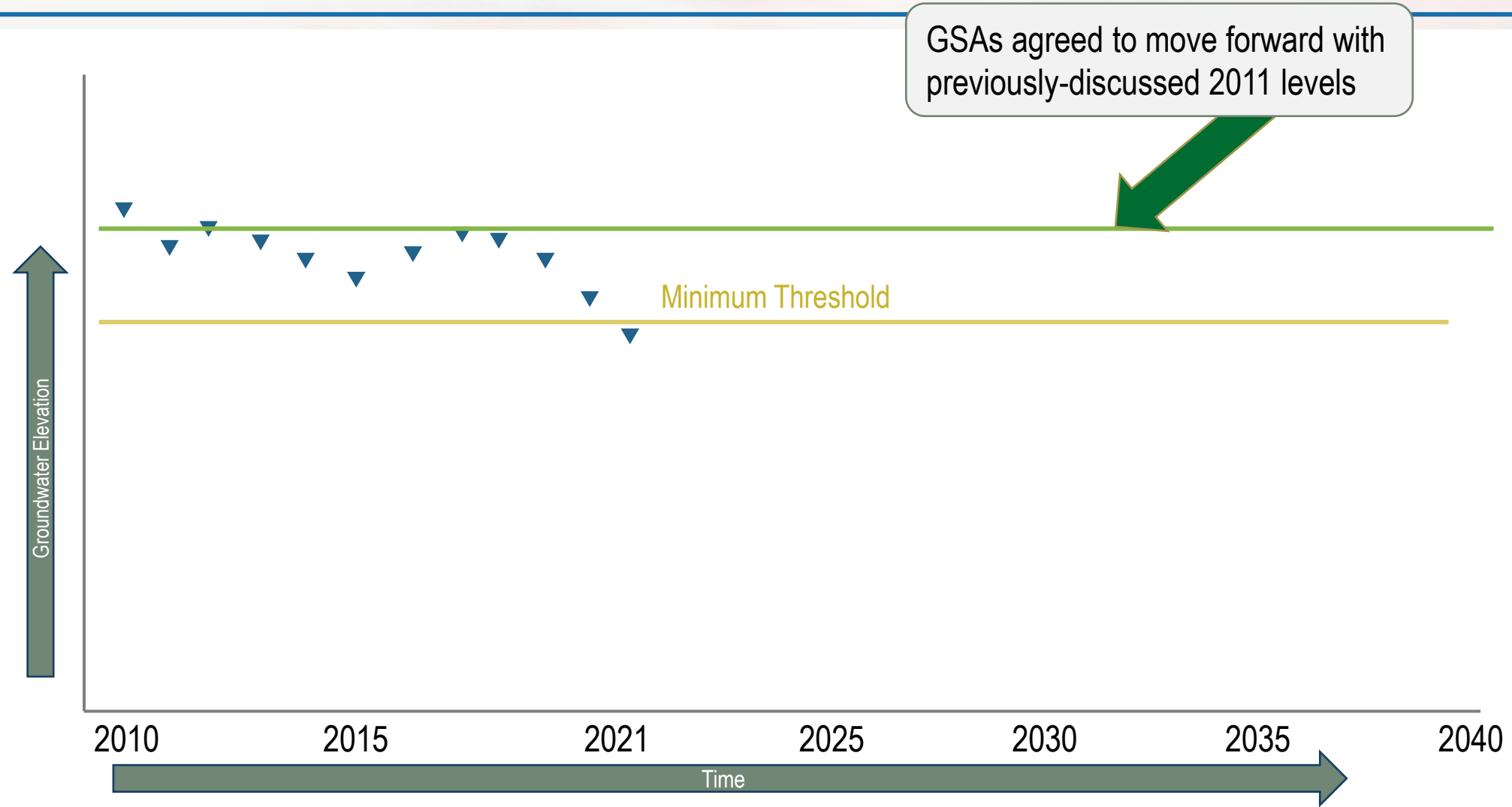
*Same model run as B

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

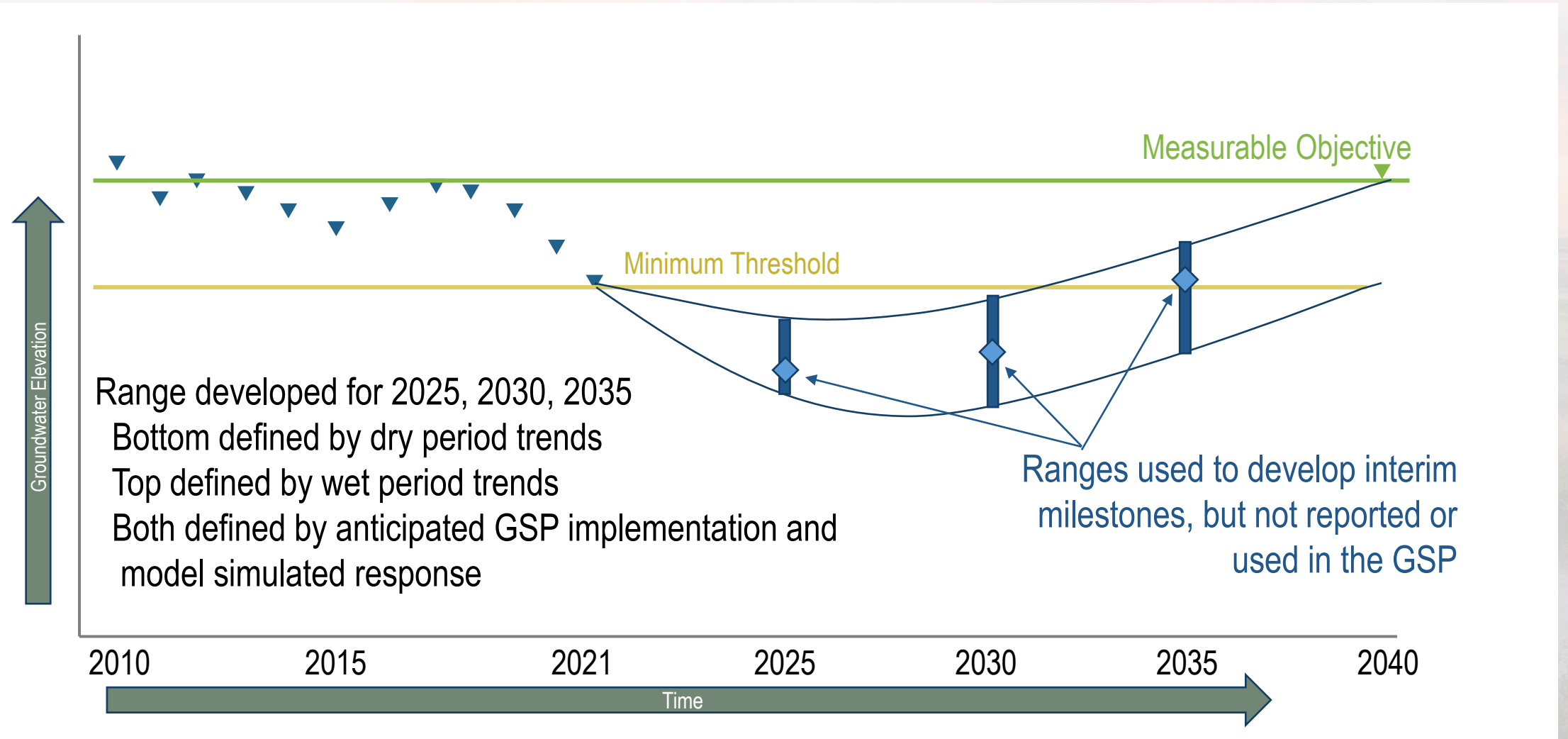
Conceptual Scenario - Pumping vs Groundwater Levels Diagram



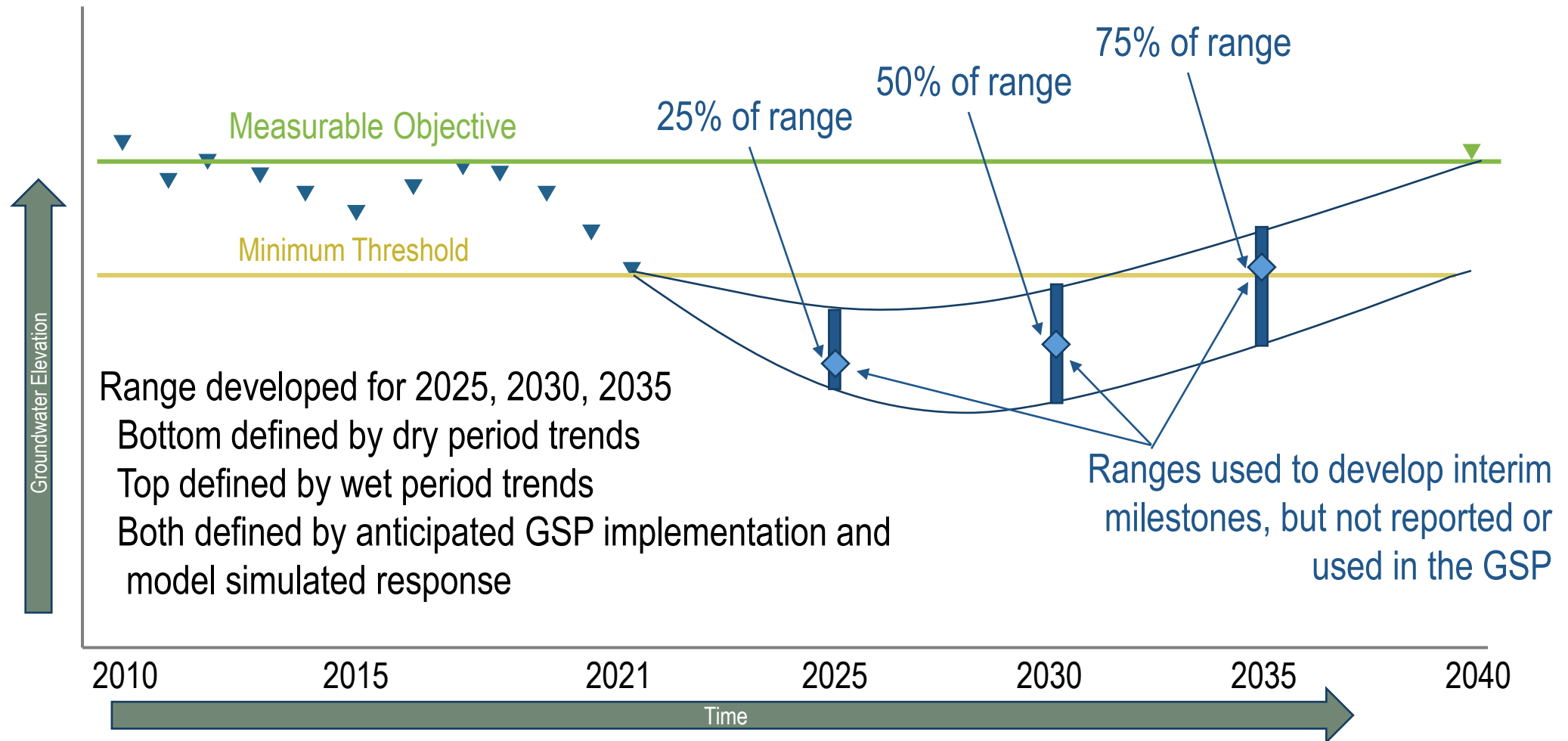
Measurable Objective Approach



Interim Milestone Approach



Interim Milestone Approach



Subsidence Sustainability Management Criteria

- Minimum threshold: 0 ft/yr
 - With consideration of uncertainty (-0.16 ft/yr potential measurement error)
 - With consideration of residual subsidence
- Measurable objective: 0 ft/yr
- Interim Milestones (assumes some residual and new subsidence through 2040)
 - 2025: -0.75 ft/yr
 - 2030: -0.50 ft/yr
 - 2035: -0.25 ft/yr
- Additional background added to discuss the Eastside Bypass and vulnerability to subsidence

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Management Action for Subsidence Area

- Goal: Target pumping reduction (or recharge activities) within Subsidence Focus Area to achieve positive annual storage change
- Focus area defined by region with 2015-2021 average < -0.15 ft/yr
- Details to be developed as part of the management action
- Coordinate with Chowchilla and Delta-Mendota

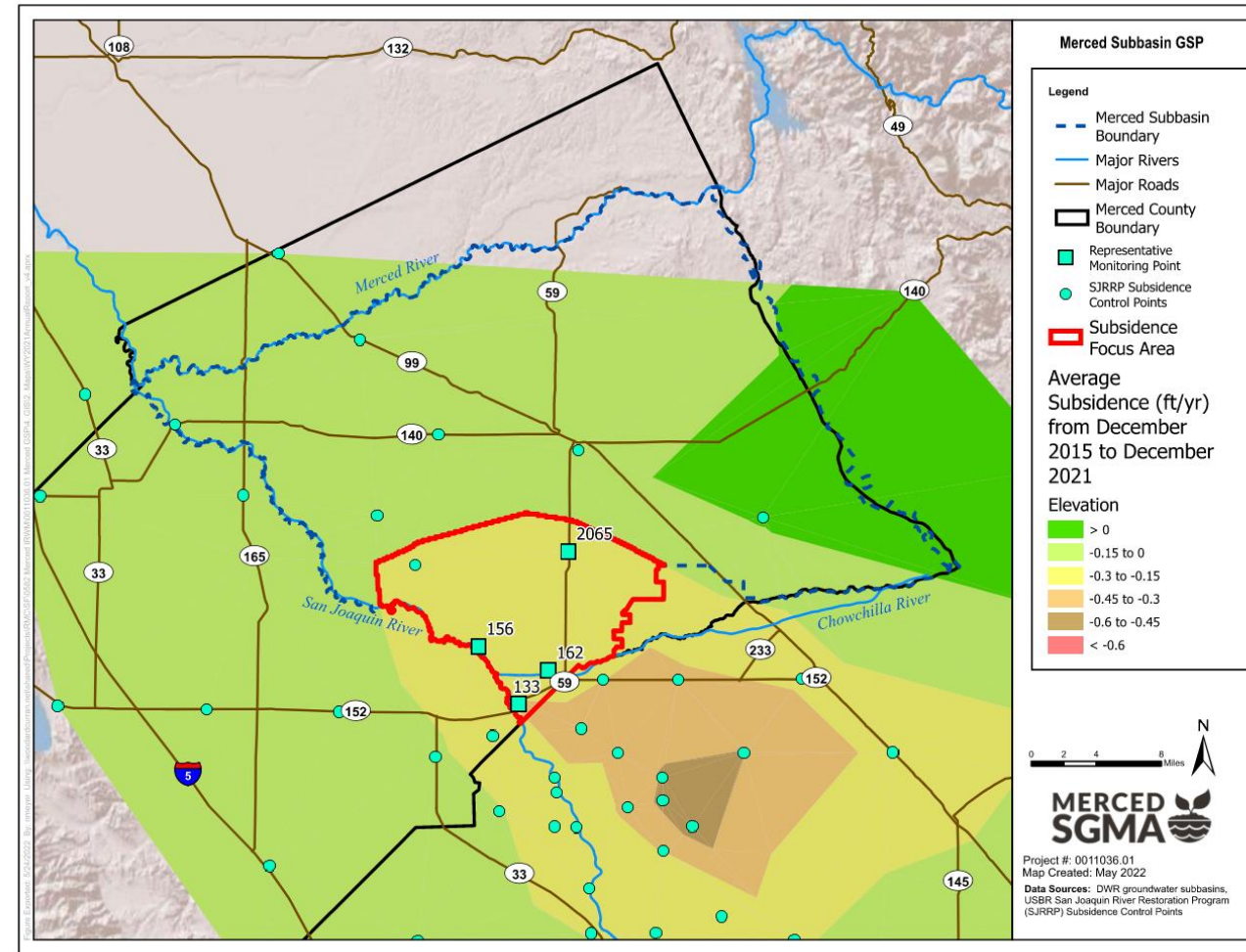


Image courtesy: Ve

Management Action for Domestic Well Mitigation Program

- Need for the program to be identified during GSP implementation
- Envisions a board or committee reviewing claims
- Claims would need to be tied to regional groundwater conditions
- Substantial discussion by GSAs related to funding – consideration of
 - Overdraft conditions by GSAs since 1/1/2015
 - Spatial relationships of pumping to impacts
 - Ability to define specifics at this time
- Full details to be developed

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Management Action for Above Corcoran Sustainable Management Criteria

- Intended to address unique conditions
 - Aquifer has not been substantially used
 - Subsidence may be mitigated by moving pumping shallower in the aquifer system
- Revisions to GSP may limit the ability to use this aquifer
 - Previous criteria allowed for some level of groundwater level decline, based on domestic well depths
 - New criteria keeps groundwater levels at or above 2015 levels
- Intent would be to allow use without significant and unreasonable impacts
- Details to be developed

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Revised GSP and Future Work

- Revised GSP to be finalized, approved, and submitted to DWR in July
- Future work to be developed by the GSAs
 - Groundwater allocation plan, measurement, and reporting
 - GSA-level allocation plans
 - Recharge projects
 - Additional monitoring wells
 - Develop sustainable management criteria at additional representative monitoring wells for groundwater levels
 - Domestic well mitigation program
 - Above Corcoran thresholds in subsidence area
 - Continued coordination with neighboring subbasins
 - Continued annual reporting
 - Continued stakeholder meetings
- Next GSP evaluation in 2025

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

Impacts of not Adopting – State Intervention

Annual Fees for Groundwater Extraction reports

| Fee Category | Annual Fee Amount | Applicable Parties |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| Base Filing Fee | \$300 per well | All extractors required to report |
| Probationary Basin 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 | Parties that extract, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less per year from a probationary basin, If the Board decides the extractions will likely be significant. |
| Late Fee | 25% of total fee amount per month late | Extractors that do not file reports by the due date. |

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/sgma/reporting_and_fees.html

- Costs above are only filing fees for extraction reports –\$20M - \$40M a year
- State likely to require metering and additional fees for technical reports, monitoring programs, and implementation activities
- State does not understand local conditions and cannot manage cost effectively

Next Steps in Adoption Process

- GSAs currently reviewing redline document
- Through early July - GSA review and edits
- Adoption meetings by GSA Boards:
 - TIWD GSA-#1 – July 12
 - MIUGSA – July 13
 - MSGSA – July 14/19
- Document to be available prior to Board meetings

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Reports

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



GSA Reports

- Updates from each GSA on activities they are undertaking in their own jurisdiction:
 - Merced Subbasin GSA
 - Merced Irrigation-Urban GSA
 - Turner Island Water District GSA #1

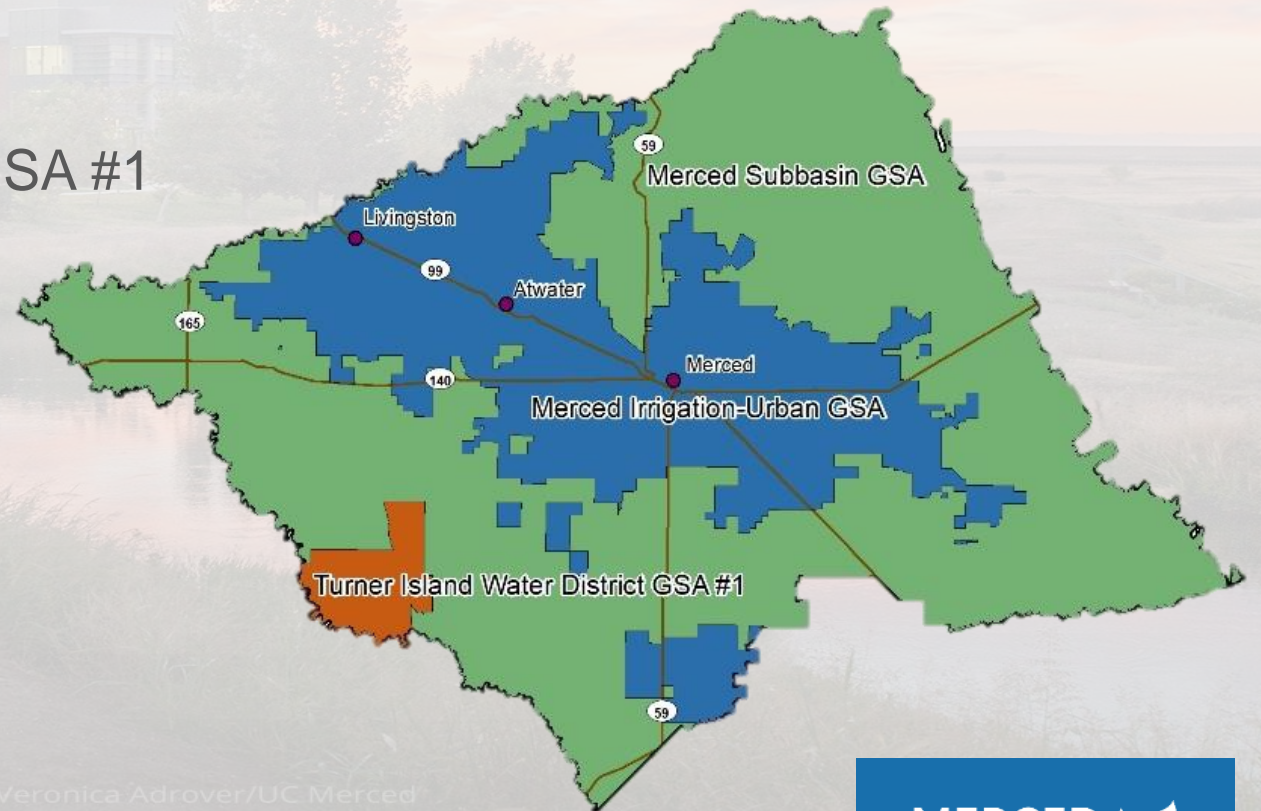


Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



Next Steps

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced



What's coming up next?

- GSP adoption meetings in July
- Adjourn to next meeting: expected October 2022

Image courtesy: Veronica Adrover/UC Merced

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