














UKIAH VALLEY BASIN SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

The Ukiah Valley Basin is a medium-priority groundwater basin managed by the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA), formed between the County of Mendocino, City of Ukiah, Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District, and Upper Russian River Water Agency. Under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the GSA is charged with ensuring sustainable management of the Ukiah Valley Basin's groundwater resources consistent with the Basin's Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). This Newsletter serves to provide an update on GSA activities and implementation of the GSP.

Status of the Basin

The Ukiah Valley Basin's Sustainability Goal, as outlined in the GSP, is to maintain groundwater resources to best support the continued and long-term health of the people, the environment, and the economy in Ukiah Valley, for generations to come. To demonstrate progress towards this goal, Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) are used to measure and assess groundwater conditions in the Basin. SMC take the form of indicators or "effects" caused by changing groundwater conditions which are monitored to ensure these effects do not become significant or unreasonable. There are five SMC which are monitored in the Ukiah Valley Basin. The ratings given to the right are based on information from the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Plan Annual Report, which can be accessed here: bit.ly/UkiahAR.

		
Lowering GW Levels	Reduction of Storage	Seawater Intrusion
		NA
		
Degraded Quality	Land Subsidence	Surface Water Depletion
		

Green indicates that conditions are in line with goals laid out in the GSP. Yellow indicates that conditions may require actions to be taken if conditions do not improve.



Continued Groundwater Monitoring

As drought continues and precipitation remains scarce, monitoring efforts have continued throughout the Basin to help provide important data on local groundwater conditions. The GSA monitors over 40 wells spread across the Ukiah Valley Basin to get a better picture of aquifer conditions and keep an eye on any fluctuations in groundwater levels and water quality. Monitoring is conducted by the Mendocino County Resource Conservation District on a monthly to annual basis and the results are used to continually improve and refine the groundwater model for the Basin. Land subsidence data is obtained from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Get to Know Your GSA

The Ukiah Valley Basin GSA is composed of a Board of Directors, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and various staff members which provide support to GSA operations. Erik Cadaret of West Yost Associates serves as the General Manager of the GSA. Erik is a professional geologist experienced in working on regional and basin scale water resources and SGMA projects in California. Erik also serves on the Board of Directors for the Groundwater Resources Association of California. Erik is thrilled to serve in this role to collaborate with GSA leadership and stakeholders to successfully implement the GSP.



Additional Resources

[How to Read a GSP](#)

[Ukiah Valley Basin GSP](#)

[Annual Report](#)

[Governor's Executive Order](#)

[Communication and Engagement Plan](#)

Recent Achievements

GSP Submittal and DWR Review

The Ukiah Valley Basin GSP was submitted to DWR on January 28th, 2022. DWR will now review the GSP and provide their determination and feedback on the plan by the end of 2023, or sooner. The plan may be determined to be adequate, incomplete, or inadequate, with incomplete or inadequate designations requiring corrective actions. After initial submittal and review, DWR will evaluate GSPs and their updates every 5 years, starting in 2027, to track basin performance over time.

Expanding Staff

In March 2022, the GSA hired West Yost Associates to provide Administration Services to further expand the GSA’s capabilities to address the ever-changing needs throughout the Basin during GSP implementation. These services include facilitation of Board and TAC meetings, workshops, GSP implementation oversight, contracts and fiscal management, grant writing and management, maintenance of the GSA website, and administration of outreach.

The GSA also acquired Legal Counsel Services to provide responsive and robust expertise when navigating implementation of the GSP. The Kronick Moskovitz Teidemann & Girard (Kronick) law firm was selected by recommendation of the Ad-Hoc committee to provide these services. Kronick will be advising the GSA on legal matters such as Brown Act compliance, the review of Executive Orders, and ensuring that GSA actions are consistent with laws under SGMA.

Upcoming Work

Education and Outreach Efforts

Earlier this year, the GSA adopted an updated Outreach and Engagement Plan (see link in “Additional Resources”).

The GSA is expanding education and outreach activities through more frequent workshops, distribution of newsletters such as this one, and increased presence at non-GSA-hosted meetings of beneficial groundwater users to provide updates on GSA activities. **Do you have suggestions for meetings or groups the GSA should connect with? Let us know by emailing uvbgsa@mendocinocounty.org!**

Currently, the GSA is pursuing funding through Round 2 of the DWR Sustainable Groundwater Management Implementation Grant. If awarded, these funds would be used to support increased stakeholder engagement during implementation of GSP projects and management actions.

Well Permitting

The GSA is coordinating with Mendocino County Environmental Health to comply with Executive Order N-7-22, which furthered the State’s drought response by requiring new well permitting provisions in groundwater basins which are subject to SGMA. The GSA and the County are planning a two-part workshop to share more information about the Executive Order and solicit feedback from stakeholders (see “Upcoming Events”).

Upcoming Events

County Well Permitting Workshop: Part 1 November 15th 5—6:30pm Barra of Mendocino Winery	Ukiah Valley Basin GSA TAC Meeting December 7th 1—3pm Zoom meeting (link can be found online)	Ukiah Valley Basin GSA Board Meeting December 15th 1:30—3pm Zoom meeting (link can be found online)
County Well Permitting Workshop: Part 2 January 2023 Time and Location To Be Determined	Tribal Workshop February 2023 Time and Location To Be Determined	

