

Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Draft Section for Public Comment

Section 9

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Projects and Management Actions

Released for Comment April 8, 2021

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Thank you for your interest in sustainable groundwater management.



Draft Atascadero Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Projects and Management Actions

Section 9

DRAFT

April 2021



Prepared for: Atascadero Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

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9. Projects and Management Actions

The participating agencies of the Atascadero Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) agree to work together to protect the groundwater resources of the Atascadero Basin (Basin) to meet the current and future beneficial uses in the Basin by developing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that conforms with the requirements of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The hydrologic conditions and hydrogeologic setting of the Basin and ongoing proactive water management have demonstrated the resilient nature of the Basin and avoidance of groundwater overdraft conditions. As a result, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) has designated the Basin as very low basin priority that is being sustainably managed.

This section describes the projects and management actions that will be developed and implemented in the Basin to continue to sustainably operate the Basin in accordance with §354.42 and §354.44 of the SGMA regulations.

Because the Basin is currently being managed sustainably, as evidenced by historic groundwater levels in the Basin, there are no projects or management actions that are required to achieve sustainability. Some future projects and management actions may assist in improving the understanding of the groundwater system to enhance the overall water management capability in the Basin to continually meet existing and new requirements and accountability for improved and more efficient water management.

The projects and management actions outlined below will be implemented with an as-needed, adaptive-management approach, with decisions based largely on funding availability and identified need at the time. The projects and management actions identified in this section are supported by the adaptive management strategy described in Section 10, which allow for the GSA to respond to unexpected changes in conditions so that potential future undesirable results can be avoided.

9.1 Summary of Projects

Because the Basin is currently managed sustainably there are no projects that are required to achieve sustainability. However, there are some projects that are desired to fill existing data gaps and to enhance the GSA's understanding of the Basin.

9.1.1 *Supplement the Monitoring Network*

The existing monitoring network and Representative Monitoring Network are presented in Section 7 (Monitoring Networks) of this GSP. This section identified the existing monitoring networks (for groundwater levels and groundwater quality) satisfy the requirements of the

guidelines in the GSP regulations and Best Management Practices (BMPs) published by DWR on monitoring networks (DWR, 2016). Section 7 also identified some data gaps and plans to fill those data gaps which are outlined below. The initial priority to fill the data gaps includes identifying existing wells that can be added to the monitoring network. Where existing wells cannot be identified or permission provided by well owners for their wells to be added to the monitoring network, new dedicated monitoring wells may be constructed to fill the data gaps

9.1.1.1 Groundwater Level Monitoring Improvements

The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District (County) has been monitoring groundwater levels county-wide on a semi-annual basis for more than 50 years to support general planning and for engineering purposes. Groundwater level measurements are taken once in the spring and once in the fall. The monitoring takes place from a voluntary network of wells. The voluntary monitoring network has changed over time as access to wells has been lost or new wells have been added to the network. Routine monitoring of groundwater levels is conducted by the County in the Basin. The monitoring network also includes private wells in the Basin that are monitored under confidentiality agreements. These wells are not shown on GSP maps and figures.

The existing GSP groundwater level monitoring network satisfies the requirements cited in DWR's BMP. However, hydrogeologists working with the GSA have identified two areas in the Basin where the network could be enhanced. These data gaps are in the Paso Robles Formation Aquifer and Alluvial Aquifer in locations where existing private agricultural and domestic supply wells exist.

The GSA will take the initial steps to fill these data gaps by reaching out to the private well owners in these areas to assess their willingness to participate in the monitoring program and the suitability of their well(s) for inclusion in the monitoring network. Notices will also be placed on the project website to inform the public and other agencies regarding the expansion of the monitoring network. The GSA will investigate incorporating existing wells into the monitoring network to the extent that they meet the needs and requirements of the monitoring program.

This activity will be completed within the first five years of implementation to supplement the existing monitoring network. This activity will continue to improve the understanding of aquifer conditions, support development of the groundwater model, and monitor groundwater conditions. This activity supports the development of the best available information in the basin and helps reduce the uncertainty of the basin setting and groundwater conditions.

Because this activity focuses on using existing wells there are no permitting or regulatory processes required. The GSA will plan to get permission from the well owners to allow their information to be included in the voluntary network so the data from the well may be shared with the public, otherwise the information will be collected under the confidentiality agreement.

A portion of this activity will be directed by the purveyors in the Basin, or the County as part of their normal operations, so there is no anticipated additional cost for the identification of potential wells to be considered. Additional consulting support will be needed to evaluate the specific wells to add to the network, assessing the suitability of the well (proximity to others, aquifer, well depth, screen intervals, etc), contacting the owners, and incorporating the new wells into the network. This activity will be directed and paid for by the GSA and may have costs ranging from \$50,000 to \$100,000 over the five-year period.

9.1.1.2 Groundwater Quality Monitoring Improvements

The GSP groundwater quality monitoring network is based on existing supply wells and there are no spatial data gaps in the network. There is adequate spatial coverage in the network for both principal aquifers to assess impacts to beneficial uses and users. The primary data gap is that well depth and construction information for many wells in the monitoring network is unknown. The GSA will try to fill this data gap by trying to match wells included in the groundwater quality monitoring network with well logs.

This activity supports the development of the best available information in the basin and helps reduce the uncertainty of the basin setting and groundwater quality conditions by providing additional understanding of the water quality within the primary aquifers. This activity will be completed within the first five years of implementation for the wells currently in the groundwater quality monitoring network. Because this activity focuses on using existing wells there are no permitting or regulatory processes required. This activity will be directed by the purveyors in the Basin, or the County as part of their normal operations, so there is no anticipated additional cost for this activity. Additional consulting support will be needed to evaluate the specific well logs to add to the wells included in the groundwater quality network. This activity will be directed and paid for by the GSA and may have costs ranging from \$20,000 to \$50,000 over the five-year period.

9.1.1.3 Identify New Monitoring Wells for Incorporation into the Groundwater Level Monitoring Network

The GSA will investigate the need for new monitoring wells on an as-needed basis, to the extent existing wells cannot fill groundwater level data gaps. These wells can fill gaps spatially, with depth, or gaps related to Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDEs) and surface water/groundwater interaction. Additionally, the wells may provide locations to assist in aquifer testing and may provide additional locations for water quality monitoring. The GSA will evaluate the need for new monitoring wells in the very shallow subsurface to improve the understanding of GDEs and surface water/groundwater interaction.

This activity will be completed within the first five years of implementation to supplement the existing monitoring network to continue improving the understanding of aquifer conditions. This activity supports the development of the best available information in the basin and helps

reduce the uncertainty of the basin setting and groundwater conditions by filling data gaps in the basin setting and monitoring basin conditions

This activity will be directed and paid for by the GSA and may have costs ranging from \$100,000 to \$250,000 over the five-year period. Because this activity focuses on new wells there will be some permitting or regulatory processes required. Notices will also be placed on the project website to inform the public and other agencies regarding the potential expansion of the monitoring network.

9.1.2 *Develop a Groundwater Model*

A groundwater model will need to be developed specific to the Basin and surrounding watersheds to improve the basin understanding to support ongoing sustainable management of the Basin. The model will need to reflect the latest groundwater basin boundaries identified in the 2016 Basin Boundary Modification. The model should account for the water demands of the beneficial users in the Basin and represent surface and subsurface inflows from the surrounding watersheds. The model should correlate with the model used in the adjacent Paso Robles Subbasin to reflect boundary conditions between the two basins.

Once developed, the model will be the primary technical tool in overall groundwater management, including supporting GSP updates and implementation. Scheduled within the first 5 years of implementation, the GSA will lead development of the model. The model will be updated as needed, but no less than every 5 years, to maintain an accurate representation of groundwater management activities and their impact on the groundwater resources within the Basin.

This activity will be completed within the first five years of implementation to continue improving the understanding of aquifer conditions and management considerations in the Basin and assess and potentially refine the sustainable management criteria. This activity supports the development of the best available information in the basin and helps reduce the uncertainty of the basin setting and groundwater conditions.

There are no regulatory or permitting requirements to develop the groundwater model. This activity will be directed and funded by the GSA and may have costs ranging from \$200,000 to \$300,000. Actual costs to develop the groundwater model will need to be refined based on developing the modeling goals and objectives.

Notices will also be placed on the project website to inform the public and other agencies regarding the development of the groundwater model.

9.2 Summary of Management Actions

The stakeholders of the Basin have actively managed the Basin for many years prior to and following the signing of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in 2014. Currently the Basin is identified as a very low priority basin based on the 2019 DWR Basin Prioritization. As a result of the Basin status and ongoing groundwater management activities, implementation of many of the actions identified in this GSP will occur on an as-needed basis during the first five years of implementation to maintain the sustainable groundwater conditions of the Basin.

In general, basin-wide management actions will apply to all areas within the Basin and reflect basic GSP implementation requirements such as monitoring, reporting, and outreach, including necessary studies and early planning work; monitoring and filling data gaps with additional monitoring sites; and annual reports and GSP updates. Area-specific management actions may be implemented in those areas experiencing persistent issues that may not support the continuing sustainable management of the Basin. An adaptive management approach will be implemented to identify the specific actions necessary to meet local needs and support basin-wide sustainable groundwater management.

9.2.1 Basin-Wide Management Actions

The GSA will take the initial steps on the Basin-wide management actions associated with monitoring and reporting information associated with implementation of the GSP described below.

To inform stakeholders and interested parties of these activities, notices will be included in billing statements issued by water purveyors. Those individuals not receiving water from one of the waters providers in the Basin will be contacted by mail. This approach has been used during the development of the GSP. Additionally, a notice will be placed on the project website to inform the public and other agencies regarding the status of these activities.

This activity will be completed on an as-needed basis throughout the first five years of implementation. This activity supports the development and distribution of the best available information in the basin and helps inform other agencies, basin stakeholders and interested parties.

There are no permitting requirements associated with this activity. This activity will be directed by the purveyors in the Basin, or the County as part of their normal operations, so there is no anticipated additional cost for this activity. Information regarding GSP implementation will be included in bills for customers within the boundaries of water purveyors. For landowners outside of the boundaries will be contacted by mail. During previous groundwater management activities, including the preparation of this GSP, AMWC has sent out information to those property owners outside the purveyor boundaries in the Atascadero Basin, and will continue to do that during the first five-year implementation period.

9.2.1.1 Monitoring, Reporting, and Outreach

Monitoring, reporting, and outreach reflect the core functions that the GSAs need to provide to comply with SGMA regulations. The GSAs will direct the monitoring programs outlined in Section 7 to track Basin conditions related to the five sustainability indicators that are applicable to the Basin. Data from the monitoring programs will be routinely evaluated to ensure sustainability is maintained or to identify whether undesirable results are on the horizon. Data will be maintained in the Data Management System (DMS). Data from the monitoring program will be used by the GSA to guide decisions on management actions in the Basin. Data will be used to prepare annual reports to Basin stakeholders and the DWR. The reports will provide information to guide decisions on projects that may affect the Basin. Reports will comply with DWR submittal requirements and will be signed by a GSA authorized party. Data will be organized and available to the public to document Basin conditions relative to Sustainable Management Criteria (Section 8).

9.2.1.2 De Minimis Self-Certification

De minimis extractor means a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less per year. During the first five years of implementation if it is determined that the current estimates of de minimis extractions may not represent the pumping amounts, the GSA will consider developing a process to allow *de minimis* basin extractors to self-certify that they extract two (2) acre-feet or less per year for domestic purposes. If needed this activity will be directed and paid for by the GSA and may have costs ranging up to \$50,000 over the five-year period.

9.2.1.3 Non-De Minimis Extraction and Reporting Program

The GSA will adopt water duty factors representative of various land uses within the basin to estimate groundwater extractions. These duty factors will be developed using metered data from properties with representative land uses. During the first five years of implementation if it is determined that the current estimates of pumping for non-de minimis extractions may not represent the actual pumping amounts, the GSA will consider developing a process to refine this information. If needed this activity will be directed and paid for by the GSA and may have costs ranging up to \$50,000 over the five-year period.

9.2.1.4 Annual Reports (SGMA Regulation §356.2)

Annual reports will be submitted to DWR starting on April 1, 2022. The purpose of the report is to provide monitoring and total groundwater use data to DWR, compare monitoring data to the sustainable management criteria, and to report on management actions and projects implemented to maintain sustainability. Annual reports will be available to Basin stakeholders.

9.2.1.5 5-Year GSP Updates and Amendments (SGMA Regulation §356.2)

In accordance with SGMA regulatory requirements (§356.4), five-year GSP assessment reports will be provided to DWR starting in 2027. The GSA will evaluate the GSP at least every five

years to assess whether it is maintaining the sustainability goal in the Basin. The assessments will include a description of significant new information that has been made available since GSP adoption or amendment and whether the new information or understanding warrants changes to any aspect of the plan.

9.2.1.6 Develop Public Data Portals and Coordinate on Data

The Basin is included in the County-wide Groundwater Data Management System (DMS) being developed for San Luis Obispo County to manage data collected and used to support groundwater management activities in the groundwater basins located within the County. The DMS is needed to meet SGMA requirements (§352.6). The DMS will be used to store collected data needed to support the management and reporting for the Basin. The DMS will need regular updates of the data collected for the Basin.

This activity is scheduled to be completed on a regular basis, anticipated to be twice a year, to enter water level and other data into the DMS to keep it current to support various reporting requirements.

9.2.1.7 Continued GDE Evaluation

GDEs are defined in the GSP regulations as “ecological communities or species that depend on groundwater emerging from aquifers or on groundwater occurring near the ground surface.” A process was performed to identify potential GDEs, as separate from vegetation that may receive water supplies from other sources.

The analysis was based on the best available science, including the NCCAG database and information on the local near surface hydrogeologic conditions as well as the connectivity between rivers and streams and the shallow aquifer. Rooting depths of the nearby vegetation was also considered in the GDE evaluation.

Scheduled within the first 5 years of implementation, the GSAs will consider analyzing a combination of shallow groundwater level data and remote sensing data on vegetative cover to further analyze any relationship between lower groundwater levels and reduced GDE health.

9.2.1.8 Estimation of Groundwater Uses

Metering groundwater production has been avoided due to the high initial and ongoing costs and the limited benefits of metering compared to available methods for estimating production. However, while domestic use can be estimated based on population and per-capita use, and agricultural use can be estimated based on crop type, self-supplied groundwater uses can be more difficult to estimate.

The initial approach is to conduct a study using existing metered wells at selected agricultural locations of various crop types to assess the accuracy of agricultural groundwater use. These

estimates could utilize California Irrigation Management Information System (CIMIS) data from the Atascadero Station (Station 163) to refine these estimates.

9.2.2 Specific Management Actions

Area-specific management actions may be implemented to target a localized area or aquifer to continue to meet local needs while supporting sustainable operation of the Basin. Some of the management actions listed below may be implemented as-needed based on implementation of the adaptive management approach.

9.2.2.1 Supplemental Supplies from Nacimiento Water Project

Several of the water purveyors within the Basin entered Water Delivery Entitlement Contracts with the County to participate in the Nacimiento Water Project (NWP). The NWP annual water supply allocations listed in Table 9-1 are for the purveyors in the Basin. As described in Section 6 (Water Budgets) during the current water budget period, representing the 2012-2016 period, the deliveries from the NWP ranged from 730 to 4,790 acre-feet per year and averaged 2,160 acre-feet per year. If needed in dry years, additional deliveries from the NWP up to the existing allocations could be imported to support groundwater pumping from the alluvial aquifer. The City of Paso Robles utilizes their NPW allocation in both the Atascadero Basin and the Paso Robles Subbasin. Only that portion of the NWP allocation used in the Atascadero Basin will be considered as this potential supply.

Table 9-1 Nacimiento Water Project Allocations

NWP Participants	Allocations (AFY)
AMWC	3,244
City of Paso Robles	6,488
Templeton CSD	406
SMR MWC	80
Total	10,218

Source: 2016-2018 Resource Summary Report Volume I of II – Findings and Recommendations San Luis Obispo County General Plan Public Review Draft page 16¹

This activity is part of normal operations and will be implemented annually by each NWP Partner throughout GSP implementation. This activity provides the greatest opportunity in the Basin to provide additional water supplies into the Basin to support sustainable groundwater management. This activity uses existing facilities and operations, so no additional permitting or regulatory processes are required. This activity will be directed by the NWP Partners in the Basin and is part of their normal operating costs, so there is no anticipated additional cost for this

¹ Same link as footnote 4 page 16

activity. The actual operations will be documented and reported to DWR, other agencies, and the public in the GSP annual reports.

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9.3 Projects and Management Actions Implementation

The Basin will implement projects and management actions under an adaptive management strategy when opportunity and funding are available. The GSA developed the two matrices below to support the decision-making process for initiation of projects and management action. Table 9-2 provides a summary of the status, criteria for implementation, the potential range of costs and the benefits of each project and management action. Table 9-3 summarizes how each project and management action will address the sustainability indicators for the Atascadero Basin.

Table 9-2. Projects and Actions Implementation Matrix

Activity	Status	Implementation Timing/ Criteria for Implementation	Range of Costs	Accrual of Benefits
PROJECTS				
Supplement the Monitoring Network	Ongoing	As needed	Considered to occur within existing operational costs of the water purveyors. Additional costs for specific activities are listed below.	Continuous improvement of monitoring network to support understanding of basin conditions
Groundwater Levels	Ongoing	Near-term. To occur within first 5 years	Additional costs could range \$50,000 to \$100,000 over first 5 years.	Fill groundwater level monitoring data gaps.
Groundwater Quality	Ongoing	Near-term. To occur within first 5 years	Additional costs could range \$20,000 to \$50,000 over first 5 years.	Improve understanding of water quality in principal aquifers
New Monitoring Well Identification and installation	As Needed	Near-term. To occur within first 5 years	Additional costs could range \$100,000 to \$250,000 over first 5 years.	Fill groundwater level monitoring data gaps.
Develop a Groundwater Model	Planned	Near-term. To occur within the first 5 years.	\$200,000 to \$300,000	Provide updates to first GSP update. Continually benefits from updated information to improve groundwater management.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS (BASINWIDE)				
De Minimis Self Certification	Planned	Near-term. To occur within the first 5 years.	Up to \$50,000 over first 5 years of implementation.	Improve understanding of groundwater

Activity	Status	Implementation Timing/ Criteria for Implementation	Range of Costs	Accrual of Benefits
				pumping amounts in Basin.
Non-De Minimis Extraction and Reporting Program	Planned	Near-term. To occur within the first 5 years.	Up to \$50,000 over first 5 years of implementation	Improve understanding of groundwater pumping amounts in Basin.
Annual Reports	Planned to comply with SGMA requirements.	Near-term. To occur Each year.	Estimated at \$70,000 for initial annual report. Less than that for following years.	Provide annual updates of continued sustainable management of Basin.
5-Year GSP Updates and Amendments	Planned to comply with SGMA requirements.	Near-term. To occur within the first 5 years.	Estimated at \$250,000 to \$300,000.	Provide updated state of the basin and documentation of sustainable groundwater management of Basin.
Develop Public Data Portals and Coordinate on Data	Ongoing	Near-term. To occur Each year.	Considered to occur within existing operational costs.	Continuous throughout GSP implementation. Evaluated through coordination activities and improvements to data management.
Continued GDE Evaluation	Planned	Near-term. To occur within the first 5 years.	\$50,000 to \$100,000 over first 5 years.	Improve understanding GDE's in basin and surface water-groundwater interaction.
Estimation of Groundwater Uses	Planned	Near-term. To occur within the first 5 years.	Less than \$50,000 over first 5 years.	Improve understanding of groundwater pumping amounts in Basin.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS (AREA-SPECIFIC)				
Supplemental Supplies from Nacimiento Water Project	Ongoing	To occur each year as part of normal operations. May be modified to address drought conditions	Considered to occur within existing operational costs.	Continuous throughout GSP implementation.

Table 9-3 Adaptive Management Strategy by Sustainability Indicator

Activity	Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels and Change in Groundwater Storage	Degraded Water Quality	Land Subsidence	Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water
PROJECTS				
Supplement the Monitoring Network	Continuation of existing monitoring network to continue improving the understanding of aquifer conditions and groundwater movement to monitor for meeting sustainable management criteria.	Continuation of groundwater level monitoring to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators.	Continuation of groundwater level monitoring to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators.	Continuation of existing monitoring network to continue improving the understanding of aquifer conditions and groundwater movement to monitor for meeting sustainable management criteria.
Groundwater Levels	Further improvement of monitoring network to better understand aquifer conditions.	Further improvement of monitoring network to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators	Further improvement of monitoring network to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators	Further improvement of monitoring network to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators
Groundwater Quality	Not applicable	Further improvement of monitoring network to better understand aquifer conditions.	Not applicable	Not applicable
New Monitoring Well Identification	Further improvement of monitoring network in order to better understand aquifer conditions.	Further improvement of monitoring network to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators	Further improvement of monitoring network to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators	Further improvement of monitoring network to support analysis related to other sustainability indicators
Develop a Groundwater Model	Atascadero Basin groundwater model will improve the understanding of the basin and groundwater management.	The groundwater model will improve the improve the ability to manage quality changes driven by upwelling or changes in flow direction.	The groundwater model will improve the improve the ability to manage groundwater levels, which influences the risk of subsidence.	The groundwater model will improve the improve the ability to understand and manage surface water depletions.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS (BASINWIDE)				
De Minimis Self Certification	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels.	Not applicable	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels,	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels,

Activity	Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels and Change in Groundwater Storage	Degraded Water Quality	Land Subsidence	Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water
			which influences the risk of subsidence.	and the related depletions.
Non-De Minimis Extraction and Reporting Program	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels.	Not applicable	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels, which influences the potential for subsidence.	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels, and the related depletions.
Annual Reports	Openness and transparency of GSP showing continued sustainable management.	Openness and transparency of GSP showing continued sustainable management.	Openness and transparency of GSP showing continued sustainable management.	Openness and transparency of GSP showing continued sustainable management.
5-Year GSP Updates and Amendments	Continued and improved sharing of data across organizations, including data to support indicators.	Continued and improved sharing of data across organizations, including data to support indicators.	Continued and improved sharing of data across organizations, including data to support indicators.	Continued and improved sharing of data across organizations, including data to support indicators.
Develop Public Data Portals and Coordinate on Data	Improved data maintenance, data access, data sharing, and transparency.	Improved data maintenance, data access, data sharing, and transparency.	Improved data maintenance, data access, data sharing, and transparency.	Improved data maintenance, data access, data sharing, and transparency.
Continued GDE Evaluation	Improves the understanding of how GDEs relate to the groundwater aquifer accessed by pumping. May allow for refinement of how GDEs are incorporated into the criteria.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Improvement in the understanding of the interaction of deep and shallow groundwater conditions may benefit understanding of depletions.
Estimation of Groundwater Uses	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels.	Not applicable	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels, which influences the risk of subsidence.	Improves the understanding of groundwater production, improving the ability to manage groundwater levels, and the related depletions.

Activity	Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels and Change in Groundwater Storage	Degraded Water Quality	Land Subsidence	Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS (AREA-SPECIFIC)				
Supplemental Supplies from Nacimiento Water Project	Provides operational flexibility to manage groundwater levels in the Basin to meet sustainable management criteria.	Provides operational flexibility to manage groundwater levels in the Basin to meet sustainable management criteria.	Provides operational flexibility to manage groundwater levels in the Basin to meet sustainable management criteria.	Provides operational flexibility to manage groundwater levels in the Basin to meet sustainable management criteria.