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Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Basin

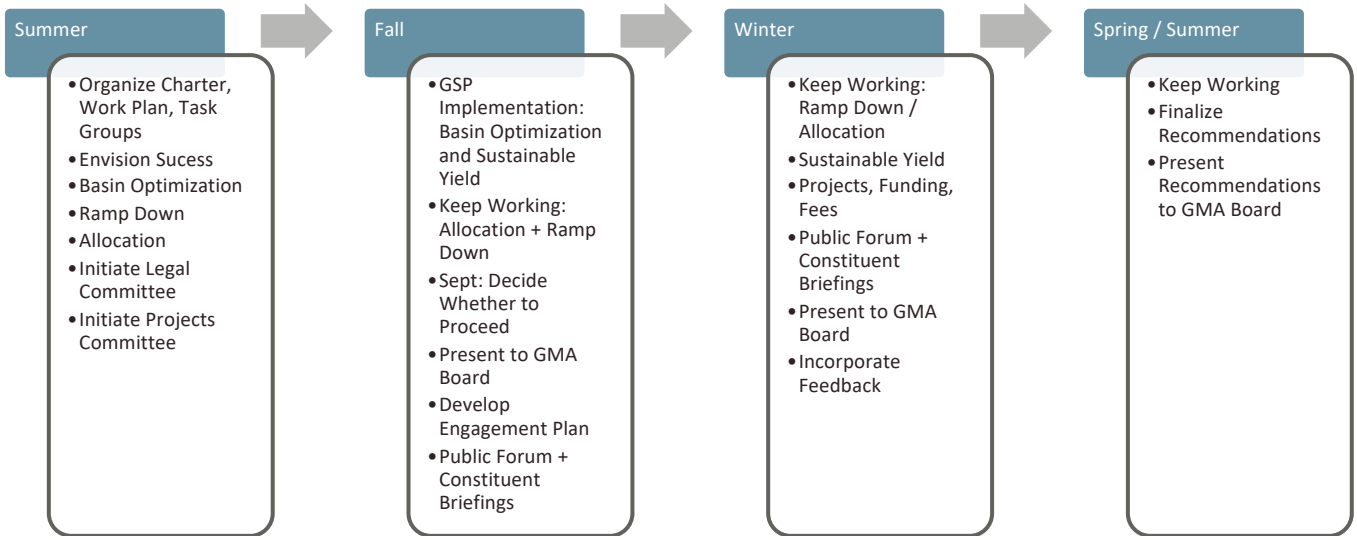
Facilitated Process Discussion Framing

Developed by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI) in consultation with Kim Loeb, Groundwater Manager, FCGMA

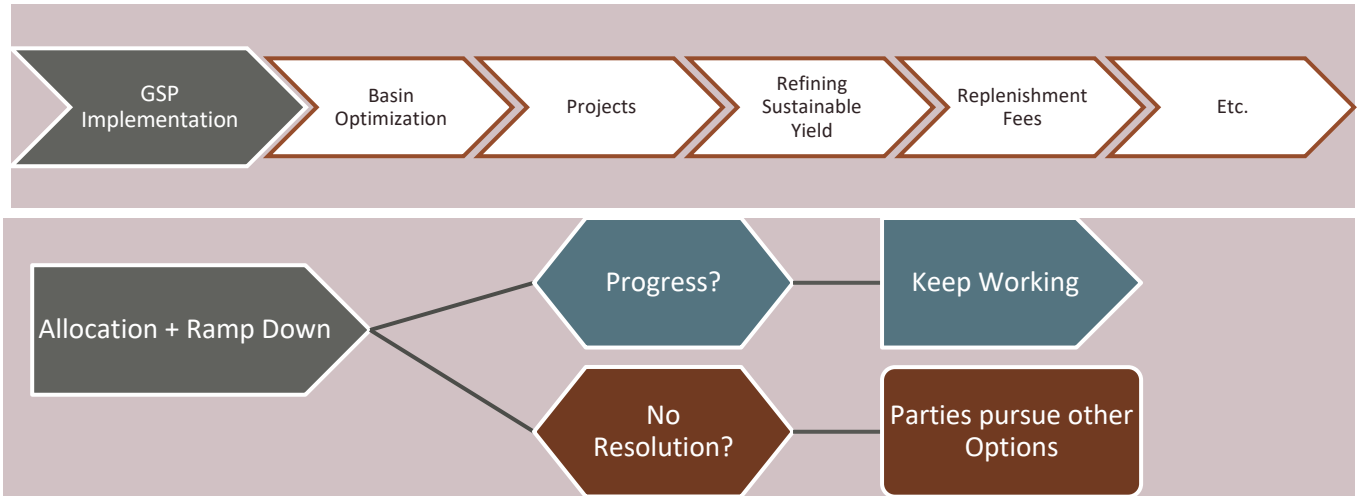
Updated: 8.11.2020

This document will serve as tool to the overarching "road map," meeting plan, and topics under consideration. CBI will track this document in consultation with technical staff.

Road Map



Core Stakeholder Group Bodies of Work



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Meeting Plan

Core Stakeholder Group Meeting Framework	
1 6.25.20	Framing Success in 2040 Charter and Meeting Plan Confirm managing Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins together **Prepare for Basin Optimization Work**
2 7.16.20	Refine Charter, Discuss Group Composition **Basin Optimization**
3 8.4.20	**Charter** Next Steps Frame Issues on **Ramp Down** Discuss **Legal Ad Hoc Committee** Purpose and Objectives
4 8.18.20	**Managing Basins Together** Frame Issues on **Allocation** and Discuss **Ramp Down** Criteria and Options Review Refinements on **Legal Committee** Charge, Purpose, and Objectives Begin discussing Purpose and Objectives for **Projects Ad Hoc Committee**
5 9.1.20	**Basin Optimization Scenarios** (Decision Criteria and Feedback on Proposed Scenarios) Finalize **Project Committee** Composition and Charge Decide to proceed… Agree on briefing talking points and spokespeople for GMA Board and other constituent organizations **Charter** Back-Up Voting
6 9.15.20	**Ramp Down** Criteria and Options
Sept 23	**FCGMA Board** (deadline ~9.10.20) Seek policy approval on Managing the Basins Together
7 9.29.20	**Ramp Down** Options
8 10.13.20	**Ramp Down** Options Develop plan to vet Ramp Down Options with public, constituents, Board, etc.
9 10.27.20	

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Managing Basins Together

Problem to be Solved	Are we managing Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Basin as one basin or separately? Should the West Las Posas Subbasin be included? What aspects of management should be done together or separately? (replenishment fees, allocation systems, ramp downs, final sustainability yield allocations, etc.) How will the costs of projects be shared across the basins? How will pumping be distributed across the basins and between the upper and lower aquifer systems?
Existing Policy	Allocation Ordinance: The ordinance allocates pumping across the two basins.
Resources	California Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 defines the boundaries of groundwater basins in California Groundwater Sustainability Plans One Water Roadmap Executive Summary
Key Term Definitions	
Stakeholder Interests + Issues	▪ Basin management boundaries should be based on the hydrology of the region. ▪ Basins are connected across the lower aquifer system. ▪ Differential between basins and aquifer systems in pumping reductions required to achieve sustainability. ▪ Management and operational efficiencies ▪ Shared funding for projects that benefit the region
Decision Criteria	▪ Management and operational efficiencies ▪ Pathway to achieve sustainability
Options	▪ Manage basins together ▪ Manage basins separately
Concept Proposals	Seek GMA Board direction on whether the Oxnard Subbasin and Pleasant Valley Basins (or aspects of management) are being managed together or separately and to assess whether West Las Posas Subbasin should be included. Also,
Preliminary Recommendation	
Agreements / Recommendations	

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Basin Optimization

Problems to be Solved	How do we create the highest yield by shifting pumping physically around the basins and between the upper and lower aquifer systems? What scenarios do we want to consider or model to analyze the basin yield? *Future Questions* What projects or infrastructure are necessary to optimize the basin? What is feasibility of those projects? What are the costs? What are the economics of the projects? What provides the best cost/benefit? How do we pay for these projects? Based on what we have learned on basin optimization scenario modeling, what is the impact on sustainable yield?
Existing Policy	None at this time
Resources	See **Optimization Technical Memo**, United, John Lindquist [Add Link] **Redistribution of pumping between upper and lower aquifer systems** ▪ United's Groundwater Planning document (GSP-Lite Open-File Report and Addendum A) preceded GSP and modeled uniform cut approach, yielded imbalance (surplus in upper and deficit in lower). Frames the question do we need to balance between the upper and lower. **Redistribution of water** ▪ United completed related analysis as part of ASSAP project design. (Proposed pipeline to provide water to the southern parts of the basin; on hold due to high costs.) Link to Report. **Seawater intrusion** ▪ Coastal brackish water treatment

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	▪ Injection barrier (no source of water) ▪ Creating cone of depression
Key Term Definitions	Optimization: creating highest yield by shifting pumping management, volume, and location (geologic or geographic) to maximize yield
Stakeholder Interests + Issues	▪ Reducing seawater intrusion ▪ Increasing supply ▪ Costs and how to pay for projects ▪ Monitoring and data verification to validate model inputs
Decision Criteria	▪ Reducing seawater intrusion ▪ Increasing supply ▪ Cost / benefit ▪ Financial feasibility: funding, financing
Concept Proposals	Core Stakeholder Group discussion held 7.16.20 **How do we create the highest yield by shifting pumping physically around the basins and between the upper and lower aquifer systems?** ▪ What is the maximum yield that we can achieve? ▪ Redistributing pumping between the upper and lower aquifer systems – United GSP "light" and GSP – looks at sustainable yield – we need to do more work on this ▪ Shifting supply by distributing water to vulnerable areas ▪ Managing seawater intrusion **What scenarios do we want to consider or model to analyze the basin yield?** (Note: Inputs = assumptions about supplies; Outputs = impact on basin yield) Reducing Groundwater Pumping ▪ Purchasing surface water (State Water Project or Article 21) ▪ Increasing agricultural irrigation and industrial water use efficiency Changing Volume of Water ▪ Options for wastewater reuse and stormwater capture; consider emphasis on local solutions ▪ Consider impact of water savings due to Arundo and invasive species removal ▪ Trade-off between pumping / cost of wells, and other infrastructure to transport ▪ Climate scenarios

	▪ Timing – when do we realize benefit – does it help us achieve sustainability? Shifts in Pumping: geographic or geologic ▪ How will shifting pumping away from the coast affect us? (From United Tech Memo) ▪ Shifts to address seawater intrusion ▪ Redistributing pumping between the upper and lower aquifer systems. Potentially need to factor in *differences in water quality which differs between upper and lower basins.*
Preliminary Recommendation	*forthcoming*
Agreements / Recommendations	

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Ramp Down

DISCUSSION TOPIC SEQUENCE: Interests > Decision Criteria > Options

Problem to be Solved	▪ How do the basins ramp down or reduce extraction to the sustainable yield by 2040? SGMA requires the basins to achieve sustainability by 2040. ▪ What makes a smarter ramp down? ▪ What concerns do you personally or do others have associated with a ramp down?
Existing Policy	Allocation Ordinance (does not stipulate a minimum allocation or ramp down method)
Resources	Oxnard GSP and Pleasant Valley GSP OPV White Paper Example: California Emergency Drought Regulation 25% Reduction Regulation (Fact Sheet Link and Resource Page) and Governor Executive Order Example: Borrego Water District Example Stipulated Judgment
Key Term Definitions	Ramp Down: *end point = sustainable yield* Allocation Reduction Method: *how you get there*
Stakeholder Interests + Issues	*Issues identified to date.* ▪ GMA Board has requested a minimum threshold per acre to avoid stranding land with no water. ▪ Responsive to different needs and constraints of high-water users and low-water users ▪ Move away from CombCodes towards land-based management of allocation as part of reduction strategy ▪ Treat surface water and groundwater together ▪ Manage water rights questions to create a legally defensible, durable approach. ▪ Limit cut-back requirements in short term (5 years) to allow time for project plans to materialize & inform long-term cut-back needs ▪ Develop multiple ramp-down pathways based on different degrees of success with water projects and basin optimization. I.e. Best-case scenario ramp down with significant new water; middle option and worst-case option.
Decision Criteria	*To be developed: What variables does the Core Stakeholder Group use to consider and evaluate ramp down options?*

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Options and Ideas	▪ Reduce by % from the base period ▪ Establish minimum allocation or acre-foot per acre of land ▪ OPV White Paper Hybrid Method: % reduction and AF/acre ▪ Others?
Concept Proposals	*To be developed*
Preliminary Recommendation	*To be developed*
Agreements / Recommendations	*To be developed*

Allocation

Facilitators' Note: The facilitators would like to acknowledge the history, work, and extensive conversations that have gone into developing the allocation plan, culminating with the adoption of the allocation ordinance. The facilitators acknowledge that the GMA and some stakeholders do not want to reopen the allocation ordinance. The facilitators acknowledge that the allocation plan is a primary driver for other stakeholders' participation in the facilitated process. However, given the articulated goal of avoiding adjudication and given that the ordinance left open some issues to be addressed, the Core Stakeholder Group will consider and decide which issues merit group discussion.

Problem(s) to be Solved	What are the elements of the Allocation Plan that need to be developed or merit attention or refinement? What are the key issues that the group needs to tackle to fully implement the allocation ordinance, specifically, or an allocation plan, more generally?
Existing Policy	Allocation Ordinance Groundwater Market Pilot Project in Oxnard Subbasin
Resources	Trading Sustainably: Critical Considerations for Local Groundwater Markets under SGMA, Nylen et al, Wheeler Water Institute (June 2017)
Key Term Definitions	
Stakeholder Interests + Issues	*Ideas expressed during stakeholder assessment process* ▪ Incentivize conjunctive use ▪ Clarifications on carryover ▪ Avoid penalizing farmers who were early adopters of conservation

	measures ▪ Avoid big winners and losers—everyone “feel some pain” ▪ Avoid zero allocations ▪ Address issues of poor historical data on water use ▪ Base period and initial allocation ▪ Equitable partitioning of water between M & I and Ag
Decision Criteria	
Concept Proposals	
Preliminary Recommendation	
Agreements / Recommendations	

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Projects

Problem(s) to be Solved	Align projects with GSP objectives & regional water needs. Develop cohesive strategy stemming from needs & GSP objectives. What projects or infrastructure are necessary to optimize the basin? What is feasibility of those projects? What are the costs? What are the economics of the projects? What provides the best cost/benefit? What are opportunities for multiple benefits? How do we pay for these projects?
Existing Policy	Projects in GSPs
Resources	Projects in GSPs United Water proposals (See Projects on web site and recent Water Summit information (Link)
Key Term Definitions	
Stakeholder Interests + Issues	▪ Driven by regional leadership to develop projects with region-wide benefits. ▪ Focus on "low hanging fruit" (e.g. increase capacity of GREAT project) ▪ Consider prioritizing multiple-benefit focused projects ▪ Water quality considerations ▪ Prioritize most cost-effective projects ▪ Replenishment fees are equitable, logical, and transparent ▪ Explore creative financial solutions to incentivize basin recharge
Decision Criteria	▪ Results of cost-benefit analysis ▪ Ease / feasibility of implementation ▪ Impacts to the price of water ▪ Impacts to water quality ▪ Drought resilience
Concept Proposals	▪ Run groundwater models assuming that we advance basin optimization plans ▪ Refine "sustainable yield" based on optimization-enhanced model results ▪ Conduct cost-benefit analysis of projects targeted towards new sustainable yield
Sequence of Work	1. *Model & Data Discussion*: Open discussion about the groundwater model's strengths, weaknesses & assumptions so all are on the same page.

	2. *Clarify Potential Gains from Basin Optimization*: Discuss optimization efforts that have high likelihood of success & run models with optimization efforts included to estimate groundwater conditions post-optimization. 3. *Standardized Parameters for Projects:* Develop a standardized package to guide project submissions to facilitate effective evaluation by Core Group & project committee. 4. *Cost/ Benefit Analysis:* Evaluate each of the projects based on standardized set of criteria. 5. *Project Vetting:* For promising projects, request additional detail from project sponsors to conduct further vetting for consideration in future iterations of GSPs. Address governance questions & issues. 6. *Funding:* Focus on joint fundraising efforts to increase chances of project success.
Other Considerations	▪ Water storage capacity
Preliminary Recommendation	
Agreements / Recommendations	

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Sustainable Yield

Problem(s) to be Solved	Based on what we have learned on basin optimization scenario modeling, what is the impact on sustainable yield?
Existing Policy	
Resources	GSP
Key Term Definitions	
Stakeholder Interests + Issues	
Decision Criteria	
Concept Proposals	
Preliminary Recommendation	
Agreements / Recommendations	

References

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Activities

Management Responsibilities *(Required by SGMA)*	**Management Authorities** *(GSA Discretionary Tools)*
• Preparing and implementing a Groundwater Sustainability Plan • Maintaining basin groundwater sustainability • Conducting public hearings regarding sustainability plan adoption or amendment • Submittal of annual reports ▪ Periodic review of sustainability plan	▪ Conduct studies ▪ Register and monitor wells ▪ Require extraction reporting ▪ Regulate extractions ▪ Implement capital projects ▪ Assess fees to cover costs ▪ Adopt rules, regulations, ordinances and resolutions

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Issue

Problem(s) to be Solved	
Existing Policy	
Resources	
Key Term Definitions	
Issues	
Decision Criteria	
Concept Proposals	
Preliminary Recommendation	
Agreements / Recommendations	

Topic Framework Explanation

Problem(s) to be Solved	The group will confer on the problem set that it will attempt to address.
Existing Policy	Outlines existing FCGMA or other existing policy that is related to this topic.
Resources	Citations and other work that could inform thinking on this topic.
Key Term Definitions	Definitions of key terms being used.
Stakeholder Interests + Issues	Stakeholder interests, issues, and other considerations. Recommendations and criteria will attempt to address as many issues as is possible.
Decision Criteria	The Core Stakeholder Group will develop decision criteria based on stakeholder interests. The group will weigh concept proposals against this criteria.
Options	The Group will brainstorm options.
Concept Proposals	The Core Stakeholder Group and technical staff will craft concept

	proposals for consideration and document options considered in the form of concept proposals.
Preliminary Recommendation	The Core Stakeholder Group will vet preliminary recommendations with constituents and the public.
Agreements / Recommendations	The Core Stakeholder Group will finalize agreements in the form of recommendations for the FCGMA Board to consider adopting.