

FEBRUARY 2023 NEWS UPDATE

East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

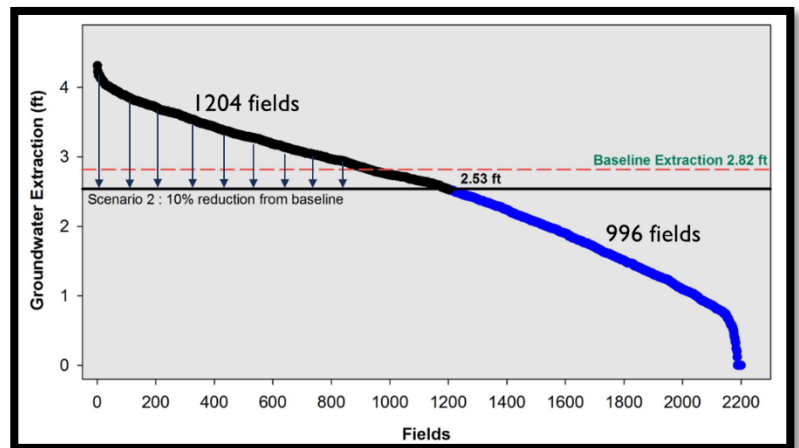
Recap of December 13, 2022 Workshop and Upcoming Workshop on March 7 to Finalize our Plans for Pilot Testing of our Pumping Management Framework

December 13, 2022 Workshop Recap

East Turlock Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (ETSGSA) is hosting a series of workshops to inform the public and get feedback regarding our efforts to comply with the requirements of California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). The second workshop in our series to support development of a Pumping Management Framework was held on December 13 in Cortez Hall in Ballico.

Sarah Woolfe (General Manager for Eastside Water District and ETSGSA Technical Advisory Chair) provided a recap about our goal to reach sustainable management under local control by 2042 through a combination of recharge projects and demand management actions, and what we have done to date. Julianne Phillips presented some examples of what other GSAs have done in terms of pumping management and fee programs, and there was discussion about how this might apply to us. Next, Mike Tietze (Coordinator/General Manager for ETSGSA) talked about the GSA's recommended approach and timeline to implement groundwater pumping reductions. We would start with a pilot program first, then launch a virtual dashboard, get feedback, and implement the full scale program in the 2024 irrigation season. It was discussed that while the GSA Board prefers an aggressive timeline based on the feedback it has gotten so far, there is flexibility under our Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to spend more time on ironing out the details if that is necessary, and to start implementation in the 2025 irrigation season.

Dr. George Paul (Formation Environmental) gave a presentation about how evapotranspiration (ET) calculated from satellite data was used to estimate the historical groundwater pumping baseline that will be used to compare reductions against. He then presented several potential scenarios for pumping reduction targets that could be used, and how those would affect cultivated fields with different irrigation rates. There was discussion about how the reduction target would be phased in over time using an adaptive approach based on monitored groundwater level responses, and how trading and credits may provide flexibility and affect the outcome. Finally, Mike Tietze recapped the options available for measuring groundwater extraction and provided an overview of the recommended approach, as well as the recharge project and metering program included in a grant application recently submitted to the Department of Water Resources.



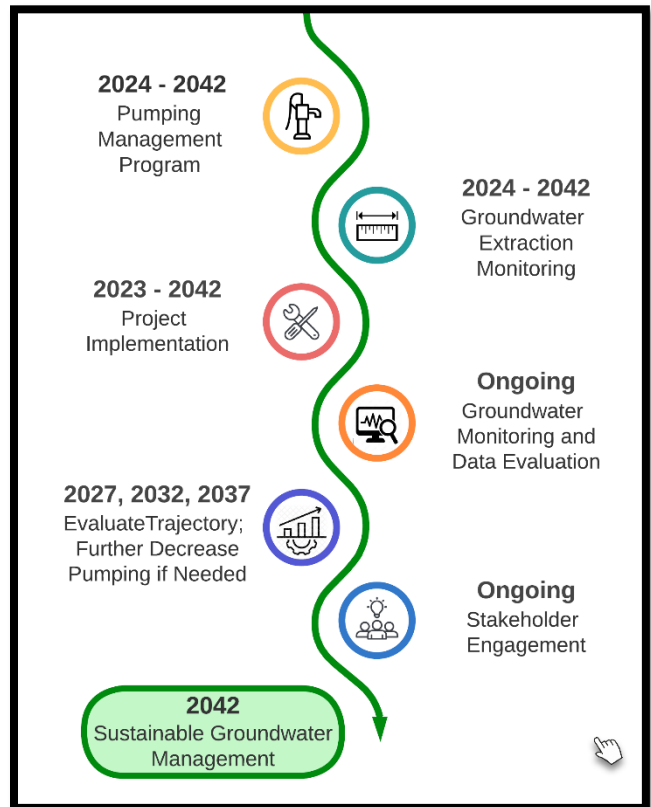
Example Pumping Reduction Target Analysis

Workshop participants asked many questions and were interested in learning more specifics regarding the recommended program, and several were interested in participating in the pilot program. We have made these topics the focus of our next workshop.

March 7, 2023 Workshop

The next workshop in our series is scheduled for March 7 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 am at Cortez Hall in Ballico. A Zoom link will also be available for those that are not able to attend in person. All stakeholders and interested parties are welcome and encouraged to attend. The topics covered will include:

- An update regarding GSA activities, including news regarding our proposal for the next round of grants under the SGMA Implementation Grant program, and the status of work on recharge projects in our area. A recap of the requirements of SGMA, how we propose to address them using an adaptive approach that incorporates recharge projects and pumping reductions, and the implementation milestones and schedule.
- Information regarding the recommended groundwater pumping baseline and reduction targets, and how these are expected to work out for fields with different irrigation rates.
- More specifics about the proposed metering program and how it will be implemented.
- The recommended approach to groundwater extraction credits and trading, and examples of how it would work.
- An overview of the upcoming Pumping Management Pilot Study, including a demonstration of the interactive web portal that can be used to track and analyze field-specific information by both active and passive participants.



GSP Implementation Timeline

Pumping Management Pilot Program

For the next phase in developing the Groundwater Pumping Management Framework, the GSA plans to implement a pilot program that analyzes how the proposed framework would work out in real terms at actual field sites. No pumping reductions will be required, but participants and GSA staff would be able to see how their groundwater use compares to the proposed reduction targets and what management options would be available to them. We are hoping for a broad range of participants in terms of locations, crops, water use, field size and metering data availability. We are looking for volunteers to enroll as active participants (who would engage in active discussions with GSA staff about the results) and passive participants (who would have access to data on line for their reference, but would opt out of active discussions). If you are interested, please contact Mike Tietze (mtietze@formationenv.com) or Sarah Woolf (sarahwoolf@me.com), and provide the following information:

- Your Contact Information;
- Interest in active or passive Participation;
- The APNs for the fields you would like to enroll in the Pilot Program;
- Information regarding your fields (if available), including crop type, maturity, irrigation methodology, number of wells, estimated water demand, surface water received, and metering data availability; and
- Any other information you would like us to know.