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SONOMA VALLEY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ADDITIONAL INPUT VIA EMAIL - SINCE JANUARY 14, 2020 AC MEETING
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT CRITERIA: GROUNDWATER LEVELS

Likes Borrego definition: *the minimum required to support overlying beneficial uses*: this implies conservation especially by the biggest users, conservation means more sharing, more all working together
Ultimate goal is to (1) bring depletion GW levels up to the surrounding levels, and (2) increase the aggregate level so as to have a GW bank account for the future

Shallow Aquifer RPMs - establish as 5 feet below the seasonal low point of these well levels - if it reaches this level, it would be a significant unreasonable UR	That any deep aquifer withdrawals would exceed recharge Depletion Areas: Deep Aquifer 2015 levels be classed as already at an intolerable decline Intolerable if GSP uses 2015 as a baseline condition in the above-noted depletion areas Account for undesirable results from before 2015, especially in the deep aquifers of the two depletion areas That shallow aquifer system can be used more during wetter years, so as to preserve, rest, and allow deep aquifers to recharge, if they can naturally Concern that politics will make the SMC GW deep aquifer levels get set at a lower level, with a less ambitious goal for sustainability Deep natural recharge does not seem to happen at rates that will help sustainable use. Deep recharge projects will be small, have only very localized benefits for raising levels basin-wide, will all pay for this?) Results that cause significant financial burden to local DACs, including that prevent municipal wells that use GW from supplying beneficial use to DACs
Deep Aquifer - minimum threshold of 5 feet below the seasonal low level of any RPM and the same significant unreasonable UR if a single well hits that mark	
Deep Aquifers in Depleted Zones: a different standard needs to be established - one that will be based upon bringing the deep aquifer back to historic levels - in these areas a minimum threshold should be determined after we have an idea of the practicality of restoring the former levels through specific management actions	
Deep Aquifers - Aggregate 20' above 2015 levels that deep aquifer levels go any farther down than an in depletion areas (a set-the-bar-high option)	
Deep Aquifers in Depletion Areas - Define based on current rates of decline: slow the decline over five or ten years, bend the arc up over the final 10-year period; show improvements by rate of gain	
Measurable Objectives	**Issues/Questions**
Historic surface aquifer baseflow to streams is re-achieved where lost and maintained	Desire to see no increase in water bills in DACs in the VOMWD service area due to SGMA project and actions
Shallow aquifer GW levels be able to support salmon in streams where they were historically	
Withdrawals do not exceed recharge, especially for deep aquifer system	

Monitoring	
Develop a strategic monitoring well array that supplements existing wells throughout the valley	
Shallow aquifer monitoring system: supplement by strategically located wells in the upper watershed for the purpose of determining the extent to which the shallow aquifer is relying upon upper watershed groundwater for recharge	
Portions of the shallow aquifer that overlie the two depleted zones, the density of monitoring wells should be increased, focusing on pathways from ground level to the aquifer	
Possible Management Areas to Consider	
Additional Depletion Area: ○ Baylands	Depletion areas should be management areas Baylands is a strong candidate of possible development pressure for large tourism venues, saline issues, and need to keep head pressure against the Bay, in both Baylands shallow and deep aquifer systems