



CITY OF ORLAND STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 2, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council

FROM: Pete Carr, City Manager; Bruce T. Roundy, City Council

SUBJECT: **Draft Revised Groundwater Sustainability Plan Review** (Discussion/Action)

BACKGROUND:

California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) became law in 2014 with the objective of creating new local agencies to plan and manage subbasin groundwater resources. Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) were given authority to regulate groundwater subject to stakeholder input. SGMA provided the newly formed agencies like Glenn's until January 2022 to produce groundwater sustainability plans (GSP or Plan), and until 2042 to demonstrate success in managing groundwater sustainability.

Orland actively participated in the formation of the Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) for our portion of the Colusa Subbasin and continues to engage on its board of directors as well as its technical advisory committee. In compliance with SGMA, and with support from State grant-funded consultants, the GGA produced a draft GSP in 2021 and posted it for public review and comment.

In October 2021 the City Council reviewed the draft plan and found it lacking, directing its GGA board representative to vote "No" with stated reservations about the GSP's lack of protection for local well levels and weakness in avoidance of land subsidence. The GGA submitted the Plan to DWR in January 2022. DWR subsequently rejected the Plan for similar reasons, requiring revision and resubmission by April 2024.

ANALYSIS:

City Staff recognizes the admirable cooperation of various water users in developing the original and the revised plan, the scientific data that went into development of the plan, and the inherent assumptions necessarily undergirding the plan. We also recognize DWR's consultative guidance and support made available throughout the process.

The draft revised plan appears to aggressively work to adequately protect the integrity of domestic and municipal drinking water wells. Measurable Objectives (MO) and Minimum Thresholds (MT) have been revised from allowance of roughly 200' depth to closer to 70' depth at monitoring wells as the depth

triggering demand management actions. Likewise, allowance for subsidence is revised from .5' per year to .1' per year.

The GGA is demonstrating its commitment to management actions with projects including multiple recharge sites and annexation of formerly groundwater-irrigated acreage into the Orland-Artois Water District. The GGA Board recognizes that future demand management actions will undoubtedly also involve regulation of pumping.

The revised Plan includes sufficient "triggers" to cause the GGA to take certain substantive actions when passing MO and approaching MT. Mr. Roundy and City Manager Carr suggest to Council that the newly revised draft GSP responsibly approaches protection of the precious drinking water resources on which the people of Orland and Glenn County rely, as well as the integrity of the land which hosts our vital infrastructure.

Attachments (2):

1. Hydrographs from Revised Draft GSP
2. Complete draft will be available online this week @ <https://www.countyofglenn.net/glenngroundwaterauthority>

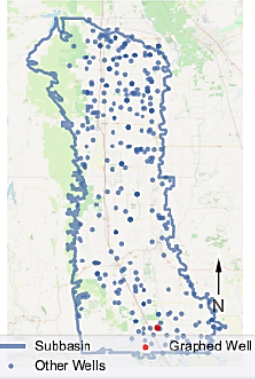
RECOMMENDATION:

Direct GGA Board representative to indicate City acceptance of the revised draft Plan.

Fiscal Impact of Recommendation: N/A

COLUSA Subbasin - State Well Number (SWN): 13N01W07G001M (Focus RMS Well)

Well Location Map

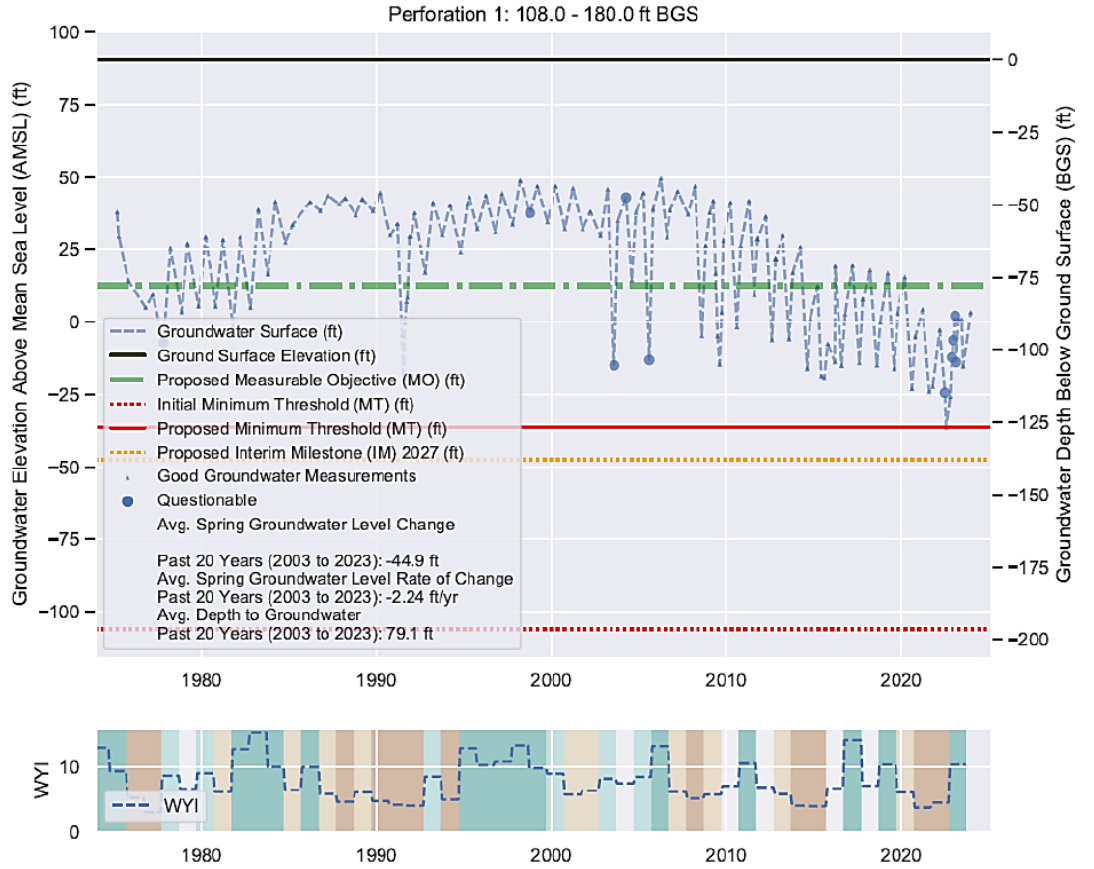


Sustainable Management Criteria:

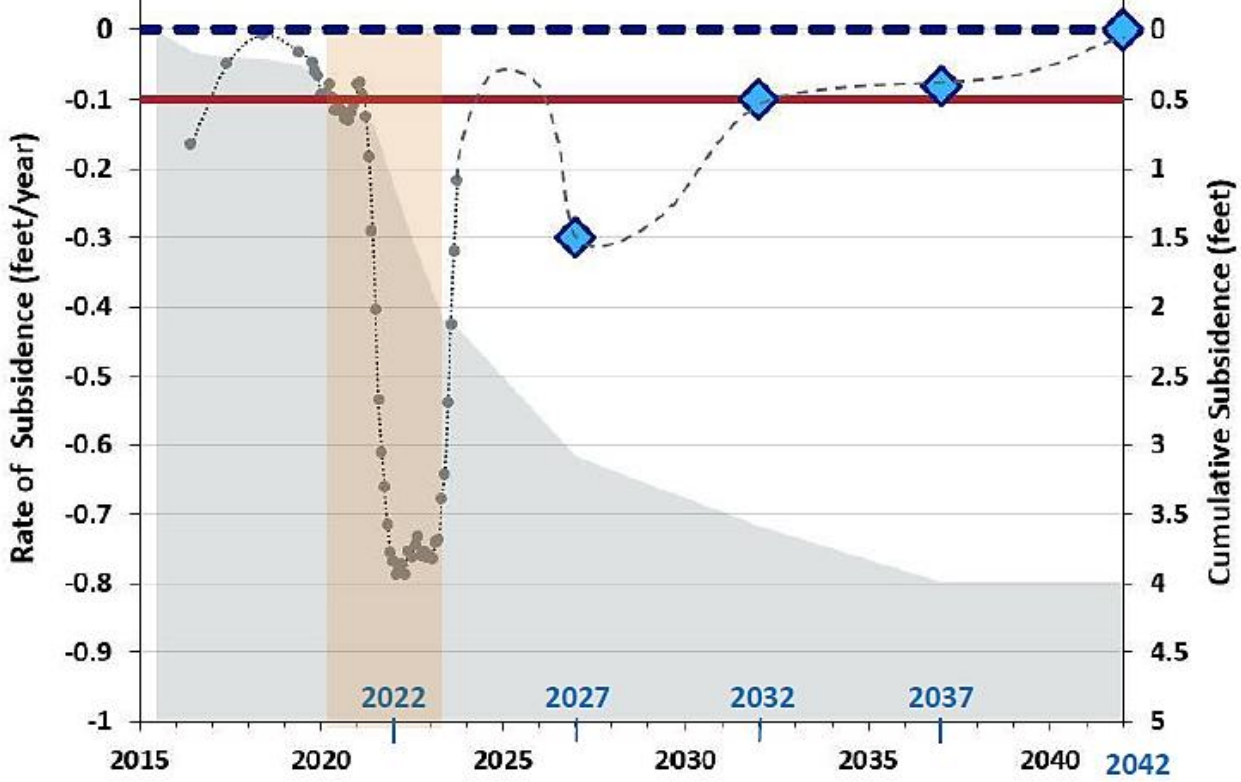
Proposed IM (2027) = -47.4 ft AMSL
 Proposed MO = 12.7 ft AMSL
 Proposed MT = -36.2 ft AMSL

Minimum Threshold is the 2020-2022 low.

Sacramento Valley Water Year Index (WYI) shown on lower right. Meaning of colors defined below.



Subsidence SMCs for 14N02W29J001M in Arbuckle



- Measured Rate of Subsidence
- Projected Rate of Subsidence
- █ Cumulative Subsidence
- ◆ Interim Milestone
- Minimum Threshold
- - - - Measurable Objective