

9 WATER BUDGET INFORMATION

§ 354.18. Water Budget

- *(a) Each Plan shall include a water budget for the basin that provides an accounting and assessment of the total annual volume of groundwater and surface water entering and leaving the basin, including historical, current* and projected water budget conditions, and the change in the volume of water stored. Water budget *information shall be reported in tabular and graphical form.*
- *(f) The Department shall provide the California Central Valley Groundwater-Surface Water Simulation Model (C2VSIM) and the Integrated Water Flow Model (IWFM) for use by Agencies in developing the water budget. Each Agency may choose to use a different groundwater and surface water model, pursuant to Section 352.4.*

 23 CCR § 354.18(a) 23 CCR § 354.18(f)

This section presents information on the water budget for the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (Basin). All Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) in the Basin coordinated and collaborated on the development and application of an integrated hydrological model (Model) to evaluate Basin conditions. Consistent with the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Regulations (California Code of Regulations Title 23 [23 CCR] Division 2 Chapter 1.5 Subchapter 2) and California Department of Water Resources' (DWR's) Best Management Practices (BMP) #4 Water Budget (DWR, 2016c), this water budget provides an accounting of the total annual volume of water entering and leaving the Basin for historical, current, and projected future conditions.

As discussed in **Section [9.1](#page-1-0)** below, the water budgets are presented for the two interconnected water budget systems quantified by the Model: (1) land-surface water system, and (2) groundwater system within the Basin. These water budgets are developed and presented following the terminology and methodology proposed by the *Handbook for Water Budget Development With or Without Models* (DWR, 2020a).

The land-surface water system inflows include precipitation, stream inflow, stream-groundwater interaction inflow, and applied water, including groundwater extraction and surface water delivery and diversion. Land-surface water system outflows include evapotranspiration, infiltration, stream outflow, and stream-groundwater interaction outflow.

Inflows to the groundwater system include groundwater recharge, including recharge of precipitation, applied water, and artificial recharge, subsurface inflows from Basin boundaries or adjacent principal aquifers and aquitards, inflows from stream-groundwater interaction, and water released from storage caused by subsidence. Groundwater system outflows include groundwater extraction, subsurface outflows across Basin boundaries and to adjacent principal aquifers/aquitards, stream-groundwater interaction outflows to the stream network, and losses from the unsaturated zone caused by evapotranspiration and drains. The difference between groundwater inflows and outflows represents the "net change in groundwater storage".

9.1 Water Budget Methods and Data Sources

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(b) The water budget shall quantify the following, either through direct measurements or estimates based on data:

(6) The water year type associated with the annual supply, demand, and change in groundwater stored.

(e) Each Plan shall rely on the best available information and best available science to quantify the water budget for the basin in order to provide an understanding of historical and projected hydrology, water demand, water supply, land use, population, climate change, sea level rise, groundwater and surface water interaction, and subsurface groundwater flow. If a numerical groundwater and surface water model is not used to quantify and evaluate the projected water budget conditions and the potential impacts to beneficial uses and users of groundwater, the Plan shall identify and describe an equally effective method, tool, or analytical model to evaluate projected water budget conditions.

 23 CCR § 354.18(b)(6) 23 CCR § 354.18(e)

9.1.1 Overview of Methodology

 23 CCR § 354.18(e) 23 CCR § 354.18(f)

The water budget information presented herein is based on the use of a three-dimensional (3-D) groundwater flow model (Model) that uses the United States Geological Survey's (USGS) Central Valley Hydrologic Model Version 2 – San Joaquin Valley (CVHM2-SJV) groundwater modeling platform (see **Appendix H**). As recommended by the *Conceptual Master Plan for Subsidence Monitoring and Management* (GSI Environmental Inc., 2022), the Model has been refined based on site-specific information for the Basin. Like all finite-element numerical groundwater flow models, the Model divides the spatial model domain into a network of finite-element cells (3-D mesh), applies estimates of aquifer hydraulic properties to each cell, and calculates water fluxes between element nodes by solving a system of equations based on groundwater flow principles. The spatial grid and orientation in the Model domain are shown in **Figure WB-1**.

The Model simulates the interrelated processes associated with the land-surface water system and the groundwater system. As shown in **Figure WB-2**, the land-surface water system interacts with the groundwater system via stream leakage and/or seepage to and from groundwater, and via the fraction of precipitation and applied water that ultimately becomes deep percolation to groundwater. As described in DWR's BMP #4 Water Budget (DWR, 2016c), it is useful in some basins to develop water budgets with additional detail beyond what is explicitly required by the GSP Regulations. These additional details are necessary because of the complex interrelationships between water use practices, groundwater conditions, subsurface groundwater flows across Basin boundaries, and groundwater/surface-water interactions and their net influence on the Basin water budget. The Model represents the Basin using the characteristics, processes, and data summarized below.

- The Model covers the entire Basin with a uniform horizontal discretization of 1x1 square mile oriented parallel to the Central Valley axis, 34 degrees west of north (Traum et al., 2024).
- The Model is divided into 13 layers in the vertical direction representing the Principal Aquifers and

Aquitard as described in the Basin Hydrogeological Conceptual Model (HCM). Layers 1 to 5 represent the Upper Aquifer, layers 6 to 8 represent the Corcoran Clay, and layers 9 to 13 represent the Lower Aquifer.

- The Model incorporates updated information on surface water deliveries (Central Valley Project [CVP] and State Water Project [SWP] water) provided by GSAs contributing to groundwater and surface-water interactions for Water Year (WY) 2010-2023.
- The Model is extended to WY 2023 using public data, historical data from similar WY type, and data received from GSAs.
- Groundwater pumping is estimated by the Model, including agricultural, municipal, and domestic pumping.

As discussed in **Appendix H,** while not fully calibrated, the Model adequately represents the conditions of the Basin and adjacent basins to support development of this GSP.

9.1.2 Water Budget Periods

23 CCR § 354.18(a)

Per 23 CCR § 354.18(a), water budgets are quantified for Historical, Current, and Projected periods. The historical period is defined herein as the sixteen-year period between WY 2003 and 2018, which includes historical surface water delivery and land use conditions in the Basin, represents average hydroclimatic conditions, and satisfies the required minimum extent of ten (10) years. As shown in **Table WB-1**, the 16 year average precipitation for the Basin represented in the Model for the historical period was 10.5 inches per year (in/yr).

The Historical period, provides a balanced mix of water year types similar to long-term average hydrology (25 percent wet years, 6 percent above-normal years, 19 percent below-normal years, 19 percent dry years, and 31 percent critical years), and includes a representative, although likely overestimated, number of Shasta Critical Years, which impacts and reduces the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors (SJREC) and Grassland Water District (and other wildlife refuges) surface water deliveries. The SJREC and Grasslands import over 66 percent of the surface water used in the Basin due to their senior water rights, and their allocations are influenced by inflows to Shasta Reservoir. The 16-year period from WY 2003- 2018 was considered to adequately represent average hydrologic conditions for purposes of quantifying the historical water budget for the Basin.

The Current period is selected as the five years between WY 2019 and 2023, representing the most recent hydrology, water supply, water demand, and land use conditions in the Basin. The five-year averaging period is believed to be more representative of Basin's current conditions than any single recent year due to the highly variable hydroclimatic conditions (multiple wet and critical years) experienced in the past five years.

The **Projected period** is synthesized according to the 23 CCR § 354.18(c) using the 50-year historical period of WY 1973-2022 for climatic conditions, which follows the current period ending in WY 2023 and extends from WY 2024 through WY 2073. The projected period uses the most recent land use provided by DWR at

the time of GSP development (2021 Land Use). It assumes operations of the Basin's water supply system, such as artificial recharge, surface water diversions and deliveries, and groundwater extractions, correspond to the WY 2003-2022 period based on water year types and the San Joaquin Valley Water Year Index (SJV Index). As discussed in **Section [9.4](#page-15-0)**, the Projected period is also used to simulate climate change impacts on the Basin, using the DWR proposed methodology and 2030 and 2070 climate change scenarios (DWR, 2018c).

Table WB-1. Summary of Precipitation Represented in the Numerical Model, WY 2003-2023

Abbreviations:

AN = Above Normal BN = Below Normal C = Critical Dry D = Dry W = Wet SC = Shasta Critical WY = Water Year

Notes:

- (1) DWR Water Year types are based on the San Joaquin Valley Water Year Hydrologic Classification Index that is based on unimpaired natural water runoff to the San Joaquin Valley, and are as follows: W = wet, AN = above normal, BN = below normal, $D = dry$, $C = critical$.
- (2) Datasets for WY 2023 are not all readily available. WY 2017 precipitation data are used for WY 2023 based on similar water year type.

9.1.3 Data Sources

23 CCR § 354.18(e)

Per 23 CCR § 354.18(e), the best available data were used to evaluate the water budget for the Basin. Estimates of water budget components are provided directly by the Model. Some components, such as precipitation and surface water delivery, are input data provided by the GSAs when available, while other components are calculated by the Model (i.e., evapotranspiration, infiltration, stream-groundwater interaction, etc.). The Model uses various sources of data for its input, as discussed in **Appendix H**. All input data and preliminary analysis used to develop the Model for April 1961 to September 2019 (Model Baseline) are from CVHM2 (Traum et al., 2024). Surface water delivery and diversion data were adjusted between WY 2010-2023 based on local data provided by individual GSAs. The Model was extended from October 2019 to September 2023 (extension period) to simulate the most recent conditions of the Basin up to the time of GSP development and cover the defined Current period. Generally, the same data sources were utilized for the extension period, if available, as used for the Model Baseline. However, the following assumptions were made due to unavailable or incomplete data:

- DWR 2019 and 2020 statewide crop mapping were used for WY 2019-2020, while 2021 statewide crop mapping was used for WY 2021-2023;
- Surface water delivery, stream diversion, and municipal groundwater pumping for the extension period were assumed to be the same as the water year with the same water year type and nearest SJV Index from WY 2003-2019.
- Due to the unavailability of the SJV Index and climatic, runoff, and recharge data from the USGS Basin Characterization Model (BCM) for WY 2023, data for WY 2017 were used based on the same water year type.

Data Sources for each water budget component are further described in **Section [9.2](#page-4-0)** below.

9.2 Water Budget Components

§ 354.18. Water Budget

- *(b) The water budget shall quantify the following, either through direct measurements or estimates based on data:*
	- *(1) Total surface water entering and leaving a basin by water source type.*
	- *(2) Inflow to the groundwater system by water source type, including subsurface groundwater inflow and infiltration of precipitation, applied water, and surface water systems, such as lakes, streams, rivers, canals, springs and conveyance systems.*
	- *(3) Outflows from the groundwater system by water use sector, including evapotranspiration, groundwater extraction, groundwater discharge to surface water sources, and subsurface groundwater outflow.*

A description of the water budget components that comprise inflows and outflows to the land-surface water system and groundwater system is provided below. A brief discussion of methodologies and data sources used to estimate each component for Historical, Current, and Projected water budgets is provided. A more detailed description of methodologies and processes is provided in **Appendix H**. Water budget results for the Historical and Current water budget periods are presented in **Sectio[n 9.3](#page-9-0)** and water budget results for the Projected future scenarios are presented in **Section [9.4](#page-15-0)**.

9.2.1 Land-Surface Water System Inflows and Outflows

23 CCR § 354.18(b)(1)

The land-surface water system budget represents the total amount of water entering and leaving the Basin on the ground surface. Per 23 CCR § 354.18(b)(1), **Table WB-2** provides an annual summary of inflows to and outflows from the land-surface water system by water source type for WY 2003-2023. The following sections describe each land-surface water budget component.

Precipitation

Precipitation on lands within the Basin contributes to the overall land-surface water system budget. Total precipitation across the Basin was estimated based on the USGS BCM (Flint et al., 2021). Precipitation falling on the Basin either becomes surface water runoff that is channeled to nearby drainages and streams or wets the near-surface soil. Water in near-surface soil either evaporates or continues to infiltrate into the subsurface, where it can be consumed by agricultural crops and natural vegetation or continues to percolate downwards to the groundwater table.

Evapotranspiration

The largest outflow from the land-surface water system is evapotranspiration (consumptive use) by crops and plants. The USGS BCM evapotranspiration data were utilized to estimate the consumptive use of water in the Basin, including agricultural uses and direct evaporation from surface water bodies and phreatophytes (i.e., groundwater dependent ecosystems [GDEs]) (Flint et al., 2021).

Stream Inflow and Outflow

The primary natural surface water features in the Basin are the San Joaquin River and its tributaries (**Section 7.3.5**, **Figure HCM-23**). The San Joaquin River flows northward along the eastern edge of the Basin. Although it forms the boundary of the Basin over most of its extent, inflow to and outflow from the San Joaquin River is accounted for in calculation of stream inflow and outflow for the land surface water system budget. The calculation also includes exchanges of flows with rivers and tributaries that flow into the San Joaquin River or branch out of it (i.e. Merced River, Kings River, etc.)

On the western side of the Basin, numerous intermittent streams originating in the Coast Range flow east/northeast into the Basin. Most of these intermittent streams do not have channels extending all the way east to the San Joaquin River, exceptions being the channels of Orestimba Creek, Los Banos Creek, and Del Puerto Creek. Most of the Basin's surface water inflows occur in the San Joaquin River, with much lesser quantities occurring in the smaller tributaries.

Portions of precipitation falling on the Basin and applied water that runs off to nearby drainage become surface water runoff that is channeled to nearby drainages and streams, contributing to stream outflows. Several factors influence the rate and volume of surface water runoff, including the intensity and duration of precipitation, soil type and infiltration capacity, slope of the land, land use and land cover, and the presence of impervious surfaces like pavement or buildings.

Return flow from applied water also contributes to stream outflows from the Basin. Applied water is apportioned into consumptive use (i.e., evapotranspiration or ET) by crops and other plants and evaporation from land surface, infiltration past root zone, and runoff and interflow commonly referred to

as return flow. Return flow is calculated as a fixed percentage of the total applied water in the Model, a common assumption used in most modeling platforms.

Delivery canals and major diversion structures such as the Delta-Mendota Canal and California Aqueduct are also simulated in the model. The inflow and outflow from these canals are included in calculation of the stream inflow and outflow from the Basin.

Applied Water

Applied water is water directly applied to agricultural crop lands for irrigation use and related cultural practices. Applied water includes surface water delivery and diversions, and groundwater pumping used to meet remaining ET demands. Imported CVP and SWP water has been delivered to the Basin through the California Aqueduct (referred to as San Luis Canal in the joint-use area of the California Aqueduct) and the Delta-Mendota Canal, in addition to the San Joaquin River (see **Section 7.3.5**). Surface water deliveries from the CVP began in the early 1950s, and from the SWP in the early 1970s (Sneed et al., 2013). The CVP is the primary source of imported surface water in the Basin, with CVP supplies used directly by nine Basin GSAs and additionally as part of recharge and exchange programs, as described in **Section 5.1**. By contrast, only Oak Flat Water District receives deliveries from the SWP.

Water is diverted for irrigation at various points along the San Joaquin River by entities within and outside of the Basin. Surface water delivery and diversion data were based on CVHM2 (Traum et al., 2024) and adjusted between WY 2010-2023 based on local data measured and provided by individual GSAs.

Groundwater pumping from private irrigation wells was estimated by the Model using the Farm Process package (FMP2) and Multi-node Well package (MNW2) based on water supply and demand. Municipal and rural pumping estimates are based on datasets compiled by DWR for the C2VSim model, where available, and were otherwise estimated based on U.S. Department of Commerce Census Bureau population datasets and a water use factor of 275 gallons per person per day (Traum & Faunt, 2022).

Stream – Groundwater Interactions

Flows within creeks, streams, and rivers can seep to the underlying groundwater system (i.e., a losing stream condition). Alternatively, groundwater can seep into the surface water feature (i.e., a gaining stream condition). Therefore, leakage signifies a loss of streamflow to groundwater (*stream – groundwater interaction outflow)* and seepage signifies a gain of streamflow from groundwater (*stream – groundwater interaction inflow)*. Stream-groundwater interaction is calculated by the Model based on stream stage, assumed streambed properties, and the surrounding Model-calculated groundwater levels. Stream stage is calculated by the Model based on specified stream channel properties, as described above.

Infiltration

The portion of precipitation and applied water that is neither consumptively used by plants via ET or returned as runoff or return flow to surface water channels percolates past the root zone to recharge groundwater aquifer. This component, infiltration, is calculated by the Model.

Change in Land-Surface Water System Storage

Land-surface water system inflow into the Basin is primarily driven by precipitation, stream inflow, streamgroundwater interaction inflow, and applied water, including groundwater extraction and surface water

delivery and diversion. Land-surface water system outflow includes evapotranspiration, infiltration, stream outflow, and stream-groundwater interaction outflow. The differences between the land-surface water system inflow and the land-surface water system outflow are the changes in land-surface water system storage.

9.2.2 Groundwater System Inflows and Outflows

23 CCR § 354.18(b)(2) 23 CCR § 354.18(b)(3)

The groundwater system budget represents the total amount of water entering and leaving the groundwater system within the Basin. Per 23 CCR § 354.18(b)(2) and (b)(3), **Table WB-3** and **Table WB-4** provide an annual summary of inflows to and outflows from the groundwater system (Upper Aquifer and Lower Aquifer, respectively) by water source type for WY 2003-2023. The following sections describe each of the groundwater budget components.

Groundwater Recharge

Groundwater recharge includes recharge of precipitation, applied water, or artificial recharge. Portions of excess precipitation and applied water infiltrate into the ground and replenish the groundwater system.

Losses from Unsaturated Zone

Losses from unsaturated zone include evaporation and drain outflow from shallow groundwater in areas of shallow groundwater conditions and drains. This primarily occurs in areas that support GDEs and where drains are installed due to shallow groundwater levels. Losses from the unsaturated zone are estimated by the Model based on unsaturated zone ET estimations under FMP package and defined drain heads and estimated groundwater heads under its Drain Return Package (DRT).

Subsurface Inflow and Outflow from Basin Boundaries

Subsurface inflow refers to the movement of groundwater from outside the Basin boundaries into the Basin and leakage from adjacent principal aquifers/aquitards, and subsurface outflow refers to the movement of groundwater from within the Basin to areas outside of the Basin and leakage outflow to adjacent principal aquifers/aquitards. Subsurface inflow and outflow are calculated by the Model based on estimated groundwater elevations and defined aquifer properties and are highly dependent on Model assumptions regarding conditions in the adjacent basins and remain a significant source of uncertainty (**Appendix H**).

Stream-Groundwater Interaction

Stream-groundwater interaction is estimated using stream stage, assumed streambed properties, and surrounding groundwater levels determined by the Model. Leakage of streamflow from creeks, streams, and rivers to groundwater (*stream – groundwater interaction inflow)* and seepage of groundwater into surface water bodies (*stream – groundwater interaction outflow)* affect the available water supply within the Basin and can have considerable impacts on the change in groundwater storage calculated Basin-wide. Stream-groundwater interaction is estimated primarily by the Model through stream properties and

parameters defined in the Streamflow Routing Package (SFR), including inflow at headwaters (Traum et al., 2024).

Groundwater Extraction

Groundwater extraction is the process of withdrawing water from the underlying aquifers through wells, pumps, and other infrastructure. Methods used by the Model to calculate agricultural, municipal, and domestic pumping are described in **Section [9.2.1](#page-5-0)**.

Change in Groundwater Storage

Inflows to the groundwater system comprise groundwater recharge, including recharge of precipitation, applied water, or artificial recharge, subsurface inflow from Basin boundaries or adjacent principal aquifers and aquitards, inflow from stream-groundwater interaction, and water release caused by subsidence. Groundwater system outflows are primarily driven by groundwater extraction, subsurface outflow across Basin boundaries and to adjacent principal aquifers/aquitards, stream-groundwater interaction outflow to the stream network, and losses from the unsaturated zone caused by evapotranspiration and drains. The difference between groundwater inflows and outflows represents the net change in groundwater storage. The change in groundwater storage is calculated by the Model by solving the groundwater flow equation. A positive change in storage indicates an increase in groundwater storage and a negative change in storage indicates a decrease in groundwater storage.

Water Release Caused by Subsidence

Water release caused by subsidence refers to water released to an aquifer on a one-time basis as a result of land subsidence, which is caused by the inelastic consolidation of porous fine-grained material. Water release by subsidence was estimated by the Model through the Subsidence and Aquifer-System Compaction (SUB) package (**Appendix H**) and is representative of changes in aquitard storage. The volume of water release caused by subsidence is associated with an equivalent permanent loss of storage capacity in this Basin. This volume is ultimately added to the change in groundwater storage in estimating the Basin overdraft and sustainable yield. As discussed in **Appendix H**, the Model currently generally overestimates the extent of subsidence in the Basin; therefore, the volume of water release caused by subsidence is also overestimated, leading to conservative estimations of net groundwater storage change and overdraft. Further, sensitivity analyses conducted as part of Model application suggests that as much as 50 percent of the subsidence (and subsequent loss of storage) simulated within the Basin is caused by pumping in adjacent basins. As such, the Basin overdraft attributable to GSA management has been overestimated and the sustainable yield has been underestimated herein.

9.3 Historical and Current Water Budget

9.3.1 Historical Water Budget

§ 354.18. Water Budget

- *(b) The water budget shall quantify the following, either through direct measurements or estimates based on data:*
	- *(4) The change in the annual volume of groundwater in storage between seasonal high conditions.*
	- *(5) If overdraft conditions occur, as defined in Bulletin 118, the water budget shall include a quantification of overdraft over a period of years during which water year and water supply conditions approximate average conditions.*
- *(c) Each Plan shall quantify the current, historical, and projected water budget for the basin as follows:*
	- *(2) Historical water budget information shall be used to evaluate availability or reliability of past surface water supply deliveries and aquifer response to water supply and demand trends relative to water year type. The historical water budget shall include the following:*
		- *(A) A quantitative evaluation of the availability or reliability of historical surface water supply deliveries as a function of the historical planned versus actual annual surface water deliveries, by surface water source and water year type, and based on the most recent ten years of surface water supply information.*
		- *(B) A quantitative assessment of the historical water budget, starting with the most recently available information and extending back a minimum of 10 years, or as is sufficient to calibrate and reduce the uncertainty of the tools and methods used to estimate and project future water budget information and future aquifer response to proposed sustainable groundwater management practices over the planning and implementation horizon.*
		- *(C) A description of how historical conditions concerning hydrology, water demand, and surface water supply availability or reliability have impacted the ability of the Agency to operate the basin within sustainable yield. Basin hydrology may be characterized and evaluated using water year type.*
- *(d) The Agency shall utilize the following information provided, as available, by the Department pursuant to Section 353.2, or other data of comparable quality, to develop the water budget:*
	- *(1) Historical water budget information for mean annual temperature, mean annual precipitation, water year type, and land use.*

23 CCR § 354.18(c)(2) 23 CCR § 354.18(d)(1)

The Historical water budget for the Basin was estimated using the Model for the period October 2003 through September 2018, which is defined as the Historical period. Because agricultural water demands, streamflow conditions, surface water supply, and consequently the potential occurrence of overdraft conditions are heavily dependent on water year type, this section provides estimates of average water budget components for each water year type, as well as for the overall 16-year Historical period.

Table WB-2 shows the land-surface water system water budget for the Historical period. Land-surface water system inflows are driven by precipitation and surface water delivery, which are both correlated with water year type. The primary driver of outflows from the land-surface water system is evapotranspiration, which is comparably less correlated with water year type. Therefore, groundwater extraction expected to cover the remainder of the evapotranspiration demand not satisfied by precipitation and surface water delivery, also correlates heavily with water year types, increasing in the drier years and decreasing in the wet and above normal years.

This trend is observed more clearly in the Current water budget due to its more consistent land use definition within the Basin throughout the period. The variability in land use and surface water delivery

allocation amounts during the Historical period impacts the relative correlation of groundwater pumping and water year types among years. However, an overall increasing trend in evapotranspiration and groundwater pumping can be observed in the Historical period, indicating growing consumptive use due to the increase in farmed acreage, conversion to crops with higher irrigation demand, and municipal growth.

Table WB-3 and **Table WB-4** show the groundwater system water budget for the Upper Aquifer and the Lower Aquifer, respectively, for the Historical period. Primary inflows to the groundwater system are groundwater recharge and stream-groundwater interaction inflow, while major outflows include pumping and losses from the unsaturated zone.

The Upper Aquifer receives a net subsurface inflow from the Basin boundary but loses a greater average volume to leakage to the Lower Aquifer, leading to a net subsurface outflow (**Table WB-3**). In contrast, the Lower Aquifer loses a net subsurface outflow from the Basin boundary that is smaller than the average volume of water it receives as leakage from the Upper Aquifer. Therefore, the Lower Aquifer shows an average annual net subsurface inflow (**Table WB-4)**. However, this net subsurface inflow, combined with the relatively small inflows from stream-groundwater interaction and groundwater recharge, is considerably smaller than the total groundwater pumping from the Lower Aquifer, leading to water release caused by subsidence and a decrease in Lower Aquifer groundwater storage.

Based on DWR's San Joaquin Valley WY Hydrologic Classification Index for the 16-year Historical averaging period (WY 2003-2018), the period is characterized by sequences of relatively dry and wet conditions resulting in near-average conditions. The climatic effects are clearly reflected in the water budget, whereby both Upper and Lower Aquifers show consistent increases in storage with wetter conditions and decreases in storage under drier conditions (see **Figure WB-3** and **Figure WB-4**).

9.3.1.1 Historical Surface Water Availability and Reliability

23 CCR § 354.18(c)(2)(A)

As discussed in **Section 8.2.4**, the introduction of imported water supplies to the Basin in the early 1950s resulted in a decrease in groundwater pumping in some parts of the Basin. During the recent droughts of 2012-2016 and 2020-2022, diminished deliveries of imported and local surface water led to increased pumping of groundwater to meet irrigation demands. During the height of the drought in 2014, CVP and SWP allocations for agricultural water service contractors were 0 percent, Exchange Contractors and refuge deliveries were less than 75 percent, and post-1914 surface water rights in the San Joaquin River watershed were curtailed (Delta-Mendota GSAs, 2022a; USBR 2023). Based on SJREC's contracts, SJREC's surface water allocation is only reduced under Shasta critical years and remains at 100 percent in all other types of water years.

During the Historical period, surface water deliveries in the Basin averaged 1,332,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) annually but fluctuated depending on water year types. Annual surface water deliveries in wet years exceeded the historical period's average but were below average during Shasta Critical years. However, average annual surface water deliveries were above the Historical period's average in wet, above normal, below normal, and dry water years and fell below the Historical period's average in critical and Shasta Critical water years, respectively. This highlights the reliability of surface water supplies in the Basin, which is unique relative to much of the southern Central Valley.

9.3.2 Current Water Budget

§ 354.18. Water Budget

- *(c) Each Plan shall quantify the current, historical, and projected water budget for the basin as follows:*
- *(1) Current water budget information shall quantify current inflows and outflows for the basin using the most recent hydrology, water supply, water demand, and land use information.*
- *(d) The Agency shall utilize the following information provided, as available, by the Department pursuant to Section 353.2, or other data of comparable quality, to develop the water budget: (1) Current water budget information for temperature, water year type, evapotranspiration, and land use.*

 23 CCR § 354.18(c)(1) 23 CCR § 354.18(d)(2)

The Current water budget for the Basin was estimated using the Model for the period October 2019 through September 2023, which is defined as the Current period. Per 23 CCR § 354.18(c)(1), total inflows and outflows are summarized by hydrologic system: (1) land-surface water system, and (2) groundwater system. This section presents results for the Current water budget based on average values for the WY 2019-2023 time period.

As shown in **Table WB-2**, the increasing evapotranspiration demand in the Basin during the Current period is primarily met through additional groundwater extraction as compared to the Historical period. The extreme climatic conditions during the Current period, highlighted in total precipitation and evapotranspiration, caused significant changes in groundwater extraction, stream-aquifer interaction, and stream inflow and outflow.

As shown in **Table WB-3**, the total inflow to the Basin's Upper Aquifer during the Current period were greater than during the Historical period. These greater inflows were reflected in all groundwater inflow components, including groundwater recharge, stream-groundwater interaction, and subsurface inflow from the boundaries. Similarly, total outflows from the Basin's Upper Aquifer were greater than during the Historical period, including significantly greater total groundwater extraction. The overall increases in the Upper Aquifer's volumetric groundwater budget terms led to an overall average annual increase in groundwater storage, largely due to the extremely wet years of 2019 and 2023.

Similar to the Upper Aquifer, total inflow and outflow from the Basin's Lower Aquifer were greater during the Current period when compared to the Historical period (**Table WB-4**). Groundwater extraction and water release caused by subsidence were also greater during the Current period, largely due to the extremely dry period of WY 2020-2022, and the limited recharge of the Lower Aquifer within Basin boundaries.

9.3.3 Change in Groundwater Storage

23 CCR § 354.18(b)(4)

Per 23 CCR § 354.18(b)(4), **Figure WB-3, Figure WB-4, Table WB-3** and **Table WB-4** present the annual and cumulative storage change in the Upper and Lower Aquifers along with their respective annual and cumulative volume of water release caused by subsidence. As mentioned in **Sectio[n 9.2](#page-4-0)**, the water release caused by subsidence is a one-time release of water due to compaction of aquitards, is considered a

permanent loss of storage, and has been considered when quantifying the Basin's overdraft and sustainable yield. We do note, however, that due to the Model's current overestimation of subsidence rates and extent in the Basin, the water release caused by subsidence is also overestimated, leading to conservative estimates of the overdraft, total storage change, and sustainable yield.

Figure WB-3, Figure WB-4, Table WB-3 and **Table WB-4** present the annual and cumulative storage change and water release caused by subsidence in relation to the water year type, based on DWR's San Joaquin Valley Water Year Hydrologic Classification Index for WY 2003-2023, and averaging period (21 year average [WY 2003-2023], Historical [WY 2003-2018], and Current [WY 2019-2023] periods). The Upper Aquifer shows an average annual storage change of -16,000 AFY, +3,000 AFY, and -11,000 AFY during the Historical, Current, and WY 2003-2023 periods, respectively. The average annual volumes of water release caused by subsidence are -4,000 AFY, -6,000 AFY, and -4,000 AFY during the same periods.

The Upper Aquifer storage change shows a clear correlation with water year types, with increasing storage during Wet and Above Normal years and decreasing storage during Below Normal, Dry, Critical, and Shasta Critical years. While the positive net storage change (accretion) in the Upper Aquifer happens more frequently within the Historical and Current periods, the depletions caused in Critical and Shasta Critical years lead to an overall negative average annual net storage change in both periods.

The Lower Aquifer shows an average annual storage change of -8,000 AFY, -9,000 AFY, and -8,000 AFY during the Historical, Current, and WY 2003-2023 periods, respectively. Although indicating a sustained depletion of storage in all water year types, the storage change in the Lower Aquifer shows correlation with water year types similar to the Upper Aquifer.

The Lower Aquifer shows loss of storage in the form of water release caused by subsidence of approximately -101,000 AFY, -167,000 AFY, and -116,000 AFY during the Historical, Current, and WY 2003- 2023 periods, respectively. As groundwater extraction and groundwater levels are the primary factors driving subsidence estimation in the Model, the water release caused by subsidence in the Lower Aquifer is closely coordinated with the annual rates of groundwater extraction and their corresponding impacts on groundwater levels. The water release caused by subsidence is the primary driver of storage losses in the Lower Aquifer and the overdraft estimates.

Overall, the Basin shows an average annual net groundwater storage change of -24,000 AFY, -6,000 AFY, and -19,000 AFY during the Historical, Current, and WY 2003-2023 periods, respectively, indicating a consistent loss in storage since 2003. In addition, the Basin has experienced a consistent loss of storage due to water release caused by subsidence, equaling -105,000 AFY, -173,000 AFY, and -120,000 AFY during the Historical, Current, and WY 2003-2023 periods, respectively. As stated previously, however, sensitivity analysis conducted as part of Model application suggests that subsidence within the Basin is being overestimated by the Model and further that as much as 50 percent of the subsidence (and subsequent loss of storage) simulated within the Basin is caused by pumping in adjacent basins. Therefore, a majority of storage losses in the Lower Aquifer and a significant portion of the overall loss of storage in the Basin is not caused by groundwater management in the Basin and cannot be mitigated solely through actions taken in the Basin.

9.3.4 Overdraft Conditions

23 CCR § 354.18(b)(5)

The Basin has been classified by DWR in its 2019 Basin Prioritization (DWR, 2020b) as a "high priority" basin, and is designated as being in a condition of critical overdraft. With respect to basins in overdraft conditions, DWR has made the following statements:

- "A basin is subject to critical conditions of overdraft when continuation of present water management practices would probably result in significant adverse overdraft-related environmental, social, or economic impacts."
- Groundwater overdraft is "... the condition of a groundwater basin or subbasin in which the amount of water withdrawn by pumping exceeds the amount of water that recharges the basin over a period of years, during which the water supply conditions approximate average conditions. Overdraft can be characterized by groundwater levels that decline over a period of years and never fully recover, even in wet years. If overdraft continues, significant adverse impacts may occur, including increased extraction costs, costs of well deepening or replacement, land subsidence, water quality degradation, and environmental impacts."
- "Overdraft occurs where the average annual amount of groundwater extraction exceeds the longterm average annual supply of water to the basin. Effects of overdraft can include seawater intrusion, land subsidence, groundwater depletion, and/or chronic lowering of groundwater levels"(DWR, n.d.).

While evaluating basins for critical overdraft conditions in its most recent Bulletin 118 update, DWR considered the time period from WY 1989-2009 (DWR, 2016d). This period was selected because it excludes one of the recent droughts that began in 2012, includes both wet and dry periods, is at least 10 years in length (it is 21 years in length), and includes precipitation close to the long-term average. The water budget information discussed herein covers the period from WY 2003-2023, inclusive of both the Historical and Current periods, and therefore only partially overlaps DWR's evaluation period. Average annual precipitation and SJV index for the selected period (10.8 inches and 3.1, respectively) are comparably lower than WY 1989-2009 selected by DWR (11.7 inches and 3.2, respectively), confirming the drier overall conditions during WY 2003-2023.

As discussed in **Section [9.3.3](#page-11-0)**, the Basin has shown an overall declining storage change during WY 2003- 2023, losing a combined cumulative storage of -2,940,000 AF, considering both cumulative storage change and cumulative volume of water release caused by subsidence. This equals an average annual decline of -140,000 AFY. These estimated changes in storage are considered conservative and are likely overestimated due to the Model's overestimation of the rate and extent of subsidence within the Basin, the overall drier conditions experienced during WY 2003-2023 compared to average hydrological conditions, and the fact that the Model does not explicitly remove the portion of subsidence caused by pumping in adjacent basins. The conservative estimations are selected and maintained intentionally to ensure planning and management sufficiency in this GSP, to incorporate the uncertainty in the Model results, and to reflect the potential for the more frequent occurrence of droughts and extreme conditions in the future (as reflected in recent hydrology).

The Basin GSAs have developed a suite of Projects and Management Actions (P/MAs) (see **Section 15**) whose intended benefit is to prevent or eliminate overdraft and avoid Undesirable Results by the statutory SGMA deadline of 2040. Under the projected scenarios, including the climate change scenarios discussed below, the Model calculations indicate that the Basin GSAs will achieve their Sustainability Goal through the implementation of P/MAs and adaptive management efforts (e.g., the Pumping Reduction Plan; **Section 16.1.1**). Significant uncertainty exists regarding the projected future conditions, and the Basin's water budget will be refined over time as additional data are collected and the Model is updated and calibrated. In the interim, the planned P/MAs will continue to be implemented by the GSAs according to the implementation plan outlined **Section 16**.

9.3.4.1 Operation within Sustainable Yield

23 CCR § 354.18(c)(2)(C)

The average annual decline in groundwater storage in the Upper Aquifer and Lower Aquifer during the combined Historical and Current periods (WY 2003-2023) was -11,000 AFY and -8,000 AFY, respectively (**Table WB-9** and **Table WB-10**). The total overdraft during the same period, including water release caused by subsidence, was -15,000 AFY and -124,000 AFY in the Upper Aquifer and Lower Aquifer, respectively, highlighting the significant storage loss due to subsidence in the Lower Aquifer.

Groundwater extraction from the Upper Aquifer and Lower Aquifer during the same period was 278,000 AFY and 169,000 AFY, respectively. Groundwater extraction from both aquifers exceeded the range in estimated sustainable yield reported in **Section [9.5](#page-24-0)** (263,000 to 264,000 AFY for the Upper Aquifer and 45,000 to 111,000 AFY for the Lower Aquifer), leading to the identified overdraft in the Basin.

The sustainable yield is sensitive to climatic conditions, and the Basin experiences storage decreases during dry periods and storage increases during wet periods (see **Figure WB-3** and **Figure WB-4**). Hence, as a metric, the sustainable yield is substantially influenced by the consumption of extracted groundwater and the climatic averaging period, as well as conditions in the adjacent (and hydraulically connected) subbasins. As future climatic conditions are difficult to project, and could result in greater reliance of groundwater storage to balance the water budget (see **Table WB-11**), actions that reduce groundwater consumption (pumping reduction) and increase recharge in both the Basin and adjacent subbasins will support long-term groundwater sustainability.

9.4 Projected Water Budget

§ 354.18. Water Budget

- *(b) The water budget shall quantify the following, either through direct measurements or estimates based on data:*
	- *(4) The change in the annual volume of groundwater in storage between seasonal high conditions.*
- *(c) Each Plan shall quantify the current, historical, and projected water budget for the basin as follows:*
	- *(3) Projected water budgets shall be used to estimate future baseline conditions of supply, demand, and aquifer response to Plan implementation, and to identify the uncertainties of these projected water budget components. The projected water budget shall utilize the following methodologies and assumptions to estimate future baseline conditions concerning hydrology, water demand and surface water supply availability or reliability over the planning and implementation horizon:*
		- *(A) Projected hydrology shall utilize 50 years of historical precipitation, evapotranspiration, and streamflow information as the baseline condition for estimating future hydrology. The projected hydrology information shall also be applied as the baseline condition used to evaluate future scenarios of hydrologic uncertainty associated with projections of climate change and sea level rise.*
		- *(B) Projected water demand shall utilize the most recent land use, evapotranspiration, and crop coefficient information as the baseline condition for estimating future water demand. The projected* water demand information shall also be applied as the baseline condition used to evaluate future *scenarios of water demand uncertainty associated with projected changes in local land use planning, population growth, and climate.*
		- *(C) Projected surface water supply shall utilize the most recent water supply information as the baseline condition for estimating future surface water supply. The projected surface water supply shall also be applied as the baseline condition used to evaluate future scenarios of surface water supply availability and reliability as a function of the historical surface water supply identified in Section 354.18(c)(2)(A), and the projected changes in local land use planning, population growth, and climate.*

(d) The Agency shall utilize the following information provided, as available, by the Department pursuant to Section 353.2, or other data of comparable quality, to develop the water budget:

 (3) Projected water budget information for population, population growth, climate change, and sea level rise.

23 CCR § 354.18(c)(3) 23 CCR § 354.18(d)(3)

Per the GSP Regulations 23 CCR § 354.18(c)(3), projected water budgets are required to estimate future conditions of water supply and demand within a basin, as well as evaluate the aquifer response to GSP implementation over the planning and implementation horizon. The Model was employed to develop projected water budgets that considered updated inputs for climate-driven variables.

9.4.1 Development of 50-Year Analog Period

23 CCR § 354.18(c)(3)

Per the GSP Regulations 23 CCR § 354.18(c)(3)(A), the projected water budgets must use 50 years of historical precipitation, ET, and streamflow information as the basis for evaluating future conditions under baseline and climate-modified scenarios. To develop the required 50 years of projected hydrologic input information, an "analog period" was created by repeating the previous 50 years of historical hydrologic record. Therefore, the hydrology for the projected 50-year analog period is based on the hydrology for actual years 1973 to 2022, which includes sequences of both wet and dry years (as was experienced historically). The mapping of actual years to analog years within the required 50-year projected water budget period applies to the precipitation, ET, and streamflow inputs to the Model.

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9.4.2 Development of Projected Water Budget Scenarios

23 CCR § 354.18(c)(3)

Using the 50-year analog period, five projected water budget scenarios were developed for this analysis:

- 1) Projected Baseline;
- 2) Projected 2030 Central Tendency Climate Change;
- 3) Projected 2070 Central Tendency Climate Change;
- 4) Projected 2070 Extreme Dry Climate Change; and,
- 5) Projected 2070 Extreme Wet Climate Change.

The scenarios above represent the Basin water budget using current land use conditions. The Projected Baseline scenario is used for comparison purposes and does not include any expected effects of climate change. The DWR 2030 and 2070 Central Tendency Climate Change scenarios are recommended to reflect what might be considered most likely future conditions. However, there is an approximately equal likelihood that actual future conditions will be more stressful or less stressful than those described by the recommended Central Tendency scenarios (DWR, 2018c). The DWR 2070 Extreme Dry and Wet Climate Change scenarios enable the exploration of conditions at the bounds of potential future climate change conditions. All five scenarios are used to project the 50-year water budget for the Basin (e.g., WY 2024- 2073), and provide insight into the sensitivity of the water budget to uncertainty in future climate conditions.

Section 15 presents additional scenarios that simulate the impacts of the well-defined and soon-to-beactivated P/MAs within the Basin. The primary benefits from these P/MAs include water supply augmentation and groundwater pumping reduction, which collectively support the Basin to achieve its Sustainability Goal and avoid Undesirable Results.

9.4.2.1 Projected Baseline Scenario

Per 23 CCR § 354.18(e)(2)(c), the projected water budget must use "the most recent water supply information as the baseline condition for estimating future surface water supply". The Projected Baseline scenario is for comparison purposes and does not include any expected effects of climate change. As described below, the Baseline Scenario presents the projected water demands through the GSP implementation period:

- Current (2021) land use.
- Precipitation, ET, stream inflows, and stream diversions from the historical simulation period were repeated in the sequence of analog years.
- For surface water delivery and diversion datasets, a combination of recent water years (i.e., WY 2003-2023) is selected based on the water year type of 1973 to 2022 and the corresponding SJV index to best reflect current status of infrastructure and operations within the Basin.

9.4.2.2 Projected Climate Change Scenarios

To estimate potential effects of climate change on the projected water budget, central tendency and extremely dry and wet climate change scenarios were developed using the Climate Period Analysis datasets developed by DWR (DWR, 2018c). Modeling of these scenarios was conducted following the Climate Change Data and Guidance Resource Guide published by DWR (DWR, 2018c), as follows:

- Precipitation and ET were varied using respective climate change scenario change factors. Basin precipitation and ET were consequently changed, as shown in **Table WB-5**.
- Mountain front inflows were varied using respective climate change scenario change factors, while managed stream inflows at reservoirs were adjusted based on CalSim-II results provided.
- Surface water deliveries were varied proportionally to changes resulting from comparing CalSim-II simulations of projected baseline and respective climate change scenarios provided under the same datasets (**Table WB-5**).

9.4.3 Projected Surface Water Supply

23 CCR § 354.18(c)(3)(C)

Per the GSP Regulations 23 CCR § 354.18(c)(3)(C), the projected water budgets must use "the most recent water supply information as the baseline condition for estimating future surface water supply." As such, per the above, surface water deliveries were varied proportionally to changes resulting from comparing CalSim-II simulations of projected baseline and respective climate change scenarios provided under the same datasets.

As shown in **Table WB-5**, surface water deliveries in the Basin may decrease by 9 percent or increase by 3 percent, as simulated by 2070 extreme dry and wet scenarios, respectively, while the central tendency scenarios estimate a more moderate decrease of 2 percent to 5 percent in the 2030 and 2070 scenarios, respectively. These relatively small changes in surface water delivery reaffirm the reliability of surface water supplies in the Basin, as discussed in **Section [9.3.1.](#page-9-1)** Surface water deliveries are also projected to change and increase due to the implementation of P/MAs in the Basin. **Section 15** presents additional information on the estimated future surface water supply volumes and reliability as a result of P/MA implementation.

9.4.4 Projected Water Budget Results

23 CCR § 354.18(c)(3)

Results of the projected groundwater budget analyses are summarized in **Table WB-6**, **Table WB-7** and **Table WB-8**. Due to the Projected Baseline's 50-year averaging period and its better alignment with average hydrologic conditions compared to the Current period, evapotranspiration demand and groundwater extraction during this scenario are less than the Current period (**Table WB-6)**. However, both evapotranspiration and groundwater extraction are greater than in the Historical period due to the increased overall demand. Despite minor differences in land surface water system components, the Projected Baseline scenario shows similar trends in its land surface water budget as the Current period, which is reasonably expected due to maintaining the most recent conditions in its simulation.

The Upper Aquifer groundwater budget for Projected Baseline scenario shows a similar average groundwater extraction to the Current period but indicates an overall average annual decrease in its groundwater storage (**Table WB-7**). While groundwater recharge remains similar to the Historical period, the comparatively larger groundwater extraction is supplied through increased boundary flow, streamgroundwater interaction, and decreased losses of unsaturated zones due to decreased groundwater levels in the Basin.

Similar to the Upper Aquifer, the Lower Aquifer groundwater budget for the Projected Baseline scenario shows an increase in groundwater extraction compared to the Historical period that better aligns with the Current period. This incremental increase in groundwater extraction is largely offset by increased net boundary inflow to the Basin. While the water release caused by subsidence decreases in average annual volume compared to both the Historical and Current periods, it remains significant and a large portion of the supply source for the Lower Aquifer groundwater extraction. As mentioned in **Section [9.3.1](#page-9-1)**, water release caused by subsidence, and consequently, the total loss of storage in the Basin, are overestimated due to the overestimation of the rate and extent of subsidence in the Model. These components are also overestimated in all projected scenarios, leading to conservative estimates of total storage change and benefits from P/MAs. Moreover, a significant portion of subsidence and the associated water release caused by subsidence and total storage loss originate from impacts outside the Basin, as shown from sensitivity analysis scenarios, and are not caused by Basin management nor can be mitigated by actions within the Basin.

It is worth noting that the Projected Baseline scenarios outlined herein, including climate change scenarios, provide a worst-case representation of future conditions in the Basin because they assume the recent and current practices and conditions remain unchanged throughout the 50-year projection (both in the Basin and in the adjacent, hydraulically connected subbasins). However, as discussed in **Section 15**, a suite of P/MAs is planned to be implemented in the Basin to achieve sustainability by 2040 that will significantly change Basin conditions and impact water budget components and changes in groundwater storage. In addition, all neighboring subbasins are complying with the requirements of the SGMA and progressing towards sustainability by 2040, which in turn will improve conditions outside the Basin, change boundary inflows, and reduce subsidence.

While projecting an accurate representation of these changes is currently infeasible, the projected scenarios with P/MAs discussed in **Section 15** present altered future conditions through the implementation of Basin P/MAs (those with quantified benefits and implementation timeline) and assuming progress towards sustainable conditions in neighboring subbasins, equivalent to pre-SGMA conditions.

9.4.4.1 Climate Change Scenarios

23 CCR § 354.18(d)(3)

Potential climate change effects on the projected water budget were evaluated using the 2030 and 2070 central tendency and 2070 extreme dry and wet climate change scenarios. **Table WB-9**, **Table WB-10** and **Table WB-11** provide a comparison of groundwater budgets simulated for Historical, Current, and Projected periods, including different climate change scenarios, for the Upper Aquifer, Lower Aquifer, and

the Basin as a whole, respectively. A general declining trend in Basin conditions is observed in both aquifers in the Projected scenarios, intensified by climate change impacts. Central tendency scenarios project a considerable increase in groundwater extraction, primarily due to expected increases in evapotranspiration, changes in precipitation patterns, reduced surface water deliveries (**Table WB-5**), and further declines in groundwater storage in both aquifers. This decline is more highlighted when water release caused by subsidence is incorporated as a loss in storage.

On the other hand, the wide spectrum of changes projected by extreme dry and wet 2070 climate change scenarios showcase the significant uncertainty in projected Basin conditions. While the extreme 2070 dry climate change scenario depicts a worst-case average condition, comparably worse than the Current period, the extreme wet 2070 climate change scenario indicates average conditions that are comparably better than the Historical and Current periods. This considerable projection uncertainty highlights the fundamental need for adaptive management of the Basin in response to climate change. Therefore, the Basin has designed an adaptive P/MA framework with the capacity and flexibility to effectively respond to projected changes and their corresponding inherent uncertainty in the Basin as discussed in **Section 15**.

9.4.5 Assessment of Future Basin Conditions Under P/MA Implementation

As discussed in **Section [9.4.4](#page-17-0)**, the GSAs plan to address the estimated overdraft and reduce groundwater pumping to within the Sustainable Yield by 2040 through implementation of a suite of Projects and Management Actions (P/MAs) that include supply augmentation, demand management, and a Pumping Reduction Plan (PRP) to mitigate overdraft conditions and adaptively avoid Minimum Thresholds (MTs). These P/MAs are further detailed in **Section 15** and their impact on mitigating overdraft conditions is discussed in **Section 15.6**. This section primarily focuses on the methodology used to simulate projected conditions with P/MAs and their projected impact on achieving Basin's Sustainability Goal while considering the simulation and projection uncertainty.

9.4.5.1 Simulation of Projected Conditions with P/MAs

The Projected Basin condition under the 2030 Central Tendency Climate Change Scenario was used as the basis for the assessment of P/MA impacts, as discussed in **Section [9.4.4.1](#page-18-0)**. To conduct this simulation, and as described further in **Appendix H**, the following modifications were made to the Projected 2030 Central Tendency Climate Change Scenario in the Model:

- The Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 P/MAs were "added" directly to the Model to reflect the anticipated location and volume of the associated benefits. For example, new recharge project locations and anticipated volumetric benefits were represented spatially and in time-series in the Model inputs.
- A constant head boundary was assigned near the boundary of the Basin to represent the expected condition wherein the adjacent basins also achieve sustainability (i.e., a minimum of 2015 water levels) by 2040 and thereby reduce the adjacent basin-related impacts to conditions in the Basin.

A portion of the PRP implementation (i.e., the ~42,000 AFY of overdraft reduction) was simulated to occur in the portions of the Basin where pumping reduction was most needed to address overdraft conditions. Additional pumping reductions due to adaptive management to avoid exceedance of Minimum Thresholds (MTs) per the PRP were also simulated, primarily during WY 2026-2039 and in some dry and critical water years in WY 2040-2073, to address projected net losses of storage, address local conditions, and/or address imbalances in the water budget. Implementation of the PRP (in the form of additional

pumping reductions when and where needed) appears sufficient to maintain groundwater storage in the Basin at or above WY 2015 conditions for the entire projected period in the Upper Aquifer and during WY 2040-2073 in the Lower Aquifer. This assumes adverse impacts of neighboring basins on the Lower Aquifer will be addressed by WY 2040 under SGMA implementation.

Simulation of P/MA benefits is significantly correlated with the arrangement of historical water years used in the development of the 50-year analog period (**Section [9.4.1](#page-15-1)**). The correlation stems from the dependency of P/MA implementation on water year type, surface water delivery and estimated evapotranspiration, and availability of surplus streamflow and/or surface water delivery. Therefore, prolonged and frequent drought periods can lead to underestimation of P/MA benefits and overestimation of groundwater declines, loss of storage, and water release caused by subsidence. Acknowledging this source of uncertainty, the GSAs implemented the 50-year analog period as such that it includes significant dry periods within the implementation period (WY 2024-2040) and represents the most recent historical droughts at the end of the projection period. These assumptions were intended to provide conservative estimates of loss of storage in all scenarios and represent worst-case conditions within the implementation period in assessment of compliance with the sustainable management criteria (SMC) and avoidance of Undesirable Results (URs).

Furthermore, the inherent overestimation of the rate and extent of subsidence by the Model and its corresponding overestimation of water release caused by subsidence and total loss of storage also occurs in the projection scenario with P/MAs because of the consistent data and methodology used to simulate all Historical, Current, and Projected water budget scenarios. Sensitivity analysis conducted on the 2030 Central Tendency Climate Change Scenario with P/MAs indicates that up to 50 percent of water released caused by subsidence is not due to groundwater pumping in the Basin and results from operations outside the Basin. Accounting for all these sources of uncertainty and assumptions, projected conditions presented herein are considered conservative in the simulation of P/MA benefits and estimation of total storage loss, which should be considered in assessing the effectiveness of planned Basin management in reaching its Sustainability Goal.

9.4.5.2 Simulated P/MAs and Their Expected Benefits

The suite of P/MAs designed by Basin GSAs is discussed in **Section 15**. A general implementation schedule, also known as a "glide path", has been developed and is summarized in **Table WB-12** below, to assess sufficiency of P/MAs and to compare and ground truth Model simulations. The estimated average annual benefit from these P/MAs is calculated from the expected benefits and implementation timetable for the Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 P/MAs, as presented in **Table PMA-2**. For the projects that are dependent on normal to wet-year supplies (e.g., recharge projects), the estimated average annual benefit considers the frequency of certain hydrologic conditions.

As detailed in **Section 16.1.1**, the GSAs have also designed a PRP to mitigate decreasing trends in groundwater levels in some areas of the Basin, subsidence-prone areas, and/or where there is a local imbalance of supplies versus groundwater pumping. The PRP will be implemented by the GSAs to mitigate potential Undesirable Results that may occur before 2040, or beyond as necessary. Further, the GSA(s) that have MT exceedances for two consecutive years due to groundwater management within their respective jurisdictional area will be required to implement a mandatory *Groundwater Allocation Backstop*, as described in **Section 16.1.1.6**.

Table WB-12. Glide Path to Address Average Annual Overdraft under 2030 Central Tendency Climate Change

Abbreviations:

AFY = acre-feet per yea GWL-MT = Groundwater Levels Minimum Threshold P/MA = Projects and Management Actions

Notes:

- 1. The average annual volume represents the average expected benefits for the five-year period prior to the year shown. For example, the "2030" column represents the average annual benefits expected from P/MAs from 2026-2030. Annual averages consider project implementation dates as well as historical wet-year frequencies for projects reliant on a wetyear water source, and therefore differ from the maximum benefit described in **Section 15.3**.
- 2. Includes water released caused by Land Subsidence.
- 3. Calculations provided in this table follow the best available information regarding the P/MAs' timeline, conditions for implementation, and resulting benefits. Adaptive management pumping reductions for each period are calculated as the subtraction of total planned P/MA benefits from the average annual overdraft and assumes perfect efficiency. Actual and/or simulated P/MA efficiency and the resultant necessary pumping reductions may be different from what is shown.

The glide path above presents the estimate of benefits from P/MA implementation based on the best available data and information. The expected benefits indicate that the Basin is expected to reach a balanced water budget by WY 2040 and mitigate its long-term average overdraft through implementation of planned P/MAs. However, many uncertainties exist, particularly related to availability of water supplies for supply augmentation projects and hydrologic conditions under climate change scenarios, as well as impacts to the Basin from conditions and pumping outside of the Basin. Consequently, the GSAs have collectively adopted the PRP, which includes an adaptive management framework, to address potential deficits and/or local conditions stemming from these sources of uncertainty. Furthermore, a sensitivity analysis using a combination of different climate change scenarios and assumptions of P/MA benefits is conducted in **Section 15.6**, indicating sufficiency of the adaptive P/MA framework to mitigate the Basin's overdraft and to support the GSAs to achieve their Sustainability Goal.

9.4.5.3 Projected Groundwater Levels and Avoiding Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels Undesirable Results

The 2030 Central Tendency Climate Change Scenario with P/MAs was used to predict future groundwater level conditions with the implementation of the P/MAs and to assess if Undesirable Results^{[36](#page-22-0)} would be expected to occur in the Basin between now and 2040.

Following the Model revision and application described in **Section [9.4.5.1](#page-19-0)**, the hydrographs at 71 of the Representative Monitoring Wells-Water Levels (RMW-WLs) that are explicitly represented in the Model were evaluated to assess if more than 25 percent of them exceeded their MT between now and 2040.³⁷ As shown in **Figure WB-5** and **Appendix H**, fewer than 25 percent of the RMW-WLs are projected to exceed their respective MTs in any given year between now and 2040 and no Undesirable Results are projected to occur with successful implementation of the P/MAs.

Figure WB-5. Avoidance of Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels Undesirable Results Under 2030 Central Tendency Climate Change with P/MAs Scenario

³⁶ For the purposes of this assessment, this portion of the Decline in Groundwater Levels Undesirable Results definition was used: "Groundwater levels decline below the established MTs in 25 percent or more of the RMW-WLs for two consecutive years (i.e., based on measurements from two seasonal high groundwater level periods and two seasonal low groundwater level periods)".

³⁷ Because some of the RMW-WLs did not have any historical data or have not yet been constructed they were not explicitly represented in the Model. As such this analysis assumed that as long as no more than 25 percent of the 71 RMW-WLs exceed that MT, then by inference no more than 25 percent of the entire RMW-WL network will exceed the MT and create an Undesirable Result.

9.4.5.4 Overdraft Elimination by WY 2040

SGMA requires that the Basin achieves sustainability by 2040. Under the assumption that sustainability means the elimination of groundwater overdraft by 2040, then demonstration of overdraft reduction by and following 2040 is critical.

Using the 2030 Central Tendency Climate Change with P/MAs Scenario, the water budget for the Basin was calculated for WY 2024-2073. The WY 2024-2073 period used for this analysis is the same as the Projected period defined in **Section [9.1](#page-1-0)** and uses a repeat of the historical 50-year period from WY 1973 to WY 2022, as required under 23 CCR § 354.18(c). Development of this 50-year analog period and generation of the 2030 Central Tendency Climate Change with P/MAs Scenario follow the data, methodology, and assumptions outlined in **Section [9.4](#page-15-0)**. This simulation showcases the achievement of sustainability in the Basin through planned implementation of P/MAs and application of the Basin's adaptive PRP (**Section 16.1.1**) under the assumed climate conditions.

The simulation of P/MA benefits is highly correlated with the sequence of historical water years used to develop the 50-year analog period due to P/MA implementation's dependence on water year type, surface water delivery, estimated evapotranspiration, and the availability of surplus streamflow or surface water delivery. Consequently, prolonged and frequent droughts can lead to underestimating P/MA benefits and overestimating groundwater declines, storage loss, and water release due to subsidence.

The precise projection of future climate is impossible, and what is utilized for planning in this GSP is a single realization of a set of potential climate scenarios with infinite members. Recognizing these uncertainties, the GSAs designed the 50-year analog period to include significant dry periods during the implementation period (WY 2024-2040) and to reflect recent historical droughts at the end of the projection period. Furthermore, the GSAs used the most recent 50-year period available without making any changesto the arrangement of years or data timeseries, assuming an exact repeat of recent hydrology would provide the best available method for planning. These assumptions aim to provide conservative estimates of storage loss and worst-case groundwater conditions during the implementation period (WY 2024-2039) while representing average hydrology in the years between WY 2040-2073.

As shown in **Table WB-14**, the average annual and cumulative storage change in the Upper Aquifer relative to WY 2015 conditions during WY 2016-2040 and WY 2041-2073 is positive, indicating sustainable conditions with no overdraft. The SGMA and DWR proposed methodology for assessing climate change impacts (DWR, 2018c) emphasizes using long-term periodic averages for GSP planning and sustainability evaluation, understanding hydroclimatic variability, and recognizing the need for operational flexibility. However, the adaptive management framework adopted by the GSAs in the Basin allows for the proactive mitigation of overdraft, as demonstrated under this scenario through adaptive management pumping reduction.

Figure WB-6 (a) shows the projected cumulative aquifer storage change relative to WY 2015 conditions in the Upper Aquifer (i.e., the zero cumulative storage change reference value). As shown therein, assuming successful implementation of P/MAs and focused implementation of the PRP, Upper Aquifer storage will remain above WY 2015 levels throughout WY 2016-2073 period.

Due to the significant impact of neighboring basins on Lower Aquifer storage change and subsidence, as discussed in **Sections [9.3.3](#page-11-0)** and **[9.4.4](#page-17-0)**, the GSAs plan to achieve sustainability by WY 2040 in the Lower Aquifer, assuming that groundwater conditions in the neighboring basins will improve under SGMA

implementation and resemble WY 2015 conditions. As shown in **Table WB-14**, the average annual and cumulative storage change in the Lower Aquifer during WY 2016-2040 and WY 2041-2073 relative to WY 2015 conditions are positive, indicating sustainable conditions with no overdraft. Further emphasizing the effectiveness of the GSAs' P/MAs and adaptive management pumping reduction, **Figure WB-6 (b)** shows that Lower Aquifer storage change will remain above WY 2015 levels starting from WY 2040, consistent with the Basin's Sustainability Goal.

The volumes shown in **Table WB-14** and **Figure WB-6** exclude water released by subsidence, representing the change in aquitard storage, due to its irrecoverable nature. However, under the same scenario, the average annual change in aquitard storage during WY 2041-2073 is well within the Model's computational error tolerance, confirming the mitigation of subsidence in the Basin. As discussed in **Section [9.4.4](#page-17-0)**, the Basin GSAs cannot mitigate the subsidence occurring in the Basin without the expected sustainable conditions in neighboring basins, as groundwater conditions outside the Basin cause more than 50 percent of the observed subsidence within the Basin.

Figure WB-6 (c) shows how the implementation of the P/MAs and adaptive management through the PRP are projected to achieve sustainability at the Basin scale by WY 2040. The distribution of P/MA benefits based on different water year types and the application of the adaptive management (PRP) framework emphasizes the flexibility of the Basin's planning and implementation in absorbing uncertainties due to hydroclimatic variability. The significant improvement in Basin conditions after WY 2035, along with the substantial reduction in the need for adaptive management except in critical water years, showcases the effectiveness of the planned and implemented P/MAs.

Abbreviations:

AF = acre-feet AFY = acre-feet per year WY = water year

9.5 Sustainable Yield

§ 354.18. Water Budget

(b) The water budget shall quantify the following, either through direct measurements or estimates based on data:

(7) An estimate of sustainable yield for the basin.

23 CCR § 354.18(b)(7)

SGMA defines sustainable yield as "the maximum quantity of water, calculated over a base period representative of long-term conditions in the basin and including any temporary surplus, that can be withdrawn annually from a groundwater supply without causing an undesirable result" (California Water Code [CWC], §10721(w)). DWR's BMP #4 Water Budget (DWR, 2016c) further states that "Water budget accounting information should directly support the estimate of sustainable yield for the basin and include an explanation of how the estimate of sustainable yield will allow the basin to be operated to avoid locally defined undesirable results." Inherent to the codified definition and the BMP statement is the avoidance of the SGMA-specified "Undesirable Results", which include significant and unreasonable effects for any of the six SGMA Sustainability Indicators, most of which are based either directly or by proxy on groundwater levels.

While no exact method for defining the sustainable yield is required by SGMA or promoted by DWR in its Water Budget BMP, the BMP does emphasize that water budget accounting information should be used. It follows that an estimate of the sustainable yield can be made by subtracting the average annual groundwater extraction, which is negative by definition, from the average annual change in storage (whether positive or negative). This simplified approach provides a sustainable yield estimate corresponding to the total volume of water that, if pumped over the water budget period of interest, would have resulted in zero change in storage due to pumping – a reasonable metric for sustainability.

Since water release caused by subsidence accounts for a majority of the overdraft calculated for the Basin, it has been added to the change of storage for each aquifer as an equivalent of a negative storage change for calculation of sustainable yield. However, it is important to note that this water budget term is a significant source of uncertainty given that the Model is not calibrated for subsidence and currently overestimates the extent and magnitude of subsidence in the Basin. Furthermore, sensitivity analyses conducted as part of the Model application suggest that as much as 50 percent of the subsidence (and subsequent loss of storage) simulated within the Basin is caused by pumping in adjacent basins. Therefore, the sustainable yield was calculated as a range, considering both the presence and absence of impacts from adjacent groundwater basins on the permanent loss of aquitard storage due to subsidence, represented as water release caused by subsidence. Notwithstanding the uncertainty in subsidence estimation, the sustainable yield is conservatively estimated at approximately 263,000 to 264,000 AFY for the Upper Aquifer and between 45,000 AFY to 111,000 AFY for the Lower Aquifer, summing to 308,000 AFY to 375,000 AFY for the Basin during the WY 2003-2023 period (i.e., the Historical and Current water budget periods).

Table WB-13 provides a summary of the range of potential Sustainable Yield estimates for different selected time periods, similarly considering the presence and absence of impacts from neighboring basins on water release caused by subsidence. Under Historical conditions (WY 2003-2018), the Sustainable Yield estimate is approximately 241,000 to 242,000 AFY for the Upper Aquifer and between 40,000 AFY and 95,000 AFY for the Lower Aquifer, whereas under Current supply and demand conditions (WY 2019-2023), the Sustainable Yield estimate is approximately 326,000 to 328,000 AFY for the Upper Aquifer and between 58,000 AFY and 157,000 AFY for the Lower Aquifer. For the period WY 2003-2023 that is considered for overdraft evaluation, the Sustainable Yield estimate is approximately 263,000 to 264,000

AFY for the Upper Aquifer and between 45,000 AFY and 111,000 AFY for the Lower Aquifer. These historical evaluations produce sustainable yield estimates for the Basin that range from 281,000 AFY to 485,000 AFY and represent a reasonably conservative estimate for planning purposes.

The ranges provided for Sustainable Yield are estimates based on the historical and current periods, as required by 23 CCR § 354.18.(b)(7). The Sustainable Yield of the Basin will change and likely increase in the future due to the implementation of P/MAs and should be ultimately defined based on the sustainable management criteria outlined in the GSP, as the volume of Basin-wide groundwater extraction that does not lead to Undesirable Results.

9.6 Data Gaps and Sources of Uncertainty

The data and results presented herein to develop water budgets, simulate Historical, Current and Projected conditions in the Basin, and assess climate change impacts are based on the best available data, science, and tools currently available. However, as highlighted below, significant sources of uncertainty exist in the simulation of Basin conditions due to remaining data gaps, complex hydrogeology, and dynamic interconnections with adjacent basins. Despite efforts to address these uncertainties within the GSP's adaptive management framework, existing data limitations and significant sources of uncertainty will require updates and modifications to the Model, the results, and associated policies and P/MA implementation.

Estimation of Water Use in the Basin

Estimation of water use in the Basin, including groundwater pumping and surface water delivery and diversion information, is primarily based on the assumptions and data made available by the GSAs in the development of the CVHM2 (Traum et al., 2024). While water use data have been collected as part of the Annual Report development in the Basin and further supplemented going back to 2003, there is less data accuracy and completeness prior to the implementation of SGMA. Furthermore, the available groundwater pumping data are not always sufficiently distinguished by principal aquifers.

The Model documentation (Traum et al., 2024) indicates that "CVHM2 was designed to portray general characteristics for examining hydrology at a regional scale; CVHM2 was not designed to reproduce every detail of the Central Valley hydrologic system." Therefore, the GSAs have attempted to fine-tune CVHM2's representation of surface water delivery and groundwater pumping within the Basin to the extent possible based on the best available data. This fine-tuning was implemented on a subregional scale within the Basin and aimed at improving the periodical average representation of conditions in the Model (Historical and Current period average surface water delivery and pumping). However, local differences and departures can still be observed in annual comparisons of water use between Model representation and existing data. In potential future refinements and calibration of the Model, the GSAs will consider improvements to surface water delivery and groundwater pumping representation in a more detailed and fine-scaled approach.

Model Representation of Subsidence

The extent and rate of subsidence are overestimated by CVHM2, as further discussed in **Appendix H**. The overestimation leads to increased volumes of water release caused by subsidence in all water budget periods and results in an overestimation of overdraft and underestimation of the Basin sustainable yield.

Further, sensitivity analyses conducted as part of Model development suggest that as much as 50 percent of the subsidence (and subsequent loss of storage) simulated within the Basin is caused by pumping in adjacent basins. While the GSAs have decided to incorporate this uncertainty to make more conservative management decisions, the subsidence representation in the Model will need to be adjusted upon availability of better data and further adjustments to the Model (i.e., subsidence calibration).

Model Representation of Conditions Outside the Basin

Due to the hydrogeologic interconnection of the Basin to its neighboring subbasins and the significant impact of subregional conditions on Basin groundwater levels, boundary flows, stream-groundwater interaction, and subsidence, the projection of the Basin's future conditions is necessarily incomplete without more accurately representing the changes occurring outside of the Basin boundary. Such changes are currently infeasible to implement since all neighboring subbasins are in their early years of SGMA implementation. Understanding this significant source of uncertainty, the GSAs have used the Model results to bookend potential future conditions, understand the impacts of pumping outside of the Basin on conditions (water levels and subsidence) within the Basin, and assess their P/MA effectiveness. As progress is made and more data and information become available from the surrounding subbasins, the representation of Basin conditions and projected future conditions within the Model can be improved.

Projection Uncertainty

Projection of Basin conditions is highly dependent on the arrangement of historical years and the corresponding climate conditions, as discussed in **Section [9.4.1](#page-15-1)**. The 50-year analog period was designed to follow regulation requirements and represent near-average conditions. The arrangement of analog years can vary within the 50-year period but still represent the same average conditions. However, the arrangement of years and the sequence of water year types impact projected conditions during the implementation period (WY 2024-2040) and the projected period (WY 2024-2073), used as the basis for planning and management in this GSP. While the GSP primarily relies on periodical averages and consistently conservative assumptions for planning and management to prepare for worst-case scenarios, these sources of uncertainty should be considered within the context of adaptive management and improved as feasible in the future.

Furthermore, sensitivity analysis using the Model indicates a highly integrated and interrelated hydrogeology between the Basin and its neighboring groundwater subbasins. Therefore, projection of future conditions incorporates significant uncertainty stemming from groundwater management and unknown conditions in those subbasins. The GSP attempts to make conservative assumptions in its water budget estimation by assuming the continuation of current conditions in the Basin and all its neighboring subbasins during the projected period. While the assumption will direct Basin management towards planning for a near worst-case scenario of loss in storage and subsidence, it is expected that conditions around the Basin will progress positively under SGMA and, in turn, help with progress in the Basin. This assumption should be considered in the evaluation of management decisions under this GSP and improved in the future as more information becomes available.

AFY = acre-feet per year

WY = Water Year

Notes

(a) Applied water includes imported surface water, diverted water from streams, and groundwater.

(b) Stream inflow and outflow incorporate all flows simulated as part of the Model's Streamflow Routing Package (SFR), including flows simulated in San Joaquin River, California Aqueduct, and Delta-Mendota Canal. Although included in the calculation of stream inflow and outflow to the Basin and accounts for streamflow received from streams outside of the Basin, such as Merced and Kings River.

(c) Change in storage is calculated as the difference between inflows and outflows and is negligible in Land Surface Water Budget.

(d) All numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Summation of terms may have minor discrepancies due to rounding errors.

AFY = acre-feet per year

WY = Water Year

Notes

(a) Change in storage is calculated as the difference between inflows and outflows.

(b) All numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Summation of terms may have minor discrepancies due to rounding errors.

AFY = acre-feet per year

WY = Water Year

Notes

(a) Change in storage is calculated as the difference between inflows and outflows.

(b) All numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Summation of terms may have minor discrepancies due to rounding errors.

Table WB-5. Change from Projected Baseline by Scenario

Table WB-6. Projected Baseline Scenario Land Surface Water System Inflows and Outflows

AFY = acre-feet per year WY = Water Year

Notes

(a) Applied water includes imported surface water, diverted water from streams, and groundwater.

(b) Stream inflow and outflow incorporate all flows simulated as part of the Model's Streamflow Routing Package (SFR), including flows simulated in San Joaquin River, California Aqueduct, and Delta-Mendota Canal. Although included in the calculation of stream inflow and outflow to the Basin and accounts for streamflow received from streams outside of the Basin, such as Merced and Kings River.

(c) Change in storage is calculated as the difference between inflows and outflows and is negligible in Land Surface Water Budget (Proj).

(d) All numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Summation of terms may have minor discrepancies due to rounding errors.

Table WB-7. Projected Baseline Scenario Annual Inflows and Outflows from the Upper Aquifer Groundwater System

AFY = acre-feet per year WY = Water Year

Notes

(a) Change in storage is calculated as the difference between inflows and outflows.

(b) All numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Summation of terms may have minor discrepancies due to rounding errors.

Table WB-8. Projected Baseline Scenario Annual Inflows and Outflows from the Lower Aquifer Groundwater System

AFY = acre-feet per year WY = Water Year

Notes

(a) Change in storage is calculated as the difference between inflows and outflows.

(b) All numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Summation of terms may have minor discrepancies due to rounding errors.

Table WB-9. Upper Aquifer Water Budget Summary by Scenario

Abbreviations

AFY = acre-feet per year DWR = California Department of Water Resources

P/MA = Project and/or Management Actions

WY = Water Year

Notes

(a) Change in storage is calculated as the difference between inflows and outflows.

(b) All numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Summation of terms may have minor discrepancies due to rounding errors.

Table WB-10. Lower Aquifer Water Budget Summary by Scenario

Abbreviations

AFY = acre-feet per year DWR = California Department of Water Resources

P/MA = Project and/or Management Actions

WY = Water Year

Notes

(a) Change in storage is calculated as the difference between inflows and outflows.

(b) All numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Summation of terms may have minor discrepancies due to rounding errors.

Table WB-11. Basin Water Budget Summary by Scenario

Abbreviations

AFY = acre-feet per year DWR = California Department of Water Resources

P/MA = Project and/or Management Actions

WY = Water Year

Notes

(a) Change in storage is calculated as the difference between inflows and outflows.

(b) All numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Summation of terms may have minor discrepancies due to rounding errors.

Table WB-13. Sustainable Yield Summary

Notes

(a) All numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 1,000. Summation of terms may have negligible departures due to rounding errors.

(b) Water release caused by subsidence is generally overestimated in the Model due to local overestimations of subsidence rates and extent.

(c) Lower and upper bounds of the range for water release caused by subsidence show the component's portion caused by Basin management and its total simulated volume, respectively.

(d) Lower and upper bounds of the range for sustainable yield is calculated based on the range provided for water release caused by subsidence.

Legend

C00041.09 July 2024 Delta-Mendota Subbasin

Numerical Model Mesh

Model Extent and Grid Delta-Mendota Subbasin (DWR Basin No. 5-022.07)

Abbreviations

CVHM2-SJV = Central Valley Hydrologic Model Version 2 – San Joaquin Valley DWR = California Department of Water Resources

Sources

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1. Groundwater basins and subbasins. California Department of Water Resources. August 25, 2023.

2. CVHM2-SJV is developed by the United States Geological Survey's (USGS).

Sumplem vironment

AF = acre -feet

SGMA = Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Annual Groundwater Storage Change, Upper Aquifer

Delta -Mendota Subbasin July 2024 C00041.09 **Figure WB - 3**

for this figure, please contact the Plan Manager for assistance.

Abbreviations

AF = acre -feet

SGMA = Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

Annual Groundwater Storage Change, Lower Aquifer

Delta -Mendota Subbasin July 2024 C00041.09 **Figure WB - 4**

 (b)

10 MANAGEMENT AREAS

§ 354.20. Management Areas

- *(a) Each Agency may define one or more management areas within a basin if the Agency has determined that creation of management areas will facilitate implementation of the Plan. Management areas may define different minimum thresholds and be operated to different measurable objectives than the basin at large, provided that undesirable results are defined consistently throughout the basin.*
- *(b) A basin that includes one or more management areas shall describe the following in the Plan:*
	- *(1) The reason for the creation of each management area.*
	- *(2) The minimum thresholds and measurable objectives established for each management area, and an* explanation of the rationale for selecting those values, if different from the basin at large.
	- *(3)* The level of monitoring and analysis appropriate for each management area.
	- *(4)* An explanation of how the management area can operate under different minimum thresholds and measurable objectives without causing undesirable results outside the *management area, if applicable.*

23 CCR § 354.20(a)

The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (Basin) have not defined any Management Areas at this time. The Basin GSAs collectively decided to develop a single Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for the Basin and signed and executed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) (**Appendix D**), which will supersede the 2018 Coordination Agreement and Cost Sharing Agreement upon adoption of this GSP by the GSAs. The MOA updates the Basin governance structure with an emphasis on GSP implementation and defines seven groups of GSAs (the "GSA Groups") to guide management of separate portions of the Basin through a Coordination Committee. This structure continues to support localized knowledge and management of the Basin while striving for more coordinated Sustainability Goal, criteria, and objectives.

The GSAs acknowledge that management of the Basin through 23 GSAs introduces complexity to the Basin's organizational structure. However, the GSAs have also recognized a profound responsibility to local communities to uphold their representation in Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) decision-making processes. Notably, a majority of communities (including disadvantaged communities [DACs]) within the Basin are directly represented through their own GSA, which was a deliberate approach aimed to foster direct participation in SGMA matters. The GSAs have chosen to preserve the diversity and inclusion that exists within the 23 GSAs through the Basin's organizational structure, and each GSA is responsible for SGMA compliance within its jurisdictional area.

DELTA **MENDOTA SGM**