

# Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee

## Committee Members

Roberta Jaffe (Chair)  
Brenton Kelly (Vice Chair)  
Claudia Alvarado

Brad DeBranch  
Louse Draucker  
Jake Furstenfeld

Joe Haslett  
Mike Post  
Hilda Leticia Valenzuela

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## AGENDA

March 29, 2018

**Agenda for a meeting of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee to be held on Thursday, March 29, 2018 at 3:00 PM, at the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, 4689 CA-166, New Cuyama, CA 93254. To hear the session live, call (888) 222-0475 Code 6375195#.**

The order in which agenda items are discussed to accommodate scheduling or other needs of the Committee, the public or meeting participants. Members of the public are encouraged to arrive at the commencement of the meeting to ensure that they are present for Committee discussion of all items in which they are interested.

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need disability-related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services, to participate in this meeting, please contact Taylor Blakslee at (661) 477-3385 by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to this meeting. Agenda backup information and any public records provided to the Committee after the posting of the agenda for this meeting will be available for public review at 4853 Primero Street, New Cuyama, California. The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency reserves the right to limit each speaker to three (3) minutes per subject or topic.*

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Report of the General Counsel
6. Groundwater Sustainability Agency
  - a. Report of the Executive Director
  - b. SGMA Educational Item: What Makes A Good Groundwater Model?
  - c. Board of Directors Agenda Review
  - d. Logo Review
7. Groundwater Sustainability Plan
  - a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update
  - b. Stakeholder Engagement Update
8. Standing Advisory Committee Responsibilities and Guidelines
9. Items for Upcoming Sessions
10. Committee Forum
11. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

*At this time, the public may address the Committee on any item not appearing on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee. Persons wishing to address the Committee should fill out a comment card and submit it to the Executive Director prior to the meeting.*

12. Adjourn

# Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

## Acronyms List

BOD	Board of Directors
CA	California
CB	Cuyama Basin
CBGSA	Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency
CBWD	Cuyama Basin Water District
CCSD	Cuyama Community Services District
CVCA	Cuyama Valley Community Association
CVRD	Cuyama Valley Recreation District
DMS	Data Management System
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
ET	Evapotranspiration
FRC	Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center
FY	Fiscal Year
GSA	Groundwater Sustainability Agency
GSP	Groundwater Sustainability Plan
HG	Hallmark Group (Executive Director)
ITRC	Irrigation Training & Research Center
IWFM	Integrated Water Flow Model
Kern	County of Kern
SAC	Standing Advisory Committee
Santa Barbara	County of Santa Barbara
SBCWA	Santa Barbara County Water Agency
SGMA	Sustainable Groundwater Management Act
SLO	San Luis Obispo County
SWCRB	State Water Resources Control Board
TO	Task Order
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
Ventura	County of Ventura
WC	Woodard & Curran (GSP Development Consultant)

# Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee Meeting

March 1, 2018

## Draft Meetings Minutes

Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, 4689 CA-166, New Cuyama, CA 93254

### PRESENT:

Jaffe, Roberta – Chair  
Kelly, Brenton – Vice Chair  
DeBranch, Brad  
Drauker, Louise  
Haslett, Joe  
Post, Mike (*telephonically*)  
Beck, Jim – Executive Director

### ABSENT:

Furstenfeld, Jake  
Hughes, Joe – Legal Counsel

#### 1. Call to order

Chair Jaffe called the Standing Advisory Committee to order at 3:09 pm.

#### 2. Roll call

Chair Jaffe called roll of the Committee (shown above).

#### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by Chair Jaffe.

#### 4. Approval of minutes

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Executive Director Jim Beck presented the minutes from the last session. Editorial changes were requested and a revised draft with corrections will be distributed. A motion was made by Committee Member Debranch to approve the revised minutes and seconded by Committee Member [?]. The motion passed unanimously.

#### 5. Report of the General Counsel

There was no report of the General Counsel for this session.

#### 6. Report of the Executive Director

##### a. Board of Directors Meeting Agenda Review

Mr. Beck reported on the timeline for the March 7, 2018 special joint Board and Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting. He also announced U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) Hydrogeologist Claudia

Faunt will be presenting on the groundwater reports USGS performed for the Cuyama Basin. Committee Member Draucker asked how to reconcile the two major reports for those that are not water experts. Mr. Beck and Woodard & Curran Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) consultant Lyndel Melton that they expect USGS to present at a level that is consumable. Mr. Beck mentioned the need to rearrange the room around 3:45 pm on March 7, 2018 to accommodate the workshops at the special joint Board and SAC meeting. Chair Jaffe asked if CBGSA members are being asked to stay and participate. Mr. Beck said for this workshop, it is more about bringing people up to speed and outlining future opportunities to provide input. He shared that some Board members may not attend to make people feel more comfortable, while others may elect to stay because they are interested in public input and desire to show support to the community. Mr. Beck mentioned that if we lose a quorum we will need to stop the meeting and adjourn that board or committee, but the workshop will continue. Mr. Beck noted that the workshop is intended to be as interactive as possible. Cuyama Valley Family Resource Executive Director Lynn Carlisle asked if the team will stay until the conclusion of the Spanish workshop at 8:30 pm. Mr. Beck confirmed that he, and the GSP consultants would stay for both workshops. Committee member Mike Post said he plans on staying until 8:30 pm to demonstrate appropriate interest and support for the community. Vice Chair Brenton Kelly commented that this is potentially the first of six workshops in 2018, but it seemed a little vague regarding notice of the actionable item for the workshop. Mr. Melton said he will cover this later in the agenda.

**b. Standing Advisory Committee Membership Update**

Mr. Beck reported that he had received two applications by the February 28, 2018 deadline, and an ad hoc of the Board was set to review these candidate applications on Friday, March 2, 2018. A recommendation will be made to the Board at the March 7, 2018 meeting.

**c. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update**

Mr. Melton presented on update on GSP accomplishments, and reported that his team had reached out to the four counties (Kern, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura) and the Cuyama Basin Water District and Cuyama Community Services District for data and are looking for additional landowner data.

Mr. Melton reported that Woodard & Curran developed a website, and it will be a valuable tool to communicate with stakeholders.

Ms. Jaffe asked if there is an ideal set of data that Mr. Melton wants to have collected, and how do you determine that? Mr. Melton replied that there is not, but they are looking to gather as much available data as they can.

Mr. Melton reported that Woodard & Curran modeler Ali Taghavi was one of the recent recipients of the prestigious California Water and Environmental Modeling Forum Hugo B. Fischer Award for modelling.

Mr. Melton reported that they looked very hard at the reports EKI and USGS developed. He said the USGS model has gaps, does not cover the whole basin and model results are not readily reproducible, but there are still useful components of that model and we will use their data and update it. Mr. Melton said that there are two model platforms to choose from. Either, use an expanded USGS model (that has issues), or use the California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) new Integrated Water Flow Model (IWFM). Using IWFM has more efficient surface interface options and it is what DWR prefers. Mr. Melton noted that the IWFM may actually cost

less than updating the USGS model, and is what they are recommending. He noted they will be looking for Board consensus on using the IWFM at the March 7, 2018 meeting. Vice Chair Kelly asked what the timeline is on selecting a model, and Mr. Melton replied it is later this month because of the need to move quickly on developing the water budget. Mr. Beck relayed that the Board does not need to vote on this technical component, but we will seek consensus from the Board on the approach. He further noted that the SAC does not need to make a motion on this, but it is helpful to receive the SAC's feedback. Ms. Carlisle asked why an efficient surface interface option was a benefit with the IWFM model when Cuyama Valley does not have surface water. Mr. Melton replied that the Cuyama Valley does have surface water in different forms. The groundwater basin is recharged through surface streams (and upstream fingerlings), as well as irrigation percolation. Vice Chair Kelly mentioned that he read a report from UC Davis that compared multiple models and it concluded that the most important factor in developing a robust model is the quality of the inputs. He said the report confirmed that the DWR IWFM model addressed more factors for ag land than the USGS model. Mr. Melton said they will use Irrigation Training and Research Center data and historic pumping to define consumptive use in the basin. Mr. Melton received feedback from the SAC to clarify what each cell represented in the hydrologic model. Chair Jaffe said there is a lot of interest in the model, and a future workshop to understand it may be appropriate.

**d. Draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy Overview**

Catalyst Group GSP outreach consultant Charles Gardiner outlined the draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy goals, and the use of a planning roadmap to assist in procuring public input on key issues. He suggested we may do future workshops on a different day than the Board meeting to facilitate greater participation. He reported that the draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy is intended to be very adaptive to stakeholder needs. He provided an overview of outreach methods that included workshops, presentations, fact sheets, an e-newsletter, and draft reports.

Mr. Gardiner reiterated the need to develop a robust and inclusive contact list for disseminating basin information and noticing for important meetings and events. He reported that he will work with the SAC to expand the list of educational topics. Chair Jaffe suggested adding a printed newsletter, in addition to an e-newsletter, and having it available at different distribution points in the Valley. It was noted that distributing physical copies of meeting materials should always be considered to effectively reach residents in the Cuyama Valley. Ms. Carlisle said that the Recreation Center purchases a mailing list from the U.S. Post Office that is competitively priced and covers most residents in the Cuyama Valley.

Ms. Carlisle suggested a feedback loop (likely on the website) where you can filter community questions, develop an answer, and post these answers online in the form of a FAQ. Mr. Gardiner said workshop summaries will be prepared as another vehicle demonstrating a recognition of key issues and presenting solutions. Chair Jaffe suggested using a workshop comment sheet to fill out at the end of the workshop to provide feedback. Mr. Gardiner said that is a great point and they had planned to utilize something like that at the upcoming workshop.

Chair Jaffe said she thinks they need to incorporate high school students since the 2040 sustainability deadline will impact them. Committee member Haslett suggested sending the newsletter to high school students. Ms. Carlisle suggested getting the local 4H involved, and the SAC thought that was a great idea. Chair Jaffe said she would like to incorporate an educational section on the SAC agenda that is more technical in nature. Lastly, Chair Jaffe suggested having

snacks and coffee at the upcoming public workshops.

**e. Website/Logo/Newsletter Update**

Catalyst Group GSP outreach consultant Mary Currie provided an update on the website, logo and newsletter. Some SAC members commented that they would like the logo to better represent the Valley. Other feedback on the logo was that it does not reflect living in the desert, or include the unique mountains. There was also a comment that the logo appeared “too wet.” The consultants were appreciative of the feedback and will redraft the logo.

Vice Chair Kelly asked if final meeting minutes will be posted on the website. Mr. Beck let him know they will. Committee member Haslett suggested adding a separate section for final meeting minutes.

Ms. Currie reported that about five or six newsletters will be published this year with the first one scheduled for mid-April 2018. Newsletter content will include a message from the Executive Director and the SAC, milestones/upcoming issues/workshops, and an educational section. Chair Jaffe suggested a community-based section to include community high school interviews that will draw in readership.

Committee member Mike Post said that he loves the logo and did not want to spend much additional time changing it. Committee member Louise Draucker said she did not have a problem with the white version of the logo. Vice Chair Kelly asked Committee Member Brad DeBranch who came up with the Cuyama Valley Water District logo, and Mr. DeBranch replied it was developed by the managing consultant.

**f. Standing Advisory Committee Responsibilities and Guidelines**

Chair Jaffe discussed the need for defining SAC member roles. Mr. Beck discussed addressing the conduct of the meeting in the form of guidelines. Mr. Haslett asked if the CBGSA Board dissolves once the GSP is accepted by the State. Mr. Beck replied that a functional shift will occur to monitoring and reporting by the Board, specifically for the mandated 5-year updates.

The SAC decided it would develop Guidelines and Responsibilities to adopt, and a draft will be presented at the March 29, 2018 SAC meeting by an ad hoc consisting of Chair Jaffe, Vice Chair Kelly and Committee Member Draucker.

**g. Items for upcoming sessions**

Nothing to report.

**7. Committee Forum**

There were no items discussed in the Committee forum.

**8. Public comment for items not on the Agenda**

Ms. Carlisle provided an update on a meeting with the Promotora Group and the Hispanic community, and pointed out there still is a disconnect on groundwater issues and retail water usage.

**9. Adjourn**

Chair Jaffe adjourned the meeting at 5:29 pm.

I, Jim Beck, Executive Director of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held on Thursday, March 1, 2018, by the Cuyama Basing Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee.

**Jim Beck**

Dated: March 1, 2018

DRAFT

TO: Standing Advisory Committee  
Agenda Item No. 6c

FROM: Jim Beck, Executive Director

DATE: March 29, 2018

SUBJECT: Board of Directors Agenda Review

**Issue**

Review of the April 4, 2018 Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors agenda.

**Recommended Motion**

None – information only.

**Discussion**

The April 4, 2018 Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors agenda is provided as Attachment 1 for review.

# Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

## Board of Directors

### Board of Directors

**Derek Yurosek** Chairperson, Cuyama Basin Water District  
**Lynn Compton** Vice Chairperson, County of San Luis Obispo  
**Das Williams** Santa Barbara County Water Agency  
**Cory Bantilan** Santa Barbara County Water Agency  
**Glenn Shephard** County of Ventura  
**David Couch** County of Kern

**Paul Chounet** Cuyama Community Services District  
**George Cappello** Cuyama Basin Water District  
**Byron Albano** Cuyama Basin Water District  
**Jane Wooster** Cuyama Basin Water District  
**Tom Bracken** Cuyama Basin Water District

### Agenda

April 4, 2018

Agenda for a meeting of the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board of Directors and Standing Advisory Committee to be held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018 at 4:00 PM, at the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center, 4689 CA-166, New Cuyama, CA 93254. To hear the session live call (888) 222-0475 Code 6375195#.

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1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. March 7, 2018
5. Report of the General Counsel
  - a. Funding Agreements Update
6. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee
  - a. SAC Guidelines and Responsibilities
7. Groundwater Sustainability Agency
  - a. Report of the Executive Director
  - b. Board Meeting Conflict on July 4, 2018
  - c. Progress & Next Steps

- d. Logo Update
- 8. Groundwater Sustainability Plan
  - a. Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update
  - b. Stakeholder Engagement Update
- 9. Financial Report
  - a. Financial Management Overview
  - b. Fiscal Year 2018/19 Budget Development
  - c. Payment of Bills
- 10. Reports of the Ad Hoc Committees
- 11. Directors' Forum
- 12. Public comment for items not on the Agenda

*At this time, the public may address the Board on any item not appearing on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. Persons wishing to address the Board should fill out a comment card and submit it to the Board Chair prior to the meeting.*

- 13. Adjourn

TO: Standing Advisory Committee  
Agenda Item No. 6d

FROM: Jim Beck, Executive Director

DATE: March 29, 2018

SUBJECT: Logo Update

**Issue**

Update on the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency logo.

**Recommended Motion**

None – information only.

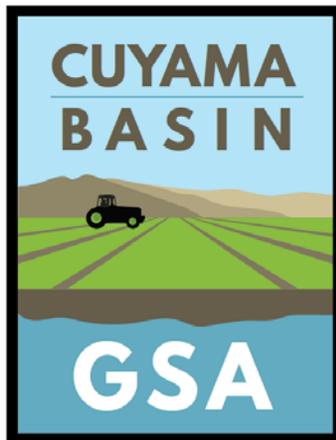
**Discussion**

As part of the outreach and branding effort, the consultant developed a logo for the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA). The logo was presented at the Marc 1, 2018 CBGSA Standing Advisory Committee, and the Committee provided feedback to revise the logo. Draft logos are provided as Attachment 1 for review.

Original



Draft 1



Draft 2



TO: Standing Advisory Committee  
Agenda Item No. 7a

FROM: Jim Beck, Executive Director

DATE: March 29, 2018

SUBJECT: Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

**Issue**

Update on the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

**Recommended Motion**

None – information only.

**Discussion**

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) consultant Woodard & Curran's GSP update is provided as Attachment 1.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

# Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

April 4, 2018



# March GSP Accomplishments

- ✓ Prepared draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
- ✓ Conducted Cuyama Basin GSP Workshops
- ✓ Reviewed available data and issued requests for additional data
- ✓ Performed initial work on conceptual basin model
- ✓ Reviewed and confirmed GSP numerical model approach
- ✓ Initiated development of numerical model

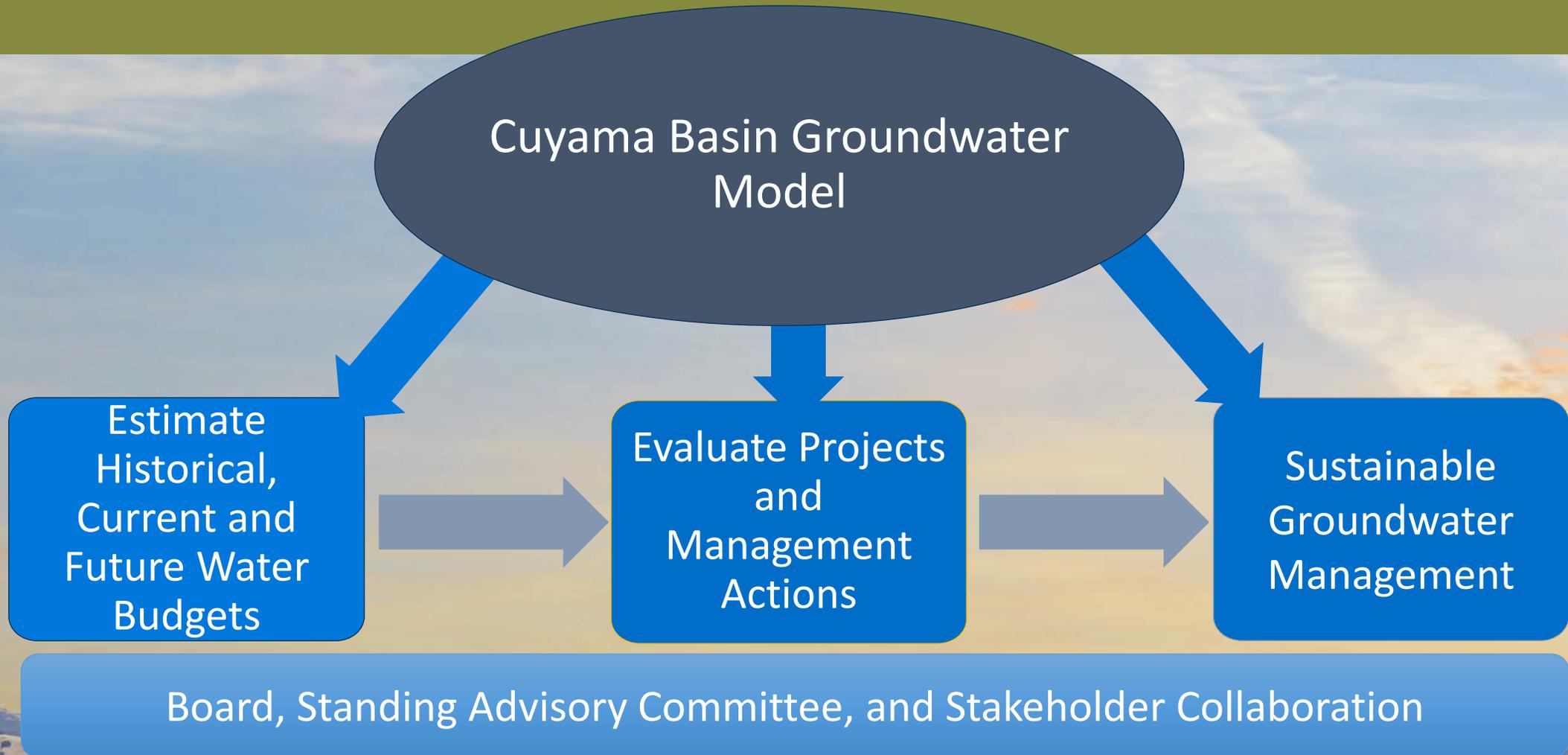
# Data Collected to Date

- Hydrologic Data
  - CDEC and USGS Streamflow data
  - CDEC, NOAA, and County Precipitation data
- Groundwater Well and Elevation Information
  - DWR CASGEM, Water Data Library, Well Completion Reports
  - USGS NWIS
  - County provided data
  - Landowner provided data
- Land Use and Cropping Information
  - DWR Land Use Surveys
  - USDA CropScape
  - California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
  - National Land Cover Database
  - USGS Land Use and Land Cover Data
- Water Quality Data
  - California SWRCB, Division of Drinking Water
  - Geotracker GAMA program
  - USGS NWIS database

# Ongoing Data Collection Efforts

- Follow up with local agencies:
  - Santa Barbara County monitoring well program
  - Cuyama Basin Water District – groundwater level and pumping data
  - Cuyama Community Services District – population and pumping data
- Follow up discussions with landowners
- Incorporating Satellite data via Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC)
- Additional data/information remains welcome

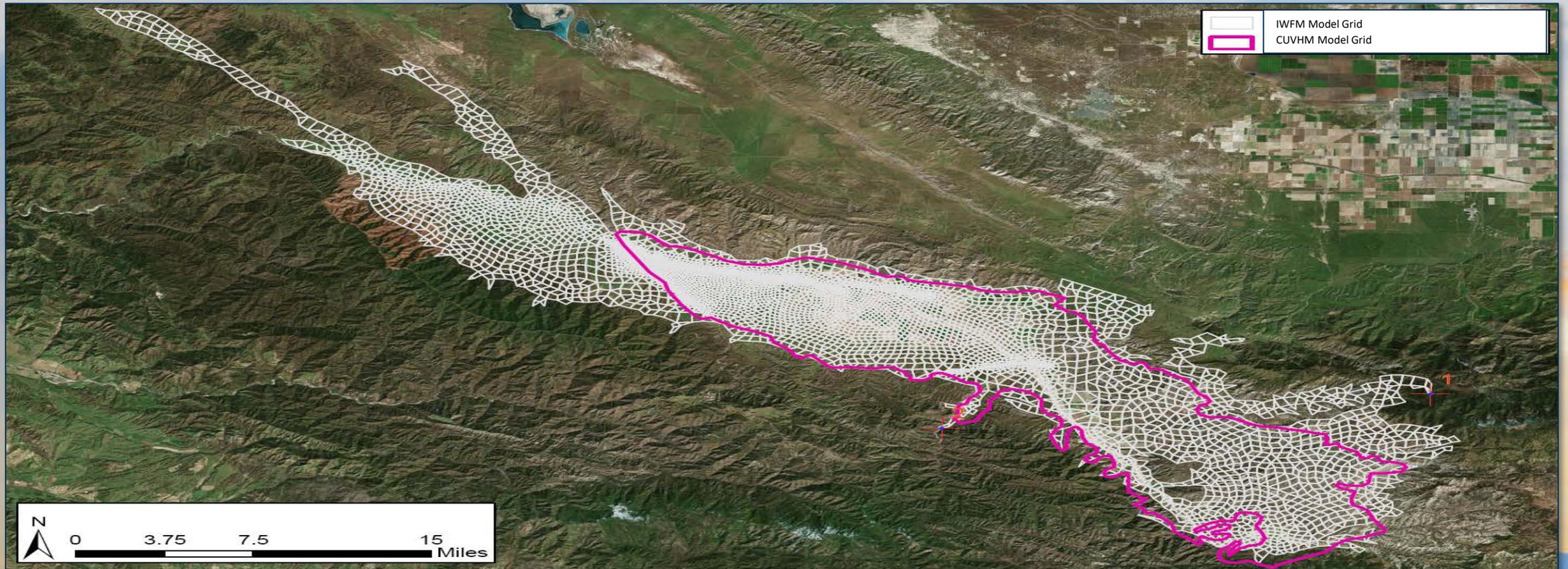
# Building the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Model



# Model Calibration/Verification Requires Data for Each Year of Calibration Period

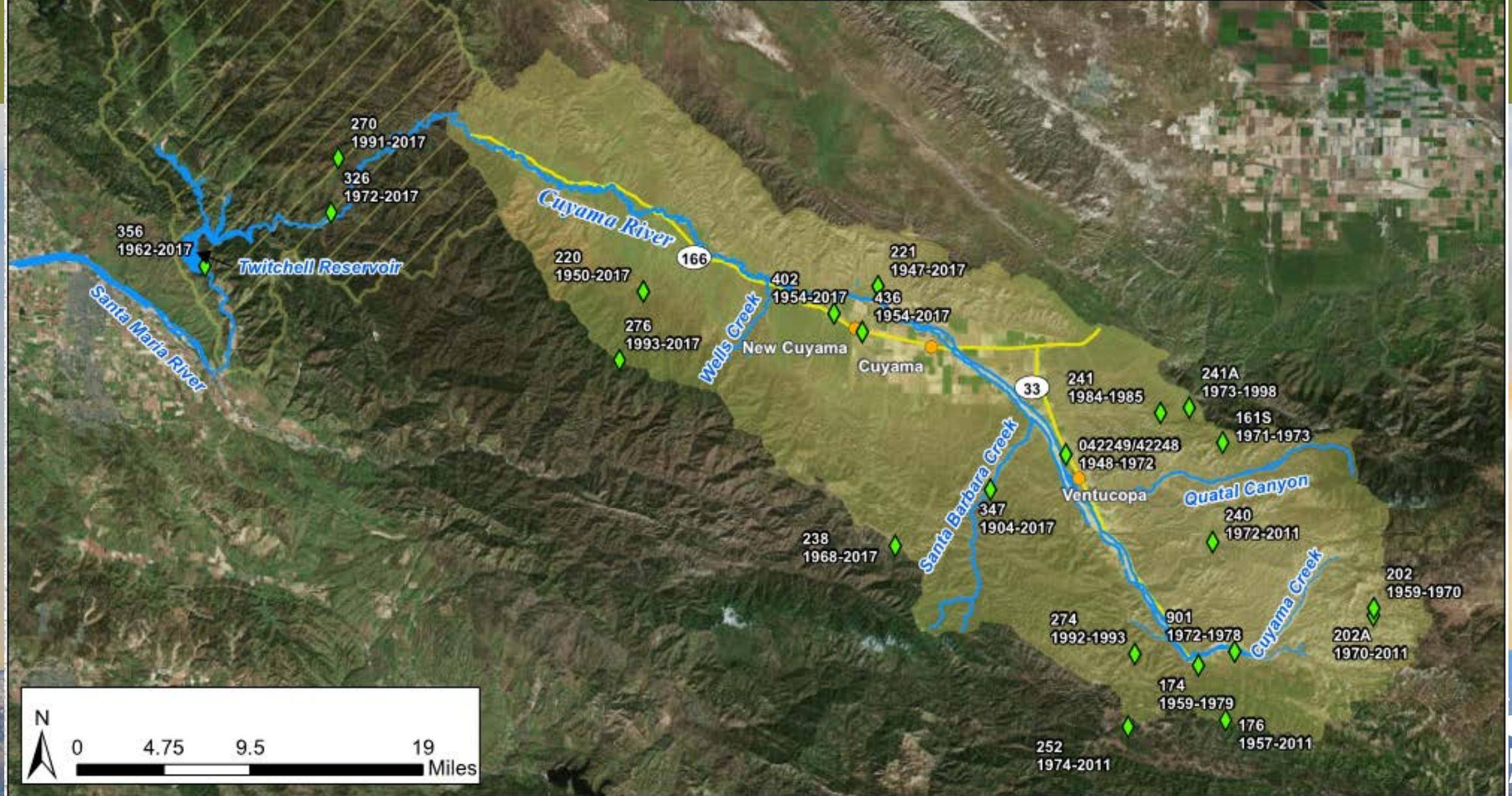
- Model Calibration Period  
2000 to 2015
- Selected based on reliability of available data
- Provides historical water budgets
- Representative Groundwater Wells:
  - Location and construction info
  - Historical groundwater elevations
- Land and Water Use:
  - Land use and cropping patterns
  - Population
  - Historical pumping
- Hydrologic Data:
  - Precipitation
  - Streamflow

# Hydrogeologic Model and Associated Data Will be Expanded to Cover the Entire Basin

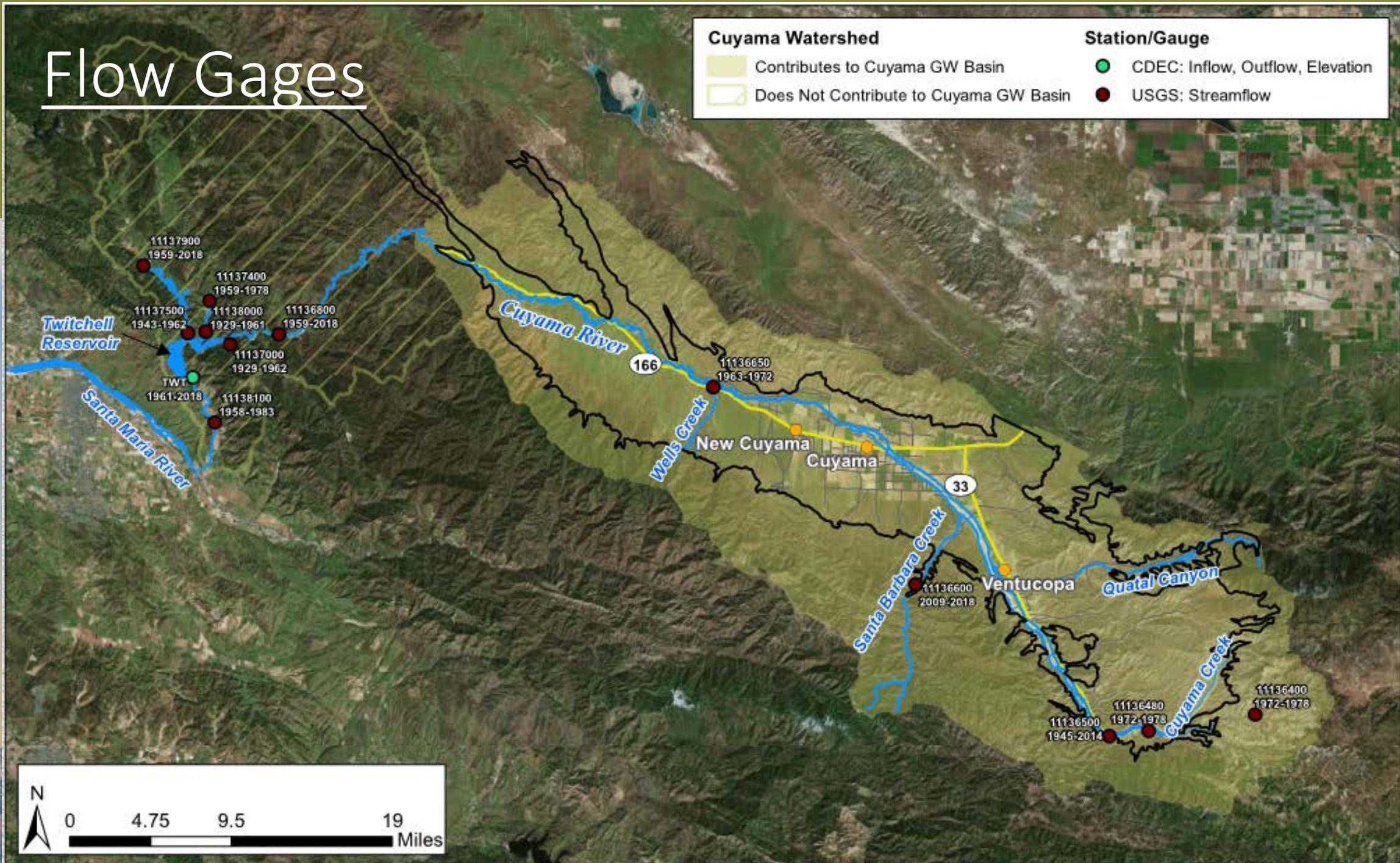


# Precipitation Gages

	Precipitation Station		Highways	<b>Cuyama Watershed</b>	
	Towns		Streams		Contributes to Cuyama GW Basin
	Cuyama River				Does Not Contribute to Cuyama GW Basin

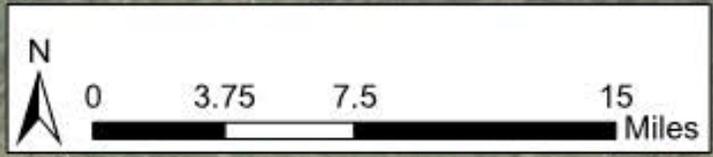
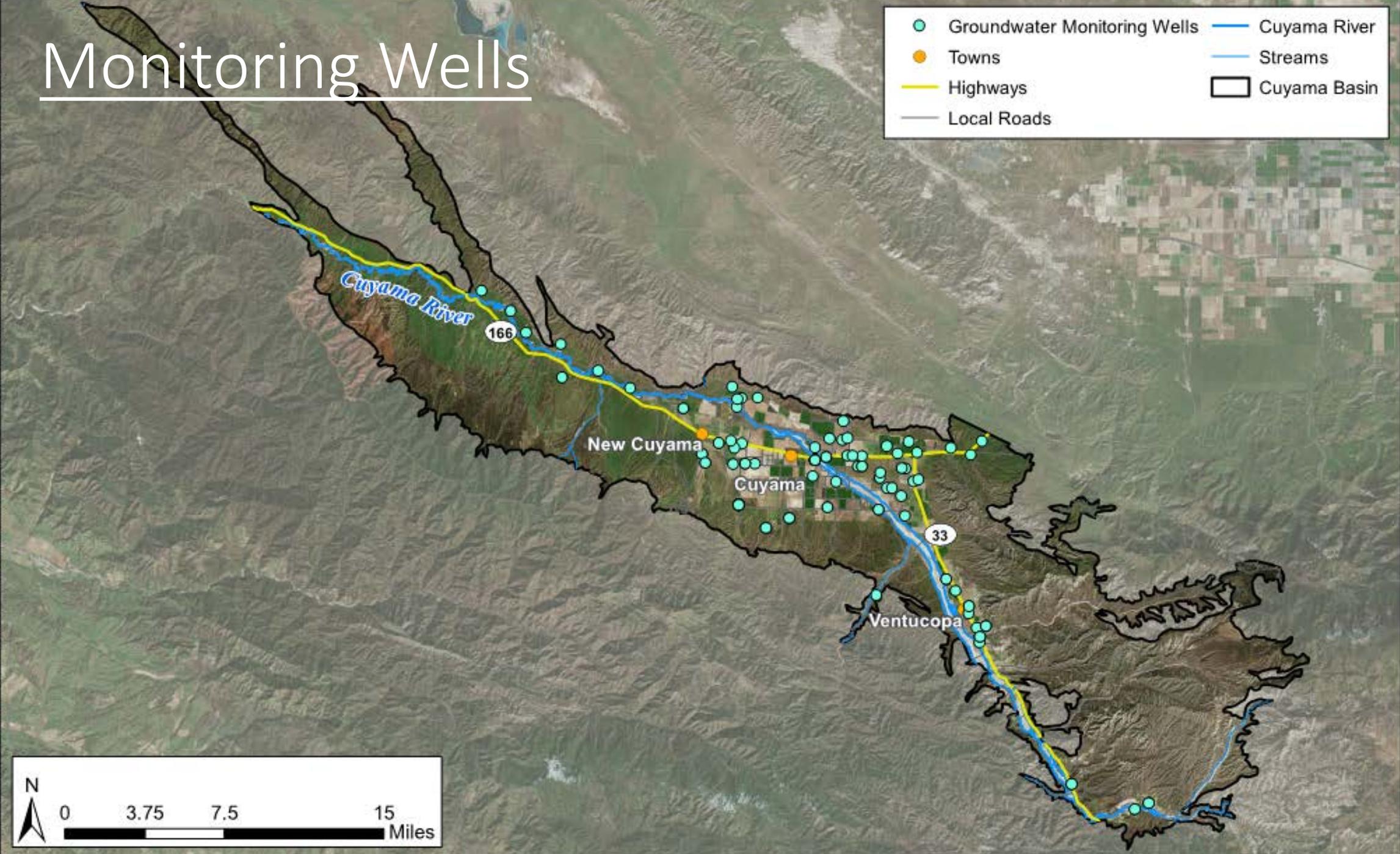


# Flow Gages



# Monitoring Wells

	Groundwater Monitoring Wells		Cuyama River
	Towns		Streams
	Highways		Cuyama Basin
	Local Roads		





# Working to Fill Existing Gaps

- Meeting with Vineyard representatives
- Meeting with Cuyama Basin Water District representatives

# Proposed Model Simulation Periods

## Recent Historical Period: 2000 – 2015

- Used for model calibration and verification
- Historical water budgets

## Current Conditions: 2015

- Current land use, irrigation practices, and population
- Based on long-term historical precipitation and streamflow data

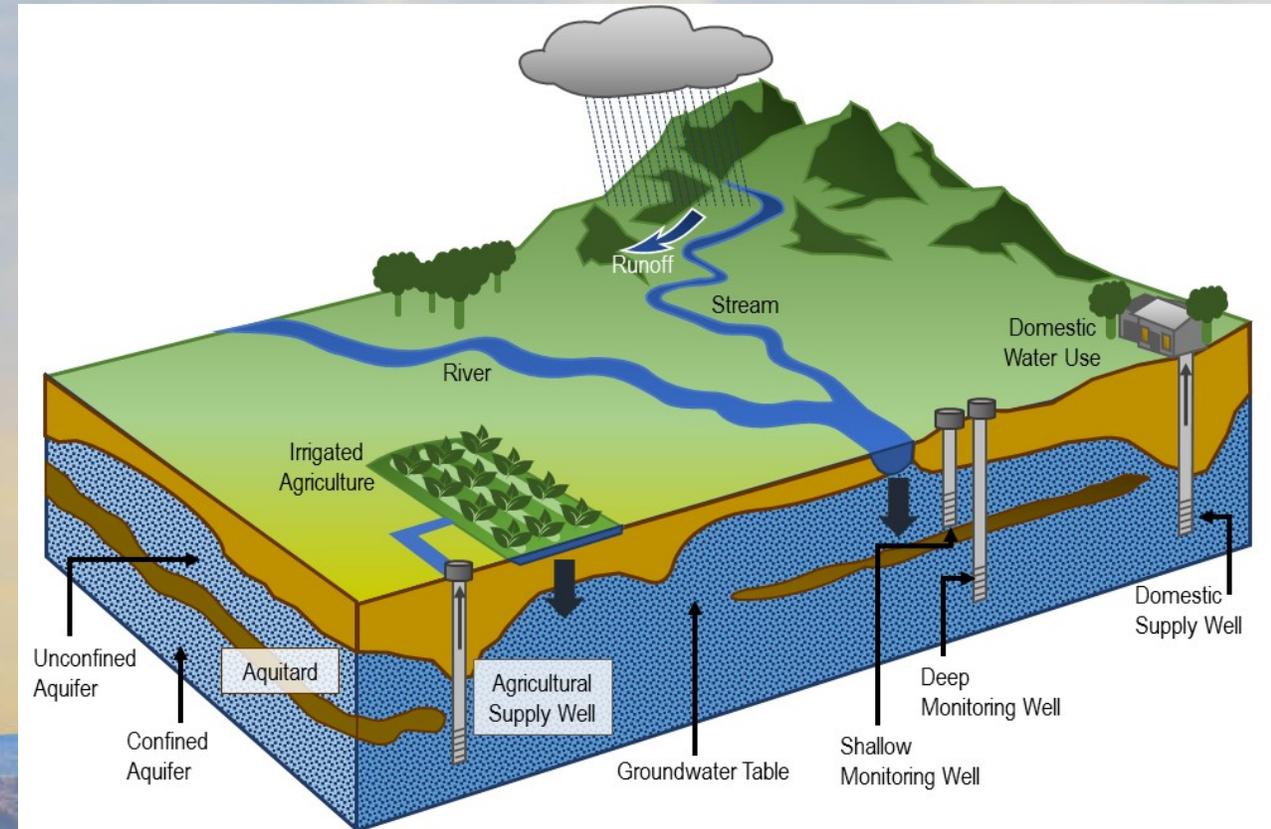
## Future Conditions: 2040

- Projected land use and population data
- Based on long-term historical precipitation and streamflow data



# Conceptual Basin Model Development

- Conceptual model is a general understanding of the Basin's physical characteristics:
  - Regional hydrology
  - Land use
  - Geology and geologic structure
  - Water quality,
  - Principal aquifers and aquitards
- Sources for Cuyama Basin:
  - USGS Model documents
  - Existing studies (USGS, EKI, Dudek, Cleath)
  - Geologic and topographic maps
  - Flow gages
  - Well logs



TO: Standing Advisory Committee  
Agenda Item No. 7c

FROM: Jim Beck, Executive Director

DATE: March 29, 2018

SUBJECT: Stakeholder Engagement Update

**Issue**

Update on the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Groundwater Sustainability Plan stakeholder engagement.

**Recommended Motion**

None – information only.

**Discussion**

**Stakeholder Engagement Update**

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) outreach consultant the Catalyst Group’s stakeholder engagement update is provided as Attachment 1.

**Public Workshop Summary**

On March 7, 2018, two public workshops were held to educate the public on the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), Cuyama Basin conditions, and key elements of the GSP. A summary of the workshop is provided as Attachment 2.

**Newsletter**

As part of the community outreach effort, a newsletter has been added to the stakeholder engagement strategy. The newsletter is anticipated to be a quarterly publication and will be distributed in both electronic and physical formats. For the physical distribution, the newsletter will be included in the Cuyama Valley Recreation District (CVRD) newsletter. To coincide with CVRD’s distribution schedule, the first newsletter will be released May 1, 2018. The draft newsletter outline and sample are provided as Attachment 3.

Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency

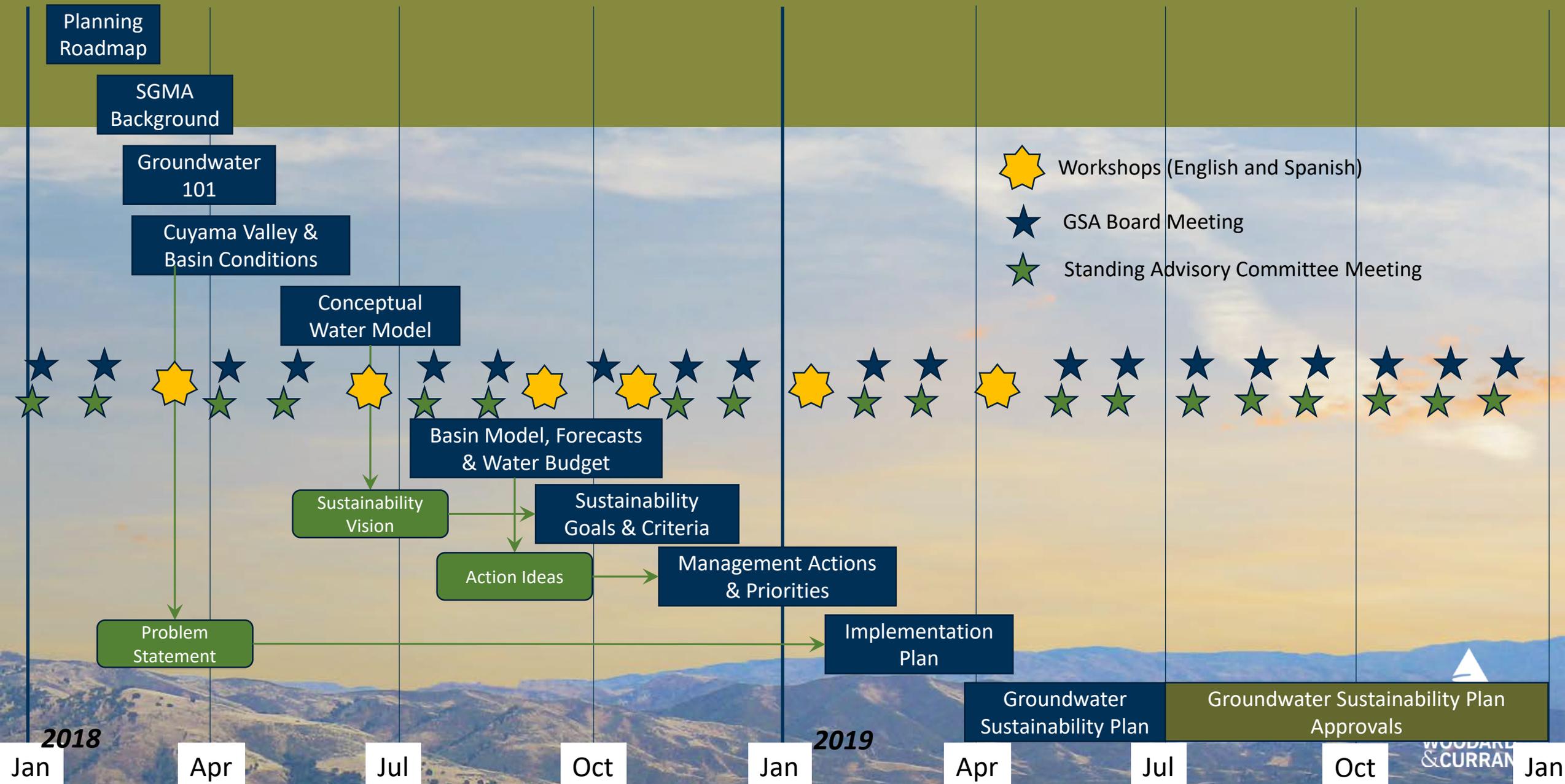
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# Groundwater Sustainability Plan Stakeholder Engagement Update

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April 4, 2018

# Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan – Planning Roadmap



# Outreach Activities

- GSA Newsletter – May 1
  - E-newsletter to contact list
  - Hard copy version printed in Recreation District newsletter to all residents
- Website Updates
  - Board and Standing Advisory Committee agendas, packets, and minutes
  - Google Earth map with watershed, basin, water district, and community services district boundaries and model grid
  - Updated Spanish language pages

## Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Summary of March 7, 2018 Community Workshops

### Overview

On March 7, 2018, the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) Board of Directors (Board) and the CBGSA Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) hosted two community workshops which were preceded by a Special Joint Meeting of the CBGSA Board and SAC. The workshops were held at the Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center in New Cuyama. The English language workshop began at 4:10 pm and ended at 6:20 pm. The Spanish language workshop commenced at 6:40 pm and concluded at 8:01 pm. Approximately 35 people attended the English language workshop and 12 people attended the Spanish language workshop. The Board meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm and the workshops continued without a quorum of the Board present.

Meeting notices were prepared in English and Spanish for the March 7, 2018 community workshops. The notices were distributed as follows:

- February 21: Both meeting notices were emailed to the CBGSA stakeholder list of 89 people. This email list is inclusive of the Santa Barbara County Cuyama Basin email list and includes Board and SAC members.
- February 22 - March 1: Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center distributed approximately 100 notices within the community by hand.
- February 22: Cuyama Valley Community Association (CVCA) sent both notices as an email to their list of 100.
- March 2: A reminder of the workshops was emailed to the CBGSA email list.
- March 5: County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Water Resources Engineer Catherine Martin sent an email notice about the March 7, 2018 workshops to the San Luis Obispo County Cuyama Basin email list.
- March 1 to 7: Cuyama Valley Family Resource Center developed an English and a Spanish flyer for the workshops. Approximately 500 hard copies were distributed by hand, and they were also emailed to the CVCA email list.

### English Language Workshop

The workshop included an overview of what the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires, the team's current understanding of the Cuyama Basin, and the team's approach for better understanding the Cuyama Basin (see workshop presentation). There were several opportunities for extended discussion on these topics included in the workshop timeline (see workshop agenda).

The questions, issues, and comments raised at the workshop are summarized below. In addition, the CBGSA technical team asked attendees for additional data in these areas:

1. Well and Pumping Levels
2. Land Use Change, specifically post-2014
3. Irrigation Use

## ***Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency***

### **Questions, Issues and Comments**

#### **Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and Groundwater Sustainability Plan**

- Aren't the solutions for the Cuyama Basin groundwater problem simply more rain and less use? What other options do we have?
- How many aquifers are there in the Cuyama Basin?
- What do the concepts of Measurable Objectives, Minimum Thresholds, and Interim Milestones mean? These SGMA-related terms required further clarification.
- What is the difference between Minimum Objective and Measurable Objective?
- Under SGMA, is there a timetable requirement for meeting the Minimum Objective?
- If we create a reasonable Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) that is accepted by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), what happens if there are droughts that result in failure to meet the objective?
- There are naturally occurring calcium and magnesium levels in the water; how are these addressed under SGMA?
- Who evaluates the GSP and who reports to DWR?
- If the GSP is a "living" document, with interim reporting milestones, then can the plan be adjusted or changed?
- SGMA requires the identification of projects and management actions, most of the examples shown (slide 5B) won't work; what options will be available for the Cuyama Basin?

#### **Data for Use in the Hydrologic Model**

- What public data are being used to develop the plan?
- What data will the team use from private wells?
- How will the team be filling in the data gaps?
- How will the team validate the data?
- How will the team address discrepancies?
- What does relevant timeframe mean (referring to a statement that the team is collecting data for the relevant timeframe)?
- What will future pumping allocations be based on, a 20- to 30-year historical amount?
- What is the difference, for the effectiveness of the model, if the team receives generic water data versus specific data from basin growers/farmers/ranchers (referring to a prior statement about availability of data from private sources)?
- Will the team accept water data from growers/farmers/ranchers that USGS did not include in their study?
- Will the team use the monitoring data that USGS is still gathering?
- Does the team know the pumping capacity for the production wells identified?

#### **Cuyama Basin Plan Area Description Elements**

- For the geology, will the team use core samples to validate the geology?
- Can the team get the changes in land use from satellite imagery?
- For land use changes since 2014, Sunrise Olive Ranch, on the road to Ventucopa, should be included.
- Regarding land use, some lands are regularly fallowed. Crops are rotated but are still considered irrigated. Since 2014, more than the normal amount of land has been fallowed due to drought conditions.

## ***Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency***

- Will the team refer to the same geographic zones as USGS did: Ventucopa Uplands Zone, Main Basin Zone, and Foothill Zone?
- Groundwater temperature and quality vary a lot across the basin.
- Flash floods in the mountains are aggressive. Average rainfall varies greatly across the basin.
- Has there been subsidence from oil pumping? USGS says there has been no subsidence at Russell Ranch.
- Is there a different evapotranspiration rate for the valley (higher altitude, desert, windy conditions)? It was noted that weather data is measured at the High School.

### Funding for the GSA and GSP

- Who is paying for this?
- There are 5 representatives from the Cuyama Basin Water District (CBWD) and only 1 from the Cuyama Community Services District. Does CBWD pay more?

### Discussion about Existing Basin Conditions

The workshop included an interactive discussion that focused on individual ranchers/farmers talking about their observations and experiences with water in different geographic areas in the Cuyama Basin. Attendees discussed their experience with water in distinct geographic areas of the Cuyama Basin including Upper Ventucopa (Apache Canyon), Lower Ventucopa, the foothills of the central portion of the basin, the valley floor, and Cottonwood Canyon. The information shared provided a better understanding of the changes in water levels and pumping capacities over time as well as the importance of understanding the influence of fault lines on the aquifer.

### Next Steps

The team described the next activities to collect and review data, develop the Plan Area Description for public review, and work with the Board and Standing Advisory Committee. The next workshop is planned for June 2018.

### Spanish Language Workshop

The project team presented the workshop presentation in Spanish, answered questions, and discussed issues related to groundwater and the GSP.

### Questions and Comments Raised at the Spanish Language Workshop

- With the addition of two representatives from the Hispanic community, there are now 9 SAC members.
- What can New Cuyama residents do to stop the decline? Water consumption is so minimal now with people using bottled water, irrigation is limited, people are doing their part. What else could the community do?
- Water quality is poor. How does this project address water quality?
- Water bills are very high, how will this project affect the water bills?
- It would be good if this project provided financial assistance to the high water bill challenge faced by the community.
- What will be the economic impact to agriculture and jobs in the community? What are the impacts of potential changes in water use?

## ***Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency***

### Next Steps for Education and Outreach

#### Topics for Further Education, Outreach, and Discussion

The information gathered at the workshops will be used to assist the team in formulating the next steps in the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. Topics identified from the workshops for additional education and discussion include the following:

1. Hydrologic Model Selection. Explain what a model is, which model will be used, and what makes a model useful and reliable.
2. What about the Data? Expand the discussion of what data the team is seeking, specifically data regarding wells and pumping levels, land use, and irrigation use. Include more information about how data gaps will be filled and the data validated.
3. SGMA Requirements. Provide further explanation for Measurable Objectives, Minimum Thresholds, and Interim Milestones.
4. Description of the Plan Area. Provide details on the information used to develop the draft Plan Area Description report due out in early April 2018.
5. Water Budget. Describe the past, present, and future water budget and how it was developed.

#### Next Steps: Outreach Opportunities

1. March 29, 2018: CBGSA Standing Advisory Committee meeting
2. April 4, 2018: CBGSA Board Meeting
3. May 1, 2018: CBGSA Newsletter, Volume 1
4. May 1, 2018: Cuyama Recreation District Quarterly Newsletter
5. June 2018: Next Community Workshops

## Cuyama Basin GSA Newsletter, Volume 1, May 1

### Production Schedule

The Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) newsletter is envisioned as a quarterly electronic document that will be distributed to the CBGSA email list. It will also be distributed electronically by the Cuyama Family Resource Center, Cuyama Community Association, Blue Sky, and San Luis Obispo County.

To expand the distribution and reach of the newsletter, the same content will be provided to the Cuyama Valley Recreation District for inclusion in their quarterly newsletter. This newsletter gets mailed to all P.O. Boxes and rural delivery addresses in the Cuyama Valley. The Cuyama Valley Recreation District will include the CBGSA newsletter content. The first page is free and each additional page is \$10.

### **Key Dates:**

March 16-30: Catalyst to draft newsletter for review by the CBGSA technical team

April 2-6: Review by CBGSA Executive Director Jim Beck

April 9-13: Review by CBGSA Chair Derek Yurosek and Standing Advisory Committee Chair Roberta Jaffe

April 16-18: Revise and translate into Spanish

April 20: Final content due to Cuyama Valley Recreation District

May 1: Distributions via email

May 1: Distribution by U.S. mail via the Cuyama Valley Recreation District newsletter

### Content Outline

#### **Message from Executive Director.**

- Short article introducing first newsletter, formation of the CBGSA, its purpose and goals, and the formation of the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC).

#### **Message from SAC Chair**

- SAC's role and how to contact them.

#### **Groundwater Sustainability Plan is Underway**

- Discuss public data sources being gathered by the technical team, include specific examples.
- Indicate that the technical team is seeking specific data from the community to support our understanding of the basin including: water, irrigation, land, and crop use changes.

#### **Plan Area Description Available for Review**

- Describe Plan Area Description is first step to understanding the Valley.
- How the Plan will be used.
- Plan Area Description is available for review online.

### **What is a Groundwater Model?**

- Describe what a model is and how it will be used.
- Describe what makes a robust, useful model for the Cuyama Valley
- Include timing of model development

*Standard elements in each newsletter:*

### **Next Steps**

Next SAC Meetings, May 31, June 28

Next Board Meetings, May 2, June 6

June Workshops, June TBD

### **How to Get Involved**

Visit [www.cuyamabasin.org](http://www.cuyamabasin.org) to follow the develop of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. If you'd like to talk to a Board member, please contact Project Coordinator Taylor Blakslee at [\(661\) 477-3385](tel:6614773385), or by email at [tblakslee@hgcpm.com](mailto:tblakslee@hgcpm.com).

*Placeholder for the draft Newsletter format.*

TO: Standing Advisory Committee  
Agenda Item No. 8

FROM: Roberta Jaffe, Chair

DATE: March 29, 2018

SUBJECT: Standing Advisory Committee Responsibilities and Guidelines

**Issue**

Review of the draft Standing Advisory Committee Responsibilities and Guidelines.

**Recommended Motion**

Adopt the Standing Advisory Committee Responsibilities and Guidelines.

**Discussion**

The Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) requested clarity on the Committee's responsibilities as members. To address this, SAC Chair Jaffe worked with an ad hoc (Jaffe, Kelly, Draucker) to develop SAC Responsibilities and Guidelines which are provided as Attachment 1.

## Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Standing Advisory Committee Guidelines

### **Establishment:**

The SAC was established under Article 8.1 of the Joint Powers Agreement that establishes the Cuyama Basin GSA which reads as follows:

8.1 Standing Advisory Committee. A Standing Advisory Committee is hereby established as a group of representatives to advise the GSA, and shall be appointed by the Board.

(a) Purpose. The Standing Advisory Committee shall advise the Board concerning, where legally appropriate, implementation of SGMA in the Basin and review the GSP before it is approved by the Board.

(b) Membership. The composition of and appointments to the Standing Advisory Committee shall be determined by the Board.

(c) Brown Act. All Meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee, including special meetings, shall be noticed, held and conducted in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code 54950 et seq.)

(d) Compensation. No Advisory Committee member shall be compensated by the GSA for preparation for or attendance at meetings of the Board or any committee created by the Board.

### **Purpose:**

The SAC shall advise the GSA Board concerning, where legally appropriate, formation, development and implementation of SGMA in the Basin and review the GSP before it is approved by the GSA Board.

(Article 8.1,a) The GSA Board commits to the value of the SAC and will consider SAC recommendations when making policy decisions.

The purpose of the SAC shall include but not be limited to:

- Review of the agenda for the upcoming GSA meeting
- Provide an oral report to the monthly GSA meeting including a summary of discussions and recommendations
- Facilitating community outreach and education related to:
  - Development, adoption or amendment of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“GSP”)
  - Sustainability goals and objectives
  - Monitoring programs
  - Annual work plans and reports (including mandatory 5-year milestone reports)
  - Modeling scenarios
  - Projects and management actions to achieve sustainability
  - Community outreach
  - Local regulations to implement SGMA
  - Fee proposals
  - General advisory assistance

### **Membership:**

The composition of and appointments to the SAC shall be determined by the GSA Board. (Article 8.1,b)

No GSA Director may be a member of the SAC. Membership of the SAC shall include:

- A majority of full and part-time residents in the Cuyama Basin
- Representation of all geographic regions of the Cuyama Basin
- Representation of all demographics of the Cuyama Basin including domestic well users, townsite water users, disadvantaged community representatives (as referred to in SGMA) and other representatives of the diversity of the beneficial uses and users of groundwater in the basin
- Members of the Standing Advisory Committee are subject to all applicable conflict of interest laws including Government Code section 1090 and the California Political Reform Act.

### **Terms and Responsibilities:**

The GSA may announce a call for applications when a vacancy appears on the SAC or when it is recommended that a specific demographic should be added to the SAC.

The SAC may recommend that seats be filled upon vacancy or determined need.

The GSA is responsible for reviewing applications and approving members.

#### **Term of service:**

The SAC was formed in October 2017 with an understanding to serve through the submission of the GSP by January 31, 2020. The expectation is that the SAC will continue through development and implementation through 2040 alongside the GSA. At the time of submission of the GSP, SAC's members' initial terms will come to an end. At that time, 3 year terms of the SAC will be established. Current members can choose to end their term and step down; renew for a 3-year term; or a shorter term. There are no limits on reapplying for 3-year terms.

#### **Responsibilities:**

Advisory Committee members represent the diverse interests of the Cuyama Basin and groundwater users. In particular those interests not well represented on the GSA Board. The criteria for Standing Advisory Committee members are to:

- Serve as a strong, effective advocate
- Work collaboratively with others
- Commit time needed for ongoing discussions
- Collectively reflect diversity of interests

### **Decision-making:**

To inform the GSA Board's decision-making, the Advisory Committee will provide oral reports at the monthly GSA meetings and can choose to submit written recommendations as needed. The recommendations will identify areas of agreement and disagreement.

The Advisory Committee will be consensus seeking. The Advisory Committee will strive to reach consensus on its recommendations. The definition of consensus spans the range from strong support to neutrality, to abstention, to "I can live with it," to "I will let this go forward." When unable to reach consensus on recommendations, the Advisory Committee will outline the areas of agreement and areas in which it does not agree, providing explanation to inform the Board's decision-making. To comply with

the Brown Act, the position of each SAC member on the points of consensus will be noted in the SAC's minutes.

The Advisory Committee may request that one or more members present its recommendations to the Board, including areas of agreement and disagreement, consistent with Advisory Committee deliberations.

**Meetings:**

All meetings of the SAC, including special meetings, shall be noticed, held and conducted in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act. (Article 8.1,c). Any gathering or discussion among a quorum of the SAC is considered a meeting.

The SAC shall meet monthly in regular meetings. Special meetings and joint meetings with the GSA may be called as needed.

Any member of the SAC who is absent from three or more consecutive regular meetings of the SAC will be notified in writing with a request for greater participation or else asked to resign from their seat. Officers of the SAC will work with GSA staff to develop the monthly meeting agenda.

**Officers:**

There will be an annual election of officers consisting of a Chair and Vice-Chair. Officers can serve more than one year in a row. The Chair will:

- In consultation with the staff and vice-chair, formulate the agenda and desired outcomes for the meetings
- Work with members to ensure process and participation agreements are followed including:
  - Assure a fair, effective, and credible process
  - Make regular SAC reports to the GSA at the monthly GSA meetings
  - Be substituted by the Vice-Chair for any roles the Chair is not able to fulfill.

If a Committee member has a concern about bias, neutrality or performance of the Chair, s/he should raise the concern first with the Chair and then the General Manager or Legal Counsel.

**Finances:**

No Advisory Committee member shall be compensated by the GSA for preparation for or attendance at meetings of the Board or any committee created by the Board. (Article 8(d))

The fiscal responsibility of the SAC falls under the oversight of the CBGSA.