

Tracy Subbasin Sustainable Management Criteria

Participant Guide

BACKGROUND

Local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are preparing a plan to manage the region's groundwater. As part of this process, these agencies are interested in the input of those that live, work, and use groundwater in the region. You can help us by providing responses to the questions identified in this Participant Guide. Your responses will be combined with those of others and shared to with the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies to help inform and guide the content of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

For more information about the Groundwater Sustainability Plan and Tracy Subbasin, visit our website at tracysubbasin.org/.

INSTRUCTIONS

This Participant Guide is intended to support discussions during the January 21, 2021 public workshop on Sustainable Management Criteria for the Tracy Subbasin. You may provide your input verbally during the designated discussion time and/or in this document. Completion and submission of this Participant Guide is encouraged, but not required to participate in the workshop.

This Participant Guide is divided into three parts. **Parts 1 and 2 are optional.** Part 1 asks some basic questions about you. Part 2 asks about how you use groundwater and your familiarity with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. You may fill-out these sections anytime during or after the workshop.

Part 3 asks you to provide input on how the Groundwater Sustainability Plan should define 'sustainability' of the region's groundwater resources. **The workshop facilitator will lead you and the other participants through this section.**

When you have completed the Participant Guide, please **email a copy to Kirsten Pringle at kirsten.pringle@stantec.com. Worksheets will be accepted until 5 PM, Friday, January 29.**

Your responses provided in this Participant Guide and verbally during the workshop will be combined with the responses of others and summarized at the February Groundwater Sustainability Plan Coordination Meeting. Note that individual responses will not be shared, but the summary may include a list of participating individuals.

For questions or concerns, contact Kirsten Pringle at kirsten.pringle@stantec.com or (916) 418-8243.

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PART 1 (Optional)

1. Name
2. Organization/Affiliation
3. City
4. Email or Contact Information
5. Would you like to be added to our mailing list? You will receive notices about upcoming public events and releases of public documents.
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No

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PART 2 (Optional)

1. How would you characterize your role as it relates to groundwater? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Use groundwater for growing/livestock
- ☐ Use groundwater for my home or business
- ☐ Use groundwater or works for an agency that uses groundwater for environmental purposes
- ☐ Live in a city or community that uses groundwater
- ☐ Own land with a groundwater well
- ☐ Work for a reclamation district or municipal or public water system
- ☐ Work for a land use planning agency
- ☐ Work for a state or federal agency
- ☐ Concerned member of the public
- ☐ Other (please describe):

2. Before this workshop, were you familiar with Sustainable Groundwater Management Act?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

3. Do you know which Groundwater Sustainability Agency represents you or your community?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, which Groundwater Sustainability Agency represents you?

4. Do you own or operate a well?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

5. If you answered yes to #4, has your well ever gone dry?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, what is the depth of your well?

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6. Have you heard of any else's well going dry during the last 10 years?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes, where was the well located (approximately)?

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PART 3

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act identifies six “undesirable results” that may negatively impact a groundwater basin:

- Chronic lowering of groundwater levels
- Reduction of groundwater storage
- Degraded water quality
- Land subsidence (sinking)
- Surface water depletion

The sixth undesirable result is seawater intrusion, which does not occur in our region. To be considered an undesirable result these effects must be defined as “significant and unreasonable.” The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act allows local agencies to determine what is considered “significant and unreasonable” for each undesirable result. *This is where we need your help.*

During the workshop, we will be collectively discussing the questions below to get your input on how to define “significant and unreasonable” for the undesirable results listed above. Your input will help the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies develop the sustainable management criteria for the Tracy Subbasin.

1. How would you describe ‘sustainability’ in terms of the region’s groundwater resources?
What would make the region’s groundwater resources ‘unsustainable’?

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2. The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies have identified the following draft criteria to define how low **groundwater levels** could drop before they become significant and unreasonable:

- Domestic and irrigation wells go dry
- Increased costs to pump groundwater
- Surface water is depleted such that creeks go dry
- Groundwater supported vegetation die or cannot repopulate
- Groundwater quality is degraded by increasing the salt content
- Groundwater quality declines to the point of being unusable

Are the impacts listed above good indicators of the sustainability of the region's groundwater resources? Why or why not?

Are there other impacts related to the reliability of the region's groundwater resources that the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies should consider?

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3. The Groundwater Sustainability Agencies have identified the following draft criteria to define what would make the **quality of groundwater** significant and unreasonable:

- Migration of large-scale groundwater contamination
- Contaminant concentrations in public supply wells above legal limits
- Degraded water quality that leads to reduced crop production
- Increased groundwater salinity requiring treatment
- Implementation of projects and management actions that increase concentrations of elements that make the groundwater unusable

Are the impacts listed above good indicators of the **quality** of the region's groundwater resources? Why or why not?

Are there other impacts related to the quality of the region's groundwater supplies that the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies should consider?

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4. What type of impacts caused by land subsidence (sinking) could occur before the subsidence becomes significant and unreasonable (e.g. damage to infrastructure, increased flooding)?
5. To what extent are issues of surface water depletion a concern to you and your community? To your knowledge, are there areas within the region that rely on groundwater to support the overlying environment? If yes, where are these areas located?

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6. What other impacts caused by or related to groundwater use should the Groundwater Sustainability Agencies consider when defining sustainability for the basin's groundwater resources?