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# BUTTE SUBBASIN

## Sustainable Management Criteria *For Discussion Purposes*

*Based on the Draft Colusa Subbasin Sustainability Goal and Undesirable Results Statements for consideration – while developing the statements, stakeholder feedback from public workshops held in fall 2019, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Colusa and Glenn groundwater authorities, and statements and goals put together in 2020 GSPs for other subbasins were considered. This has resulted in a goal and statements for consideration for the Butte Subbasin specifically.*

### SUSTAINABILITY GOAL

*The sustainability goal provides a qualitative description of the objectives and desired conditions of the Butte Subbasin. It is supported by locally defined undesirable results and quantitative minimum thresholds, measurable objectives, and interim milestones. Demonstration of the absence of undesirable results supports a determination that a subbasin is operating within its sustainable yield and, thus, that the sustainability portion of the goal has been achieved.*

*The sustainability goal for the Butte Subbasin GSP is to maintain, through a cooperative and partnered approach, locally managed sustainable groundwater resources to preserve and enhance the economic viability, social well-being and culture of all Beneficial Uses and Users without experiencing undesirable results.*

### UNDESIRABLE RESULT STATEMENTS

*Undesirable results are defined by SGMA as one or more significant and unreasonable effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout a basin, based on the six sustainability indicators: chronic lowering of groundwater levels, reduction in groundwater storage, seawater intrusion, degraded water quality, land subsidence, or depletions of interconnected surface water.*

#### **Levels:**

*The undesirable result for the chronic lowering of groundwater levels is a result that would cause significant and unreasonable reduction in the long-term viability of Beneficial Uses and Users over the planning and implementation horizon of this GSP.*

#### **Storage:**

*The undesirable result for the reduction of groundwater in storage is a result that would cause significant and unreasonable reduction in the long-term viability of Beneficial Uses and Users over the planning and implementation horizon of this GSP.*

#### **Seawater Intrusion:**

*Seawater intrusion is not an applicable sustainability indicator, because seawater intrusion is not present and is not likely to occur in the Butte Subbasin due to the distance from the Pacific Ocean, bays, deltas, or inlets.*

**Quality:**

*The undesirable result for degraded water quality is a result stemming from a causal nexus between groundwater quantity related activities, such as groundwater extraction or groundwater recharge, and groundwater quality that causes significant and unreasonable effects to Beneficial Uses and Users including reduction in the long-term viability of these uses over the planning and implementation horizon of this GSP.*

**Land Subsidence:**

*The undesirable result for land subsidence is a result due to groundwater extraction that causes a significant and unreasonable reduction in the viability of the use of critical infrastructure over the planning and implementation horizon of this GSP.*

**Depletion of Interconnected Surface Water:**

*The undesirable result for depletions of interconnected surface water is a result that causes significant and unreasonable adverse effects on Beneficial Uses and Users of interconnected surface water within the Butte Subbasin over the planning and implementation horizon of this GSP.*

**Discussion Questions:**

- Recognizing these are general statements, are there any considerations missing that you would like to include?
- Is there consensus about focusing on water quality only as concerning with a causal nexus between groundwater quantity related activities, such as groundwater extraction or groundwater recharge?
- Given that we address salinity concerns in water quality, are there any concerns about identifying sea water intrusion as not applicable in the Butte Subbasin?